Gathering 2016 photos

More than 2,000 tribal members from the nine Potawatomi tribes travelled to Shawnee, Oklahoma for the 2016 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations.

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Felon-reintegration program

Tribal Re-Entry Program Coordinator Burt Patadal works with ex-felons trying to get back on their feet.

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OTC continues attempts to unlawfully tax CPN

The Oklahoma Tax Commission will continue its attempt to unlawfully collect sales taxes from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The case, which began in 2014, is now headed to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

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

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


CPN Urgent Care Clinics to open

Starting in mid-August, CPN Health Services patients in need of same-day care for minor medical issues have the option of visiting the tribe’s two new urgent care clinics. Located at both tribal clinics from 1-5 p.m. each weekday, the new urgent care programs aim to cut down on wait times for primary care physicians.

“These urgent care clinics are strictly for walk-ins and will only treat one medical ailment. If you wake up with a cold, or you break a bone in your hand and need an x-ray, this is the place for you,” explained Chris Skillings, CPN Health Services Director.

Like their counterparts in the private sector, the CPN Urgent Care Clinics are a basic, curative form of service that deals with minor healthcare emergencies. Healthcare professionals at urgent care facilities treat minor medical conditions and ailments before they get worse. Due to the small amount of afflictions these clinics can treat, many market themselves as a means of cutting down wait times found in primary care medical offices and emergency rooms. As Skillings explained, CPN Health Services developed its own urgent care clinics for this same reason.

“This does not replace the primary care physician visit, this is strictly to get our patients in and out quickly for single issues,” he said. “If you need several tests or have extensive healthcare issues, your primary care doctor is the one to make an appointment with and see.”

Like many tribal health services, CPN clinics have a small number of openings each day that can be booked by calling at 8:30 a.m. However, due to the high volume of requests to see a doctor, these appointments are routinely booked within the first half hour of the clinic being open.

Appointments cannot be made over the phone at the new urgent care facilities, but are scheduled by walk-ins only. Once the allotted visits for the day are full, no further patients will be seen.

CPN’s urgent care clinics will be open from 1-5 p.m., Monday-Friday and can only be accessed by visiting the check-in desk at either of the tribe’s two clinics. The CPN East Clinic is located at 2307 S Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801, while the CPN West Clinic’s address is 781 Grand Casino Blvd., Shawnee, OK 74804. CPN Health Services are open to all Native Americans who are members of federally recognized tribal nations. Non-tribal spouses of CPN members as well as tribal employees are also eligible for care at CPN Health Services facilities.

For more information about CPN Health Services, please call (405)273-5236 or visit www.potawatomi.org/services/health.
Felon-reintegration program operates in face of systemic challenges

Those who have been convicted of felony offenses often face challenges in moving on with their lives after they have served their time. Many ex-felons face systemic obstacles to housing, transportation and employment after their convictions, resulting in a recidivism rate that stretches criminal justice budgets at the state and local levels.

Burdened by a ballooning prisoner population and budget shortfalls resulting in widespread understaffing of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, recent sessions of the Oklahoma Legislature have studied how to alleviate these issues. Thus far, impactful legislative action has not emerged from the statehouse despite the prison population being at 104 percent capacity. The closest the state has come to true reform was the 2011 House Bill 2311 by then-Shawnee, Oklahoma Speaker of the House Kris Steele. The legislation aimed to cut the incarceration rate by implementing concurrent sentencing and GPS monitoring while expanding eligibility for community sentencing. However, after parts of the bill concerning the state pardon and parole board were deemed unconstitutional by Attorney General Scott Pruitt, a reform bill in the 2012 session called the Judicial Reinvestment Initiative was signed into law by Governor Mary Fallin.

Yet hopes for improvements were dashed as the governor’s office appeared to withdraw support for the law, with her office’s budget not including funding for the reforms. The governor also rescinded federal grant funds to be used as part of the reforms, saying that the state would fund initiatives to raise awareness of new laws for attorneys, law enforcement and judges. That state funding never materialized though, as Speaker Steele told the Tulsa World in 2013 he’d said during the session, “we had enough money...Oklahoma could pay for its own program. Well, that’s never happened.”

Small steps

Former Speaker Steele, who has led renewed efforts to put criminal justice reform measures to a direct vote of the people since the JBI’s failure, told Oklahoma Watch that he believed the governor’s office balked in order to appear tough on crime and due to pressure from private prison groups.

The decisions that undermined the reforms also took place before the global oil price collapse of the past two years, and a once-booming Oklahoma economy has become beleaguered of late. According to the state treasurer’s office, Oklahoma entered a recession sometime in mid-2015. Unemployment has crept up, while the past two legislative sessions have faced 3611 million and $1.3 billion budget shortfalls, causing cuts to a wide range of state agencies and services.

Though large scale solutions appear impossible despite the Republican Party controlling supermajorities in both chambers of the legislature as well as the governor’s office, incremental progress has been forthcoming.

In February 2016, Governor Fallin signed an executive order altering job applications for state agencies. The order removed questions asking about criminal history on the applications, known as “banning the box.” The order does not halt background checks or questions about past convictions asked during the interview process.

Tribes search for solutions

Like many issues impacting rural Oklahoma that can’t or won’t be met by the state, tribal nations have stepped up to find ways for Native American ex-felons to succeed once out of prison. The Oklahoma Inter-Tribal Reentry Alliance is one such entity, offering support, instruction, and education training to ex-offenders. Citizen Potawatomi Nation is one of the group’s founding members.

At CPN, one of the tribal re-integration program’s most visible and ardent advocates is Burt Patadal. A member of the Kiowa Nation, Patadal is a familiar face in Pottawatomie County, having been raised in Shawnee. He is Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Tribal-Reentry Program Coordinator for ex-felons in CPN’s Employment and Training Program.

He describes the contrasts he’s seen in convictions between the states, noting that some offenses in South Dakota will only result in a misdemeanor charge whereas in Oklahoma, the offender would be charged with a felony.

Patadal, who insists that those he works with attend some form of counseling, believes the circumstances facing ex-felons once they leave prison. Like everyone else, they have to pay rent, go to work, get a driver’s license and an automobile as well as repay court ordered fines and fees.

Yet even getting to where they can do those things is troublesome in Oklahoma. State law requires felons who lose their driver’s licenses because of their convictions to pay off their fines before it is reinstated, typically at a cost of around $3,500. Oklahoma’s public transportation infrastructure essentially serves the large metropolitan areas of Tulsa and Oklahoma City, leaving many rural dwellers with ex-felons unable to get to their place of employment if it is a few miles from their home.

In Pottawatomie County, this situation is especially stark, with few public ride programs operating. Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s own transit program is free to the public, but is typically booked up weeks in advance. It operates by appointments only. Though case managers like Patadal try to secure bicycles for ex-felons they’re assisting, others may choose to either drive illegally or return to more illicit money making ventures to help pay the bills.

Even those with valid transportation confront another set of trying circumstances.

“If they don’t have an education or any skills, they have to go get a job at a fast food restaurant, but then they’re only making $7.50 an hour,” explained Patadal. “How are you going to pay your rent, your utilities and then your restitution?”

Should they meet those challenges, Patadal noted that something as simple as a traffic violation can send an ex-offender back into the prison system.

“The thing is, you can have a person get out of prison that gets themselves a job, a wife, a house and is on the right path, and then they get pulled over for something as small as a speeding ticket. When that police officer runs the name, they just show an outstanding fine and have to lock the person up. If they can’t make bail, they stay in and then can lose their job.”

“It just seems like Oklahoma keeps kicking them, and kicking them and kicking them. You know, get over it man, they’ve done their five years, let them get along with their life,” he said.

Though there is no fix all solution to these issues, the hope is that eventual-ly, smarter sentencing and post-con- viction restrictions will emerge. In a local example, one has:

The City of Shawnee Municipal Court has become a key partner in Patadal’s work through the CPN Tribal Reintegration Program. With four tribal nations in the city’s immediate vicinity and 14 percent of its population being Native American, Judge Randall Wiley has sought solutions to lower recidivism rates.

“Elder Burt,” as Judge Wiley refers to him, has been so successful in helping Native Americans who’ve appeared before him that he appoint- ed Patadal to a position in his Recover- ty Court.

“Elder Burt’s energy and experience has made him an invaluable member of my court team,” said Judge Wiley.

Progress made when it’s truly wanted

Brandon White had been fighting alcoholism for years, attending rehabili- tation and detox programs while attempting to get sober. Each time he found his way back to his old habits, ending up at the bottom of a glass of 100 proof vodka. Even after an 11 month stint in prison where despite drying up, he felt he needed to be in some sort of a structured envi- ronment to help deal with his alco- holism. Speaking from his personal experience, simply being behind bars wasn’t a solution for someone struggling with addiction.

Continued on page 9
U.S. Supreme Court turns away challenges to Native nation sovereignty

By Eva Marie Carney,
District 2 Legislator

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In an earlier piece published here, I provided an overview of two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court during its 2015 Term. Those cases, in substance, challenged the ability of Native nations to protect their communities from those who commit sexual assault and intimate partner violence. Both cases have now been resolved, with outcomes favorable to Native nations’ interests.

The Dollar General decision: Dollar General Corporation v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the case involving alleged sexual abuse of a Native youth by the non-Native manager of a Dollar General store, was resolved through a per curiam opinion authored by Justice Antonin Scalia. The opinion affirmed the lower court’s decision by a 4-4-4 vote.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit held that the Choctaw Tribal Court has civil jurisdiction over the non-Native conduct for which the youth and his parents sought damages in tribal court, since the conduct arose from the consensual relationship between Dollar General and the Choctaw Tribal Government. The Fifth Circuit’s rationale was that, because the youth was under the store manager’s supervision as a result of the youth’s participation in a youth internship program operated and funded by the Choctaw Tribal Government and because Dollar General had expressly agreed to participate in the internship program and consented in lease documents to the application of tribal law and tribal court jurisdiction, Dollar General had consented to the exercise of tribal jurisdiction over a workplace sexual assault suit arising directly from its participation in the internship program. Dollar General, in the court of appeals’ view, readily could have anticipated that sexual molestation of an intern by its store manager would be actionable under Choctaw law.

This affirmance is grounded in the Supreme Court’s earlier decision in Montana v. U.S., 450 U.S. 544 (1981). In Montana, the Supreme Court held generally that “Indian tribes cannot exercise power inconsistent with their diminished status as sovereigns,” but also created an exception that permits a tribe to exercise civil jurisdiction over non-members engaged in consensual relationships with the tribe or its members on tribal land if there is a nexus between the nonmember’s relationship with the tribe or tribal members and the claims pled.

Dollar General and the alleged abuser now will be required to defend themselves against the civil suit in the Choctaw Tribal Court, but these defendants cannot be criminally prosecuted by the Choctaw. That is because, under other Supreme Court precedent, Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe, 435 U.S. 191 (1978), a Native nation is precluded from prosecuting a non-Native defendant for crimes committed against a Native person, even when those crimes take place on land held in trust for and within the reservation of the Native nation, unless Congress expressly authorizes such criminal prosecutions.

The Bryant decision: The second case, United States v. Bryant, was resolved unanimously by the justices in an opinion written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Bryant holds that domestic abuse convictions that have been obtained in tribal court proceedings conducted in compliance with the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 (“ICRA”) lawfully may be considered in connection with the felony repeat-offender provisions of the Violence Against Women and Departure of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (“VAWA”). Bryant offers resounding support for the principle that Native nations are sovereign bodies distinct from the United States and not constrained by the U.S. Constitution, in forcefully rejecting the defendant’s constitutional challenge to the prosecution’s use of his two earlier, uncounseled misdemeanor domestic abuse convictions in Northern Cheyenne Tribal Court.

The Bryant opinion begins with a sobering recitation of statistics with respect to the rates of intimate partner violence experienced by Native women. It then relates the historical limitations on tribal, state and federal jurisdiction in Indian Country that have permitted serial domestic violence offenders to escape serious punishment. Bryant characterizes Section 117(a), which targets such serial offenders (making it a federal crime for any person to commit a domestic violence offense against a Native American, or a habitual domestic violence offender against an American Indian or Alaska Native), as an “unfettered” and “all-encompassing” control over Native nations.

In upholding the felony repeat-offender provisions of the VAWA, the Court preserved what is widely viewed by Indian country and federal prosecutors as a crucial law enforce- ment tool against perpetrators of intimate partner violence.

WBA member Eva Marie Carney is a securities regulatory partner with the Washington, D.C. office of Richards Kibbe & Orbe LLP, an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and an elected representative to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Legislature.

The arbitration award was affirmed on June 21, 2016 by United States District Judge Robin Cauthorn. The State of Oklahoma has until Sept. 19, 2016 to file its brief for the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

“Federal law protecting tribal sovereign interests preempts and invalidates the State’s sales tax on the Nation’s sales in question,” Justice Boudeau said in his decision. “We are grateful to read the final decision by former Supreme Court Justice Boudeau,” stated Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairman Brian Barrett. “It confirms what we’ve said all along. The state government acted unlawfully in its attempt to tax tribal enterprises operating on Indian land trust.”

Part of the evidence provided by Citizen Potawatomi Nation during arbitration was research conducted by Joseph P. Kalt, the Ford Foundation Professor (Emeritus) of International Political Economy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

“I believe the evidence I talk about in my report is clear that, in fact, the State of Oklahoma does not have any uncompensated burdens,” Kalt stated. “In fact, it’s benefiting from having a wealthy neighbor - or getting (a) wealthy neighbor that is producing its own GDP now, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, that benefits the State of Oklahoma. Any tax the State of Oklahoma imposes, which reduces the incremental contributions of the CPN, makes its neighbor poorer, will tend to make Oklahoma poorer. Now, that’s of the facts of this situation. That’s not necessarily true everywhere. It’s just that you’re sitting next to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.”

The arbitration award was affirmed on June 21, 2016 by United States District Judge Robin Cauthorn. The State of Oklahoma has until Sept. 19, 2016 to file its brief for the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.
PLP present projects to impact tribe

Each year, the students in the Potawatomi Leadership Program spend much of their six-week internship completing projects to benefit the tribe.

“It is an intentionally open-ended project,” said CPN Department of Education Director Tesia Zientek. “They are to come up with a project that impacts the tribe in some way. That’s all we tell them because we want them to be creative and use their gifts and interests to come up with something unique to them.”

The students presented their projects to CPN leadership, family and friends on July 27 in the tribal legislative chambers, which initiated discussion and brainstorming on how to implement these five plans.

“They’ve gone above and beyond what we expected of them this year, and I’m extremely proud,” Zientek said.

**Bodewadmi madowmowen**

Randy Bazhaw and Matthew Clift chose to create a drum song called “Bodewadmi madowmowen,” which means Potawatomi prayer, in the hopes of bringing the tribe together as a whole. This song can be sung in swats, drum circles and other ceremonies as a prayer to the Creator.

“When we came up with the idea, we were sitting around the talking circle at the eagle aviary,” Clift said. “When we got into pairs, it just kind of hit me. This is what we are going to do. We are going to create a song. It was definitely spiritual and very clear.”

With help from the Squirrel Creek Drum Group and CPN Language Director Justin Neely, they created a song that can be passed down to future generations. Bazhaw and Clift were prompted to choose this as a project because they couldn’t locate any Citizen Potawatomi-specific honor songs and they saw that as a problem they could tackle.

“This process was culturally enlightening. We learned so much about the drum and our culture,” Bazhaw said. “Just knowing that in 70 years this song could be sung in many different languages and traditions very much. We both knew we were Potawatomi and that was the extent of it. So we want to give back what we learned in the PLP to kids so that they can grow up more immersed in our culture.”

**Get to know your legislator**

Zoe Gustason and Sage Hanson suggested a project to make it clear to the Potawatomi people who their legislators are and that they were accessible to get to know each tribal member in their region. To do this, they wanted to revamp the legislator’s page on the CPN website to add written biographies and on-camera interviews for each tribal legislator.

“I think most people have this idea that their regional representative doesn’t have much time to talk to them,” Hanson said. “But it’s different with the Potawatomi. I’ve noticed, because you don’t become a legislator unless you really want to bring people together as a community.”

They presented a mock interview with District 10 Legislator David Barrett, who answered the question “What does being Potawatomi mean to you?” They also suggested that these digital interviews can also be used to teach CPN members about the wisdom of their elders.

Each of the project presentations encouraged brainstorming from audience members who asked questions and suggested ways to make these plans possible to positively impact CPN.

To learn more about the PLP, please visit plp.potawatomi.org.
New federal rules aimed at payday loans may not be enough to curb cycle of debt

In the coming year, the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will enforce new rules on payday lenders, also known as payday lenders, who offer short-term loans with expensive fees.

Critics of the rules claim that the crackdown will have a dire impact on those who use payday loan services. Typically, the 12 million Americans who take out at least one payday loan a year are underbanked for a litany of reasons, including a lack of nearby financial institutions offering short-term loans or poor credit on part of the person seeking the loan.

As noted in a recent article by Ken Sweet in the Associated Press, the issue for consumers utilizing this financial tool is that they get caught up in renewal fees.

According to the piece, “the majority of payday loans are renewed or extended...which means a customer cannot come up with the full sum to pay off the loans and must re-borrow the loan for a fee. Roughly 60 percent of all loans are renewed at least once, and 22 percent of all loans are renewed at least seven times, according to a 2014 study by the CFPB.”

The new CFPB rules aim to offer a national standard to curb these expensive renewals by forcing lenders to determine the customer’s ability to repay their initial loan. For consumers who don’t meet these requirements, the CFPB also proposes something called a “principal pay-off option” for short-term and long-term loans that allow access to credit while curbing the practices that keep them in cycles of indebtedness to predatory loan lenders. They would also limit the times that a customer could renew the loan.

Consumer Advocates like Tina Pollard, a consumer lending manager with the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation, remain skeptical of how effective the new rules will be. She notes the current loopholes in Oklahoma’s regulations on the industry, including a “cooling off period” intended to keep consumers from continually renewing loans they cannot repay. Currently, even if a predatory loan lender refuses to do business with a custom- er who is having trouble paying off existing loans, they can go to another lender without any impediment.

“It is not working. Even if the customer passes the means test, nothing stops them from going to another storefront and bypassing the law completely. These laws will only work if there is a mandatory tracking system for these kinds of loans,” said Pollard.

Yet for people with bruised credit scores who can’t qualify for credit cards or small bank loans, tracking procedures such as credit checks with credit agencies would do more harm than good. As anyone who has attempted to secure an automobile loan will know, just a pull to examine credit worthiness from a lender can drop a score. This problem is exacerbated with an individual with a poor credit score.

Noted Pollard, “If there was some kind of credit reporting system for payday lenders independent of the three major bureaus, these laws would work in the way they were intended, but just creating these laws with no way to track if someone is abusing the system is going to fail to protect anyone.”

Pollard explained that she doesn’t necessarily fault the bureau for its rules though.

“A good solution is a complex ques- tion. I think a federal APR cap would be most appropriate. The problem is that the CFPB is the only agency who has the ability to enforce the cap, but when the agency was created Congress restricted them from imposing any kind of rate caps.”

When Pollard asked a representa- tive of the bureau of their inability to track consumers floating from one lender to another, they voiced their concern with the issue but offered no feasible solution.

For now, consumer advocate organi- nations like the CPDC will continue to offer what services they can to help break the cycle of reliance on short term, high cost loans offered by payday lenders. The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation has undertaken the task of providing similar, but sig- nificantly cheaper services, to tribal employees and members in need of a short term loan or loans that can help build credit. To stem the tide of those ensnared by predatory loan costs, finance professionals like Pollard are there to help. As a certified credit counselor, she works with cli- ents from all walks of life who, for a variety of reasons, find themselves turning to these kinds of lending in- stitutions.

To learn more about the services of the CPDC or how you can help improve your credit score, please visit www.cpcdc.org or call 405-878-4697.
Four young women competed in the annual Miss Potawatomi Pageant during the 2016 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations in July. These ladies had to be 13-19 years of age and demonstrate their knowledge of the Potawatomi culture in order to compete.

Enedina Banks, who works in CPN’s language department, organized the pageant at the Gathering, which reminded her of holding a similar title.

“When I was a little girl – my daugh- ter’s age – I won my school’s Indian Princess [title],” Banks said. “When I would go to powwows, my mother would remind me that I am represent- ing my school and tribe while I’m holding this title. I would shake ev- eryone’s hand and welcome them to the powwow. When a visitor would need assistance, I would volunteer.”

While the former Miss Potawatomi, Dana Wahwasuck of the Prairie Band, held the title during 2015-16, she hosted essay and coloring contests, volunteered at the elder cen- ter and did what she could to make the younger children look up to her. Banks told the Hownikan.

“Our criteria and expectations were important; these girls are role mod- els,” Banks said. “I’m proud that we got to do it and that it was inclusive. Most bands participated in one way or another.”

Each contestant was to be confident, capable of communicating clearly and knowledgeable of tribal culture.

Contestants filled out an application, which included essays answering why they want the ambassador title, who their role models are and how the Potawatomi culture has influ- enced their lives. For the pageant, each contestant was to introduce herself in the Potawatomi language, make a speech fewer than five min- utes long and explain and perform her talent.

Anna Rhodd Brimm is a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and attends Konawa High School in Konawa, Oklahoma. She is 15 years old and begins her sophomore year in high school in the fall. For her tal- ent, she sang a traditional song in the Potawatomi language.

Mary Bush, from Shelbyville, Mich- igan, shared her talent of hoop danc- ing and storytelling. She is 14 years old and a member of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish (Gun Lake) Tribe.

Paulina Davison is a CPN member and former PLP participant. Davison is 19 years old and a junior at Arizo- nia State University. She sang the white eagle song and played the hand drum for her talent.

Sophia Suke, a member of the Prairie Band, attends Kickapoo Nation School and lives in Mayetta, Kan- sas. She is 14 years old and will be a freshman in the fall. She shared her headling talent with the judges, informing them that she also made much of her regalia.

Banks was pleased that the judg- es who were asked to evaluate the competitors took selecting the win- ner very seriously. Not only did they read the applications and judged the speeches and talent, but they also watched how the girls interacted at the Friday night powwow before crowning the winner on Saturday evening.

The judges were Noreena Meshi- guad Dwyer, from the Hannibalville Potawatomi Tribe, Linda George, from Walpole Island First Nation, and Melissa Forester and Danielle Pfeifer, from the Nottawaseppi Hu- ron Band. None of the judges were members of the participants’ tribes.

“These girls go from community to community to represent all the bands of Potawatomi. The girls who run for this are serious about it. The con- testants all presented themselves in a good way and it was very hard to judge them,” Banks said.

During crowning on Friday, July 29, it was announced that the judges chose Mary Bush to be Miss Potawatomi 2016-17. Bush, who is a member of the Eagle clan, has worked with her tribe to develop a tribal youth council and was selected to be the inaugural chairperson.

“I plan to dedicate my time as Miss Potawatomi to provide opportunities and a voice that is desperately need- ed,” Bush said. “I intend to partici- pate in a variety of cultural events and with many national organiza- tions to share this message.”

**Human Resources Department grows to serve 2,400 tribal employees**

Few employers have undergone the growth in economic and per- sonnel terms like that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has in the past decade. Once an employer of just more than 200, today the tribe now employs approximately 2,400 at its commercial enterprises and trib- al departments. Each Monday, at least 10 new employees arrive at the tribal administration building for job orientations. To help man- age current and future employment needs, the CPN Human Resources Department expanded as well, and the Hownikan spoke with some of its newest employees.

**Samantha Thomas:**

“Originally I am from a small town, Howard, Kansas…”

“HR was an area of concentration through my studies at St. Gregory’s University. I am employed at CPN as a human resources generalist and I am responsible for recruiting and hiring new employees, adding new positions to FireLakeJobs.com and suspensions and terminations…”

**“My biggest challenge is my sense of empathy; People are not perfect, yet they need to be held accountable…”**

**“The aspect I enjoy the most is hav- ing the ability to have a positive im- pact on people…”**

**Lance Howard:**

“I am from Shawnee originally and have lived here my entire life…”

“Before coming here I worked in HR departments at the Hobby Lobby warehouse and George Fischer. I applied here because it was a good opportunity to further my career in my hometown…”

“I’m an HR generalist, respon- sibility handling personnel issues for various departments across CPN. So my day- to-day responsibilities are really de- pendent on what my managers need from me at a given time…”

“I enjoy working with the people the most. The biggest challenge in HR is making sure I’ve done all my due diligence when it comes to making decisions…”

**Amy Stinger:**

“I am from Shawnee, Oklahoma…”

“Before I came to CPN I worked at my family’s daycare…”

“I am a tribal member from the Bour- bonnais family…”

“My position is as an HR assistant. I have always loved office work and wanted to work for CPN so I applied for everything I could and luckily I was offered my position. I am at the front door so I greet and direct anyone who comes in or calls. I assis- tate everyone in HR with anything that they need done and I take any mail or paperwork for HR to the person it belongs to…”

“The biggest challenge for me is situations where people are very angry. On the positive side, I really like getting to meet and know so many different people…”

**Mary Bush**

Mary Bush, from Shelbyville, Michigan, shared her talent of hoop dancing and storytelling. She is 14 years old and a member of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish (Gun Lake) Tribe.

**Samantha Thomas, Lane Howard and Amy Stinger.**
The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center hosted more than 300 tribal members from nine Potawatomi tribes at a language conference in conjunction with the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations.

Justin Neely, CPN’s director of language for 11 years, has been to every Potawatomi language conference since the early 2000s.

“I thought overall it went smoothly and we had a nice mix of presentations,” Neely said. “We had classes for beginners and people who are a little more advanced, kids’ activities and hands-on classes. One lesson featured Kevin Finney making birch bark boxes using the language; in another, James Aquash talked about old songs. We also played the card game Old Maid in the language and Potawatomi bingo – or shishibee.

Several elders who grew up speaking the language were asked to present at the conference. Aquash was among them, mentioning that Potawatomi was the only language his grandmother, who raised him, had ever known. As he grew up, Aquash explained that he had lost his way in terms of becoming distanced from his Potawatomi heritage. Yet he found his way back to his culture by speaking the language.

“It’s a wonderful thing to get to meet people and speak the language together,” the Walpole Island First Nation Band member said. “I want to keep it a living language.”

Potawatomi Band member and social services intern Samantha Wilson told the Hownikan that she enjoyed Aquash’s presentation. She was currently studying social work at Western Michigan University.

“I looked at [Aquash’s] session from a social work perspective. I like to see how people cope with different hardships in their lives. It was neat to hear the speaker say that when you are sad you turn to what makes you feel like home and the Potawatomi language was home to him. It was comfort and something he could use to build upon himself and get better.”

Wilson and Pokagon Band members took a bus to Oklahoma by way of the Trail of Death – the forced removal of the Potawatomi people from the Great Lakes in 1838. Marissa Adcock, a Pokagon Band member, meditated on those who lost their lives while stopping at landmarks honoring the trail.

“We drove through the Trail of Death and that was hard. I can’t imagine being forced to hike through it,” Adcock said. “I think the language conference is important to our tribe’s growth. We’re growing economically and in size as generations grow. It’s important that the language doesn’t die out because it is part of how we survived and everything our tribe had to go through to become a sovereign nation.”

Another fluent Potawatomi speaker, Jim Thunder of the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe presented with his students at the conference. They taught sentence structure using a humorous story about his uncle and a Model A Ford. He told the Hownikan that, with the help of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his Potawatomi language teaching series will soon be available nationwide.

His student, Carla Collins of the Pokagon Band, is one of the first to participate in the language apprenticeship program. She moved 400 miles from home to Crandon, Wisconsin with her two children to participate in the program.

“It is a really good opportunity. A lot of people would love the chance to work with Jim because he is a wealth of knowledge,” Collins said. “Originally, I just wanted to learn how to speak Potawatomi and teach my kids, but now that I have realized the more you learn, the greater responsibility you have to teach more people. When I complete the program, I will move to the Pokagon Band and have a five-year contract with them.”

CPN Language Director Neely was also excited to learn from Thunder.

“I was really happy he was able to come down because people enjoy his presentations. He is a superior speaker,” Neely said. “I definitely learned a lot from Jim. Some of the first language tapes that I got were taught by Jim Thunder in 1998. My mother got them for me for Christmas.”

Near the end of the conference, the employees of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band’s Cultural Center honored their counterparts from the CPN Cultural Heritage Center. Kelli Moore, Ph.D. Blake Norton and Neely for hosting a great language conference and assisting them in creating their own heritage center.

“In order for tribes to remain sovereign, language is the first essential step,” Nottawaseppi Huron member and employee Danielle Pfeifer said. “Our cultural department was born out of the revitalization of the language. It is the direct line to our Creator.”

“Our goal was to create a laid back environment where people felt comfortable learning the language and using it,” Neely said. “I hope tribal members realize that this is our language to make mistakes with, to learn, and not take too seriously. The most important thing is to use it in your day-to-day lives and teach your kids and grandkids.”

That is exactly what Rhonda Purcell – a member and language program coordinator at the Pokagon Band – does with her three children. In their home, she and her husband utilize their children’s Potawatomi names, commands, household items and everyday language in their native tongue.

“The survival of the language lies within the youth,” Purcell urges fellow Potawatomi. “If there is any way you can influence your child’s learning, please try to incorporate our language, even if it is just one word.”

The Pokagon Band encourages all Potawatomi to utilize its language app, which is available for free on iTunes to anyone nationwide. The Prairie and Forest County bands also have apps that are available on iTunes.

If you missed out on the 2016 language conference, CHIC Videographer Will Hogan broadcasted the language conference on YouTube where it is available for all who could not attend. Visit cpnnews/youtube to watch these videos.
Legendary 19th century Potawatomi leader speaks from pages of “Memories of Shaubena”

The personalities of Native American leaders of the pre-removal era are less widely covered than their American counterparts. For every dozen chronicles of American statesmen or military leaders from the early 1800s, there are significantly fewer documented accounts relating the lives of tribal leaders of the same era. Though resources are few and far between, one account offers insight into the thoughts and experiences of an early 19th century tribal leader.

Written in 1880, author Nehemiah Matson chronicled the incredible life in “Memories of Shaubena.” Like many contemporaries in his time, Matson, a prodigious chronicler of Great Lakes-area tribes, sought to capture the fading American West in print. As with any account more than 130 years old, the language and terminology used by Matson appears out of place or even offensive in the present era. Yet his chronology of Shaubena’s experiences is infused with admiration.

As Matson notes in the book’s prologue, “The memory of Shaubena should be preserved, and a record of his beneficent deeds go down to posterity, so that coming generations may learn to honor the name of this noble red man.”

Born sometime between 1775 and 1776 in a village along the Kankakee River in what is today’s Will County, Illinois, Shaubena was the son of an Odawa (Ottawa) chief. His father and family had fled their traditional homelands in Michigan after allying with the defeated Odawa leader Pon- homelands in Michigan after allying with the defeated Odawa leader Pontiac and the British and Indian War. As a child, Shaubena and his family travelled from Illinois and resided in Canada for a time before returning to the village in which he was born. This journey proved to be the first of many in Shaubena’s life, as he would travel throughout what was then the farthest reaches of the American frontier.

His ties to the Potawatomi came as a young man, when he married the daughter of the Potawatomi Chief Spotka. Upon Spotka’s death, Shaubena became the tribe’s leader and later facilitated its move to a different village in modern-day DeKalb County. It was during his youth that Shaubena also travelled with what Matson describes as two “Ottawa priests, or prophets,” who instructed Native Americans on a new system of religion. As a result of this affiliation, Shaubena travelled the region and grew familiar with a number of different tribes and their leaders, including with the legendary Shawnee leader Tecumseh. A friendship ensued and the Potawatomi leader journeyed extensively in the western lands bordering the nascent United States to gain Indian allies against further American encroachment. From stops with the Winnebagos and Menomonees in modern-day Wisconsin to a months’ long journey south to live amongst the Creeks, Cherokees and Choctaws, Shaubena and Tecumseh steadily sought to build an alliance that could halt the westward American expansion.

The effort though, was doomed to failure. Years later, Shaubena explained to Matson that he was next to Tecumseh when the great Shawnee warrior was felled at the Battle of the Thames.

In 1816, he was amongst the signees of the Treaty of Saint Louis, which ceded many of the Indian lands between the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers from Wisconsin, Illinois and St. Louis. This signing proved to be the first step in a long, sad journey for the Potawatomi leader and his people. Its end result would be his tribe’s banishment from their traditional homelands to a reservation in Kanas. Matson chronicles the circumstances of the situation facing the Potawatomi in 1836 when the federal government initiated what would become known as the Trail of Death.

“Their wigwams have disappeared from the groves, the smoke of their camp fires no longer ascends above the trees, the crack of their rifles and bay of their dogs are no more heard, the servants of the white people are on the rivers and lakes, and their once familiar war whoops have ceased to echo through the timber. The sacred places of the red man have been desecrated by the whites, and by them the graves of their fathers have been plowed over, and the guardian spirits watching over them driven away.”

The old chief’s connection to today’s Citizen Potawatomi Nation lives on through his daughter Mahnawbunok-we, who married the French trader Jean Baptiste Beubien.

The book, available online for free through Google’s Books platform, is as close to a primary account that one will find with a Potawatomi leader from the pre-removal era. While “Memories of Shaubena” may not be up to par with contemporary scholarly rigor, it provides a fascinating Native-centric perspective often lost in Western histories.

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By Darin Greene, FireLodge Tribal Youth Coordinator

With the summer behind us we have jumped straight into fall sessions here at the FireLodge Tribal Youth Program. These include the:

Get Native Program - The tribal youth learned the histories of some of our neighboring native nations including the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe and the Sac and Fox Nation. After the classes were finished there was a Native Quiz Bowl with the winners receiving a prize. The Get Native Program is held two times a week and also includes a portion on Native arts, which helps youth develop a sense of creativity and cultural awareness through art.

Get Smart Program - Our after school homework help is designed to help each of our tribal youth program participants academically. This program runs from 4:15-5:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. for those who need extra help.

Each tribal youth member and their parents filled out the forms called ‘My Success Plan’ that will be a guide to help each youth set academic goals and to succeed during the upcoming school year.

Our college preparation course also began again. This program will broaden the youths’ knowledge of college life and opportunities. This program will also teach them about the circumstances facing them as college students and how to apply for higher education institutions and scholarship opportunities.

As part of our focused events, we will hold our annual Suicide Prevention Fun Run on September 24. We expect around 275 participants who will receive an event t-shirt and a water bottle. Participants can do the 1.5 mile course or the 5k run. The 5k is for the most serious runners with medals given in different divisions. We will also release yellow balloons to commemorate those lost to suicide.

The tribal youth department hosted the JA for the Day program at middle schools in Shawnee and Tecumseh. This program introduces work-readiness and financial literacy for students.

Get Fit Program - The youth were introduced to yoga and basic exercises in order to get fit, including jump rope challenges and Native American lacrosse and stickball competitions. Each of our participants who complete their assigned work and academic programs during the week are rewarded with visits to Fire-Lake Bowling Center, FireLake Mini-Putt and trips to the local pool while temperatures are still hot.

If you have a tribal youth that would be interested in our FireLodge Tribal Youth or PLACE programs, please call 405-214-5210 or email dgreene@potawatomi.org.
Heritage center reconstruction moves forward with museum floor

Since Gathering of Potawatomi Nation, the employees at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center have focused on completing the museum floor. Curator and Archivist Blake Norton, CHC Director Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., and Audio and Video Production Manager Will Hogan – a member of the Chickasaw Nation – explained to the HOWNIKAN what tribal members should expect and how the plans are coming together.

What is the vision for section two of the exhibit?

Norton: “Section two is dedicated to the traditional and cultural origins of the people. This will be conveyed via ancient oral stories and histories that are recognized, honored and told by all Neshnabe - Ojibwe, Odawa and Bodéwadmi. They will educate visitors on the origins of the world and its first inhabitants as well as its destruction and rebuilding. Viewers will learn about ancient medicines and botanicals, and how they were utilized by our early healing and spiritual societies. Spirits and the origins of our first clan-based society are central themes to these concepted narratives, in addition to the role of the people. This will be conveyed to the traditional and cultural origins of the people. This will be conveyed to the traditional and cultural origins of the people. This will be conveyed to the traditional and cultural origins of the people.”

What goes into creating one of these videos?

Hogan: “Section two will consist mostly of TV screens that will be playing videos that tell traditional Potawatomi origin stories, like the creation of the universe and the first man. We’ve had lots of discussion about the style and tone of these videos, and plan to stay close to the aesthetics of section one, not just here, but in all of the sections. Consistency is key in design and we feel it will make the sections not only feel professional, but improve how they all work together to tell the Potawatomi story.”

“From Jennifer and Bree’s drawings, Trey’s digital work, and my production, these videos will be produced 100 percent at CPN by members of a Native American tribe. I think that’s an important fact because it means these stories will be treated with the seriousness and reverence that they deserve, and they will be told from an authentically native point of view. I believe that’s the most important thing that we do here at the Cultural Heritage Center, and it means a lot to me personally as well.”

What is the vision for section eight?

Mosteller: “Section eight will focus on our time in Kansas. There are many social and political changes in this time period, which ranges from the mid-1830s to the early 1870s. Some of our themes will include the consolidation on Kansas River Reservation, the treaties of the 1860s, leadership, the difficult transition to a new way of life on the plains and national events that were impacting our ancestors, like the Civil War and the Oregon Trail running through the Kansas reservation.”

To learn more about the progress of the museum construction and cultural heritage center activities, please visit www.potawatomiheritage.org.

Reintegration continued...

“All it did was make me angry because I felt like I needed to be in a place where they were going to help me better myself,” he explained. “When I got out, they threw me a $200 food stamp card and whatever I had saved in there. Then I came out, and I was already drinking my first day after being sober the whole time I was away.”

Patadal said that many just need to know someone is there for them.

“I always tell them, ‘If you want to do it, I’ll help you do it.’ If we want them (felons) off the streets, you’ve got to help them,” he said.

To White, he felt he’d been cast about with no support structure and little direction.

“I had no foundation, nothing to keep me going really,” said White. “When you’re a grown man, you think you can go out and walk the face of this world. But when you’re an alcoholic or you’re a drug user, you’ve got a whole different outlook on what you’re facing out there. It’ll tear you down, and it did me, several times.”

Palling under its jurisdiction due to his tribal heritage from the Kickapoo and Shawnee tribes, White was ordered by the CPN Tribal Court to take part in counseling sessions with Patadal. They were different from the Alcoholics Anonymous and alcohol rehabilitation classes he’d been a part of before. Patadal, a tribal elder and former member of the American Indian Movement, is an advocate of traditional Native American ceremonies like talking circles and sweat lodges. He hosts weekly versions of the former for Native ex-felons as they transition back to civilian life after prison. White soon became a regular at these gatherings, which he credits for his ongoing sobriety. Through an agreement with the courts, Patadal can count meeting attendance at these ceremonies that will deduct small court costs from their outstanding fines.

“I was tired of drinking and wanted to live a normal life. I just didn’t know how to go about doing it,” White said. “I can talk day about getting sober and how I’m going to do it while I’m in rehab getting three meals, but once I come out in the real world you know, it’s a different story. I needed someone to lean on. I needed a hand and Burt was the one who stepped up.”

In Oklahoma, there are two lists of professions that are either barred from hiring felons, or can fire those already working due to a past felony. Advocates for reform largely do not support opening all jobs to ex-felons. However, bans remain in effect for licenses in professions such as interior designers, embalmers and landscape architects. Those who do get hired for jobs like drug and alcohol counselors, clinical social workers or real estate sales can be fired simply for having a felony on their record, no matter how much time has passed since the crime was committed.

White’s previous experience working in the oil fields provided him a skill set that has allowed him to find work at a local tire shop whose owner knows Patadal and trusts his recommendations on potential employees.

Yet White explained that his previous convictions remain a blemish on his record that hampers his prospects, especially if non-felons apply for the same job.

“Automatically I’m branded ‘bad’. It doesn’t even matter what that felony is for…you’re branded and they’re not going to look into what you did, unless they need help really badly.”

In order to be up front about his felony record, White would note on applications that asked that it was for a DUI.

“But DUI automatically meant, ‘hey he’s a drunk,’” said White.

While practical challenges like these perceptions remain, advocates like Patadal will continue to work towards solutions. He points to White as one of the success stories, an example he can cite to employers who are considering hiring when they are considering hiring an ex-felon.

To learn more about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Tribal Re-Integration Program, call 405-598-0797.
Tribal member Creed Humphrey ranked among top three lineman prospects in the U.S.

Creed Humphrey during the first day of practice at Shawnee High School. Photo courtesy of Kent Bush of the Shawnee News-Star.

The Oklahoman file in the state's largest newspaper, and was featured in a recent pro-
senior year at Shawnee High School, Peltier family member is entering his
recruit at the center position. The
Humphrey is the U.S.’ number three
Twitter account.

"I’ll miss a practice to make up home-
the time. If I’m doing bad in class,
the classroom above all else. At OU
he plans on majoring in business.

“The CPN Employment and Training Department in Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

Tribal employment and training programs boosted after Senate action

The U.S. Senate accomplished something in late July that it
doesn’t typically do. It unanomous-
ly passed legislation introduced by
senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
and Dan Sullivan (R-AK) that, if
signed into law, will strengthen
tribal employment and training
programs nationwide.

For Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s
Employment and Training Pro-
gram, the proposed legislation is
viewed positively as it seeks to
streamline budgetary and payment
processing practices at the federal
level. It also makes departments like CPN’s, called 477 programs,
which are utilized by hundreds of
tribes across the U.S., permanent
in the eyes of federal authorities.

“It is a big deal to get this law
changed from a ‘demonstration’
to an ‘act,’” commented CPN Em-
ployment and Training Assistant
Director Margaret Zientek. “We
have been operating as a ‘demon-
stration,’ which some of the fed-
eral partners view as a temporary
measure or a project.”

This view from the federal level
has caused delays for tribal entities
seeking to secure all the funds they
are legally entitled to in a timely
manner. Confusion and disagree-
ments as to the nature of the tribal
477 programs by federal agencies
has created headaches for both sides,
something that the senate bill aims to
solve.

Senators Murkowski and Sullivan
introduced the Indian Employment,
Training and Related Services Con-
solidation Act of 2015 to make the
477 program permanent, expand the
types and sources of funding avail-
able, resolve plan approval and ap-
peal processes, and ensure that funds
will be transferred and require only
one report. The bill will be carried in
the U.S. House of Representatives by
Congressman Don Young (R-AK).

“This new law allows us to expand el-
gible programs for employment and
training, and we’ll be able to identify
and move competitive grants under
these new changes too. We can also
use the funds for matching require-
ments on new grants, which allows
us to use our money as a self-gover-
nance tribe in the best way we know
how,” explained Zientek.

There is a need for verifiable account-
ning practices of federal funds legally
obligated for use by self-governance
tribes like Citizen Potawatomi Na-
tion. However, the Orwellian struc-
ture of oversight and delays in these
issues were troublesome for tribes.

In several instances, tribal employ-
ment and training programs like
CPN’s faced confusing and con-
tradictory directives from federal
agencies responsible for the funds
distributions. Though CPN’s pro-
gram is based off a federally agreed
upon plan centered on an annual
budget, the federal agency in charge
of distributing the funds insisted
upon quarterly disbursements. This
change, made with little explana-
tion and no consultation with the
tribe, caused serious issues with the
program’s services on the ground in
Oklahoma. To compound the prob-
lems, the funds weren’t disbursed in
a timely matter, with monies often
coming in the quarters after they
were initially due.

At CPN, the hope is that these is-
sues can be resolved with the new
legislation and tribes will be able
to move forward in further devel-
oping their employment and train-
ng programs for the betterment of
their communities.

As Zientek put it upon hearing the
news about the bill’s passage from
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The CPN Employment and Training Department in Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

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The CPN Employment and Training Department in Tecumseh, Oklahoma.
By Daryl Talbot, Commander of the CPN Veterans Organization

The 2016 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations was a great success for the CPN veterans. We had approximately 80 attendees at our meeting of all tribal groups. Our Saturday morning meeting and greeting session in the CPN North Reunion Hall was a memorable event. Each veteran introduced themselves and shared with the group some information about their service.

One veteran shared his personal experiences with PTSD. It was a very difficult and brave step he took in telling about his struggle and recovery, noting that it is an ongoing and long process. Combat is a life changing ordeal that almost every soldier must face. It challenges their faith, spirit and conscience. From this warrior’s door opening step, several others began to share their own struggles with war demons. Everyone praised their courage in speaking openly about their own battles with the horrific memories of the war. It brought us all together as brothers in arms. Migwetch brothers.

As a member of the CPN Veterans Organization’s Color Guard, I have noticed that many people do not know what they should do when the American flag is brought to the arena. Standing is announced, but saluting is not. Nor is it suggested when the Flag Song or national anthem is sung. Veterans are taught this in their basic training, but it is not just for veterans. It is proper for all Americans to salute the American flag, the Flag Song and the national anthem. Any time the American flag passes you in a parade, you should stand, if you’re able, and salute by placing your right hand over your heart. Or, if you are a veteran, you may give a hand salute, with or without a hat. I would like to see more Americans showing their respect at events when the flag and song are presented. Migwetch.

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 CPN North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN and spouse veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.
A birds eye view of the tribal grounds during Gathering.

CPN Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett dances alongside Chief Dan Miskokomon of the Walpole Island First Nation of Canada during an honor dance of passing off the Potawatomi Gathering of Nations staff for them to host next year’s annual event.

Tribal leaders from all eight Potawatomi tribes gathered at the Grand Event Center.

Hand drum contest winners Ofelia and Arthur Zapata.

CPN tribal member Kristy Phillips was the first winner during the language conference bingo.

Miss Potawatomi contestants.

CPN Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps unveiled the new street name for Potawatomi teacher Don Perrot (Neasano Drive).

Karen Wahwasuck

Past and current PLP members gathered for a group photo on the final day of Gathering.

Velma Wahwasuck

All photos from the 2016 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations are available online at cpn.news/gpn16photos
Tribal youth member participates in national Native pre-college program in Washington D.C.

By Trae Trousdale

I initially heard about the Native American Political Leadership Program’s INSPIRE Pre-College Summer Program during the summer between eighth and ninth grades. I applied the following summer, only to find out that they were accepting rising seniors and recent high-school graduates, so I committed the program to memory and applied in the winter of my junior year at Tecumseh High School.

I received an email congratulating me on my acceptance from a pool of hundreds of applicants and my INSPIRE experience began. I entered the program expecting to just learn the basics of how tribal governments interact with the federal government. However, after three weeks in our nation’s capital, I walked away with a completely different view of Native Americans and American Country’s effect on the modern political system.

The program teaches Native students how to adapt to both a collegiate and metropolitan climate. There was no “wake-up time” or “lights-out,” only the basics of how tribal governments interact with the federal government. However, after three weeks in our nation’s capital, I walked away with a completely different view of Native Americans and American Country’s effect on the modern political system.

The program teaches Native students how to adapt to both a collegiate and metropolitan climate. There was no “wake-up time” or “lights-out,” only advice such as “be mature enough to make your own decisions in Washington D.C.”

My day began at 8:15 a.m. when I would dress, walk to breakfast and report to class by 9 a.m. Our class covered a wide variety of subjects from political entrenchment and social change, to successful campaign procedures, tribal sovereignty and examinations of Indian Health Services.

For lunch we were allowed at all of the restaurants at the George Washington University campus, so there were plenty of options for me and the other nine members of my cohort. Following lunch, we would head to our afternoon meetings.

While in D.C., we had the opportunity to meet with organizations such as: the Administration for Native Americans, the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, the National Indian Gaming Association, the Navajo Nation, the National Indian Health Board and the Center for Native American Youth just to name a few. We also had the opportunity to meet the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Michael Black; Public Affairs Director for the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs (and a fellow Potawatomi) Nedra Darling; Oklahoma Representative Tom Cole; and the special assistant to the President for Native American Affairs, Karen Diver.

After completing our afternoon meetings, we had the rest of the day to ourselves when we could explore, have fun, or work on our projects that were due at the end of the program. My cohort members and I had to quickly learn to prioritize our school work and to have an open line of communication with our residential assistants at all times. The program’s coursework was very challenging; however, they provided us many opportunities to enjoy D.C. too. We were able to visit museums, tour the Department of the Interior, witness the Fourth of July celebration on the U.S. Capitol lawn, watch the sunrise from the National Mall and even get to bowl in the White House!

At the end of the program, each cohort member had to make a presentation representing an issue faced by their local community. After evaluating my surroundings and receiving guidance from CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, I was able to inform my peers of the taxation issue facing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the City of Shawnee.

The opportunity that the INSPIRE Program offers was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience that God blessed me to be a part of, and I highly recommend that all Potawatomi youth look into participating in this three week pre-college program. I look forward to sharing my newfound knowledge with my peers, our tribal leadership and applying what I have learned to my possible future political career.

To learn more about the INSPIRE Native Teams Initiative, please visit http://cpn.news/InspireCollege.
Potawatomi shares love of dance and cheer

Tribal members across the world benefit from CPN-sponsored programs, whether its a college scholarship or the mail order pharmacy. In addition to letters of thanks to tribal legislators, many look for ways to give back. One Texas-based Potawatomi did just that this summer at the Fire-Lodge Tribal Youth Program.

Kaylee Keith-Morrison, a Whitehead, Anderson and Smith descendant, hosted a cheerleading and dance camp for area tribal youth at the PLACE. By practicing routine four each day, Keith-Morrison’s goal for the girls participating in the camp, whose ages ranged from four to eight years old, was for them to go home and show their families what they learned that week. She wanted parents to see that their kids were engaged in an activity that doesn’t require technology.

During the camp, they were taught several cheers and dances. Keith-Morrison said she wanted to give back to CPN because the tribe does so much for its members. She called Tribal Youth Coordinator Darin Greene to extend the offer to teach their cheer and dance talents to campers.

Keith-Morrison has danced professionally in “Texas” the musical at Palo Duro Canyon and for the San Antonio Spurs. Currently she is an educator in the Texas public school system, where her students have encouraged her to learn native Potawatomi dances.

“Many of my students are refugees from Burma, Somalia and Laos. Each of them knows the native dances from their culture and they have encouraged me to learn mine as well,” Keith-Morrison said. “Since I grew up in Texas, I wasn’t able to connect to the place where my ancestors are from, but I’m glad to be sharing my gifts in the region where so many generations of my family lived.”

The financial assistance the tribe provides motivated Keith-Morrison to take advantage of the opportunity by going to graduate school to enhance her role as an educator.

“Dance has given me a purpose. There is always a goal or something to work for. As a little kid, I was striving to learn something new and even as a dance educator, I’m always working toward goals with my students.”

Most of the 15-20 students in the cheerleading camp were from the CPN Child Development Center and each of them received a medal for completing the camp. When asked what their favorite part of the camp was, there were many shouts of “Piz-za! Dancing! Stretching!”

For more information on the activities available for tribal youth, please contact Darin Greene at dpgreene@potawatomi.org.

By Susannah Howard, 2016 Potawatomi Leadership Class

Tips for the college process

Have a list of wants and needs: I had a wish list a mile long of things that would be cool to have at school, from college town to club sports to small campuses. To make this list I talked to family, friends, current college students, counselors and teachers to determine what I was going to need to be successful in college. Talking to other people helps you gain perspective. Your teachers can advise on how you learn best and your friends probably know what you like to do.

Look at schools: I toured around 10-15 schools before I applied. All were a little different, some I went to for programs, others I went on formal tours and got a feel for the area. Being able to compare different aspects of the schools really helped narrow down my choices for my perfect school. The size of the dorm rooms, the traditions they mention and the dining halls will become huge if you live there for eight months, so be picky.

Be open minded and ask for help: Take suggestions from everyone! I liked coming from a really small high school, where I knew a lot of people and could talk to my teachers about anything. I didn’t realize that I am the perfect candidate for a liberal arts college until a counselor asked me my interests and I listed 25 different subjects! My brain is wired to see connections and I wanted to be taking classes in college that could be connected.

Don’t forget that there are people everywhere who have gone through this process too. We all struggled with which school is best, how we will afford it and whether it sets us up to be successful down the road. From the internet, to your friends, family and teachers, there are hundreds of people with advice. You are never alone in the process. At CPN, there is a whole department of people who did the college process and really want to see you succeed. Don’t be afraid that someone will think you are silly for asking the simple question, because someone somewhere has asked it and if someone doesn’t know the answer, keep on asking until you find it.

Don’t settle: There are literally thousands of schools in the United States, and there is at least one that is right for you! Set yourself up for success and start the process early. The more classes you take in your first year of high school, the more potential you have to see, the more educated decisions you can make on future plans. Knowing the ins and outs of the process is really the best way to find yourself a place that is perfect for you.

Mistakes happen: I applied to nine colleges and universities, four of which I had never seen. Looking back now, they are colleges I would have never gone to even if accepted. I wasted a lot of energy on those applications that I could have spent on the others or just enjoying my senior year of high school. I was lucky that I knew I wanted to go to Smith College in Massachusetts as soon as I finished the tour there early in my senior year. But, I didn’t know Smith College existed until my mom suggested it. I didn’t think I would like being at a women’s college, but I loved it! I thought I would be an environmental science major, and then I took a class in the geology department and fell in love with it. A lot of success in college is based on trial and error. If I hadn’t made the mistakes I did, I might never have gotten to college. I never would have known I love studying rocks and hydrology. I never would have met my amazing friends. Most importantly, I don’t think I would be as happy and successful as I am today. A lot can happen in five years and since you only live once, I find that the best strategy is to live life to the fullest, find the place that you will prosper and don’t forget to enjoy yourself, every step of the way.

To learn more about the programs and assistance from the CPN Child Development Center, call 405-275-3121 or visit www.potawatomi.org/services/education.
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.

**Wednesday, 5 Sept. 1838**

“During the night of the 4th at the encampment at Chippeway, twenty persons affected their escape—stealing two horses from the Indians remaining behind, and have not since been heard of.

“Fifty one persons were found to be unable to continue the journey, the means of transportation not being at hand—they were therefore left, the most of them sick, the remainder to wait upon them. Proceeded on our route, and reached at half past 12, at noon, the point determined upon as the location of our second encampment, a distance of nine miles from the encampment of the day before. The scarcity of water in the country again retarded the progress of the emigration—the distance being either too great or too short between the watering places. A child died on the evening of this day, and was buried on the morning. A child was also born during our encampment. A party of three Indians joined us today shortly after coming into camp. Subsistence generally consisting of beef and flour, and that very difficult to acquire—having in most cases to transport it from Logansport, a distance from the furthest point of 46 miles.”

**Friday, 14 Sept. 1838**

“Left Lagrange encampment at an early hour and proceeded at a quick pace on our journey—passing over a dry and seemingly unhealthy portion of the country. Our party continues to mend in health. Occasionally however, and indeed not unfrequently, persons tho’ weariness and fatigue take sick along the route. This occupies much of our time. We place them in the wagons which are every day becoming more crowded and proceed.”

“Reached our camp ground near Williamsport at nine p.m. As we advance farther into the country of the prairies water becomes more scarce—the streams are literally dried up, and we have reason to fear that unless soon refreshed with rain, our future marches will be attended with much pain, and suffering. To-day we made 18 miles. Two deaths took place this evening.”

**Saturday, 22 Sept. 1838**

“At 8 o’clock we left our encampment and entered the prairie at Sidney. The day was exceedingly cold. The night previous had brought us quite a heavy rain, and the morning came in cold and blustery. Our journey was immediately across the prairie, which at this point is entirely divested of timber for sixteen miles. The emigrants suffered a good deal, but still appeared to be cheerful. The health of the camp continues to improve—not a death has occurred to-day, and the cool bracing weather will go far towards recruiting the health of the invalids.”

**Sunday, 9 Sept. 1838**

“ Physicians came into camp today, and reported three hundred cases of sickness, generally of a temporary character, and which they are of opinion, may be removed by a two-day course of medicine. A kind of medical hospital has been erected today, which is likely to facilitate the course of medical regime proposed by the physicians. A child died today. The priest formerly attached to the Catholics among the Pottawattamies asked and obtained leave to say mass today and perform the ceremonies of his church in camp. The rites are now being performed.”

“This Evening Sidney Williams and Wm. T. Polke, who had been dispatched in pursuit of the Indians, who escaped from Chippe-way, returned, having reconnoitered the villages and cornfields on the reserve without receiving and intelligence of the fugitives. They brought into camp three Indian horses which they had found on the road. A child died since dark.”

**Saturday, 15 Sept. 1838**

“Early on this morning we were on our way, and travelled without interruption until 12 o’clock. When we arrived at an unhealthy and filthy looking stream, at which, from the reports of the citizens of the country, we were forced to encamp. The young men among the Indians during the afternoon, to the number of twenty-five, were permitted to go on a hunting excursion—a permission which they have for some time seemed to coveted. We travelled today about ten miles. Two small children died along the road.”

**Line of Mounted Figures by George Winter, 1838.**

**Wiss-So-Gay by George Winter, 1838.**

**Join us September 17-18**

**FOR THE 41ST TRAIL OF COURAGE LIVING HISTORY FESTIVAL**

**CPN Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett will be honored as a member of the Peltier and Bourassa families at a ceremony September 17 at 10 a.m.**

**FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ROCHESTER, INDIANA**
Learn the signs for Suicide Prevention Day on September 10

By Glenna Stumblingbear-Riddle, Ph.D, CPN Behavioral Health Coordinator

Oklahoma continues to have some of the highest rates of behavioral health disorders, which include mental health and substance abuse disorders. Unfortunately, many Oklahomans do not receive the help they need. Due to these factors, among others, the state continues to have high rates of completed suicides. According to the American Association of Suicidology, on a national level, suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth (ages 15-24); outnumbering homicides. Getting the word out and offering support is key and we all have a crucial role to play in suicide prevention. Here are some suicide risk warning signs. You can easily remember it by the mnemonic “IS PATH WARM”?

If you notice these warning signs in yourself or a loved one help is available. Suicide is preventable and treatment works! The Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Behavioral Health Services offers mental and substance abuse treatments that include individual, group, couples and family counseling and psychiatry. There are also other tribal clinics, counseling agencies, and private practice mental health professionals in the community. In addition to local resources you can contact the national suicide prevention lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). The lifeline is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To learn more about CPN Health Services or CPN Behavioral Health, call (405) 405-214-5101.
Well, at last we are starting to see some useable, good results in our ongoing con-
troversy with the Oklahoma Department of Transpor-
tation. Oklahoma County Judge Don Andrews ruled against the Oklahoma Attorney-
General’s office that was acting on behalf of the Okla-
oma Department of Transpor-
tation last Friday. ODOT sought a temporary restrain-
ing order to deny Pottawato-
mie County Rural Water Dis-
trict 3 its lawful ability to use public roads’ rights of way to lay water line for public use, an action they cannot legally take under state law.

In a bizarre twist, Oklaho-
a’s attorneys alleged that the entity they sued on the basis of trespass, since the basic premise of their lawsuit was that RWD3 did not exist!

So how could they sue a state water district defendant that does not exist?

They allege RWD3 “went out of existence” when the Citizen Potawatomi Nation rescued it by assuming all of its debt, buying its as-
sets, and began managing the system. The CPN was authorized to take over management and “enhancement” of RWD3 in 2005, more than 11 years ago, by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. That state agency is responsible for water use and quality for the entire state.

Before they authorized an In-
dian tribe to manage a state entity, they made sure they got a legal opinion that the original water district, begun in 1997, was still in exist-
tence. And who issued that opinion that the water dis-
tric still existed and the tribe was only the owner of assets of the district, not the actual district? The Oklahoma At-
torney General’s Office.

The very state lawyers who are now suing us deny their own 11 year old legal opin-
ion that has resulted in millions of gallons of clean water sold to thousands of homes, many towns, schools, churches and businesses. If things could get stranger, I cannot picture it.

Real world – this is all about the state’s losing campaign to make us collect taxes for them. RWD3’s attorney, Steven Harris, told the judge, “This is simply another as-
pect of that campaign.”

The judge ruled against the state’s temporary restraining order within 24 hours, and stated he was doing further research on RWD3’s motion to completely dismiss the case. We pray he does that very thing.

This didn’t really start with ODOT, however. All of this squabbling began as a lawsuit filed by the City of Shawnee, who later asked the State of Oklahoma to assume the suit after the city wasted nearly $500,000 trying to illegally force the Nation to collect taxes for them. But it wasn’t just about tax money. It was also about water money.

One of the “burr”s Shawnee’s saddles is the very existence of Rural Wa-
ter District 3, which now has exclusive water sales rights on three sides of the city. This happened after Pottawatomie County official-
s granted an expansion of RWD3’s original exclusive sales area after Shawnee de-
nied water and fire hydrant service to housing additions adjoining the city over the course of nearly ten years. Besides not having decent water to drink and bad wells, these homeowners could not get regular priced home fire insurance because they didn’t have fire hydrants. Some paid more than $800 more per year due to this lack of service by Shawnee.

RWD3 installed water mains and fire hydrants within six months of being granted the expansion. The coun-
ty government went on to grant RWD3 nearly half of Pottawatomie County as its district. Shawnee has been angry about it ever since, but they brought it on themselves.

In the water sales jurisdiction hearing, one county com-
missioner asked a Shawnee official if the city had plans to help the people asking for water service. The city offi-
cials said they had no plans, but also did not want RWD3 to bring water to them in case the city decided to.

To them, it was and is, all about money. I believe that is why the county government is on our side, because in our case, it is all about help-
ing people and being good neighbors. If we had not tak-
en over operation of RWD3, which serves more than half of the people, we would not have the current jur-
isdictional issues, the only place we can own tribal lands, would not have water. Without wa-
ter, no one can live here, and the federal government will not allow us to move. Our efforts towards rural devel-
oment in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, are not just about job growth and business success, it is really about survival.

Speaking of survival, I have been notified that I will be

honorated at the Trail of Cour-
age celebration in Rochester, Indiana on the weekend of September 16. I invite all of you to come and learn about this pivotal and tragic peri-
od in our tribal history. I am certain you will come away amazed and inspired by the stories of the resilience, courage, and endurance of our great grandmothers and greatgrandfathers. These are the 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. Visit www.reservationhighways.org to register. See you there!

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your tribal chairman.

Migwetch,
John “Rocky” Barrett
Chief

Tribal Chairman - John “Rocky” Barrett

Bozho Nikanek, (Hello my friends)

What a summer! Between
the tribe’s annual Family Re-
union Festival and the Gath-
ering of the Potawatomi Na-
tion, we had an abundance of enjoyment and excite-
ment. I appreciate those who traveled to either event, and I commend those who were fortunate to attend both.

I want to comment on two children’s activities that took place this summer…one that occurred right after our Fes-
tival, and one that was part of the Gathering. Although the two were advertised as children’s events, the par-
ts were certain to enjoy them and welcomed to participate. Because many of you may not have noticed the events, I wish to share a tidbit about each.

The first one is the Day of Champions Sports Camp occurring at FireLake Ball Fields right after Festival. It has taken place at CPN for the past 11 years. The camp is sponsored by CPN and Vi-
caps, which was founded by for-
mer collegiate football coach Ken Huelpel and son, Josh.

Many Oklahoma football fans readily recognize Josh Huelpel as the Heisman Tro-
phy runner-up and the As-
bociated Press Player of the year for 2000 for the Univer-
sity of Oklahoma. During the last three years, the foot-
ball skills camp has also in-
cluded softball. This year we had 132 children who at-
tended the camp, plus many parents and other adults who helped out or looked on.

The football and softball skills taught at the camp are admirable, but what I think is equally important are the four main lessons taught by the coaches…. discipline, trust, respect and hard work.

Parents could not ask for more essential values to be included in a Day of Champs-
ions event. My appreciation goes out to Sarah Lawerence of FireLake Wellness Center for her lead role in organiz-
ing this event. Sarah and the tribe receive numerous let-
ters each summer praising supervised sport and the “mar-
velous venue for the two-day camp”, as Conrad Kraft’s father wrote. The Day of Champions Camp, indeed, deserves acknowledgment.

The next event took place at the Gathering. The geo-

thermal lake directly behind the ball fields was opened to Gathering attendees for fish-
ing. Children under ten years of age had to be accompan-
ied by an adult, but even adults without children lined up. Gary Bourbonnais of the CPN Realty Department oversaw the task to prepare over 50 canoe poles, fishing line, hooks, sinkers and bob-
bers for this new event spon-
sored by our tribe. The canoe poles were chosen to provide experienced fishing wom-
en and men from casting line to the middle of the small lake where geological equipment is anchored. That is the reason Chairman Bar-
ratt came up with the cane pole idea, which turned out to be a great plan.

For the adults of my age, it sort of took us back to childhood when fishing was an extreme relaxing recreation. The fish-
ing extravaganza is sure to be featured next year at the annual Potawatomi Fes-
tival unless some unforeseen mishap interferes. It is my guess that Gary Bourbonnais needs to round up an added supply of canoe poles…be-
cause I anticipate the activity to be a very busy one.

I appreciate those who read this article, and hope that you share my passion for providing special activities for our children…the future of our Nation.

Migwetch,

Linda Capps

Vice-Chairman

Linda Capps

Coach Huelpel with the camp attendees.

Grace, Dwayne and William Jarman of the Huron Potawatomi Tribe with their catch at FireLake during Gathering.

Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

Coach Huelpel with the camp attendees.

Coach Huelpel with the camp attendees.
If you would like to say something to Anna forward a message to me and I will see that she gets it. On that note if you have a family member who has reached the age of 90 or more, please let me know. It is a Potawatomi tradition to acknowledge and honor our wisest members.

Next let me say thank you to the Optical Clinic at the CPN East Health Clinic in Shawnee. I recently lost a lens out of my glasses. I went to a shop open in Fort Smith, just over the border in Kansas City who said my prescription was outdated and I would need a new eye exam before they could make my new glasses. Their fees are astronomical. I declined and made an appointment at the clinic in Shawnee. They examined my eyes, wrote a new prescription and fitted me with new glasses, including a new hard case and clip on sun glasses. Ignien (heartfelt thanks) to the folks at the east clinic for their expertise and kind consideration and to my Nation for providing these services. These services and facilities are yours and available to you in Shawnee. As our Vice-Chairman Linda Capps has always said, they are the “best of the best.”

The CPN hosted the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations this year and it was really great to visit with and renew acquaintances. In consideration of our northern Nations and sites to Oklahoma heat, some of the events such as grand entry were held in our air conditioned FireLake Arena. Next year’s Gathering will be held at Walpole Island, Canada. If you plan to attend and I hope you do, be sure you have the proper documents necessary to cross the border into Canada.

As always I will close with a request for your contact information. If you are in District 1 and do not receive e-mail or snail mail from me occasionally, it is because I do not have your information and due to privacy issues the Nation cannot provide me with it. You may send it to rsalvin@potawatomi.org.

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

Migwetch,
Roy Slavin
Netagejige (Forever Planting)
rsalvin@potawatomi.org

Bozho nikane!
(Hello my friends)

Walpole Island - Gathering 2017: During our all-tribal council’s meeting during Gathering 2016, it was confirmed that Bkejwanong First Nation, also known as Walpole Island Indian Territory, will host the 2017 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations. The Nation is 77 miles from Detroit. Bkejwanong translates as “where the waters divide.” The territory is an island and is a First Nation reserve in southwestern Ontario, Canada, on the border between Ontario and Michigan.

At the start of that meeting, as I chose a seat next to the Walpole delegation, Councilwoman Mariel Sampson greeted me with a big hug and smile. Walpole Tribal Chairman Dan Miskokomon, offered his own warm hello and, during the meeting, exhibited his sly wit. I later had the opportunity to visit with the two other council members who attended the 2106 Gathering, Dale Sands and Arlene Dodge. Both were delightful. The latter is a lawyer passionate about ensuring women and children are well-regarded and safe in the community. We hit it off right away. I am certain that our warm and gracious hosts will make the 2017 Gathering memorable and meaningful.

Sweet friend and sweet grass: At Walpole next summer I look forward to visiting again with elder Lila Tabobondung. A few Gatherings back, Lila and I danced together and became friends. She was with us for this year’s Gathering. I have learned from Lila as our friendship has developed. E.g., Lila recently shared with me a water song to learn. You can hear it on YouTube at: http://tinyurl.com/3t2o64g. The words and translation are:

Nebe Gee Zha gey a go - Gee Megwetch waan ne mo ge - Gee zha nee me go
(Water, we love you - thank you - respect you)

I also look forward to smelling the sweet grass that grows up north. Walpole Island artisans always bring the most fragrant sweet grass to our Gatherings! This year, one Walpole man selling sweetgrass from his booth put up a hand-lettered sign saying “Sweet grass - $1 per snippet.”

Other Gathering events: My album of Gathering photos is at http://tinyurl.com/t2016. So much was going on that these photos don’t begin to capture all that took place! Like many other runners in the Gathering Memorial Run and Walk, I wore my orange t-shirt commemorating Ross Korzeniewski. (Ross passed away unexpectedly Thanksgiving weekend 2015, after spending the holyday with his extended family.) Ross’s parents, George and Kathleen; his siblings, Emily, Will, Ken, Anna and Brent; his grandmother Nancy; and a number of his aunts, uncles and cousins, including his Aunt Kim, participated, as did many close friends and mentors, including Margaret and Tessa Zientek. I’ve included several run photos here. Many of our Nation’s loss of a vibrant young Potawatomi leader. Migwetch/thank you to Jennifer Randall and Bree Dunham for the private ceremony they led later that day, offering his family members the eagle feathers Ross had requested for family namings he planned to conduct.

Sk participants release balloons before the run.

Legislative agenda: As a tribal legislature we soon will be providing our input on the executive branch’s proposed budget. While the resolution I proposed earlier has not been put back on our agenda, I remain committed to revising our CPN marriage ordinance to authorize the conduct of same-sex marriage ceremonies and the recognition of same-sex marriages. I hope we can dialogue about it. Let the legislators know your views, please!

Fall Feast: Please make plans to attend the District 2 Fall Feast on Nov. 12, 2016, in Arlington, Virginia. Specific location and other details will follow.

I deeply appreciate the honor of representing you.

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindikwe
Legislator, District #2
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
2200 North George Mason Drive
PO Box 3707
Arlington, VA 22207
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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
of each district to be put on www.potawatomi.org.

Another PLP pair, Matthew Clift and Randy Bazhaw, created an honor drum song that they sang for us. This will also be available on the tribal website. The song Bodewadi Madamowen, is repeated four times and is sung as follows:

Ndwabladumen odie Mb- wakawen
(We search for wisdom)

Nnawjeshnomen Bodewadi-
(made as Potawotomi)

Niyamaen odie odie shkede
(We come to the fire)

Mive bsewak os mames-
(greet and listen to the creator)

The other projects involved replacement of plastic gro- 
cery bags with more green

reuseable bags, a tribal pub-
lic information documentary and a Family Festival-day youth camp. One group is to be commended for join-
ing this program, and we thank them for their pro-
ject contributions they made while in Shawnee this sum-
er. Presentations are an impor-
tant part of the program, and based upon reviews has
something for all ages.

As we head into the fall, I am planning a joint meeting with District 5 in Lubbock, Texas for Saturday, Nov. 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the National Ranching Heri-
tage Center. Look for infor-
mation on this meeting to come.

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

Bob Whistler

Meeting with NPS: At the end of the last meeting, we were discussing the future development of Burnett’s Mound in Topeka. The parks and recre-
ation director has expressed an interest in me to come and present on the outcome of this meeting to the American Indian Heritage Day of Tex-
as. This is the fourth year for this function. As a result of CPN support and participa-
tion since the original event, we are now the featured nation this year. Chairman Rocky
Barrett has been invited to att-
tend and make a presentation in Topeka on this topic, and there the scheduling
permits. There will be a variety of vendors there also

District 4 - Jon Boursaw

District 4 meeting in Gar-
den City, Oct. 8, 2016: I will hold a District 4 meeting at the Clarion Inn on Sat-
urday, Oct. 8, 2016 at 10 a.m. The Clarion Inn is located at 1911 E Kansas Ave. The meeting is open to all CPN members but invitations will only be mailed to the members living in the west-
ern counties of Kansas. The agenda topics will include an update on the financial status of the Nation, latest news in economic development as

Brzho, (hello)

Summer is winding down and we have some very good
turnouts at Family Festi-
val and the Gathering of Potawotomi Nations. A ma-
jor benefit for me personally, as a result of our hosting the
Gathering was being able to attend our Potawatomi Lead-
ership Program final project presentations. There were
ten college students in the
program. They are paired
up and each pair creates a
program. They are paired
with another college student.

Last month, I wrote about potential issues with insur-
ance companies billing indi-
viduals for services electron-
ically that could be a prob-
lem. Ironically, this month one of our health insurance companies billed us with six
debits for services that were never rendered. We had not checked our
statement, it could have very easily been overlooked. This
is a reminder that you need to be very vigilant if you do any electronic bank-
ing.

Hope this finds everyone back to school, work and
having had a wonderful sum-
mer vacation. I have a lot to report and I look forward
to any comments you may have.

We have an upcoming sched-
ule for meetings and confer-
ences that may interest you. I

know I am excited as always
to get to the district to see
everyone again. We are fam-
ily, so reunions are precious memories.

First, we have the Colorado
meeting that is confirmed for Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016 at the Denver Art Museum. This is a requested change from what was sup-
posed to be at the Denver Art
Museum.

The schedule will include registration at 9 a.m., with our meeting to start at 10:30 (Indian time). We will have an overview of what is going on at home and lunch will be served 12:30 to 1 p.m. It will be a sit down lunch with three choices on the menu provided.

Of course there will be the
drawings and giveaways as usual. There will be op-
portunities to hear about some of our family, so we always look forward to.

Following the lunch we will enjoy a wonderful and exci-
ting tour of the Native Amer-
ican art collection. I believe it will be the first time this oppor-
tunity to introduce your chil-
dren to the various cultures
within our own.

Second, is the November 5 district meeting in the great
state of Texas, co-hosted by me and Bob Whistler, as we share the state. It will be my first meeting there and I am

excited about meeting tribal family members there. Bob has done a great job in Texas so I look forward to working with our family stories.

We are fortunate to have a man of his stature in the legislative pol-

However, I have the honor of having been named to the 114th Congress and will be here to represent you.

Bob Whistler

Meeting with NPS: At the end of the last meeting, I was invited to a meeting on Au-

gust 23 with representatives of the U.S. National Park Service who were in Tope-

ka to design a theme park commemorating the Oregon

Historical Route of Kansas River. The proposed site of this park is the loca-
tion of what was Pappan’s Ferry Landing on the north bank of the Kansas River in Topeka. Again, I will report the outcomes of this meeting to the CPN District 4 meeting that is confirmed for Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016 in Shawsheen, Oklahoma in July.

We will have an overview of some of the meetings above. Let’s make

Mr. Wettles was also present to discuss some issues with invasion.

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

Migwetch,


Other times - Please call

Office Hours:
Tuesday 9-11 a.m.

Thursday 3-5 p.m.

Other times - Please call

Continued on page 21
Women’s Conference on Nov. 3, 2016 at the We-Ko-Pa Resort and Conference Center, at Fort McDowell in Fountain Hills, Arizona.

As noted on their website, “Just minutes from the attractions of Scottsdale, this hotel in Fountain Hills features a casino, championship golf course and stunning views of the surrounding mountains and Sonoran Desert.”

More registration information will follow. It is a wonderful event to help Native women addressing spirituality, health, professionalism and all the issues in-between.

I will be performing the opening ceremonies. Hope you will put this on your calendar too.

The more active you are in Native American events the more you will appreciate the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and what we represent. I am looking forward to seeing all of you and I am here for any questions that may arise.

Please keep a watch for your personal invitations for the upcoming events.

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

A few of the more important things to bring are:
- a blanket and or your favorite lawn chair to sit on,
- layers of clothing as it can be warm during the day and chilly in the evening, and
- if you have regalia please feel free to bring it.

There will be lots of bottled water available. No ice chests please and no alcohol is allowed. Attendance is limited to the Tribal history, enterprises and digital documents.

Best Regards,

Dave Carney

The attendees of the Spokane gathering.

Norma Reilly - Wisest CPN Member

**District 5 - Gene Lambert**

**District 6 - Rande K. Payne**

**District 8 - Dave Carney**
Amendment 73

Outside of being a tribal legislator, I am a professional grant writer. I specialize in writing U.S. Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block Grant applications for Oklaho-
ma Indian Nations. On occasion, I manage large federal construction projects on our reservations. It often building projects ranging from travel plazas and dis-

citizenship to health clinics and museums and even water and sewer improvements and new housing.

I enjoy working with other tribal leaders to fund their projects through tribal grants and government-to-government partnerships. Having worked with federal agencies and their contractors, I learned to build relationships and understand the process of managing grant and contract awards.

I am also the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma Indian Charitable Foundation. The Foundation distributes $1 million to Oklahoma Indian Nations in grants and scholarships each year.

I am married to the Tribal Chairman and am the mother of a son and a daughter. I am a very proud mother. I am passionate about our tribe and its future. I am honored to serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee.

I truly believe that the future of our political structure and the extreme difficulty it will be to amend our Constitution. I believe our legislature should appoint a speaker of the house to pro-

vise “general supervision” of the legislature. These chang-

es will not come easy, but I strongly believe the privilege of serving many more years as District 11 representative to do what I can.

It is my understanding that these questions were asked of all members of the tribal leg-

islature. If you want to learn more about your legislator, please visit their tribal web-

site or app by the PPL for smartphones. As always, I am thinking Potawatomi.

Lisa Kraft

District 11 - Lisa Kraft

District 13 - Bobbi Bowden

Be a good friend: Watch out for each other. Stick together. Do not travel alone. Ask others to come along too.

Take well-trafficked routes and avoid being isolated with someone that you don’t know. Get to know your surroundings — take notice of the blue safety light locations and don’t be hesi-

tate to use them if necessary.

Make plans and be prepared: When going out, know ahead of time who is going and plan to stay to-

gether as a group. Construct a backup plan for the day or night that you’re going out so that all of your friends know where to meet up if someone is separated or their phone dies.

Party smart: Guard your drink at parties. Don’t accept drinks from people you don’t know or to a hospital.

Watch over your drink at parties. Don’t accept drinks from people you don’t know or to a hospital.

Take self-defense classes and learn about your rights. Be assertive and speak up for yourself. If you see something, say something.

If you are the one from people you don’t know, or if there is alcohol available, don’t accept it.

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Dick lived in Oklahoma in the 1920s, and started school at the State Center School near Jones. The family later ran a filling station in Chocow. After moving with his family to Oregon in 1929, he lived the rest of his life in western Lane County.

He married Adelaide Marsh on March 7, 1941.

Dick was a World War II veteran, serving in Europe. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the bronze star and the French Croix de Guerre.

He was a logger his entire working life and was a partner in Montgomery and Spencer Logging Company. Proud of his Native American heritage, Dick was recognized as the “wisest elder” attending the Citizen Potawatomi Nation District 8 summer gathering in Eugene in 2013. For this, he was awarded a sacred eagle feather and a beautiful blanket with traditional design.

He was preceded in death by his wife: Adelaide in 2015.

He is survived by his daughter: Anne Caputo of Alexandria, Virginia; son: David of Portland. Grandsons: Chris Caputo and Jack Spencer; step-grandson: Rick Caputo. His extended family includes many Spencers, Mullers and Navarres in the greater Oklahoma City area.

The funeral was held at Valley Unitarian Methodist Church in Veneta, Oregon on July 23, 2016 with Pastor Mike Gregor officiating. Burial was at West Lawn Memorial Gardens in Eugene.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Dick’s memory be made to the Applegate Pioneer Museum, 25755 Jeans Road, Veneta, OR 97487.

Bonnie Louise Mandrell, 81, of Mountain View, Oklahoma passed away on July 7, 2016 after a sudden illness in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

She was born on Oct. 22, 1934 in Stratford, Oklahoma to Jessie Jewel (Hooper) and Ray Clifton Butler, and was the oldest of seven children. She was preceded in death by her husband: Dane in 2008; her parents and her brother: Frank Lee Butler in 2008.

Graveside services were held July 11, 2016 at Mountain View Cemetery with Rev. Jim Riley officiating. Services were under the direction of Fort Cobb Funeral Home, Fort Cobb, Oklahoma.

Hau ndenwemañeg
Ho my relatives

Ébyé yak shote gnom
We have come here today

Èwi nesh nyé yak ode wdenwé
To lay our brother to rest

Nygem she épam sét ode
Today he walks

Ga wié zhé wet gí gambojé
Among those who have passed on

I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngemwén
That is why we offer this song

Émno shketot wa je zhýat
ébi shpemsegk
That his journey will go well where he goes above

Iw énaj moyan
That’s all I have to say

A Potawatomi prayer for a specific loved one who has walked on.

By Don Perrot
Cherie Winton

Cherie Winton, 52, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on July 14, 2016 in Highland. She was born on January 17, 1964 in Santa Cruz, California to the daughter of Cecille Whan Corson and the late Richard Corson.

In addition to her father, she was predeceased in death by her brother: Gary Corson.

Survivors include, her mother: Cecille Corson; her son: J.J. Solorio of Murfreesboro; her daughter: Ashley Solorio of Murfreesboro; three brothers: Michael Corson, Richard Corson, and Mark Corson; her sister: Cheryl Corson Green; and a much loved granddaughter: Amelia Solorio.

Memorials may be made to any Texas Bank & Trust to Bubbles 4 Brinley Schroeder fighting Nephrotic Disease.

Please leave online condolences to dede2009@hotmail.com

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

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