Native reality

Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Denny Haskew incorporates heritage into his art

Sculptor and Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Denny Haskew never chooses the easy path. Throughout his life, physically taxing experiences have both been a representation of, and carved out, his personality.

Now living in Loveland, Colorado, he is a longtime artist of Columbine Gallery and a member of the National Sculptors’ Guild. The consortium of carvers and casters assist in each other’s artistic endeavors and acquisition of steady work, mainly through commissions.

One of Haskew’s sculptures, Courage to Lead, sits in front of CPN’s Grand Casino Hotel & Resort. The piece depicts two Native American warriors shooting arrows into the sky while leaning back with their bodies brushing the earth. A traditional story of bravery was the source of inspiration, and Haskew treasures this statue’s location on Tribal land.

Before taking on the arts, he spent years with stints as a professional guide at Grand Canyon National Park and as a ski instructor in Park City, Utah, among other jobs. He also served in the Army, spending two years deployed during the Vietnam War.

**Sculpting 101**

Haskew wound up creating monumental bronze casts while considering something less taxing on his body.

Haskew recalled a visit to the inaugural Sculpture in the Park juried show and sale in 1984.

“My mom knew that I was messing around with wood carving and stuff, and so I came, and I saw sculpture for the first time with that show,” he said. “It was a lightbulb going off in your head. This is what I should do, and I stayed. I never went back.”

Haskew apprenticed for a year having never studied sculpture before. He entered five pieces in the next Sculpture in the Park and used the earnings to expand his portfolio. In the following years, he also worked with world-renowned Swedish sculptor Kent Ullberg, known for his massive casts of wildlife. Afterward, Haskew focused his career on large-scale representations of the human form with an emphasis on Native American imagery.

“I did a lot of shows, had a lot of galleries there for a long time. In my career right now, I’m down to about three galleries, and I do a couple of shows a year,” he said. “Pretty much do my large work on a commission basis.”

He works out of two studios: one downtown Shakopee, Minnesota. "That was my depiction of him with his horse looking out over the landscape and saying, 'I once rode free,' and it kind of speaks to all Native Americans,” Haskew reminisced.

**Culture through human form**

The human figure also interests Haskew, and he often designs pieces featuring Native Americans in all kinds of poses. He embraced the challenge of accuracy early in his sculpting career, and the body remains one of his favorite subject matters.

The piece Transformation stands out to Haskew as an example. A Native American woman rests with her knees tucked under her. Her torso bends as she stretches her hands over her head, oversized butterflies perched on her palms.

“The butterfly is what transforms from a caterpillar into a butterfly,” he explained. “This is a statement for females saying that it’s beautiful to watch females in our society transform from the discrimination and things that they’ve experienced and hopefully, coming to a new and better thing, more beautiful.”

Haskew also explores the connection between Native Americans and nature. His piece Strength of the Maker won a show in Aspen, Colorado, and now putting on hundreds of pounds of clay, and it’s enjoyable.”

**Pieces of history**

Several tribes have commissioned Haskew for pieces representing a significant portion of their history or tell an important cultural story. In November, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community unveiled a depiction of Chief Sakpe III, whom the U.S. government executed in 1865.

The tribe hired Haskew to restore the 12-foot-tall bronze sculpture, Once Rode Free, which he had cast for the tribe’s casino. It now stands in downtown Shakopee, Minnesota.

“Strength of the Maker” by Denny Haskew

“Transformation” by Denny Haskew

Continued on page 7
Peggy Kinder’s craftsmanship revives Potawatomi culture

Peggy Kinder lives in Gladstone, Missouri, where she creates Potawatomi-inspired beadwork, ribbonwork, beaded fan handles, shirts, shawls, earrings, accessories and custom orders.

“I don’t remember not doing any of it — it’s just been such a part of my life for so long,” she said.

Until about 15 years ago, her art primarily consisted of beadwork she celebrated in her Citizen Potawatomi Nation family and heritage, for events like ceremonies and powwows.

“We grew up with our heritage. Joseph Napoleon Bourassa was my great-great-grandpa, and it’s just always been a part of our upbringing,” she said. “My grandma and my mom and my aunt started me dancing when I was 4 years old. I’m 60 now, so it’s been a long time.”

When she was young, her mother and “Aunt Wilma” taught her beadwork, peyote stitch, loomwork, sewing and making traditional clothing. Loomwork isn’t her favorite beading method, so she leaves that to her brother Michael Hancock and her cousin, Laura Hewuse, who is more like a sister to her.

“She’s actually my mom’s first cousin, but we always called her my Aunt Wilma,” Kinder explained. “She was quite the crafterperson — beadwork and ribbonwork and shawlmaking. She took me under her wing.”

She started with handmade ribbonwork, which she did for decades, she told the Hownikan during a recent telephone interview. In the last 15 years, she has used a sewing machine and Wonder-Under, a type of adhesive material that fuses fabric pieces together, to create ribbonwork.

Around that time, she also was asked to teach, “so I began teaching classes. That’s why people started ordering from me, and I thought, ‘OK, this is good!’”

A highlight for her was beading a Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation elder’s ceremonial eagle fan. She also asked to create burial clothes; leggings; aprons; vests; traditionally tied shawls; and peyote, brickwork and applique beadwork.

“Those are the kinds of things that are quite an honor for me,” she said.

Most of Kinder’s clients learn about her by word-of-mouth, Facebook groups and connections with other Potawatomi tribes.

“I have a lot of people in the Great Lakes and Canada who order my work,” she said. “And making connections and friends at the Gathering of Nations and Family Reunion Festival. Recently, Prairie Band Casino & Resort contacted me to purchase some of my earrings for their gift shop. So now they are carrying my work, and I am grateful.

“I’m happy to make things for people that they are happy with and that they’re going to use properly in the arena or in ceremonies, but I get the most satisfaction out of making our traditional woodland patterns, our florals — because it is keeping ancestry alive,” she said.

“And I get the most satisfaction out of the fact that I’m doing it by hand — I am old-school,” she said, then laughed. “Old-school.

“I feel like every time I do something, I am making mom, my aunt and my grandma and all those ladies that came before, I’m making them happy. I hope I’m making them proud,” she added. “My grandma used to tell me that, my mom tells me that, my Aunt Wilma told me that. They pretty much still inspire me, and I do a lot of it for them — keep them alive.

“If I ever have a creative block, my elder friend Lila Tabobondung in Canada tells me, ‘Listen to your ancestors.’ So, I talk to God, talk to my ancestors, then I sit back and listen.”

How they’re made

Peggy Kinder shared the family and cultural influences that inspired two complete, traditional Potawatomi outfits she created for Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center.

“I made them years ago, back before the museum flooded,” Kinder said. “I assumed they were destroyed. Both — a complete male outfit and complete female outfit — used to be on display. I don’t know where they are now. I haven’t been able to make it down to check it out.”

They survived. The woman’s collection is on display, and the man’s collection is in secure storage at the museum, said CHC Curator Blake Norton.

When Kinder saw photos of them, she shared the story of their creation with the Hownikan in her own words:

**Woman’s outfit**

I made everything but the fan.

The ribbonwork pattern I replicated from an old piece in the archives of the Milwaukee Museum. The original piece was so old that most of the silk used to make the strip was gone; all that was left was the decorative stitching around the design. I thought replicating an old design made at some point by one of our relatives would be good for this display. It is my way of honoring the initial maker, keeping that pattern alive. The Potawatomi ladies' bag was prominent with Potawatomi ladies when I was young. That’s why I wanted to include it in this display. We don’t see many of them anymore.

The beads I purchased for the necklaces are as close as I could find to the multiple strands of beads our ladies wore. It took a lot of time stringing those up, and I was happy with how they turned out.

The moccasins I made and put ribbonwork on the flaps.

**Man’s broach**

My cousin, Wilma Fobh McAlney (great-granddaughter of Joseph N. Bourassa, and grew up calling her “Aunt Wilma”) and my mom were my first teachers. My mom, Elizabeth Hancock, used to enjoy loom beading. She taught me looming, and I did do several pieces, but it was never my favorite method of beading.

When I was quite young, Aunt Wilma taught me how to tie shawls with multiple rows of knots — that’s how every lady’s shawl was back then. If there weren’t multiple rows of knots, a shawl was considered unfinished. That teaching has certainly changed over the years. When I teach shawl tying, I always teach traditional methods.

Anyway, when Aunt Wilma found out I was making this dress for our Cultural Heritage Center, she was so excited. She had this silver brooch for a very long time. She wore it in the arena. She gave me that brooch to put on this sachkin (blouse) for the Cultural Center. I was touched and honored by her gesture. It is a treasure.

The silver washer brooches on our clothing became identifiable with Nishnabe after contact with French traders.

**Man’s outfit**

If you look at old photos of our men relatives, you will frequently see some kind of hat. Some are beaded, some fingerwoven, some ribbonwork.

This pattern is an old one my Aunt Wilma gave me. I used it to honor her. I also used the same pattern on the apron. I love our woodland clothing and style.
Local students learn to define their success

Between 2008 and 2018, Oklahoma decreased per-pupil educational funding by 28.2 percent, leading the United States in total percentage cuts to education. No other state slashed education budgets more than 20 percent. In fact, Oklahoma reduced funding by 12 percent more than Texas, which sits at second place.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Education Department developed the Wžhitawen (Prepare) Project to combat negative statistics at four school districts within the Nation’s jurisdiction: Asher, Maud, Macomb and Wanette. The four-year program, provided by a grant through the Obama administration’s Native Youth Community Initiative, concentrates on four emphases: Pick Your Path, Tuition Take Down, Ace the Test and Be the Best Student.

“We want them to figure out a plan and what they define success as, whether that’s going right into the workforce or whether that’s going to tech school or going to college,” said Channing Seikel, CPN senior college adviser. “We want to have them prepared for life in general.”

She serves students at Maud and Macomb.

Regardless of a student’s interest, CPN’s Education Department helps them find a corresponding career.

“A lot of it is the students’ need to see what’s available to them,” said Josh Bullock, CPN college adviser. “We try to show them what is there, and they can choose from that. If we don’t show them what they want, and they tell us about it, I’ll go find more information on it.”

Bullock works with students in Asher and Wanette public schools districts.

The lack of funding affects essential academic and career services available, including guidance counseling. Both Wanette and Macomb asked if all their eighth and ninth graders could participate in Wžhitawen, as the two schools lack staff dedicated to helping youth plan for career and scholastic paths.

“They’re really trying to do the best they can with the resources they have,” she said. “They just don’t have the resources, especially those very rural areas, which is where we go.”

CPN member Kade Lowden, 15, participates in the Wžhitawen Project at Asher High School, where he enjoys the opportunity to socialize and play on the baseball team. He is interested in studying journalism or finding a career in the oil and gas industry.

When asked what he hopes to get out of the program, he replied, “The future, just a decision — a good decision and guidance.”

One goal of this program is to expose participants to higher education opportunities. Last year, they traveled to the University of Oklahoma. This semester, they will visit Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee. The grant covers the cost of the trip, ensuring money does not hold anyone back from participating.

OSU-IT’s degree programs include both vocational and collegiate aspects with options for associate degrees in applied science, elementary or secondary education, business and more.

“We’re taking them to see the automotive and the culinary (programs),” Bullock said. “They also have some other programs there, but we’re going to focus on the vocational side of it here.”

Many served by the Wžhitawen Project do not come from families with collegiate experience.

“We’ve seen a lot of family support and a lot of community support, but there are a lot of students who their parents went straight to work and didn’t have the vision or the dream to go to college,” Seikel said. “They’re getting to really experience a bunch of different opportunities that they didn’t know existed for them, and I think it’s important for them to see that. Their dreams are as big as they want to make them.”

In addition to academic and career planning, the program intertwines Native-based curricula and activities. Bullock noticed early on that his students, although some are Native American, not all identify as being Native American. He focuses on helping them define their Native identity and informs them of opportunities and services available to help them attain their goals.

“If there’s ever a lesson that I feel like I don’t feel adequate enough to teach, or whenever we do a talking circle, which we’ve done a couple of times, we always ask (Tesia Zientek) to complete that just to be appropriate,” Seikel said.

The talking circle provides a Native-based educational component but also gives them a platform to discuss various aspects of their lives and future with each other.

Seikel and Bullock use My ACT Prep to help the participants gain experience taking college entrance exams. The online program covers math, science, English, reading and writing and provides a platform where they can pick a personally difficult subject without added test and performance anxiety.

Another program component is teaching and instilling a sense of mentorship to carry these lessons and resources on to future classes at the four schools. The department also developed a parent curriculum and counselor/teacher guide.

“We’ve just loved this opportunity, and we see the value of it,” Seikel said. “I think that’s important is to find value in what you do. We see that every day.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, Oklahoma
405-275-3121
college@potawatomi.org

BOZO NIKANEK

REMEMBER TO VOTE

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO CONTINUE IN THE LEGISLATURE 2018

IT HAS BEEN MY HONOR FOR 18 YEARS TO BE OF SERVICE

WISHING EVERYONE CONTINUING SUCCESS SPIRITUALLY, PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY!

EUNICE IMOGENE LAMBERT (GENE) | BUTTERFLY WOMAN
New lawncare equipment store adds diversity to BDC Gun Room

Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s BDC Gun Room near Shawnee, Oklahoma, welcomed a new business in March. Shawnee Outdoors now leases space from CPN inside the gun range and firearms dealer off Hardesty Road, offering an extensive line of lawncare products and utility vehicles.

When owner Nathan Beauchamp looked to expand his dealership from its single location, Ada Outdoors, Shawnee was a natural choice.

“It’s an amazing market. You’ve got your farmers and ranchers,” he said. “There’s more people rurally than there are in town.”

Beauchamp served as a CPN Police Department officer before acquiring the lawncare company in 2013. He and BDC Gun Room owner Jack Barrett modeled the concept to combine landscaping machinery and gun sales after the success of Ada Outdoors.

“You don’t think of the two going together until you get a guy looking at a lawnmower and then thinks he also may need a gun while he’s here or the other way around,” he said. “Customers that like guns and firearms and outdoor equipment also are mowing their own yards.”

Inventory

The new branch offers Cub Cadet, Grashopper and Husqvarna brands as well as parts and services. Previously, Duval Equipment sold Cub Cadet gear but discontinued after new owners purchased the shop. Beauchamp seized the opportunity, and Shawnee Outdoors is the brand’s only dealer in town.

“My Cub Cadet reps and Grashopper reps were really pushing me to open a second location,” he said. “Then when this area became available, they were pushing me to be up here.”

The companies’ high-end inventory impressed Beauchamp throughout the years, and he markets products he feels have proven their worth and endurance. The store carries the latest product lines featuring upgrades that are sportier and faster.

“They’ve added Bluetooth, you know, power steering to a lot of models. Stuff that you wouldn’t think would be on a lawnmower,” he said, then laughed. “We’re excited.”

An assortment of handheld instruments are also available — tillers, log splitters, chippers, shredders, pressure washers and push mowers — for those who don’t need a riding lawnmower.

Service

Beauchamp said customer service is one of the most important aspects of his business and has high expectations for Shawnee Outdoors.

“We’ll be the only ones where you can pick up the phone and actually talk to someone about what problem you’re having,” he said. “Someone who knows what they’re talking about and is certified in the product that they’re selling.”

Shawnee Outdoors’ increased inventory and smaller footprint allows the store to offer customers same-day service.

“We’re going to be competitive with the big city, with the prices,” Beauchamp said. “We’re extremely grateful for it.”

Barrett modeled the concept to combine landscaping machinery and gun sales after the success of Ada Outdoors.

For Shawnee Outdoors.

Shawnee Outdoors
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday
Inside BDC Gun Room
40960 Hardesty Road
Shawnee, Oklahoma
Facebook: Shawnee Outdoors LLC
405-395-9898

Education department helps student advance medical career

Submitted by Audrey Atkins, CPN tribal member

My journey into medicine began 15 years ago as an EMT. After years of education and training, I was able to climb the clinical ladder to become a critical care flight paramedic, working for Native Air in Mesa, Arizona. This opportunity allowed me to serve many Native populations throughout the state including San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation, Gila River Indian Community and Ak-Chin Indian Community.

Working closely with their people and seeing their struggles substantially influenced my passions and career goals. As a Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member, I was intent on seeing health care improvements for those and all underserved communities. Through volunteering and building strong relationships with my local tribes, I discovered the drive to further my contributions and become a physician.

To advance my medical career, I needed to return to academic life as an adult learner. After enrolling at Arizona State University full-time, I began studying biochemistry. However, my financial stability at that time was dependent upon my continued employment. Through all four years of my undergraduate education, I remained employed full-time, 48 hours per week, as a flight paramedic while I followed my dreams.

While demanding, the rigorous schedule I maintained allowed me to prepare myself for the challenges of medical school while continuing to gain invaluable medical experience as I pursued my degree.

Concurrently testing my academic and clinical strength gave me insight into the determination it would take to become a physician.

After graduating summa cum laude, majoring in biochemistry and minoring in biological sciences, it was time to begin the process of applying to medical school. Before diving in, I felt that to know where I wanted my future to go, I needed to honestly explore where I came from.

With this in mind, I contacted Carina Thompson, a family history specialist from the archive and research division of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center. With the help of Mrs. Thompson, I was able to learn more about my family lineage and use my history to connect the past to my future journey.

With the clarity of knowing my history, I focused on pursuing my future. I knew I wanted to become a physician but was unfamiliar with the logistics of making that dream a reality. To ensure that I was on the right path to achieve my academic goals, I contacted the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education. After speaking with my Tribal academic adviser, Joshua Bullock, I was confident that he and the department would be there to guide me every step of the way.

As I devoted the next six months to applying to medical school, Mr. Bullock worked diligently to support me. From researching programs that aligned with my strengths to proofreading dozens of application essays, Mr. Bullock provided perspective and guidance during that overwhelming time. Thanks to the dedication and tireless work of Mr. Bullock, I was able to submit my medical school applications and receive multiple acceptance offers.

After careful consideration and consultation with Mr. Bullock, I chose to attend The University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson, Arizona.

I owe my medical school acceptance to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education and Mr. Bullock, without whose guiding light and enduring patience none of this would have been possible.
Citizen Potawatomi Nation leaders look for areas of improvement while ensuring the well-being of Tribal members, employees and their families. Because of this, CPN developed a Safety Department under the direction of Judy Rodriguez. She joined CPN more than 17 years ago, serving in a variety of roles across several enterprises including the FireLake Bowling Center and Grand Casino Hotel & Resort. Her first undertaking as director is to organize and conduct CPR and first-aid courses for all CPN employees.

Rodriguez developed a department with talented, knowledgeable staff to help with these efforts including Lisa Tiger, CPN CPR instructor and licensed practical nurse.

"With leadership supporting the CPR program, they proved once again the heart of the Nation is not just for those directly involved with Citizen Potawatomi Nation but every person, every life is important — that is why the training is being taught," Tiger said.

The classes could save lives across the Nation and in Oklahoma. Heart disease kills more Native Americans than any other disease and is the leading cause of death of adults in Oklahoma.

"Training 2,300-plus people in CPR makes the Tribal community a safer place but also makes every ballgame we attend, every shopping area we shop or church that we attend a safer place," Tiger said. "I have learned, for the most part, in an emergency situation, people want to help, but it’s usually because of their lack of confidence or lack of knowledge that they don’t."

American Heart Association research shows 70 percent of Americans do not feel confident enough to act during a cardiac emergency due to lack of CPR training or a significant lapse in certification.

In the United States, 70 percent of cardiac arrests occur at home. Forty-six percent of those who have a heart attack or cardiac arrest event outside of a hospital get life-saving help prior to emergency personnel arriving. In fact, for every minute after a cardiac arrest without an automated external defibrillators (AED) or CPR, chances of survival drop 7-10 percent, she added.

Tiger began her nursing career in 2005, and her experience includes emergency room, hospice and clinical work.

"I am a survivor because of CPR," Tiger said. "When I was a little girl, I fell in the family swimming pool. It was just for a few minutes. However, when my mom finally realized I was missing, I was floating on top of the water. She was quick to start CPR on me.

"It’s ironic because most people never knew this story until I began to teach these classes. Maybe that’s why these classes are so special to me. I know CPR makes a difference. I lived it."

Fiscally responsible
First aid; AED; and infant, child and adult CPR training and certification can cost between $150 and $200 per person, Tiger said. Bringing the training in-house could save CPN more than $100 per person.

"It has been heartwarming to see various directors lend a hand to see this department get off the ground," she said.

One department helped purchase the CPR manikins and accessories, another gave supplies, some provided additional support, the Information Technology Department helped with electrical components and several others offered facilities for class space.

"These are just a few examples of the support that has been shown by the other departments throughout the Nation," Tiger said.

React Emergency Medical Services (React EMS) in Shawnee partners with CPN to help teach larger CPR classes and volunteers to answer any questions employees may have for paramedics or emergency help providers, she explained.

Another function of the new Safety Department is to stock and supply first-aid kits and provide maintenance on the approximately 1,000 fire extinguishers across the Nation.

"We are working through the clinic and ordering supplies in bulk," Rodriguez said.

Her department will ensure the Tribe purchases only resources needed, helping cut wasteful spending.

Once all Tribal employees complete the four-hour CPR, AED and first-aid instruction course, CPN leadership plans to extend the opportunity to CPN employee family members, Rodriguez said.

"The leadership has proven itself to always put the people of CPN first, and this is just another example of that," Tiger said. "I am honored to be part of it. The new Safety Department is looking forward to new and exciting things."
Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer is an author and a professor of Environmental and Forest Biology at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF).

She also leads a new graduate program about to form to do exactly the kind of work that Kaya was interested in.

It’s just so remarkable to me to be able to have this CPN team of botanists, this multigenerational education experience, from Kaya to me to the people who taught me,” Kimmerer said. “I’m not sure I believe in coincidences anymore — we had a brand-new graduate program about to form to do exactly the kind of work that Kaya was interested in."

The inherently Indigenous concept of reciprocal restoration was nearly nonexistent as she earned her doctorate and began teaching 35 years ago. It combines scientific and empirical, or long-term cultural and spiritual, consideration, in efforts to restore and conserve land, communities and people’s relationships with the land.

“I related very much to Kaya’s partnership in our work together,” she said. “When I started out as an undergraduate all those years ago, there was no acknowledgment or room for Indigenous thinking in the realm of environmental science.”

While earning his graduate degree at SUNY-ESF, DeerInWater works with her toward that goal.

“When I talk about this in terms of a cultural setting, I think of it very much in the vein of the teachings of the Seven Fires prophetics. They tell us that the job of Seventh Fire people is to go back along the ancestors’ road and pick up that which was left for us so that all life could thrive.

I think the work of restoration and, in particular, biocultural restoration — that healing land and culture at the same time — is our responsibility as Seventh Fire people.

To us, plants have long been recognized as our elders, as our teachers. We need to remember that again.”

Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, right, meets a golden eagle at the CPN aviary.

Kimmerer: Our Potawatomi culture, as well as many cultures, and the indigenous community in gratitude — gratitude for the gifts that the living world provides for us. Reciprocity then says, "Well, what are the gifts that we human beings can give back to the land in return for everything that the land gives us of water and food and companionship and identity?” and our relatives who live there, everything. …

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Hownikan: So, this is a concept that’s been around for a long time?

Kimmerer: It’s focused on bringing together both traditional knowledge and scientific, ecological knowledge. So, there’s that theme of using both ways of knowing to take care of land, but it’s really a new paradigm. …

"I realized that it was an important responsibility. In return for education that I had received in botany and, in return for my great love of plants, I had to share that with other people so that they would love them, too," she added. "And when we love something, we take care of it. I guess that’s really my motivation.

She said writing is an extension of that drive. Her most recent book, published in 2013, Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants, earned the Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award. The Guardian selected it as one of the best nature books of 2014.

Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, right, meets a golden eagle at the CPN aviary.

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So many of our communities have had damage to our traditional lands and ecosystems from development, from colonialism, etc. We need to think about the ways that we can simultaneously heal the land while healing our relationship to land using some of the tools and approaches of traditional ecological knowledge.

We’re talking about healing land in our communities, restoring those places to cultural use and restoring
Indian Country continues to fight opioid epidemic

By Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton

Naloxone is showing up in more corners of Indian Country as part of the continued growth of a two-year-old interagency agreement aimed at tackling the opioid epidemic.

In December 2015, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service announced a memorandum of understanding to allow for the hands-on training of BIA officers on how to identify opioid and heroin overdoses and administer an atomized dosage of naloxone, a synthetic drug that blocks the nervous system’s opioid receptors. It can reverse an opioid overdose if administered in time, either by an injection into muscle tissue or by inhaling it.

In the two years since the memorandum was announced, 250 BIA police officers nationwide, including 35 in Oklahoma, are trained how to administer the drug.

The course includes an overview of opioids, common signs and symptoms of overdose and step-by-step instruction on overdose response and aftercare. Additionally, the officers receive training on all commonly available naloxone devices and must complete a competency assessment to assure they understand how to respond to overdoses properly.

As of Nov. 1, the officers educated under the agreement have only had to administer seven doses in the field nationwide.

With such a small sample size to date, concrete data has not yet been compiled to determine what impact the program has had on the opioid mortality rate in Indian Country, said Hillary Duvivier, a clinical pharmacist at Arizona’s Whiteriver Indian Health Service Hospital and member of the IHS Heroin Opioid Pain Efforts (HOPE) Committee.

However, she also said that IHS pharmacists receive more naloxone requests as words get out that the medication is available.

“In 2016, IHS’ naloxone purchases doubled,” she said. “We’re seeing an overall increase across IHS as we’re making sure that patients and officers have it, even if they’re not necessarily using it right away.”

In 2010, opioid painkillers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone and hydromorphone were responsible for three-fourths of all prescription drug overdose deaths. American Indian or Alaska Native and non-Hispanic white women are at highest risk of dying from prescription opioid overdoses, CDC data shows.

With prescription drug overdoses accounting for 70 percent of Oklahoma’s accidental poisoning deaths, additional steps are underway closer to home to facilitate access to naloxone.

Thirty-three law enforcement agencies across Oklahoma have at least one officer trained to administer the drug, including the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and police departments with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and cities of Shawnee and Tecumseh.

“Substance use addictions are brain disorders,” said Glenna Stambling-Bear-Riddle, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Director of Behavioral Health. “They impact lots of people both in Oklahoma and beyond. It doesn’t matter your socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity or gender — it’s a big problem we’re facing, but it is a legitimate brain disorder. No one chooses to have this disease. It’s not a lack of willpower or a choice. Help is available and treatable. Recovery is possible, as people overcome opioid addictions every day.

“When you have someone in your life who has an opioid addiction … it impacts everyone.”

Native reality continued ...

sits in the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. It depicts a man testing the strength of his new bow across his back.

“What I’m trying to say is the strength of the Maker, the Creator, has created all of the picture. He has created the tree that the bow was fashioned from. He’s created this human,” Haskew said. “Nature is important to me, and I feel like humans are part of nature, and I didn’t see this in the piece, but obviously we need to be better at taking care of nature.”

Ancestry in bronze

The artistic ritual that Haskew practices, as he goes about assembling his statues, reminds him of his heritage; a process that is tedious, tough and trying, similar to his ancestors’ history to maintain — and even reclaim — their culture.

“I don’t think you can help but do that,” he said. “It’s interesting because, of course, most of the time it’s things that happened in the past, but it’s also important to make it relevant to today. Have the message of the title show that this happened back then, but it’s still important that we recognize this.”

Haskew is descendant of the Pettifer family. Early in his career, he and his grandmother sat in his artist’s booth at Oklahoma City’s Red Earth Festival. People stopped by and commented on her beauty and her grandson’s creations.

“It was so fun to see her because she was Native American,” he said. “It was a time when she could be proud at that moment, and I still get a little teared up when I talk about it.”

3 dimensions to 1

After sculpting for about 15 years, Haskew’s mother taught him to paint. She worked in her studio every day, guiding others and creating. He described her as very prolific. He took her classes and explored his style.

“The paintings are something I have a lot of fun with, and I experiment,” he said. “It’s hard to give me a style. I do like the impressionistic look, and I like to use lines. I enjoy using color sometimes. Sometimes, I’ll keep a solid color and draw all over it.”

His love of the human form carried over to painting, and sketching live models is a cherished part of his creative process. Haskew drew throughout his artistic career. Sculpting and sketching go together for him, especially training the hand and eye to communicate well.

The deeper connections with his grandmother and mother influence the projects he accepts and their subject matter. He takes pride in being Native American and the growth of CPN over recent decades.

“It’s been fun with the success of the Tribe to have the language come available to us, to have our history, to recognize the Trail of Death,” he said. “The great work they do with the eagle sanctuary, the naming ceremony — I mean to watch all of these things develop over the years, and we’ve been one of the fortunate tribes to have really good leadership, I believe.”

See more of Haskew’s work at haskewart.com.
Citizen Potawatomi joins Denver-area city council

Submitted by John VanPool

Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members come from all walks of life, with the diversity of personalities reflecting the diversity of more than 33,000 members across the globe. Almost all lead what would be considered normal day-to-day lives, and some take an additional step in their communities, serving as leaders and elected officials.

One such individual is David DeMott, a member of the Dowd family. His Potawatomi heritage comes from his mother's side. DeMott recalled that as a child he could remember that his maternal grandfather, Richard Wade, retained close ties to his Tribal heritage.

DeMott recently achieved a long-sought goal of being elected to the city council of the Denver, Colorado, suburb of Westminster. The municipality's population of approximately 113,000 sits amid one of the nation's fastest-growing metro areas.

Through DeMott considered himself engaged when it came to state and federal politics, he had never been affiliated with a political campaign or candidate when his first instance of civic engagement occurred. As a member of the parent-teacher organization at his daughter's elementary school, DeMott worked closely with first responders, school officials and their school became a central organizing hub in communitywide efforts to find her. DeMott helped lead parents in providing food and other needs for first responders and those searching for the missing girl.

“DeMott recalled, “Everybody was terrified because of a murder in the neighborhood. I saw people starting to lock themselves behind their doors.”

Wanting to reassure his family and his neighbors of the positive qualities of the place in which he had grown up and chosen to raise a family, he met with local school, law enforcement and government officials in search of something positive to do in the aftermath. What began as a meeting to plan a community walk through the same neighborhood where the tragedy occurred manifested itself later into helping the city with the 2013 dedication of the Jessica Ridgeway Memorial Park in Westminster.

“I’m this guy in the meeting wearing a hoodie who had become a de facto leader for the parents of our community with this group that eventually helped build the park. My wife and I just started getting more and more involved. When we saw something in the paper that said, “Run for city council,” I wanted to go and check it out.”

A few discussions with fellow community members and a learning session with the city clerk on how to file for office led DeMott to his first run for Westminster City Council. The municipality's elections are structured where the top three candidates are elected, and in his initial run, DeMott finished fifth out of eight candidates.

Two years later, he ran again, finishing fourth. While some might become burned out from two such results, especially given his busy career as an information technology professional and responsibilities as a parent, DeMott kept at it.

“I truly believe that’s how our form of government was set up,” he said. “Anybody from any walk of life or background should be able to get their fellow citizens to vote for them and feel like they’re worth representing them.”

In November, his years of community involvement and dedication paid off when he was elected to the city council. DeMott attributed his family background and professional experience in the IT sector as good training for his role on the city's governing body. His father is a retired Denver police officer whose own service showed DeMott the importance of supporting community servants who in turn support the neighborhoods in which they work.

“One of my biggest campaign issues and what I’ve run on is public safety,” he said. “Police department funding, fire department funding, sewer and water isn’t super exciting stuff, but it’s important stuff that touches peoples’ lives every day.”

Serving on a city government in one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the U.S. isn’t an easy task. In a town with a rising population, increasing real estate prices and a new downtown development, DeMott wants to keep the city government focused on providing those core services.

His career as an IT professional has also paid dividends in his council role, having spent decades dealing with customers who are frustrated with technology issues. Rarely do IT professionals or city counselors receive thanks when the systems or programs they oversee work correctly. Yet when the internet goes down at the office or a water main breaks, they’re certain to hear about it, occasionally in raised tones.

“I’m used to people who are not necessarily mad at me, but mad, and I’m taking the brunt of it,” DeMott said. “But I’ve been successful in my IT career by being good with people and being able to separate myself and realize while I’m dealing with an angry person, figuring out why they may be angry.”

Just into his first term, DeMott has high hopes for the next four years. To learn more about his work as Westminster city counselor, visit daviddemott.com.
Connecting continents

Tribal scholarships also deliver inspiration, Native American history to international student Kristina Morris

Kristina Morris is going places. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation member received Tribal and academic scholarships while earning her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and international affairs at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Inspired by the support of the CPN scholarship, she connected with her heritage and Native American background. She became co-president of the American Indian Student Union on campus and helped promote Native American Heritage Month.

From there, her passion took flight. Soon, it also took her to another continent. “I spoke to my grandfather more, and I began to put this awareness and research into practice at college,” she said. “I realized how much I enjoyed learning about cultures, planning events, organization and community service.”

Morris also spent two semesters studying in Valencia, Spain, as part of FSU’s international program. While abroad, the blonde-haired, blue-eyed Citizen Potawatomi sometimes received surprised reactions from people when discussing her heritage and Native American history.

“When they look at me, I can teach them there’s more than one look,” she said. “I can say, ‘Yes, here is the reality. Yes, here is the history. Yes, we’re still around.’”

‘They were intrigued’

After graduating in 2013, she worked in Yellowstone National Park for several months, saved her money and bought a camera. She connected with her loves of nature, wildlife and photography, “but I knew I wanted to live abroad longer than three months,” she admitted. “In the end, I was gone three years.”

From 2014 to 2016, she taught English to high schoolers in the village of Chinchón, located in La Comunidad de Madrid (the Community of Madrid), Spain.

“To be honest, knowledge of Native American culture abroad is very limited to what people see in movies, especially with teenagers,” she said. “Stereotypes are even further amplified abroad.”

“I mainly tried to educate my students and my Spanish peers about the history of Native Americans in the U.S. and how they are treated today. It was eye-opening for many.”

From there, she started Universidad CEU San Pablo in Madrid, where she earned her master’s degree in international relations with the help of another Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal scholarship.

“I love learning about new cultures, improving cross-cultural communication and understanding global politics and foreign policy. … I would not have been able to achieve the degree had I not had this (support),” she said. “The scholarship gave me stability while abroad, and for that I am thankful.”

The master’s program was bilingual, meaning half the classes were in Spanish and half in English.

“It was drastically different, (and) that’s where things really changed for me,” Morris added. “I felt more of a need to become involved. … I’m interested in how countries interact with one another and how we can improve diplomacy around the world.”

In her free time, she hiked and traveled, capturing her experiences with her new camera. She also met local resident Guillermo Escudero. They developed a close friendship and were soon dating.

“Europeans are definitely varied and can be mixed cultures, just like in the USA, but by contrast I saw many Spanish families talk of a very Spanish, always from Spain background without much detail into roots,” she said. “At least in the case of my fiancé’s family, they were intrigued at how much of a mixture my American background really is, with a Native American component on my grandfather’s side.”

‘The time is always now’

During a late-December holiday visit to Valencia, Spain, Escudero proposed. She said yes. Considering the intercontinental logistics of their relationship, they have not yet set a wedding date, but Morris said things always have a way of working out.

She reminds herself of that fact, and her own advice to tribal youth, as she considers her future.

“I’m a person who can be anywhere, maybe even in a bigger U.S. city, maybe somewhere else entirely,” Morris said. “If I’m not in government work, then I’d be in a university setting, working with international students or a student-abroad program, or advocating for minority groups.

“I’ll be working to help other people — helping better other people’s lives, face-to-face,” she added. “I just really love talking to people.”

See more of Morris’ photography on Instagram: @kristinajmorris.
Citizen Potawatomi Nation became a destination for baseball and softball after opening Firelake Ball Fields in March 2012, and the 2018 ball season kicked off last month. Watching the demand foraccommodations increase in the surrounding area, BDC Gun Room owner Jack Barrett opened the Batting Cages at BDC late last year.

He felt it was a natural addition to his business after speaking with patrons of the ball fields over the summer.

“I heard from a lot of those folks and from people that I know that are involved in some of the clubs that there weren’t a lot of places to do batting practice, whether they be indoor or outdoor, period,” Barrett said.

The Batting Cages at BDC are open to the public and available for rent per half-hour. Teams and individuals can also purchase blocks of time at a discount volume rate. BDC requires customers to bring helmets and bats.

There are three cages: baseball, softball and coach pitching. Pitching tees and balls are included with facility rental as are arm-style and softball wheel pitching machines.

The practice zone occupies the same area as BDC Gun Room’s archery area as BDC Gun Room’s archery

range. Barrett researched options and designed collapsible equipment to accommodate customer requests for both activities.

“That space there where our archery has always been flex space. We’ve used it for a banquet. We’ve used it for different firearms training,” he said. “I didn’t have to give up archery to accommodate the batting cages.”

Each batting area is approximately 55 feet long. He constructed the layout using surplus materials and heavy-duty nylon netting made for batting cages. Braided cables running the width of the room suspend them, and carabiners attach everything. The components’ flexibility makes the space safe and mobile.

“It’s just an extension of my efforts to provide activities and enjoyment for families,” he said. “We’re always looking to improve and are always willing to take advice and suggestions on improving the facility and service.”

The Batting Cages at BDC might rent equipment in the future, but for now, Barrett enjoys the increased use while he markets its first season.

“I just figured that there was a need, and hopefully, that we would fill a need and get some good traffic,” he said.

Rentals are available by calling BDC Gun Room and through Facebook at The Batting Cages at BDC. For more information, visit battingcagesatbdc.com.

### Language update

Submitted by Justin Neely, CPN Language Department director

Bozho jayek (Hello everyone). By the time this paper goes out, our youth in the child development center will have competed in the annual Oklahoma University Language Fair. This year, the kids are learning a hand drum song, “Manwe gda mishkamnon.” (All together we are strong.) I feel confident that they will do well and hopefully add to their trophies, displayed at the Child Development Center.

We also just wrapped up another successful Winter Storytelling event. Due to inclement weather we had to change the date to March 7. We streamed the event live on Facebook, so hopefully, many folks who live outside of the immediate area were able to participate.

The language department applied for and received an Endangered Language Fund Grant from Yale University. With this grant we will develop a children’s series geared toward 1-4 year-old kids. Current plans are for a 15 part series, so look for that in the near future. We are continuing to offer the Potawatomi language in the Wànette School District and are looking for other districts that would like partner to offer Potawatomi the following school year. Our course is online and designed in a way that students should be able to do the material at their own pace.

We are also working on doing a series of traditional stories in Potawatomi and English. We are planning on using a variety of mediums. We want to use puppets, real life people and green screen capabilities to make the stories fun.

Another project we are working on is a talking dictionary. As many of you might know, we have a dictionary with about 5,500 words in it. The only problems are, it doesn’t like Mac computers and has a limited number of sound files. We intend to make the new talking dictionary include hundreds, if not thousands, of sound files, so we hope folks will enjoy it.

A number of folks also continue to enroll in our online Beginner I, Beginner II and Intermediate courses at language.potawatomi.org. Each has 20 chapters with quizzes, crossword puzzles, videos, movie spoofs and other tools for learning, if you haven’t tried it out, I highly encourage you to do so.

Another tool we developed which is gaining in popularity is a course on Memrise. If you download the Memrise language learning app and then look for Potawatomi phrases, you will find a 10-level course. It has a leader board where you can compete with others taking the course. It also includes countless audio files with clips from a number of different speakers so you can hear a variety of people.

We also have our children’s course at potawatomi.org/resources. You will see a town. Click on the images to enter different rooms and then click in the rooms to activate songs, learning videos, cultural teachings, stories and movie spoofs. To make this even more readily available, we have also put these videos on YouTube. Search for Potawatomi kids language and you should find them there.

Also, we are planning on starting a new 10-week beginner class the first part of April, so pay attention and email us at tmelee@potawatomi.org for more info. We will also plan on streaming live in the Potawatomi Language Facebook group.

This summer, we are considering doing a once-a-month drumming session for those interested. If you do have any interest, let us know.

Get the Hownikan via email!

If you would like your newspaper via email, please send your name and address to hownikan@potawatomi.org and let us know.

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**BATTING CAGES AT BDC GUN ROOM**

**Monday-Thursday**
10 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Friday-Saturday**
10 a.m.-9 p.m.

**Sunday**
noon-6 p.m.

Inside BDC Gun Room
40962 Hardesty Road
Shawnee, Oklahoma
405-395-0252

battingcagesatbdc.com

**Pricing**
$20: one round (30 minutes)
$30: six rounds
$192: 12 rounds

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**SPRING**

**WORDS AND PHRASES**

Mnokote: spring
(mih noke may)

Waskonedo: flower
(washi noh doh)

Waskonedoyen: flowers
(was cone noh doh yin)

Gmowen: It’s raining
(guh moh win)

Jigweyak: it’s thundering
(geeg wek yah)

Niskadet: It’s storming
(hes kahh debt)

Mno gishget: It’s a nice day
(mine gesh get)

Noden: It’s windy (no din)

Boget: He/she farted
(box git)

Awsebii: He/she has a puddle
(ovshubbee)

Pabmadzewen: trip/vacation
(pahbma dzuwuhn)

Bakji: He/she plays
baseball (badje jay)

Gwedomojee: He/she goes
fishing (gwew duh mo gay)

Gigo: fish (singular)
(gee goo)
Hints on preparing regalia for Family Reunion Festival

In 1861, approximately 1,400 Potawatomi became U.S. citizens and acquired allotments from the federal government. Every year, Citizen Potawatomi Nation recognizes and celebrates families of those founding members during Family Reunion Festival near Shawnee, Oklahoma. This year’s June 29-July 1 event honors the Anderson, Beaubien, Bertrand, Bourbonsnais, Ogée, Pettifer, Toupin, Wano and Yott families.

The event originated as a powwow open to all tribes. However, as non-CPN attendance grew, Tribal membership involvement declined.

“We stopped being open and said, you know, ‘We’re doing this for the people, and we’re the people,’ so we closed it and made it a reservation,” explained Margaret Zientek, CPN member and longtime employee of the Tribe.

Zientek recommends arriving early to avoid missing any of the fun and cultural activities, such as hand games and traditional Potawatomi craft classes.

“We try to really weave in the Cultural Heritage Center, the Eagle Aviary, and all of the fun things that are here too, whether that’s the bowling or the mini-putt,” she said.

On Saturday of Festival, honored families take group pictures before General Council. In the past, many honored families used Facebook groups to help coordinate ahead of time. Some create T-shirts to identify each other more easily.

Because of the thousands of people who come each year, Zientek advised finding lodging ahead of time. There are many hotels and motels in the Shawnee area as well as primitive and RV camping at Festival grounds. However, once booking opens, RV spots sell out quickly. Primitive camping is first come, first served, with a limited number of spots equipped with picnic tables and fire pits.

Ready for the powwow

Zientek, a CPN member from the Ogée family, has participated in many traditional dancing competitions and continues to do so. She began making regalia for her daughter, Tesia Zientek, more than a decade ago and has since created regalia for the Potawatomi Leadership Program, honored families and CPN members from across the United States. In fact, Tesia Zientek owns many of the regalia pieces available at the Citizen Potawatomi Gift Shop.

Growing a regalia collection takes time, and with only a few months to go before this year’s Festival, she encourages those planning to attend to begin making arrangements for their regalia now.

The Cultural Heritage Center frequently hosts Potawatomi regalia-making courses that walk participants step-by-step through the process. For those unable to make it, Zientek shared regalia basics with the Hownikan.

History and traditions

After the French revolution, silk ribbon went out of style in Europe. To find a market for the unwanted ribbon, the French began using ribbon to trade with Native Americans. By the beginning of the 19th century, Native people used ribbon and applique techniques to create vibrant patterns.

Today, those same vibrant patterns and techniques are at the center of Potawatomi regalia.

Traditional men’s regalia includes wearing a ribbon shirt, pants and moccasins. Women wear a shawl, blouse, skirt and moccasins.

Sewing it up

When deciding what colors of ribbon and fabric to use, people sometimes base them upon family colors or birth order, but ultimately, she said it is each person’s decision on what works best for them.

To get started creating traditional, women’s Southern-cloth regalia, Zientek generally uses two yards of gabardine and two-and-a-half yards of fringe for the shawl, at least two yards of single-cloth patchwork, adhesive such as Wonder-Under and additional colors of satin for the applique.

She recommends using ribbon that is 5/8-inch to 1/2-inch wide and limiting ribbon colors to four. She explained narrow ribbon is much more difficult to sew with wider ribbon.

For creating men’s ribbon shirts, Zientek often uses an existing shirt that fits the individual to help create a pattern. She also encourages men to wear pants made of lightweight material that breathes better than blue jeans in the Oklahoma heat.

Citizen Potawatomi Gift Shop carries many supplies needed to make regalia. Zientek also recommended a variety of online vendors like onlinefabricstore.net and crazycrow.com. For directions on recreating Potawatomi, single-cloth pucker-toe moccasins, visit cpn.news/puckertoe. For step-by-step directions for creating a fan, visit cpn.news/fan.

If regalia isn’t on-hand, it is fairly easy to find appropriate clothing to wear. For women, that means a long skirt, closed-toe shoes, and a matching top. For men, slacks, closed-toe shoes and a shirt are acceptable.

Inappropriate attire includes flip-flops and shorts. Pets are also prohibited.

The arena is sacred, and because of this, it is important to show respect by wearing modest clothing.

CPN requires all attendees to register in person by Saturday afternoon of festival to gain access to the events and participate in activities.

Sowing synergy continued...

many of our plant and animal species that have been lost through development and through, again, the process of colonization.

Hownikan: In that vein, what is something you hope grows out of Kay’a’s project?

Kimmerer: I imagine the Tribe owning a large piece of land dedicated to restoration of plant knowledge.

Wouldn’t that be awesome? It could be a park or an educational piece of land. People could go and learn about our traditional use of something and all these things we’ve been talking about: What are the teachings that the plants offer us and how do we be better students to meet that?

The next step is to do this restoration work on the land and make a place where people can go back again, learn the plants and refresh and remember our relationship to them. It’s a way to care for the people and it’s a way to care for the plants. Because all of this knowledge is not ours — the knowledge of our ancestors is knowledge of the land itself. Our task is to protect, honor and respect that knowledge.

Hownikan: How has the study of botany changed since you were in school?

Kimmerer: We’ve gone from invisibility when I began to an embrace of traditional knowledge as a really important partner to science and in caring for Mother Earth. It was invisible, less than invisible if there is such a thing. Today, to say that we have the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment; that we have a whole curriculum that incorporates indigenous ways of knowing as a partner to science; and that we can have a graduate program where wonderful, brilliant young Native students can come to study environmental science and bring their traditional values and knowledge into that endeavor.

I would say that’s one of the things I would say I’m proud of and it’s embodied in Kay’a, in this next generation. That we have a place where a Potawatomi professor and a Potawatomi student can come together and use our own traditional teachings to care for plants.

That’s a dream come true for me.

Hownikan: What’s next? Is another book in the works?

Kimmerer: I am. I’m on Sabbatical next year, so hopefully, I’ll be able to have that whole time to finish it and bring it into reality.

I’m also super interested in — actually it’s an issue that is really prominent in Oklahoma. This idea of plants — and this new book will hopefully develop this idea further — is that in our traditional understanding of plants as our relatives, as our elders, as our teachers. …

The notion that that land has a right to be.
In the year’s only contested legislative session, District 7 incumbent Mark Johnson is running for a third term in office against challenger Browning Neddeau.

Johnson first successfully ran in 2010 before winning re-election in 2014. Responding to inquiries as a representative for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation members over two legislative terms echoes his experience as a first responder in California.

He has more than 38 years of service as a California firefighter and serves as the Unit Chief for the Fresno-Kings Unit of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. In this day-to-day job, Johnson manages the operations of more than 20 firehouses and their staff from his headquarters in Fresno County.

The Vieux family descendent describes his service as a Tribal legislator and a first responder as challenging responsibilities and ones he remains up to. His desire to seek another term as the representative for northern portions of California, Nevada and Utah inspired by his father's efforts to remain close to Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

His father, Richard Vincent Johnson, was born in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. His father's efforts to remain close to his father's state of birth, seeing firsthand the obstacles the Tribal government faced. In the days before legalized Tribal gaming, enterprises, money, facilities and a stable budget were all challenges. This familiarity with the Tribe's trials and subsequent successes has filtered into Johnson's views as a legislator.

With the growth of the Nation, Johnson also recognized a greater desire for members to learn more about the Tribe's history but also their unique family trees. Accompanying the requests for information about services, the incumbent said he’s seen a greater desire from his constituents to learn about Citizen Potawatomi's past.

"The Tribe is constantly evolving, people wanting to learn about the history of our people. We had very little as a result of our past. You get moved across states every decade or so, you lose a lot of your history," Johnson said. "What we're doing now is to try and get that history back for the coming generations. That's been one of the more rewarding aspects of being in the legislature, being able to help move that forward."

Johnson cites his own experiences as examples when he helps connect Citizen Potawatomi with resources at CPNI's Cultural Heritage Center and the Tribal Rolls Department. His grandfather's trunk from the Carlisle Indian School, given to him the day he enrolled, sits on display at the center, symbolizing a significant experience for many Indian Country families.

Governing lessons

As the Tribe has swelled with newly enrolled members in recent years, requests for more information on Tribal benefits, heritage and services have also grown exponentially. Finding answers for those ever-growing requests proved to be Johnson's biggest challenge in his time as District 7 legislative representative.

"The most frustrating part for the average (Tribal citizen) to understand is the service areas," he said. "The people out here want the same benefits that the people in Oklahoma have, but it just can't be done because of the service areas like those for the health clinics."

The two-term incumbent said that, unlike his counterparts in the Tribe's home state, he sees his role as a sounding board for his constituents concerns first, then as a resource to help them find a solution to their needs.

"It's about being able to point them in the right direction, so they can maximize the benefits they can get with the system that is in place," Johnson said.

When asked to reflect on his time in office and how he views the role of Tribal government and its legislators, Johnson said efforts should be made to avoid a return to more challenging times.

"Serving as a Tribal legislator, it is incumbent upon us to make the correct decisions for the long-term survival of the Tribe. It's really no different from any other government, but ours actually works," he said, then laughed. "I am proud of that, even if we don't agree on everything all the time."

Johnson emphasized the need for legislators to balance their life experience with the Tribe's history and contemporary structures to help guide it for future generations and a growing population.

Wanting to be that conduit is why he is running for a third term.

"Our biggest challenge in the near future is going to be the sovereignty issue," he said. "When you get a group of people that is traditionally ostracized but has become successful, you become a target for groups like the state of Oklahoma. Protecting that will always be a challenge facing Tribal government."

RE-ELECT MARK JOHNSON FOR DISTRICT 7 LEGISLATOR

It has been my honor to serve as the District 7 Legislator since 2010. I am proud of my voting record and the work I’ve done on behalf of our members. I am asking for your continued trust and your vote in the upcoming election. Standing together, we are strong. Our Nation now has more than 33,000 members and through hard work, we have maintained a strong financial position and protected the benefits that so many of our members depend on. I hope to continue this work on behalf of the members I represent in District 7.

I can only do so with the votes of the members in District 7. Please exercise your right to vote!

HONOR - INTEGRITY - COOPERATION

Paid for by Mark Johnson

JUNE 29 - JULY 1 2018 FAMILY REUNION HONORED FAMILIES

ANDERSON | BEAUBIN | BERTRAND | BOURBONNAIS | OGGEE | PETTIFER | TOUPIN | WAND | YOTT
Neddeau follows the family path to District 7 candidacy

In the year’s only contested legislative session, Browning Neddeau challenges incumbent Mark Johnson for the District 7 seat.

The youngest of seven children, Neddeau grew up in Hollister, California, but now lives in nearby Marina. Following high school, he completed a bachelor’s degree in child and adolescent development with a minor in political science at San Jose State University.

Neddeau said he has always been interested in political science, inspired by his late uncle Browning Pipestem, a well-regarded Native American attorney and legal mind in Indian Country and his namesake.

Long dedicated to teaching music education, out of college, Neddeau transitioned to begin teaching music in his home state. He completed a master’s degree in teaching at the University of San Francisco while securing a multiple-subject teaching credential. Staying as an elementary school educator and teaching college classes at night, he then earned a doctorate in education at the same university.

“I believe that really helped me in my profession in understanding things in the education space. I grew as a professional, because at that time, I was being asked to lead other educators in professional development as well,” he recalled.

Neddeau’s education and studies focused on examining how arts education can influence students in their developing years; his doctoral project examined approximately 10,000 data points in an effort to deepen empirical information in the role the arts could play in the cognitive evolution of students.

“In arts research, there isn’t a lot of quantitative research,” he said. “I wanted to contribute to the development of that space.”

Potawatomi ties

Neddeau’s father is originally from Shawnee, Oklahoma, and instilled the ties to his Tribe in his youngest child. He often spent summers back in Oklahoma with his grandparents, who lived off Potunger in Shawnee. These experiences allowed him to learn about the history and practices tied to his Native American heritage.

Inspired and taught in part by his uncle Pipestem, he began Southern Straight Dancing at age 5 and remembers participating in the Citizen Band Potawatomi Intertribal Powwow before it became the CPN Family Reunion Festival.

“I have been doing that for a long time, attending powwows and dancing, for a good number of years,” he said. “We would often go back to Oklahoma and participate in the Tribal meetings, gatherings and powwows.”

Neddeau credits those trips with helping along the path that has him running as a representative in Tribal government. He’s been voting in Tribal elections since age 18 and fondly recalls the opportunity to cast a ballot in the Tribe’s 2007 constitutional change.

“I’ve always been interested in political science, and being more involved in the Tribal government is something that has also been of interest to me,” he said.

Neddeau’s platform places an emphasis on better connecting Tribal members spread across widely distributed geographic areas.

“One of the things that I am doing as part of my campaign, which I also do in my daily work, is community engagement and community involvement,” he said. “That goes back to many generations of my family who felt equally involved in community and Native Pride work.”

Neddeau sees his run for office as an extension of a family habit of fostering Native American heritage. In the months ahead of the election, he is holding listening sessions across the district to meet with Tribal voters to hear their concerns and issues.

Neddeau believes it should be.

When questioned on the challenge facing many non-Oklahoma-based Tribal legislators, extending services and opportunities available on CPN land to those outside the state, Neddeau said the listening sessions were just the start. The feedback he would receive from them will help shape his approaches to legislation, should he be elected.

The sessions will also attempt to foster closer ties with Native American communities and partners in the locales where they are held.

“Potawatomi guests from other tribes or with ties to issues in Indian Country have been invited to attend to inform CPN members about Native issues in their own backyards. ‘What can we do (as legislators) in our districts to build a sense of community and belonging?’ he asked. ‘In District 7, I hope that is something I’ll have an opportunity to do.”
Citizen Potawatomi Nation celebrates Health Week

Submitted by Kasi Roselius, M.D., M.P.H.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services (CPNHS) Public Health would like to use this opportunity to promote health and wellness for our patient population and nationwide. Below is a list of topics and critical components to overall well-being we’re focusing on during National Public Health Week, which runs April 2-8. You can also learn more about National Public Health Week at nphw.org.

Monday, April 2: Behavioral health

Mental well-being is of utmost importance when discussing whole-body health and wellness. Often, patients show physical symptoms that are secondary to stress and anxiety. Daily life struggles can impede on an individual’s ability to manage personal health.

Citizen Potawatomi Nations’ Public Health department focuses on treating diagnoses such as depression, anxiety and substance abuse, among others. It offers an array of services through its Behavioral Health Services (BHS) department.

Glenna Stumblingbear-Riddle, BHS director, and her team of colleagues provide exceptional care to Tribal members and employees. Counseling services, tobacco cessation programs and opioid addiction and overdose education are a few options available CPN Behavioral Health Services provides.

Patients also have access to outside resources and are provided with tools to help manage and cope in a variety of situations.

BHS benefits from many grant opportunities that assist the community and CPN tribal members.

Tuesday, April 3: Communicable diseases

Basic hand hygiene effectively reduces infections spread among a population if adhered to on a routine basis. Simply using soap and water to clean soiled hands can prevent the spread of germs and disease. Hand sanitizer can be an alternative if hands are not visibly dirty.

This season, influenza cases have dramatically increased compared to previous years, and the simple measure of hand sanitization can help prevent the spread of disease.

Public Health also promotes annual flu immunizations to decrease the number of influenza cases. Routine vaccines for childhood (measles, mumps, rubella) are also encouraged to protect infants and young children from preventable harmful diseases.

CPNHS health care providers and Public Health nurses assist with routine vaccinations and help ensure patients are up-to-date on their shots. CPNHS also offers HIV and hepatitis C screenings for patients.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone age 13-64 be screened for HIV at least once in their lifetime, more frequently for those with higher risk factors. The CDC also recommends hepatitis C screenings for baby boomers, or people born between 1945 and 1965.

Talk to your local provider or our Public Health departments for more information: CPN East Clinic, 405-878-4693, or CPN West Clinic, 405-964-5770.

Wednesday, April 4: Environmental health

CPN is a committed, active Blue Zones Project partner. Many efforts have been put forth into making our community an environmentally friendly and accessible atmosphere.

The community-based Blue Zones Project’s goal is to improve community’s well-being by introducing Power 9 principles into everyday lives: belong, family first, right tribe, purpose, down shift, move everyday lives: belong, family first, right tribe, purpose, down shift, move naturally, wine live, plant slant and 80 percent rule.

FireLake Discount Foods is the first grocery store in Pottawatomie County that is Blue Zones Project approved. FDF has at least one checkout lane offering healthy snack options, making the healthy choice the easy choice. CPN is also working to get a number of our worksites Blue Zones certified.

Public Health Week promotes individual efforts to improve environmental health such as walking, biking and using public transit.

Learn more at pottawatomie.bluezonesproject.com.

Thursday, April 5: Injury and violence prevention

Domestic violence prevention is at the forefront of the efforts for CPN’s House of Hope. It is the belief of this organization that no person should feel broken, threatened, scarred, intimidated, manipulated or isolated in a relationship.

House of Hope offers free, safe and confidential support, including emergency shelter, emotional support, court advocacy, victim advocacy and community education. For more information, please visit cpnhouseofhope.com.

CPNHS pharmacy now carries naloxone — the potentially life-saving antidote to opioid overdose. Proper administration of this intranasal spray could reverse the effects of an unintentional opioid overdose.

CPNHS Public Health nurses provide education and instructions on how and when to administer naloxone. If you or a family member want more information about naloxone, available at both CPNHS East and West pharmacies, please contact CPN East Clinic, 405-878-4693, or CPN West Clinic, 405-964-5770.

Friday, April 6: Ensuring the right to health

To promote an environment of health and well-being, CPNHS Public Health offers free blood pressure readings and an assortment of giveaways 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 6 at FireLake Discount Foods, 1570 S. Gordon Cooper Drive in Shawnee.
As upgrades to Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s police and emergency dispatch system expand, so do benefits to more than 40,000 Pottawatomie County residents and nearly a dozen fire and police agencies, with plans for continued growth.

May 19, 2013, a catastrophic long-track EF-4 tornado swept through Lake Thunderbird, Bethel Acres and Shawnee, Oklahoma.

“It hit Bethel Acres very hard,” Brian Scott, Citizen Potawatomi Nation law enforcement grant administrator, said of the twister. “We quickly realized the communications system for Pottawatomie County was insufficient for our needs. When we had a major disaster scenario, it became oversaturated and was incapable of supporting all of the needs of the agencies that relied upon it.”

Jody Opela is the Major of patrol and oversees CPNPD’s 911 center. He, Scott and others established a new, countywide radio dispatch service called OMACS, or Oklahoma Multi-Agency Communications System.

“We built the tower and moved all of Pottawatomie County off of Shawnee’s provider,” which is Oklahoma Wireless Information Network (OKWIN), Opela said.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation is a leading partner in the OMACS initiative, which is a collaboration between Oklahoma City’s Stolz Telecom, Tribal Nation first responders, and county and local government agencies, including fire and police departments.

Scott said that, during the 2013 storm and its immediate aftermath, “I had 18 officers on duty — I had more officers on duty than the Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Office, Absentee Shawnee police, Kickapoo tribal police, Sac and Fox police — all of those agencies combined.

“I couldn’t talk with any of them, he said. “Anytime I keyed up, we got a busy signal.” OMACS changes that.

“In our system, the whole thing is a priority,” Opela said of the Tribe-developed East Central Oklahoma Emergency Communications Network (ECOECN), part of OMACS. Previously, “it was a loading issue. When the tornadoes hit, OKWIN partners could talk but not other users.”

Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Office, which is Oklahoma Wireless Information Network (OKWIN), Opela said.

As part of phase one, Pottawatomie County transferred its 911 system to the Tribe. This meant designing a new radio system for the county, which was funded by the Department of Homeland Security through a FEMA HSGP (Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program) grant, Scott said.

“For that with funded, we established a radio network backbone — the server system and a repeater co-located on a cellphone tower south of Tecumseh,” Scott said.

Phase one is complete. Dispatch upgrades cost around $250,000 and the tower backbone around $700,000, Opela said.

“Every one of these calls rolls through our 911 center,” he said. “That’s all calls — your cat’s up a tree, everything … with the ability to reach about 100 first responders in these communities.

The Tribe upgraded to open-source technology instead of proprietary, which also lowers equipment, maintenance and other costs. Also, a clear-cut local agency is responsible for maintenance, upgrades, upkeep and cost increases for each tower location.

OMACS, with the Nation’s ECOECN, now serves tribal law enforcement dispatch for the Nation, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma and Sac and Fox Nation.

It also provides fire and law enforcement dispatch for Asher, Earlboro, Maud and Tecumseh, and fire department dispatch for Bethel Acres, Brooksville, Macomb, Pink, Tribbony and Wanette.

“The agencies were paying dispatch fees, but now CPN dispatches for those communities for free,” Scott said, which covers Tecumseh agencies around $70,000 and Pottawatomie County nearly $80,000 annually.

“Like in a house — if you have 18 things plugged into an outlet, you’re going to blow a breaker. Our system is like installing another circuit in there that allows you to distribute the load,” during emergencies, he said.

“That’s what is critically important to allowing us to do this.”

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Phase two includes an eight-channel repeater and finishes phase two of CPN’s dispatch upgrade.

“We’ll put the last and final tower somewhere between Wanette and Asher,” to complete phase three, Opela said.

In what Opela called “phase 3.5,” the Tribe will install mobile repeaters in a giant emergency communications truck donated by FEMA. Altogether, these projects will cost a little more than $1.5 million, paid for with federal grants and by the Tribe.

“That was the truck that actually responded to the Murrah Building bombing,” he said, referencing the 1995 domestic terrorism attack in Oklahoma City. “If you watch footage, this is the big truck with all the communications that was at the Murrah building.

“We’re going to bring it back up to full operations. That way, if we have outages in areas, we can roll the truck out there, stand the mast up, turn the repeaters on and light it up again.”

Opela added, “Now, instead of one system with multiple partners and affiliates in it, each agency has its own equipment and collaborates. We’re working to make sure we’re prepared for the next major emergency.”
CPN’s Cultural Heritage Center keeps oral traditions alive

For thousands of years, generations of Potawatomi preserved history and culture through spoken language and the art of oral traditions. Stories and interactive videos in the second exhibit at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center highlight narratives that record Potawatomi beliefs, culture, history and early way of life.

“This is our Origins Gallery, because these stories tell the physical and cultural beginnings of Potawatomi and Nisnabek people,” said Blake Norton, CPN Cultural Heritage Center curator. “We have eight stories on display, but there are many more. The stories are traditionally told chronologically, so we chose the oldest stories. We were limited to eight due to space, visitor time spent at each display and an understanding that would be easily comprehensible for visitors with varied knowledge and backgrounds.

“In Potawatomi and Nisnabek culture, these stories describe the Genealogy of the world and people. The same is true of those with Judean and Christian backgrounds and the Old Testament,” he said.

The exhibit guides visitors through the creation story and oral traditions, explaining the world’s initial population, its destruction by the Creator in the great flood, the formation of land, the origin of sacred ceremony, medicines, the clan system for social structure and the significance of the eagle.

Modern spin

All Potawatomi and Nisnabek peoples come from Nisnabek, Original Man, and share similar oral traditions and parables. However, each group developed their unique versions over time.

“Communities interpret stories, based upon the mutual parts of their people. Each Potawatomi nation knows and tells these ancient stories, but in their own unique way,” Norton explained. “We have done the same, but in small doses. We worked hard to stay true to the ancient tellings.”

The CHC begins with a wide focus, providing a view into what it is to be Nisnabek and Potawatomi into a narrower focus on what it means to be Citizen Potawatomi.

Potawatomi words

Mnomen (wild rice)
Nanabozho (Creator)
Nisnabek (original man)
Wabshkya (yellow)
Wacob (tobacco)
Wabenok (east)
Wabik (cedar)
Wishtenibshk (sweetgrass)
Wadhby (white)
Wabeshkeb (sage)
Wabeshkebey (sage)
Wabh (knockers)

Oral traditions are at the heart of the Potawatomi. In fact, every winter, while seeking refuge from the bitter cold, the people leaned on elders for traditional tales and lessons.

“To just sit and listen to your grandparents tell stories is pretty foreign these days,” he said. “That’s not just from a Native perspective — it’s everyone. With everything accessible online, who wants to just talk? Unfortunately, traditions have become cold and distant with social media. This widens the generational gap even more between elders and their younger family members.”

Departments across CPN worked together to create the section’s eight video interactives, bringing this ancient pastime into the 21st century.

“Working on origins was one of the happiest projects of my life because it changed my life for the better,” said CPN AV Production Manager Shawn Barfield. “My favorite form of research is origin stories, so the whole project feels serendipitous to me.”

CPN contracted with Barfield to help create eight animated short films within section two. Shortly after, he became a full-time employee for the Tribe.

“It was challenging to decide the images for stories that have no visual references and are dating far back into the past,” Barfield said. “The biggest challenge for me was reducing the art to the most minimal state while still telling the story.”

Filmmaker Ridley Scott’s work helped inspire Barfield’s design for this visual storytelling project. Barfield utilized shapes, strong colors and special lighting techniques to create atmosphere and layers.

“The Potawatomi flood story says that in the beginning, the various factions of mankind lived in harmony. In time, however, mankind descended into faction-to-faction confrontation or partisanship. Mankind descends into an irrational violent nature or partisanship. Mankind descends into an irrational violent nature between factions,” he said. “This theme is consistent in many flood myths around the world. “

Creator (mamagon) flooded the earth after violence and turmoil reached excessive levels. The hero, Nanabozho, and certain animals, survived the flood by floating on a log.

“Mankind seems to struggle with fear and large scale violent expressions,” he said. “I think this is why flood stories stay relevant throughout human history.”

Before this project, many of these Potawatomi origin stories could only be accessed from oral tradition, now all can hear and know these oral traditions, helping keep this important part of Potawatomi culture alive, he said.

Food that grows on water

In addition to oral traditions, section two provides a glimpse into traditional wild rice (mnomen) harvesting techniques, linking back to the museum’s first exhibit, the Seven Fires Prophecy. In the third fire, or third prophecy, the Potawatomi knew they reached the land promised to them when they found food growing on the water.

“The display exhibits cultural lifeways, but also the importance of wild rice as both food and medicine,” Norton said. “Mnomen is a healing food used in ceremony.”

Many Citizen Potawatomi do not recognize or have not seen wild rice due to forced removals and circumstances outside of their control. Some Potawatomi still living in the Great Lakes region and harvest wild rice using traditional methods during the Ricing Moon, between summer and fall.

To harvest mnomen, first, two people get into a canoe. One controls the push-pull (gadigken), a long stick with a forked bottom, to guide the canoe boat through water and rice beds. The other uses the knockers (bwe'gen) to bring bundles of the tall wild rice into the canoe and taps off grains into the bottom of the boat. This provides mnomen, but also acts to recede the rice beds. Harvesting true wild rice through modern, mechanized techniques permanently damages rice beds.

The pillar of wild rice displayed in the second exhibit, gathered in the traditional manner from naturally maintained rice beds, represents the amount required to feed a family of four for a year.

“There is great care and precaution taken to not damage anything, to do things right,” Norton said.

Since European contact with Potawatomi, this system of thinking, or the idea of honorable harvest, has persisted in our communities.

“Records indicate that many of the first non-Native settlers to the Great Lakes questioned why tribes who harvested wild rice were not more industrious,” Norton said. “Instead of five bushels, why not harvest twenty? More rice equals more money — That’s not the point.

“People harvested what they needed. Ricing Moon was not just for taking, but also giving back. The rice that didn’t make it into the boat fell into the water and reseeded beds for the next year,” he continued. “Medicines were placed in the water and ceremonies conducted before and during the Moon, thanking the Creator and asking for guidance. It was also a time to communicate, share and build relations with your kin and neighbors.”

The second CHC section serves as a platform for visitors to hear narratives and interpret oral traditions for themselves as well as help preserve important cultural teachings and ways for generations to come.

“Our Origins Gallery is about truly connecting with those in the past and present,” Norton said. “Everyone is Nisnabek — everyone is Potawatomi — everyone is family.”

The exhibit guides visitors through the creation story and oral traditions, explaining the world’s initial population, its destruction by the Creator in the great flood, the formation of land, the origin of sacred ceremony, medicines, the clan system for social structure and the significance of the eagle.
Tribal Chairman - John “Rocky” Barrett

Hello, my friend,

As we do our everyday jobs here at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, we often get so engrossed in Tribal business that we do not stay fully aware of those occasions when our other elected officials and Tribal citizens are going through difficult times, both personally and professionally. I especially regret that I was not able to follow the heroic work of our own Mark Johnson in his role in fighting the California wildfires of 2017 and the weight of his responsibility as a fire chief of the largest fire district in Northern California. The scale of the loss of property and disruption of lives in the area Mark serves was simply stunning.

The 2017 California wildfire season was the most destructive wildfire season on record, which saw multiple fires burning across the state, the Sacramento Bee reported in December. A total of 9,133 fires burned approximately 1,381,405 acres, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. This includes five of the 20 most destructive wildfire-urban interface fires in the state’s history.

Throughout the early months of 2017, there was heavy rainfall over most of California, which triggered widespread flooding, thus temporarily mitigating the state’s severe drought conditions.

According to a report published by the National Interagency Fire Center, the potential for large fires was expected to remain near normal through the spring, but they predicted that the fine fuels dried out there would likely be a spike in grass fire activity. In October, 250 wildfires ignited across Northern California, burning more than 245,000 acres and causing more than $9.4 billion in insured property losses, becoming the costliest group of wildfires on record. It will take at least several months, and likely years, to fully recover from the devastating wildfires that ripped through Northern California in October, which destroyed at least 8,900 structures and killed 44 people, according to Sonoma County officials. In addition, the Northern California fires hospitalized or injured at least 192 other people.

Representative Mark Johnson serves the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as Tribal Legislator for District 7 and does exemplary work. After 38 years of fire service, he has risen to the position of unit chief for the Fresno-Kings Unit of CAL-FIRE. He is also chief of the Fresno County Fire Protection District. This put him in the heart of this horrific fight to protect the people and property of the area he serves in Northern California, with responsibility to direct hundreds of firefighters and millions of dollars of emergency resources.

There are many Citizen Potawatomi who live or work in the area that Mark has the responsibility to protect. Please join me and all of the CPN Tribal government in congratulating him and thanking him in meeting this awesome responsibility while also fulfilling his job as a CPN Tribal Legislator at the same time.

I encourage all of you to vote in the district elections for the Tribal budget. This year is one of our Tribe’s most successful, only because of the experience and hard work our people put into their jobs.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Tribal Chairman these last 35 years.

Migwetch (Thank you).

John “Rocky” Barrett

Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett and CPN Judge Phil Lujan with Mark Johnson after the 2010 election.

Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

Hello, my friend,

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has a much-needed new program called Adult Protective Services (APS). The necessity for such services has significantly increased in the past couple of years. Janet Draper, Director of Indian Child Welfare (ICW), along with her competent staff has brought such needs to the attention of some of the main CPN directors who work with adults and elders. As the director of ICW, Ms. Draper has visited children and adults in more than a hundred homes across the CPN service area for many years. During the past couple of years, Ms. Draper’s staff members have observed that more and more adults are in need of various protective assistance.

Tribal members in need of protective assistance is of great concern for all CPN program directors and managers that deal with adults. A committee of CPN representatives from administration, elder assistance, housing, ICW and social services have begun to meet on a monthly basis to help identify adults who may be in need of intervention. A representative from the clinic will soon join the committee.

What is adult protective services? Adult Protective Services (APS) provides protection and assistance to vulnerable Tribal adults who are victims of an alleged incident of abuse, neglect or exploitation. If the Tribal adult is unable to make decisions concerning their health and welfare, the APS worker will seek out a family member to become their guardian. If a family member or friend of the family is not available to become a guardian, there may be a need for a Tribal representative or attorney to file for temporary guardianship. In this case, a permanent guardian will be appointed by the court as soon as possible.

There are many signs of adult abuse including: neglect, financial abuse, psychological abuse and physical abuse. Printed brochures are available through the Tribe, which contain information that is provided in this article. If you would like a brochure or if you would like to find out more about the APS program, please contact 405-878-4831 or fax 405-878-4639. There are trained individuals with certified credentials within the ICW program to assist with your concerns. If you suspect abuse, neglect or exploitation of a vulnerable Tribal adult, please call the number listed above to make a report. If you suspect criminal conduct, call your local law enforcement agency or dial 911.

I hope you appreciate this updated news, which I believe to be an extremely important endeavor for CPN. I cherish the opportunity to continue to be your Vice-Chairman.

Migwetch (Thank you).

Linda Capps

Legislators are not able to retrieve your contact information from Tribal Rolls

Please contact your legislator and update your contact details so that you can receive important information.
District 1 - Roy Slavin

The first thing I need to mention is our District 1 and 4 joint meeting May 5 at Ararat Shrine Temple Restaurant, 5100 Ararat Drive, Kansas City, Missouri. Howiwin editor Jennifer Bell is our guest speaker. This is a large meeting room with ample parking and excellent lunch facilities. Complementary lunch will be served.

I hope to see a lot of District 1 and 4 members there. As always, we will honor our wisest, youngest and farthest traveling members. The shrine is in near Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Chiefs and Royals, and accessible from all directions.

I have mentioned our CPN website, potawatomi.org, in previous articles, and it is important enough to mention again. It offers a wealth of information about our great Nation and its benefits and services. For instance, rising drug costs can be a major hurdle to affordable health care options for Americans. CPN tribal government leaders, health services and office of self-governance developed a program offering some assistance in the face of these rising costs. Rising drug costs impact elders on fixed incomes and retired or unable to work. This includes CPN members age 63 and older and members on Social Security Disability Insurance.

The Tribal Elders Mail Order Pharmacy Program alleviates some of these costly burdens. It pays for certain medications at cost to the patients and is available to beneficiaries residing in all 50 states, several foreign countries and U.S. protectors. In 2018, the program served 924 CPN patients and issued more than 20,000 prescriptions. The cost of these services totaled more than $913,000.

Take it from this old guy: It is a great benefit that will probably extend my life as I am getting medications I might not otherwise be able to afford.

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

Roy Slavin

District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

The Bazhaw family and our Nation lost a dear elder, Ralph Bazhaw/ Nishbounew (Two Hawks). Ralph was a fine person and much-loved husband, father, grandfather and colleague. He was a good friend to many, including me.

I will miss his prayers and storytelling during our fall feasts, his enthusiasm for sharing our language and culture and his willingness to serve as freethinker. In October’s issue, Howiwin readers learned about Ralph’s dedication to his Potawatomi heritage. You can download the digital issue and read more about him at rinvult/RBazhaw.

Please keep his family and friends, who feel this loss deeply, in your prayers and with Ralph, “Godspeed.”

October archives visit

The next visit to the archives of the National Museum of the American Indian, in Suitland, Maryland, is Oct. 5, 2018. As is the tradition now, I host a 12:30 p.m. lunch at Sweet Dee’s before the 1:30 p.m. tour. Sweet Dee’s is in the Resource Center Complex.

Tour space is limited, so please reserve your spot today by contacting me. There is no cost to participants, and you don’t have to be in District 2 to participate – our tour groups have included folks from all over the country.

Want a Pendleton blanket?

As I write this, I have just four entries for the latest District 2 contest. A winner of a lovely Pendleton blanket will be randomly chosen from the entries. To participate, send your favorite recipes for fall feasts. Please include a note with the recipe relating (1) where you got the recipe (including if it is original to you) and (2) the type of celebrations at which you serve the dish.

I will print several of the entries in upcoming columns and draw randomly from the prize blanket. I’ll also include the recipes I receive in a book that I’ll send out as a year-end gift.

The contest deadline is April 15, 2018. You can email, mail or Facebook message me your entries. Multiple entries are welcome, and everyone can enter and win, not just those of us in District 2.

Native nations eligible for Amber Alert funding

Both houses of Congress now have passed bills giving Native nations direct access to funds that will let them quickly post Amber (America’s Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response) Alerts to counties within reservation borders. The alerts immediately spread the word about missing children.

As Rep. Andy Biggs, the lead sponsor of the House version, said, this legislation fills “a massive hole in the system when the only areas in the country not protected by Amber Alert access are those in tribal lands. . . . By expanding already-available grants to include tribes, we are ensuring Indian Country communities have resources that better protect their children.”

Until now, tribal law enforcement agencies had to work through state and local police agencies to get an alert posted. The House and Senate bills, which are identical, will be sent to the White House for signature, and once signed into law, will allow CPN and other Nations to receive funds to improve technology, post our own alerts and do more to keep our children safe.

Please continue to share your thoughts with me and to contact me for any assistance you might need.

Biana mine

(until next time),

Eva Marie Carney

Ojindiskwe

(Blue Bird Woman)

Representative, District 2

(Blue Bird Woman)

Arlington, VA 22207

Toll-free: 866-961-6988
evamariecarney.org

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APRIL 2018

HOWNIKAN
In general, many of us may be unaware of the fact that bats are involved in some fashion in the creation of soap, toothpaste, cosmetics, coffee, margarine, chewing gum, candles, paper, ink, wood, fuel, rope, twine, rubber, spices, vegetables, fruits, chocolate, margaritas, air fresheners and even life-saving medicines.

For example, fruit bats contribute to more than 450 commercial products and 80 medicines through pollination and seed dispersal. More than 95 percent of rainforest regrowth comes from seeds spread by fruit bats. We are not only involved with bats unknowingly, but we are dependent upon them.

Unfortunately, when most of us hear the word bat, we think of the vampire variety. Out of 11,000 species, only three are vampires. They are small, about the size of a package of M&M’s. They do not attack humans or suck our blood. They prefer to get their tiny meals from other animals. Moreover, all three tend to reside in Latin America, leaving the remaining 1,097 species for other areas that benefit us.

Insect-eating bat species are the figurative vacuum cleaners of the night skies. They eat millions of harmful bugs. They protect us by eating insects that destroy crops and cause human disease. If you think about what we have done for the eagles with our own aviary near Shawnee, which takes in injured birds and nurtures them back to health, Bat World Sanctuary’s function is to help save bat populations. Established in 1994 in Weatherford, Texas, it has expanded to include more than 20 rescue centers nationwide.

We are fortunate that this organization exists, because the bat population, like the bee population, is declining worldwide, mostly due to myths and misconceptions. More than half of the bats in the U.S. are listed as rare, threatened or endangered. Bats are not flying mice; they are not remotely related to rodents. They are a unique animal that scientists have classified in the mammal order of Chiroptera, which means hand-wing. Contrary to popular belief, they are not blind. In fact, most see as well as humans and some see in color. The fruit bat’s eyesight is much like a cat’s, and they see well in very low light.

Many bats use echolocation, or reflected sound, to fly and catch insects at night. This biological sonar is thousands of times more efficient than any system built by humans. They have a built-in sonar system allowing them to navigate at breakneck speed through total darkness. If you have ever seen a murmuration, or tightly formed, swarm-like group of bats flying from a cave, biological sonar allows them to maneuver without touching or running into their peers flying above, behind, or beside them.

Bat World Sanctuary granted permission for my use of their literature, research and data in this month’s column. For those of you wanting more information on this diminutive and important mammal, please visit batworld.org or call 940-325-3404.

Bat World Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, volunteer-based organization. Its website offers educational material, videos, kid’s games, live bat cams, bat rescue and sponsorship information and memberships, which help buy food, medical supplies and maintain sanctuaries.

My next-door neighbor built a bat house on the south side of his detached garage. If you have the desire to get involved in a similar fashion, Bat World is a great place to find more information. Their email address is sanctuary@batworld.org. Bat World Sanctuary is not state or federally funded.

I hope you find this information to be a bit of cool stuff that reveals how vital this miniature powerhouse is and how we benefit from it. I am honored to serve you and proud to be your elected representative. For help or information relative to Tribal services or benefits where you think I may assist you, please contact me.

Bama ji (Later),
Bob Whistler
Bounsii (He Soars) Representative District 3 112 Bedford Road, Suite 116 Wichita, KS 76022 817-282-0868 office 817-545-1507 home rwistle@potawatomi.org epoLegislator@yahoo.com

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Bejo nikanek (Hello friends),
Bob Whistler
District 3 - Bob Whistler

We are winding down from bhou (winner), and with the naakome (spring) season comes new life, which reminded me of the little creatures that silently do their thing to bring us nutrients and other goods supporting our lives. We all see the hummingbirds, butterflies and bees moving about doing needed cross-pollination to bring life to a variety of areas.

But while we sleep, another group of pollinators represents almost 25 percent of the mammal population. There are more than 11,000 species of this group in the world. You’re probably wondering, “What animal is he talking about?” Well, roughly one in four animals on this earth is a babishi-bou (bat).

Justin Neely, Director of the Language Department at Citizen Potawatomi Nation, is on the agenda to speak about the family clans that existed within the Tribe decades ago. Justin is one of the Nation’s authorities on our family histories, early cultural traditions and, of course, the Potawatomi language.

I think we can all look forward to this opportunity to learn more about our individual family histories and the makeup of the Tribe’s early familial structure.

Following his presentation, a catered lunch will be served.

A presentation by Connor Bickford about his Potawatomi Leadership Program experiences last summer as well as the presentation of the traditional gifts to the eldest, youngest and farthest-traveled member are on the agenda after lunch.

Please RSVP by 5 p.m. April 17 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or emailing me at jan.boursaw@potawatomi.org. You can also call Lyman Boursaw at 785-584-6401; toll-free 1-800-880-9880.

Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

District 4 meeting in Wichita
1 p.m. April 22 at Mid-America All-Indian Center, 650 N. Seneca St., Wichita, Kansas

We begin the meeting with a catered lunch at 1 p.m., followed by the unique opportunity to hear about the CPN Indian Child Welfare Program from its director, Janet Draper. This program operates within the judicial branch of our government.

It is a program we don’t hear much about. Although it is one of our smallest, it is one of the most important and effective programs we have within Tribal government.

This will be the first time Janet has spoken at any of our meetings in Kansas. Personally, I’m looking forward to Janet’s presentation, and I hope you are, too.

Please RSVP by 5 p.m. April 17 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or emailing me at jan.boursaw@potawatomi.org. You can also call Lyman Boursaw at 785-584-6401; toll-free 1-800-880-9880.

Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

Joint districts 1 and 4 meeting in Missouri
10 a.m. May 5 at Ararat Shime Temple, 5100 Ararat Drive, Kansas City, Missouri
District 5 - Gene Lambert

We all have a history and things we pass down to our children and them to theirs. I have talked in the past about family stories and their importance. Remember? Keep talking and telling these stories, as they become the base for future generations.

The Superstition Mountains are home to the Apache. They always have a moral or generation to generation. There are stories of gold “in them thar mountains,” Goldfield, now Goldfield Ghost Town, was established as the gateway to the Superstitions. It was originally established because of all the gold found in the mountain. The town has been rebuilt at least twice, staying as close to its original state as possible. It is now open to the public.

Then we have San Xavier Mission. It has become one of the most popular missions in the Southwest. Built in the 1700s on what the Tohono O’odham believe to be sacred ground, many have lost their lives protecting it.

The legend is that the artwork meets the visitor at the front of the coming end of life as we know it. Many of our legends are under the Language Department’s section on our website. They are interesting, educational and something we pass down to our children and them to theirs.

Boursaw continued...

I will co-host this meeting with District 1 Rep. Roy Slavin. This meeting is for the convenience of District 4 members in the Greater Kansas City area and the eastern portion of Kansas but is open to any CPN member.

We invited Jennifer Bell, CPN Director of Public Information, to discuss her role in handling public information and public relations functions for the Nation. As you imagine with the numerous issues and events and her routine daily responsibilities, she is a very busy person.

Her department is responsible for publishing and distributing the Hownikan, and I think we all agree that we have seen a significant improvement in quality and professionalism of the Hownikan over the past few years.

I also asked Jennifer to give a brief overview of current issues and activities involving the Nation. A catered lunch will follow her presentation.

Following lunch, we will present the traditional gifts to the eldest, youngest and farthest-traveling member.

Ararat Shrine is located off I-435 at exit 65 (Eastwood Tractway), which is just south of I-70 on the east side of Kansas City. Turn west onto Eastwood Tractway then right at the first light, which is Ararat Drive. You will immediately see the Ararat Shrine building on your left.

Please park in the back; there will be staff available to direct you to the parking lot. Handicap parking is available in the front of the building.

Please RSVP by 5 p.m. May 1 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or emailing me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. You can also call Pam Boursaw at 785-584-6401 or coll-free 1-800-880-9880.

Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

April Elders Potluck

The April Elders Potluck is noon, April 15 in the CPN Community Center in Rossville. The Senior Support Network staff has asked that you RSVP if you plan on attending. Their number is 785-584-6171.

2018 CPN Family Reunion Festival

Don’t forget the 2018 CPN Family Reunion Festival is June 28 to July 1 near Shawnee, Oklahoma. The honored families this year are Anderson, Beaubien, Bertrand, Bourbonnais, Ogée, Pettifer, Toupin, Wano and Yort.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your Legislative Representative.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Jon Boursaw, Weahe Ahwah (Brave Bear) Representative, District 4
785-861-7272 office
785-608-1982 cell
2007 SW Gage Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66604
jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org

Office hours: 9-11 a.m. Tuesdays 3-5 p.m. Thursdays

Other times: please call

One of my favorite legends is the Potawatomi story of the Seven Grandfathers. “What are the teachings of the Seven Grandfathers, you ask? The Seven Grandfathers legend is the teaching of love, courage, humility, honesty, respect, wisdom and truth. There are no opposites to each of these and you have a choice in the path you walk.

Many of our legends are under the Language Department’s section on our website. They are interesting, educational and something more.

Continued on page 21
If you are visiting or would like to attend from Nebraska, New Mexico, Colorado or parts of Texas, you are definitely a part of District 5. If you are Citizen Potawatomi, you are welcome.

I look forward to seeing you, or you, each year filling the whole family. There is something for everyone. If you know someone who has not attended because they are a little nervous, put them at ease. It is good food and good people, and you’ll have no better way to spend part of your day.

Love you all.

Eunice Imogene Lambert, Representative, District 5 480-228-6569 eunicelambert@gmail.com

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**District 5 Yearly Arizona Meeting**

10 a.m. April 15, OdySea Aquarium, 9500 East Via de Ventura A-100, Scottsdale, Arizona.

The marine aquarium holds more than 2 million gallons of water over 200,000 square feet. We will start our meeting at 10 a.m. with greeting those we have not seen since last year. Noon will be the dolphins’ introduction, followed by lunch, before continuing on to complete our business meeting. For those of you who would like to see Butterfly Wonderland or other exhibits, they will be allowed independently and individually at the group rate. There is so much to see. I am excited.

If you are like me, you may not know much about your Potawatomi ancestry before settling in Oklahoma. My great-grandfather John Tescier was born in Wamego, Kansas, just 40 miles from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian Reservation and a short 14 miles from the city of St. Marys. However, I don’t know anything about his time in there, only after his arrival in Oklahoma. I am excited about spending some time in the area, as I have never had the opportunity before this point.

C.P.N. Representative Jon Boursaw doesn’t know it yet, but I’m going to attempt to tap into his vast knowledge of the area and its rich Potawatomi history. I think it will be quite an adventure and a gathering of Potawatomi Nations like none other. I hope you might also find Kansas intriguing and consider attending. It starts with the July 30 language conference and ends with the August 4 powwow and hand-off ceremony.

**Trail of Death Caravan**

This year marks five years since the last Trail of Death Caravan. Every five years starting the third week of September, the Potawatomi Trail of Death Commemorative Caravan embarks on a 660-mile journey from just south of Plymouth, Indiana, to St. Philippe Duchesne Memorial Park near Mound City, Kansas. The caravan is immediately preceded by the annual Trail of Courage Living History Festival at the Fulton County Historical Society grounds in Rochester, Indiana. The Festival is Sept. 15-16, with the caravan leaving Indiana Sept. 17 and arriving in Kansas Sept. 22.

I was contacted recently by Fulton County historian Shirley Willard, who is also the author and publisher for the Fulton County Historical Society in Rochester, Indiana. Shirley noted that, in my February Hownikan column, I had little knowledge of my Potawatomi family history prior to Oklahoma. She was specifically interested in whether I had ancestors on the Trail of Death. Sadly, my reply was “I don’t know.” She said that each year as part of the annual Trail of Courage Living History Festival, a different Potawatomi family that had an ancestor(s) on the Trail of Death or signed any of the Whiskey Treaties in Indiana is honored as part of the festival.

This year, the honored Potawatomi is Gary Wi-Ki-Ge-Amatuck (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation). Gary will be honored with a key to the city by the mayor of Rochester and honored at the Indian dances during the festival. Shirley is looking for Potawatomi tribal members who have ancestors that were on the Trail of Death and who might be interested in being honored at an upcoming Trail of Courage Living History Festival.

I encourage you to visit potawatomi-tda.org for more information and how to get in touch with Shirley. President George Godfrey, Vice-President Robert Pearl, Secretary Tracy Locke and researcher Susan Campbell are all officers for the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association and CPN tribal members. Board member Don Perrot is a Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation tribal member.

During a ceremony at last year’s Family Reunion Festival, the street to CPN’s Cultural Heritage Center was named in honor of Mr. Perrot for his dedication to keeping Potawatomi culture alive. You can also contact me for more information, and I will do my best to help any way I can.

As always, if it is my privilege and honor to serve as your legislator. Thank you for the opportunity and for your support.

Wisdom from the Word: “A man’s courage can sustain courage dies, what hope is left?” Proverbs 20:17

Migwetch (Thank you!)

Rande K. Payne, Member, Citizen Potawatomi Representative, District 6 31150 Road 180 Visalia, CA 93292-9585 559-999-3525 office 559-999-9411 cell rande.payne@potawatomi.org
**District 7 - Mark Johnson**

HOWNIKAN

The morning after the first real winter storm of the year in central California left us with enough water in the ground to maybe start this year's grass crop. The air is cold and crisp. As I am out feeding the cattle in the early morning light, the steam from our breath rises into the air and reminds me of the smoke from a lodge fire, and I stop in my tracks thinking of my grandfather working on New Jersey dairy farms on his summer "outings" from the Carlisle Indian School.

1, for one, am extremely proud this apple didn't fall far from the tree. The struggles all of our ancestors went through, from our homes along the Great Lakes to the plains of Kansas and the rolling hills and pecan groves of Oklahoma, cannot be minimized, forgotten or dismissed as the government has so often done over the passing generations.

One struggles to understand the 10th Circuit Court's ruling overturning the Tribe's mediated settlement with the state of Oklahoma. I guess nobody should be surprised, but disappointed for sure. As a Tribe, we will continue to fight against this attack on our Tribal sovereignty along with the other tribes in Oklahoma.

**District meetings**

I will co-host a District 6 and 7 gathering event with Rande Payne, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (Mountain Daylight Time) April 21 at The Falls Event Center, 580 S. 600 East, Salt Lake City, Utah. Get your tickets online at cpnutilityevent.eventbrite.com.

I am also hosting a District 7 gathering event from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time) May 13 at Elk Grove Regional Park Pavilion, 9950 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Elk Grove, California. Get your tickets online at cpnelgroveevent.eventbrite.com.

**Please vote**

As I said before, this is an election year for District 7. The most important part is that you vote. Please take the time to make your voice heard. Return your request for a ballot that was mailed to you in early March, and please take the time to vote when your ballot arrives.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always, give me a call, and I am happy to work with you on any questions you have or provide you with additional information you may need to access Tribal benefits that you are entitled to receive.

Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and District.

**Magwetch**

(Thank you),

Mark Johnson,
Wak-Afok (Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611
555-351-0078 cell
mark.johnson@potawatomi.org

**District 8 - Dave Carney**

Bebo nikan (Hello friend),

As I write this column, it is a few weeks away. It has not been a particularly harsh winter in western Washington; it just seems like a super long one. Our members in Alaska, Montana and many other areas of District 8 have been limping through it, enduring high heating bills, icy roads and uncooperative snow plows. Many of us will be very happy when things start to warm up.

Along with the thaw of the seasons comes the inevitable maintenance on yards and property following winter. Where I live, this takes the form of cleaning mold and moss off everything — roof, yard and vehicles. For me, the only upside of this intense cleaning is the opportunity to reconnect with neighbors who are doing the same and who have been hibernating since October.

As many of you know, besides my work for the Nation, I am a real estate broker in Olympia, Washington. While this job is year-round, it definitely has its peaks and valleys as far as activity levels.

Now that spring is around the corner, both buyers and sellers are becoming more active. Not just because it is what I do, but because I know that home ownership is the number-one way American families build wealth. I encourage members who haven't taken the leap into home ownership to at least explore it.

As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation or any federally recognized tribe, you may want to explore a special type of loan, known as a 184 Loan. I have written about this in the past, so I will not repeat the details. However, this loan has guidelines that are more flexible, and it is only available to Native Americans.

A quick Google search should help you find a lender in your area with expertise.

You are also eligible for a one-time grant that you can coordinate with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Housing Department to assist you with closing costs in the purchase or refinance of a home. The grant amount is $2,125, and it is only available for primary residences, not for manufactured homes. I have had excellent experience referring members to Sherry Byers, who is the CPN homeowner manager, and she can be reached at 1-800-880-9880.

There are programs throughout District 8 and the country as a whole that can assist with a down payment. For example, there are eight programs and five agencies in Montana, and there are 37 programs and 29 agencies in Oregon that help. It is my understanding that creditworthiness and other factors are still very important. For more information about down-payment resource homeownership programs, go to downpaymentresource.com.

If you are thinking about going to Family Reunion Festival this year, the dates are June 29 through July 1. The prices of airfare tend to rise as the travel dates near, so consider getting online or calling around to do some investigating. The availability of hotel accommodations also becomes problematic, so consider booking that early, too.

The Nation's Grand Casino Hotel & Resort is an obvious first choice for lodging, and they have a special rate during festival. They also have some excellent restaurants on-site, ranging from pub grub to sushi to a Brazilian steakhouse. Check it all out at grandresortok.com.

As always, it is my honor to represent you in the legislature.

Bama pi (Later),

Dave Carney
Kegyaghi (Raven)
Representative, District 8
520 Lilly Road, Building 1
Olympia, WA 98506
360-259-4027
dcarney@potawatomi.org

Byers, who is the CPN online registration: https://cpnutilityevent.eventbrite.com.

**Please vote**

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Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always, give me a call, and I am happy to work with you on any questions you have or provide you with additional information you may need to access Tribal benefits that you are entitled to receive.

Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and District.

**Magwetch**

(Thank you),

Mark Johnson,
Wak-Afok (Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611
555-351-0078 cell
mark.johnson@potawatomi.org

Byers, who is the CPN

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Mark Johnson,
Wak-Afok (Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611
555-351-0078 cell
mark.johnson@potawatomi.org
**District 10 - David Barrett**

Byboo (Hello).  

**Color and Honor Guard**

A free reviewing what the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization did in 2017, we were busy to say the least. We had an election for the secretary and treasurer positions of the organization. The incumbents Bill Wano and David Barrett both were re-elected to their post.

The CPN Veteran’s organization Color Guard responds to requests to carry our flags. The organization participates in many functions every year, sometimes multiple times. Over the past few years, we attended high school events, government functions, CPN enterprises, state 4-H competitions, American Legion events, parades, banquets, powwows and various Native American ceremonies and occasions. We participated in 14 functions in 2015, 15 in 2016, 21 last year. The organization participated in:

- House Chamber of the State Capitol
- Langston University gym
- Guthrie Land Run day
- FireLake Arena MMA fights
- FireLake Arena boxing
- State 4-H Championship air rifles
- Rolling Thunder Missing Man ceremony
- American Legion Post in honor for World War II veteran Ruben Rivers
- Title VII Native American Youth Program
- Frontier Days in Tecumseh
- Wewока Sorgum Day Parade
- U.S. Census meetings
- Grand Casino Event Center
- Grand Casino boxing
- Laying Wreath at Tecumseh Cemetery on Memorial Day
- Oklahoma Tribal Gaming Regulatory Association
- Central Oklahoma Inter-Tribal Health Board Conference, Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas
- Department of Human Services Senior Day at Embassy Suites in Norman, Oklahoma
- Wanette City parade
- Shawnee City parade
- Vietnam Era Veterans Banquet at FireLake Grand Event Center
- P&4 National Conference in Durant, Oklahoma
- Multi-Tribal/OSU Pow-wow at Payne County Expo Center in Stillwater, Oklahoma
- Sac and Fox Nation powwow grounds in Stroud, Oklahoma

As the CPN Veteran’s Organization, our bylaws require us to meet every fourth Tuesday of each month. Members of the organization comprise the color and honor guards.

The color guard also participated in a flag retirement ceremony at Woodland Veterans Park and a 21-gun salute for Memorial Day at Bethaven Memorial Park, both located in Shawnee, Oklahoma. During every Grand Entry at the CPN Family Reunion Festival and Gathering of Potawatomi Nations, we are there to represent our veterans along with our great Nation.

The honor guard members wear a black ribbon shirt and a gold ascot. In addition to events, the guard has presented folded American flags locally at funerals in Wanette, Tecumseh, Shawnee, Sacred Heart, the North Reunion Hall and Mission Church.

Last year after our annual veteran meeting during Festival, we had a flag retirement ceremony, but at the beginning, we did a flag-folding ceremony, explaining what each of the 13 folds meant. This received a great amount of positive comments. For Veterans Day, we were asked to recite the meaning of each of the 13 folds as we folded the American flag on stage at Tecumseh High School and again were requested to recite the meaning while we folded the flag for presentation at a funeral.

We ended the year, as always, with having a veterans Christmas dinner. I want to shout out an “Ourah!” to Richard Driskell, director of FireLake Discount Foods, and Kat Waldrup at its FireLake BBQ department for making a fantastic brisket and chicken menu that was out of this world. Dewenew Kewk (Women’s Hand Drum Group) has serenaded us for the past five plus years. They always do a great job. During the program, we presented Cmndr. Daryl Talbot and team leader Herb Holton with plaques for their dedicated service. Jennifer Randell and Bree Dunham from CPN Eagle Aviary surprised us by bringing one of the eagles to visit us during the Christmas dinner.

We as the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization want to say thank you to all the veterans for allowing us to represent you. Also, to the membership of the Nation: We will always be representing CPN with great respect and honor. We feel that Native Americans treat their warriors with high esteem. We should never let our comrades down. It is an honor for the color guard to attend these functions for our veterans and the Nation.

At this time, I would like to recognize our current participants in the color guard and honor guard over the last several years: Cmndr. Daryl Talbot, Vice-Cmndr. Derek Skaggs, Secretary Bill Wano, Treasurer Rep. David Barrett, Team Leader Herb Holton and members Don Anderson and Kenny Reed. Let us not forget our wives, who prepare the meals every meeting.

Just remember that you are only as strong as you are honest. Pride is about your glory; humility is about God’s glory.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you and our great Nation.

Migwetch (Thank you),

David Barrett

Mudene (Sits with Spirit) Representative, District 10

1601 S. Goodson Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801

405-275-3121
dbarrett@potawatomi.org

**District 13 - Bobbi Bowden**

Bebo niikan (Hello friends),

Once again, diabetes is at the forefront of my thoughts. Some of you may know that in 2016, I lost my dad to complications from diabetes, and now my husband has been put in the at-risk category.

Along with a reminder to myself, I would like to share again some statistics and services our Tribe provides to help those affected manage their disease.

In response to the diabetes epidemic in American Indians and Alaska Natives, Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) through the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. The program is a coordinated effort to prevent amputation, kidney failure, blindness and heart disease in patients with diabetes.

Patients age 18 or older can enroll in Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Beginning Education About Diabetes (BEAD) classes. BEAD consists of five sessions that help empower you with knowledge of the disease and provide skills to manage it so that you can take control of your life.

According to a 2011 CDC fact sheet, the likelihood of American Indian and Alaska Native adults to have diagnosed diabetes is 16.1 percent, compared to non-Hispanic whites, which is 7.1 percent.

What’s more, a 2012 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Indian Health Service fact sheet shows Indigenous youth are nine times more likely to be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. American Indian and Alaska Native youth age 10-19 are diagnosed with type 2 diabetes at a rate of 1.74 per 1,000, compared to non-Hispanic whites at 0.19 per 1,000. These are some impacts of diabetes when not managed properly:

- Adults with diabetes have heart disease death rates about 2 to 4 times higher than adults without diabetes.
- The risk for stroke is 2 to 4 times higher among people with diabetes.
- Results from the Strong Heart Study suggest that the risk for cardiovascular disease in American Indian adults with diabetes may be 3 to 8 times higher than those without diabetes.

These impacts can be overcome if managed properly. Our Nation offers many services: nurses, dietitians and a physical activity specialist (this includes formulating exercise programs, patient education, including insulin introduction), eye exams, foot care and cooking demonstrations.

All these things are ways to assist patients in reducing their risk for diabetes. This program can be accessed by calling the CPN Wellness Center at 405-395-9304. Please encourage any Tribal member you know who is struggling with this disease to use the tools that are available to us.

I wish you all health and wellness. Thank you for the privilege of being one of your Oklahoma Legislative Representatives.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Bobbi Bowden

Potawatomi Legislator, District 13

bobbowden@potawatomi.org
Duane Houston

Duane Anthony Houston, 86, passed away on Feb. 17, 2018, surrounded by family.

Born in Greenfield, Oklahoma, Duane grew up on his family’s farm in Geary. Farm life provided him with a strong work ethic from an early age. The family farm is also where he met the love of his life, Dorothy. After they married, the Air Force brought them to California, where they built a life and raised a family together. He lived in California for the remainder of his years, but never lost his accent or his love of OU football.

After eight years enlisted in the Air Force, he spent thirty-eight years in civil service at Travis Air Force Base, where he was described by colleagues as “one hell of a C-5 mechanic.” In 1995 while a senior line technician with PEC’s Operations Division employee of the year. His service territory included areas west of Pickett to Pauls Valley. Leman retired from full-time employment April 30, 1997, as a maintenance/construction line technician. On July 23, 1997, he came back to work for PEC on a part-time basis as a senior line technician.

Despite the challenges of his retirement, he had many hobbies and interests. He enjoyed spending time with family; his children and grandchildren; and other odd jobs) and helping others when he could.

Duane was the happiest pessimist you could ever meet. That may sound like a contradiction, but he was special that way. He expected the worst, but always with a smile. When life handed him lemons, he didn’t make lemonade. He accepted the sour. Even so, he never grew bitter. And when life pleasantly surprised him, as it often did, he was grateful. He faced the world with a smile. When life handed him lemons, he didn’t make lemonade. He accepted the sour. Even so, he never grew bitter. And when life pleasantly surprised him, as it often did, he was grateful.

He is survived by his children, Terry (Barbara) Houston and Vicki (James) Houston-Istregi; five grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Duane Houston will be sorely missed by all who knew him, but his life was long and well lived, and there is comfort in that. There will be a celebration of life at the Houston residence in April.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations in his name to The American Heart Association.

Karmin McCrory

Karmin Jean Twigg McCrory of Davis, California, passed away on Feb. 12, 2018. She was born on Jan. 22, 1937, in Bronaugh, Missouri, to John Wayne Twigg and Alice Veva Adams Twigg.

Karmin graduated from Plains Kansas High School in 1954 and graduated from University of Kansas in 1957.

She moved to California in 1962. Began teaching for Vacaville School district in 1963. She started teaching at Valley Oak in 1969 and moved to Davis in 1974. She retired from teaching in 1993. In 1991, before retiring, she opened her own business Accents in Downtown Davis which she owned and operated for 10 years until selling it to officially retire and putter, as she would say.

She contracted polio at the age of 12 and overcame the prognosis of not being able to walk or have children.

She did not allow polio to limit her life in any way. She had her two careers and an active retired life. She was able to raise two teenage daughters as a single mother, and raise them to be two professional adults. She was a lifelong traveler, bridge player, music lover and seamstress. She loved to read and was a member of a neighborhood book club.

She had been a member of: the Teacher’s State Council, Davis Teacher Union Negotiator, Sacramento Symphony where she played the bassoon, Davis Sweet Adelines, Davis Scoopermints, Downtown Davis Assoc., Embroiderers Guild of America Valley Oak Chapter, and PGA quilt group “The Block.”

Predeceased by: John Wayne Twigg, Alice Veva Twigg, Alist Twigg Potter, John Wayne Twigg Jr.

She is survived by her husband, Peter Lam; daughters, Kayla Kenette McCrory and Alecia Marie McCrory; son-in-law, Keith Hammonds; grandchildren, Kristen Danielle Loranger and Konnor Brandon Zarat; brothers, Harold Leonard Twigg and Frank Adams Twigg.

Those wishing to sign a guest book online may do so at www.smithfunerals.com.

Leman Holloway

Mr. Holloway passed away April 17, 2017, at an Ada hospital. He was born April 12, 1935, in Maxwell, Oklahoma, to Leonard W. and Emily Hudson Holloway.

He married Margaret C. Young, Mr. Holloway began his employment for People’s Electric Cooperative in 1966. In 1959 while a senior line technician with 30 years of service, he was named PEC’s. He was named Line Technician of the Year.

He was the son of Rex and Gladys Holloway, and raised a family together. He lived in California for the remainder of his years, but never lost his accent or his love of OU football.

He was a 1997 graduate of Tecumseh High School. After high school, she earned her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma.


Chasity worked in health care and, most recently, business management.

She loved animals and helping people, was an avid reader and enjoyed dancing, cooking, crafts, coloring and being near the water. Chasity’s sister Dallas and brother Ted considered her as their best friend. Chasity and Micheal together enjoyed being active in their children’s activities and spending time with family; her children were the focal point of her life.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Micheal Batteon; her grandparents, Leatha and Ted Belche and Dolores Melot.

The family of Chasity is grateful for the love and care that Chasity received from Chasity’s family, friends and neighbors. They are grateful for the love and care that Chasity received from Chasity’s family, friends and neighbors. They are grateful for the love and care that Chasity received from Chasity’s family, friends and neighbors.

Services were March 5 at Cooper Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Jerry Kuhn, Capitol Hill Full Gospel Church, of Moore, Oklahoma officiating. Burial followed at Tecumseh Cemetery under the direction of Cooper Funeral Home of Tecumseh.

To share memories, or to sign the guest book online, go to cooerfuneral.com.