Potawatomi Nations Gathering 2012: A Personal Story

by Janet A. Pearl, Citizen Potawatomi

The 2012 Annual Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations was like a good book you can’t put down- the story of our heritage just kept unfolding at workshops, powwows and traditional meal times from August 6th through 12th on the Pine Creek Reservation in Fulton, Michigan.

Hosted by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, the theme of the nine-nation gathering was “One Nation - One Spirit.” The gathering, like a good story, left one hungering for more.

More than 600 people had pre-registered, and more than 2,000 were expected, according to Randi McKinney, administrative assistant to the Nottawaseppi Huron Band Tribal Council. There are about 1,100 members of the Huron Band, she said. Various workshops were planned to increase cultural awareness, including storytelling, beading, basket making, hand drum making, leather tanning and wooden spoon making.

After a series of educational conferences earlier in the week, a powwow was planned for three of the evenings, McKinney said. “We want to educate people in the traditions of dancing and drumming of the tribe.”

Tribal nations participating in the gathering along with Nottawaseppi Huron Band were: CPN, Hannahville (Michigan) Potawatomi Community, Forest County (Wisconsin) Potawatomis, Gun Lake (Michigan) Tribe, Prairie Band (Kansas) Potawatomi, Walpole Island First Nation (Ontario, Canada), Wasauksing First Nation (Ontario, Canada) and Pokagon Band of Potawatomi (Michigan).

The weather was sunny and cool for the most part. During the cold, blowing rains of Saturday I just kept thinking about how our ancestors must have felt as they trudged along the Trail of Death in November 1838. I learned more about the forced removal of Potawatomis from Michigan and Indiana to Sugar Creek, Kansas, in a workshop presented in an open-sided tent by Kelli Mosteller, director of the CPN Cultural Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

As I walked around the well-kept grounds later, I kept seeing someone who looked familiar. Then I realized that we were all known to each other as the brothers and sisters of a shared existence - we are all Potawatomi.

See GATHERING 2012 on page 12
Evelyn Joan Corner

Evelyn Joan Corner died peacefully at home in Willow Point, Nelson, British Columbia, Canada after a brief but devastating illness on June 20, 2012 in the loving presence of her family. A memorial service was held on June 25, 2012 at St. Saviour’s Pro-Cathedral in Nelson, with the Rev. Gail Clifton officiating, assisted by the Rev. Sue Basek and the Rev. Marcella Mugford. Beautiful singing was provided by a choir of 16 friends, nicely accompanied by the organist, Tobias Jenny.

Joan was born on January 7, 1935 in Nelson, British Columbia, the daughter of Eric Arthur Stromstead and Evelyn Myrtle Stromstead. She attended Central Elementary School and graduated from Nelson High School in 1952, after which she completed Teacher Training at Vancouver Normal School.

Joan was involved in many athletic activities as a child. Despite her own fear of water, Joan’s mother took her swimming as a baby. Joan loved the water, and could swim by age three; she was a swimming instructor by age 14, beginning her natural athleticism as a child. Despite her own fear of water, Joan took on many musical challenges. She conducted “The Magic Flute” at the Capitol Theatre. She self-published a Rock album, a teaching package about Geology and the fantastic way various rocks are formed.

“Seasons,” another project, was a whimsical and instructive album of songs about Nature, Joan’s constant delight. Joan experienced a gradual and deepening relationship with God over the years. Her questing spirit led her to truth in various ways. One path was to the former St. Andrew’s by the Lake Church. There she joined the Education for Ministry group and found much to read, research, and discuss with those of like mind.

Studies helped her get “beyond belief,” as Marcus Borg said, and to “relationship.” In her words, she had moved away from the religion of her childhood to begin a personal relationship with the Holy One. Joan felt more at peace than she ever had been in her life, and felt, because of this relationship, an internal softening, accepting, and strength. This peace was due to a surrendering and resting in God. She said, “Shift from the head to the heart,” therein lies God. She was so grateful that God had been there all those years, waiting for her to say, “Yes.”

Joan’s surrendering to God was reflected in all her Homilies, which she was licensed to deliver periodically at St. Saviour’s Pro-Cathedral, where she had been an active member. All who met Joan were touched by her spirit. All who knew Joan found her loving, gentle, beautiful, and constantly delighted by the good in the world.

Joan is sadly missed by her devoted husband Ian; daughter Jody and her husband Kenton; son Ian and his wife Cathy; grandchildren Baylie and David; sister Terrie; sister-in-law Joan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Joan’s loving friends for their unflagging support and love during her illness. Special thanks go to Dr. McKeechie for his attentive and gentle care and to Home Care nurses Cindy and Carolyn for their kind, caring, and sensitive treatment. Also, grateful thanks for the many beautiful floral arrangements in the Church and received at home from loving friends and family.

Those wishing to do so may make donations to the Kootenay Lake District Hospital Foundation or to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Thomas F. Spalding

Thomas F. Spalding entered the Kingdom of Heaven on July 8, 2012, after a prolonged illness. He had been a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada since August 2001. He was born on November 17, 1949 in Emporia, Kansas, the son of Fred and Rosemary Spalding, who predeceased him.

Thomas Spalding was a graduate of Emporia High School and Emporia State University. He was inducted into the United...
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Alex M. ‘Rabbit’ Harris

Alex M. ‘Rabbit’ Harris, 22, passed away on August 6, 2012 in an automobile accident in Edgewater, Florida. He was born on April 11, 1990 in Anaheim, California, a son of Michele M. Malone.

He worked at PJ’s Sea Shack as a cook, a job which he loved. He was very artistic and loved to play his guitar. More than anything he enjoyed bringing a smile or a laugh to everyone he was around.

Alex was predeceased by his mother Michele M. Malone. He is survived by his grandmother Stella L. Malone; sister Jessica A. (Vegher) Crowell and her husband Corey R. Crowell; aunts Stella-Gayle Malone of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Cynthia Anne Perry of Redlands, California; his Godmother Mari Hevia; and his best friend and love of his life Tina Varney.

He was an amazing young man, who will be loved and missed by many. You are forever in our hearts.

“Good-bye baby, love you so much. I’ll be with you one day. “- Tina

Bobby Joe Claar

Bobby Joe Claar was born on April 19, 1954 in Garden City, Kansas, the son of Twila (Duncan) and Ralph Claar of Deerfield, Kansas. He passed away on July 7, 2012 at age 58. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at Grace Baptist Church in Manhattan, Kansas. Bobby went home to his Lord Jesus at Kansas University Hospital.

Bob Claar graduated from high school in Deerfield, Kansas in 1972, and in 1975 he graduated from the Kansas Technical Institute (currently Kansas State University-Salina), where he received 2 associate degrees, one in Computer Science and the other in Mechanical Engineering. Bob worked for Boeing Aircraft in Wichita from 1975 to 1979, and then moved to southwest Kansas to be part of the family farm. Bob was a computer consultant most of his life and really enjoyed working with technology. He and wife Janie Lynn (Clower) Claar became the owners of Claar Enterprises where he would continue with computer consulting and property management.

Bob and Janie were high school sweethearts in Deerfield. On June 3, 1972 they were married at the Deerfield United Methodist Church, one week after Bob returned from his high school senior trip.

Bob was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, a member of the Grace Baptist Church in Manhattan, and a member of the Gideons International, Manhattan KONZA camp. In 2006, Bob joined the Gideons, which became his passion in serving His Lord and Saviour through the Gideon Ministry, distributing bibles throughout the world.

Bob is survived by wife Janie of the home; his parents Ralph and Twila Claar of Deerfield; two sons, Michael Claar and his wife Larissa of Rocky Point, North Carolina and Ben Claar and wife Stephanie of Manhattan; one daughter, Charity Searles and Chris Searles, both of Holton; and Jeanie Wege of Whiting, Kansas; and four grandchildren, Jay Searles and Chris Searles, both of Holton, and Jeanie Wege of Whiting, and Amber Searles and RayAnn Searles, both of Holton.

At Nina’s request, no service was held. She lay in state from 8:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 2 and from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3 at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton. Burial was private.

Memorials are suggested to the Jackson County Friends of Hospice. They may be sent in care of the funeral home at P. O. Box 1034, Holton, KS 66436.

Dewey Lee Faulkner

Dewey Lee Faulkner, 82, entered this life on June 5, 1930 at Harjo, Oklahoma. He en-

Nina Marie Kaul

HOLTON, KS – Nina Marie Kaul, 82, of Holton, died Monday, July 2, 2012 at her home. She was born Nina Marie Craig on December 25, 1929 at Helena, Montana,
Bray shines in Vols’ opener

With Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Tyler Bray putting up a good performance at quarterback, the Tennessee Volunteers still have the ability to produce big plays. Now, the analysts say, the Vols just have to prove they can do the little things as well. Tennessee scored three touchdowns from more than 40 yards away in the first quarter of its 35-21 season-opening victory over North Carolina State on Friday, August 31 at the Georgia Dome. In the process, the Vols showed they still have plenty of firepower even without Da’Rick Rogers, a former all-Southeastern Conference receiver who transferred to Tennessee Tech after being indefinitely suspended.

“There was a lot of pressure because Da’Rick was a heck of a player, and I knew people were just looking at me to fill his place,” said Cordarrelle Patterson, who replaced Rogers in the starting lineup. “I’m just me.”

That was far better than just good enough against the Wolfpack. Patterson, a Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College transfer, caught a 41-yard touchdown pass and scored on a 67-yard reverse. He gained 165 all-purpose yards and exceeded the considerable buzz that had accompanied his preseason emergence. Patterson’s biggest challenge now may be dealing with all the hype sure to come in the wake of this performance.

Bray went 27-of-41 for 333 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions. On each of their touchdown catches, Patterson and Rogers beat All-America cornerback David Amerson, who led the nation with 13 interceptions last season. “When I saw (Patterson’s) highlight film, I knew he would be a special player,” Bray said. “He is a Juco kid, so he’s been playing for a while. It’s not like he’s fresh out of high school.”

Patterson isn’t the Vols’ only playmaker. Zach Rogers provided a 72-yard touchdown reception and Justin Hunter added nine catches for 73 yards in the first quarter. Fans should bear in mind that Patterson was making his major-college debut and Hunter was playing his first game since tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee last September. Both should only get better.

Tennessee was expected to breeze in its home opener on September 8 against Georgia State, a Football Championship Subdivision team that kicked off its season with a 33-6 loss to South Carolina State. But with Florida heading to Knoxville on September 15, the Vols didn’t have much time to correct their flaws before starting SEC competition.

Furman Stumbles at Samford

Cameron Yaw kicked a 27-yard field goal with 37 seconds remaining in the game to lift Samford to a 24-21 Southern Conference victory over Furman in the 2012 season opener for both teams Saturday afternoon at Seibert Stadium. Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Charles Emert is a starting offensive lineman for the Furman Paladins. Sophomore right tackle Emert is a 2011 Southern Conference All-Freshman Team selection.

Yaw’s game-winning kick came after the Bulldogs took advantage of pass interference penalty on Furman at the Paladin 27. Using the automatic first down, Samford ran the ball five consecutive times to advance to the 10, where Yaw drilled home the decisive field goal.

Furman failed to threaten in the final seconds, and the game ended with an Alvin Hines interception, the Bulldogs’ third of the game, on a long pass at Samford’s 10. Paladins quarterback Dakota Derrick connected on 11-of-25 pass attempts for 201 yards and a touchdown. In an otherwise dead even statistical performance that saw the Bulldogs claim a slim 366-359 advantage in total offense, the difference in the game was turnovers, with Furman committing four miscues while Samford registered turnover-free ball.

Furman running back Jerodis Williams led the Paladins offensively, rushing 20 times for 98 yards and a touchdown. The performance helped the senior from Prattville, Ala., become only the 11th player in program history to top the 2,000-yard career rushing plateau, finishing the contest with 2,025 yards.

“...”

said Furman head coach Bruce Fowler. The HowNiKan will feature a profile of Charles Emert in the October issue. The Furman September schedule includes Coastal Carolina (home), Clemson (road), Presbyterian (road), and Western Carolina (home).
More than $800,000 flows to 265 schools
CPN Shares Revenue with Oklahoma Schools

(Shawnee, Okla.) – From Thackerville to Enid, from Miami to Altus, 265 school districts across Oklahoma have received a share of the $818,545.25 that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has rebated back to schools from licensing its Oklahoma resident members’ cars over the past seven years. Although not required to do so, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation shares the majority of its vehicle licensing fee with the school district in which the CPN member paying the fee lives.

John ‘Rocky’ Barrett, Citizen Potawatomi Nation chairman, said that the sharing flows from that knowledge that sons and daughters of CPN members are being educated in the schools that receive the remittances. “They are us,” he said. “Ensuring that our neighboring schools have the resources to offer quality education is the best way to provide Citizen Potawatomi young people an opportunity to excel and achieve.”

The Shawnee School District, in which the CPN is located, has been the top recipient with $100,615.31 over that seven-year period. Shawnee schools received $19,100.51 for the period from May 2011 through April 2012.

Shawnee superintendent Dr. Marc Moore said, “I am appreciative that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has chosen to support public schools with the revenue it receives from car tags. I believe that community support is a vital determinant in successfully educating the youth of Shawnee, and I am glad that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation holds this value as well.”

With rebates totaling $87,073.27, Oklahoma City Schools was second. Oklahoma City Superintendent Karl Springer said, “I think it’s just wonderful that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation would, very generously, make these funds available. These funds really do help us.”

Superintendent Springer pointed out that, with benefits accounted for, it costs about $42,000 to employ a teacher for a year. So, over seven years, the Potawatomi Nation has basically funded two of our teachers.”

Tecumseh Superintendent Tom Wilsie was also appreciative of the financial assistance. He called the in-lieu-of-taxes payments generous and said they are helpful in a time of very tight school budgets. “To have a partner we work so closely with is so valuable in providing the quality education we all want for our children,” he added.

Superintendent Wilsie said the tax remittances show something very positive about CPN leadership, “It says that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation values education,” he said. “It shows that they have an understanding that good-quality public education is a key to ensuring the quality of life that all of our citizens can lead.”

Tecumseh received $42,378.91 in the seven-year period. Its total for 2011-2012 is $6,640.06.

Located just west of the CPN’s jurisdictional area and home to a large number of tribal members, the Norman school district is fourth on the list of vehicle license fees from the Nation at $40,238.62 over the seven-years in which the CPN has licensed its Oklahoma-resident member’s vehicles. Its 2011-2012 check was for $8,608.17.

The Edmond school district completed the top five recipients list with $29,043.54 over the seven years.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Vice Chairman Linda Capps summarized: “We share the majority of our tribal car tag money with schools, whereas with the state tags very little goes to schools. Our school children are important to us. Our Potawatomi parents appreciate this money going to schools, and superintendents send us thank-you cards every year. I know they appreciate what we do, and we’re glad to do it.”

Language Conference Highlights of 2012 Gathering of the Nations

by Janet A. Pearl, Citizen Potawatomi

“Put on a pair of mocassins and look at things how the elders saw them.” That was the advice given at a Potawatomi language conference sponsored by the Nottawasippi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) August 6 through 8. The conference was one of the learning experiences offered during the annual Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations.

Participants from nine bands of Potawatomi traveled to the Pine Creek Reservation area in Michigan to experience their original language and culture.

From the popular game Bingo, known as Shishibe in the Potawatomi language, to an American Idol-style talent show put on by the Prairie Band Potawatomi in Native tongue, attendees were immersed in the language of their forefathers during the three days of the conference in Athens, Michigan.

One of the featured speakers was CPN Language Director Justin Neely, from Shawnee, Oklahoma. He drew a crowd to his classes on pre-verbs, using the language, and topic-based discussions. Neely’s work ethic and expertise were praised by elder Donald Perrot during the workshop.

“I’ve seen him put himself out for this language,” Perrot said of Neely’s study of Potawatomi. “I admire you very much for keeping this language going.”

Perrot, a 72-year-old Prairie Band member who lives in Waupun, Wisconsin, presented a workshop with his wife, Dolores. She is not a Native speaker but has been studying the Potawatomi language for 10 years. “The most important thing to the speaker usually comes first in the sentence,” she said. Native culture’s point of view is to put the other person first, because the other person’s needs are more important than those of the speaker.

“The action is about to flip on you,” Dolores Perrot said of the four main types of verbs used in speaking Potawatomi. They are two types of intransitive verbs along with two transitive verbs that denote differences between animate and inanimate subjects. “There are different endings (to the verbs) depending on who is doing the action.” She gave the Potawatomi example of the English sentence, “I am hugging you” as “Gde ak’kwenen” translated as “You, I am hugging.”

There is also a set of seven pronouns, and they are gender irrelevant, as she explained. There is no separate pronoun for “he” and “she” in Potawatomi. “When you learn Potawatomi, you kind of have to unlearn English,” she said, emphasizing that the Potawatomi language sentence structure is opposite that of the English language structure.

“This (Potawatomi) language has almost infinite possibilities of things you can say. It’s like riding a bike; once you learn it you
CPN member Mary Killman completes Olympics experience

Her own long and winding road (she’s lived in 42 places in her 21 short years) took Citizen Potawatomi Nation member/Ada, Oklahoma-born Mary Killman to the Beatles’ home country this summer. Killman performed on the largest stage of her career as a synchronized swimmer – the London Olympics.

Killman and duet partner, Mariya Koroleva earned their way into the synchronized swimming final in tenth place among the 24 duets invited to London. But, their first-two-days score left them trailing the elite teams – Russia, Spain, China, and Japan and out of medal contention.

That didn’t prevent an audience of Killman’s fellow CPN members and the Nation’s employees from taking time to enjoy synchro’s artistry and cheer on Ms. Killman. “MK Squared,” as the American duet is affectionately known, posted a finals score of 87.700 to finish 11th in this Olympiad.

Natalia Ishchenko and Svetlana Romashina extended Russia’s domination to win the gold with a score of 98.900 points. They haven’t lost an Olympic synchro event since the 1996 Atlanta Games. Spain took home the silver, while the Chinese duet finished with the bronze medal.

In a HowNiKan interview during a visit to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation on August 22, Killman said she will train for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She will also begin college, with an eye on a degree in Sports Management.

Interviewed after watching Killman’s and Koroleva’s finals performance, CPN member Penny Coates was excited about a fellow tribal member’s competing in the Olympics. “To know that we have one of our own people, whom we are probably related to in a very close way, competing in London makes you really proud,” she said, “especially in an event that is so beautiful.”

“I think it is pretty incredible, awesome, that our tribe is being represented at such a huge sports event,” said Paige Willett, a CPN member and University of Oklahoma student, “especially since, traditionally, Potawatomis are competitive people.”

CPN member Mary Powell described feeling “a thrill of excitement. You can feel it on the inside.” Powell likes synchronized swimming, “I think it’s really, really beautiful. Those young ladies have to be right on it, precise.”

Jason Greenwalt said he is impressed by his fellow CPN member’s accomplishments and by the time and effort she has invested. “(Synchronized swimmers) put in a lot of time, dedication, and effort. To be able to swim underwater like that, holding your breath, is very impressive,” Greenwalt said.

On her blog, Killman described a practice period in the Olympic pool, during which all duets preparing to compete in a section are allowed in the pool at one time. “This 30-45 minutes is basically a free-for-all, she wrote. “All the duets in that section are allowed in the pool at once, so if you’re not careful you can run over someone! (Or be the unfortunate one who is run over.) Not a contact sport, hmm?”

See KILLMAN/OLYMPICS on page
CPN’s Community Development Corporation facilitates purchase loan

Seminole Nation brings historic Grisso Mansion/land home

The Grisso Mansion in Seminole is in the hands of the Seminole Nation following the tribal government’s purchase. And, Seminole Nation officials are praising the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation (CPCDC) for providing more than $1.4 million in direct financing.

William Edward ‘Doc’ Grisso, a doctor and oilman, completed the home in 1928 on land obtained largely through purchasing oil leases, many of which belonged to Seminole Nation members. The 26-room, 8,500 square-foot mansion was designed in Italian Renaissance style. It cost $750,000 to construct. It is located on the north side of State Highway 9, in east Seminole.

At a ceremony marking the closing of the historic purchase, from current owner Kenneth Henderson, Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo spoke of changing the perception of Seminole County’s economic opportunities. Chief Harjo said, “The Grisso Mansion is an opportunity to show what the resources of this area have produced. Most people, when they look at Seminole, Seminole County, the Seminole Nation, see us as a very poor area. They don’t necessarily see the foundation, the roots, we have here.”

The CPCDC was established in 2003 to provide a source for business development lending to Native owned businesses throughout Oklahoma and across the United States. It makes commercial loans to native-owned businesses in Oklahoma, regardless of which federally recognized tribe they are a member. For Potawatomi tribal members, the CPCDC lends nationwide. This was the CPCDC’s initial loan to a tribally-owned business.

John ‘Rocky’ Barrett, Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) Chairman, hopes there will be many more of these in the future, as the CPCDC and other tribes partner to use this tool to spur economic development in Indian Country. “The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Community Development Corporation and First National Bank and Trust Company of Shawnee are grateful to the great Seminole Nation for including our services in their exciting plans for the future in Seminole,” Chairman Barrett said. “Because of the unique abilities of the Seminole Nation, we see the project as the greatest opportunity in Seminole County for enhanced investor returns, access to new outside capital, and low-cost, long-term debt financing. The Grisso/Henderson Mansion is a historic treasure. It is fitting that the ownership should go full circle. The entire community will benefit.”

Chairman Barrett expressed appreciation to Chief Harjo for allowing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the CPCDC to be part of this economic development initiative.

Shane Jett (Cherokee), CPCDC executive director and former State Representative, said he believes this is the beginning of a new era of lending for the CPCDC. Not only will we finance native-owned businesses, but predicts that this is the first of many CPCDC partnerships with tribally-owned enterprises. “Oklahoma tribes are beginning to recognize that the CPN has the second largest native-owned Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) in the United States. Since its inception, the CPCDC has lent in excess of $20 million. We should be any tribe’s financial partner of choice when it comes to financing tribal economic development. This Grisso Mansion loan allowed us to both finance economic opportunity in the Seminole Nation that will extend to the city and county that bears their name, and also allowed us to preserve history for the whole State for all future generations of Oklahomans to enjoy!” Jett said. “I firmly believe that prosperity in Indian country equals prosperity for all of Oklahoma.”

Seminole Nation officials have extensive plans to make the Grisso Mansion an economic development hub. “The purchase of this historic property provides the Seminole Nation with the ability to create an economic development strategy that will generate income for the Nation, the City of Seminole and Seminole County by bringing people to our area through tourism,” Chief Harjo said.

A business plan for the Grisso Mansion’s future features many objectives for what will be known as the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Vineyard, Cultural, and Event Center. The northwest corner of the property will be open for primitive camping and outdoor cultural development. Areas for exhibition dances and traditional games will be developed. Additionally,

- Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion is to offer an events center for the general public to host a wide range of events - from small casual brunches to large elegant weddings, banquets, and corporate retreats. The man-
CPN Holloway family enters cardboard-boat regatta

WATER, WATER ... ABOVE AND BELOW

by Travis Sloat/Muskogee Phoenix Correspondent

Caitlin Felts said it would have been a lot more entertaining to see a few more boats capsize on Saturday, August 25 at the River Rumba Regatta, but she enjoyed the competition, too. “I’m excited,” Felts said. “I don’t know who exactly will win, but I’m rooting for Creek Nation. The rain is here, but I don’t think it’s stopping anyone from having a good time.”

The Mvskoke (Creek) Nation-affiliated craft was not the lone entry from an Indian tribe. Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Bobby Holloway and his family joined in the fun, too.

The Regatta, which is in its fifth year, is held at Three Forks Harbor and is put on by the Muskogee Exchange Club. The aim is for amateur boat engineers to try out their skill at building a vessel from cardboard, then competing in a race. Brad Smythe, one of the event coordinators, said that this year was unusual because of something Oklahoma hasn’t seen a lot of this year: Rain. “We had to shut the band down early last night because of electricity issues,” Smythe said. “But the people who build these boats are resilient. This is a rain or shine event, and it will be amazing.”

The boats took the shape of anything from pirate ships to airplanes, and the man-hours put into them numbered in the thousands. The skilled labor showed in the rainy weather, with only one or two boats actually sinking.

Holloway told the HowNiKan that this was his third entry in the Regatta. “I’ve been in this the last two years, but with the company I work for,” he explained. “I decided this year to build a boat for the family and get the family involved in it.”

Holloway joined others in wishing the event had been drier. “But, we’ve had a good time,” he added.

He said some entrants skirt the rules, augmenting the cardboard which is supposed to be the Boats’ construction material. This is the second boat Holloway has constructed. “I built a boat for the company I work for two years ago, and it held up for two years. I’m hoping to be able to patch just a little bit on this one and use it again next year.”

The question begging to be asked is “How do you get cardboard to float?” Holloway’s answer: “Just get it sealed off really well.”

Holloway says he used “a lot of” liquid nails to glue the boat together. “It takes a long time to build one because you have to glue one side, clamp it, and wait a day for it to set up then do the other side,” he said.

Holloway and relatives entered his boat in three separate classes: the six-man division, the six-woman division, and the two-man division. So, the boat survived three races in its debut appearance at the Regatta. “It’s holding up pretty good,” in Holloway’s opinion.

Holloway made a trip to CPN headquarters in Shawnee to have the family team’s T-shirts made at the Nation’s FireLake Designs. “I’m just proud of being Potawatomi,” he said. “I wanted to represent our tribe.”

I love the racing, but I also enjoy being out here with friends and family,” Caitlin Felts said. “This event really brings everyone together. It’s exciting.”

Awards are numerous and include the “Pride of the Regatta” and the “Titanic” awards. There is also a “People’s Choice” award that recognizes the most creative team and boat. That honor went to 12-year-old Jennifer Fraley, who was the sole builder and captain of the “Lucky-Ducky.”

In addition to all the fun, the Regatta also supports a worthy cause as well. The proceeds for the event go to the Exchange Club’s “Shoes and Coats Fund,” the Youth Volunteer Corps, and a project at MONARCH that emphasizes preventing child abuse.

Any CPN veterans or family members of CPN veterans who would like to submit photos for the Veterans Wall of Honor please submit the following:

- Must be an Enrolled CPN tribal member.
- Copy of DD 214s. If Active Duty, this form is not necessary.
- Must have an Honorable Discharge.
- 4 x 6 image or LARGER in military uniform (original picture if possible, a scanned copy will also work)

We are honoring all CPN tribal members who served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Please submit information/photos to:
Stacy S. Coon
V.W.O.H Operating Specialist
1899 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, Ok 74801

Or by e-mail: scoon@potawatomi.org

If you have military memorabilia you would like to donate to the VWOH, please contact Stacy directly at 405-878-5830, ext. 7106.
Tobacco is an ancient tradition in our culture. It’s a sacred ritual passed down from our ancestors. But when commercial tobacco took over, everything changed. It is time to honor what is sacred and quit commercial tobacco.

The Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline can help you quit. When you call, you receive free quit coaching and your choice of free patches or gum. They give you the courage and support to quit commercial tobacco for good.
Ministering to deaf refugees

by Meliah Macon

I never thought God would use my American Sign Language skills in a summer missions experience with refugees in Fort Worth, but the Lord has a way of bringing things together. Ken, one of the other interns serving at World Relief, has a girlfriend, Jenn, here in Fort Worth. When I met Jenn, I discovered her passion for ASL and the deaf community. She has a deaf sister, and she works in the mission department of a church in Fort Worth.

The next thing I knew, I was helping her teach ASL to deaf refugees at Ladera, the apartments where I stayed during the summer of 2012 with most of the resettled refugees. God also brought along another intern from World Relief in Fort Worth.

I also discovered a deaf Burmese girl who had come to a play day for kids that a church youth group had put together. I kept trying to figure out where she lives, so I could go get her, but I couldn’t. Then one day, she showed up with her family at the clubhouse for English class, but I couldn’t be there to teach with Jenn that night. I called Jenn and told her to snap her when she arrived. Jenn let me know later that the girl went to ASL with her and even seemed to pick a lot up and enjoy it. But, since I’ve been there, she hasn’t been back. I hope we can find her again soon.

Overall, the classes were fairly successful. Of course, we had to use lots of visuals, but the students seemed to learn the information. We covered topics such as the alphabet, fruits, vegetables, colors, describing words, clothes, and names. I think our students caught on to such question words as who, what, and which. I pray that one day they can move on to sentences, but that is a very long way off, and I won’t be here.

On two occasions, we even had conversations about Jesus. Only through God could we have accomplished that. They seem to know a lot about the Gospel, even though they are all from Hindu backgrounds. I think one of the students might be a Christian, but it’s hard to tell.

It was sad to hear that these deaf refugees are perceived to be a burden to people around here. The Nepali signs that they use are mostly gestures that are universal, so their communication skills, even with other Nepalese, are limited. This is very big investment, and I pray Jenn and the others can fully accomplish this very difficult task that God has set before them.

Meliah Macon is a Potawatomi Leadership Program alumnae and a student at Texas State University in San Marcos. She served through Go Now Missions with World Relief in Fort Worth.
I went to a story-telling workshop and learned that everyone has a story to tell about life and its experiences, so I’m going to tell mine and I hope you add your own to it and tell the story again and again.

Larry ‘Pun’ Plamondon, of the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area, said he didn’t have enough stories to fill the two hours scheduled for the workshop. But by the end of that time he had woven a beautiful tapestry of stories that held the audience spellbound and asking for more. Some people even joined in and told their own personal stories that were fun or sad but all intensely satisfying.

Stories are everywhere and about everything and repeating the stories to family and friends is what passing along your life’s history is all about, said Pun, who is from the Grand River Band of the Odawa, which translates into “traders.”

“We were in 14 counties on the western side of Michigan and sandwiched between the Potawatomi and the Ojibwas,” said Plamondon, who has been studying storytelling for two decades. “Our struggles, our difficulties, how we got to our reservations are all our stories. All the stories told today are to be shared.”

“Before poetry, before people were painting on walls, people were story-telling,” Plamondon said. “It was our Internet.”

Some of the stories heard during the week in passing were sad tales of young children being taken from their parents and sent to Indian schools were they faced the loss of their language and traditions and endured tremendous abuse.

During the comment section of the storytelling workshop, Alex Zygnaniuk, of Wasauksing, Ontario, Canada, said, “I am learning how connected we are from listening to these stories. It’s part of the restoration of ourselves.”

Native Americans use stories to put life back together after experiencing the trauma of removal and abuse, he said.

But all the stories were entertaining and some even had happy endings.

Zygnaniuk, a retired police officer from Parry(stet) Island, wowed the crowd with his modern-day stories: his first tale was about an unattended police cruiser rolling along on its own while he was trying to break up a group brawl. Probably the best story of the day was the one about how he met his wife during a past gathering of nations in Ontario.

Doris Potts-Zygnaniuk, a Prairie Band Potawatomi formerly from Mayetta, Kansas, had lost her purse in a strange area and flagged down his cruiser late at night for assistance, he said. Although he was on duty, “I kept driving around the long way” he said, so he could spend more time with the beautiful woman. They found her purse, she returned to Kansas, and they reunited a year later when his sister asked Doris if she would like to see Zygnaniuk again.

“Nothing is lovelier than these endearing stories,” Plamondon said afterwards. “It legitimates us as human beings.”

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**Citizen Potawatomi Nation Women, Infants, Children (WIC) Nutrition Program**

The WIC program provides nutritious supplemental foods to program participants using vouchers.

The WIC program serves as an adjunct to good health care during critical stages of a child’s growth and development.

For more information, contact the Specialist in your area: Director Shelley Schneider; Shawnee Area, Tammy Wood, 405-273-3216; South Oklahoma City Area, Angie Igo, 405-632-4143; North OkC, Shalan Pearson, 405-232-3173; Prague, McLoud, and Perkins, Sarah Dailey, 800-880-9880.
OU Coach Josh Heupel gives back to youngsters

14 FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER HIGHLIGHTS FIRELAKE GOLF SUMMER

by Paige Willett, HowNiKan intern

The summer morning sun created sweltering conditions, but FireLake Golf Course buzzed with action as Sara Kessler, assistant director of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s FireLake Wellness Center, called out rules to a large crowd of participants in the annual 14 Foundation Golf Tournament. The players happily accepted their score cards. A fleet of golf carts roared to life as players zipped off to tee off on their first hole.

The CPN’s FireLake Golf hosted the tournament for Josh Heupel’s community service foundation. The origins of the 14 Foundation are simple, but powerful. Heupel, co-offensive coordinator for the University of Oklahoma football team and the quarterback of the OU 2000 National Championship team, said, “I was working at a local elementary school, a bunch of teammates and myself, while I was playing at Oklahoma. I saw some kids that came from some tough situations, and I wanted to do some things to help them.”

The foundation’s name is a reference to the jersey number Heupel wore as he earned All-America and Heisman Trophy runner-up honors at the University of Oklahoma.

That moment that lead to the 14 Foundation’s creation happened 12 years ago, after the national championship game. Since then, the 14 Foundation has continued to grow. Heupel said, “It really just kind of spun off of a food drive, and it’s continued to grow into a Christmas drive. And obviously the reason we’re having the golf tournament is to help raise money for the summer camps.”

The foundation provides between 50,000 and 60,000 meals during their Thanksgiving Drive, and gives gifts to 800 children at Christmas time.

The foundation also sponsors a variety of camps for underprivileged kids to take part in and work on their sports skills. Ken Heupel, Josh’s dad and the coordinator for the 14 Foundation summer camps, says, “Really, we have branched out. It started with football camp, and right now we do football, cheerleading, fast pitch (softball), and performance enhancement.”

As Josh Heupel explains, the camps are based on four principles: discipline, respect, trust, and hard work. … But the camps are to draw these disadvantaged kids in. … We bring in academic teams to really have them gain an interest in the math and science areas, in particular, and help push them to be successful.”

Ken Heupel retired from college football coaching a few years ago; since then the 14 Foundation has become a family affair. Ken says, “Anytime that you have the opportunity of working with your son or daughter in something that gives back, I think its really outstanding. I’m blessed I’ve had the opportunity of doing it here the last eight years full-time.”

Cynthia Heupel, Josh’s mother, is the overall director of the 14 Foundation.

The foundation’s success, and that of the camps, is evident in letters from former campers. Ken Heupel says, “You have coaches with different types of walk, and hopefully one of them will tie in with a young person. There are stories every camp that we get of young people that have changed their way because of the touch of one of our coaches.”

Josh Heupel says that the summer camps are a good fit for his father, whose passion he shares. He says, “He [his father] really enjoys getting the opportunity to bring in coaches from all over the country; coaches that love working with kids and want to help give them some tools that are going to allow them to be successful, not only right now on the field, but in the classroom, and ultimately in life as well.”

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has a significant history with the 14 Foundation. Josh Heupel says, “We work with the Potawatomi Nation through our football camp. They’ve been great to us. Sara Kessler is spear-heading the golf tournament, and obviously this is a great venue and we had a great turnout.”

During the tournament, golfers could “Play a Hole with Josh.” Meanwhile, Ken Heupel was wandering the course in a golf cart, chatting with players. Josh’s humor emerged as he joked with players about their golf game, but Ken admits he and Josh are not pros: “When you’re involved in football sometimes it’s tough to pick up the club and be consistent in playing.”
Bozho,

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization was well represented at the 2012 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations in Michigan the first part of August. We started with a Grand Entry on Thursday evening, and it began to rain. True to the military spirit, we followed through to the finish.

We managed to complete the ceremony just before a big thunderstorm hit the Gathering grounds, but that was just the beginning. The next day, there were two more Grand Entries scheduled, but the steady rain, which eventually made its way to Oklahoma, made a river of most sites. All of the activities had to be cancelled, but only after our feet had become webbed.

However, Saturday was a different story. By the afternoon the sun came out, and activities resumed. We had a Grand Entry with the veterans leading the way and activities resumed. We had a Grand Entry with the veterans leading the way and activities resumed. We had a Grand Entry with the veterans leading the way and activities resumed.

Why do we honor the veterans? Many Americans seem to have forgotten and need to be reminded. Unless you are directly affected, with a veteran in your family or among your friends, it is easy to feel distant from the service and sacrifices they have made. The veteran has made this country, with its freedoms and rights, possible. They have paid the PRICE. Beginning with the Revolutionary War, they paid in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and now in Iraq and Afghanistan. We must never forget.

What is a veteran? Whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve, a veteran is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to “The United States of America” for an amount “up to and including his or her life.” Migwetch!

For more information on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization and how to become a member, check out our website at: www.cpnveterans.com.

Daryl Talbot
Vice Commander

Killman included in her blog post some inside-information advice about the very visible television monitors: Don’t watch the screen while you’re competing. “Our deck looks straight at the video, the problem is that it is slightly delayed, so what you see up there has already happened. Not gonna lie, there was a point during our walk out that I saw the screen and was very confused as to why my counts weren’t matching up with what I saw. Thank goodness I didn’t miss any steps because of it!”

Killman says she has looked to fellow Citizen Potawatomi Olympian Jim Thorpe as an inspiration. A coincidence of time - the fact she is an Olympian 100 years after Thorpe earned 1912 Olympic gold in the decathlon and pentathlon in Stockholm, Sweden - has generated some extra press attention for Killman.

Looking for a connection to Thorpe’s centennial anniversary, news outlets quickly latched onto Killman’s Potawatomi heritage. “It’s funny, because it used to just be a little blurb on my bio,” Killman said. “Now, it’s the story.”

Killman didn’t have a traditional Indian upbringing. But she was born in an American Indian hospital and is an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is proud of her ancestry.

During her visit to the Nation in August, Killman asked for resources to begin learning the Potawatomi language.

After watching the Olympics competition in synchronized swimming, some spectators walked away wondering, not just how the fine athletes manage their perfect routines, but how they managed to keep their hair and makeup perfect in the water.

As Team USA’s Killman and Koroleva competed in the duet competition, they had bright mascara, stylish headpieces, and impeccable hair, despite being soaked. And, Koroleva shared their secrets.

Gelatin is the (not so) secret ingredient that kept their hair faultless. Koroleva of Concord, California, prefers to style her hair with Knox Gelatin. “You put your hair in a bun,” Koroleva said, “mix the gelatin with hot water and then paint it onto the hair. Then we put a headpiece over the bun to match the swimsuit, and that completes the look!”
The Face of Leadership: John A. Barrett

by Keith A. Eaton

(Editor’s note: In its May edition, the Oklahoma City-based magazine distinctly Oklahoma profiled Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John Barrett and chronicled the progress the Nation has earned over the past four decades.)

Meeting John Barrett, we are reminded that the face of leadership has many expressions: compassion, vision, determination, integrity, commitment, a respect for tradition and a healthy dose of humility. Finding them in evidence in a person of native ability is a rarity and a cause for celebration in elected officials.

Thinking of those in our country, past and present, who are recognized leaders, reminds us that the qualities we admire do not “spring forth from the eye of Zeus,” but rather arise from heritage, influences from our formative years, and from observing these qualities in our closest associations. This is the source of Chairman Barrett’s leadership skills. Chairman Barrett’s maternal grandparents were Oliver and Ozetta (Bourassa) Peltier. Oliver served on the Tribal Business Committee in the 1940s and was the Bureau of Indian Affairs Federal Marshall. The son of Jack and Annetta (Peltier) Barrett, he grew up in the two worlds of oil field on his father’s side and Potawatomi Indian on his mother’s.

“My maternal grandparents, uncles and others were very involved in tribal leadership and politics, holding the highest offices during their lifetime. In particular, my grandmother, Ozetta, was a very strong, no-nonsense person of insight and intellect. She insisted that I had a responsibility to continue this multi-generational commitment to leadership in our Nation’s affairs. Often when silent, her message was unmistakable,” explains Chairman Barrett.

His involvement in leadership began in 1971. At that time, the governing statutes in place and the relationships in operation between the U.S. federal government, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Oklahoma state government, and the federally-recognized tribes in Oklahoma severely restricted the several tribes’ ability to contract, utilize public grant funds and organize under their own constitutional form of government.

The prior hundred years of forced relocation and societal integration had left the Potawatomi Nation with essentially no land base, $500 in cash, a small pecan orchard and a BIA construction trailer sitting on 2.5 acres near the current administrative complex in Shawnee. Equally impoverishing was the loss of a culture distinct from all others. “In 1971, I was nominated representative of the five recognized tribes to represent us in Washington, D.C. in pursuit of grant funds from the vestiges of the Great Society outreach to the ‘less fortunate.’ With legal authority to contract on behalf of the several tribes and my written grant application in hand, I was able to secure a large grant appropriation and return to Oklahoma with a check in hand,” recounts Barrett.

With passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act of 1975, the Indian tribes were able to contract independently with government agencies, administer grant awards, manage construction projects, and govern themselves largely independent of strict oversight by federal or state officials. With the freedom to act, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation began the pursuits of self-governance, the restoration of their language and their spiritual and cultural traditions.

“We had some false starts with our early attempts at self-governance. Tribal councils, annual meetings, pure democracy, and no real rule of law proved ineffectual and corrosive,” recalls Barrett.

Beginning in the late ’90s, the CPN established their Family Reunion Festivals, making them Potawatomi-only events. Over time, the cultural heritage has been restored, with emphasis on well-organized and funded education in the Potawatomi language and with ceremonial marriage, burial, dancing, art, music, singing and family as the centerpiece of CPN societal norms.

Beginning with his election to Chairman in 1985, Barrett’s 27-year leadership of the Nation has resulted in a transformation of their constitution and governance to a form of representative democracy with a three-member executive, a 16-member legislature and an independent judiciary of judges and courts. The 16-member legislature reflects.
Legislative Columns

District #1 - Roy Slavin

Bozho, Nikan,

What a great year it has been so far! First, we enjoyed a great Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee. Now we - my wife Julia, daughter Verna, granddaughter Jessica, and two great-grandchildren, Molly and Mathew, and I - have just returned from the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations, hosted this year by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Fulton, Michigan.

The Gathering of Nations is always a great trip for us, one that we look forward to each year. The Nottawaseppi Hurons have made some wonderful improvements since we were last there. Everything is new. The arena was newly built with new sod on the grounds, and there were covered bleachers. All of this is located in a wooded area, and the hospitality of the host nation could not have been better.

If you have never been to a Gathering of Nations, I urge you to put it on your bucket list. It’s always a great trip. Next year’s Gathering will also be in Michigan. The host nation will be the Pokagon Potawatomi of Dowagiac, Michigan, just north of Notre Dame University. This, too, as I remember, is a great place to visit.

“Gathering of Nations” - Wouldn’t it be great if the nations of the world could meet each year and have the same kinship the Potawatomi Nations have?

While on the subject of Nations, let me take this opportunity to urge everyone to vote in the upcoming national elections. If you don’t vote, you lose your right to complain, and everyone knows how we like to complain about our elected officials.

As you know from past articles I like to recognize our elders on their birthdays. I just received a very nice thank you note from Anna May Comadoll, thanking us (Julia and me) for the flowers. Anna celebrated her 97th birthday on August 5, 2012. Anna was born in Salisbury, Missouri. Happy birthday Anna and many, many more. If you have an elder in your family who is a tribal member and is 90 and older, please let me know so we can honor him or her on their birthday.

District #1 covers Missouri and everything east of Missouri and north of Arkansas. In that area, there are about 2,500 Potawatomis who are members of District #1. Of that number, I have contact information for approximately one-sixth (about 400 people). The Nation cannot give me your contact information due to privacy issues. The only way I have to get your contact information is for you to give it to me. PLEASE, PLEASE! If you don’t get email or regular mail from me, please send me your information. I can be reached toll-free at 888-741-5767 or via e-mail at rslavin@potawatomi.org or rjslavin@gmail.com. My mailing address is Roy Slavin, 6730 Tower Drive, Kansas City, Mo 64151. Hope to hear from you soon.

Migwetch,
Roy

District #2 - Eva Marie Carney

Bozho/Hello,

I’ve been thinking about teaching and learning. That may be because it is September and time for a new school year. Or, maybe it is because our daughter just moved back to our area to work as an autism teacher after finishing up a research position for the University of Rochester. She has been in training for much of the summer and has been sharing with us what she has been learning.

It also may be because of the instruction in making a Potawatomi drum that I received at the Gathering on the Pine Creek Reservation in Athens, Michigan. The instructors – a grandfather and grandson from the Pokagon Band – had that rare ability to explain what they know and show what to do in a way that made the technique very apparent, and then to let the students do the work themselves. (A photo of the instruction is at the bottom of this column, and information on Jason Wesaw, the instructor shown in the photo, who happens also to be an artist in residence at the Eiteljorg Museum, can be found here: http://www.eiteljorg.org/interact/artists-in-residence/jason-wesaw. The link has an interesting account of Jason’s efforts to reclaim his Potawatomi heritage.)

Or, it even may be because I was just in New Mexico at the highly regarded Indian Market and was able to visit with and learn from the various Potawatomis and other extremely talented Native artists exhibiting there. Among the artists were Jeri Red Corn from Norman, Oklahoma, with her beautiful Caddo pots (check out redcornpottery.com), and Peggy Fontenot from California, with great beadwork and photographs. (A photo of me with Peggy and Jack Johnson at their booth is at the bottom of this column.)

All that’s a long wind-up for my message this month, which is to (a) encourage everyone reading this to share with those around you what you know in terms of our traditional ways, our heritage, and your particular Potawatomi relations; and (b) use me as a resource for information and for contacts with others who have particular knowledge or information you are seeking.

Passing on our family stories and ways of doing things will keep them alive for many future generations. I believe that doing that is a duty we owe our people. If we teach others to the best of our ability and encourage them to share what they learn from us with others who are interested, we will make that happen. I want to do my part and share with anyone who wants to learn what I’ve been taught. I think that is my core duty as a CPN legislator and your District #2 Representative.

I’m not making that offer because I am an expert in anything, but I have been incredibly fortunate to be able to visit with many generous people willing to share what they’ve learned. My contacts are now your contacts, and you just have to ask.

I also want to make sure you know there are resources online you can access for information and instruction, including the potawatomi.org website, the other Potawatomi Nation websites (I can give you a list if you ask or you can Google “Potawatomi nation or tribe” for them), and my website, evamariecarney.com. On my site, I have pictures of and a guide to our traditional objects that are held at the Smithsonian, for instance, and the text of Potawatomi prayers, information on our prayer circle and naming ceremony, and other information you may be seeking. A
lot of the cultural information is under the “Heritage” part of the site and requires a password (to protect it a bit). So please contact me for the password.

I am planning a Fall Feast/Open House in November at the District #2 office in Washington, D.C. and will let you know the date and details by e-mail. If you can help me plan an Orlando-area meeting for the spring, please contact me. Dixie Quinn, who is finishing up law school at the University of Arkansas, has started work on planning with me a Little Rock meeting for early spring.

While Florida and Arkansas have the largest concentrations of enrolled Potawatomis, and the area surrounding the office in D.C. ranks third, I know there is much more to District #2! If you would like me to come to your area and can help locate a venue and a source from which we can obtain a meal we can share during the meeting, I am eager to hear from you. With 13 states and the District of Columbia in District #2, I could use your help in this way. Please consider gifting some of your time for planning a meeting.

One last note: please send me your contact details. Building community is an e-mail by e-mail and contact-by-contact effort. Make sure you are included! And please send me a note or place a call, as I hope to hear from many of you in the next school year.

Thank you for the great honor of representing you.

Migwetch,
Eva Marie Carney/Ojindiskwe (Bluebird woman)
Legislator, District #2
The Portrait Building, Suite 340
701 8th St., NW, Washington, DC  20001
E-mail: ecarney@potawatomi.org
Toll Free: 866-961-6988

At left, Jason Wesaw shows Legislator Eva Marie Carney how to lace a hand drum during the Gathering of Nations workshop. At right, Rep. Carney poses at the Indian Market 2012 in Santa Fe with exhibiting Potawatomi artists Peggy Fontenot and James Kincaid Johnson.

District #3 - Robert Whistler

Bozho, Nikan (Hello, friends),

As mentioned in my last column, 2012 is moving along quickly. Since then, four beading classes have been held in May and June - one in the Woodlands, another in San Marcos, and two in Bedford. We hosted more than 36 constituents. A number of photos that were taken during the classes are being included. My apology for not being able to show everyone.

At the end of June, I went to the Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee and was able to get to the dedication of our new eagle avairy. However, I had an emergency come up and had to leave before the festival got fully underway.

Ironically, in the June HowNiKan, Rep. David Barrett discussed risk and the need for insurance. My emergency had to do with a leaking water line in the house. Normally, I turn off the main hose to the washing machine but not the entire house. A small line broke, and since I had insurance, all I am out is my deductible.

In talking to other family members and friends, my situation was not unique. Many have had a similar challenge surface.

My recommendation and future action are, if I am going to be away for more than overnight, I will turn off the complete water supply at the street. I suggest you think about doing the same thing at your own residence.

Although I missed most of the family festival and seeing many of you in Shawnee during that event, my plan is to hold three meetings in Texas before year’s end. One will be in south Texas, most likely near the Woodlands. A second will be in north Texas, in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, and the third will be a combination Districts Nos. 3 and 5 meeting which will be in west Texas, most likely near Abilene. They will be in late October or early November, with October my preference.

The first week in August, I attended The Gathering of Potawatomi Nations in the Battle Creek, Michigan area. As usual, it was a wonderful event, even though we had a number of days with rain. I learned how to start medallion-beading and wooden spoon-making, along with gaining some new knowledge on clans and which roots, leaves, and berries were used by our ancestors for medical needs.

In the spoon-making class, our teacher informed us that when an ancestor “walked on,” a small wooden spoon was made. It was about the same size as is now used for the ice cream Dixie cups. It was attached to one of the deceased’s fingers to aid him or her in gaining nourishment during the long journey ahead.

Several months ago, I mentioned that there is a Native American-owned business just a few blocks from our District #3 tribal office. Flying Eagle Trading Post is at 232 Bedford-Euless Road, Hurst, Texas. They carry many, many true Native American items. Should you need sweetgrass, sage, flat cedar, or abalone shells, they are a close source. They recently added Red Lake Nation fish batter, Maple syrup, and Blueberry Jam. They have reasonable prices.

In closing, I look forward to seeing many of you at one of the three area meetings we will host before the year is out.

Gigawabamin’ nagutch (See you later).

Bob Whistler
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
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RWhistler@Potawatomi.org
CPN3Legislator@Yahoo.com

Citizen Potawatomi Nation members learn cultural skills during a session sponsored by the District #3 legislative office. Rep. Bob Whistler is planning three more such opportunities for October and/or November 2012.
Greetings to all,

I guess another summer has almost passed. Children and grandchildren are back in school. Life goes on. What are you doing with your life and the time you have?

I remember a movie I saw about 30 years ago that made a significant impact on my thinking. It was regarding “What do you do with your time.” Surprisingly!!

We spend time watching TV, playing games, listening to music, talking with friends, and going to church, etc. In a 24 hour period we spend seven to eight hours sleeping - hopefully. There are meals to prepare and consume, and cleanliness is a prime concern both personally and within our homes. Our work takes another eight hours each day, five days a week, along the time to drive there and back.

If you are like me, you run your errands at lunch-time, on your way to and from your place of employment.

Now, that leaves another six to seven hours unaccounted for. Who knows?? That is unless you are Vice Chairman Linda Capps or Chairman John Barrett. I don’t think they sleep at all.

Are you aware that time is all we have? I know I have mentioned it before but I want to ask again, because that really is all you have.

If you are not pleased with the way life is progressing or what you have accomplished in the 30 to 40 or 50-plus years, you have already spent half the time allotted in an average life span. But it is not too late!!

What did you dream about as a child? What is it you wanted to do that there has been no time or money for in the past? It’s not too late?

In addition to the legislature with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, I work with a college that inspires people to take that step - go for that dream!! Don’t settle for that which will not bring you the sense of accomplishment.

Did you dream of being an attorney, a singer, an artist, a contractor, a minister, a poet, a doctor, or whatever it was that drew you out as a youngster? If so listen to this!!

I know a lady who started her paralegal training at the age of 68. Grandma Moses didn’t start her career as an artist until she was older than 80. Colonel Sanders didn’t reach his dream until he was 60.

I was told of homeless people who thought life was over yet found their dream. ‘Jewel,’ a popular singer today, did her writing as she and her mother lived out of their car. “Conversation with God” was written by a homeless man, and now he has published book, “1, 2, 3,” and is now making a movie out of the journaling he did in that time frame.

The things that we go through in life might be the beginning of our future, not the end of a lifetime. It is important to trust our path and know it will take us where we need to be in time. Trust is the key word.

I trust the Creator and all that comes, no matter the feeling in the moment. I know that I am being asked to experience and understand something that will benefit me in the future. I do not have to know what that is but I know I will use it on my journey.

I am asking all of you to know that now, as you read this small article, and to know that what you are doing is a part of the puzzle or a segment of the whole piece you are to experience as a human being.

It is not important that you understand (great if you do) - merely know! You will use these experiences in the future to help another or to take you to your right place.

There is a plan and you do have a choice. You can take it or say, “No!” Swimming upstream isn’t recommended but you can certainly give it a try. I know I did for several years.

I have come to know - it is what it is!!

Know your life means something to many. What you do is important. Take it seriously!

I love and care about all of you! You are my people!! You are my family!!

Gene Lambert

District #5 - Gene Lambert

Bozho, Nikan,

When you hear the words “long look,” what comes to mind? Maybe you think of young lovers gazing at each other endlessly. Perhaps, it’s what mom did when she was unhappy with you! Or, it could even be a term meaning serious consideration or think hard about.

Have you ever considered yourself a bridge or link between the past and the future? Not that long ago, I heard the term “long look” used to represent seven generations of time. The context in which I heard it used was forward-looking or for the next seven generations. Well, the term has stuck with me, and I’ve taken a “long look” at it, pun intended.

As I’ve pondered the long look, I’ve come to the realization that the long look can also be directed to the past. Seven generations worth of time is a considerable length of time. Even if measured at 50 years per generation, it represents 350 years. If we go seven generations in either direction from where we are now, we’re in the middle of a 700-year span. A lot can happen in 700 years! Entire civilizations have come and gone in less time than that.

The older I get, the more important my legacy becomes. What are the things I want my children, grandchildren and beyond to know about me? How can I instill in them the things I hold to be true and of great significance? Then I ask myself, “How many of those things were instilled in me from my parents and grandparents and other relatives? How much of who I am is influence from my environment?”

But what’s the point? Why even worry about it? I think the answer lies in our heritage. Most indigenous peoples are very spiritual and believe in a higher power of one sort or another. And, most indigenous societies hold (or held) certain things and elements as sacred and never to be lost. But wars, oppression, domination, greed, progress, time, and evil have a way of eroding or destroying what is sacred.

What does Potawatomi mean to you? Is it People of the Place of the Fire? Or is it People of the Fire? Perhaps it means Keepers of the Fire or Fire Keepers. Notice that fire is common to each meaning. Looking back seven generations, one could easily conclude that fire was probably held in fairly high regard by the Potawatomis, considering the harshness of winters in the woodlands region! But one can only imagine and try to piece together the fragments of historical artifacts to come to his own understanding of what it really means. But, because indigenous people were and are such spiritual beings and viewed just about everything as gifts from the Creator, I have to believe that fire was sacred for more than just the physical elements of warmth and cooking food.

Fire was at the center of just about every ceremony known to the Potawatomis. Fire smoke carried their prayers to the Creator. Fire overpowered the darkness. Fire assisted with healing, and on and on. Whether self-appointed or charged with it by the Ojibwa and Ottawa, I believe the Potawatomis have the responsibility of safeguarding and keeping alive the culture and traditions of our ancestors. Our name insists upon it!

As a Christian, to me the long look means that I am responsible for living and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that will insure it is not lost from this generation to the next, and so on. As a Potawatomi, to me the long look means that I am responsible for knowing and teaching as much of our culture and tradition as possible.

How to preserve what you value seven generations into the future is hard to even imagine. To preserve what you value but don’t know is mission impossible. We have to imagine the future, live in and deal with the present, and uncover the past. Wow!

To be continued......

You might acquire knowledge from books and schools, but wisdom is a gift from God! - “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously
to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." James 1:5

Migwetch!
Rande K. Payne/Mnedo Gabo
District #6 Legislator

Bozho,
On Sunday, August 12, 2012, fifty Citizen Potawatomis came together to learn about the Nation’s progress, culture, and benefits. We met at the Shilo Inn in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. This Idaho “panhandle” location enabled members to attend from eastern Washington, western Montana, and, of course, Idaho.

By a show of hands, we quickly determined that about 60% of the attendees had never been to Oklahoma or a Regional Meeting coordinated by the executive branch. For about 30 members, this was their first exposure to the Nation.

We went through a series of handouts regarding the history of the Nation and benefits available to members living in District #8. We saw the film “Journey,” which documents the forced removal from Indiana to Kansas and a brief film on the 2011 Family Reunion Festival. We worked our way through a PowerPoint presentation that provided a look at the Cultural Heritage Center and one that provided an overview of the government and enterprises.

Finally, we recognized the “Wisest Potawatomi,” the youngest, and the one who travelled farthest to attend. The Wisest was an elder, Rich Richard, who is 85 years old. Determining the youngest was more problematic - there were no children at the meeting, but there was a woman there whose child was to be born a week after the event. I felt compelled to award the prize, a Pendleton baby blanket, to the yet-to-be born Judah Dixon. Mom assures me that the paperwork for enrollment will be on its way soon! Lastly, Frank Anderson of Columbia Falls, Montana won a hot/cold bag and a thermal cup for coming the farthest distance to the meeting.

After the meeting, seven members received their Potawatomi names. Jerry Cor- rey, a member of the Peltier family, who lives in Coeur d’Alene named her grandson and brother. I had the honor of Naming five others, including our Wisest member.

If you are a Facebook member, please consider joining the Citizen Potawatomi group. There are plenty of announcements and updates from members and the Nation’s staff. Recently, I followed a link found there by Sam Navarre in the Language Department for a beginner’s online language lunch-time class. Afterward, I talked to Sam, and he encouraged me to have folks in District #8 give it a try.

I enjoyed the class myself, and it was the first time I had heard several words spoken that I had seen in writing for years. The pace was good, and I was e-mailed copies of the slides we went over immediately after the class. I’d give Sam and the Language Department an “A”. By the way, there is a District #8 Facebook group with more than 80 members. You can join if you live in one of the nine northwest states that make up the district.

In early November, I am planning to have the “Fall Feast” event in western Washington. I will release details as they firm up. Last years’ gathering was so large that I had to move it from my office to a church hall. What a great problem to have! This year, we will start off with a larger venue.

As always, please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance. My website is www.dave-carney.com.  

Dave Carney/Kagashi (Raven)  
District #8 Representative  
360.259.4027
Bozho, Nikan

THE WORLD WARS I AND II CODE TALKERS

The World Wars I and II Code Talkers will be inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 9, 2012 at Quail Creek Golf and Country Club, Oklahoma City.

These men used their native language on the battlefields against the German Army in WWI and WWII. These Indians used their Native American language as a military code.

As a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, I was pleased to honor these soldiers, in person, with a Resolution which was unanimously approved by the legislature. That resolution is below:

The Code Talkers: A Resolution

WHEREAS, Code Talkers were Native American soldiers serving in the U.S. armed forces (who) primarily transmitted secret tactical messages. The Code Talkers transmitted these messages over military telephone or radio communications nets using formal or informally-developed codes built upon their native languages.

WHEREAS, the name is strongly associated with bilingual Navajo speakers specially recruited, for the first time during World War II, by the United States Marine Corps under the Department of Navy to serve in their standard communications units in the Pacific Theater. However the United States Army, under the Department of War, on a smaller scale also used Native American Indians to perform the same missions in both World War I and World War II.

WHEREAS, the Imperial Japanese Army and Navy never cracked the spoken code, and high ranking military officers have stated that the United States would never have won the Battle of Iwo Jima without the secrecy afforded by the code talkers.

WHEREAS, a recent and highly acclaimed movie depicted the heroic actions of soldiers winning the battle of Iwo Jima, which were forever symbolized in the famous Washington D.C. statue of men lifting the American flag, nevertheless the movie does not mention the significant contribution of Code Talkers.

WHEREAS, the code talkers received no recognition until the declassification of the operation in 1968. In 1982, the code talkers were given a Certificate of Recognition by President Ronald Reagan, who also named August 14 “National Code Talkers Day.”

THEREFORE, it is proper that the State of Oklahoma hereby designates August 14 as “Oklahoma State Code Talkers Day.”

Migwetch,
Paul Wesselhöft/Naganit (Leader)

YOUR CPN LEGISLATOR NEEDS YOU!

If you are a CPN member and would like to receive regular e-mailings of information from your Citizen Potawatomi Nation legislator, please send him or her an e-mail. Please include your name, e-mail address, home phone number, cell phone number, and street address.

Bozho,

Well, do I have the privilege to shine some light on another group of Potawatomi people? The PLPers. The main goal of the Potawatomi Leadership Program is designed to educate, inform, and encourage qualified Potawatomi students and to develop within the tribal membership at large a more accurate perception of the tribe and its operations.

There is a selection process for the ones who makes the trip to Shawnee. But after that has taken place, the fun begins! Well, this may not be precisely true. All their schedules, projects, duties, and meetings with department heads are compressed into six weeks. This limited amount of time does fly.

All that said, I want to recognize this year participants as follows: Allie Beil (Florida), Brittnie Tipton (Oklahoma), Margaret Zientek, and Katelyn Whitaker (Oklahoma), Lexi Freeman (Oklahoma), Lexy Bruce (Oklahoma), and Troy Whistler (Missouri). Along with this large group of young people, there were Counselor Austen Roselius, Project Coordinator Tesia Zientek, and House Mom Margaret Zientek, all from Oklahoma.

This year they added to the program five projects which had to be accomplished during this compressed time frame. They met with the Directors of Self-Governance, Tribal Rolls, Child Development, Economic Development, Accounting, WIC, Realty, Information Technology, Public Information, Elections Committee, Tag Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environment Health, Housekeeping and Safety, Gaming Commission, First National Bank, Marketing, Indian Child Welfare, Family Violence, and Community Development Corporation.

After the 2012 PLP participants met with the directors, they were able to select two departments that each of them has an interest in or would like to know more about. They spent two half-day visits working more closely with those directors.

Remember, this is also happening during the preparations for the Family Reunion Festival, then working in the festival.

They were able to gain more knowledge about their language, dance, viewing videos at the Tribal Heritage Center, Eagle Aviary, radio station, grocery stores, casinos, and tribal court.

The PLP participants’ five projects were as follows: Eagle Aviary Brochure (use and importance of eagle feathers - Allie & Lexi F); Coloring Book/Language/age appropriate featuring eagles (Brittnie & Katelyn); Stickball Revitalization Demonstration-Making of a stickball stick (David & Lexy B); Self-Governance Awareness video (Elan & Jade); and Featured Family Calendar (Elizabeth & Troy).

Trying to describe each project would be endless; thus, I will comment about each one briefly, starting with the stickball video. It featured a demonstration stickball game led by a stickball team from the Chickasaw Nation. It also showed the Potawatomi students providing a traditional feast for the Chickasaw group, to thank them for their time and knowledge. They extended special thanks to Blake Norton of the Cultural Heritage Center, Coby Lehman of the Language Department, and Curtis Grant of the Tribal Heritage Project. Blake and Coby made contact with their Chickasaw friends, allowing the demonstration to take place. Curtis video-taped it.

Whenever you visit the Eagle Aviary, you will receive a brochure that provides basic information about eagles, eagle feath-
ers, and the significance of the Nation’s having its own, newly-opened Eagle Aviary.

The Eagle Story pamphlet not only has pictures to color but also has Potawatomi words, cultural stories, eagle facts, and Potawatomi-to-English flash cards. By the way, these are being used in our Child Development Center as I’m writing this.

The most challenging project was the one on Self-Governance. It involved portraying, with movie clips and slides, just what self-governance is. That is a difficult task because this process is not a program but a lifestyle for the Potawatomi. As CPN Self-Governance Director, Rhonda Butcher put it, “Self-Governance is not a program. It is a process, a way of life. Self-Governance is taking control of our own situation to improve the lives of our people. It is the exercise of our sovereignty. Through the Federal Self-Governance law, the tribe receives funds directly from the BIA and IHS to provide services to our members that historically were provided directly by the federal government. We then re-budget and redesign the federally funded programs (IHS and BIA) to best meet our people’s needs. The decision-making is done at the local level. Accountability is to our members. Our destiny is our own.”

The last project, the Tribal Calendar, was created as another benefit to the tribe and its members. A calendar is an everyday household object that most people use daily to coordinate schedules and record important events that occur each month. Elizabeth and Troy proposed that each month of the calendar show two of our Potawatomi families so that all the families would fit into two years. The calendar looks totally fantastic.

Vice Chairman Linda Capps asked CPN members Jon and Lyman Boursaw of Topeka, Kansas to speak about the veterans to the PLP members. I was honored to have an opportunity to discuss how our legislature is working and some of the responsibilities that we, as elected officials, have to our members.

Here are some thoughts from the presentation of these projects. Some didn’t know a lot about their Nation before this experience but afterward know more and are very happy. One thought being Potawatomi just means receiving what is given out; however, now he understands that the identity of being Potawatomi is the main purpose. One was overwhelmed by our Nation’s culture and history.

One thought it would be working like a job, but was more, and was fun. Three things that make CPN great are being flexible, friendly, and servicing needs. One thought she knew a lot about the tribe but after the first day discovered that there was a lot left to experience. And last, one wished he had been better informed in the home before being thrown into the ocean of knowledge that he was experiencing during the stay in Shawnee.

Vice Chairman Capps stated to me that this program was started in 2003, and I do want to thank her for the coordination she offers, to ensure the PLP experience is successful each year.

In no way can I summarize in a short column all that was done or accomplished by these young folks; however, I can say, after listening to their final presentations, that I was moved. My heart swelled with the pride and excitement that were shown on their faces. This is what it is all about. Can you imagine them telling you about their increased knowledge about our Nation?

It goes without saying that it is both a pleasure and an honor to serve you and our great Nation.

Migwetch,
David Barrett/Mnedobe (Sits with the Spirit)
Oklahoma Legislator, District #10
DBarrett@Potawatomi.org

At top right, Rep. David Barrett (Oklahoma) listens as one of the Potawatomi Leadership Program participants makes a point during end-of-program presentations. Second from top, PLP participants and others gathered in the CPN Legislative Chamber for those presentations. Third from the top, one of the 2012 PLP highlights was an opportunity to learn stickball techniques from a Chickasaw Nation stickball team.

At bottom, the PLP participants gathered at the prayer circle on the Sharp House grounds for a group photo. Front row, left to right, they are House Mom Margaret Zientek, Allie Beil, Elizabeth Clift, Lexi Freeman, and Katelyn Whitaker. From left, the back row of PLP participants consists of Troy Whistler, Elan Pochedley, Lexy Bruce, David McKown, Jade O’Connor, Counselor Austen Roselius, and Brittnie Tipton.

Tesia Zientek, project coordinator, is in row two in the second photo.
Bozho, Nikan,

I was sitting here, thinking, the other day about our nation and what it means to me. As a young man, I remember my first thoughts as my dad drove us up that old gravel road to the headquarters building. Yes, it wasn’t much. But, as many would say, it was ours.

I always knew I was a member of the tribe so it wasn’t a big surprise to find out. And, in reality, it was probably not much different than I would have expected. I remember going to the powwow as a young man. I remember all the nice folks who took time to talk to me and share. As a teenager, I had the opportunity to participate in the arts program the tribe put on. I learned beading and leather and jewelry work, and was taught how to make and respect prayer pipes. Later in life, I had the chance to go to college on an Indian Action scholarship. After college, I went out and conquered the world for about 15 years.

About this time one evening, I got a call from a friend. It was Linda Capps and she put me on a conference call with the business committee. They were looking for someone to serve on the Grievance Committee. I thought about it a moment and agreed to serve the nation.

That was my first opportunity to give back. While it wasn’t the most harmonious period in the tribe’s history, it did open me up to investing in the tribe. I served there for five years. A few years passed, and another opportunity became available to me. I was appointed to the business committee, where I have served for 10 years now.

Why the history lesson on my experience? Because it reminds me of what this tribe has meant to me. It’s about service. It’s about friends I’ve met. It’s about family I had and have found. It’s about us, the nation. Something bigger than its individuals, it is a group of people.

We have been blessed as a nation, and because of that many of us have benefitted, myself included. I am thankful for our tribe and what it has been able to do for all of us. It’s part of who I am - a Native American. It makes me special in this day and time. I like to think we are all better because of it.

Hopefully, many of you feel the same way. If you do, take time to come out to the nation and see what you own. See who you are. I would like to suggest you drop by the Heritage Museum and look over the displays and learn a little history of who you are. We have come a long way since we moved down here from Kansas.

As always, it is both a pleasure and an honor to serve you and our great nation. Bama pi and Migwetch,

Paul Schmidlkofe

Bozho, Ninikan,

I thought I would use my column this month just to give everyone a reminder about enrollment. It was prompted because I attended a family reunion on Labor Day. A small part of my family consists of members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. At this reunion, they asked about our enrollment process. That prompted questions from my CPN relatives.

Applications for tribal enrollment can be found on the CPN website www.potawatomi.org or by calling 800-880-9880 and asking for Tribal Rolls. After the information provided by the prospective CPN member is verified and the person is found to qualify for citizenship, the request is sent to the Legislature for a vote. Our tribe requires that there not be a skip in any generation for enrollment, we do not require a blood degree.

I found it interesting that some of my Prairie Band relatives like our requirement for descendancy enrollment while some like the blood-degree requirement used by the Prairie band Potawatomi Nation. It is up to each tribe to decide its own citizenship requirements.

While I do not agree with determining tribal citizenship through blood degree, I do respect any tribe’s right to require it for citizenship. I wonder if we are simply a generation ahead of them. What will the grandmothers think when they have been active in the tribe but their grandchildren are not recognized as Native American?

As always, if you have any questions, please call 785-861-7272 or e-mail me at TAdame@potawatomi.org.

Migwetch,
Theresa Adame
Legislative Representative/Kansas
2007 S.W. Gage
Topeka, KS 66604

Bozho, Ninikan,

It was such a pleasure to meet and spend time with some of you at this year’s Family Reunion Festival. For the second year, my daughter participated in Grand Entry with me. She also joined me to watch and judge the handgames this year! We are convinced we will have a winning team next year!

I would like to say a very special thank you to Kelli Mosteller for getting the information out to me to join in the full moon ceremony. This ceremony is for women and is held each time there is a full moon. To add to the meaning of the ceremony, it is held by the new eagle aviary. If you would like to be notified of the upcoming ceremonies, please e-mail me at bbowden@potawatomi.org. I will make sure to get the information to you. Women of all ages are welcome. It is never too early to begin teaching our daughters about our traditions and the important role women play in our history and our future.

Another thing that is so important to our children is education. As a new school year has just begun, remember it is time for those college students to apply for the scholarship programs our tribe so generously offers. The forms and information are available on the tribal web site www.potawatomi.org. Or, if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am wishing all of you parents and students a successful school year! Thank you for the privilege of serving you!

Migwetch,
Bobbi Bowden
CPN Legislator, District #13 (Oklahoma)
Wesselhöft, McBride are in; Smalley in general election

CPN numbers in Oklahoma House on the way up

James Mark McBride, left, has earned election to the 2013-2014 Oklahoma Legislature in a House district that is centered in the south-of-Oklahoma City suburb of Moore. Jason Smalley, right, faces a November 6 general election battle with Democrat Keith Kinnamon for an Oklahoma House of Representatives seat representing constituents mainly in Lincoln County, which is north of Shawnee.

If Smalley is elected, the number of Citizen Potawatomi Nation members in the Oklahoma House will jump from one -Rep. Paul Wesselhöft of Moore- to three.

There will be at least two, and possibly three, Citizen Potawatomi Nation members in the Oklahoma House of Representatives in the 2013-2014 session. Paul Wesselhöft of Moore, an incumbent and a member of the CPN Legislature, earned re-election to the Oklahoma House without opposition.

James Mark McBride, who owns a home-building company, won election to the House in District #53, which adjoins Rep. Wesselhöft’s District #54, in an August run-off within the Republican Party. No Democrat filed in District #53.

Jason Smalley, of Stroud, Oklahoma, has earned his way into a November 6, 2012 general election battle against Democrat Keith Kinnamon of neighboring Chandler, Oklahoma. Their district #32 is centered in Lincoln County.

McBride has been profiled in the HowNiKan in past years as a result of his mission trips to impoverished countries to vaccinate cattle the farmers must have for a subsistence existence.

McBride described himself as an ordinary, hard-working guy. He added, “Moore is full of ordinary, Hard-working people. I grew up here; my parents grew up here. We’ve worked hard all of our lives. That’s what the majority of the people in Moore have done.”

McBride said he is excited about representing those hard-working people of Moore in the Oklahoma Legislature.

Smalley thanked his run-off opponent, Coy Farmer, for a clean, well-fought race. “Things were clean and fair and that proves we live in the greatest nation,” McBride said. “I have to thank everyone that helped and contributed in so many ways. It may be my name but it was your hard work to help put me here and WE won this primary.”

Smalley grew up in Lincoln County and graduated from Stroud High school. He served in the United States Marine Corps. After completing that service, he returned home to complete his college education, graduating from the University of Oklahoma. He is working as a technology consultant.

Smalley describes himself as a conservative Christian. “I hold family highly important, and I want to take those same values to the capitol,” he said. “I have integrity to the highest standard and will stand up for what you believe is right here in Oklahoma. I want to ensure that Lincoln and Logan Counties have a say at the capitol. I will always be available to listen to issues and discuss the ongoing problems you see or have opinions about. Please call or e-mail any time.”

Smalley can be reached via e-mail at jasonsralley@windstream.net. McBride’s e-mail address is james.m.mcbride@facebook.com.

Works of Woody, Minisa, Woody Max on display

Oklahoma History Center spotlights Crumbos

At left, in a historic photo, Woody Crumbo poses in regalia and with one of his “Dancer” paintings.

At right, Woody Crumbo’s daughter, Minisa Crumbo Halsey, center, poses with two friends at an event at the Oklahoma History Center.

“Crumbo Spirit Talk,” a new exhibit featuring the art of Woody Crumbo and his children, opened on June 28, 2012 at the Oklahoma History Center. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazhi Zudhi Drive in Oklahoma City, within eyesight of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Crumbo was born on January 31, 1912, on his mother’s allotment near Lexington, Oklahoma. A Citizen Potawatomi tribal member, he dedicated his life and talent to the sincere portrayal of American Indian thought and culture through his art.

Crumbo’s prolific work included major advances in oil, silkscreen, tempera, pencil, and watercolor. Crumbo’s career spanned nearly six decades and his paintings are found in numerous museums and private collections around the world, including collection of Queen Elizabeth of England.

Crumbo’s legacy was realized in the continuing artwork of his daughter, Minisa Crumbo Halsey, and son, Woody Max Crumbo. Minisa Crumbo Halsey is a talented artist whose work has been shown throughout Europe and the Russian Federation.

This exhibit will feature a retrospective of Minisa Crumbo Halsey’s work from the 1970s and 1980s. Woody Max Crumbo is a gifted silversmith and there are several pieces made by him, including a concho belt and gorget necklace, featured in the show.

The legacy of Woody Crumbo’s art continues to have an impact on current and future generations. “Half of my life passed in striving to complete the pictorial record of Indian history.” - Woody Crumbo

The exhibit will run through May 29, 2013. It will be located in the E. K. & Thelma Gaylord Special Exhibits Gallery at the Oklahoma History Center. The exhibit is co-sponsored by Minisa Crumbo Halsey and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

For more information please contact Tara Damron at 405-522-0784 or by email at tdamron@okhistory.org.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center
1899 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, Oklahoma
Call 405-878-5830
the decentralization of power and outreach championed by Barrett and gives voice to the Nation’s 32,000 citizens, including the approximately 17,000 who inhabit the other 49 U.S. States.

Those living outside Oklahoma are from eight districts, each with their own representative in the legislative body representing their particular constituency. The remaining eight members reside in Oklahoma. Of those eight, three are the embedded executive: Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer, elected separately by a nationwide vote of all eligible Potawatomi citizens.

“In all the deliberations leading to the revised constitution, the creation of the legislature and judiciary, we wrestled with the issue of land-based versus geographical weighting. The need to go slowly, see what works in practice and avoid a major crisis in confidence or performance was the watchword. In this we have succeeded, to date,” says Barrett. “Looking ahead, if elected by the Nation, I intend to continue as Chairman for another term and keep my promise to amend the Constitution to reflect less executive power by diminishing their role in the legislature.”

During 35 years of service, 27 of them as Chairman, Barrett has defined and directed the economic and business strategies that have transformed the Nation from a nearly bankrupt, loosely organized entity with an income of $75/month and unable to afford a phone in its office, to an economic powerhouse with a budget nearing $400 million annually, an annual economic impact from operations topping $500 million, a land base of 900 square miles of jurisdiction, and annual tax payments exceeding $10 million.

“Our approach to developing a strong economic base has been to hire and retain a lot of very smart, skilled professionals, to annually update our ten-year strategic plan, and to use both horizontal and vertical integration into markets closely related to sectors where we have enjoyed solid success. It’s no accident that we went from convenience store operations into the retail and wholesale grocery business, and from there to trucking. Casino operations were expanded to include a major entertainment venue, and our large cash flows naturally led to the formation of a banking enterprise to serve our own needs, those of our citizenry and the local communities in central Oklahoma,” explained Barrett.

Considering the number and size of the CPN’s business operations, any observer of enterprise is impressed, but it’s just the beginning in Barrett’s visionary mind. On the books or in progress are another large entertainment complex, further investment in cost-saving thermal energy, youth recreation areas, and expansion of its housing construction business.

Barrett affirms his commitment to his constituency, the CPN: “We’re all about offering opportunity to succeed to our citizens through benefits, education and health services, while emphasizing our heritage and culture in the context of dual citizenship, with full knowledge of the responsibilities of such privilege. Opportunity that leads to success and a higher quality of life always trumps a small check that accomplishes very little.”

Chairman Barrett’s leadership skills and the successful economic results they have produced are not surprising for Careful observers of his career as a plywood salesman, a tool pusher, driller and principal of the largest privately-owned refining corporation in the country. Currently, he is President of the Barrett Drilling Company and the Barrett Land and Cattle Company.

From the earliest days in what is now Michigan and Wisconsin, through forced relocation to Oklahoma, until today, the CPN have rejuvenated their religious heritage and love of family through the leadership of Chairman John A. Barrett.

Overcoming adversity to achieve economic success and an improved quality of life for your Nation and your community, through leadership. Nothing could be more... distinctly Oklahoman.

Language conference, con’t from page 6

Donald Perrot, who speaks both Potawatomi and English, also knows the Menominee and Ojibwa native languages. He recommended using the original languages during daily activities, especially with children. “Originally that’s where you learned the language - in the home,” he said.

He is the author of several books on the Potawatomi language that are available for purchase on Amazon.com. He also runs online language classes twice a week through the Neshnabe’ Institute for Cultural Studies. The institute’s web site is http://www.neaseno.org

Newcomers to the language shouldn’t fret about its complexity while learning how to speak Potawatomi, said Dolores Perrot. “That’s like trying to eat a whole pizza at once.” Her advice is to focus on the particles of the language and learn one piece at a time. The Potawatomi language uses particles which are pieces of words that have meaning but can’t stand alone as words, according to the Perrots’ handout material.

Other presenters included Nottawaseppi Huron elder Stewart King from Keene, Ontario, Canada. He urged speakers to be vigilant and use the whole word, not just an abbreviated version. Otherwise, King said, the children will not learn the correct form of Potawatomi.

Frank Barker and a group ofPokagon Band members also spoke in the conference’s “breakout” sessions.

On the final day of the conference, a panel of Native speakers addressed the participants’ questions. Donald Perrot, Jan Hubbard of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Mayetta, Kansas, Jim Thunder, of the Forest County Band in Crandon, Wisconsin, and King took turns speaking, mainly in English, for about 90 minutes.

King told the 125 workshop participants that they must be committed to the resurgence of the Potawatomi language. He said he was glad to see all the youth and children attending because “their being and their future is this language.” He urged the audience, “Don’t be afraid to speak the language.”

Frank Sprague, of the Gun Lake Potawatomi in Grand Rapids, Michigan, praised the panel’s members for their “compassion and love of our language.”