Tribal impact continues to help Oklahoma

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation had a $513 million impact in Oklahoma during 2015. CPN directly supported 2,245 jobs and paid $82 million in wages and benefits. CPN indirectly supported thousands more jobs and boosted local economies by making purchases of more than $193 million on goods and services.

Tribal jobs are often a primary source of income and benefits for many Oklahoma families. According to a report by the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association, tribal gaming in Oklahoma would rank as the nineteenth largest industry in terms of employers in the State of Oklahoma, with one in every 55 jobs directly related to tribal gaming. These employees spent $1.09 billion in Oklahoma derived from their employment earnings. In rural areas that number is especially significant.

In a recent report, Joseph Kalt, the Ford Foundation Professor (Emeritus) of International Political Economy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, noted that Oklahoma is benefiting a great deal from having a wealthy neighbor. In addition to wages and purchases, CPN paid more than $37 million in gaming exclusivity fees and taxes directly to the State of Oklahoma.

Exclusivity fees received by the state government go to the Education Reform Revolving Fund, the General Revenue Fund and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Of those funds, ODMH-SAS receives about $250,000 per year, while 88 percent goes to the education fund and 12 percent goes to the general fund. The money derived from these revenues directly benefit all of the state’s citizens.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation also remains committed to contributing to local civic and charitable organizations, gifting more than $2.8 million locally in 2015. CPN contributions to education included more than $273,000 to public education and more than $5 million in scholarships.

Chairman Barrett honored at 2016 Trail of Courage Festival

Taking place in the original homelands of what is today known as the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, CPN Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett was one of the guests of honor at the 41st annual Trail of Courage History Festival taking place on September 17-18 in Rochester, Indiana.

Chairman Barrett was chosen as a representative of his Potawatomi familial lineage to one of the tribe’s founding families, the Peltiers. During a ceremony on September 17 on the Fulton County Historical Society grounds, Chairman Barrett was presented a key to the City of Rochester. Taking place alongside the Tippecanoe River, approximately the starting destination of the Potawatomi Trail of Death in 1838, the longtime tribal chairman reflected on the people he was there to represent.

“These are incredibly tough people who survived the worst of the atrocities of the Andrew Jackson Indian Removal era. They lived to become the founders of the great Indian nation we are today,” said Chairman Barrett.

Shirley Willard of the Fulton County Historical Society, commented on this year’s event.

“We especially asked John Barrett because 2016 is Indiana’s bicentennial. So we felt it appropriate to honor him as the tribal chairman of the Citizen Potawatomi, many of whom had ancestors on the 1838 Trail of Death. I have worked for over 40 years with the Potawatomi to preserve the history and the memories of the Trail of Death because God put it in my heart to do this.”

Continued on page 4
Q&A with OK Senate and House candidates

In November, Oklahoma residents will vote in three elections within the Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal jurisdiction. We asked all of the candidates to respond to a questionnaire. Their partial statements and responses are below and their full responses are online at cpn.news/2016elections.

OK House District 26 includes Bethel Acres, Earlsboro, Johnson, Mc-Loud, Shawnee and Tecumseh. Outgoing Representative Justin Wood, an ardent advocate of CPN at the statehouse, did not seek reelection this year and Democrat Nick Atwood and Republican Dell Kerbs are running to fill his seat.

Kerbs: “Shawnee is the place I love to call home. I have worked to build up our community. I understand the challenges of businesses in rural communities, the pressures facing Oklahoma families, and the factors that undermine public safety. My legislative interests will be to work to keep taxes low, eliminate needless regulation, and devote tax dollars to the areas where they can have a genuine, positive impact, such as roads and schools. My goals are to increase opportunity and enhance the quality of life for all.”

Atwood: “If elected as the next State Representative for District 26, I will work to represent all the citizens of House District 26, including the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. During my eight years working for Governor Brad Henry, I learned first-hand how important our tribal governments are and I recognize the importance of building relationships with tribal leaders. I believe that my experience gives me a unique ability to represent all citizens of our district, from day one.”

OK House District 27 includes Asher, Bethel Acres, Macomb, Pink, St. Louis and Tecumseh. Incumbent Josh Cockroft, a Republican from Wannette, is seeking to retain his seat against challenger John Karlin, a Tecumseh Democrat.

Cockroft: “It has been an honor to build a very positive working relationship with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation over the past six years, and I look forward to strengthening that partnership in the years ahead. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation provides stability, leadership, and partnerships to this region which cannot go unappreciated. As the State House member with the most CPN employees and members residing in my District, I will continue to fight for local control of our public schools, keeping property tax dollars here at home for the use of our children, quality public safety services, and efficient and effective use of our tax dollars.

Lawmakers must constantly strive for better partnerships between our tribal, state, county, and local governments. When communication and cooperation abound, everyone thrives. I have been proud to push for closer alliances to bridge the gap which has historically divided our tribal and state governments. Placing political games and petty feuds behind us will result in a more prosperous future. Instead of fighting against sovereign entities at the local or state level, we must choose a better way and realize every entity in tribal and state government seeks the betterment of the people they serve. I will continue in the position I have been placed in to join our tribal and state governments to walk down a path of prosperity, collaboration, and a future full of potential for all.”

Karlin: “The Republican controlled legislature after 10 years has the state on the verge of bankruptcy along with numerous other problems like poverty, low wage jobs, lowest funding of public schools in the nation and teacher pay, to name only a few. Things will only get worse under this kind of leadership because they have demonstrated only incompetency for the past 10 years.”

OK Senate District 13 includes sections St. Louis, Asher, Tribbey and Wannette falling in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s tribal jurisdiction. Running to follow the seat of term-limited Senator Susan Paddack is Republican Greg McCortney and Democrat Eric Hall, both from Ada, Oklahoma.

McCortney: “As a member of the Ada City Council and former mayor, I have worked extensively with the Chickasaw Nation, and I feel confident in saying that the relationship between the city and the Chickasaw Nation is very good. I am a member of the Choctaw Nation and understand the sovereignty of the tribes in Oklahoma. I believe that there is very good recent precedence showing that the state and the tribes can work well together to reach our mutual goals. I look forward to working with all of the tribal governments that are represented in Senate District 13 and hope we can move our state and our region forward.”

Hall: “As an educator in Oklahoma for over 10 years I have become increasingly concerned about the priorities of the Oklahoma legislature particularly in regards to budgeting. It is my opinion that we have shifted our priority away from serving the people of our state as a whole. I am seeking this seat to ensure that Senate District 13 has a senator who will put the concerns of the people of our district ahead of politics. We have been fortunate to have an outstanding senator during the last 12 years who absolutely listened to her constituents and had priorities in the right place, I hope to continue that good work and continue to be that voice.”

Citizen Potawatomi Nation
HOUSING DEPT.

Call (405) 273-2833 or (800)880-9880
The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center recently established the Cultural Education program. Rekindling 7 Generations is being developed by the Cultural Education program specifically to serve youths and families’ needs and interests. Rekindling 7 Generations nurtures the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of Potawatomi and Native youth and their community by rooting them in their Potawatomi culture, familial and intergenerational bonds, and intertribal relationships to grow the future tribal leaders, citizens, and partners of Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The goal of Rekindling 7 Generations is to provide programming that encourages and strengthens these relationships. All programming is being developed and encouraged by youth and community input. The majority of the programming is for students’ ages 8-13 living in South Pottawatomie County, but we will be providing additional programming for other age groups based on interest and need. We do provide programming for other age groups based on interest and need. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lakota Pochedley at Lakota.Pochedley@potawatomi.org or 405-878-5830. All our programs are Potawatomi and Native preference.

The Cultural Education program’s Rekindling 7 Generations began programming in May with our first Neshnabe Sports Workshop at Konawa Schools where they learned and played pegneganew (lacrosse) and peskia (double ball). Three teen mentors, participants of the Neshnabe Sports Workshop at Shawnee, helped with the Konawa Sports Workshop and shared what they learned with the younger participants. We also held a moccasin making class with the help of Rave Clay at the Cultural Heritage Center, where youth learned how to make pucker toe moccasins (and the teamwork it takes to make them)!

In August, we began our monthly recurring programs: the Girls’ Talking Circle, Boys’ Drumming, and our Family Community Day. At the beginning of summer, several of our teen mentors asked that we begin a talking circle for Native girls. Youth participants learned about the long history of lacrosse/stickball, pegneganew, in Potawatomi culture. Youth learned the rules and purpose of pegneganew, and had the chance to play the game at the CPN Aviary. As a part of the workshop, youth were given a tour of the CPN Eagle Aviary, Butterfly Walking Path, and Community Garden. For the last day of the workshop to conclude the week, students prepared and ate a traditional meal supplemented with ingredients harvested from the garden and they learned about the importance of wild rice and the three sisters (corn, beans, and squash) for the Potawatomi. Throughout the summer, we hosted several workshops for youth ages 8-13. In June, youth from South Pottawatomie County participated in another Neshnabe Sports Workshop at Konawa Schools where they learned and played pegneganew (lacrosse) and peskia (double ball). Three teen mentors, participants of the Neshnabe Sports Workshop in Shawnee, helped with the Konawa Sports Workshop and shared what they learned with the younger participants. We also held a moccasin making class with the help of Rave Clay at the Cultural Heritage Center, where youth learned how to make pucker toe moccasins (and the teamwork it takes to make them)!

In August, we began our monthly recurring programs: the Girls’ Talking Circle, Boys’ Drumming, and our Family Community Day. At the beginning of summer, several of our teen mentors asked that we begin a talking circle for Native girls. We held our first talking circle in August with a great turnout of youth and female family members. The Girls’ Talking Circle is held every third Tuesday at Konawa Schools (in the Dougan Room) afterschool from 3:30-5:30. The Boys’ Drumming will start up again in the month of October, we will meet every first Wednesday of the month at the Cultural Heritage Center in Shawnee from 6:00-7:30. For our last two Family Community Days, we played the moccasin game to escape the August heat and in September we encouraged everyone to participate in the PLACE’s 5K, A Walk for Hope. The Family Community Day is every last Saturday of the month, for this October we will be tending and harvesting the Community Garden at the CPN Eagle Aviary from 10:00-2:00.

Pull programming began in September with sewing and beading workshops for youth. The youth participants decided to create a sewing group that will meet monthly to complete their ribbon skirts and shirts, and then they will begin working on a collaborative quilt. For October, we have two upcoming youth workshops. We will have a Snow Snake Workshop for ages 14-18 at the Cultural Heritage Center, October 19-21 from 3:30-6:30. Youth will learn how to make and design their own Snow Snake, which they will be able to race later on in the cold, winter months. We will also host a Potawatomi Cooking Class in preparation for the Family Community Day. The classes will be held October 26-28 from 3:45-6:00 for ages 12-18. Youth will learn about Potawatomi foods and recipes, the importance of our community garden, and cooking kitchen safety. The participants will share their knowledge and experiences with those who come to the October Family Community Day. Youth must submit an application if interested, the application links are listed below and the applications can also be found on the Facebook page (facebook.com/R7Gen/). Hard copies are also available at the Cultural Heritage Center and can be mailed upon request.

We have a lot going on, so keep up with us you can be added to our listserv or mailing list, or follow our Facebook page, Rekindling 7 Generations (facebook.com/R7Gen/). Also we have a website (rekindling-7generations.org), where all opportunities and applications are listed, in addition to a blog and photo gallery chronicling all our adventures. And we want your input! Please fill out the parent and youth surveys at cpn.news/youthsurvey or cpn.news/parentsurvey, so we know what the community needs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lakota Pochedley at Lakota.Pochedley@potawatomi.org or 405-878-5830. All our programs are Potawatomi and Native preference.

Migwetch!

Lakota Pochedley
Cultural Education Specialist
Jason Hawk earns degree with help from CPN Employment and Training

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Chairperson Aaron Paymont made a special appearance in News and World Report in November concerning Native American graduation rates. “We have the worst of the worst statistics. The first Americans have become the last Americans.”

Due in part to bureaucratic infighting and incompetence at the federal level, Native American students, especially those learning at institutions controlled by federal agencies, face a deficit in resources and accountability. Even when factoring in those Native American students not in on-campus reservation and tribal lands, the fact remains that only 67 percent of American Indian or Alaskan Native students graduated high school in 2015.

In a country where every person is supposed to have access to a high school education, this is a disturbing statistic. It’s even more startling when one considers that the national average for high school graduation is 80 percent.

According to a 2010 study by the Native Education Association, Native American high school students have some of the highest dropout rates in the U.S., exacerbating issues like academic performance disparities. The first Americans have become the last Americans.

“I didn’t like accounting at all. I like working with my hands, and I couldn’t stand sitting in an office all day,” he said. “After talking to my professors and friends told me, ‘You’re good in science and we think you’re throwing away your talents by getting an accounting degree.’”

Hawk took a semester off to ponder which direction he’d go before deciding on a mechanical engineering degree, which he pursued at Oklahoma State University. In the spring of 2016, Hawk walked across the stage at OSU’s commencement ceremony.

Since August 2016, he’s worked at Tinker Air Force Base as a mechanical engineer, where once he completes a mandatory training course, he’ll be certified to design and analyze repairs on aircraft serviced there.

Hawk’s interest in education didn’t stop when he walked across the graduation stage at OSU though. The man who once thought he was only qualified to drive a forklift was recently accepted into the U.S. Airforce’s PALACE Acquire Program which provides civilian workers full-time employment and tuition in their academic field while they study. Hawk said he’ll likely pursue his master’s degree at OSU once his one-year probationary training period at Tinker is complete.

Looking back a decade, when he took that first assessment test, Hawk says that without the employment and training department, he wouldn’t be where he is today.

“I was working in the warehouse, no education, and I could see where I was going if I stayed where I was at. I wanted to get my GED, but if I hadn’t met my wife and come in to E&T I wouldn’t have made it.”

Zientek, who has worked more than three decades in the department, was effusive of his accomplishments.

“To think what he did, going to school, working full time, and also supplementing some of the costs by learning the potawatomis…very accomplished at that craft, it’s really incredible,” she said.

The long-time assistant director is emphatic that Hawk’s story is possible for anyone who walks through the tribal department’s doors.

“We work with everybody, and know everybody is different. The first thing we ask them is ‘How can we help you? and just go from there.”

Chairman honored continued...

It is not the first time a Citizen Potawatomi tribal member has been honored at a Trail of Courage event. In 2014, District 4 Representative Jon Bourasaw was amongst the guests of honor at that year’s ceremonies. Bourasaw, who has long been active with the Trail of Courage events in the past, including the Trail of Death Caravans which retrace the original route across Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, was honored as a representative of the Bourassa family. Bourasaw, is a direct descendent of Daniel Bourassa, who along with his wife and seven children, was amongst those Potawatomi forcibly removed from Indiana to Kansas in the 1838 Trail of Death.

That year’s event coincided with Indiana Governor Mike Pence’s proclamation declaring Sept. 20, 2014 as Potawatomi Trail of Death Remembrance Day.

In 1838, the Potawatomi Indians in the state of Indiana were forcibly removed from their ancestral homelands by order of the U.S. government. The 959 Potawatomi who started the journey travelled across Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and finally Kansas before finally arriving at their intended destination. The loss of life, 41 in total, resulted in the removal becoming known as the Potawatomi Trail of Death.

Willard, of the Fulton County Historical Society, worked to secure a full apology from Governor Pence in 2014, commented on the motivation for the 2016 event that included honoring the CPN.

“The forced removal of the Potawatomi Indians is a black mark on Indiana’s history. The bicentennial commission told me they want it to be celebratory, so we are emphasizing that the Potawatomi survived as a nation, something important to celebrate,” she said.
Dodoshke’wek-The first sacred food

Enedina Banks, who works in the language department at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center, has committed her life to revitalizing Potawatomi ways. One way she does this is by educating the world about the language and cultural ways of the Potawatomi people, which includes encouraging mothers to feed their children the “first sacred food” – breastmilk, known as dodoshke’wek in Potawatomi.

In June, Banks was photographed in her traditional regalia, breastfeeding her son Nico, on the Oklahoma City stop of the Normalize Breastfeeding Tour, which encourages breastfeeding mothers to connect to others in their communities. Banks was quoted in the Huffington Post saying “breastfeeding is not as prevalent as it once was in our communities, but we are trying and implementing programs that help normalize breastfeeding again.”

When asked why it is important for Native American women to breastfeed their children and how it preserves the Potawatomi culture, Banks responded with this heartfelt letter to explain the importance of normalizing breastfeeding.

“Breastfeeding is medicine. Science is proving that when babies nurse, their latch is so strong that saliva is actually sucked back up into the mother’s body and the mother’s body can adjust to babies’ needs. Hence, if baby has a cold or an ailment, mother’s body will send extra antibodies to be passed through the milk. To me, breastfeeding has always been very calming. Science is proving your body and baby’s body releases endorphins that contribute to an overall well-being.

“We, as Neshnabes, carry historical trauma in our DNA and the only way to heal that trauma is to acknowledge it and heal in new ways with stress which, in turn, changes our epigenetics. I tell people all the time that my kids have nursed more often for comfort rather than for hunger, which means that they were learning how to deal with stress by seeing how their mothers and knowing I would comfort them, thus strengthening the mother-child bond.

“Today, our native youth have the highest rates of suicide because they are not being taught proper ways to deal with stress. Bonding with our children was interrupted with relocation, boarding schools and the implementation of single family homes. The children of today are still feeling the effects of it. Our grandparent and great-grandparents, whose horrible experiences had brought it back to the reservations and to their homes, lost the Neshnabe ways and teachings. They brought back violence, shame and heartbreak, which turned into alcoholism to deal with their sadness and drug use to numb the pain. It has been seen as normal for Natives to be alcoholics, drug users, overweight and depressed ever since. All of these symptoms are directly affected by having no healthy ways of dealing with stress.

“When we think back to who we come from and who we are as Neshnabe people and how our ancestors raised their children, breastfeeding was part of that. Within our own tribe, from personal experiences, it was not uncommon for aunts to nurse their nieces and nephews. Within our culture, we were taught that our aunts are our other mothers and they cared for and took those responsibilities that come with being a mother. If baby needs to nurse, it was and is normal for others to nourish them.

“Sadly, American society has over-sexualized the woman’s body. It is important to get back to our original teachings. Women and their bodies are sacred life-bearers and should be respected as such. That respect for the woman’s body has been lost – so lost that even women themselves don’t respect their own bodies anymore. They are ashamed of them instead of being proud of what we are capable of. We give life and can sustain life, which is a blessing from Creator that I hope our future generations start to understand again, rather than taking that privilege for granted.

“Keeping with tradition in this modernized world can be difficult at times. Everyone is always in a hurry and breastfeeding becomes cumbersome, but it’s necessary to strengthen that bond with baby. It slows you down and you get to cuddle while staring at what a wonderful gift Creator has blessed you with. The amazing feeling you get when you know you are nourishing their ever-growing body is what motherhood is about.

“I want to be part of the revitalization of our cultural practices, language and, most importantly, beliefs. When you don’t know who you are, it’s like a piece of you is missing. We have become so far detached from instinctual parenting, that those of us who use primal practices are ridiculed. Baby-wearing is seen as almost afad. Breastfeeding is no longer seen as the norm but now just as an “option.” These practices were done for a cultural reason. We carried our babies for that first year because we were told to not put your baby on the ground until they are named the following spring. We breastfed because the Creator made it that way for us to nourish our babies, and we did not question it.

“Women would gather around the young girls who were becoming women and teach them about their bodies. In that time that they learned how sacred it was to be a life-bearer. They learned to be self-disciplined and how to conduct themselves in a respectful way. All of the women would give pregnant women teachings of motherhood. We lack all this knowledge now, with that communal feeling. Our culture is being lost, so if I can help open someone’s eyes to something as basic as breastfeeding then that’s one step closer to cultural preservation. I’m very passionate about my work in preserving our identities. Food sovereignty, which is breastfeeding, is a huge part of cultural preservation.”

The staff at CPN Women, Infant and Children Program encourages mothers to breastfeed as well. According to Nutrition and Breastfeeding Coordinator Cheryl Richardson, the health benefits for mom and baby are many. There are over 200 components in breastmilk, many of which nutritionists still do not understand their exact purpose or function. Breastmilk is made of living cells and has been called “white blood” by many.

According to the World Health Organization, breastfed babies have higher IQs. Research suggests that breastfed babies have lower risks of asthma, childhood leukemia, childhood obesity, ear infections, diabetes, vomiting, lower respiratory infections and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Richardson said that mothers who breastfeed have a lower risk of breast cancer, ovarian cancer and chronic conditions, like Type 1 diabetes, celiac disease and Crohn’s disease. Many have fewer problems with weight, as breastfeeding burns a lot of calories. They also get a menstruation vacation with exclusive breastfeeding – which means delayed ovulation and natural birth control for about the first six months after they give birth – and save money on formula.

CPN WIC has staff available to help with breast pumps and equipment depending on the woman’s need. For more information, contact CPN WIC at 405-273-3216 or cpn-news/WIC.

Please contact tribal rolls today and update your address information by calling (800) 880-9880.
Historic Pottawatomie County radio station KGFF gets FM channel

It was a long time coming, but as of midnight on September 8, 2016, listeners of Pottawatomie County’s oldest radio station can now tune in to an FM signal for a cleaner, stereo broadcast of classic rock and local news.

“Good news for listeners in the Shawnee area, KGFF is now on-the-air at 100.9 FM as well as 1450 AM!” said Mike Askins, KGFF Radio general manager.

Askins, who has been on the airwaves since the 1970s, has worked strenuously since December 2015 to get the longtime AM station, owned by Citizen Potawatomi Nation, a signal on the FM band. The station is one of Oklahoma’s oldest, having been broadcasting since 1930.

“KGFF had to find an existing FM translator licensed within 250 miles of our broadcast site,” explained Askins. “Once we found a viable license, we had to purchase it from the previous owner; get FCC approval and hire FCC approved engineering services to calculate what frequencies might be available in our specific location.”

Once that was done, it still wasn’t as easy as flipping a switch to broadcast on both AM and FM. Along with KGFF staff, a contract engineer and an attorney with years of Federal Communications Commission experience, Askins then had to find a translator for sale in their range, a frequency that met FCC requirements.

“It was a fairly stressful undertaking, but it finally paid off,” said Askins.

As part of the agreement to secure the license, Askins stated that KGFF must carry the exact programming on both the AM and FM signals.

“What the listener hears on 1450 AM will also be heard on 100.9 FM... the difference being that the FM broadcast will be in stereo.”

For a man who started with KGFF in 1976 as a student reporter, the addition of the FM signal is an exciting turn of events. Askins is a second generation disc jockey in Pottawatomie County. His father came to Oklahoma Baptist University as a student and was on the college radio station there before joining KGFF while teaching speech and English at Shawnee High School. Askins followed in his father’s footsteps, first to OBU to study church music, before focusing on public speaking and radio broadcasting.

With an extensive knowledge of the technical and historical aspects surrounding the radio business, Askins said the FM signal is the completion of a longtime focus for the station.

“The big goal has always been to get KGFF an FM signal to regain the quality of coverage lost to interference from so many electronic devices out there as well as the changes in the radio receivers over the years. If you find an old tube type AM radio from the 1940s or 1950s and listen to a properly tuned and processed signal, the quality is amazing. As radios got smaller and cheaper, the quality of materials and workmanship of the receivers for the AM band, perceived as being a talk-radio and sports-oriented service, got worse. The industry failed to defend the technical standards needed to keep the AM band’s audio quality competitive with FM.”

The station’s emphasis on locally-focused broadcasts, including community news and radio broadcasts of Shawnee High School and Oklahoma Baptist University Athletics, remains KGFF’s concentration. In addition to broadcasting to 100.9 FM and 1450 AM, KGFF is also streaming local sports as well as The Mike in the Morning Show on weekdays from 7-9 a.m. and The Daily Stir at 12-45 p.m. on www.kgff.com.
A letter from CPN’s ethnology collections manager

By KeAnne Langford, CHC Ethnology Collections Manager

Beckha,

I was blessed to be brought onto the staff at the CHC about one year ago and so far it has been a fantastic experience and I am greatly enjoying my position. I received my Bachelor of Arts in History and minor in communications from the University of Texas at El Paso. Later, I was awarded my Master of Arts from the University of Kansas.

What exactly does an ethnology collections manager do?

First off, ethnology is a division of anthropology that studies cultures. At the CHC, the ethnology collection is comprised of an assortment of three-dimensional objects that are significant to, not only Citizen Potawatomi Nation, but also the greater Neshnabek. In our collection, there are dolls, tools, a large variety of lithics (i.e. projectile points, stone tools, etc.), art, basketry, ceremonial items, regalia, military ephemera and many other interesting objects.

The ethnology collection, as well as the archive (two-dimensional objects), serve as a repository to aid researchers of all backgrounds. Both collections are open to researchers for numerous reasons like strengthening and maintaining the ship of the object or the item could not be properly taken care of. It is an unfortunate thing to turn away an object or a collection, but keep in mind that the staff has a long list of criteria that they must contend with before taking an object on, like storag space, condition and financial resources.

If you would like to learn more, please reach out to me at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center at 405-878-5830 or visit our website at www.PotawatomiHeritage.com.

We have had 462 people attempt the course, which will be intermediate. The course is designed so you can do it at your own pace. Just go to the website, enroll and wait for a confirmation email, then you are good to go.

We are also continuing to develop additional tools and enhancements to our online courses. In the future we hope to have an eight or 16 week course available to local high school students as part of their foreign language credit.

Fall words

Dqwaget - It is fall
Watabeg - Leaves are turning colors
Bnakwi - Leaves falling
Mawdoshkeg - Bake
Mawdoshke - He/She rakes
Zet pwakwet - Football
Giwse - He/She hunts
Dathek - Leaf
Wabgon - Pumpkin
Gwetajchegen - Scare crow

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

It’s been very busy the last few months in the language department. We hosted a very successful Potawatomi Language Conference as part of the Potawatomi Gathering of Nations in July. We had more than 300 participants. For the first time ever, we streamed the conference live. We also have an archive on YouTube where you can watch the three-day conference if you weren’t able to be there at cpn.news/LangConf/Archive

We also had our children’s language page go live at cpn.news/childrenscourse.

As another first, we opened what we believe to be the first ever Potawatomi language college course online through St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee, Oklahoma. To our knowledge, the Potawatomi language has never been offered at a university. So now students can take the course from anywhere in the country or world for college credit through St. Gregory’s University.

We continue to have a lot of interest in our free online self-paced language course at http://language.potawatomi.org.

We have had 462 people attempt the course. There is currently a ‘Beginner I’ and ‘Beginner II’ course and we are working on the next level
CPN Tribal Historic Preservation Office exercises sovereignty

In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act was signed into law as an attempt to end the adverse effects of development on historically significant properties. Ten years later, a review process was expanded to cover all archeological sites, buildings and lands. The review process requires a federal agency to make sure each construction project does not harm historic properties.

Under section 106 of the NHPA, interested parties are allowed to comment on the potential impact of a project on a historic property. Federally-recognized Native American tribes’ land received enhanced protections under a 1992 amendment, allowing tribes to apply for a staff member who would become a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. These THPOs comment on planned developments on culturally-significant properties and work with federal agencies to minimize harm. Out of more than 500 federally-recognized tribes in the United States, about 260 tribes have these offices.

CPN Cultural Heritage Center Director and tribal member Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., is the current THPO for Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Andrew Gourd – a Seneca-Cayuga member – is the assistant THPO. CPN started the process of getting certified in 2006 and each CHC director has been the acting THPO since that time, handling up to 2,000 projects per year.

CPN’s office has three main focuses: federal undertakings in CPN-owned properties and historic reservations, tower construction notification system provided by the Federal Communication Commission and federally funded construction projects in areas of historic occupation that are usually urbanized. The first two in the list are what Gourd focuses on the most.

Federal undertakings in CPN-owned properties means that the tribe can comment on federally-funded construction projects or those that fill out federal permits. This covers the CPN-owned land in Pottawatomie and Cleveland Counties in Oklahoma and Rossville, Kansas. Since Gourd started in October 2015, 476 of these project requests have come in the mail, which doesn’t include dozens of project requests sent via email.

“Our office can only give opinions on things that are federal undertakings. That’s where a great limit to our power is,” Gourd said.

The second type of project - tower construction notification system - comes to CPN’s THPO any time a cell phone tower is being built anywhere the tribe has ever lived. Gourd researches whether that location may have ancestral remains, a Potawatomi village or historic marker. CPN has ancestral remains, a Potawatomi village or historic marker. CPN has a heritage center.

“Other tribe’s projects tend to be fewer, but much deeper. They could speak to the cultural significance of every acre of land,” Mosteller added. “Ours are shallower, but very, very deep. They could be more involved, but we can’t get as many projects come across their desks.”

“Ours are shallower, but very, very deep. We have a lot of projects that we cannot comment in great detail, but we have to be able to keep our eye on the things we do know about. THPO is the same office, but each tribe’s circumstances are unique.”

That’s a true expression of sovereignty for a tribe.”

Mosteller said that THPOs normally have six to eight employees, but CPN only has one full-time person dedicated to the projects and one part-time person. Gourd handles the bulk of the day-to-day work, while Mosteller manages the heritage center.

CPN has more requests than other tribes because of several removals and being a seasonally-nomadic tribe. When construction is happening in numerous parts of the country where CPN has resided, including Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota or Kansas, the THPO is contacted for their opinions and approval of the project.

“There are all of these places that we’ve touched. Whereas some other tribes may be confined to a reservation on their traditional homelands, these are the only projects that come to them,” Gourd said. “They haven’t had all these other removals and places that are important to their stories, so they might not get as many projects cross over their desks.”

A letter from the 2016 Miss Potawatomi

Bozo,

I’d like to introduce myself as your Miss Potawatomi Nation 2016-2017. My name is Mary Shabanaa Bush. I am a citizen of the Gun Lake Tribe. I am currently 14 years old and I am receiving my education from Wayland Union High School, where I will be a freshman this fall.

I have traveled to almost every Gathering since I was born and I would always watch the Miss Potawatomi Nation competition, in awe of how one young lady would have the opportunity to be the face of our nation for a whole year. I was excited to travel to Oklahoma this year, as I was going to compete for Miss Potawatomi again. I competed last year and was first runner up, but with the attitude of not giving up, I went again this year. Now I am that young lady with the opportunity to represent the nine tribes of the Potawatomi Nation for a year. I am looking forward to being a role model for the youth of, not only my tribe, but for all the tribes for one year.

I plan to travel and represent the Potawatomi Nation at more than just powwows this year. I would like to use this as an opportunity to share with others about being Native American and that being Potawatomi is about being part of a community that cares for each other. It’s more than just my immediate family; we are all family and we support and care for each other. I plan to work with the youth of my tribe and others to learn that knowledge of our language and culture gives you strength and bonds to traditions that go back hundreds of years that will keep you strong as you move forward in your life.

Mary Shabanaa Bush being crowned Miss Potawatomi at Gathering of Potawatomi Nations in Shawnee, Oklahoma

Andrew Gourd

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If you have any questions about THPO, please contact Gourd at the Heritage Center by calling (405) 878-5830.
Martin’s start at FireLake puts him on the path to golf course career

Employment opportunities at Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal departments and commercial enterprises are extensive. With approximately 2,400 employees and more than 50 positions for part- and full-time positions open daily, there are ample opportunities for workers to get a foot in the door and work toward better positions.

One tribal member from Meeker, Oklahoma did just that recently after departing from the staff of FireLake Golf Course. Caleb Martin, a member of the Holloway family, graduated from Meeker High School in 2012 and like many young graduates, didn’t know for sure what he wanted to do. He said he’d considered being a personal trainer due to his love of sports as a youth. He took a job at FireLake Golf Course as a member of the staff where he helped with the course maintenance.

The arrival of current course superintendent Derron Day helped provide Martin some direction when it came to his future plans.

“After working at the golf course and when Derron got to FireLake, I fell in love with working at the golf course,” said Martin. “Then this (OSU-OKC opportunity) came up and I figured it was the next best step for me in my future career plans, so I jumped all over it.”

OSU-OKC has a five-hole golf course at its Oklahoma City campus as a training ground for students in the turf management and horticulture program.

“It pays hourly and tuition as long as you’re working and going to the school,” Martin explained.

He chose OSU-OKC on the recommendation of Day, specifically because Martin needed the experience of managing a course with bentgrass greens compared to what he already knew at FireLake, which has bermudagrass. Bentgrass greens are a cold weather grass, meaning their growing season runs from early September through May. They’re especially sensitive to heat, which can reach into the 100s during July and August in Oklahoma. Most of our grasses are bermudagrass. Bentgrass greens are a cold weather grass, meaning their growing season runs from early September through May. They’re especially sensitive to heat, which can reach into the 100s during July and August in Oklahoma, and require constant hand watering, which Martin says takes up much of his time.

Despite only working in the golf course management field for a few years, Martin’s time at FireLake provided him a unique insight into the sector. When he began, he was most likely responsible for the day-to-day mowing, watering and other course maintenance issues. In the last year, though, he and other staff members have taken on the brunt of the work in first demolishing much of the original course and assistance in rebuilding the upgraded course amidst FireLake’s overhaul.

“I was there through everything on the renovation except for holes one and two, about 90 percent of it,” he said.

Martin said that once he graduates with his Associates Degree in Advanced Turf Management, he’ll likely pursue an assistant superintendent’s position at a larger golf course in order to gain experience after his time at FireLake and OSU-OKC.

“I’m my only employee,” joked Martin. “So I’d like to find something on the large scale of courses with a bigger budget and staff since I’ve already had the other two. Once that happens I’d like to do what Derron does and be a superintendent.”

By Benjamin J. McAlister, FireLodge Tribal Youth Program Manager

Things have stayed quite busy for the FireLodge Tribal Youth Program since the kickoff of the 2016 school year. This is the time of year we look forward to at the PLACE, with many youth enrolled in extracurricular activities such as band, football and color guard, just to name a few. As staff, this gives us a great opportunity to get out into the community and show our support for the hard working youth we are fortunate enough to work with. Though our youth and staff are putting in extra hours, all have stayed focused and motivated to achieve our goals here at the PLACE.

Get Native Program: One of our goals is to assist our youth get in touch with their Native identity. Our cultural program managers, Michael Logan and Cody Lehman, do a superb job of not only helping the youth connect with their heritage, but also teach how to use this knowledge as a tool in today’s world. This past month the program focused on some of the Native arts. Staff introduced various types of native drums, rattles, flutes, and dancing regalia; while teaching which tribes used which elements of nature for assembly and why.

Get Social Initiative: October is a huge month for the Firelodge Tribal Youth Program and its participants. With Red Ribbon Week, Breast Cancer Awareness, Domestic Violence Awareness, National Bullying Prevention and National Suicide Prevention Month all being observed in October; we will stay busy and contribute all we can for all these great causes.

The PLACE will be competing in a national Red Ribbon Week contest in which our youth and staff function as a team and decorate the front of our facility in an attempt to bring awareness with creativity. We have created wonderful relationships with the CPN House of Hope as well as the CPN Healthy Heart Program and as a result some of their great staff visited and lent their expertise on dating teen violence and suicide prevention.

Anyone that has stepped foot in our facility knows that we have zero tolerance on bullying. During this month we have a chance to reinforce these ideals and truly educate the youth on the tremendously negative impact bullying can have on someone now, as well as later in their life. We will present true accounts of bullying survivors and the effects, how to handle a situation in which you are being bullied, and the many types of bullying that exist today.

Get Smart Program: We continue to assist our youth with their academics on a daily basis during our homework help session. Thus far all youth have kept up with their classroom responsibilities and are excelling this fall. An extension of our Get Smart Program is the TYP’s College Prep and Career Readiness Program, and it is in full swing as well. This program is spearheaded by Wilson Littlehead and I on a weekly basis.

It is never too early to start preparing for life after high school. Whether you’re a freshman or a senior, there are steps that can be taken to stay on a path that leads to college and scholastic success. We have college site visits scheduled for Oklahoma Baptist University, East Central, Seminole State and the University of Oklahoma to name a few.

If you’d like to learn more about our programs, please reach out to our Director Darin Greene at dgreene@potawatomi.org or call us at 405-214-5110.
Alta Mae Sinor welcomes Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps to 102nd birthday party

With more than 100 birthdays, one would imagine CPN elder Alta (Cargill) Sinor would have a hard time picking just one to call her favorite. Yet if you asked her on August 25, 2016 which one she enjoyed the most, she would unequivocally tell you it was her 102nd.

“This is the best birthday ever!” exclaimed Sinor when she saw CPN Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps walk through the door at her party.

Sinor is a member of the Wilmette family and was born in Lexington, Oklahoma on August 25, 1914.

“I’m Frank Wilmette’s oldest granddaughter,” said Sinor proudly.

She spoke of knowing about her Potawatomi lineage as a child, in a time when many Native Americans didn’t openly share their tribal membership.

“I’m proud to be a Potawatomi Indian,” she stated in a room of well-wishers at her party. “My mother always told us we were Potawatomi Indian. She was proud of her Indian heritage.”

Though her father was not tribal, Sinor says her own pride reflects that of her mother Florence Bessie Wilmette Cargill, who was never shy of her heritage. One of her fondest memories is of the tribe’s first powwow in 1974 where Sinor said she had an opportunity to see relatives and friends she’d not visited with since childhood.

Sinor and her sister Lucille, who has since walked on, were both present at the powwow where the seating consisted of hay bales. Chairman Barrett, who was at that same event in 1974, confirmed that detail.

“Things kind of improved thanks to you Rocky!” stated Sinor to a room full of laughter.

As soon as she could walk, she joined her father in the cotton fields as a picker.

“She put a string and an old gunny sack, if you know what that is, and threw it over my head. When I filled my sack up, he’d put it in his.”

She attributed her long life to being tough and hardworking, fed in part by buttermilk and corn bread, and can still describe in vivid detail of jumping out of her father’s covered wagon as it rolled up Keetonville Hill, west of present day Claremore, Oklahoma.

“My dad didn’t own a car until I was grown,” she recalled. “We travelled in a wagon.”

Sinor described travelling across the state in the days when every town was within a day’s wagon ride of one another.

“I’ve stayed all night in many a wagon yard. When we would get close to a town and the weather would get cold, every little town had a shelter and we’d pull in with the wagon and slept in the wagon.”

“It was fantastic to be invited to Alta Mae’s birthday party,” said Vice-Chairman Capps. “Just speaking to her about her life, and her experiences, it takes me back to my memories of my grandmother. I’m honored she allowed us to participate.”

Alta Mae Sinor with Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett.
PBA returns to FireLake for 2017 events

The Professional Bowlers Association’s successful relationship with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort, FireLake Bowling Center and FireLake Arena will expand in 2017 when the Shawnee-based organizations will again host the PBA’s signature event, the FireLake PBA Tournament of Champions, and add a second to-be-announced summer event.

The premier event for PBA champions will conclude on Sunday, Feb. 19, with live ESPN coverage of the five-player stepladder finals staged in a special installation inside FireLake Arena. All preliminary rounds will be conducted right next door at the 24-lane FireLake Bowling Center.

In addition to the Tournament of Champions, Grand Casino will host the annual PBA Hall of Fame dinner, the PBA Legends, the PBA Women’s Challenge, the PBA Regional Challenge and the PBA 300+

“Since 2014, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Grand Casino Hotel & Resort, and FireLake Bowling Center have been outstanding partners,” said PBA CEO and Commissioner Tom Clark, “and our relationship just continues to grow. The 2015 championship finals in FireLake Arena were spectacular, one of the best venues we’ve ever had the pleasure to work with. It’s great for the PBA and its players to not only have an opportunity to return to Shawnee for the Tournament of Champions, but also for a second event we’re working on right now.”

Community garden produces one ton of produce

The one-acre CPN community garden produced its first successful spring and summer crop in 2016. After several months of tilling, watering, sweating and weeding, Cultural Heritage Center Director Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., and Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Andrew Gourd calculate that 2,000 pounds of produce were harvested and distributed this summer.

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The community garden initiative first began with a fall garden in August 2014 on a small plot of land behind FireLake Golf Course. The garden moved to the CPN Eagle Aviary in spring of 2015, but floods in May that year rained out the majority of the crops.

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The produce is reaching CPN elders, even if they aren’t able to help in the garden that much. Participants in the tribal youth programs at FireLodge have worked in the garden several times this summer, but Mosteller believes that younger tribal members could be more involved. Next year, staff would like to incorporate community garden work days and outdoor cooking demonstrations into youth activities that Cultural Education Specialist Lakota Pochedley is planning.

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At the elder’s center, as soon as the produce shows up, it’s gone, especially the green-striped squash. They go crazy over those things,” Gourd – a Seneca-Cayuga Nation tribal member – said.

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“We will track the distribution more closely next year because this is the first year we have a successful crop. Our first fall, we had 10 varieties of plants so most of that was used by the cooking demonstrations,” Mosteller said.

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CHC staff hopes to receive grants to fund the expansion of the community garden in the future. For more information, join the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Facebook group.

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Tuesday, 2 Oct. 1838

“We struck our tents at 8 this morning, and prepared for a march. Owing to the very great curiosity manifested by the citizens generally, Judge Polke, after being solicited, marched the emigration into the square, where we remained for fifteen or twenty minutes.”

“Preparations were made for forage we find in considerable quantities, without difficulty.”

Wednesday, 10 Oct. 1838

“The settlement of yesterday was concluded today, and every person engaged in the service, save the officers of the emigration, was paid up to the thirtieth. In order to allow the wagons an opportunity of repairing their wagons, shoeing their horses and making other repairs necessary for the safe prosecution of the journey, much extra ferriage was done during the two days of our encampment at the river.”

Wednesday, 3 Oct. 1838

“We traversed the river, and we embarked in keel and flat boats directly after our arrival.”

“The day was excessively warm and the dust very afflicting, added to which water was scarcely to be found on the route. Provisions and forage we find in considerable quantities, without difficulty.”

Wednesday, 20 Oct. 1838

“This might have been avoided by remaining on the Quincy shore, but the dissolute habits of the Indians and their great proneness to intoxication, forbid such a step on the part of the agents of the government. At sunset all the wagons that had been repairing, were in camp, and we were prepared for next day’s journey.”

“Subsistence beef and flour - of which a dozen cases in camp.”

Saturday, 20 Oct. 1838

“At eight o’clock this morning. The road was quite muddy and the air very cold. At 12 we reached our present Encampment on Grand Chariton, two miles from Keatsville.”

“By dark all the Indians and many of the wagons were over. The remainder will cross in the morning early and by 12 we hope to be able to continue our journey. Distance travelled today fifteen miles.”

Saturday, 24 Oct. 1838

“This morning before leaving camp a quantity of shoes were distributed among the indigent and barefooted Indians, the weather being too severe for marching without a covering to the feet.”

Monday, 22 Oct. 1838

“At an early hour this morning we left our encampment, and passing through Keatsville (Keytesville), journeyed towards the Missouri River. At two o’clock p.m. we reached Grand River, preparations for the ferriage of which had before been made, and immediately commenced its crossing.”

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November 2, 1838

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“The country through which we passed today is very much excited. Nothing is heard—nothing is talked of but the Mormons and the difficulties between them and the citizens of upper Missouri. Carrolton is nightly guarded by its citizens.”

“The settlement of yesterday was concluded today, and every person engaged in the service, save the officers of the emigration, was paid up to the thirtieth. In order to allow the wagons an opportunity of repairing their wagons, shoeing their horses and making other repairs necessary for the safe prosecution of the journey, much extra ferriage was done during the two days of our encampment at the river.”

William Polke’s journey on the Trail of Death

In 1838, the Potawatomi Indians in the state of Indiana were forcibly removed from their ancestral homelands by order of the U.S. government. The 859 Potawatomi who started the journey travelled across Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and finally Kansas before finally arriving at their intended destination. The loss of life, 41 in total, resulted in the removal becoming known as the Potawatomi Trail of Death. Below are excerpts from a journal of one of the trail's participants, William Polke.

Chief Topinabe

“This might have been avoided by remaining on the Quincy shore, but the dissolute habits of the Indians and their great proneness to intoxication, forbid such a step on the part of the agents of the government. At sunset all the wagons that had been repairing, were in camp, and we were prepared for next day’s journey.”

Ashkum, a member of the Trail of Death.

“At eight o’clock we left Thomas’ encampment, and at 12 reached Carrollton, near which place we are now encamped. Distance 12 miles. Nothing occurred on the way. The cold was intense on the prairies.”

“The settlement of yesterday was concluded today, and every person engaged in the service, save the officers of the emigration, was paid up to the thirtieth. In order to allow the wagons an opportunity of repairing their wagons, shoeing their horses and making other repairs necessary for the safe prosecution of the journey, much extra ferriage was done during the two days of our encampment at the river.”
“At sunrise the ferry boats were busily plying from shore to shore. As fast as the emigrants reached the southern bank they were hurried on their journey. At two o’clock the party were all over the river, and hastened to join the front of the emigration. At four o’clock the front of the party reached our encampment at Little Schuy Creek, eight miles from last night’s camp.”

“At eight o’clock we resumed our journey—the morning being delightful and fine for travelling. At 12 we reached Prairie Creek, 10 miles from Schuy Creek. Subsistence flour, corn-meal, beef and pork and game of every kind. Forage, corn, hay and fodder.”

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Tribal member Roy Wano puts giant U.S. flag to rest

Where does one find a 76-by-50 foot American flag nowadays?

The one man to ask is CPN’s Roy Wano, an event coordinator for the Naval Enlisted Reserve of Oklahoma, who organized a retirement ceremony at FireLake Arena in late August to officially retire the group’s gigantic American flag.

Originally purchased by the organization in 1976 for around $3,000, the banner was a perfect accomplishment to celebrate the United States’ bicentennial in 1976, it has only been folded into a triangle once.

“It’s just so large, and it takes so many people, probably 30 or 40 people, that it really is difficult to do it properly and in an honorable fashion,” said Wano.

Now that its service is complete and the flag has been officially retired, it doesn’t mean the end of Wano’s mission. The same company who made the original flag back during the U.S. bicentennial has agreed to specially make a second, despite no longer creating the large-scale flags.

“It’s being made right now,” Wano commented in late August, “so we should have it in the next few weeks.”

The Texas company, U.S. Flag and Flagpole Supply LP, knowing about the Naval Enlisted Reserve of Oklahoma’s mission, has agreed to match its 1976 price for the flag and is selling the new one for just $3,000.

“They were gracious enough to help us in the replacement of our flag, at a price that would allow us to continue our mission of honoring our nation’s veterans,” said Wano.

Wano, though not a service veteran, is a recognizable figure with the CPN Veteran’s Organization in Shawnee, attending their monthly meetings on occasion as part of his service with the naval enlisted reserve. He is also the son of well-known tribal veteran Max Wano. In the coming months, the younger Wano says he’ll be working with CPN on preparations for a burn for the retired flag.

By Daryl Talbot, Commander of the CPN Veterans Organization

B’ohj, I came across some rules that were suggested for a good old age, but I thought they could apply to veterans or anyone at any age. The following are those rules:

• Use the money you’ve saved. Use it and enjoy it. Don’t keep it for those who may have no idea of the sacrifices you made to get it. Enjoy the present moment. The sand runs out it gets faster and faster.

• Keep a healthy life with moderate exercise (like walking every day), eat well and get your sleep. It’s harder to remain healthy these days, so, keep in touch with your doctor. Get tested even when you’re feeling well. Stay informed.

• Always buy the best, most beautiful items for your partner in life. One day one of you will miss the other, and the money will not provide any comfort. Enjoy it together.

• Don’t stress over the little things. You’ve already overcome so much in your life. You have good memories and bad ones, but the important thing is the present. Don’t let the past drag you down or the future frighten you.

• Regardless of age, always keep love alive. Love your partner, love life, love your family, love your neighbor, your surroundings, your country. You’re never down as long as you have intelligence and affection.

• Be proud, both inside and out. Show it in your appearance. When you are well maintained on the outside, it seeps in, making you feel proud and strong on the inside.

• Keep in touch with the times. Read newspapers, watch the news. Stay involved socially. Keep in touch with what is going on and with people around you.

• Respect the younger generation and their opinions. They may not have the same viewpoint as you, but they are the future and will take the country in their direction. Give advice, not criticism, and try to remind them of yesterday’s wisdom that still applies today.

• Never use the phrase: “In my time.” Your time is now. As long as you’re alive, you are part of this time. You are still you now, having fun and enjoying life.

• Spend your time with positive, cheerful people, it’ll rub off on you and your days will seem that much better.

• Don’t give up your hobbies. If you don’t have any, make new ones. You can travel, hike, cook, read and dance. Find something you like to do and spend some real time having fun with it.

• If you have a strong belief, savor it. But don’t waste your time trying to convince others. They will make their own choices no matter what you tell them, and it will only bring you frustration. Live your faith and set an example. Live true to your beliefs and let that sway them.

• Laugh. Laugh a lot. Laugh at everything. Remember, you are one of the lucky ones. You managed to have a life, a full one. Many never get to experience a full life. But you did. So what’s not to laugh about? Find the humor in your situation.

• Take no notice of what others say about you and even less of what they may think. They’ll do it any way, and you should have pride in yourself and what you’ve achieved. They have no idea about your history, your memories and the life you have lived. There’s still much to be written, so get busy writing it and don’t waste time thinking about what others might think. Now is the time to be free, at peace and as happy as you can be.

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

Migwetch.
Major General partners with CPCDC director for veterans announcement

Oklahoma’s military veterans need to know their service and sacrifices are recognized, which is in part why in 2012 the state legislature approved a plan to identify them with a small American flag and “veteran” inscription on all state-issued IDs. However, word of the designation has been slow to filter out despite being in effect for more than four years. One Oklahoma veteran who helped spearhead the initial effort has continued to promote the initiative.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Rita Aragon stopped by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center’s Wall of Honor memorial in August to film her version of the “Thank a Vet Challenge” on social media. The initiative pushes for Americans, both military and civilian alike, to express gratitude for the service of veterans of the past, present and future. One of the more popular aspects is individual filming videos thanking veterans for their time in uniform, which Aragon used to encourage Oklahoma veterans to get the designation on their state-issued ID.

“It’s important that we all thank veterans, so I challenge you, do it today,” she said.

Since 2012, Oklahoma veterans have been able to obtain driver’s licenses and ID cards as part of a state effort to curb fraud against businesses and services offering discounts to military veterans. While the ID card program has been in effect for some time, little has been done in the way of promoting the issue in the years since its inception.

Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation Director Shane Jett was speaking to Aragon at lunch recently when she brought up the topic and its lack of publicity.

Jett, who joined the U.S. Navy Reserve as an officer during his time serving in the Oklahoma Statehouse, suggested that they partner with CPN’s Cultural Heritage Center to produce a public service announcement that could be shared online.

“We were having lunch and within two hours, we were pulling out of the cultural heritage center having filmed it with the CPN’s Tribal Heritage Productions staff,” explained Jett.

The video was filmed in front of the CPN’s Veterans Wall of Honor exhibit, which venerates the service of all Citizen Potawatomi Nation military veterans going back to the 19th century. Following the major general’s filming of her challenge to Oklahoma veterans to get the ID, Jett stepped in front of the camera for his own.

“Veterans, you’re out there, you served this great country,” said Jett. “You have a right to go to your local tag agency here in Oklahoma and get your veteran ID driver’s license. Show your pride and receive the thanks of a grateful state.”

For service veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who want the ‘veteran’ icon added to their state issued driver’s license or ID card, take military discharge paperwork to a local tag agency. The designation is open to anyone actively serving or honorably discharged from any branch of the military.

Locals learn home energy savings from CPN Employment and Training Department

CPN Employment and Training staff members lead three public education meetings for current and potential clients of the Low Income Home Energy Program. By participating in the sessions, LIHEAP applicants are eligible to receive incentive payments toward their current electric bill.

Participants were asked to bring their current cooling bill to the meeting they attended. CPN’s Stephanie Hawk, a community services coordinator, and Gina Bundy, a social services counselor, informed approximately 120 participants about specific tools and techniques to make their homes more energy efficient. Bundy estimated that around 100 families were assisted as a result of the classes.

Tribal Employment and Training Assistant Director Margaret Zientek explained the project’s necessity for those using their program.

“We have access to the LIHEAP grant so that we can help people who are at or below 150 percent of the poverty rate with their primary cooling bill in the summer and heating bill in the winter,” explained Zientek. “Because of this grant, we have the opportunity to write an education component, which is what the classes are.”

Instructions on simple, cost effective measures that can be done around the house are one aspect of the classes.

“We are teaching them skills that they can use to lower and manage their own bill,” said Zientek. “By putting reflective film on your windows – especially the ones that have the most exposure to the sun – they can reduce their cooling bill by significant amounts.”

The instructions aren’t just on physical improvements though. Education includes how to budget using plans offered by their electricity or gas providers, including using home appliances outside of peak hours.

“For people with fixed incomes, they might want to take advantage of average payment plans. The key is to pay their bill on time. In the summer, they can turn the AC up when they leave or wear lighter clothing around the house.”

As part of the LIHEAP grant program’s flexibility, CPN Employment and Training can incentivize those attending the meeting. The tribal program provides many of the tools necessary to help boost their home’s energy efficiency.

“Just by attending the meeting they will receive items that will help. We let them choose between packages of the reflective window film for the summer or take a blanket they can use in the winter. Those who attended also get an additional $95 or more to their current cooling bill for coming to the class.”

Because the federal funds for the grant program are accessed by Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the program run by CPN Employment and Training is open only to households with at least one member of a federally recognized tribal nation. The residence must be in the CPN service area of Pottawatomie, Lincoln, Payne, Cleveland or east of Post Road in Oklahoma County and not receive assistance from another program, like DHS or another tribe. To learn more about the tribal program, please contact CPN Employment and Training Department at 405-598-0797.

October 2016 15

General Rita Aragon

Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Gina Bundy leads the home energy savings course.
Coalition calls for legislative action to combat worst of predatory loan impact

Consumer Lending Manager Tina Pollard of the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation joined members of Voices Organized in Civic Engagement at the Oklahoma State Capitol to call on legislators to offer solutions to the issues facing citizens using predatory loans in light of new federal rules on the industry’s lending practices.

“There is a great first step for a legislative intervention but lacks the ability to enforce without proper reporting,” explained Pollard at the state capitol.

The gathering of representatives from non-profits like the Oklahoma Policy Institute, faith leaders like Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City, the Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ and financial institutions like the CPCDC discussed new rules handed down by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on what are commonly known as “payday loan lenders.”

“Oklahomans are the number one user of payday loans per capita in the nation,” said Rev. Lori Walke of the Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ. “In 2015 alone, payday lenders charged Oklahomans $52 million in fees. The average interest rate on these loans is 391 percent APR.”

Speaking to the Associated Press’ Sean Murphy, school teacher Elise Robillard described the situation she found herself in after taking out one of these loans in order to replace a set of balding tires on her car.

“I spent the better part of 15 years stuck in a cycle of debt because of the initial payday loan that I took out,” she said.

Pollard, whose organization serves Native Americans and employees of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation with credit counseling services, explained that loopholes in the federal rules established by the CFPB leave the system open to continual failure.

“With no overall tracking system by lenders, if you’re denied a loan at one lender, you can just walk to one next door who will give you one,” Pollard explained.

According to Pollard, at one time Oklahoma did have a tracking system, but it was eventually abandoned after complaints that it was too intrusive into customer’s financial history. While some have suggested implementing a tracking system with the three major credit bureaus, Pollard cautioned that might do more harm than good because many of those seeking these financial tools already have bruised credit scores.

DeVon Douglass of the Oklahoma Policy Institute shared the coalition’s enthusiasm for the CFPB’s direction, but said that Oklahoma legislators didn’t need to wait for the federal agency to act.

Citing the state’s motto of “Labor omnia vincit,” or “Labor Conquers All Things,” Douglas noted that “We stand with Oklahomans in our state who work. What we know about predatory loans is that they do not work for our state.”

Along with autumn and falling leaves, October also brings to light a difficult, yet important, subject. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and according to Amanda Chapman – the House of Hope domestic violence prevention consultant – it isn’t easy to know at the beginning of a relationship if a partner is abusive.

“I think it is wonderful that the month of October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, however, it happens every day,” Chapman said. “One in four women and one in seven men will be victims of domestic violence. It does not discriminate because of race, age, gender, sexual orientation or economic status. It can happen to anyone.”

Often, people only perceive domestic violence to be manifested as physical - hitting, punching, slapping, kicking or biting - but there could be more to it. Domestic violence can look different in each relationship, but Chapman told the Hownikan what signs call for intervention.

Some of those signs may include:

- Insulting or putting partner down
- Blaming partner for their problems or mistakes
- Destroying property or hurting pets
- Intimidating partner with weapons
- Controlling finances
- Making partner feel worthless
- Tearing down partner’s self-esteem

“If you begin to see any of these signs, it is important to reach out for help,” Chapman said. “Talk to a trusted family member or friend or seek out programs in your area that offer services. They can help you begin the process to regain the life you deserve. All domestic violence programs are confidential.”

Chapman notes that it is important for friends and family members to be supportive of the victim because it takes an average of seven attempts before a victim finally leaves an abusive situation. People may stay in the relationship because they love their abusive partner, for the sake of their children or because they worry about judgment from family and friends.

“We all want that sense of family and we hold on to the good times hoping that the abuser will change,” Chapman said. “Think about it, if someone you love tells you that they will change, you want to believe them. Some victims may not know what a healthy relationship looks like and believe that the abuse is a normal part of life, especially if the victim has grown up in an abusive environment.”

The CPN House of Hope provides services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation or financial status. It provides victim advocacy, support groups, parenting classes, transportation, court advocacy and safe dating education.

If you see any of these signs of abuse, please contact House of Hope by visiting cpn.news/HouseOfHope or calling 405-275-3176 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-656-4673.
An interview with former PLP Paige Willett Lough

Paige Willett Lough is the operations director for KGOU Radio, one of the metro’s National Public Radio member stations, and host of the popular morning show All Things Considered. She is also a Citizen Potawatomi tribal member and descendent of the Toupin family.

In 2010, Lough participated in the Potawatomi Leadership Program and then she went on to earn her journalism degree, with an emphasis in broadcasting and electronic media, at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Lough talked to the Hownikan about how the PLP shaped her. In addition to answering these questions, she learned a tremendous amount about herself, her family and being Potawatomi during her summer in the PLP and made lifelong friends.

She encourages any college student thinking about applying for the program to do so. Learn more about the program at plp.potawatomi.org.

What made you want to participate in the PLP?

I wanted to participate in the PLP because I felt like it would be a great immersive experience to learn a lot about my tribe and find out more about a side of my family I didn’t really know too much about. I also thought it sounded like a fun way to spend the summer.

How did the internship you had in the CPN Public Information Department shaped your career?

In my public information office internship, I got to write a story for the Hownikan, take photos of tribal events and got to be on the radio with Mike Askins and see how a commercial radio station and morning show is run. I got to work with Michael Dodson in the Public Information Department and Askins at KGFF.

It was a confirmation that I wanted to pursue journalism and writing. Right out of college, I worked for the Oklahoma Tourism Department as a web writer and content developer. I have stuck with writing and radio since I graduated college.

Are you still involved in the tribe in some way?

I have worked a few times photographing a couple of the family reunion festivals since I participated in the PLP and worked on a freelance basis for the Hownikan.

How did the PLP make you see the tribe differently?

I became so proud of everything the tribe is doing for the community and for tribal members. I am proud of how independent the tribe has become. There’s so much excitement for the future. The naming ceremony at the end of the summer was also one of the most beautiful, emotional experiences of my life.
It within a mile of the Standing Rock Sioux’ reservation, crossing the Missouri River, which the tribe says will threaten their water and lands. Peaceful protests against the pipeline have ratcheted up since, with tensions mounting in early September when the pipeline’s private security, armed with dogs and pepper spray, confronted protesters as they protested the bulldozing of Sacred Earth and burial mounds on the tribe’s former land. This land was that taken from the tribe in 1958.

Ultimately, the Obama Administration is expected to decide by the end of the month on the environmental review of the pipeline, a decision that could put the Standing Rock Sioux at risk. The Obama Administration is expected to review the pipeline application and construction of the segment of the pipeline to ensure safety. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe has minerals to develop and wants to do so, but their website said that “too far from transportation” to make the development viable. This is an opportunity for them to take control of their own destiny and turn this into a gain for their people. When it comes to ensuring the pipeline’s safety, we believe that the tribe itself is best placed to ensure the pipeline application and compliance of the highest standards. After all, the Standing Rock Sioux are the ones who have lived with this in their backyard. Who else is better motivated to ensure it is properly built and maintained? A well-crafted agreement with the pipeline could yield sufficient income to accomplish this without cost to the Tribe.

I pray that the growing frustration of such a diverse group of protestors does not grow in vain. I pray that your protests are not in vain. I pray for the Standing Rock Sioux to have a future.

Our response as the CPN Tribal Government was directed at the main issue of the violation of Standing Rock Sioux territorial sovereignty, federal regulatory due process, and the need for the federal government to honor the tribe’s right to self-govern.

Our letter discussed the safety issue, and standing in the pipeline’s right of way application and left the tribal government out of the process completely. The pipeline was initially moved after objections that an oil spill could interfere with the water and energy needs of the Standing Rock Sioux and their problems with the Dakota Access Pipeline. In September, we submitted a letter to President Obama and staff which explained our support for the Standing Rock Sioux and our hope that the president would “fast track” the pipeline to ensure safety. We are excited about learning more details on the Blue Zone concept and how we can apply it to our community. Numerous health-related information can be found on the Internet. I know there is not a fountain of youth in America, but to make healthy choices that will enable us to live happier, healthier, longer lives.

Bozo Nikanek
(Hello my friends)

Is there really a Fountain of Youth? Is there really some element of the human experience that can make us live longer, healthier, happier lives? What if we could do so by making healthy choices in our daily living? What if we could encourage our family members, neighbors, friends, community leaders and educators to do the same? What if there were areas in the United States and throughout the world in which this has occurred? I am pleased to announce that we have found such a solution.

It’s the concept of people who live longer, healthier and happier lives than the rest of us. It’s the concept of living in communities that constantly remind us to make healthy choices. Don’t rely on mechanical de- vises to do work for you, keep your body moving. Get plenty of natural exercise.

Purpose – is a very important way to manage daily living. Experts say that sense of purpose is one of the key factors for a certain amount of stress in each of our lives. The key to better living is to learn how to control stress this stress.

Down shifting helps relieve the stress that all people experience in life. Whether it is financial stress, health-related stress, or a certain amount of stress in each of our lives. The key to better living is to learn how to control stress this stress.

80 per cent rule reminds us to stop eating when we are 80 per cent full. The other 20 per cent may well be the way to go. Eighty percent is what a healthy body needs to work right. Try to keep from eating after your latest meal in the afternoon/ evening.

Plant salt is concentrating on eating fresh fruits and vegetables in the variety of fava, black, soy and lentil. Be aware of the times of the year and grow what meat you want to eat and strive to curtail your meat intake.

Wine at 5 refers to people drinking a glass of wine per day. Including some with people’s religious beliefs; therefore, it is not for everyone. This concept is designed for adults. Dozens of studies throughout the country discovered that wine intake is beneficial to the human body. Of course, we realize that this may not apply to those who have health issues that prohibit alcohol consumption, but for the most part, a glass of red wine at 5 is good for the body.

Belong to a faith-based organization of your choice. Research shows that attending faith-based services four times a month could add over a dozen years to a person’s life expectancy.

Loved ones first is a universal concept. Put the welfare of your family members first. This may provide for parents, grandparents or even loving partners; or if you are a single, stay close to your children. Take extra steps to show your loved ones that you care.

Right tribe does not necessari- ly mean the tribe you were born into or even the tribe that you are in. It refers to having a social circle that supports healthy behaviors. It may be a group of friends or be family friends to each other for life. Social networks of long-lived people have favorably shaped their health behaviors.

The Avedis Foundation has developed the Blue Zone concept to our community. An initial meet- ing of city and organizational leaders occurred on Monday, August 22. To go forward with the Blue Zone concept, it would take a mixture of commitment within the area. Presently, the Avedis leadership and that of other organizations are working with Blue Zone proponents to explore the possibility of the interest in such a commitment for our commu- nity. CPN grocery enterprise director and I have a meeting on Tuesday, October 11. We are excited about learning more details on the Blue Zone concept and how we can apply it to our community. Numerous health-related information can be found on the Internet.
District 1 - Roy Slavin

Oklahoma participating in the Potawatomi Leadership Program. She will talk about her experiences there.

Our District 1 meeting is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is served and gifts for our wisest, youngest and furthest traveled members will be presented. After the meeting, I have a naming ceremony scheduled for a young man (10 years old) who has requested a Potawatomi name. As you can see I have a busy day scheduled, but it is a day that I am very much looking forward to. I always enjoy our district meetings because it affords me the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Namings are just special, especially when it is a young person like this one who is becoming interested in his heritage.

Also I need to mention that District 1 and Eva Carney’s district 2 are making plans for a joint meeting in Arlington, Virginia on November 12. So mark your calendar and watch the mail for invitations.

On another note, it is fall and flu season is fast approaching so don’t forget to get your shot. Flu season in the United States can begin as early as October and last as late as May. An annual seasonal flu vaccine (either flu shot or nasal spray flu vaccine) is the way to reduce the chances you will get seasonal flu and spread it to others. So please get your flu shot and keep District 1 free of the flu.

As always if you do not get email or snail mail from me it is because I do not have your contact information and do to privacy issues the National Museum of the American Indian cannot provide me with that information.

I may be reached at 1-888-741-5767 (toll free) or Roy Slavin 6630 NW Revere Dr. Kansas City, Missouri, 64151.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your representative.

Igwien (heartfelt thanks)
Roy Slavin
Netagtege (Forever Planting)
rslavin@potawatomi.org

District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

Bozo nikame!
(Hello my friends)

We have some upcoming visiting opportunities:

Vermont: Legislator Roy Slavin will be hosting a District 1 meeting in Burlington, Vermont on October 1, 2016. Happily, my husband Alan Cohen and I will be attending. We look forward to meeting Potawatomis and their families who are living in that beautiful part of the country. Our daughter Elise went to college in Vermont and we had memorable family trips up that way during the summer. Some photos of past Feast participants.

We hope folks from all over Districts 1 and 2 will be able to participate. Paper invitations are being mailed to those within a few hours’ drive to D.C., but all District 1 and 2 citizens are welcome if you can get there. Please note that your RSVPs are needed to ensure we have sufficient supplies for all. Please RSVP to Roy Slavin (rslavin@potawatomi.org) or to me with names of guests and ages (if young than high school age), by Monday, Nov. 7. The Feast will start at 10:30 and go until 2 p.m. Please come ready to craft and share stories/events from your family’s year, and bring a dish (with recipe if you’d like) to pass. Roy and I will supply main dishes (one vegan) and drinks, and have craft supplies available for all. Leslie Deer, a very talented artisan who works from our CPN Cultural Heritage Center, will instruct on Potawatomi appliqué design and southern cloth style dance. We will raffle items, Potawatomi appliqué design instructions, and also offer dance instruction. Some of the children attending will participate in a hands game exhibit, too. (We did this at the District 2 Nashville meeting and it was great fun.) Children are very welcome to the Feast and to participate, with a parent or grandparent, in the appliqué pattern instruction. To top off the day there will be CPN-themed giveaways and a raffle and we hope you’ll wear moccasins, especially if you made them in connection with our earlier Fall Feasts where instruction on moc- casin-making and –beading was provided. (The 2016 Feast was a few days before National Rock Your Mocs Day on November 15, 2016.)

Maryland and Florida: I will be scheduling another visit to the Archives of the National Museum of the American Indian in Suit- land, Maryland for early in the New Year. I also hope to have meetings in Florida and Arkansas during the first half of 2017, since these are the two District 2 states with the largest Potawatomi populations. If you can assist me with a meeting location – a private room in a restaurant or a church or social hall that fits 60 or so comfortably – please send me a note.

Keeping in touch: With a new school year already here, I expect there are folks who have relocated to District 2. For the most current information I’d ask you to send me your email contact details – I send an email a few times a month – or send me a note asking me to add you to the private District 2 Facebook page (private as in only members can read and access what is posted there). About 150 of us currently are members of that page.

New books added to the District 2 library: I’ve updated my library list to include a couple books I found during bookstore vis- iting on our family summer vacation to Texas. The best find is a compilation of all U.S. treaties with the Indi- an Tribes from 1778-1883. The spreadsheet of available books is on my website, under “Services.” Please note that books can be borrowed – I can mail one out to you if you make a request and it’s on your honor to return it to me once you’ve read it.

White House Conference: By the time this column is published the last of this ad-
my top priorities as your legislator.

Kindest regards and bama pi (til later),

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe
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Sagebrush (New Mexico) and Utah, 2016

Let me start off by mention- ing that on November 5 there is a joint area meeting of Districts 3 and 5 in Lubbock, Texas. See the invite on this page for more information. Our meeting will be before lunch. After lunch, there is much to see at this center about Texas days of the past. There is one room that we saw in an earlier visit that is dedicated to the Native tribe that originally lived in this area. We found this center to be a very good historical find. District 5 Representa- tive Gene Lambert and I look forward to seeing you there.

Moving on to another mat- ter. In our culture, we look at some things, and talk about doing what we feel is best for the next seven generations. I just attended a meeting were the focus was on what is going on now, that will have some very serious impact within the next three genera- tions. For example, some of you may have recently seen the “60 Minutes” show about driverless automobiles. This is expected to be a fairly complete reality by 2025. As of the first of last month, over 1.7 million test miles have been driven by the various driverless cars. They have faced many challeng- es, since the idea was first tried back in 2004. But they continue the test driving in a number of states in the U.S., allowing them to learn to re- act to all kinds of conditions, different type signals and sit- uations. Yes, they have had some incidents, but those have been few in comparison to the number of accidents that take place today. Over 95 percent of the accidents today are due to driver error or the driver’s control over the driverless car will cut that margin substantially. Now, what effect does this have and who will be af- fected? There will be many possible jobs that disappear with the driverless car. Cab drivers for one. Gasoline stations will possibly cease to exist. The insurance industry will see a drop in the number of auto policies. Very probably you may not need to actu- ally own a car in the future. There could be an expansion of Uber and the like, but the driverless cars become lit- erally a new public transpor- tation system. For example, you order your ride. When you get out, the auto is di- rected to a new address for the next occupant, and so on. If you have a newborn in the near year or so, they may never need to take a driver’s test, let alone have a driver’s license.

The reason I chose this sub- ject is to remind us that to- day our educational focus for our children tends to be directed on them being pro- ficient in some of the areas related to science, technology, com- puter, engineering, and math, or better known as the acronym STEM. Based upon our cur- rent educational focus and the direction that we seem to be taking, more service jobs and jobs dealing with future work from home appear to be evolving. Based upon that, some of the visionaries foresee the need for our future children to be better educated in art, writing, communication and being creative. Yes, there will still be a need for the doctors, lawyers, engineers and so forth. But for our youth who are looking for vocational careers, I would suggest that they be alert to the fact that many of the jobs today will vanish in the near future. Basically, we need to be sure that we and they are planning for the next three generations future, so those who are seven generations away are not jeopardized.

I thank my constituents for the honor of serving you, and am proud to be your rep- resentative. Should you have any area with the Nation where you feel I can assist you, please contact me. I am only one phone call away and have listed my cell phone as my primary contact.

In closing, for that those who live close enough to Lubbock to be with us on November 5, I look forward to seeing you. We have found that the last few months of each year are not good to hold an area meeting. Holidays and sport- ing events consume many of the weekends. So my plan is to hold the next set of area meetings for District 3 in early 2017.

Bama pi (later), and thank you for the honor of allowing me to represent you.

Bob Whistler
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
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All correspondence should be directed to Hownikan, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801
Questions: hownikan@potawatomi.org or 800-880-9880
Address changes should be sent to Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801
District 4 meeting in Garden City, October 8, 2016: I will hold a District 4 meeting open to all CPN members but invitations were only be mailed to the members living in the western counties of Kansas. If you plan to attend please RSVP to me (785-608-1982 or jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org) not later than October 4.

Meeting with National Park Service regarding Pappan’s Ferry Landing Park: I attended two meetings conducted by the NPS to develop ideas for a proposed Oregon Trail River-to-River Park in Topeka on a site where a ferry operated by the Pappan brothers crossed the Kansas River. Descendants of the three Pappan brothers later married into the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and are considered one of the original tribal families. The plans for this park will be incorporated into the overall development of both sides of the Kansas River as it passes through Topeka. The first meeting held on August 23 was attended by approximately 100 individuals. This group contained representation from almost every facet of the Topeka community, including but not limited to, Shawnee County Commissioners, Topeka City Council members, state wildlife and parks staff, county parks and recreation staff, educators, engineers, architects, historians, and one tribal representative; me.

During the first day we were broken into small groups and worked towards developing our ideas of what we wanted to see included in the Park. Each group was given an opportunity to present their ideas to the entire assembly. The ideas included such things as a zip line across the river, walking trails along the river, an amusement area for children and a gift shop. The NPS staff then took these ideas and spent the next two days developing them into two alternative proposals, which were presented on Friday morning. I attended this meeting along with approximately 70 individuals, most of whom had attended the early meeting. The NPS stated it would three to four months before they would release their final proposal. Needless to say there is no funding currently available for this park.

Meeting with the Shawnee County Parks and Recreation Department regarding Burnett’s Mound: I was invited to attend this meeting, along with local residents and other interest individuals, to discuss future plans for Skyline Park which is the official name of the facilities on Burnett’s Mound in Topeka, named for Abram Burnett, a member of the original tribal families. The NPS stated it would three to four months before they would release their final proposal. Needless to say there is no funding currently available for this park.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your legislative representative.

Migwetch,
Jon Boursaw, Wetase Mkoh
CPN District 4 Rep.
(0) 785-861-7272
(C) 785-608-1982
jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
Office Hours: Tuesday 9-11 a.m.
Thursday 3-5 p.m.
Other times - Please call
Yes, I really appreciated the call because I had not thought about it in that way. It was a wake up call. It certainly caught my attention and actually reminded me of how wonderful it is to receive your name, especially through the Creator and the people you love.

Again, I thank the person who called and asked the question.

Our ancestors believed we must be named before the Creator can see our faces. A lot of thought, prayer, history and communication goes into receiving your name. I did not take it lightly then and I take it very seriously now when naming others. I consider it the highest honor.

A ceremony without tears of peace, love and joy for the gift bestowed in the moment would be unheard of. It is a bonding as if you have just given birth to another. (You men will have to talk to your wives about that.)

The sharing you go through with the “two legged” in the heart to heart talks you have is a sharing like no other.

My name is Memewewe, meaning “Butterfly Woman.” One who sees good in others. It was given to me in Chandler, Arizona by Chairman John Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and supported that evening by Justin Neely, director of our language department, many years ago. It was even prior to the existence of the legislature.

Native American legends say that if you have a wish you must catch a butterfly and whisper in its ear. It will carry your secret wish to the Creator and it will be granted because you did not hold the butterfly captive. They will not be able to tell anyone of your secret wish either because they cannot speak. They were given beautiful wings to fly and they can carry your secret wish.

As I understand it the “Fancy Shawl Dance” is a reenactment of the butterfly and I am honored to carry the name as I do see the good in others.

There are many tribal legends of the butterfly and I am honored to carry the name as I do see the good in others.

Butterflies appear fragile, dart quickly and sail with the wind. They are also capable of surviving a hurricane as they move with the energy instead of against it.

I am still working on that one.

Christianity has used the comparison of the resurrection of the butterfly to the emergence of the butterfly from the cocoon...Corinthians 15:52 as life comes back even stronger than before. See www.Religionfacts.com/butterfly for more information.

It is used often at ceremonies such as weddings, funerals, and spirit reference of any new birthing in life.

As long as we are alive we are learning and it is never ending.

Each time I think I understand a new light comes on and another level presents itself.

When the Creator decides you have lived, loved and learned as to your lessons here on earth he will call you home. So until then be grateful and grow with your new experiences and knowledge.

Know that if you are still here, you aren’t finished yet and are still growing.

But if your wishes have not come through, catch a butterfly and tell it of your dreams. I have many to fulfill.

I am so very proud of my name. I am working toward achieving its capabilities.

Thank you for allowing me to spread my wings and represent you.

Migwetch.

Gene Lambert
(Eunice Imogene Lambert)
Your District 5 Legislator Citizen Potawatomi Nation
glambert@potawatomi.org

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District 5 - Gene Lambert

I received a call recently from a tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Oklahoma. The question was, “Gene, why is it you never sign your articles with your tribal name? Do you not have one or are you ashamed of it?”

Wow!

I am so very grateful for the call because I had not thought about it in that way. It was a wake up call. It certainly caught my attention and actually reminded me of how wonderful it is to receive your name, especially through the Creator and the people you love.

Again, I thank the person who called and asked the question.

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Migwetch.

Gene Lambert
(Eunice Imogene Lambert)
Your District 5 Legislator Citizen Potawatomi Nation
glambert@potawatomi.org

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District 6 - Rande K. Payne

I want to start this month’s column saying thank you to all who have already registered for our D6-7 Heritage Festival next month. It’s hard to believe it is right around the corner. The response in just the first two weeks since invitations started arriving has been amazing!

If you are planning to attend there are a few things you will want to bring with you.

• Winter clothing – it can be chilly or even cold in early November.

• Summer clothing – it can sunny and warm in early November.

• Your favorite lawn chair.

• A comfortable blanket you don’t mind using on the grass.

• Water and soft drinks will be provided throughout the event. No alcohol please, this is an alcohol free event.

• Lunch and dinner will be provided on Saturday as well as breakfast on Sunday.

• Travel expenses in November.

• A pleasant and enjoyable travel and journey to and from. I look forward to seeing you soon! And I would also like to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Bama pi,

Wisdom from the Word:

“Surely I am with you always, even to the close of the age.”—Matthew 28:20

As long as we are alive we are learning and it is never ending.

Each time I think I understand a new light comes on and another level presents itself.

When the Creator decides you have lived, loved and learned as to your lessons here on earth he will call you home. So until then be grateful and grow with your new experiences and knowledge.

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I am so very proud of my name. I am working toward achieving its capabilities.

Thank you for allowing me to spread my wings and represent you.

Migwetch!

Rande K. Payne
Mhjedega Gogo
Legislator District 6
31150 Road 180
Visalia, CA 93292-9585
(559) 999-5325 office
(559) 999-5411 cell
rande.payne@potawatomi.org

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You are invited to
CPN District 5 Meeting
with Rep. Gene Lambert

Denver Art Museum
100 W 14th Ave Pkwy
Denver, CO 80204

Oct. 1st, 2016, 10am to 3pm
Lunch and dinner will be provided as well as gift giveaways, cultural activities, and tribal stories.

Please RSVP to Jamie Moucka
jmoucka@potawatomi.org
or call 405-217-2575.

No later than Sept. 27th.
On November 5-6, Rande Payne and I will be hosting a combined district meeting and Fall Festival in Visalia, California. Hopefully you received your invitation postcard and have sent your RSVP, if not and you would like to attend, you can do so on the internet at http://otpwn.com/stat/CA/Gathering or you can call (559) 999-3525. Come join us, it should be fun.

November has also become Native American Heritage Month since 1990 when the first President Bush signed a joint resolution making it so. Many resources are available online to learn about our heritage starting with our tribal website, www.Potawatomi.org and the website for the CPN Cultural Heritage Center, PotawatomiHeritage.com. Another great website for the Native American Heritage Month is www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov.

Many of you may know that Bozho, (Hello friends) Payne and I have been working on a project called “Nation to Nation” that shows eight of the approximately 374 Treaties that were ratified between the United States and Native nations. Two of the eight are between the Potawatomi and the United States, one in 1809 and the other in 1836. Those can be found at: http://nmai.si.edu/static/nationtonation.

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The National Museum of the American Indian currently has a online exhibit called “Nation to Nation” that shows eight of the approximately 374 Treaties that were ratified between the United States and Native nations. Two of the eight are between the Potawatomi and the United States, one in 1809 and the other in 1836. Those can be found at: http://nmai.si.edu/static/nationtonation.

It is important that we teach our children about our collective history. The education of our young will help ensure that some of the dark periods of our history, will not be repeated.

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

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

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The temperatures in Israel reached as high as 115 degrees at the Dead Sea. Due to this being “off season” we used a group tour service and I would strongly recommend that for safety and to get the most out of the excursion. If any members are interested in getting information about the tour service we used, please feel free to e-mail me.

Save the date: Please mark your calendars for the annual District 8 Fall Feast on November 12 at NAYA in Portland, Oregon. This will be a dinner meeting with traditional Thanksgiving food, prizes, crafts and a Native American art contest for CPN members only. There will be postcards and e-mails with more details to follow.

As always, it is my honor to represent you and it is my pleasure to hear from you and assist you where I can.

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Mark.Johnson@potawatomi.org

District 7 - Mark Johnson

Many of you may know that I did not attend the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations this year because I was on a trip of Potawatomi Nations this year and had been planned for several years.

While the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is made up of members of many faiths, the tribe has been historically Christian, and became such shortly after their first contact with Europeans. So devout in their beliefs, that the tribe was known as Mission Band for many years.

Regardless of your personal faith journey, I would recommend a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Israel in general. For a history buff, there are few places that offer as much. Layers of history include the Jewish Kingdom, the Roman Empire, early Christian, Byzantine and Crusader periods. My wife and I visited the Sea of Galilee, Masada, Tiberius, Caesarea, Megiddo, the Jordan River, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho and of course, Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem we saw the Garden of Gethsemane, the upstairs room of the last supper, the baths of Bethesda, Golgotha and the Holy Sepulcher.

The National Museum of the American Indian currently has a online exhibit called “Nation to Nation” that shows eight of the approximately 374 Treaties that were ratified between the United States and Native nations. Two of the eight are between the Potawatomi and the United States, one in 1809 and the other in 1836. Those can be found at: http://nmai.si.edu/static/nationtonation.

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1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA. 93611
(559) 351-0078 cell
Mark.Johnson@potawatomi.org

District 8 - Dave Carney

Many of you may know that I did not attend the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations this year because I was on a trip to the Holy Land. This was a 25th wedding anniversary trip and had been planned for several years.

While the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is made up of members of many faiths, the tribe has been historically Christian, and became such shortly after their first contact with Europeans. So devout in their beliefs, that the tribe was known as Mission Band for many years.

Regardless of your personal faith journey, I would recommend a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Israel in general. For a history buff, there are few places that offer as much. Layers of history include the Jewish Kingdom, the Roman Empire, early Christian, Byzantine and Crusader periods. My wife and I visited the Sea of Galilee, Masada, Tiberius, Caesarea, Megiddo, the Jordan River, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho and of course, Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem we saw the Garden of Gethsemane, the upstairs room of the last supper, the baths of Bethesda, Golgotha and the Holy Sepulcher.

The temperatures in Israel reached as high as 115 degrees at the Dead Sea. Due to this being “off season” and fears of terrorism, tourism was way down, making wait times very brief to see the sites. This was the first time I have used a group tour service and I would strongly recommend that for safety and to get the most out of the excursion. If any members are interested in getting information about the tour service we used, please feel free to e-mail me.

Save the date: Please mark your calendars for the annual District 8 Fall Feast on November 12 at NAYA in Portland, Oregon. This will be a dinner meeting with traditional Thanksgiving food, prizes, crafts and a Native American art contest for CPN members only. There will be postcards and e-mails with more details to follow.

As always, it is my honor to represent you and it is my pleasure to hear from you and assist you where I can.

Best Regards,
Dave Carney/Kagazghi
dcarney@potawatomi.org
360-259-4027
Adam Michael Gonzales

Adam Michael Gonzales, born Nov. 27, 1991 passed away Friday, Aug. 5, 2016 at his home in Wichita, Kansas.

Preceded in death by his parents, brother: Charles Brunin; and sisters: Mil- dred Ann Henry and Phyllis Treat.

Survivors include a sister: Janice De- graffenreed of Tulsa; brother: Den- nis Schimmel of Shawnee; two sons & daughters-in-law: Kevin & Tori & daughters-in-law: Kevin & Tori Graf; Keith & Cherie Schimmel; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Barbara Ann (Martin) Phillips

She married Bill Phillips on Dec. 24, 1950 in Big Lake, Texas. She preceded her in death on Sept. 26, 2013. After marriage, she and Bill followed the oil-field and lived throughout Texas until 1968.

Mrs. Phillips was a member of the Tecumseh Business & Professional Women’s Club for many years and attended the First Baptist Church in Tecumseh. She was a proud member of the Potawatomi tribe from the Burnett family.

She worked in the medical field for many years. She enjoyed crocheting, collecting salt and pepper shakers, traveling, camping at the lake, and especially attending family reunions held at the lake. She was affectionately known by all as “Granny”.

Mary Jeanette Brunin

To leave an online condolence please go to www.piperfuneralhome.com

Robert Gene Hudson

He was preceded in death by his brother: Robert Gene Hudson, II.

Survivors include her sister: Joan (Dale) Wardle, Canton, Ohio; her brother: Richard (Daron) Phillips; and nephews: Jim, Bob, Mike, Kathy, Mark, Ed, Dave, Tom, Dan, and Steve; her caregiver and friend: Cynthia Fansuy.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Aug. 13, 2016 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in St. Marys.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Marys Food Pantry or the Topeka Cat Association and sent in care of Piper Funeral Home, 714 Maple St., St. Marys, Kan- sas 66536.