Arbitrator rules in favor of CPN in Oklahoma Tax Commission dispute

The Oklahoma Tax Commission has lost in its attempt to unlawfully collect sales taxes from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Arbitrator Daniel J. Boudreau, former State of Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice, ruled in favor of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in a dispute between CPN and the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

“The Federal and tribal interests at stake predominate significantly over any possible state interest in the transactions upon which the OTC seeks to impose its sales tax on. “Our goal is to improve the quality of life in this Pottawatomie County, including the communities around us and we do that by creating opportunities for all people through quality jobs and increased services in our area of economic impact,” said Chairman Barrett.

Specifically, Boudreau found that the State of Oklahoma has significant federal and tribal interests in the CPN’s self-governance, economic self-sufficiency, and self-determination. He also noted that the Nation alone invests value in the goods and services it sells not by advertising its exclusivity from state sales taxes due to the imposition of equivalent tribal sales tax on transactions taking place on its tribal trust land.


An independent arbitrator ruled the Oklahoma Tax Commission unlawfully attempted to close businesses over the tribe’s refusal to act as its sales tax collector.

Justice Boudreau stated in the arbitration award that the “Federal and tribal interests must be weighed against state interests. When a state imposes a tax on non-member activity on Indian land, the courts apply a flexible preemption analysis to determine whether the tax is valid or invalid.”

“The State of Oklahoma incorrectly imposed a sales tax on the Nation’s sales in question,” Justice Boudreau said in his decision. “We are grateful to read the final decision by former Supreme Court Justice Boudreau,” stated Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairman John Barrett. “It confirms what we’ve said all along. The state government acted unlawfully in its attempt to tax tribal enterprises operating on Indian trust land.”

The tribe requested arbitration after the OTC filed a complaint in its Administrative Proceedings Division on May 28, 2014 seeking to revoke permits for sales tax, low point beer and mixed beverages from all tribal enterprises including FireLake Entertainment Center, FireLake Corner Store, FireLake Discount Foods, FireLake Express Grocery and Grand Casino Hotel and Resort.

The State of Oklahoma incorrectly said that the Nation was obligated to collect, report and pay state sales taxes on sales at all tribal businesses under the gaming compact. The Nation disputed that, arguing that the State of Oklahoma was attempting to use the gaming compact to unlawfully impose state sales taxes on tribal land.

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Preparing for the 2016 Family Reunion Festival

In addition to the annual Family Reunion Festival in June, CPN will also be hosting the 2016 Potawatomi Gathering of Nations in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on July 28-30. Regular attendees, first time participants and tribal members from different Potawatomi bands should start preparing for the two events. CPN employees who have attended and worked both events throughout the years offer their advice on preparing for the events.

Who are the honored families and what should those family members do?

Curtis Grant, CHC Tribal Heritage Productions: “The honored families for this year’s Family Reunion Festival are the Clardy, Frapp, Kahdot, Juneau, Pappan, Crumbo and Muller families. Every year the honored families are encouraged to participate in the Tribal Heritage Productions videos to help archive each family’s history.

“Tribal Heritage Productions documents the culture and identity of tribal members by videotaping and producing family history videos which can be found at the cultural heritage center.

“Tribal members are encouraged to wear some type of Potawatomi regalia during the interview and can either be filmed as an individual, a couple or with their whole family. Times and dates for each family’s interview are posted on the Festival schedule and occur throughout the three-day event.”

Are family photos taken for the honored families? How does that work?

Benjamin Apitz, CPN Public Information photographer: “On Saturday at least an hour before General Council, honored families meet up at the powwow arena for a scheduled group photo. I suggest making plans with your family before the day of the group photo. You might think about starting a Facebook group or something similar to help organize the group photo. A good idea is to have everyone wearing flip flops, shorts and people bringing their pets in the arena. These things are not allowed and are some of the common mistakes we see each year.

“Tribal members looking to participate in Grand Entry or the various social dances need to have adequate attire to do such. Men and boys need to have at least a ribbon shirt, closed toe shoes and pants. Women and girls need to have at least a skirt, their shoulders covered and closed toe shoes.

“Competition dancers will need to sign up the day of the powwow to participate in the judged dances. For those interested in competition dancing and have never done such please watch the video PLP members Brian Wojahn and Kate Anderson made about showcasing the different styles of dance typically seen during the powwow. It can be seen at the CPN Hownikan YouTube page.”

What is the process for donating items to the Cultural Heritage Center?

CPN Curator and Archivist Blake Norton: “Unfortunately we are unable to accept any donations during the event given the legal, recording and conservational requirements needed to appropriately accept them.

“There simply isn’t enough time for the staff to adequately process the large amount of submissions made by tribal members during the three-day gathering.

“However, any other time of the year we do accept donated items. The process is considerably long. Upon assessment, we accept a collection on a temporary basis or consideration status and submit it for approval by our Collections Committee. Once approved, acquisitions are determined gift or loan and appropriate legal processes are completed.”

What is the proper attire for Grand Entry and how can someone enter the competition dancing?

CPN Powwow Arena Director Coby Lehman: “The powwow arena is a sacred area for the tribe and not wearing the proper attire is offensive. Every year I see people wearing flip flops, shorts and people bringing their pets in the arena. These things are not allowed and are some of the common mistakes we see each year.

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What are some options for people making their own regalia?

Margaret Zientek, regular attendee and dancer at Festival and Gathering: “Those who are creating new regalia or additions to their regalia should start doing so several months before the events. If you are commissioning someone to make an item, even more time should be allowed to get your regalia done in time.

“Anyone within driving distance to the cultural heritage center can attend their regalia making classes on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Professional powwow dancer Leslie Deer instructs the class how to make anything from shawls and ribbon shirts to blouses and applique. Sewing machines are provided but participants need to bring their own fabric or purchase it inside the CHC at Potawatomi Gifts.

“For those unable to attend the classes look into the area you live in and if there are any similar classes you can attend. There is also plenty of resources for regalia making classes online such as the Cheyenne and Arapaho Television show on YouTube. Making Regalia with Juanquin Lonelodge.

“During both events, the CHC will offer different regalia making classes including shawl making, bead working and mocassin making. Plenty of sewing machines will be available for those in need of making a quick repair or an addition to their regalia.”

The 2016 Family Reunion Festival will take place June 24-26 while the 2016 Gathering of Nations will take place from July 28-30. For more information about the Family Reunion Festival or Potawatomi Gathering of Nations please visit www.potawatomi.org/culture.
CPCDC promotes Native American small business opportunities

In the aftermath of the Great Recession, loans of all kinds became increasingly difficult to secure. Access to credit, especially for first time business owners and entrepreneurs, narrowed because of the owner’s creditworthiness rather than their potential for success. According to a report released by Intuit, 83 percent of businesses with less than 11 employees relied on the owner’s credit history to apply for a loan.

For Native Americans interested in starting or expanding a small business, there are opportunities available via the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation. Through its commercial lending and business counseling services, the CPCDC can assist Native American-owned small businesses in areas where more traditional lending institutions would not. Staffed with personnel who have a wealth of finance and small business experience like Senior Commercial Lender/COO Bob Crothers, the CPCDC has an established track record of providing its customers and clients with lending opportunities and business planning guidance.

Crothers is familiar face in Shawnee, Oklahoma, having graduated high school there. In 1970, he went into business for himself and opened two small drive-in restaurants before opening three of Shawnee’s most famous export: Sonic Drive Ins. In central Arkansas, he eventually sold his stake in those before moving into business for himself, owning his famous export: Sonic Drive Ins, in opening three of Shawnee’s most successful franchises.

Upon returning to Shawnee, he added real estate development to his repertoire, working for his father’s well-known realty company while he continued restaurant developments. In 1984, along with partners, he purchased a closed theater called the Old Saw Mill Opry in Branson, Missouri as the town grew into a year-round regional holiday destination. At one point he owned 10 theaters. He eventually sold the Old Sawmill Opry to a group from Oklahoma who wanted a venue for a Christian Music Show. Returning to Oklahoma, Crothers worked in real estate, until opening his own mortgage banking operation, in 1999. The company, American Resource Mortgage, became one of the primary home mortgage providers for many community banks. In 2001 it became the largest non-bank mortgage provider for Local Oklahoma Bank. Crothers sold the company in 2005 to a banking organization and remained as its division president until 2008. At that point, he’d assumed he was retired.

“After six months I was crawling the walls. My wife still worked, my kids were all grown and you can’t play golf five days a week because your buddies are all still working. So I came to work here (at the CPCDC) as a commercial lender,” said Crothers. “I was going to stay a year. That was eight years ago.”

The addition of Crothers and other financial professionals has benefited the institution. By Crothers’ estimates, the organization’s capital base has grown from approximately $40 million in 2008 to about $85 million in available capital.

That growth has been accompanied by an expansion of businesses and customers to provide financial tools to. In November 2015, the CPCDC secured its largest amount of funding in more than 10 years with a $16 million bond issue from the U.S. Treasury’s Community Development Financial Institution Bond Guarantee Program.

That bond put the organization’s total financing capital at $41.3 million, exceeding the combined total for the years 2003-2014.

“When I started our average loan amount was about $60,000. Today, with tribal lending, our average is around $300,000. Not counting tribally funded lending, our average is now around $80,000,” said Crothers.

While the organization’s success is evident when looking at the numbers, the staff remain most proud of their ability to both grow and continue the CPCDC’s original mission of providing financing to small businesses and improving the commercial investment climate in Indian Country.

Easy credit ends in post-Great Recession era

A more stringent regulatory framework implemented in the years since the 2008 financial crisis forced many lenders to hold a higher capital amount before even considering underwriting a loan. Banks that once specialized in small business loans have reigned in lending and have continued to do so despite an improving economic climate.

“My last year at the bank was during the Great Recession, our primary objective was to tell you ‘no’ without losing your business. It was not that we didn’t want to make loans; it was simply that everybody was too afraid to take a chance. When I came here, the reverse was the case,” said Crothers.

Under the guidance of Director Shane Jett, the CPCDC has doubled down on its focus on economic development in Indian Country through small business loans ahead of an outward pursuit of profits. Where more traditional commercial lenders are cutting back, the CPCDC invests both time and capital in its customers’ success, despite the challenges.

It costs just as much to make a $10,000 loan as it does to make a $30,000 loan, in terms of hard costs,” explained Crothers. “We may never make a penny on a $10,000 loan, but our focus remains to help small businesses owned by CPN tribal members and Natives of all tribes.”

Crothers said he and his fellow CPCDC financial professionals’ goal is to try to find a way to provide loan capital while also offering services that a regular bank would be unable to offer.

“We can make loans to start-ups, up to 80-90 percent if it’s warranted,” he said. “We can also hold alternative forms of collateral - collateral that a traditional banker could not consider.”

Some of the more interesting forms of collateral that the CPCDC has accepted in its time include cattle, successful hunting seasons and livestock products. The CPCDC can also accept hypothecated collateral, which given the risk involved, many formal lending institutions would steer clear of.

“Say for instance you are $20,000 short of the collateral needed for the equipment you’ll need for your new business. If your dad has a truck worth $30,000 for example, he can hypothecate – or pledge it - as collateral and we can accept that to help cover our loan,” Crothers recalled that when he was just starting out in business, someone told him “in a bank, you can always borrow money if you don’t really need it.”

“Whatever I always thought to myself when I heard that was ‘well if I had the money, why would I be coming to you for a loan?’ Here we accept the fact that our customers are coming to us because they don’t have the money or because they are a start-up or have the experience,” he said.

In this vein the lenders at the CPCDC have another advantage; offering logistical support and business planning advice as terms of a loan.

“We may look at your business plan and say ‘hey this is great, but you lack some training – like balancing the books – that you’ll need to succeed.’ Well we can suggest they take a business training course at Gordon Cooper Technology Center and once you pass, we’ll issue the loan. A bank can’t do that.”

With professionals who have cut their teeth in a variety of commercial endeavors – public and private sectors, the CPCDC also offers technical assistance. The investment in CPCDC time and resources does come with a caveat; close oversight of the business’ health.

“We want to see everything, from your books to your pay stubs. It might even include us camping out at your store to see how your staff handles customers. What any business person will tell you is that as many sets of eyes that you can get on a problem, the better off you’ll be. Most of our clients love it.”

The HEARTH Act changes the game

Because tribal lands are held in trust by the federal government, holders of mortgages are unable to place a lien against any property on tribal land. The absence of a lien on this public land creates an incentive for lenders to avoid issuing a mortgage. In order to rectify this, the U.S. government allowed the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate agreements with tribes that would allow for the issuance of mortgages on tribal land with liens, but the approval process could take up to two years.

The HEARTH Act streamlined the process, allowing tribal governments to decide on such agreements with D.C. oversight. Under the act, a lease can be put on a piece of property, which can then be turned into a lease-hold mortgage.

In November 2013, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett signed the CPN-U.S. HEARTH Act Agreement, a game changer for economic development in Indian Country.

CPN’s signing in 2013 has heralded the start of one business, BDC Gun Room, while the development of Iron Horse Industrial Park looks to exponentially grow this development. As a leading financial player in commercial development in Indian Country, the CPCDC is well placed to benefit.

“It breaks new ground for other tribes too, it shows that if you don’t have the experience, you could be the first tribe to use lease-hold mortgages to secure federally backed money in a loan format.”

Lease-hold mortgages are different from a traditional secured mortgage

Continued on page 4
Extend your Festival stay and visit these Oklahoma destinations

Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art
1900 West MacArthur Drive Shawnee, OK 74804 | 405-878-5300

Founded in 1919, the Mabee-Gerrer is one of the oldest museums in the state. Located on the grounds of St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee, the museum’s one-of-a-kind permanent collection includes mummies, Native American regalia and old world antiquities. Each month the museum rolls out a new featured exhibit, which highlights art and culture from across the world. Find out more about the current monthly exhibit and find admission costs at www.mgmoa.org.

Myriad Botanical Gardens
301 W. Reno Oklahoma City, OK 73102 | 405-445-7080

This 15-acre park offers numerous activities for the whole family. Located in the heart of downtown Oklahoma City, visitors can enjoy many amenities including a children’s garden, restaurants and numerous walking paths. The gardens’ centerpiece, the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory offers guests an opportunity to stroll through a translucent indoor garden house with many exotic plants and waterfalls. The park is free, but to check for times and prices for the Crystal Bridge please visit www.oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com.

Museum of Osteology
10301 South Sunnylane Rd. Oklahoma City, OK 73160 | 405-814-0006

This museum houses nearly 300 different skeletons from all over the world. Boasting the largest private collection of osteological specimens in the world, the museum is home to remains of small and large animals from the land and from the sea. For admission costs and hours of operation please visit www.museumofosteology.org.

Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark
2 South Mickey Mantle Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73104 | 405-218-1000

The local minor league baseball team, the Oklahoma City Dodgers, is slated to play a week’s worth of home games during the Family Reunion Festival. Located in the middle of bustling Bricktown just off of Interstate 40, the ballpark’s ticket prices are affordable – outfield seating tickets start at $10 and there are plenty of restaurants and family friendly entertainment options to enjoy nearby before and after a game. To view the schedule or purchase tickets please visit www.okcdodgers.com.

CPCDC continued...

that one might take out on a home or commercial property. In a traditional real estate mortgage, the owner pledges the property as a guarantee that if they are unable to pay, the holder of the mortgage can foreclose and sell the property to make up for the loss from the original loan. Under a lease-hold equity mortgage, the lender lends to an individual or company that is leasing property from the tribe. If forced to foreclose due to non-payment, the lender would still have a right to use the property for further investment for the term of the lease, which is set at a maximum of 25 years for tribal governments.

“When the lease is up, the tribe gets that land back, including any improvements that have accrued to that land. The lender on the other hand, has adequate time and ownership of the property to recover its loan,” said Crothers.

The precedent for such leases in Indian Country comes from the practices of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, who are major property owners in the city of Palm Springs, California. The CPCDC’s secondary goal is to foster similar opportunities for fellow tribes, the best example of has been to help secure financing for the Seminole Nation’s Grisso Mansion. Ultimately the CPCDC will continue to serve as an instrument to further the development of Indian Country, a goal too often neglected by federal, state and local authorities.

“The CPCDC will continue to serve as an instrument to further the development of Indian Country, a goal too often neglected by federal, state and local authorities. “Here it’s so much more than just making small business loans though,” concluded Crothers. “We get to work with a tribal organization that’s a major corporation and we’re doing things that are cutting edge and breaking new ground. It’s a matter of tribes becoming more sophisticated in their financial dealings, and stepping into the 21st century as financially sovereign entities.”

Established in 2003, the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation provides financial products and counseling services to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation members and employees nationwide as well as Native American-owned businesses throughout Oklahoma. If you would like to learn more about their services, please visit www.CPCDC.org or call (405) 878-4697.

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CPCDC continued...

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In recent years, rightwing groups like the Goldwater Institute have made a concerted effort to repeal the Indian Child Welfare Act. Opponents claim the 1978 law, which aims to keep foster children of Native American descent in tribal families and communities, is racist. Those playing the race card appear angrier that the law prioritizes rights of Native families over those who are not. ICWA’s focus on tribal sovereignty in determining a Native child’s placement – with tribal families and communities – is a vital component of tribal sovereignty and recognition of tribes’ nation-to-nation relationship with the United States.

Despite highly publicized, poorly researched news reports which grab the headlines about the ICWA, staff members of the CPN Indian Child Welfare Department continue to use the law to protect the wellbeing and interests of tribal children. In that work, the staff regularly works with families in need of counseling and support just to stay together. Whether from neglect, abuse or just an absence of basic necessities, the ICW staff often works with Native American families dealing with extremely trying circumstances. While the ultimate goal is to keep the family together, the ICW staff remains dedicated to protecting the wellbeing of the native children they serve.

Knowing how volatile these situations can be, Director Janet Draper prides herself on hiring staff that can handle tense situations with professionalism and empathy. To her, a child must be capable of calming someone down so that our case workers can get to assisting them,” explained Draper.

One of the first voices ICW clients hear is that of Angela Redding, an intake specialist for the department and the CPN Tribal Court. Redding is a graduate of Tecumseh High School and has attended Gordon Cooper Technology Center and Seminole State College. She recently returned to the area where she grew up after 15 years living in Arkansas. She’d previously worked in the financial lending sector before learning about the opening at CPN.

“I applied at CPN because they are the biggest employer in the area and I had just moved back to my hometown,” she explained.

She began working at the tribe in November 2015 as a receptionist for the ICW Department and CPN Tribal Court, but after a short interim period, was promoted to the ICW Intake Specialist.

Draper, who has a small, but long-tenured core of ICW staff, said that Redding’s job interview was a good indicator to what an asset she would become with ICW.

“During the short time of the interview I felt she would be a good fit in this fast paced department,” said Draper. “She is now completing all the paperwork and training for the position of a full-fledged ICW intake specialist.”

With vitally important issues like child custody and guardianship rights on the line, the job can be stressful. Yet her ability to diffuse contentious circumstances has proven greatly beneficial to the Citizen Potawatomi who must interact with the ICW department. Redding admits that one of the biggest challenges she faces is reading the reports of what many children the department interacts with have had to endure.

Yet those pressures are often offset by the positive outcomes that staff members’ witness.

“It’s very rewarding to know that in the end, the children will be cared for properly. It helps that I love all my coworkers and our director Junet Draper. She’s the best supervisor I have ever had,” she said.

When out of the office, Redding enjoys being outdoors, going on camping, fishing and float trips. A single mom, Redding’s days are often taken up getting her nearly 14 year old son to his sporting and school events.

To learn more about the services and work of staff members like Angela Redding at the CPN Indian Child Welfare Department, visit http://cpn.news/ICWHome.

CPN volunteer firefighters battle blazes year round

Firefighters across Oklahoma would likely tell you that conditions in the state are the perfect kindling for wildfires. The eastern red cedar, which is native to Oklahoma, and the dry and windy conditions present throughout the year mean that emergency responders must be prepared at all times. Already this year crews battled a wildfire in Oklahoma and Kansas which burned more than 400,000 acres, the largest wildfire in Kansas’ history.

“This summer Oklahoma is expecting a drought,” said CPN Emergency Management Director Tim Zientek. “After spring, the grass and foliage can burn up from the severe heat in the summer but you never know what to expect. We have to be ready all year round because wildfires can occur at any time of the year here.”

CPN employees assist other fire crews and help fight these wildfires throughout Pottawatomie County. Zientek heads up the response effort and has been a driving force in the creation and training of the CPN Volunteer Fire Department.

“Each year Pottawatomie County is affected by several large wildfires,” said Zientek. “It’s in our best interest to have people ready and willing to help fight these fires. Every time we go out as a crew we are always thanked for being there to help other emergency teams and fight the fires.”

CPN volunteer firefighters come from the ranks of tribal employees, including Nick Nadeau the assistant director of safety and housekeeping Major Jody Opela and Officer Mike Mckechnie of the CPN Tribal Police. The crew has multiple responsibilities, including assisting other emergency management crews when they respond to fires and other emergencies. Though they aren’t often called upon to be on the front lines of the blaze, the CPN volunteers can deliver up to 12,000 gallons of water with CPN’s water tanker trucks.

All of the surrounding fire departments have fire tanker trucks, but Zientek and his crew provide back-up water and other supplies.

“The volunteer firefighters at CPN have a really quick response time,” said Lieutenant Chad Larmin of the Tecumseh Fire Department. “Anytime we have a structural fire or wildfire we call them. Their 5,000-gallon tanker has helped us time and time again and we’re thankful for our partnership with them.”

If interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter or for more information, please contact Tim Zientek at 405-275-3121.
National Museum of the American Indian includes Potawatomi treaty

The original 1836 treaty between the Potawatomi and the United States is now on display as part of an exhibition titled “Nation to Nation: Treaties between the United States and American Indian Nations” at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. The treaty will be on display until August 2016.

“The history of U.S.-Indian treaties is the history of all Americans,” said Kevin Gover, director of NMAI. “We cannot have a complete understanding of what it means to be Americans without knowing about these relationships, whether we are Native Americans or not.”

The treaty on display was signed on August 5, 1836 at the Yellow River in Indiana. The treaty between the federal government and the Potawatomi people was a repeal of the 1832 peace treaty, which promised that the Potawatomi people could keep their land in northern Indiana. The United States broke the 1832 agreement and forced the Potawatomi to sell their reservation land for $14,080 and move west. Many Potawatomi refused to move, but ultimately the federal government would send them on a forced march to their new reservation in Kansas. This forced removal became known at the Trail of Death.

“This treaty is significant because it was the treaty that was used as the excuse for the removal from northern Indiana, including the Trail of Death, even though several of the chiefs never signed this or any other removal treaty,” said Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., director of CPN Cultural Heritage Center.

“Nation to Nation” presents the history of the relationship between the United States and American Indian Nations through their treaties in the largest historical collection ever offered to an audience. Nine original treaties on loan from the National Archives will be displayed for six months during the four-year run of the exhibit.

As the tribe who has signed more treaties with the U.S. government than any other, Potawatomi Nation will have two original treaties represented. The treaty between the Potawatomi and the United States in 1809 will also be displayed from August 2017 to January 2018.

“I hope that visitors to the exhibit leave with a better understanding of how complicated and destructive the treaty era was for tribes,” Mosteller said. “From beginning to end, a visitor can see colonial and federal government relations with tribe’s transition from one of negotiations between sovereign nations, to one of U.S. federal domination on every aspect of life for Native peoples.”

For more information visit www.nmai.si.edu/nationtonation.

A saint amongst the Potawatomi

Many know about the Catholic Potawatomi’s long ties to the Catholic Church, with French missionaries first introducing the Christian religion to the tribes of the Great Lakes region as far back as the 17th century. Fewer know the story of one Catholic saint who lived amongst the ancestors of today’s Citizen Potawatomi people.

Rose Philippine Duchesne was born in Grenoble, France, during the reign of King Louis XV in 1769. A devout Roman Catholic nun, Duchesne’s interest in the New World was peaked at a young age upon hearing a Jesuit missionary speak about the American Indians.

Yet her dream of ministering to the original inhabitants of North America would have to wait. The death of Louis XVI gave way to his successor, Louis XVII. The weak and ineffective French king was toppled in 1791 by the French Revolution, which turned its wrath on the Catholic Church. The church was seen by many revolutionaries as part of the ancien regime of nobility and clergy who had supported the monarch and oppressed the French people.

Duchesne and her order remained dedicated to their order’s service despite the Reign of Terror’s closure of their Parisian convent in 1792. Returning to Grenoble to live with her family, she continued her service to the poor and also helped hide fugitive priests fleeing the mob violence that accompanied the later revolutionary period.

She was well into middle age as a nun of the Order of the Sacred Heart in Paris when in 1817 the bishop of Louisiana visited in search of potential missionaries to peoples of the former French territory. She arrived the next year, travelling to St. Louis before settling in St. Charles, Missouri. There, with other nuns of her order, Sister Duchesne helped establish convents and orphanages as well as the first school for American Indian children west of the Mississippi River.

It was her familiarity with the territories of Missouri and Kansas and their Catholic populations that first brought her into contact with the Potawatomi of the Woods, who had been forcibly removed from Indiana in 1832 to small eastern Kansas reservation. At the age of 72, she arrived at the Jesuit mission established by the Potawatomi at Sugar Creek and ministered to the people there. Her devotion to her religious order was so pronounced that the Potawatomi referred to her as Quah-Kah-Ka-Nam-ad, or “the woman who prays always.”

A legend arose from her devotion to her prayers among the Potawatomi at Sugar Creek. In order to measure her devotion, the Potawatomi scattered kernels of corn on her robe when she prayed to see if she ever moved. According to the story, which is portrayed in numerous pictures of her, including a shrine at Mount City, Kansas, Sister Duchesne amazed the Potawatomi by remaining motionless as she prayed through the night.

There is another, more practical explanation for her devotion to prayer though. Sister Duchesne had only begun to learn English after first arriving in Louisiana in 1818. Her stay with the Potawatomi lasted only one year, giving the elderly nun little time to master their language so as to adequately communicate and teach, as was her specialty.

Faced with the harsh frontier conditions on the reservation, the elderly Duchesne suffered from poor health and in 1842 she was recalled by the bishop. As noted in Beverly Boyd’s article “Rose Philippine Duchesne,” the nun was saddened by the order for her to return to St. Charles after such a short time living with the Potawatomi.

“It seems to me that in leaving the Indians, I have left my element, and that henceforth I can do nothing but languish for the heavenly country from which, happily, there will be no more departures,” she wrote at the time.

She died in St. Charles in 1852. Still, her dedication to the people to whom she ministered was never forgotten, especially by the Potawatomi. In accordance with Catholic doctrine, Duchesne’s canonization cause was introduced in 1895, followed by the 1909 declaration by Pope Pius X that she was Venerable. Pope Pius XII beatified Duchesne in 1940, before her canonization in 1988 by Pope John Paul II.
Tribal Nations Maps show historical lands of tribes across the Western Hemisphere

With the rise of Google Earth and GPS directions on smartphones, accessing a map in modern-day life comes at the touch of a finger. Yet too often, especially on historical maps, the names and territories of the people who pre-dated colonial North America are nowhere to be found.

One California man, Aaron Carapella, has quietly turned his passion of learning more about Indian Nations into a solution to this gap of knowledge through his business, Tribal Nations Maps. The Hownikan spoke with the map maker about his business and passion for documenting the tribes of the Americas.

How did you become interested in creating maps? When did that turn into focusing on tribal nations?

“Mostly my grandparents taught me to be proud of our Native roots since I was very small. Growing up in California, I would go to powwows and visit tribal museums looking for a good map of tribes to put on the wall in my room. At the time I was devouring books on Native history and culture, and was amazed that I couldn’t find a good map that represented at least the majority of the historical nations.

“As I learned more about local California tribes that are not federally recognized, I realized just how many tribes have been left off of maps. I decided to create a map of the U.S. tribal nations that represented all of our peoples, utilizing our own traditional names for ourselves, which I felt had also not been done before.

“After 14 years of on-and-off research, traveling to about 300 tribal communities and being pushed by many people to publish my work - I finally contacted the U.S. Copyright Office to see if this concept had ever been created before. They found that it had not. In 2012 I copyrighted my first map.”

What was the project that convinced you to turn it into a business?

“A couple years ago I was juggling a job, a newborn son and my maps. During my regular job I was getting calls constantly from tribes and others interested in my maps or offering suggestions for changes and I realized that I couldn’t juggle both. I quit my job and threw all of my energy into creating maps of the entire Western Hemisphere, to show people that there are indigenous nations everywhere that need to be represented, and many of which are still here struggling for recognition and respect.”

You’ve visited more than 300 native communities in North America. How does visiting help in your work?

“In my teens I was a member of many Native rights organizations, including the American Indian Movement, Save Puvungna and others fighting racist mascots and defending sacred sites. As an activist I was called to visit or help many communities throughout the Southwest, and while there I would talk to elders, visit tribal museums, historic sites, taking in everything I was learning. I would fill in gaps on my maps periodically. There is a deep connection to land that our tribes feel, and I feel much more confident documenting traditional names of peoples that I have met and heard from directly.”

Why do you feel this is important to do?

“I don’t want to diminish the efforts by tribes to document their own regions, but I feel that before these, there were no national maps that portrayed an accurate representation of Native homelands. There were many maps that showed 50 or 100 of the most ‘famous’ tribes. There was even one showing about 300 that was decent - but none utilized traditional names.

“My ‘U.S. Nations’ map has over 900 tribes on it, using both traditional and commonly-known names. This shows just how many had been ignored before.

“Every day I get emails and phone calls from people happy to see their nation on a map for the first time, and also calls from non-Natives who are happy to learn just how many of us there were—and are.

Who are some of your customers or perhaps some of your most proud pieces to have created?

“My customers include tribal governments and members, non-Natives, teachers, school districts, museums and all kinds of organizations that use these in educational settings. I am amazed that I have gone from activist in the streets to having created something used within school systems.

“I have now created tribal maps of the Americas, showing over 3,000 nations. This is a project that will be ongoing. I will be adding tribes for years, I am sure, as people bring more suggestions to me.”

To learn more about the work of Aaron Carapella’s business, Tribal Nations Maps, visit his website at www.tribalnationsmaps.com.

ATTENTION VETERANS!

The CPN Tribal Tag Agency would like to honor your service with our new CPN Vet Tags. Open to all CPN veterans residing in Oklahoma.

• DD214 and proper identification needed to apply
• Total tag fee - $25; Renewal fee - $15

Call the CPN Tribal Tag Agency at 405-273-1009 or visit www.potawatomi.org/services/tag-office for more information.
Child Development Center class wins first place at OU Language Fair for third consecutive year

Students from the CPN Child Development Center took first place for their performance of the Potawatomi Morning Song at the Oklahoma Native American Language Fair hosted by the Sam Noble Museum and the University of Oklahoma.

For the past four years the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Child Development Center has been a major force in the event. The center’s first year won third place in the large group traditional category. However, in the past three years, they have won first place.

CPN Language Director Justin Neely organizes and teaches the kids ahead of the event in afternoon classes at the child development center. The students began practicing in January, learning a new verse of the song each week.

The Potawatomi Morning Song is a song about getting out of bed, giving thanks to the day and the spirituality involved with speaking the Potawatomi language.

The youth in the competition are graded based on their appearance and sound. Absolutely no English is allowed in the competition. “The kids had really nice harmony this year,” said Neely. “It can be hard for that many young children to sing in unison, but they all did a wonderful job. The whole idea with the language fair is a wonderful event. It helps promote the language and is a really positive event for the kids.”

The event is one of a few in the United States. The event is one of only a few of its kind throughout the United States and children from many different tribes participate.

“I’m very proud of these kids,” said Child Development Center Director Donnette Littlehead. “We started teaching the Potawatomi language to the children at an earlier age and these kids have been learning the language since they were two years old. Its important to incorporate the Potawatomi language at the daycare because 60 percent of the kids are Potawatomi.”

To Neely and Littlehead, it’s important that children learn their language and culture. Incorporating the language in teaching the children also brings in their parents, many of whom want to learn Potawatomi as well.

“The best feedback we get comes from the parents telling me that their kid is speaking Potawatomi at home,” said Neely. “It’s that inter-generational cultural transmission that let’s me know these kids are really learning the language. Teaching the kids at this age can give them a sense of identity as Potawatomi so as they get older they can carry the culture into the future.”

For those interested in learning more about the Potawatomi language please refer to their webpage at www.potawatomihertiage.org/#language.

Language with Justin: May 2016

By Justin Neely, Director of the CPN Language Department

It’s been an eventful month for the Citizen Potawatomi Language Department. In April, students who attend the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Child Development Center competed in the OU Language Fair. Our group took first place in the large group traditional song category for pre-K – second grade. The kids sang the Potawatomi “Morning Song,” focusing on singing loudly with harmony, but without screaming. Anyone who has ever worked with 4-year-olds knows this is quite a challenge, so a big migewetch to the language staff for working with the kids and even bigger congrats to the children who competed and won.

Check out the video of the CPN Child Development Center Kids Performance here: http://syn.

Our new online language course, Beginner I, is available at http://language.potawatomi.org and is free and open to anyone with an interest in the language and culture. The beginner course is self-paced and designed so students can do the lessons in their free time. The course has PowerPoint lessons, video spoofs of popular movies, games, quizzes and tests to reinforce material and check one’s progress. After the completion of each of the 20 chapters is a special cultural teaching video which shares topics like the importance of eagles, Potawatomi medicine wheel, dances regalia, the drum, tobacco, the stars, traditional stories and folklore. After a student completes Beginner I we encourage him or her to take the Beginner II course, which has an additional 20 chapters of materials and teachings.

Additionally, we are working on a children’s course which we hope will be ready to go live by early May. It is designed specifically with kids in mind. The main page is a city and then you click on a building and have the option of going one of two directions. Then there are different hot spots in the areas where kids can hit on and hear songs, stories, learn words and watch parts of movies like “Finding Nemo,” “Frozen” and “Despicable Me” in Potawatomi. We hope kids will enjoy just looking around to see what they can find. We also believe some parents may enjoy it as much as their kids.

As a staff, we were able to attend a three-day workshop on immersion teaching methodology in Albuquerque, New Mexico, hosted by the Indigenous Language Institute. We saw and taught mini immersion classes. With more than 25 different tribal organizations in attendance, we learned language teaching techniques such as total physical response, the natural approach and immersion teaching styles. Immersion teaching involves instructing the class solely in your language.

We saw presentations by various groups using visual cues, songs, physical items and drawing. There were even demonstrations on teaching more complex grammatical concepts while staying in your language. We learned comprehensible input, which means making teaching understandable through hand gestures, pictures and visual aids, even if the students do not know the language. As teachers, we want to make sure to keep all students engaged and make sure we aren’t trying to cover too much material, which is why we have self-paced online classes available. Over all, it was a very insightful workshop.

Please contact me at neely@potawatomi.org or 405-878-5830 if you have any questions.
FireLake Golf Course closes to speed construction, full re-opening planned in 2017

To speed the course’s full overhaul, FireLake Golf Course is set to close in May 2016.

“Initially we wanted to stay open through spring 2016 to give our high school and junior high golfers a place to practice during their season,” said FireLake Golf Course Director Chris Chesser. “Tecumseh and Bethel high schools both play and practice here, and Shawnee Jr. High also practices here. As the only public course in the area, we felt it important to give them that option.”

With the high school golf season over and dry weather allowing for construction to continue unabated, the decision was made to close the front nine holes immediately to take advantage of the good conditions.

“We considered staying open and opening the back nine holes, which are currently closed for renovation, while we did the front nine,” he explained. “With dry weather forecasted, we felt it best close the entire course and speed up the overall project.”

The practice putting green and the driving range will remain open, though construction work on those may occur in the coming months. Updates will be posted on the FireLake Golf Course Facebook page as well as on www.FireLakeGolf.com.

While the full course’s closure will start in May, the long awaited clubhouse and pro shop are tentatively scheduled to re-open in late May. The pro shop will be fully stocked and operational once open, meaning FireLake regulars will still be able to get golf supplies, shoes and other accessories without driving into Oklahoma City.

“It’s an exciting time to be here. Working here as long as I have, seeing the new clubhouse come up and our back nine rebuilding both come to fruition, it’s really great to see,” said Chesser.

Also planned inside the clubhouse is a new eatery, the Sandwedge Grill, which is tentatively slated to open when the back nine holes re-open.

“We’re shooting to re-open the fully renovated back nine holes in late 2016, depending on whether the new grass we’ve planted is fully matured. Once we have golfers, we’ll be feeding them at the Sandwedge Grill,” said Chesser.

Though the golfers will be gone for a time, Chesser says that his seven staff members will remain on the job. FireLake has sped up construction times and cut some of the renovation’s costs by putting its full time staff to work on demolishing the course’s old cart paths, dredging water hazards and removing trees. “Our guys are going to be busier than ever actually. With all their normal mowing and watering of the new grass, they’re also doing landscaping of areas that aren’t part of the renovation and helping with the renovation itself,” he noted.

If all goes well, Chesser explained that FireLake will be fully operation-al, with 18 holes, by mid-2017.

FireLodge tribal youth update: May 2016

By Darin Greene, FireLodge Tribal Youth Coordinator

This time of year also brings our spring session at the Potawatomi Learning and Cultural Exchange. Our students will have plenty to do this month as school comes to a close.

The GET Native program will focus on educating students about several cultures including those living across North America. They will also be exposed to isolated languages of Oklahoma.

Tribal youth will be attending the Chickasaw Nation Reunion on May 13-14 in Kullihoma, Oklahoma, where they will join for dinner, stomp dance and stickball.

The GET Smart program continues to show success while tribal youth grades continue to rise. The students who are improving get special reward days, including a trip to FireLake Bowling Center and Arcade, swimming at Shawnee Splash Waterpark, a lock-in and a pizza party.

This month, tribal youth will be learning about famous Mexican Americans, celebrating Cinco de Mayo with a Mexican-style festival and preparing for college by working through applications and financial aid packets.

FireLake Wellness Center staff will be working with tribal youth to raise awareness about conditions like ALS, asthma, hearing and speech, stroke and multiple sclerosis. In conjunction with the GET Well and GET Aware initiatives, they will be encouraged to participate in the no-fried-food-Friday challenge.

Tribal youth will be starting the NFL PLAY 60 program as part of GET Fit, which includes a flag football league. The campaign, sponsored by the National Football League, encourages kids to be active for 60 minutes per day in order to combat childhood obesity.

In May the students also started a toy drive in honor of National Foster Care Month. Toys will be donated to CPN House of Hope.

If your child is interested in learning more about Native American culture or could benefit from our PLACE program, please contact me at dgreene@potawATOMI.org.
Two Potawatomi Midshipmen graduate from U.S. Naval Academy

Across the country, tribal members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation will walk across stages and receive their diplomas to conclude the 2016 academic year. Among the dozens of graduates concluding their undergraduate studies this academic year are two Citizen Potawatomi at the U.S. Naval Academy. Caleb Anderson and Whitney Heer are both Oklahoman natives and will be among the graduates honored at the Navy Marine Corps Commemorative Stadium on May 27, 2016, The Hownikan spoke to the Anderson, a Trombly family descendent, and Heer, a Toupin family descendent about their experiences at the Naval Academy and their plans for the future.

Why did you decide to pursue a degree at the U.S. Naval Academy and the ensuing term of service after graduation?

Heer: “I have wanted to be a pilot since I was eight years old and I also wanted to serve in the military. The Naval Academy offered me both of the unique experiences you can get. The organization is filled with young men and women spending months at sea and weeks in strange ports all around the world. People frequently ask these men and women what it is like living on a ship. A friend of mine wrote the following list for those who want to create an environment that resembles our tours at sea.

1. Buy a steel dumpster, paint it gray inside and out and live in it for six months. Hire someone to rock it for you.
2. Run all the pipes and wires in your house exposed on the walls. I learned that this can come in handy during rough seas.
3. Repaint your entire house every month.
4. Renovate your bathroom by building a wall across the middle of the bathtub and move the shower head to chest level. When you take showers, make sure you turn off the water while you soap down.
5. Put lube oil in your humidifier and set it on high.
6. Once a month, take all major appliances apart and reassemble them.
7. Raise the thresholds and lower the headers of your doors so that you either trip or bang your head every time you pass through them.
8. Raise your bed within six inches of the ceiling so you can’t turn over without getting out and getting back in.
9. Have your neighbor come over each day at 0500, blow a whistle loudly and yell, “Revelle, reveille, all hands heave out and trice up!”
10. Empty all the garbage bins in your house and sweep the driveway three times a day. Have someone repeat loudly, “Now sweepers, sweepers, man your brooms, give the ship a clean sweep fore and aft, and empty all cans and butt kits over the fantail!”
11. Make your family turn out all lights and go to bed at 2200 saying, “Now taps! Lights out! Maintain silence throughout the ship!” Then immediately have a truck crash into your house (for the benefit of aircraft carrier sailors).
12. Place a podium at the end of your driveway. Have your family stand watch at the podium, rotating at four-hour intervals. This is best done when the weather is the worst.
13. When there is a thunderstorm, find the biggest horse you can, put a two-inch mattress on his back and strap yourself to it. Turn him loose in a barn filled with snakes for six hours and try to sleep, then get up and go to work.
15. Have someone under the age of 10 give you a haircut with sheep shears.
16. Lock yourself and your family in the house for six weeks. Tell them at the end of the sixth week you are going to take them to Disney World for “liberty.” At the end of the sixth week, inform them the trip to Disney World has been canceled because they need to get ready for an inspection and it will be another week before they can leave the house.

This is only a very small taste of life aboard one of America’s fine ships. The food and health care is some of the best, you get to see a lot of the world - if it is a friendly port - and you’ll have a lifetime of stories to tell.

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

Migwetch.

Bozo,

Citizen Potawatomi Nation has veterans from every branch of the armed forces, but being a sailor in the U.S. Navy is one of the most unique experiences you can get. The Navy is the largest employer of veterans from every branch of the military. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has CPN Veterans report: May 2016

“I still surprises me how far-reaching and powerful determination can be. When you set your mind to something and pursue it with everything in you, you can make things happen. I heard all of the reasons I would never be accepted in to the academy ringing in my ears with every step I took to attain the coveted letter of acceptance. I am still both humbled and thankful to have had this opportunity. While academy life is exhausting physically and mentally, I won’t take for granted the opportunity I have been given. The brotherhood and lifelong friendships that have been formed over the last four years are something I will forever be grateful for; they bring the awareness that we are all a very small part of a much bigger purpose.”

Heer: “Your overall level of happiness is often what you make it. If you wake up and decide that you are unhappy, nothing will make you happy. If you get angry at small things that you cannot change, you will continue to be angry until you decide that you are happy.”

Upon your graduation what will you be doing or where might you be deployed?

Heer: “Pensacola, Florida, for pilot training. I have wanted to be a pilot since I was eight years old. That was when I got my first airplane ride at OU Sooner Flight Academy. Since then I have loved everything about flying and can’t wait until it is something I get to do every day.”

Anderson: “Upon graduation, I will move to Pensacola for flight school. My intention was always to be a Navy pilot, but after much thought and research, I decided that for me, Naval Flight Officer was the road I wanted to take for my naval career. I am excited to begin this next chapter and look forward to what lies ahead.”
In 1996, Elouise Cobell, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe, brought a class-action suit in hopes of forcing the government to correct and restate its historical accounting of all IIM Trust funds, to fix broken trust management systems and to implement reform measures to ensure that this kind of exploitation did not happen again. After 16 years of hearings, trials, and appeals, an unprecedented $3.4 billion settlement was reached in December 2009. This was a huge win for Cobell, the 500,000 class action lawsuit members she spoke for, and all of Indian Country.

So, what does all of this have to do with the Education Department? Among other things, the settlement authorized the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund, which aims to provide financial assistance to Native American students pursuing post-secondary education and training. The fund is partially funded by the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations. As of January 2016, the buy-back program has transferred nearly $35 million to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund.

As Native Americans, all Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members who are pursuing post-secondary (after-high school) education and can demonstrate an unmet need are eligible to apply for this scholarship. For the 2016 summer term, the May 1, 2016 deadline has passed. For the 2016–17 academic year, applications are due June 1, 2016. Award amounts vary based on unmet need. Students can find the application and more details at http://cobellscholar.org.

With all of this in mind, I have a challenge for our college-bound Citizen Potawatomi Nation students. First, read more about the Cobell lawsuit at the website above. I’ve given only a superficial overview here, and it deserves a deeper look because it’s an important part of our recent history as Native Americans. Second, apply for the Cobell Scholarship. According to the published records, only one Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member received a Cobell scholarship last academic year. I know from talking to several of you that there are more who desperately need this financial aid. As a tribe, let’s not leave this money on the table. We can do better by Ms. Cobell, who fought tirelessly to ensure a better future for our young people.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to the CPN Education Department at college@potawatomi.org or 405-275-3121.

On Friday, April 15, Pottawatomie County community members enjoyed a delicious dinner in downtown Shawnee. Safe Events for Families and Visit Shawnee, Inc. hosted the Redbud City “Night on the Bricks” dinner at Celebration of Life Park, complete with Jazz on the Bricks, the third Friday downtown block party and a community connection dinner.

The community connection dinner was catered by Local Dish and was free for 1,000 people who had tickets. The menu included tacos, chips and salsa, rice, beans and Mexican soda. Local churches sold baked goods for dessert.

CPN donated 100 tables and 500 chairs, set up by the CPN Housekeeping Department staff in the middle of Main and Philadelphia streets.

CPN Assistant Director of Housekeeping and Safety, Nick Nadeau, estimated that it took five staff members around eight hours to get the setup complete. CPN also donated water bottles for the dinner and gift cards for prizes. CPN’s total contribution to the event totaled more than $5,000.

Entertainment included Jazz on the Bricks, with performances by Oklahoma Baptist University Bison Jazz Combo, Shoulda Been Blonde, Bethel High School Jazz Band, Shawnee High School Jazz Band and the Mid- Del Jazz Orchestra, plus student art exhibits and free tickets to the Hornbeck Theatre’s late show.

Redbud trees were planted to honor Shawnee’s designation as the Redbud City of Oklahoma in 1941. City officials unveiled way-finding signage and dedicated Tom Terry Park.

“VSI, the Avedis Foundation, Shawnee Garden Center and Shawnee Milling sponsored the purchase of redbud trees to display at the event and then plant in various locations throughout Shawnee to enhance the community,” Danna Fowble, President of Visit Shawnee, Inc., said.

Other sponsors included the City of Shawnee, TS&H, Demco Printing and Ford Theatres.
Congratulations spring 2016 graduates!

High School

Arianna Nicole Christnas
Slipur Springs, Arizona
Family Name: Bourrasa
Gravette High School

Sara Nicole Boyden
Perry, Kansas
Family Name: Ogee
Perry/Lecompton High School

Mary Baldwin Ligon
Madison, Georgia
Family Name: Harridge
Morgan County High School

Amber Sines
Carlsbad, California
Family Name: Fregon
San Marcos High School

Jenae Larson
Haines, Alaska
Family Name: Anderson
Haines High School

Simon Ussyes Beach
West Seattle, Washington
Family Name: Evans
Chief Sealth International High School

Hailey Ellers
Highlands Ranch, Colorado
Family Name: Smith
Mountain Vista High School

Savanna Byington
West Valley City, Utah
Family Name: Byington
Syracuse High School

Madilyn K. Patton
Sallisaw, Oklahoma
Family Name: Toupin
Sallisaw High School

Megan Holzmeister
Overland Park, Kansas
Family Name: Toupin
Free State High School

Jared O’Brien
Anchorage, Alaska
Family Name: Buchan
AI Dimond High School

Aliasa Kathryn Schoeman
Fullerton, California
Family Name: Betran
La Habra High School

Shelby Ann Anderson
Columbia Falls, Montana
Family Name: Anderson
Columbia Falls High School

Chandler Hardy
Panama City, Florida
Family Name: Curley
Rutherford High School

Elizabeth Patton
Lawrence, Kansas
Family Name: Nadeau
Free State High School

College/University

Jennifer Bell
Midwest City, Oklahoma
Family Name: Ogee
University of Oklahoma
MLS - Indigenous Peoples Law

Joseph S. Holzmeister
Charlotte, North Carolina
Family Name: Nadeau/Vieux
University of North Carolina
BS in Business Administration

John William Shaw Jr.
Rockwood, Tennessee
Family Name: Nadeau/Vieux
Tusculum College
MS in Business Administration

William Samuel Anderson
Carrollton, Georgia
Family Name: Anderson
University of North Georgia
BS

Lauren Elizabeth Goady
Fullerton, California
Family Name: Betran
Rosary Academy High School

Bailey Mychal-Anne Losey
Olympia, Washington
Family Name: Schmidt
North Thurston High School

Lexi Leigh Freeman
Shawnee, Oklahoma
Family Name: Rhodd
Oklahoma State University
BS

Colby Cooper
Topeka, Kansas
Family Name: Vieux
University of Kansas
BS in Business Administration

Natalie BrinJones
Spokane, Washington
Family Name: LeClair
Arizona State University
BS in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Tysan Douglas Holmes
Overbrook, Kansas
Family Name: Weld/Kennedy
Wichita State University
BS in Nursing

Alycia Dickman
Meridian, Idaho
Family Name: Welch
University of Pennsylvania
BA in Sociology

Brandon Edward Kessler
Prosper, Texas
Family Name: Mitchell/Armstrong
University of Arkansas
BS in Business

J. Davis Hobdy
Irving, Texas
Family Name: Kahdot
St. Mary's College of California
BA in Performing Arts

Emily Holzmeister
Tempe, Arizona
Family Name: Nadeau
Notre Dame University
BS in Business

Joshua Glen Pyeatt “Wamego”
Navarre, Florida
Family Name: Pettifer
University of South Alabama
MS - Physician Assistant

Evans
West Seattle, Washington
Simon Ulysses Beach

Mason Daniel Durdel
East Peoria, Illinois
Family Name: Melot
East Peoria Community HS

Megan Holzmeister
Overland Park, Kansas
Family Name: Toupin
Oklahoma State University
MS in Management Information Systems

By the Numbers

Total Tribal Population 3,356
Scholarships in Spring 2016 140

Age by population
100+ 1
90-99 12
80-89 53
70-79 160
60-69 369
50-59 444
40-49 465
30-39 572
20-29 624
13-19 369
12-11 287

District 3
Information provided by Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Rolls

12 May 2016
HOWNIKAN

Lakota Pearl Pochedley
Kent, Ohio
Family Name: Slavin
University of Texas at Austin
MA in Cultural Studies
ME in Secondary Social Studies

Maxwell L. Weishan
San Diego, California
Family Name: Vieux/Bertrand/Melot
University of Arizona
BA in Psychology

Janae Lever
Topeka, Kansas
Family Name: Lever
Haskell Indian Nations University
BS in Business Administration

Chris Haxton
Stillwater, Oklahoma
Family Name: Toupin
California State University
BA in Sociology

Kelly Reklie
Boise, Idaho
Family Name: Lewis
Boise State University
BA in Elementary Education

Anita M. King
Sacramento, California
Family Name: Toupin
California State University
BA in Sociology

Alexander Olynik
Cheesepe Beach, Maryland
Family Name: Bruno
Norwich University
BS in Biochemistry

Stacey Bennett
Shawnee, Oklahoma
Family Name: Weld
University of Pennsylvania
BA in Sociology

Vivian Crayton Johnson
Silver Spring, Maryland
Family Name: Muller
Notre Dame of Maryland
MS in Special Education

Omar Rana
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
Family Name: Melott
University of Kansas
BA in History

Back to the top
Wadasé update: May 2016

By Bree Dunham, CPN Eagle Aviary

The many phases of Wadase's growth from spring 2013 to spring 2016.

Although Wadase Zhabwe hasn’t been back to the aviary since the first week in February she has been busy this spring as well. She continues to frequent the area around Horseshoe Lake near Harrah but within the last few weeks a new place has gained her attention. There are several reservoir sites less than 20 miles north of the aviary between highways 102 and 177 that she has taken an interest in recently. Wadase has recorded dozens of points near several small bodies of water listed as Quapaw Reservoirs in an average of 12 square miles of territory. Although that is a relatively small area when talking about the range she can now travel, we still have had little success in spotting her after checking telemetry and traveling directly to those locations. The main obstacle in locating her continues to be limited access into where she frequents. Since her release she has consistently chosen to stay in areas where there are very few people and access points. But those trips to the new locations weren’t completely unsuccessful. We have had the chance to meet some great people and talk to several landowners. We even spoke with a few who think they may have seen her fishing in the reservoirs. Armed with new information and a recent photo of Wadase, they will hopefully be able to provide positive sightings and new information in the future about her behavior in the wild.

Wadase molts this spring, the feathers that are replaced on her head and tail will be nearly all white. Although it is hard not to think of her as that young eagle we first received,

we have learned, but we know we are closer to the end of that data-gathering period than we are the beginning. We hope to be able to continue to share Wadase’s story through many more seasons and generations.

As always we encourage you to keep your eyes out for Wadase if you are near the areas she frequents. For more information about the CPN Eagle Aviary or to read previous Wadase updates visit www.potawatomiheritage.org. Send your encounters with Wadase or any other eagles in Oklahoma or wherever you may be to us at avian@potawatomi.org.

The many phases of Wadase's growth from spring 2013 to spring 2016.
Residents living in and around the City of McLoud will make a shorter trip the next time they want to buy groceries. As of April 25, those long hauls will be a thing of the past as FireLake Express Grocery officially opens its doors for business. The store is an enterprise of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, whose tribal jurisdiction includes much of Pottawatomie County.

“Northwest Pottawatomie County has a growing population and we believe that we can add value by saving our customers that live in that area time and money on fuel and all of their grocery needs,” said FireLake Director Richard Driskell. “As time goes by, you will notice fuel and grocery prices will go down in the McLoud area due to us keeping every one more competitive.”

Located just north of Interstate 40 on the northeast corner of Westech and McLoud roads, FireLake Express McLoud will be the closest grocery store for the residents of the city and nearby communities like Dale, Bethel Acres, Harrah and Newalla.

“The Nation is very excited for our newest enterprise, FireLake Express Grocery McCloud, to offer services to the city. It’ll be the first time since the late 1960s when Cycle Groceries closed that they’ve had a grocery store here,” noted CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps.

FireLake Express Grocery McLoud is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day and employs 20 full time and 77 part time staff. It has a full service bakery and a deli serving Charley Biggs Chicken. The store will also include a smoke shop with a drive thru window, a beer cave as well as 10 automobile fueling stations offering 100 percent gasoline, 10 percent ethanol, super unleaded and diesel.

It is the third FireLake grocery store following the successful FireLake Discount Foods, located just south of Shawnee, Oklahoma, and FireLake Express Grocery Tecumseh. For the longtime grocery and travel stop director, the opening of a store for customers was a long time coming.

“Opening day is very exciting and nerve wracking because we want a store to be perfect when we open,” said Driskell, who has overseen all three grocery openings in his long tenure with the tribe. “We are always excited about opening a new store where we have put a lot of hard work and time into it.”

To learn more about FireLake Express Grocery McLoud, please visit cpn.news/ffmcloud to follow all the weekly grocery store specials and savings available.
Potawatomi academic achiever
Kylie Stewart

The following article was originally run on www.Vype.com by author Brad Heath. It is reprinted here with their express written permission.

Tecumseh High School junior Kylie Stewart is making a difference in her local community and around the world.

As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and a student at Tecumseh High School, Kylie Stewart has felt a responsibility to her tribe and her classmates to be more than just a student, but to have an impact wherever she can in life.

In the classroom Stewart carries a 4.0 GPA and is focused on making the most of her opportunities.

“I am currently involved in the National Honor Society, Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society and Beta Club,” said Stewart. “I also volunteer with the National Honor Society and my church, the Tecumseh Pentecostal Church of God.”

Through the church her impact on another tribe more than 6,000 miles away was felt when she took a mission trip to Panama.

“My mission trip to Panama was definitely a life changing experience. While we were there we helped build a church and a school for the Ngobe-Buglé Indian tribe living in the mountains. The one thing that left the biggest impact on my life was seeing how happy these kids were even though they didn’t have much. No matter what was going on they always managed to have a smile on their face. These wonderful people taught me to cherish even the smallest things in life.”

The tribe will continue to help Stewart with her education in college. She plans to attend St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

“The Potawatomi tribe has been a tremendous help in furthering my education. The tribe has a contract with St. Gregory’s that will completely pay for the four years that I will be attending there,” said Stewart.

Before she heads off on another mission trip or off to college, Stewart will graduate from Tecumseh High School, a place she will always call home.

“The thing I like most about being a student at Tecumseh High School is all of the AP classes they offer. While these classes are challenging, they help me prepare for my future in college. My favorite class is AP U.S. History, also known in school as APUSH. My favorite teacher would have to be Mrs. Ozment, my trigonometry teacher.”

There’s little doubt Stewart will be successful in college and in life.

“It is very important to me to be successful in anything I do because I represent the Potawatomi tribe.”

Kylie Stewart poses with Ngobe-Bugle Indian children during her Panama mission trip.
Tribal police recognized for community impact at Oklahoma ethics awards

The Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium’s 2016 OK Ethics Statewide Awards recognizes businesses, nonprofits and government entities whose efforts promote Oklahoma values and positively impact its communities. In the category of community impact, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Police Department was honored for its influence in the communities it serves in Pottawatomie County.

In a letter recommending the department’s nomination for the awards, Pottawatomie County Sheriff Mike Booth wrote that “as the elected sheriff of Pottawatomie County, my office and deputies work hand-in-hand with the CPN police department on a daily basis. Their commitment to an ethical community policing program has benefited all the people of the county who are sworn to protect and serve.”

In 2012, Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Tribal Police Department implemented a new community policing plan in its 900-square mile jurisdiction based upon four guiding principles:

Get in front of it - Peace is more important than control. Unfortunately, many if not most police agencies focus more on response than prevention and as a result judge their success by the number of arrests and convictions rather than crime rates and the perceptions of the citizens.

Make every decision for the right reason - Motive is everything. Every officer must think about “why” they are deciding on a particular course of action. The welfare of the individual and the larger group must be the driving motivation, never the officer’s ego or anger.

Maintain the highest standards - Behavior is the cornerstone of credibility. The choices officers make both on and off the job are critical to their personal authority and the authority of the institutions they serve.

Be kind - Do not judge people. Occupying a position of law enforcement authority requires police officers to disagree, intervene, and sometimes use force to stop an inappropriate action(s). However, do not be naïve. Police officers are still dealing with very dangerous people and situations.

The purpose of these principles is to help tribal police officers, who in many cases operate as southern Pottawatomie County’s primary first responders, protect and serve the diverse populations and properties of a largely rural jurisdiction. Tribal police officers must also mindfuly navigate diverse cultural and economically challenged populations during their shifts, making a cogent set of operating principles key in maintaining trust and cooperation with the people they serve.

“The CPNPD’s focus on engaging all members of the communities we patrol has been beneficial for their officers and our own,” wrote Tecumseh Police Chief Gary Crosby. “When one makes a traffic stop or responds to an emergency call, they know that a sister-agency will be there immediately as back up. This trust has also trickled down to the citizens in our town, who often see tribal police officers as trustworthy as those of the Tecumseh Police Department.”

The Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium is a non-profit, professional organization dedicated to promoting Oklahoma values of integrity at work. With nearly 1,000 individual members representing approximately 200 organizations, chapters in Tulsa and Oklahoma City host monthly luncheon forums on topics related to business ethics. More information is available at www.okethics.org.
Day of Champions football and softball camp returns to CPN June 27-28

Each June, campers comprised of Potawatomi tribal members and children of Tribal employees gather at FireLake Ball Fields to take part in the now annual tradition of the Day of Champions Football and Sports Skills Camp.

Campers spend two days going through drills, playing games and learning leadership from coaches with a vast array of professional, collegiate and high school experience. In 2015, the camp expanded its offerings to include softball instruction for numerous female participants who wanted to attend. A total of 185 campers attended, with 30 female campers joining in. Approximately 80 percent were Native American, 55 percent of those were Citizen Potawatomi.

- Football skills instruction includes position-specific drills, strength and conditioning, nutritional instruction and individual competitions.

- Softball instruction includes pitching, catching and softball skills. Sports skills includes hand-eye coordination, speed and agility training, strength and conditioning, nutritional instruction.

On the second day of the camp, June 28, parents or guardians are encouraged to attend and participate in camp events with their campers.

“Last year we had 65-75 parents on the field for fantasy day. We had a parent that attended our first camp as a 18 year old, 11 years ago. He brought his son to camp last year and said he wanted his son to learn the same values that were instilled in him,” said CPN’s Sarah Lawerance, who organizes the event.

The camp is led by former collegiate coach Ken Heupel and his son, former University of Oklahoma standout and current Utah State University Offensive Coordinator Josh Heupel. The camp’s other staff members are all former collegiate or professional players and coaches.

Applications are still available for this year’s June 27-28 camp, which takes place immediately following the annual CPN Family Reunion Festival. Students from first through eighth grade are eligible to participate at $15 per camper. Camp runs from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. each day.

Campers will receive lunch each day, a camp T-shirt and only need to bring a bottle of water with their name on it. Girls and boys are encouraged to attend, with both groups able to receive either football or softball sports skills instructions.

To download the full registration form, visit http://cpn.news/DOC16 or contact Sarah Lawerance at sklawerance@potawatomi.org.

PROTECT A POTAWATOMI CHILD’S DREAM

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

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

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

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

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

FireLodge Children and Family Services
405-878-4831 | 1-800-880-9880
On the front page of this Hownikan there is a story about the decision in the arbitration hearings under the Tribal Gaming Compact. This decision will have a far reaching impact for the tribes here in Oklahoma, and perhaps in many other states.

Former Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Daniel J. Boudeau was the arbitrator. He used the “test” described in a United States Supreme Court case from 36 years ago called White Mountain Apache Tribe v. Bracker, 448 U.S. 136 (1980).

What makes this decision so interesting is the completely different set of facts in our case against the Oklahoma Tax Commission that still led the judge to use the same principle of law to decide in our favor. Here are the “bare bone” facts of our case:

1. The Oklahoma Tax Commission billed us for more than $26 million in back taxes. At the time, our casino, gift shop, gas station, gun store, sporting clays, concrete, graphic, arena, restaurants and the gift shop were the “tax owed” portion of the land to be taxed.

2. We did not pay the state demands, so the Oklahoma Tax Commission threatened to take away our liquor licenses, tax permits and mixed beverage licenses, the license for the Casino and FireLake Casino, even though most of the tax claim was for sales at the grocery store, which is several miles away. It intended to punish us for not acting as a state sales tax collector.

Our previous law suit with the Oklahoma Tax Commission in 1991 is described in the Supreme Court prohibition against the state from trying to come on reservation land to collect its taxes. This time the state thought it had a weapon to force us to pay: harm casino revenue by denying us a liquor license. When the CPN still did not pay, Oklahoma sent a “closure order” saying we had to shut down every tribal business – casinos, stores, bowling, golf, fuel, bakeries, movie theaters, pizza, gun store, sporting clays, concrete, graphics, arena, restaurants and the gift shop. We then asked for arbitration of the dispute under the gaming compact rule which requires the state to submit to arbitration.

The facts in the Arizona case were very different actions. The White Mountain Apache Tribe v. Bracker is a case in which the United States Supreme Court of the United States held that Arizona’s taxes against a non-Indian contractor working exclusively for the Apache Tribe on that tribe’s reservation were preempted by federal law, in other words, illegal. Here are the players in this case:

The Fort Apache Timber Company (FACTO) is a tribal enterprise created by the White Mountain Apache Tribe. It was created for the Pinetop Logging Company (Pinetop) in 1969 to transport and sell lumber harvested by FACTO on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The lumber itself is harvested from land held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the benefit of the tribe. The BIA has a contract with FACTO to harvest the trees, but the BIA controlled which trees would be harvested, the equipment to be used, where and what roads would be used and logging truck speeds. The BIA never left the reservation, and only used roads built and maintained by BIA. In 1971, the Arizona Highway Department sought to collect a motor carrier tax and a fuel tax from Pinetop. Pinetop paid under protest, and both the state and the tribe sued to recover the taxes. The Arizona Supreme Court ruled for the BIA and Pinetop and the state appealed. The Arizona Supreme Court refused to hear the case and instead sent the United States Supreme Court to hear the appeal. They ruled for Pinetop based on “federal preemption.”

Where our case is the same as the White Mountain Apache v. Bracker case is in the federal preemption “test” used by the Court. It asked if the state tax law in question created an area already sufficiently covered by federal law; if so, the state tax law was preempted. The Supreme Court found that the timber operation and the revenues it generated on the Fort Apache reservation already came under extensive federal regulation. Therefore, no room remained for additional state regulation.

Next the test asked if the Arizona state law threatened tribal sovereignty and economic viability. The Court found that as the state had already threatened our general revenue from timber, it would provide no services with the money generated that justified the tax on tribal activities. Finally, the decision itself is harvested from land held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the benefit of the tribe. The timber operation and the revenues it generated on the Fort Apache reservation already came under extensive federal regulation. Therefore, no room remained for additional state regulation.

The real reason for this closing order was that we did not pay the state $1.10. Former State Tribal Gaming Commissioner Gary Shadid said in 1996 that the tax was intended to allow taxation of gaming taxes described in the gaming compact. He un-equivocally stated that it was not the intent of the state to collect any tax beyond the gaming taxes described in the agreement. In fact, he stated, “what we received from the compact was a windfall.” We are grateful to him for that statement. The present governor’s staff testified that the gaming agreement intended to allow taxation of other tribal economic activities.

Better days are coming. Thank you for your patience in serving as tribal chairman.

I cherish the opportunity to serve as your vice-chairman. I am delighted in good news for the benefit of our people.

Migwetch, Linda Capps
405-275-3121 office
405-650-1238 cell

Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps
District 1 - Roy Slavin

are joining for this meeting at the Ararat Shrine, 5100 Ararat Drive, Kansas City, Missouri from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Gifts for the wisest, youngest and farthest travelled will be given. We will have two guest speakers and Charles Clark, director of tribal rolls, who will be available for those who need to renew or get an ID card.

Lunch will be served at noon. When you receive your invitation it requests you to RSVP. This request is made so we can prepare food for those attending. If you RSVP that you plan to attend, and we hope you do, please make every effort to do so as it is very costly and wasteful if you RSVP and don’t show up. If you have any questions you can always reach me at toll free 1-887-741-5767.

Another reminder, Festival is coming up soon, the last weekend of June, so if you haven’t made your reservation you should do so, as the hotels fill up quick. See the ad on page 16 of this paper for nearby lodging locations. Also, the CPN is hosting the Gathering of Nations from July 28-30, 2016. I will update information as it becomes available via email.

For those of you who will be flying in, the closest airport is Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City. Shawnee is about 35 miles east of Oklahoma City along Interstate 40. Most events will take place inside the fully air-conditioned FireLake Arena. Again, hope to see everyone there.

I will close this article as always with a request for your contact information. Email rslavin@potawatomi.org or snail mail Roy Slavin, 6630 N. Revere Dr., Kansas City, Missouri 64151.

Igwen
Roy (Netagey)
Always Planting
slavin@potawatomi.org

Bozho: Be sure to mark your calen- dars for May 21, 2016 for the joint meeting of District 1 and 4. Jon Boursaw and I

District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

Bezo nikan ek
(Hello friends)!

Mid-March in District 2 fea- tured a visit to the archives of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) on a Friday and a medallion beading class and lunch in the District 2 office on Sat- urday. Miwoghtl to all who could join in and make it a special family weekend. Here are links to event pho- tos: Archives visit - http:// cpn.news/nmai and bead- ing class: http://cpn.news/ bead05.

Igwen (heartfelt thanks) to Virginian (AKA former Tex- an) Bob Richey/Shawnee for his able and patient beading instruction. Bob has been an incredible asset to our people in District 2! We each came to the beading class with differ- ing levels of knowledge and ability and Bob adapted his instruction to what each of us needed. I’m looking forward to photos of com- pleted medallions and/or seeing completed work sewn onto moccasins and bags at the Family Festival in June, the Gathering of Nations in July or the District 2 Fall Feast, which is set for Satur- day, Nov. 12.

Later in March I was able to attend the installation into the Nation to Nation exhibit at the NMAI of our 1836 treaty with the United States signed at Yellow River. I joined Kevin Gover, who heads the NMAI, Tribal Chairmanship Rocky Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Cultural Heritage Center Director Kelli Mo- steller Ph.D. and CPN Arch-ivist Blake Neece, as well as Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Council Chair- woman Lianna Onnen and PBPN council members Carrie O’Toole and Thomas M. Wadnum, among others, for a close inspection of the treaty before it was installed. A legible treaty image is here: http://cpn.news/treaty. I noted that some of those who signed the 1836 treaty were women, but the tran- script of the treaty, made in 1904 and republished on the Smithsonian website (http:// cpn.news/treaty), rewrites history, reflecting that each signatory is a “he.”

And here’s a link to a num- ber of excellent Associated Press photos taken that day: http://cpn.news/appphotos. The 1836 treaty will be part of the Nation to Nation exhibit through the early fall and I’d be happy to coordi- nate a group tour and lunch one weekend if there is interest, so let me know if that’s appealing.

I have posted dates and de- tails for the Family Reunion Festival and the Gathering of Nations, both to be held in Shawnee this year in June and July, respectively, on our website evamariecarney.com under Calendar. I will add more details as I get them. Please let me know of your interest in competing with a District 2 team in the band games competition on the Friday night (June 24) of the Festival. I am looking for- ward to seeing many of you this summer – and, since I’m writing this in April for the May publication, I’m eager for the opportunity to visit with new and old friends at the Loveless Café in Nash- ville during our lunch and family meeting there on Sat- urday, May 7.

Please note my new mailing address. The March beading class was the last event in my CPN office downtown – I closed the office and have opened up a PO Box for mail. Have laptop will travel! My toll free phone num- ber remains the same.

My best for a delightful month ahead and miwoghtl thank you for the honor of representing you.

Kind regards and bama pi (until later), Eva Marie Carney Ojindiskwe
Legislator, District #2
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
PLEASE NOTE NEW MAILING ADDRESS:
2200 North George Mason Drive # 7307
Arlington, VA 22207
evamarie@potawatomi.org
Toll Free: 866-961-6988
evamariecarney.com

Thomas M. Wadnum, Eva Marie Carney and Kevin Gover inspect the archives at NMAI. - Photo by Paul Morigi, AP Images for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian.

JOIN US!
For the District 1 & 4 Legislative Meeting with Representatives Jon Boursaw and Roy Slavin

SUNDAY MAY 21, 2016 10AM-3PM
ARARAT SHRINE TEMPLE
5100 ARARAT DR, KANSAS CITY, MO 64192
RSVP by May 17, 2016 with Jon Boursaw at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org or 785-861-7327
Roy Slavin at rslavin@potawatomi.org or 816-507-2961

LEGISLATIVE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES JON BOURSAW AND ROY SLAVIN

Legislator Eva Marie Carney invites you and your family to a District 2 lunch and business meeting in Nashville!

Saturday May 7th | 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Harpeth Room at The Loveless Cafe
8400 Tennessee Highway 100, Nashville, TN 37221.

Please note my new mailing address. The March beading class was the last event in my CPN office downtown – I closed the office and have opened up a PO Box for mail. Have laptop will travel! My toll free phone number remains the same.

The facility is wheelchair accessible and there is disability parking available.

Legislator Eva Marie Carney invites you and your family to a District 2 lunch and business meeting in Nashville!

Saturday May 7th | 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Harpeth Room at The Loveless Cafe
8400 Tennessee Highway 100, Nashville, TN 37221.

The facility is wheelchair accessible and there is disability parking available.

Space is limited so please send your RSVP today to evamarie@potawatomi.org or by calling Eva’s toll free message line: 866.961.6988, with names and ages (if under 18) of attendees by April 25, 2016.

If once you RSVP your plans or number in your group changes please let Eva know by email or phone – we don’t want any seat to go unfilled!

Please bring your questions and your family stories!
and consist of corn, beans and squash. The three are planted so that they complement each other, relative to sunlight needs, and how they interact. One layout is to plant the corn in the center with beans and squash on the perimeter. Squash can be troublesome. They can cross pollinate. So for very good results, you need separation of the mounds used to plant the squash. In each mound you normally put about five or six seeds. If room allows, and for great support, you can alternate bean plants with the squash mounds. In your mind's eye, think of the garden being in a circle with the bean plants at positions north, east, south and west. The squash would be in between each of the major directions. The corn is in the center. The corn and the beans will grow towards the sky. The squash is a great ground cover and will fill in around the beans and corn. When the season is over, and you have finished harvesting the crops, their vines and leaves will provide the nitrogen and other natural elements to help fertilize the soil for the following year’s planting.

In some areas, to provide a snack or natural pesticide for birds, sunflowers may be planted on the north side of the garden. The sunflower seeds are more attractive to the birds than the three sisters seeds. By planting the sun flowers on the north side, since they can be extremely tall, you are not depriving the three sisters of the sunlight they need to grow. April is the month when many gardens get started, but given our zone seven weather here in north Texas, May is not too late to still do a planting.

For those coming to Family Festival June 24-26, I urge you to stop by the cultural heritage center or sneak a peek at the garden which is located at the eagle avari. This is a wonderful opportunity for many urban dwellers and their children to see how a garden is laid out for the best utilization of the land in this part of the country. I am looking forward to Family Festival and seeing many of you there this year. You still have time to get basic regalia together for use at Grand Entry on Saturday night. So get your shawl or ribbon shirt and join in where we honor the Creator, our veterans, culture and heritage.

As your representative, I am honored to serve and proud that you have chosen me. I am here to help wherever possible. If there is a tribal item or area where you think you need my assistance, please contact me.

Bozho (Hello)
Those April showers...that bloom in May...I remem-
ber as a kid used to be a beautiful song.

However, those of you who attended the April 10 Arizona meet-
ing at Schnepf Farms would probably agree with
Tribal Chairman John Barrett was having difficulty being heard as the rain hit-
ting the tin roof echoed as he spoke. Yet he continued his ceremonial training. Every-
one always loves to hear his stories.

They were all troopers and we had a lot of fun anyway. It will give us something to
laugh about in the future. I am still washing out all the mud. In almost 20 years I have
never had that happen.

When I perform ceremonies for weddings, funerals and other occasions, I always
share the idea that nothing ever goes exactly as you plan. In the assurances I re-
mind them the little things that go wrong is what makes their day special. These are
the things you will remember and enjoy for a lifetime.

I want to thank all of you who helped make that day very special, including:
• The Arizona Diamondbacks for their donation of four game
tickets.
• The Arizona Cardinals for their authentic t-shirt and cap.

I am very proud to be a part of such a tenacious group of Native people.
You can always count on everyone to make it great even when everything goes
wrong.

Thank you for being true Citizen Potawatomi.
Eunice Gene Lambert
District 5
eunice.lambert@gmail.com
480-228-6569

Wisdom from the Word:
“Goliath walked out toward David with his shield-bear-
er ahead of him, steering in contempt at this nice little
red-cheeked boy!” 1 Samuel 17: 41-42

Bozho Nikanek,
It’s that time of year we cel-
ebrate our graduates. Con-
gratulations to all that have
worked toward their academ-
ic goals putting in the effort
and sacrifices for achieve-
ment! And congratulations
to those behind the scenes
that played significant sup-
port roles helping their grads
reach the finish line!

There are many things
to be proud about being
Potawatomi and the one I am
most proud of is our tribe’s
vision for the future. A large
part of that vision is a com-
mmitment to economic sta-
bility and growth so that we
have the resources available
for education for our citi-
zens. Our heritage and cul-
ture should always remain
at the forefront of who we
are as a people. However;
the world we live in today is
very different than the world
of our ancestors.

We don’t have to look back
very far to see periods of
genocide, oppression and
fighting for our mere surviv-
al. Today, we live in an age
affording the opportunity
to thrive and education is key.
Yes, we can survive without
much effort but history tells
us we are people that thrive
even under the most chal-
lenging of conditions.

The CPN Tribal Rolls De-
partment heads up our schol-
arship assistance program.
Contact them today for in-
formation on the benefits
available for education. They
can also steer you in the right
direction for housing assis-
tance needs. If you have any
other questions, the newly
created CPN Education De-
partment is there to help too.
Contact them at college@potawatomi.org by visiting

cpn.news/education.

For those following the State
of Oklahoma’s attempt at collect-
ing sales tax from the sale
of goods and services on
our trust land to non-trib-
al members, there is good
news. After spending an
enormous amount of tribal
funds to thwart the state’s ef-
fort, we have prevailed!

This has been a very tumult-
uous period in our tribe’s
history and the victory is
nothing short of miraculous.
So many facets of our Nation
were hanging in the balance
creating overwhelming un-
certainty to wrestle with.
Truly a modern day story of
David and Goliath? But
this was no individual effort. It
was the collective effort of
nearly everyone in leader-
ship at tribal headquarters
as well as our entire legal
department and the folks at
the Hownikan. This victory
is extremely significant in so
many ways. While we will
never recover what was lost
in the battle our future has
been preserved! Great job by
everyone to make it great!

This is a reminder that Fam-
ily Reunion Festival is just
around the corner on June
26-28. Don’t wait any lon-
ger, make your plans today!
This year’s honored families
are: Clardy, Frapp, Kahdot,
Juneau, Pappan, Crumbo,
and Muller.

HOWNIKAN
MAY 2016
21
District 8 - Dave Carney

We live in western Washington, and will be checking out the University of Washington in Seattle and Western Washington University in Bellingham in the next few months, but this trip was to explore the campus in just me and the Cascade Mountains. We looked at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington State University in Pullman, Gonzaga in Spokane and Eastern Washington University in Cheney. Most of the campus tours were provided by energetic young students eager to show off their schools. Spring is the perfect time of year to walk these campuses as trees are budding, bulbs are blooming and snow is still high in the mountains — very idyllic.

Most of the schools are on the quarter system, which makes applying for the Potawatomi scholarship a little more complicated, because it is calibrated to a semester academic year. As a reminder, the scholar- ship is up to $1,500 per semester for full time (12+ semester hours) and up to $750 per semester for part-time (3-11 semester hours). Projects awarded for full are due Aug. 1, Supporting documentation can be submitted Jan. 15 and Sept. 15 respectively.

If you have any questions, the newly created CFP Education Scholarship Committee is ready to help. Contact them at college@potawatomi.org by visiting cfp.new@education.

I am currently in the planning stages of a District 8 regional meeting in the Spokane/Coeur d’Alene area around the first weekend of August 2016. This would be a meeting that I conduct as outreach and community building and not be attended by the tribal executive officials necessarily. I mention this because people always ask me “Where are Rocky and Linda?” and seem disappointed when it is only the tribal members who attend. I hope to see many members there.

The Family Festival is coming up (always the last full weekend of the year). This year it is June 24-26. One of the honored families will be mine - the Juneau’s). If you are a Juneau and planning on attending I’d like to hear from you!

Best Regards,
Dave Carney/Kazaagh
dcarney@potawatomi.org
360-259-4027

District 11 - Lisa Kraft

Each fiscal year, U. S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requests proposals for our community’s “build it and they will come” projects. It is one of my favorite grants to write because the award means growing tribal vision. Having learned how to write these grants for our tribe (beginning with the clinic expansion in 1997 and my last one in 2000 for the heritage center), I have perfected my grant application process for other Oklahoma tribes. These federal grant awards are now $800,000 a project in our region and end up being much larger once the tribe contrib- utes leverage dollars in excess of 25 percent. I also manage the grant reporting, federal procurement process, and

We attend to each and every employee for your hard work each and every day and especially at this time of the year. I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible and enjoying some much needed family and re- lation time during Festival this year!

Speaking of this time of year, I would like to remind or let members know about a ben- efit that is available to all en- rolled tribal members! Being in the real estate industry, this time of year is extremely busy. A lot of families choose this time to purchase a new home once school is out for summer break so they can get their families settled before the new school year begins.

Our housing department has a “One Time Grant” available to enrolled tribal members who are purchasing, build- ing or refinancing a home. This grant is used for clos- ing costs or down payment. The Nation’s bank, First Na- tional Bank and Trust Co. is also ready to help you with all of your mortgage needs! Please contact Sherry Byers at 405-273-2833 or Shvers@ potawatomi.org with any

questions! But also see the article on this program in the April 2016 How'nikan. This is a wonderful benefit to our members. Please spread the word with your CPN fam- ily members!

Thank you for the opportuni- ty to serve you as one of your Oklahoma Legislative Repre- sentatives.

Miehtegw, Bobbi Bowden
Phabikinipin
District 13 Representative
Bbowden@potawatomi.org

District 13 - Bobbi Bowden

HOWNIKAN

Happy spring!

Spring break is the tradition- al time of year for students to blow off some steam and get as far away from their studies as their vehicles and budgets allow. Instead of lying on sandy beaches or engaging in recreational activities this spring break, we did the op- pose. My family and I head- ed out on an 800 plus mile road trip to check out various colleges across Washington State for my second son, Luke, who is a high school junior.

District 11 - Statewide
Lisa@CopperBearConsult- ing.com

Bobbi Bowden

This year seems to be fly- ing by! Our Family Reunion Festival is right around the corner. Keep watching the

web page http://cpn.news/ Conference2016 for information on Fes- tival. Registration will take place the day of at FireLake Arena. The page is being updated in the coming months as more details become avail- able.

Our tribal employees are working hard on preparations to make this year’s Festival even better than the last. My deepest, heartfelt thanks goes out to each and every em- ployee for your hard work each and every day and es- specially at this time of the year. I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible and enjoying some much needed family and re- lation time during Festival this year!

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Thank you for the opportuni- ty to serve you as one of your Oklahoma Legislative Repre- sentatives.

Miehtegw, Bobbi Bowden
Phabikinipin
District 13 Representative
Bbowden@potawatomi.org
Our dad, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Glen A. Gregson, has peacefully passed away at age 99. A long-time resident of Oxnard, California, he was born in Trousdale, Oklahoma on Jan. 26, 1917, to George and Cora Gregson, on his father’s Indian allotment.

He was the last surviving member of a large family of twelve children raised by George and Cora. His grandmother was Delila Bourassa. During the 1930’s Great Depression, Glen joined the Civilian Conservation Corp to help support his family. He learned masonry at that time, and it served him well in his lifetime. After his time with the CCC, Glen went to California to find work. He liked California and decided to stay. It was during this time he found work in a Tungsten mine in Randsburg. It was there he met the love of his life, Ruth Autrey. They were married in 1939.

In 1942, Glen and Ruth moved to Ventura County and it became their home. Glen joined the U.S. Army during WW2. When he returned home in 1946, he started working at the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center in Port Hueneme, California. He worked there until he retired in 1976. Glen was an energetic, hard-working family man.

Trout fishing was Glen’s favorite pastime, and he fished streams in Ventura County, the Sierra Mountains and beyond. His favorite place to visit was Yellowstone National Park.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, in 1996. He is survived by his four children: Glenna Peacock (Loren), David (Sharon), Jerry (Liz), and Joel (Orawan). He was grandfather to seven and great-grandfather to thirteen. He also leaves many nephews and nieces.

A graveside service with military honors was held March 11, 2016, at Ivy Lawn Memorial Park in Ventura, California.

May you “Walk On” in peace, dad. You will be greatly missed.
Mary Catherine Welday Davidson

Mary Catherine Welday Davidson passed away Feb. 26, 2016.

Mary was born March 26, 1949 in Leavenworth, Kansas. She moved to McLoud, Oklahoma in 1958 where Mary and her sister, JoAnn, were adopted by Raymond and Amy Welday.

She attended McLoud Public School where she graduated in 1967. She had her own moving company called “Mary’s Movers” from 1997 to 2008. She attended McLoud Public School for 19 years. Their love of nature brought them to Northern California, for the beaches, the mountains and the magnificent Redwoods. Erin loved to go for walks among these beautiful giants. He had a love of gardening. He truly loved anything that would bring him closer to nature.

When diagnosed with cancer in 2015, he remained dedicated to his family and in his will to fight his illness. He remarried a brave, iron-willed man, even throughout his final days.

Erin is survived by his wife and children, as well as his sister; Deborah; half-brothers: Bo and Carey; numerous nieces and nephews.

Erin requested to be cremated. His ashes will be scattered among the trees that he loved so, in a private family memorial.

Corinne Cline

Corinne Cline died March 21, 2016, in Oklahoma City at the age of 72 years one month 12 days.

Corinne was born Feb. 9, 1944, to Delbert and Ida Louise (Sanders) Burleson in the Wanette area. She was raised and attended school in Lexington. Corinne worked as a home care worker as well as owning several bars over the years. On Dec. 26, 1999, she married Mike Cline at their home in the Noble/Norman area. Corinne enjoyed fishing, gardening and anything to do with their farm. She raised animals and enjoyed gaming. Corinne loved to spend time with her family and friends.

Corinne was preceded in death by her father; Delbert Burleson; mother: Ida Louise King; daughter: Pamela Pratt; grandson: Zachary Hall; brothers: Carl Burleson and Raymond Burleson; and sister-in-law: Debra Burleson.

Survivors include her husband: Mike of the home; daughter: Kit Rapier and husband Mark of Glen Cove, New York; son: Tony Hall and wife Eppie of Mannsville, Oklahoma; stepdaughter: Chanda Lankey and husband David of Minnesota; stepson: Michael Lee Wilson of Minneapolis, Minnesota; grandchildren: Jessica, Chris, Mason, Stella, Ashley, Kyle, Amber and Jonath; great-grandchildren: Camden, Rayden and Jayce; siblings: Barbara Wilson and husband Roger of the Eufaula area, Paul Burleson of Tecumseh, Mark King and wife Nora of Noble and Michael King of Noble; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held on March 25, 2016 at Wadley’s Funeral Chapel in Purcell. Interment followed at Chappel Hill Cemetery east of Lexington under the care of Wadley’s Funeral Service.

Dennis Erin Johnson

After a 9 month battle with cancer, Dennis Erin Johnson died on Feb. 19, 2016 in Eureka, California at the age of 55. He leaves behind his wife: Luann Johnson (Santorum); his sons: Shane Johnson and Michael Johnson.

Erin, as he preferred to be called, was born on April 20, 1960 in Borer, Texas, to father James Earl Johnson and mother Alice Brenda (Willis) Johnson. He grew up with his brother David, his sister Deborah and two half-brothers Bo and Carey Lindsey. His mother, Alice and brother, David both preceded him in death.

Erin married Luann (Santorum) on June 25, 1988. Shortly after the wedding, Erin and Luann left California as the call of long distance trucking was in Erin’s blood. He stayed with his passion for “the road” until a previous illness left him unable to continue. Erin was a long haul driver for 27 years. The last eight years of his driving career were for Joe Costa of Arcata, California.

The family settled in Humboldt County, 18 years ago. Their love of nature brought them to Northern California, for the beaches, the mountains and the magnificent Redwoods. Erin loved to go for walks among these beautiful giants. He had a love of gardening. He truly loved anything that would bring him closer to nature.

When diagnosed with cancer in 2015, he remained dedicated to his family and in his will to fight his illness. He remarried a brave, iron-willed man, even throughout his final days.

Erin is survived by his wife and children, as well as his sister; Deborah; half-brothers: Bo and Carey; numerous nieces and nephews.

Erin requested to be cremated. His ashes will be scattered among the trees that he loved so, in a private family memorial.

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.