



HOWNIKAN

Zisbaktokégises | April 2019

Top photo: A dandelion blooms as spring arrives at CPN headquarters in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

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Walking on



Potawatomi lacrosse player shows path forward for Oklahoma youth

Citizen Potawatomi Nation supports youth sport initiatives in the community, whether providing donations through its popular coupon books for team fundraising, hosting tournaments at FireLake Ball Fields or holding numerous sports camps during the summer.

Its most recent ambition has been to revive the Potawatomi lacrosse program. Tribal member Bryce Peltier — a player for top state and regional club teams — was one of the instructors at recent CPN lacrosse clinics. Peltier spoke with the *Hownikan* about how he first got involved in America's oldest sport, a game that his ancestors likely played before European contact.

Why did you first decide to try lacrosse?

"I was looking for another sport to play besides baseball and basketball, and my dad and grandpa didn't want me to play football or hockey. I knew lacrosse was tied back to tribes, and it was offered in the Oklahoma City area. My brother and I gave it a shot and have been playing ever since."

When you first started playing, did you think you would be any good? Or was it tough because it is different from other sports that are more popular in Oklahoma?

"I started playing in the fifth grade but had already practiced at home with my brother the year before I started on a team. I wasn't sure what to expect but knew it wouldn't be easy. The hardest thing to learn is passing and catching, but once you have that down, that's when it starts to get fun."

What position do you play? Can you tell me a bit about the responsibilities of that specific position?

"I started playing goalie at the end of my fifth grade season and played some midfielder early on, but goalie is my niche. Goalie is responsible for stopping shots on a 6-foot-by-6-foot goal. A lacrosse ball is about the size of a tennis ball but weighs 5 ounces and is made of hard rubber, so goalie isn't meant for everyone."



Bryce Peltier plays goalie during a lacrosse exhibition at FireLake Ball Fields in 2018.

"It is physically and mentally demanding, and you must be able to adjust quickly to constantly changing situations during games. Also, stopping the ball is half the job. You must be able to communicate to the defense and pass the ball back to the offense after a stop. It's often said that lacrosse goalie is the most unfair and most difficult position in all of sports."

What is it like playing at a competitive level against teams from other states? Are they surprised how competitive the Oklahoma teams are?

"I have a blast playing competitively. Going up against teams from other states is definitely challenging, but I'm always up for a good challenge. I play on Oklahoma and Texas competitive teams. We definitely surprise the out-of-state talent. Many NCAA lacrosse coaches are starting to take notice and are recruiting here more often."

As a Citizen Potawatomi, what is it like for you getting to play

the same sport Potawatomi were playing 300 years ago?

"I can't even explain how proud it makes me to play America's original sport that was played by our ancestors centuries ago. Most players, coaches and people involved in the lacrosse community know about its tribal origins, so that's also another great thing about the sport."

What is something you tell people your age about lacrosse that they do not know when they ask about playing?

"The first thing I tell somebody is to not be afraid to jump in and learn the sport. One of the coolest things about lacrosse is that there is a spot on the field for everyone, regardless of their size or strengths. If an athlete wants to play lacrosse, then they will be welcomed by the lacrosse community."

For more information about playing or coaching lacrosse through Citizen Potawatomi Nation, please contact Brad Peltier at bpeltier@potawatomi.org.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO COACH OR PLAY

CONTACT BRAD PELTIER AT [BPELTIER@POTAWATOMI.ORG](mailto:bpeltier@potawatomi.org)

Trip inspires history professor to incorporate Indigenous worldviews into lectures

Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Andrew Jenks, Ph.D., returned to Tribal headquarters summer 2018 to visit family and learn more about his CPN heritage. His experience while in Oklahoma motivated Dr. Jenks to analyze Native American traditions and teachings. He then incorporate the lessons into his lectures at California State University, Long Beach.

“The trip to Shawnee — after stopping in my father’s hometown nearby of Purcell — was a revealing, profound and mystical experience for me about a part of my identity I never really contemplated beyond occasionally taking out the Tribal membership card I received way back in the 1980s,” Dr. Jenks said.

His father was Potawatomi and a Bertrand descendant, and his mother’s parents were refugees from the Russian Revolution. Their experience fleeing the country inspired Jenks to study Russian language and culture in college and graduate school. Until recently, Jenks had not thought much about his Potawatomi heritage. However, he instantly felt a sense of peace and pride when he arrived at the Nation’s headquarters.

“The experience — one of the more profound moments in my life, at a time when I was still grieving for my father’s passing — was a fitting re-introduction to my Potawatomi roots, connecting me so intimately to the headquarters and launching me into a tour of the excellent and enlightening exhibit about the history and culture of the Tribe,” Dr. Jenks said. “It was at this moment that I first began to consider myself ‘Potawatomi’ and acquired some meaningful sense of myself in relationship to Tribal history.”

For many years, Dr. Jenks struggled with what it means to be Potawatomi. He now realizes Tribal connections and involvement help define that identity.

“What it means to be a member of the Tribe is to simply participate in the culture,” Dr. Jenks said. “If you’re formally a member, but you don’t feel like it, then participate; read about it, study the language and put yourself somehow into that culture.”



Dr. Andrew Jenks’ lifelong love for learning encourages him to research his Potawatomi heritage and other cultures across the world. (Photo provided)

Lectures

Dr. Jenks serves as a professor within California State University’s history department teaching Russian history and the effects of modern environmental disasters.

“I think that one of the things that many Native American tribes have is they ask the question of ‘Why?’ Not just, ‘Can we do it?’ But, ‘Should we do it?’ And that’s something that’s valuable,” he added.

He injects these ideologies in his classes and book, *The Perils of Progress: Environmental Disasters in the Twentieth Century*.

“There is a connection between economic exploitation and development and Indigenous people,” Dr. Jenks explained. “So much of the land, so much of the resources that are exploited and much of the pollution is created as a result of exploitation. The burden of that is felt by Indigenous peoples.”

He also draws an association between a willingness to sacrifice Indigenous peoples for the sake of industrial modernization and development.

“Part of the reason I think we need to be aware of this legacy of colonization continues in the form of pollution,

and many Native Americans and Indigenous peoples around the world are continually exposed to it in addition to economic exploitation,” he said. “The term that’s used in environmental studies is environmental justice.”

According to its website, the Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”

“There is a connection between economic and social justice and political inequality,” Dr. Jenks said. “If you don’t have power, if you don’t have political equality, you’re going to suffer more than other groups.”

When building new infrastructure, businesses and industries, he encourages developers to ask whether the project will provide long-term, positive impacts that expand beyond the bottom line.

“Blind faith in technology and science can lead to something destructive sometimes, and it’s not always something that’s good,” he said.

Career plans

Dr. Jenks plans to retire in 10 to 15 years, and as the next chapter in life approaches, he contemplates what final research he will complete.

“I’ve been thinking that project might look more directly at Potawatomi and American History, my own personal relationship to that ... as opposed to academic, objective or scientific — something that sort of injects myself into the story much more explicitly than in my past research,” Dr. Jenks said.

He enjoys researching and delving into a variety of topics, writing and lecturing on the subjects that interest him the most, attesting that “living the good life means learning something new every day.”

Read more about Dr. Jenks, his research and published books at cpn.news/andrewjenks. ♡

Legislative update 2019: First quarter

Legislators met at the end of February for the first quarterly legislative meeting of 2019. All CPN Tribal Legislators were present.

Proceedings began by approval of minutes for the quarterly November 2018 meeting, a special electronic December 2018 meeting for a short-term grant approval and HEARTH Act sublease approval issue, and a Feb. 7, 2019, special meeting to approval an agreement with Iron Horse Industrial Park and Pro-Pipe Service.

Legislators tabled action on the Tribal Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance before approving a resolution for CPN’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

A resolution enrolling 201 new citizens into the Tribe passed with all legislators voting in favor. A

conditional relinquishment of CPN citizenship was granted to Geneva Aline Benton and Robert Leland Taylor.

To support the annual Potawatomi Gathering, legislators approved a resolution contributing \$10,000 toward the 2019 event, taking place at Wasauksing First Nation in Ontario, Canada.

The CPN legislators approved several grant applications including those for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2019 Native Language Preservation and Maintenance program, the Institute of Museum and Library Services 2019 Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries program, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services 2019 Native American Library Services Basic Grants Program.



Legislators also supported grant applications for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families’ 2019-2023 Family Violence Prevention

Services as well as the U.S. Department of Justice’s fiscal year 2019 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation to continue development of comprehensive approaches to public safety and criminal justice. ♡

Sex education influences teen birth rate

By Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton

Although data indicates teen birth rates are decreasing steadily, Native teenage girls continue to have a higher birth rate than their non-Native classmates.

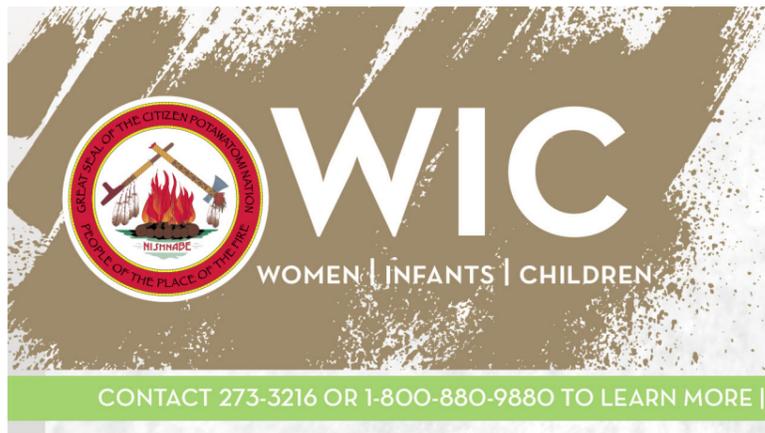
At 34.8 and 22.3 percent respectively, Indigenous teens have higher birth rates than their non-Native classmates, both nationally and in Oklahoma.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data published Jan. 10, Oklahoma's teen birth rate continues to be higher across the board than the national average, despite dropping by 51 percent over the past 25 years.

Among Oklahoma girls ages 10-14, the birth rate is 0.3 for every 1,000, while the national rate is 0.2. For girls age 15-19, the national birth rate is 18.8. Among Oklahomans that age, it is 29.7.

Even with the declines, Indigenous Oklahomans count for 17 percent of all teen births as of December 2018.

Additionally, 41 percent of Indigenous Oklahoma teen mothers birthed a second child within 18 months of



Serving east central Oklahoma mothers, children and families by providing supplemental nutritious foods, health and nutrition education, referrals and breast feeding education in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation WIC Service area. If you are a resident of Cleveland, Payne, Lincoln, Logan, Pottawatomie, Seminole or Oklahoma counties and qualify for service, the CPN WIC Satellite and Mobile Office is there to serve.

their first. Rapid repeat pregnancies run a higher risk of health problems, including premature labor, uterine rupture and anemia for the mother as well as placental abruption and low birth weight for the baby.

An obstetrician-gynecologist, Dr. Gregory Woitte has been the chief medical officer for Indian Health Service's Oklahoma City Service Unit for the last 14 years.

In an effort to address the higher rates of teenage pregnancies, IHS partnered with rural school districts in its service unit to provide clinics and

fact-based health education offerings to both male and female students.

Aside from HIV/AIDS prevention, Oklahoma currently does not require school districts to teach sex education. State statute mandates any sexual education courses offered emphasize abstinence and allow parents to determine their child's participation.

The unit's pharmacies have also made an effort to facilitate access to multiple types of contraception, including longer lasting forms such as intrauterine devices.

"We're committed to providing the resources," Woitte said. "I'm not sure if there's necessarily greater demand, but teenagers think about sex no matter whether they're Native, Caucasian, African American or Hispanic.

"Teenagers are able to come in, get the contraception and are able to understand what they want. We have a lot more availability than what we once did ... because IHS has made that commitment and made the resources available." ♣

Potawatomi in leadership for both OK legislative bodies

Two Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members currently hold leadership positions in both chambers of the 2019 Oklahoma Legislature.

First elected in 2012, Rep. Mark McBride (R-Moore) currently serves as an assistant floor leader and chair of the Appropriations and Budget on Education Committee. Outside of his position at the statehouse, he owns and operates McBride Homes and Roofing. McBride is a descendant of the Boursaw family on his father's side.

Sen. Jason Smalley (R-Stroud) serves as majority caucus chair. He is in his second session as a senator, having served as house representative for District 32 from 2012 to 2014 before filing to run for his current position. He serves constituents in parts of Lincoln, Pottawatomie and Seminole counties including communities like Tecumseh, Pink, Earlsboro and Bethel Acres. Smalley is a Peltier-family descendant.

In addition to the state legislature, Oklahoma's executive branch has new leadership under recently elected Governor Kevin Stitt and Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell. Governor Stitt's focus on a more efficient state government is winning plaudits from many tribes. This new tact, when it comes to Indian Country, is best exemplified with the governor's

appointment of Lisa J. Billy as Secretary for Native American affairs.

Billy, a former state house representative from 2004-2016, served as floor leader, deputy whip and vice-chair of the Republican caucus. She is also a founding member of the body's Native American caucus alongside former state legislators Paul Wesselhöft, a Citizen Potawatomi member, and Shane Jett, a Cherokee Nation citizen and current head of the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation. Secretary Billy is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and serves as an elected official on the tribe's legislature.

There is hope amongst tribes in Oklahoma that Secretary Billy will have genuine support from the governor's office to work with the state's Native nations. Past governors' appointees for Native American affairs received little support or authority, with the state's executive branch reserving tribal relations to attorneys.

It is an important year in Oklahoma for Indian Nations with gaming operations. Compact negotiations are set to be renewed and possibly renegotiated in 2020, and there are concerns that state government officials will look to Oklahoma's tribes to increase funding. ♣

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FULL NAME, HOMETOWN, POTAWATOMI FAMILY NAME, HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE, AND DEGREE TYPE AND MAJOR

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary FAQ

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary Manager Jennifer Randell and Assistant Manager Bree Dunham have been the aviary's sole two employees since its opening in 2012. Both Randell and Dunham are proud of the Nation's efforts to provide a permanent home for injured birds of prey. They employ sound animal husbandry practices that create a safe, enriching environment for the eagles and help educate the public about Potawatomi culture.

Learn more about the CPN Eagle Aviary with these frequently asked questions.

How can individuals or groups schedule a tour?

The best way to schedule a tour is to call 405-863-5623 or message the CPN Eagle Aviary on Facebook, @CPNeagleaviary. Please note, it may take several days to receive a reply. If looking for a specific date or time, staff encourage submitting requests at least three months in advance. The aviary only has two employees who often present to schools and other groups. Because of the staff's tight schedules, the earlier someone reaches out about a tour or demonstration, the more likely they will be able to meet the request.



Kyla's personality matches her Potawatomi name Kche-Gizbek (Big Sky), and she is often vocal, greeting visitors with her loud call.

What days of the week do tours usually occur?

Tours are usually held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

How long do tours last?

Tours last 45 minutes to one hour for smaller groups and up to 1.5 hours for larger groups.

Why can't CPN tribal members, CPN employees or members the public show up to the aviary without scheduling a tour or speaking with aviary staff ahead of time?

Aviary staff often give offsite presentations as well as tend to injured birds, eagles or other animals found in the area. They occasionally drive wounded wildlife to rehabilitation centers and pick up eagles in locations across North America. When new eagles and other birds of prey arrive to the aviary, it's important they have the quiet space needed to acclimate safely.

Many CPN members utilize the aviary to hold ceremony or to pray with the eagles, and it is impolite to interrupt. As a sign of respect for staff, CPN members and the eagles, always call ahead and speak with an employee before traveling to the aviary.

Will the aviary's entrance gate be open if a tour has been scheduled?

No, the CPN Aviary's entrance gate is always closed for safety reasons. Simply pull up to the gate, and the staff will open the gate for you.

What is an eagle pellet?

As carnivores, eagles eat only meat and consume the entire animal. Their strong stomach acid can break down small bones,



Aviary staff enjoy leading on-site demonstrations to educate the public about eagles, which are one of the Potawatomi people's most revered animals.

but they cannot digest feathers, fur and other material. Whatever body parts eagles and other birds of prey do not process are regurgitated in a bundle called a pellet.

What is the leading cause of injury of the eagles that the CPN Aviary takes in?

Most of the eagles come to CPN due to injuries from vehicle collisions. In the winter when food resources are low, eagles will consume carrion, which oftentimes are animals killed by a vehicle and found along roadsides. After eating, eagles, hawks and other birds of prey may not be able to clear the roadway during takeoff. The added weight can cause them to collide with vehicles. The aviary also often works with eagles that have suffered from electrocution, lead poisoning and gunshot wounds.

What should someone do if they come across an injured eagle?

If the injured eagle is in Oklahoma and near CPN's jurisdiction, calling the aviary at 405-863-5623 is a great place to start. Also, dialing the CPN Police Department at 405-878-4818 is another option. If an eagle is found far away from CPN's jurisdiction or in another state, aviary staff suggest calling the local game warden or wildlife department.

For other injured animals, staff recommend calling WildCare at 405-872-9338. WildCare is a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation center located in Noble, Oklahoma, and the CPN Aviary regularly partners with the organization to care for rescued animals. ♡

Veterans report



Bozho
(Hello),

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recently reported, "At a congressional hearing VA Secretary Robert Wilkie announced that effective in April, it will provide priority disability benefits claims processing for the initial claims from discharged combat Veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

Secretary Wilkie announced his decision at a hearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

"Those who hold the Purple Heart, the recognition of wounds taken in battle, will now receive priority consideration when it comes to claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs," said Secretary Wilkie. ...

Purple Heart recipients are already treated on a priority basis at VA hospitals and are exempt from co-payments for their medical care.

The Purple Heart award is the oldest U.S. Military decoration and is awarded to U.S. service members for wounds suffered at the hands of the enemy. General George Washington awarded the first purple-colored heart-shaped badges to soldiers who fought in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. In 1932, it was revived to commemorate Washington's 200th birthday."

According to another recent press release, "President Donald Trump signed an executive order titled 'National Initiative to Empower Veterans and End Veterans Suicide,' which focuses on improving the quality of life for America's Veterans and ending the tragedy of Veteran suicide.

'As the largest integrated health care provider in the nation and leader in developing innovative mental health and suicide prevention strategies, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is uniquely positioned to co-chair this effort with the White House,' said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. 'Veterans suicide is a national public health issue that affects communities

everywhere, and this executive order is a national call to action.'

The executive order mandates the establishment of the veteran wellness, empowerment and Suicide Prevention Task Force. The task force will include the Secretaries of Defense, Health and Human Services, Energy, Homeland Security, Labor, Education and Housing and Urban Development, as well as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Within 365 days of the date of the order and working with a variety of representatives from across both the public and private sectors, the task force shall:

Develop a comprehensive national public health roadmap outlining the specific strategies needed to lower effectively the rate of Veterans suicide, with a focus on community engagement,

Design and propose to Congress a program for making grants to local communities, which will increase their ability to collaborate with each

other, integrate service delivery and coordinate resources to Veterans, and

Develop a national research strategy to improve the coordination, monitoring, benchmarking and execution of research in the field of Veteran suicide prevention."

You can learn more about the VA's suicide prevention resources and programs at mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Daryl Talbot, Commander
talbotok@sbcglobal.net
405-275-1054

CPN VA Representative:
Andrew Whitham
CPN Office Hours:
First and third Wednesday each month, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Phone: 918-397-2566 ♡

Yeager competes with older players in national baseball showcase

By late December, professional baseball franchises have put away the bats and balls for the season. Yet during the cold winter months, thousands of youth players across the country find time to compete in showcase events outside of their normal baseball seasons, including Citizen Potawatomi Nation's own Kolton Yeager.

This past December, he traveled to Dallas, Texas, to compete in the prestigious All-American Baseball Youth games. His coach with Bad Company, youth baseball team in Oklahoma City, nominated him for the invite-only event.

Yeager, whose preferred position is catcher, faced new challenges in the All-American Games. Though age groups break down most youth sports, this particular competition brings in talented regional athletes and incorporates multiple grade levels onto each team.

"When playing regular team tournaments, Kolton is playing 11 under," explained his mother, Stacey Bennett. "His birthday falls in June, making him the baby of his grade, and he was playing with boys that were two or three years older than him."

According to Yeager, the practical aspects of the three showcase games he played in differed from his typical experiences with Bad Company.

"Pitchers were throwing in the upper 70s down there," he said. "I'm used to seeing someone throw in the 60s."

His first impressions of his teammates — who he described as "much bigger" than him — were intimidating. The fact that the ball was coming in from his pitchers ten miles an hour faster than he was used to took some adjustment.

"Once I got used to it, I liked it," Yeager added.

The experience showed him where he needed to improve to compete successfully at a high level moving forward.

For the family, the only letdown proved to be the harsh winter chill and rain. Despite the long haul from Oklahoma to Texas in freezing temperatures, Bennett said she was happy her son experienced it. A former softball



Kolton Yeager bats during the 2018 All-American Games in Texas.

player herself, she sees the positives for her son despite the weather.

"As a parent, this is an extreme honor to see your child play at the next level of competition and receive national recognition," Stacey said. "I played at

a highly competitive level, traveling all over the United States when I was his age, and love to see him getting the same experience and meeting other boys that have the same passion and love for the game he does." ♠

ARE YOU A HOMEOWNER IN NEED OF REPAIRS? LET THE CPN HOUSING DEPARTMENT ASSIST YOU THROUGH THE ELDER/DISABLED REPAIR PROGRAM



The program offers assistance with a handicap accessibility (ramps, rails, extension of doors), roof repair/replacement, electrical issues, plumbing issues, leveling and foundation work, windows, and central heat & air.

Repairs we do NOT assist with are weatherization, appliances and updates such as new cabinets, new carpet and new flooring.

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- 1 Homeowner must be a member of a federally recognized tribe. (CPN tribal members are given preference)
- 2 Homeowner must live within our CPN tribal jurisdiction (south of the North Canadian River and north of the South Canadian River, east of the Post Road in OKC, and west of NS 3500 Road that runs north and south).
- 3 Homeowner must be 60 years of age or older and/or a **disabled tribal member age 55 or older as defined by the ADA.**
- 4 Total household annual income **must not** be greater than the 80 percent national income limit for their household size. (visit cpn.news/ihbg)
- 5 Homeowner must have current homeowners insurance with taxes paid up-to-date.
- 6 Must be the homeowner's primary residence with **NO** reverse mortgage.
- 7 Must be **NO convicted felonies for the homeowner and their household members.**
- 8 Homeowner must be aware of a **possible mortgage** placed on their home (six (6) months if the rehabilitation is between \$2,000-\$4,999 or five (5) years if the rehabilitation is \$5,000 or more). **If less than \$2,000, there will be NO MORTGAGE. NO** payments are due unless the homeowner sells or transfers the title of the home during the length of the mortgage. At that point, the homeowner is required to pay back the entire cost of the rehabilitation. Throughout the mortgage, **no** additional repairs are allowed. Once the mortgage has been completed, it will be released and the total amount forgiven.
- 9 Homeowner must complete an application and supply the supporting documents for **EACH** household member.

IF YOU MEET EACH REQUIREMENT LISTED ABOVE AND/OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ELDER/DISABLED REPAIR PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT TIA STEWART, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT FOR THE CPN HOUSING DEPARTMENT AT 405-273-2833.



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

SUMMER CLOSSES JUNE 15 AT 5PM/CT

Apply at portal.potawatomi.org

Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

We had a great turnout for our annual winter storytelling event, even after we had to move it to Friday, March 1, due to extreme weather conditions. We had about 50 people join us and over 240 people watch the livestream in the Potawatomi language Facebook group. *Migwetch* (thank you) to my staff for making this a great event as always.

2019 language fair

We are preparing to take a group of kids to the annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair held at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman, Oklahoma, April 1st.

This year, we are bringing kids from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Child Development Center, and we know of students from Moore and Shawnee who submitted posters. Also for the first time ever, a group of kids from Will Rogers Elementary will be participating and singing *Girls Just Want To Have Fun* in Potawatomi. We are excited for this new partnership with Will Rogers and want to commend Mrs. Serena Neely, the Indian education adviser, for making sure her students are exposed to the language and have an opportunity to be part of this exciting event.

Language app

We just finished a partnership with Duolingo, which is a popular online learning app. I told a short, seven-page story in Potawatomi about my experiences learning the language. This is a new tool that Duolingo is developing, and they have been actively reaching out to Native communities. We are happy we could offer some advice for future endeavors and partner up on this new, innovative development.

1870 dictionary

Last month, we completed transcribing an 1870s Potawatomi dictionary

originally written by Maurice Gaillard. The project totaled 550 pages.

The original dictionary was handwritten in cursive and was quite hard to read at times. Also, much of the 1870s English was quite dated and required a dictionary in order to understand. Now, this searchable document will serve as an excellent tool for finding and analyzing old words that may have fallen out of use. It will also serve as a sort of Rosetta Stone as we take on the daunting task of translating the Potawatomi bible and prayer book one day, also written by Father Gaillard.

Projects

We have two exciting ongoing projects. One is transcribing the handwritten medical journal of Joseph Napoleon Bourassa. Bourassa was an important leader, traditional healer, translator and author of both a dictionary of Potawatomi and a book on Wabaunsee. This project has allowed us to explore the sometimes overlooked field of ethnobotany. We are lucky to have collaborated with Kaya DeerInWater for this project.

Kaya is a Ph.D. student and current lead gardener of our community garden. His knowledge of plants, both by sight and scientific name, has proven invaluable on this project. Without his expertise and knowledge, it's doubtful this project would be moving forward at a solid pace.

The second project is a searchable online dictionary. This dictionary is made possible by a partnership with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Information Technology Department. We appreciate the department's time and energy on this project, which is being developed from the ground up. When complete, it will have a number of features including historical audio files, cultural context and video.

Unique features

The historic audio files allow us to showcase how a word is said by a number

of different first-language speakers. This is very useful in case the person using the dictionary is from a community with a certain dialect. It is also nice to be able to hear those grandmas and grandpas of yesteryears say the words.

We are able to have five or six files on each word, and we also can attach audio files to the example sentences. This process will take time, but we will be diligently working weekly on it. Currently, we have over 8,500 words in the dictionary and over 700 unique audio files for individual entries. We also have countless historic files and example sentences, which pushes the total to well over 1,000.

The cultural context component allows us to talk about various words. For example, when someone selects tobacco or eagle, we can explain why they are important to the Potawatomi people. Within this feature, we also have a winter story button, which allows us to include winter stories like why the owl can turn his head around. When it's not winter, we can turn this information off.

The ability to share video is another cool feature. For example, when a user clicks on the eagle, we can link to a video from the CPN Aviary staff members explaining the story of how the eagle saved the world and why the eagle is important to us. Additionally, when users select the word black ash, we can include a video highlighting the process of gathering black ash to make baskets. Yet another cool option is one for literal meaning, so if there is a deeper meaning to a word, we can include that as well.

We hope to do a soft open by the time this reaches you and release a full, completed version around the time of Family Reunion Festival. As with all dictionaries, it will never truly end. That being said, our extremely motivated programmers are working to have an app version ready by June. With the soft opening, we will be looking for feedback and constructive criticism.

Intern

Former PLP participant William Mccurley is currently interning in the language department. He has been spearheading our resource development process. We have been working with a number of public domain books such as Peter Rabbit that are available in creative commons for reproduction and translation. *Igwien* (special thank you) to William for his hard work.

YouTube

We are also working on doing a number of public domain movies for our YouTube channels. We have one for adults and one for children. We also have an original children's show, *Mtek wigwam*, about a group of friends who build a tree house and go on different misadventures such as looking for Bigfoot.

Children will be introduced to a number of words in Potawatomi each episode, hearing them in English and Potawatomi. After hearing them a number of times, the English words are eventually replaced with just Potawatomi. So that after 10 or so shows, we hope the show will mostly be in Potawatomi.

Along with all these projects, Language Aide Enedina Banks, Intern William Mccurley and Audio Visual Production Specialist Michael Kelehar keep busy teaching four days a week at the CPN Child Development Center. Staff manage our online learning courses, our two courses on memrise.com and our high school course available anywhere in Oklahoma. They also lead on-site classes for beginners and intermediate students, which are livestreamed in our Potawatomi language Facebook group, and we are often asked to tell stories to kids and do opening prayers for various events at the Tribe.

We hope that you will take advantage of the many tools we have developed and are developing to make learning our language something you can do no matter where in the country or world you are currently living. 🔥

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2019

Written with the help of CPN's community garden *Gtegemem* (We Grow It) assistant Kaya DeerInWater. Facebook group: *Gtegemem*:CPN Community Garden — Email: chcgarden@potawatomi.org

spring harvesting guide

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center planted the community garden *Gtegemem* (We Grow It) five years ago, creating a culturally relevant agricultural system.

“Food sovereignty is our way of restoring Tribal traditions around growing and harvesting food that is relevant to who we are as *Neshnabe* people,” said CPN community garden *Gtegemem* (We Grow It) assistant Kaya DeerInWater.

He educates Tribal members about natural ingredients Potawatomi ancestors ate and used as medicine, and the following plants claim spring as their natural harvesting period.

fruits & veggies



sunchoke

This rooty vegetable of the sunflower family has a thin skin and flavor more like potatoes than artichokes. Native Americans ate them as a low-calorie, fiber-rich carbohydrate. Roasting, mashing and twice baking them is common, and prep time is minimal. Their satisfying crunch and trace of sweetness also makes them good raw.



bear potatoes

Oriented to the northern latitudes, Potawatomi would have found this carrot-like vegetable while living in the Great Lakes region. Bear potatoes resemble both potatoes and carrots and are often fried in oil. They are also stewed, sliced, steamed and boiled. The winter's frost makes the roots sweeter when harvested in the spring.



strawberries

Neshnabe people began consuming this fruit long ago. The Potawatomi word for strawberry is *demen* (heart berry). When eaten completely, the plant's green leaves have positive effects on the cardiovascular system, and the fruit itself contains high levels of vitamin C. Tribal traditions also place ceremonial value on this sweet gift.



radishes

Radishes thrive as companion plants for several vegetables, including cucumbers and squash. Potawatomi commonly grew mutually beneficial foods together, an ancestral agricultural technique. This year, radishes will be harvested from the CPN garden. While they are mostly eaten raw in salads, cuisines around the world utilize the peel's peppery flavor.

flowers



redbud

Native to Michigan, the beautiful Eastern Redbud is the state tree of Oklahoma. Indigenous tribes around the Great Lakes ate both its flower and seeds, roasting the latter for the best flavor and texture. Other parts of the tree were used medicinally as well as structurally for handles and bows. It is one of the first trees to flower in the spring.



violets/dog violets

With a wide variety of violets throughout North America, Ojibwe people made tea from the Canadian White Violet found in the northern section of the hemisphere to calm bladder pains. They also consumed the American Dog Violet, both flowers and greens, for heart problems. Salads and desserts contain other species of violets.



wild mustard

Introduced to North America by Europeans in the 1700s, wild mustard thrives across Canadian provinces and the upper latitudes of the northern hemisphere. Its leaves can be boiled or eaten raw in salads. Its seeds make a condiment when ground down into a paste. Many farmers consider it a weed.



dandelions

A dandelion's flower and leaves possess medicinal properties, including treating infections, detoxifying kidneys and inflammation. It improves soil structure, making it an ideal companion plant. Plantains, strawberries, dandelion leaves and columbine flowers form a traditional, iron-heavy salad eaten after a long winter.

greens



milkweed

This slightly sweet green's buds, shoots and leaves are edible. Viable across North America, the flower buds taste great in all kinds of dishes, including soups and casseroles. The shoots resemble asparagus and often work well boiled. Native Americans also used the stalks as a fiber to create different household goods.



wild onions

Harvesting time decides a wild onion's flavor. They are bitter if the flowers are no longer in bloom. Picked along the Cherokee Trail of Tears, they grow well in Oklahoma and around the Great Lakes. Possibly named in reference to the area's aroma, “Chicago” is a French rendering of the Algonquian word *shikaakwa* or “smelly onion.”



shepherd's purse

Shepherd's Purse can alleviate kidney trouble, wounds, diarrhea and menstrual cramps; however, it should not be consumed during pregnancy. The raw greens pair well in a salad, but Indigenous people mostly soak them overnight and cook them. The seeds fill nutritional gaps in bread-like carbohydrates when ground and put into flour.



morel mushrooms

There are many different species of morel mushrooms across the United States, and harvesting the edible, non-poisonous ones is difficult. Cooking them is essential; eating them raw is dangerous. The ability to pick and prepare a delicious, edible fungus in the wild is a prime example of the importance of Indigenous food sovereignty.

This is in no way a complete guide on the plants featured. Please research before growing, collecting, cooking or using these items, and be aware of pesticide usage.

Braiuca combines career, passions

Tribal member Stacy Braiuca changed her career over the years. With two master's degrees and four jobs, she focuses each day of the week on something different. She recently rebranded Braiuca Enterprises LLC, and her business now ties all her passions together in a comfortable space: her home office.

Located in Kansas City, her company received certification as a Missouri Minority and/or Woman Business Enterprise. Its website and Facebook page declare her an "Inspirer of futures. Creator of connections. Coach of productivity and creativity."

Productivity

Previously a social worker and therapist, Braiuca now works as an adjunct instructor for two universities, tutors students online and runs Braiuca Enterprises, teaching others technology and productivity skills. One of her favorite sayings to tell clients is "automate to liberate."

"You automate the little stuff in your life, so that you can liberate your time to spend doing the important stuff, which is the relationships and creating and self-care and all of those things," she said.

For Braiuca, productivity and automation go hand in hand. While showing others how to better delegate their time, Braiuca asks a series of questions to find out what holds them back. She believes people achieve efficiency in their own way.

"I start where they're at and find out, 'What do they want?' A lot of it is with the technology; what do they want the technology to do for them? With the



Braiuca teaches elders new technology, including her grandfather, a World War II veteran.

productivity, it would be, 'What do you want to work better for you?'" she said.

Part of that includes helping her clients find digital tools such as the project management platform Trello and note-taking application GoodNotes to automate and shrink their workload. Braiuca offers a couple of classes on her website that spell out the basics.

"It's not like you necessarily have to get rid of the 'squirrels' and shiny objects that are distracting you and keeping you away from your focus, but you have to cage them in such a way so that they're there when you go back to look at them again," she said.

A couple of methods she recommends include brain dumping and the Pomodoro technique. Brain dumping reduces anxiety and calms a racing mind by putting free-flowing thoughts into a more organized format, whether its pen and ink, a word document, a voice memo or something else. The Pomodoro technique solidifies concentration by creating 25-minute, uninterrupted work periods with three to five-minute breaks in between. After four 25-minute sessions, a 15 to 30-minute break comes next.

Connection

Collecting time and increasing productivity strengthens relationships as well as assists with developing new ones. Braiuca incorporates these lessons into client curriculum.

"You can mold those back together and spend the half-hour with your family that you didn't have," she said. "Or by the end of the week, if you save all your shavings, you've got two or three hours."

Braiuca also uses the time saved from productivity to spend with herself. She prioritizes self-care and enjoys watercolor painting, going out to watch her brother Scotty McBee's bands, going to local powwows, and lampwork bead making (hot glass) as ways to focus and achieve balance between work and home.

She knows depression and suicidal ideations affect a large section of the population. Her online class *Bite Sized Pieces, a Taste of Mental Health First Aid* offers a broad overview of mental health literacy. It encourages people to take a substantive look at the issue and become first aid certified.

"In Indian Country, mental health is incredibly underfunded in the sense of programming, under acknowledged. Between domestic violence, suicide, depression and our



Tribal member Stacy Braiuca owns and operates Braiuca Enterprises LLC, a certified Missouri Minority and/or Woman Business Enterprise.

Native women that are disappearing ... there's a lot going on," she said.

Braiuca believes in what she calls a "biopsychosocial/spiritual model" of mental health, meaning an individual's biological makeup, past influences, current support system and basis for hope all compose their stability and well-being. Exploring traditional Potawatomi spirituality as a Schroepfer family descendant became a significant part of Braiuca's life.

"At about the same time, I was in school to become a social worker as well and was learning about things like historical trauma and boarding schools and different ways our culture had become way detached from us, basically. And it was a very interesting parallel journey," she said.

Her "spirituality finally fit." Braiuca learned more about her Native American ancestry, acquainting herself with distant relatives and attending powwows. In 2017, she created a podcast called *Creative Connections*. It encourages listeners to create their future through building relationships. She plans to produce new episodes this year as part of her company.

"I've refined it, I guess, over the last couple of years into what I really enjoy doing is that connection. I enjoy connecting people, and I've always been a translator and connector by nature," she said.

Technology

Braiuca now primarily connects electronically. She works from home and spends her days on video calls and live chats, tutoring students, teaching classes, coaching clients and talking to

friends. However, she attempts to remain productive, despite the temptation to stray.

"Being thoughtful and cognizant of what is your intention in using (technology) and what purpose is it serving you makes a difference," she said. "If it's not serving a purpose that you want to serve, then it can be very detrimental to you."

Zoom Video calls and FaceTime allow her to notice people's nonverbal cues and feels more natural than a phone call. Over the years, Braiuca formed strong friendships with people online and later traveled to meet them. She enjoys talking to a few people during the day that feel like co-workers.

Her online, long-distance friend Lindsay Badger reminds Braiuca to form boundaries and stick to a schedule. While working on building her business, students' messages kept distracting Braiuca, but Badger encouraged her to remove the interruptions.

"She actually told me ... 'Turn that tab off. Turn the students off. You are not working on students today. You are working on you,'" Braiuca said.

Since many of her clients are unfamiliar with livestreaming, she walks them through the connection process. Then, they transition to video calls for future meetings. She particularly enjoys bringing elders in touch with digital advances. In the late 1990s, she familiarized her grandfather, a disabled World War II veteran, with how to email and surf the internet.

"I taught him how to do that over the telephone, so he could connect with his war buddies so that he had the socialization. ... My core passion is tied to having done that for him. And if I could do that with him, I could do it with anybody," she said.

Through Braiuca Enterprises LLC, Stacy overlaps productivity, connection and technology in her ideal workspace. Assisting others develop that same space for themselves through her business remains her ultimate career goal. ♡

MORE INFORMATION

Stacy Braiuca, LLC

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NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

MONDAY | APRIL 1 HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Citizen Potawatomi Nation has completed many Blue Zones projects, including sidewalks at the east health complex, a community drive-thru flu vaccine event and pediatric fluoride treatment.

TUESDAY | APRIL 2 VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Citizen Potawatomi Nation House of Hope offers resources to those who are in a domestic violence situation. Visit cphouseofhope.com to learn more.

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 3 RURAL HEALTH

Citizen Potawatomi Nation provides transportation for Shawnee and Tecumseh residents 18 years of age or older from 8:30am to 4pm, Mon-Fri. Please contact dsmith@potawatomi.org for more information.

THURSDAY | APRIL 4 TECH AND HEALTH

Technology can help with everything from smoking cessation to taking your medicines throughout the day. Suggestions include Craving to QUIT, Quit Now, LiveStrong Quit Coach, Symple and MyFitnessPal.

FRIDAY | APRIL 5 CLIMATE CHANGE

Citizen Potawatomi Nation offers "park and ride" at the Grand Travel Plaza, and electric charging stations have been installed at the Grand Casino.

Visual storytelling at the heart of Doug Brown's career

Joseph Bourassa descendant Doug Brown began capturing news around Topeka, Kansas, 27 years ago as a photographer at WIBW channel 13. Since then, he has risen to the ranks of WIBW's chief photographer.

"I cover everything from car wrecks to kids having fun with play days at their school, and that's the great thing about my job — everyday, it's something different," Brown said. "You never know what's going to be on your plate."

His interest in the art form began as a child on a rodeo trip to Iowa.

"They had a garage sale right next to the rodeo grounds, and somebody had an old film camera. It had a projector, a screen, everything," Brown said. "I brought it home with me, and I got to playing around with it and found it really interesting."

He grew up on a farm near Grantville, Kansas, and like many across the state, basketball became one of his key interests in school. However, his curiosity for film and photography returned when Brown's brother began working at a local radio station. Visits there inspired Brown to study mass communications at Washburn University, but he did not neglect his love for the game. He finalized his decision to attend the institution as a basketball player after the Washburn University boys team won the NAIA National Basketball Championship in 1987. Upon graduation, he began his career at WIBW.

Opportunities

Brown's camera skills have allowed him to expand beyond his rural upbringing. Every March, he travels to the NCAA basketball tournaments and receives other assignments to cover events and people across the U.S. and abroad.

"Growing up in the little town and on the farm, I hadn't done much traveling at all," he said. "It's so great to actually go out and experience these different parts of the country."

Brown's wife Melissa Brunner also works at WIBW as a nightly anchor. Although



Doug Brown celebrates 27 years behind the camera at WIBW in Topeka, Kansas, this year. (Photo provided by WIBW)

the couple works separate shifts, they often go on assignments as a team.

"There are several hours in the day that we work together, and between the evening shows, she'll make dinner at home and then bring it in ... we try to take 10 minutes to eat dinner together," Brown said.

When given the chance, the couple enjoys working on uplifting feature stories the most.

"I think they are more memorable, too," he said. "There is so much crime and violence in the world, so when you have a good feature story where people can sit back and smile and enjoy it — I think that's something that sticks with me more so than the other types of stories."

Outside of WIBW, they enjoy spending time with their cats and dog Buddy, as well as catching up on their favorite TV shows. Although working in the news industry prohibits Brown from attending most Potawatomi events, he keeps connected by reading the monthly *Hownikan* and mails his ballot to vote on Tribal elections and

budget every summer. During the 2018 Potawatomi Gathering held at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Brown reported on CPN leaders and members touring Citizen Potawatomi historical sites around Topeka. Watch the feature at cpn.news/topekatours.

Favorite assignment

In 2015, Brunner and Brown traveled to Guam with the Kansas Air National Guard's 190th Air Refueling Wing. The unit is stationed at Forbes Field Air National Guard Base in Topeka and assists with in-flight refueling of military planes, often on the other side of the globe.

"It was just eye opening to see everything that this group did," Brown said. "I see the big planes fly over the station every day, but I have a lot better understanding of what they do now."

Brown had never traveled to the western Pacific Ocean before this assignment, and he enjoyed the opportunity to experience it with this wife. Watch their segment on the 190th Air Refueling Wing here, cpn.news/190thguam.

Industry adaptation

Since his start, the news industry has changed dramatically, including technologically and the way he connects with WIBW's audience.

"As far as getting to interact with the community, the biggest change has been social media," Brown said. "I get people sending me messages, tips for news stories, or just saying, 'How are you doing today?' It gives a whole other way to interact with people."

WIBW recently celebrated 65 years on the air, which inspired the station to look back on the changes that have occurred throughout the decades.

"For the past 12 months, I have worked on archiving really old videotapes and film, transferring them and digitizing them. And then we did stories, tracking down some of these people," he said.

The station released the throwbacks and updated interviews through its *13 at 65* segments, giving Brown the chance to look back on some of his early work and reminisce.

Legacy

Brown believes in the importance of helping young up-and-comers hone their craft by passing on tips and tricks he learned through nearly three decades of experience in the industry.

"Being a small station, we are the first job out of college for a lot of people," he said. "So, I've just kind of taken on the role to make sure that they're understanding everything they need to and giving them all the help I can because most of them want to move on and go on to larger markets or back to their hometowns."

As he gets closer to retirement, Brown hopes to have the opportunity to be more involved with the Nation. For now, he continues to focus on uncovering compelling stories and the people behind them across the Topeka metropolitan area.

Learn more about Doug Brown at cpn.news/dougbrownbio. ♡

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CRITERIA TO ENTER

1. Must be a Tribal citizen
2. At least 18 years of age
3. Be a current or former recipient of the CPN tribal scholarship program

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THE CPN
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CELEBRATION

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THEME

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3D PIECES WELCOME

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Physical submissions can be mailed or dropped off at
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of Education at college@potawatomi.org

April: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Stephanie Tucker,
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
House of Hope Intern

April 2019 marks the 18th annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The theme is “I Ask” to show the power in asking for consent.

While this issue may make many people uncomfortable, it is important to realize how common sexual assault is.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, 1 in 4 women will be the victim of sexual assault in their lifetime, and 1 in 6 will be the victim of attempted or completed rape. For men, this number is significantly lower but still staggering at 1 in 33 being the victim of attempted or completed rape.

This is clearly not an issue that can be ignored, and SAAM is a great way to draw attention to these devastating statistics.

The legal definition of sexual assault may vary from state to state, but in summary, it is any form of nonconsensual sexual activity. The criteria for determining consent also varies slightly — regarding age of consent and other factors — but consent has to be clear, giving permission for the specific activity by a person who has the ability to consent for themselves.

When it comes to things like sexual assault, most people focus on “stranger danger.” We teach children not to speak to people they do not know, but we often neglect to teach them that people we are close to can also harm us.



Of course, it is good to be cautious around people we do not know, but when it comes to sexual assault, the reality is that “stranger danger” often does not apply. In fact, in 80 percent of rape cases, the victim knows the perpetrator. This could be a close family friend, a relative or an authority figure.

An example that has been in the media recently is Larry Nassar, the physician for Michigan State University Gymnastics and USA Gymnastics who received a 175-year prison sentence for sexually assaulting at least 300 young girls in his medical care over several decades. He was able to get away with these crimes for so long because the girls, their families and other professionals trusted him.

While this is an extreme example, it draws attention to the sad truth that people can abuse their power, and we should be cautious in all situations.

Sexual assault can occur in intimate partnerships as well. This includes assault in a marriage or while dating. Each partner should give consent because a person’s right to control their own body does not go away when they enter into a relationship. Your body is your own.

Consent is not a one-time commitment in a relationship; it is situational. A person is allowed to change his or her mind and is not ever required to agree to anything just because they have in the past.

Many victims are now speaking out about their experiences, and many organizations are stepping up to spread awareness.

For more information about SAAM, visit nsvrc.org. Learn about ways to teach consent to your children or interpret consent from a partner.

Also, check out the ways you can be an advocate for sexual assault victims during the month of April through the #30DaysofSAAMChallenge.

If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual assault, intimate partner violence, or stalking and would like more information, please give us a call on our crisis line at 405-878-4673, or visit us at cpnhouseofhope.com. ♡

Family is a link to the past and a bridge to our future

By Darian Towner, Family
Preservation Coordinator

We all play a vital role in creating strong and thriving families. Join FireLodge Children and Family Services in recognizing April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Families can be incredibly diverse in structure and size, but in order for children to grow, it is absolutely necessary that a family be both healthy and able to support one another. With the proper knowledge, skills and resources, a family is responsibly able to parent their children. FireLodge Children and Family Services offers culturally sensitive assistance to Native families experiencing or at risk of child abuse or neglect. Home-based services, parenting skills, budgeting classes, referrals and resources are a sample of the assistance FireLodge offers.

The profound Adverse Childhood Experiences Study reports, “Childhood experiences, both positive and negative, have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity.”

When children live through a negative experience, such as abuse or neglect, they become far more likely to face difficulties across their lifespan. Acknowledging this serves as motivation to advocate for a violence-free childhood for every child.

Properly understanding an issue is key and fundamental when desiring to make serious change. Consequently, there are several myths that exist surrounding

child abuse that need to be expelled. One that is widely believed is that abuse is only considered abuse if it is violent. Physical abuse is one form of abuse but is not the only form. Emotional abuse, sexual abuse and child neglect are forms of abuse that might be more difficult to see physically but can still leave long-lasting effects in children.

A second myth is that abuse does not happen in “good” families. The truth is that abuse and neglect do not discriminate; they do not only happen in bad neighborhoods or within low-income families. It is not shameful to receive needed services. It takes vulnerability and bravery to understand a need and reach out for help.

Oklahoma children make up nearly one quarter of our state’s population but are our entire future. This month, we encourage you to commit to taking one action to prevent child abuse to ensure a healthy future for our little ones.

Join us in raising awareness and giving a voice to children who might not otherwise have one. Participate in our fun walk at FireLake Lake on Friday, April 26, at noon. Also, keep an eye out for blue ribbons and pinwheels representing the bright future that all children deserve, and follow us on Facebook, @CPNFireLodge.

If your family or a family you know has Native children who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing abuse and neglect, please contact FireLodge Children and Family Services at 405-878-4831. ♡



ELECT
JAY LAUGHLIN
MILOT/WEDDLE

DISTRICT 13
LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

ABOUT ME

Paid for by Jay Laughlin.

- **Family** - Married with four children.
- **Education** - BS in Engineering and MBA with an emphasis in Finance.
- **Occupation** - Engineer/Investor/Activist/Small Business Owner.

KEY INITIATIVES

- **Culture** - Protecting and nurturing our culture, spiritual beliefs, and historic values.
- **Economic Prosperity** - Greatly expanding our economic presence while maintaining a balanced portfolio.
- **Education** - This is key to our success through scholarships, internships, and re-entry programs.
- **Elders** - Promotion and expansion of our daily activities and services focused on those 55 and older.
- **Environment** - Ensure the water we drink, the air we breathe, the foods we eat, and the animals are protected for generations to come.
- **Healthcare** - Substance abuse, physical fitness, assistance with paperwork requirements, emotional health, and remote access services.
- **Youth** - Our youth are the future. The stronger our youth, the more developed our Nation will become.

CHECK OUT MY FACEBOOK PAGE AND CLICK ON THE ABOUT TAB OR CONTACT ME BY E-MAIL

[f JayLaughlin4CPN](https://www.facebook.com/JayLaughlin4CPN) | JayLaughlinCPNDistrict13@gmail.com

Boyles' gourd art connects the community in Kansas

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Community Building in Rossville, Kansas, fosters kinship through a wide variety of classes. Elders, in particular, gather at the center for companionship and fun. Tribal member Judy Boyles teaches a gourd decorating class on occasion and appreciates the outlet.

As an artist, she is entirely self-taught. Boyles attended a rural school district with no art classes, and besides a few lessons at the YMCA, she never learned from an instructor. Creative expression holds a special place in her heart, and she always preferred to spend her free time making something beautiful.

"Painting and drawing and that kind of thing is just. ... Time goes away," she said and laughed. "You know, I lose myself in it."

During childhood, the Smith family descendant played with clay she found on the farm as well as designed posters and yearbook art. She continues to make flyers for nonprofits and local organizations now.

Boyles worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company several decades ago. She ended up creating logos and ads for the Yellow Pages after an artist became ill close to a deadline. The company bought everything she made and offered her a graphic design position afterward.

Throughout the years, she found her love of watercolor and oil painting. Boyles discovered gourd decorating after attempting pottery and found she enjoyed the former's flexibility. Artists inlay designs, carve images and add lace or beading.

"They're very adaptable to any kind of paint, even shoe polish and watercolors," she said.



Potawatomi culture and history inspires Tribal member Judy Boyles while she carves and paints gourds.

She first encountered decorative gourds in an art museum during a trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico, with her husband in the early 2000s. Boyles decided to try, and she began reading books and studying the process of taking one from a flowering plant to decoration.

She traveled to gourd festivals across the country, including Native American exhibitions, and learned from observing other people's work and processes. Craft fairs, farm and garden expos, and art shows keep Boyle stocked. Farmers in the area know she paints and decorates them, and they keep her in mind at harvesting time.

"It takes a lot of land to grow a gourd. You can't do it just in a residential yard because they just take over — their huge vines. They would just take over the world if you let them," she said.

They come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes across the country. Thicker

specimens generally found on the West Coast lend themselves to carving and inlays. Those grown in the Midwest are thinner and more difficult to carve, although inlaying, beading and lacing result in beautiful pieces. However, Boyles prefers painting.

"A fungus will get on it or a bug bites, or different things, you know, and so they have a natural pattern on them sometimes. It's just like looking up at the sky and seeing the clouds, and you find a design in the clouds," she said. "And so that's what I like to do is just follow the natural growth patterns of the gourds and stuff and go with them."

She knew little about Potawatomi culture for most of her life but spent the last 15 to 20 years learning about the traditions and history. Gourd decorating keeps her in touch with what she read and discovered while visiting the CPN Cultural Heritage Center. She often paints eagles and

other significant wildlife and landscapes with a Tribal connection, including the nearby Uniontown cemetery where some of her family is buried.

"(Uniontown) is where wagon trains came through to go to California and Oregon," she said. "They'd cross the river there, and so I (paint) wagon trains and Indians and that kind of thing, trading post type stuff."

While teaching classes at the Rossville Community Center, she covers how to start with a gourd from scratch. The prep work includes cleaning, scraping and cutting the desired design. Afterward, the artistry begins, and Boyles enjoys seeing the talent displayed through the different ways her neighbors and Tribal members make them into masterpieces.

"We just feed off of each other. We exchange knowledge, and it's just something that I can help with," she said.

"Most of us up here were not raised in the Potawatomi culture. So, we're learning so much about our ancestry and the history, and it's just a great asset."

Boyles hopes to teach more classes later this year, including one on how to make gourd jewelry.

CPN District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw holds meetings and events at the Citizen Potawatomi Community Building. Check the CPN event calendar at potawatomi.org/events.

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI

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Tribal candidate Q&As: April 2019



**District 10 – David Barrett
(incumbent)**

Tell us about a meaningful experience you have had practicing Potawatomi culture?

“A special veteran’s naming occurred before our 2014 Festival. Vice-Chairman Capps started off the naming ceremony by telling the Creation Story, thus allowing me to name my fellow veterans while she drummed.

“I was honored by naming my older brother Wishkmnedo (Strong Spirit). He was a combat Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient. Also we named George Hamilton, then a 98 year old WWII fighter pilot, veterans Derek Skaggs and Tony Wano and son Tharon.”

What is the biggest issue in Indian Country you see impacting CPN? How would you address that?

“Our biggest issue for the CPN is maintaining our sovereignty, our self-determination and our self governance. Addressing those issues we have to maintain our distinct history, language and culture. We must always be on guard on the jurisdiction between federal, state and tribal sovereignty. Sovereignty must be protected and nurtured so that we understand our past and continue to thrive.”

What experiences do you have that can be applied to a legislative position with the Tribe?

“My experiences from being a professional and having an entrepreneurial streak has guided me to pay close attention to details and render good decisions based on fact-finding. While serving our Nation (on the bank board, grievance committee, and legislature), I have been able to study our policies, procedures and the Constitution of which those experiences I will continue to apply to the Legislature.”

What do you see as the Tribe’s next significant project? How would you approach that as a legislator?

“We are a Tribe who has always had visions for future projects and ventures. Whenever these significant projects (we are currently working on several revenue-producing ventures) come along, we as legislators need to be able to have open communications, have pertinent facts, and risk assessment strategies in order for the legislature to render the best decision for protecting our Nation’s assets and revenue streams for future generations.”



**District 10 — Norman Brasfield
(challenger)**

Tell us about a meaningful experience you have had practicing Potawatomi culture?

“The Potawatomi culture is a spiritual fabric, woven by our ancestors to include teachings of love, honesty, humility, truth, wisdom, respect and bravery which must be lived, not practiced. It is warmed by the sun and is the heartbeat of the individual, not regalia which is removed and stored for later use.”

What is the biggest issue in Indian Country you see impacting CPN? How would you address that?

“The biggest issue I see facing CPN is the continued reliance on grant funding. The 1936 Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act enables tribal government infrastructure creation with industries to grow the profit margins required to support existing tribal member services and provide additional services and benefits in the future. Our Tribe should strive to be a leader in innovation and become self sustainable without the use of grant monies.”

What experiences do you have that can be applied to a legislative position with the Tribe?

“A common sense perspective to balance individual Tribal member needs with equitable distribution of benefits to all Tribal members against available bottom line finances. Tribal governments across the country struggle with funding issues. I believe industry diversification to complement grant funding will help alleviate a portion of the immediate financial struggle while growing the future for generations to come.”

What do you see as the Tribe’s next significant project? How would you approach that as a legislator?

“I believe we should focus on our elders. As descendants we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the blood quantum members who allowed our membership. Today, these individuals are seniors living on a Social Security budget supplemented by continuing to work. The Medicare co-pay for part B medical is deducted monthly. Appreciation for their contribution would be supplemental assistance of the mandatory co-pay reduction.”



**District 11 — Lisa Kraft
(incumbent)**

Tell us about a meaningful experience you have had practicing Potawatomi culture?

“I practice Potawatomi every time I take a breath or think. Being Potawatomi is who I am, it is who we all are — equally. We don’t have cultural elite in our Tribe. We have members who excel at many different things. We are all descendants of a powerful legacy. In making my Potawatomi experience more meaningful, I would love to be surrounded by my immediate family as we dance in Grand Entry together.”

What is the biggest issue in Indian Country you see impacting CPN? How would you address that?

“The biggest issue in Indian Country is the same as the biggest issue facing America, in my opinion, voter turnout. Not voting can be viewed as not caring. This is very dangerous for our tribal sovereignty, especially, when leaders are elected to office whose values, views, and actions may not align with your own. I would encourage Citizen Potawatomi voters to exercise their personal power, one vote at a time, and every chance they get.”

What experiences do you have that can be applied to a legislative position with the Tribe?

“Believe me when I say, I am not any smarter or more qualified than the next Potawatomi. Rather, I am very determined. As a voter myself, I look for candidates who have leadership qualities (not necessarily experience), work well with others, weathered personal adversity, and not afraid to stand up to bullies or turn a blind eye to wrong-doing. My mom tells me, “Be the kind of leader I would follow.”

What do you see as the Tribe’s next significant project? How would you approach that as a legislator?

“What if your parents told you that they would *plan* your life for you, tell you how to *make* your income and then how to *spend* your money — *until you were 50*? You might respect your parents and appreciate all the good in your life, but really, it’s about them having full control of your future. Our Nation needs, and I want to spearhead, constitutional reform to place term limits on our elected leadership.”



**District 11 – John Tom Anderson
(challenger)**

Tell us about a meaningful experience you have had practicing Potawatomi culture?

“Our family participated in a naming ceremony at the Sharp Property. The chairman (Rocky Barrett) and Vice Chairman (Linda Capps) conducted the ceremony for our family. There were 21 people named that day from our family and my dad’s brothers’ family.”

What is the biggest issue in Indian Country you see impacting CPN? How would you address that?

“American Indian sovereignty issues have been affecting CPN adversely for years. We are a Nation. When Tribal sovereignty is ignored or denied, there is usually conflict. When Tribal sovereignty is acknowledged and viewed as an opportunity, problems get solved within a framework of cordial nation-to-nation relations. Both sides win.”

What experiences do you have that can be applied to a legislative position with the Tribe?

“A tribal legislature has a heavy responsibility to appropriate the annual budget for the Tribe to assure that it is spent in accordance with legislative intent. A legislator must be able to read and analyze the financial documents assigned to the legislature. I believe my 40 years of banking experience would be beneficial in the future finances of the Tribe.”

What do you see as the Tribe’s next significant project? How would you approach that as a legislator?

“How do our best and brightest should see their Tribe as a career choice? *Creating opportunity* is the only way to do that. These jobs will create more and better jobs — jobs for CPN members.

“I believe with my financial background I would be able to help in the funding and future growth of the Tribe.”



District 11 – Christina Brasfield (challenger)

Tell us about a meaningful experience you have had practicing Potawatomi culture?

“I believe in being the change I want to see in this world. As I have become more successful, I have searched for opportunities to assist and give back to our communities. I sponsor summer camps, offer scholarships, and am working on ways to co-sponsor Native American students to travel abroad.

“I am also interested in land conservation and animal rights. My focus is cats, large and small and I support animal rescues and sanctuaries.”

What is the biggest issue in Indian Country you see impacting CPN? How would you address that?

“Poverty and underemployment is especially prevalent in Native American communities. I would like to see more focus on remote employment opportunities within our Tribe so our Tribal members can have a variety of options.

“Alongside this is a focus on education to prepare for the jobs of tomorrow. Creating a network of individuals in jobs that are remote provides the prospect of mentor and internship experience.”

What experiences do you have that can be applied to a legislative position with the Tribe?

“I have traveled around the U.S. and have networked and made connections with people that are interested in helping preserve our culture, heritage, and success.

“I work remotely and am familiar with the caveats and benefits of such employment.

“While external assistance is appreciated, we cannot depend on others for our success so we should be focused on self-sufficiency in terms of business, employment, housing, technology, health care and more.”

What do you see as the Tribe’s next significant project? How would you approach that as a legislator?

“As we work to become more self-sufficient, I would like to see the Tribe be the leader and set precedent for technological services offered to members. We are capable of becoming our own internet service provider and opening our own data center. These are services that are good for our community, our future, and tie into remote job prospects for our Tribal members; we can be the change we want to see in this world.”



District 13 – Bobbi Bowden (incumbent)

Tell us about a meaningful experience you have had practicing Potawatomi culture?

“One of the most meaningful cultural experiences I have had is also one of my first experiences, and that was receiving my Potawatomi name. I am blessed to carry on the name *Pkuhshnoqua*, the name given to my great-great grandmother Rozetta Trombla.”

What is the biggest issue in Indian Country you see impacting CPN? How would you address that?

“The greatest challenge facing us is an ongoing one. As our population grows it is more important than ever for our enterprises to continue to grow to increase our revenue, so we can continue to provide benefits and services to our membership and hopefully expand benefits and services to members outside our current service area. The legislative branch must continue to work with our executive leaders to ensure continued success.”

What experiences do you have that can be applied to a legislative position with the Tribe?

“The experience I have to offer as one of your Oklahoma representatives is just that, experience. My experience in real estate as well as starting and running my own business, along with the experience I have gained on the business committee, at the time our new constitution was established, and as one of our Oklahoma representatives since that time will help me continue to serve our Nation to the best of my ability.”

What do you see as the Tribe’s next significant project? How would you approach that as a legislator?

“What I see as the Tribe’s next big project is to develop and bring new enterprises to the Tribe. The growth of our enterprises is imperative in the continued success of our Nation. We must continue to grow and prosper to continue to provide benefits to our members.”



District 13 – Michael K. Whistler (challenger)

Tell us about a meaningful experience you have had practicing Potawatomi culture?

“I was raised that Citizen Potawatomi help others. My wife and I prayed for a way to help and began fostering at-risk children. We fostered a young girl, Cecily, for nearly two years, when we were informed that she needed to be adopted, but only by Tribal members. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe found us acceptable after finding out we were a CPN family. We also adopted her older half sibling, Blake (also Northern Cheyenne).”

What is the biggest issue in Indian Country you see impacting CPN? How would you address that?

“Our Tribe has made great strides in growing our economic security by investing not only in casinos, but in many other businesses. We must grow and protect the good start we’ve made for our future, and our children’s and grandchildren’s futures. I’ve lived in Montana, another state with large Native populations, and have seen both successes and failures in other Tribe’s decisions and policies, and can help ensure we stay headed in the correct direction.”

What experiences do you have that can be applied to a legislative position with the Tribe?

“I have been a business owner for over 35 years; many, many years with revenues in the multi-millions. I also served on the board of directors for a national association. I have the practical experience and leadership qualities to help our Tribe manage and grow our diverse businesses, and legislate to ensure our continuing growth. Without profitable gains, growth of our Tribal Programs for our elders, youth, and our financial success will be jeopardized.”

What do you see as the Tribe’s next significant project? How would you approach that as a legislator?

“I have been witness to some of the beginnings of our newest project, a huge new factory that will likely be occupying the Iron Horse business area that Chairman Barrett has worked so diligently on. I can help to facilitate the growth and success that our Tribe is blessed with. It takes constant care to ensure a venture succeeds, and I can contribute greatly to the need for experienced and successful leaders in our Tribe.”



District 13 – Jay Laughlin (challenger)

Tell us about a meaningful experience you have had practicing Potawatomi culture?

“We’ve all had traits, lessons and influences passed down from generation to generation even though this was greatly hindered by forced assimilation. On a daily basis, I strive to live by the Seven Teachings of love, honesty, bravery, respect, humility, wisdom and truth. I also instill these values in my children.

“I truly enjoy going to the annual Family Reunion Festival and visiting our Cultural Heritage Center with my friends and family.”

What is the biggest issue in Indian Country you see impacting CPN? How would you address that?

“In order to protect and nurture our culture, identity and services, we need to greatly expand our economic prosperity. Our enterprises provide economic sustainability for our citizens and the communities we live in making our Nation stronger. I will promote the expansion of our enterprises in farming, gaming, technology, commercial, and the industrial sectors for a balanced portfolio. This will bring success to our Nation through quality jobs and investment returns for generations to come.”

What experiences do you have that can be applied to a legislative position with the Tribe?

“I have directed multi-million dollar projects in various capacities, been on the board and supported non-profit organizations, raised children, been married, failed and got up again to succeed.

“I have the experience and education needed to move our Nation forward. Most importantly I understand humility. I listen and understand that I do not have all of the answers nor do I know everything. I’m a team player and know we can and will succeed together.”

What do you see as the Tribe’s next significant project? How would you approach that as a legislator?

“Expansion of our enterprises and industries. We must first establish and continue to establish long-term lease agreements with firms at the Iron Horse Industrial Park. These firms will provide high quality jobs and economic prosperity for our citizens and local community. I will work directly with the legislature, executive branch, potential tenants and CPN staff to ensure this project comes to fruition.

“Secondly, we need to expand our commercial enterprises near the Grand Casino.” ♣

Mortons open cannabis dispensary to give back

By Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton

Big Bud, Northern Skunk and Star Dawg cannabis strains make it possible for Brandy and Michael Morton to give back to their community. The Mortons began operating M's Dispensary at 421 E. Main St. in downtown Shawnee, Oklahoma, last November.

In addition to donating a portion of the company's monthly profits to local homeless outreach efforts, the Mortons offer continuing education courses in an attempt to show the health benefits of cannabis.

"We want to help change the stigma around medical marijuana. It's real, and that's not the way it should be," said Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Michael Morton. "One of our missions is to show that this is a legit business with legit medicine. It's not just some hippies smoking pot."

Taking that objective seriously, the Mortons and their staff make a point of complying with medical privacy laws and not allowing any customers without a medical marijuana license in the dispensary's showroom. They also handle the cannabis using sterile gloves rather than bare hands.

"It's standard in the medical field, so why not here?" Michael Morton asked. "We have patients who are immunocompromised and could catch something from one of us if we're not careful."

Each of the Mortons has more than a decade of nursing experience, but they were not introduced to the benefits of medical marijuana until Brandy Morton tried it to address excruciating leg pain associated with Raynaud's Disease while on a trip to Colorado.



Michael and Brandy Morton stand in front of M's Dispensary in downtown Shawnee.

"It changed my life completely," she said. "I honestly did not get the benefits of medical marijuana until we saw it in our personal lives."

In June 2018, Oklahoma voters approved a ballot measure to allow residents to legally grow, possess and use marijuana for medicinal purposes after meeting certain prerequisites, including obtaining a license following doctor consultation.

Along with use as a non-opiate pain reducer for fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis and other conditions associated with chronic pain, anecdotal evidence shows medical marijuana as an effective muscle relaxant able to minimize the tremors associated with Parkinson's Disease. It can also help treat glaucoma and nausea.

Under the rules adopted by the Oklahoma State Department of Health after the passage of State Question 788, a doctor must register with the

Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority in order to provide a recommendation for a medical marijuana license.

As of Feb. 18, almost 50,000 patient licenses statewide have been approved, along with licenses for 986 dispensaries, 1,690 growers, 294 caregivers and 465 processors, according to OMMA.

Despite a dozen Shawnee-area limited liability companies listed as dispensaries with OMMA, there is a dearth of prescribing physicians in and around Pottawatomie County. To help fill the gap, the Mortons announced in December a partnership with Dr. Sang Lee, a board certified emergency medicine doctor based out of Bethany. Dr. Lee comes to the dispensary multiple times per month to meet with patients interested in potentially obtaining a medical patient marijuana license.

Most of the dispensary's patients so far have been elders with limited

resources to get to Tulsa, Oklahoma City or other community with an OMMA-registered practitioner.

"There is such a need here in Shawnee," Brandy Morton said. "It is a huge deal to have a great physician like Dr. Lee be willing to come here and help patients."

Nationally, 29 states and the District of Columbia have at least partially decriminalized marijuana use and/or possession. However, federal law still classifies marijuana a Schedule I drug, one with no acceptable medicinal use.

Until Congress revisits that classification, possession of marijuana — for medicinal or recreational purposes — is still considered illegal in Indian Country, including on trust land and in tribal casinos.

It also means that Oklahoma's dispensaries have to operate as cash-only establishments. Under the Controlled Substances Act, it is against the law for banks to deal with proceeds from any business connected to a Schedule I drug, including marijuana decriminalized at the state level. M's Dispensary has an ATM on site.

Despite the federal-level restrictions, the Mortons see their business as a chance to care for their neighbors, similar to Tribe's service programs.

"Our hearts are in the right place," Michael Morton said. "We're doing this for the community. I grew up seeing things done for the community by the Tribe. I remember when it was just a smoke shop and bowling alley over there."

"The Tribe's done everything they can for the community. They've put forth that precedent in my mind that it's achievable. Now it's our turn to help the community." ♡

2019 POTAWATOMI GATHERING BUS TRIP

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation will provide free bus travel to the annual Potawatomi Gathering for Tribal members and their immediate families. A chartered bus will leave the Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquarters, 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive in Shawnee, at 6:30 a.m. on Monday, July 29, 2019, and the bus will leave to return home on Sunday, August 4, 2019. The bus will arrive back in Shawnee on Tuesday, August 6, 2019.

A \$50 per passenger refundable deposit is required. Tribal members who attend Gathering will be responsible for obtaining their own passport, food, lodging and incidentals expenses.

To reserve a seat on the bus and obtain more information about the hotel room blocks, please call Brandy Oswald at 405-275-3121 or 800-880-9880. You may also send an email: travel@potawatomi.org.

There is limited seating available. The deadline for reservations is 5 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2019.

Wasauksing First Nation at Parry Sound, ON, Canada, will be hosting the Gathering this year.

Website - wasauksing.ca
 Facebook - [potawatomigathering2019](https://www.facebook.com/potawatomigathering2019)
 Twitter - [potawatomi2019](https://twitter.com/potawatomi2019)
 Instagram - [potawatomi2019](https://www.instagram.com/potawatomi2019)

Gathering contact: Harmony Redsky
potawatomi@wasauksing.ca
 807-464-2929



Mattena builds connection to Potawatomi heritage through archaeology

Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania, offers archaeology students a unique opportunity to work in a rare, well-furnished perishable artifacts lab. Student and Tribal member Kay (*Kakendasot*) Mattena completes her thesis research there with plenty of space and equipment to process and analyze relics. She will graduate with her Bachelor of Arts in anthropology/archaeology May 2019.

Initially a bio-archaeology major, over time, Mattena became more interested in general anthropology and archaeology. She focused her studies on preserved pieces of organic material prone to decomposition. During her work-study program, Mattena spent the majority of her time in the lab.

“Perishable artifacts are often rarely represented in the archaeological record just because of the nature of them being perishable,” she said. “But even looking around today, we know that ... cloth, wood and those things that will eventually decay are a key part in our lives.”

Capstone project

Junior year forced Mattena to consider her senior thesis. Her adviser, Dr. Edward Jolie, offered a possible subject. Knowing her Tribal connection to



A reshaped piece of fabric from an Ojibwe historical site was the focus of Kay Mattena's senior thesis.

the Great Lakes region, Dr. Jolie encouraged Mattena to analyze and rehydrate a textile from the area.

“It really was through like a miracle that this artifact was preserved, and it's a 10-centimeter by 2-centimeter band or strap. It's intricately twined, and it has a geometric zigzag decoration that goes throughout it,” Mattena said.

The United States Forest Service archaeologist at Hiawatha National Forest Dr. Eric Drake and Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at Illinois State University Dr. James Skibo excavated it. It was the only perishable artifact found during their time at a Late Woodland Period site near Williams Landing on Grand Island, Michigan, called *Gete Odena*, or “The Ancient Village” in Ojibwe.

The fabric's proximity to copper aided its preservation. The reshaping process allowed her to brush off the crystalline copper, which provided a detailed look.

“We were lucky enough that it took to the reshaping very well, and we were able to get it laid all the way out and found that it was a band or a strap of some sort,” Mattena said.

“It's actually pretty soft and pliable. It almost feels like a flannel texture now, whereas before it felt very stiff and brittle.”

In October 2018, the Midwest Archaeological Conference selected her to give a presentation about the artifact and her research's success. Afterward, she continued her work, replicating the piece and attempting to understand its creation.

“It's a way that we express ourselves as human beings through our clothing, our dress, our body adornment, the things we make with our hands. Our expression of ourselves,” she said. “If we can look at those artifacts, those textiles, those baskets, we can get a glimpse of what the people did in the past to express themselves.”

Ancestry to artifact

Given the oral nature of most Potawatomi and *Nishnabe* traditions, finding physical remnants of the culture assures Mattena



Kay Mattena analyzes the artifact used in her thesis project inside Mercyhurst University's perishable artifacts lab.

of the essential combination of archaeology and anthropology.

“I always get so excited when we find stuff that is a part of bodily adornment or like regalia that I'm familiar with. Finding tinkler cones (traditionally on jingle dresses) the first time gave me goosebumps,” she said.

A Navarre descendant, Mattena and her family lived in Salt Lake City, Utah, and moved to Tennessee when she was 16. Her grandmother exposed her to Potawatomi culture the most by passing down a lullaby in the traditional language.

Mattena attended school with members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a child and describes the experience as “rough.”

“I learned quickly in elementary school, you don't tell people you're Native” she said. “I was told after my peers saw my mom who has a copper skin tone that I was going to go to hell just because I had Native in me.”

Her grandmother died, and Mattena and her family began exploring their Potawatomi heritage. A few years ago, Mattena's mother hosted a naming

ceremony with an outdoor fire at her house and asked CPN Representative Eva Marie Carney to name them. Mattena received the name *Kakendasot*, meaning “Always Learning.”

“It was cool because it was one of the first times that I had heard the *Bodewadmi* (Potawatomi) language being used, and I just didn't think I could hear anything more beautiful,” she said.

She took the desire to learn more about Native culture with her to college, completing her degree with a thesis close to her heart.

“A huge part of this project and me going into anthropology is me trying to navigate my own identity as a mixed Native girl, too,” she said.

She plans to continue her exploration by starting graduate school in the fall. The University of Massachusetts Amherst recently accepted her into the anthropology program, and Mattena wants a concentration in Indigenous studies.

“We're finding now and kind of exposing dominant ideologies that we as Native Americans deal with, especially mixed Native Americans, and our identity construction that the normal public doesn't have to deal with,” she said.

Her research will focus on the high rate of sexual violence against Native American women as well as the many issues of claiming heritage.

“I think we have this ideology in America that you have to pick one, but I love every aspect of my heritage,” she said. “From my Native to my Sicilian to my Scotch-Irish, I love it all.”

To provide or learn more information about the artifact, contact Kay Mattena at kmatte37@lakers.mercyhurst.edu. Discover more about Potawatomi history and customs at potawatomi.org/culture.



RE-ELECT

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VOTE DAVID BARRETT FOR DISTRICT 10

Paid for by David Barrett

Potawatomi Chief Ashkum's efforts to combat Manifest Destiny's expansion

During the 1800s, Tribal contracts with the federal government in the form of treaties continued to cede more Indigenous land for the benefit of white settlers. A cultural renaissance quickly spread across the United States that encouraged citizens to move westward, justifying property theft in the name of Manifest Destiny. Potawatomi headmen like Chief *Ashkum* (More and More) addressed crowds on behalf of the Potawatomi at this time, bringing to light the long-term, negative implications of losing the land and connection to the Great Lakes region.

"He was a powerful speaker for the Tribe's rights, recounting their history as a people and relationship with the U.S. each time he spoke," said Blake Norton, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center curator. "He acknowledged and was a part of early land negotiations and cessions. However, he refused further deals and rallied others when he understood that the U.S. wanted all of the land and that the Tribe was at the precipice of cultural loss."

Treaties

Ashkum's village was located in north-central Indiana along the Eel River, a Wabash River tributary. He signed the 1821 Treaty of Chicago, which involved the Odawa, Ojibwe and Potawatomi. This treaty ceded nearly all Potawatomi acreage in the southwestern quarter of Michigan.

Five years later, Ashkum's signature appears on the Treaty of Mississinewa, which provided the acreage needed to build one of Indiana's earliest highways, the Michigan Road. The Potawatomi forced on the Trail of Death used the road on the initial leg of the 660-mile forced removal in 1838.

Tribal leaders Weesiones and Ashkum established a reservation for their bands through the Treaty of Tippecanoe in 1832. Within a few years, Ashkum's name appeared without his knowledge on the Treaty of Potawatomi Mills, and this allowed a transfer of the reservations' ownership without either of the chiefs' approval.

"Revealed later, many of the known conspirers to this fraudulent sale are listed directly below Ashkum on the treaty. His name again is curiously buried among conspirators on the Treaty of Yellow River, signed on Aug. 5, 1836, that ceded the reservations established for other Indiana headmen just the day before his and Weesiones' reserve was established," Norton said. "This is strange because Ashkum would have known that his land was in jeopardy and confronted the issue, but there is no account of this recorded."

His signature appears once more on the Treaty of Chippewanaung, which wrongfully authorized the sale of both Weesiones and Ashkum's earlier reservations.

"Everything comes to the surface when Ashkum, Weesiones and other headmen gathered to collect their annuities and learned that many of their lands had been illegally ceded," Norton said. "They rejected the sales and threatened those involved with death. A large riot broke out between Tribal leaders, assisted by local businessmen for and against the claims."

Stolen lands

Ashkum, Weesiones and other Tribal leaders vowed the property cessions were illegal and pleaded with federal agents that the president of the United States was unaware of these treaties and would not approve.

"They were dismissed and ultimately overruled by agents, citing a majority vote per the treaty signatures and understood support from community factions that were now deemed in control," Norton said.

Sadly, federal agents saw the potential impact of Ashkum and leaders like him within the Potawatomi and other Native groups in the area. Because of this, U.S. agents replaced Ashkum with government-approved Tribal leaders and orators.

"These guys are labeled 'government chiefs,' but all were respected in the community and covered a generational



This George Winter painting provides insight into Potawatomi headman Ashkum's physical attributes.

gap that helped gain numbers," Norton explained. "Some were respected veterans of past wars, others were closely associated with local businessmen, and others were young up-and-comers on the path to leadership. Many of the younger faction were heavily indebted to local traders, while others vied for personal gain and power."

Historical records note Ashkum's age as at least 50 in 1837, which could indicate he contributed in the Northwest Wars and the War of 1812.

"There is no record of him participating in war, but it would be unusual for him to not have, given the timeframe, his status and that of other headmen in the region that we know were highly active," he explained. "As a nod to his status and recollection of Tribal history, he was the original speaker for the Potawatomi of that region of Indiana during the 1830s."

Recollections

English artist George Winter captured sketches and paintings of the Native Americans living in the area and wrote about Ashkum in his diary.

"Ash-kum was among those old chiefs who retained their prejudices against having themselves portrayed — or from the secret contempt for being remembered among white men through the medium of the pencil. Yet he was amused at others whom I painted, and was ever ready with his spicy joke upon his likenesses," Winter wrote.

In 1838, federal agents and volunteer militia forcibly removed the Potawatomi, including Ashkum, on the Trail of Death.

"Ashkum was strongly attached to his native forests and lakes — and left Indiana with a deep feeling of regret," Winter said.

Like numerous tribal leaders at this time, once Ashkum headed west, he no longer appeared on any historical records. However, recounting his life builds a greater understanding of the true nature of U.S. Indian policy. During Ashkum's lifetime, the government justified its negative actions toward Native Americans on behalf of Manifest Destiny. Federal policy forcibly removed Native Americans, like the Potawatomi, and created a culture to exploit Indigenous groups by any means necessary.

"The story is also powerful because it's not unique. Too many faced the same odds during this period," Norton said. "It was an era of betrayal, opportunity and ultimate loss that is the poster child for U.S. and Native American relations."

Learn more about Ashkum and this period of Potawatomi history within the Cultural Heritage Center's *Treaties, Words & Leaders That Shaped our Nation* gallery. ♡

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Call us at **1-844-754-4324, TTY 711.**

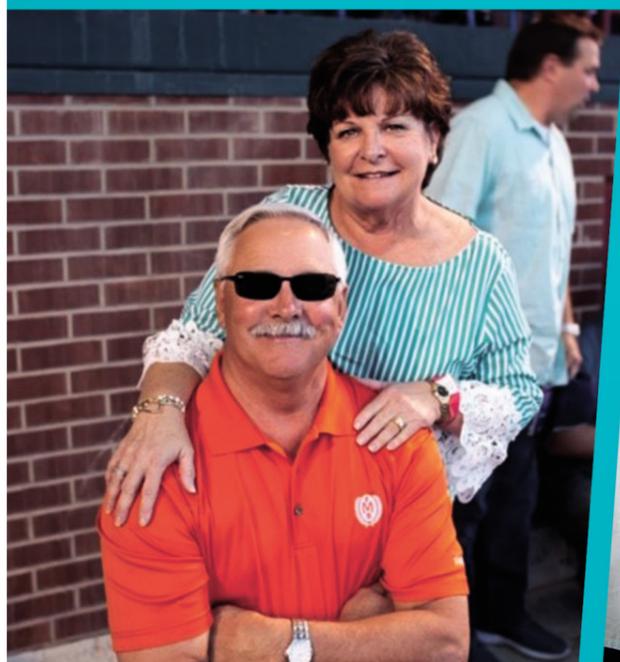


Plans are insured through UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company or one of its affiliated companies, a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract and a contract with the State Medicaid program. Enrollment in the plan depends on the plan's contract renewal with Medicare. This plan is available to anyone who has both Medical Assistance from the State and Medicare. This information is not a complete description of benefits. Contact the plan for more information. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, premium and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium, if not otherwise paid for under Medicaid or by another third party. Premiums, copays, coinsurance, and deductibles may vary based on the level of Extra Help you receive. Please contact the plan for further details.

CST23531F

JOHN TOM ANDERSON FOR DISTRICT 11

Paid for by John Tom Anderson



Tribal Chairman - John "Rocky" Barrett



Bozho nikan
(Hello, my friend),

After an exceptionally cold winter in Oklahoma, we are seeing the first signs of spring around our FireLake complex. I always enjoy this time of year and seeing the green appear in the trees along Squirrel Creek, the fairways at FireLake Golf Course and the outfields at our ball field complex. Speaking of FireLake Ball Fields, it has become one

of the premier places for youth, high school and college softball competition in the state. From March through November, the weekends and many evenings are booked with teams from across the region. They start early in the morning on the weekends and can be found playing under the lights well into the evening. If you or your young ones' teams need a place to play, I encourage you to consider FireLake Ball Fields. They have a Facebook page and a website at theballfieldsatfirelake.com.

Warming weather also means Tribal election season is upon us. In the distant past we had contentious elections, with accusations and chicanery disappointingly common. However, in large part due to the 2007 constitutional reform, our Tribal elections have been competitive yet reflective of how a mature, Tribal government should operate. Many tribes around the country remain

stuck in situations where factions focus on retribution and infighting. Fortunately for us, despite differences between candidates on how best to govern, we have maintained a civil discourse in CPN elections.

This goes to a second duty as Citizen Potawatomi of voting age, and that is to participate in your Tribal government. In the not-so-distant past, Tribal governance was directly overseen by intrusive U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs staffers. This allowed non-Indian federal bureaucrats to influence our Tribal policies and government. It took us decades of court cases, patience and hard work to fully rid ourselves of this intrusion. Today we elect our Tribal legislators and executives by popular vote that is overseen by our CPN Tribal Election Commission and certified by the CPN Tribal Court. If you are of voting age, you will receive an absentee ballot request

form in the coming months that is sent to your last known address with the CPN Tribal Rolls Department. Ensure your address information is up to date with tribal rolls by calling 800-880-9880. I highly encourage you to respond and exercise your right as a Citizen Potawatomi to vote by absentee ballot or in person on June 29, 2019, during CPN Family Reunion Festival.

In addition to Festival, this will be a busy summer at CPN. On June 8, 2019, FireLake Arena will host a Juneteenth Celebration for our friends and partners in the community. For those who don't know, Juneteenth is a commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States, and Pottawatomie County has long held an outdoor celebration in the historically African American section of town, Dunbar Heights. We are happy to help host this incredibly important celebration and look forward

to sharing more information as planning continues.

August 9-10 is the third annual FireLake Firefight Balloon Festival, and this year looks to be better than ever. We have 25 balloons from across the nation coming to FireLake in addition to vendors, food trucks, musical acts and more. One thing we always hold out hope for is calm winds and mild temperatures, but the balloon festival always has many other attractions to see, whether a balloon glow or an art show. I encourage you to follow the planning progress at firelakeballoonfest.com.

As always, thank you for the privilege of serving as your Tribal Chairman.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

John "Rocky" Barrett
Keweoge
(He Leads Them Home)
Tribal Chairman

Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps



Bozho
(Hello),

This particular article is pertinent to Oklahoma public schools. There are similar requirements for all states with large populations of Native American students, but the content in this article refers to Oklahoma tribes and schools. I have included a portion of what the U.S. Department of Education's Every Student Succeeds Act requires. My intent is to create awareness for those who are interested in the education of our Native

students. Perhaps they, in turn, will further research the Oklahoma Tribal Consultation Guide, which can be found at cpn.news/consultation.

Tribal consultation for Indian tribes and public schools is not a new concept. The process has been written into law since Dec. 10, 2015. ESSA requires annual consultation between school officials and tribal leaders for each school receiving Title I and Title VI federal funding for American Indian/Alaska Native students. Although the law was signed in 2015, consultations with Oklahoma schools were a little slow to catch up but are now going strong.

What is a Tribal consultation?

The consultation process is essential to meeting the needs of Oklahoma's 130,000 American Indian students. It is required of any local education agency with more than \$40,000 in funding from the Title VI's Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native title or with AI/AN

enrollment of at least 50 percent. The local education agency and tribal leaders are recommended to follow federal 30/60/90 guidelines for tribal consultation: 30 days' notice of consultation, 60 days for response and 30 additional days for collaboration, if needed. However, if a district and tribal nation have begun a consultation process, they should continue working together and not go back to restart the 30/60/90 continuum.

Who is responsible for initiating the ESSA tribal consultation?

The school district superintendent is responsible for contacting a tribal leader.

What tribe or tribes should be invited to a school district ESSA tribal consultation?

District superintendents must consult with the tribe in which their school district is located.

What if a school is not located in a tribal jurisdiction?

District superintendents should set up a consultation with a tribe or tribes within a 50-mile radius.

What if there is more than one tribe within a 50-mile radius?

District superintendents should refer to their student American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) population. They may choose to consult with the tribe with the highest population of students in their district or with more than one tribe.

First local ESSA tribal consultation meeting

On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma, hosted tribal leaders, and several school superintendents for Pottawatomie, Cleveland, and Lincoln counties were present. The tribes represented at the meeting were the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, Muscogee (Creek)

Nation, Sac and Fox Nation and Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. CPN's Director of Education, Tesia Zientek, and I were present for the consultation.

I thought it was a very positive and uplifting meeting. Some good points were brought to light with both the tribal leaders and the superintendents giving input. I could feel that the school officials and tribal leaders were comfortable being in the meeting together. I think the process was quite indicative of what a first tribal consultation is meant to be. There will be many more.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Tribal Vice-Chairman.

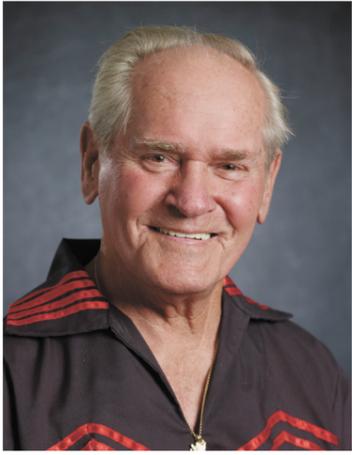
Migwetch
(Thank you),

Linda Capps
Segenakwe
(Black Bird Woman)
Vice-Chairman
405-275-3121 work
405-650-1238 cell
lcapps@potawatomi.org

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

HAVE A VOICE IN OUR TRIBE'S FUTURE, CAST YOUR VOTE IN JUNE

District 1 - Roy Slavin



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

I just want to say that I am tired of cold weather. I am so looking forward to March 20, the first day of spring, and maybe some warmer weather.

Just a reminder of our District 1 meeting on April 26 in Chicago, at the Field House Museum. We have many reservations along with a waiting list. We will be verifying your RSVP about April 10. This is to make



Join us for a
CPN D1 & D2 Meeting

Saturday, May 18 • 10AM-2:30PM
CHATEAU ON THE LAKE RESORT
415 N. STATE HIGHWAY 265, BRANSON, MO 65616

RSVP by May 10
(for lunch ordering purposes / lunch provided)
CALL 866-961-6988 OR 1-888-741-5767
OR EMAIL ECARNEY@POTAWATOMI.ORG
OR RSLAVIN@POTAWATOMI.ORG

sure you plan on attending. At that time, we will give you any other information you may need when you arrive. If you have not given us your telephone number where you can be reached, please let us know. We are excited about this meeting

as the Field House Museum is a natural history museum with a new area of Potawatomi artifacts.

It is not too early to start preparing for the Family Reunion Festival this summer. It is June 28, 29 and 30. If

you have never attended, I highly recommend it. Great vacation and gives you time to find new family members and enjoy your friends. If you need accommodation, I would start now as the hotels fill up fast. If you have a RV or a

tent, it would be a good idea to make those reservations, too.

As you can see, there will be three legislators up for re-election. I just want to remind you that any Tribal member 18 years and older is eligible to vote. Only residents of Oklahoma can vote for the legislators, but all Tribal members can vote for the budget.

I close this article, as always, with a plea for your contact information. If you do not receive an occasional email from me, it is because I do not have your email address. Due to privacy standards, Citizen Potawatomi Nation cannot provide it to me.

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

Roy Slavin
Netagtege (Forever Planting)
Representative, District 1
816-741-5767
888-741-5767
rsnavin@potawatomi.org
rslavin@gmail.com

District 2 - Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

White House listening session:

I noted in my March column that the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and the White House Domestic Policy Council invited tribal leaders to a listening session with White House officials during the February National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Winter Session in Washington, D.C. I participated in the listening session and had the opportunity to speak about the need to faithfully implement, consistent with tribal and congressional intent, the first piece of Indian-focused legislation signed by President Donald Trump, Public Law 102-477 (*The Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017*). The Act mandates 12 federal agencies to participate through an inter-agency Memorandum of Understanding in the 477 program, which allows tribal nations to design and implement self-governed, integrated approaches to meeting their employment, training, education and welfare reform needs. The MOU issued

in December, pursuant to the law, was not faithful to the law. The MOU needs to be adjusted so that deference is given to tribal nations and Native organizations regarding the types of and specific programs they wish to include in their plans, so the Department of the Interior is recognized as the agency with approval authority with respect to proposed plans.

At the urging of our Nation and others, NCAI has informed the White House that adjusting the MOU is an Indian Country priority. CPN's Assistant Director of Workforce Development & Social Services, Margaret Zientek, has worked tirelessly on the 477 program issues, including on passage of the 2017 law that made the 477 demonstration project permanent and expanded its breadth. Margaret is the CPN force providing needed input to NCAI, congressional staffers and agency officials about the value of the program to Native people and the importance of ensuring that tribal rights are protected. My role at the listening session was to underscore to the White House officials in attendance how important the 477 program is to CPN and other Native nations. *Migwetch* (thank you), Margaret, for your continuing work to make the 477 program the best it can be in service to our people.

While I had the microphone, I took the opportunity to highlight to the White House officials Native students' need for period supplies. I talked about the particular difficulties faced by Native students in rural America — poverty rates are high and period supplies are much more expensive in rural areas — and directed the officials to the open letter to U.S. Secretary of Education



Sheila Hill and her grandchildren.

Betsy DeVos, published in *The Washington Post* earlier this year, which stated in part:

"In 21st century America, schools have an obligation to serve all students equitably. Every student deserves the reassurance that their school restrooms are outfitted with necessities to accommodate their biological needs. Yet, for over half the U.S. student population, there is a glaring exception to this commitment: menstrual hygiene products. ... We call on you, Secretary DeVos, to fulfill your agency's charge to remove discriminatory barriers that hold students back. Menstrual hygiene products are basic necessities, and the inability to access them affects a student's freedom to study, be healthy, and participate in society with dignity."

The listening officials were two young men, and I'm certain that they did not think they'd be hearing about periods during the session! I don't know what they took away from my remarks about period poverty. However, I will be able to highlight these

issues to the administration again in late March when I meet with Jeannie Hovland, the commissioner of administration for Native Americans and deputy assistant secretary for Native American Affairs, to discuss period poverty among Native American students, specifically. I'm excited that she's agreed to meet. I'll report back on the meeting in my next column.

Heritage photo contest

Please enter with a photo of something or someone (with the person's permission, of course) that best reflects, for you, your Potawatomi heritage, by the midnight, April 15 deadline. Last month, I included the only entry I'd received to date; here, I've included the second (and only other entry) I've received. I guess the contest is not resonating with folks. Currently, the two entrants have a 50-50 chance of winning the prize blanket.

Archives visit

There are still spaces available for the National Archives visit, Friday, May 24, 2019, starting

with lunch at 12:30 p.m. and tour at 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP.

Please do check my website

Details on the photo contest, the National Archives visit, the Family Reunion Festival and the 2019 Potawatomi Gathering are just a couple clicks away, on my website, evamariocarney.com, under the 'Calendar' tab.

District 3 Legislator Bob Whistler wrote in his February column about recent publications I've put together including *Winter Stories* and *Citizen Potawatomi Feasting*. These publications and a lot more are available on my website, under the 'Heritage' tab.

Find the stories and cookbook at cpn.news/emcws and cpn.news/D2cookbook.

Please send me a note or give me a call if you don't have the password. (I freely give it out, just not in a publicly posted paper like the *Hownikan*.)

Please let me hear from you

Write, call or email me to chat, obtain or offer information. As your elected legislator, I'm here to listen.

Bama pi
(Until later),

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe (Blue Bird Woman)
Representative, District 2
2200 N. George Mason Drive
PO Box #7307
Arlington, VA 22207
866-961-6988 toll-free
ecarney@potawatomi.org
evamariocarney.com

District 3 - Bob Whistler



Ahow
(Hello),

February was a very busy month for both CPN and me. I spent many evenings reading a number of books on different subjects.

Old ways

One that I found very interesting relates back to the days of my grandparents and beyond when they grew and maintained many of the items that they ate. They also used nature for curing various foods and, when necessary, went the route of canning. For a real glimpse of that past, I recommend that you pick up a copy of *The Lost Ways*, which is a book dedicated to the pioneers. You may find there are items in your yard that were used as a basic source of food. The book should be available from Amazon.

Protecting wealth

The next two books that I picked up were by the author Rick Bueter titled *The Great*

Wall Street Retirement Scam and *Build Your Bunker*. The reason for my interest in these is due to the changes in our 2018 IRS tax laws. Many of the deductions we had in the past have been eliminated. Moreover, while we have been told to plan for retirement, the basic retirement funds offered by the company you work for, the stock market, mutual funds and bank savings, ultimately fall into taxable income. Much of this is covered in these two small books.

The book *Build Your Bunker* identifies how you can invest in such a way that the profits you gain are forever tax-free.

I found it very interesting that the books mentioned that the funds banks receive from us in savings can be expanded, and they may loan up to nine times the amount of money you deposited. The profits from that, however, are tax-free to them, and any taxes are paid by you on the interest that you receive. In addition, the federal government will allow the banks to invest up to 25 percent of our deposits or money they borrowed from the Federal Reserve in life insurance for the officers of the bank. That life insurance is put in a type of whole life insurance policy that compounds over the years, and when the employee walks on, the bank receives the tax-free benefit. Ironically, we are all eligible for this same type of life insurance, and it will go tax-free as part of our estate to our beneficiaries. This is a much better option than an IRA or Roth and is what the very wealthy use to pass on their wealth.

However, when it comes to life insurance, you need to ask many questions and be careful. The types of life insurance that are not a good long-term investment are term insurance, universal life insurance, variable universal life insurance, indexed universal life insurance and whole life insurance that is a stock insurance company. The only one that is good for growing you family wealth is a whole life mutual insurance company policy.

You may ask, "What is the difference in whole life insurance firms?"

It is very easy to explain. If the whole life insurance is a company that is a stock company, it invests in the stock market, and their goal is to provide a return or dividends to the stockholders. It is much like still being in the stock market investing in stocks. Life insurance, by the way, is the only investment that protects your principal. With IRAs and Roths, your value may actually go down. Because of so many different types of life insurance, my recommendation is that you find a licensed life insurance broker and not just an agent. The broker is not tied to a specific company and will find the kind of insurance you seek. An agent works for a specific insurance firm and will sell only their policies, which may not be exactly what you are looking for as an investment.

I recommend to our youth that are just starting out and in the workforce to take time to read

these two books and think about a retirement investment that is tax-free income. In the past, many of us worked for firms that had a pension program that put the funds set aside for us in an annuity, which is basically a whole life mutual company that protects the funds for life. That specific annuity doesn't have a pass on feature except to your spouse, if you chose that option, but it ends there. With our current federal fiscal budget and spending programs, Social Security will most likely be a thing of the past when they come of age for retirement. They need to look for better options now. That is why I chose to write about this subject this month.

Calls from unknown numbers

Most of us get calls from numbers that may have our area code or even another area code that are a missed call. From what I have read, you should never call back a missed call to someone you don't know. It may be a scammer trying to verify that the number they called is good and who you are. They can then call back later and find a way steal your identity or scam you. In some cases, when you call back that missed number, it goes to an international or phone sex number, and your phone will be charged \$17.00 for the first minute and \$9.00 per minute thereafter. If this happens, you have no recourse and are basically out those funds. So, my message is, forget the call. If it was something legitimate, they will call back.

Family Reunion Festival

For those of you planning to attend Family Reunion Festival the last Saturday in June, you should get any hotel rooms booked quickly. I believe our attendance this year will be somewhat larger than last year, and rooms will go fast. For any of you that plan to use the RV center or camp, please contact Charles Clark for reservation at 800-880-9880.

In just another four months, Family Reunion Festival will be here. I look forward to seeing many of you. I am very thankful and proud that you elected me to serve as your representative for District 3. Please contact me for any questions you may have about the Nation. In addition, as mentioned last month, there are changes taking place at the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas in Dallas. Should you use the facility and find there are any loss of services, please let me know. I will get with their board of directors to see what can be done.

Bama pi,
(Later)

Bob Whistler
Bmashi (He Soars)
Representative, District 3
112 Bedford Road, Suite 116
Bedford, TX 76022
817-282-0868 office
817-229-6271 cell
817-545-1507 home
rwhistler@potawatomi.org
cpn3legislator@yahoo.com

District 4 - Jon Boursaw



Bozho
(Hello),

District 4 meeting at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Community Center in Rossville on Saturday, June 1:

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Eric Anderson Ph.D., a member of the Nadeau family, will give a presentation on the history of Haskell Indian Nations University. This is a different presentation than the one he gave a couple of years ago on what courses are offered at the institution.

Dr. Anderson is head of the history department at HINU.

The presentation of the traditional gifts to the eldest, the youngest and the member who traveled the furthest are on the agenda after lunch. I still have invitations out for a couple of more speakers, and the full agenda will be in next month's *Hownikan*.

Please RSVP by 5 p.m. on May 28 by calling me at 785-608-1982, or email me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org.

You can also call my brother, Lyman Boursaw, at 785-584-6401. Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

District 4 meeting at the Mid-America All-Indian Center in Wichita on Sunday, June 2:

We will begin the meeting with a catered lunch at 1 p.m. followed by the unique opportunity to learn about the early family clans that existed in the Tribe decades ago from CPN Language Department Director Justin Neely. Justin is one of the Nation's authorities on our family histories, early culture

and traditions, and of course, the Potawatomi language. I think we can all look forward to this opportunity to learn more about our individual family histories and the makeup of the Tribe's early familial structure. He will also teach us how to give a blessing prayer in Potawatomi.

Please RSVP by 5 p.m. on May 28 by calling me at 785-608-1982, or email me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

Mid-America All-Indian Center
650 N. Seneca St
Wichita, KS 67203

Tribal ID cards and enrollment assistance:

Charles Clark, director of Tribal Rolls, plans to be available at both District 4 meetings to provide assistance with Tribal ID cards and enrollment applications. If you cannot make the meeting, call CPN Tribal Rolls at (800) 880-9880 toll free or email them at tribalrolls@potawatomi.org — many services they provide can be provided remotely.

The long Kansas winter is behind us, but what will spring bring?

As I'm typing this, there are still patches of snow on the ground, but we all know that spring normally is the beginning of tornado season. Obviously, none of us want to experience going through and recovering from a tornado. We all need to take that extra effort now and be prepared just in case. We have all seen or heard about the items you should have stored away in case your home is hit by a tornado. The following list is far from complete. While this doesn't include many of the items that you may or could have in your emergency kit, it is a simple list of those items needed to get you started building your kit.

1. Drinking water — one gallon per person for three days. Don't forget water and a bowl for your pets.
2. Supply of non-perishable food. If in cans, don't forget a manual can opener.
3. Paper towels and toilet paper.

4. Paper plates, bowls and cups as well as plastic utensils.
5. Change of clothes — remember, you may be in your pajamas when bad weather hits.
6. Special items for infants.
7. Sturdy shoes for all members of the family.
8. Towels, soap, extra tooth brushes and toothpaste.
9. Battery powered radio and extra batteries.
10. Several flashlights and extra batteries in all necessary sizes.
11. Wear glasses? Have an extra pair in your kit for all family members who wear glasses.
12. Cellphone and charging cords, in case you have power.
13. Seven-day supply of prescriptions and other medications.
14. Large first aid kit — you may need more than Band-Aids.
15. Cheap rain coats or ponchos.
16. A blanket or two.

17. Small amount of cash and/or extra credit card — you probably won't find your wallet.
18. Backpacks or bags to carry all of this in case you have to evacuate.

Go online to check out the more comprehensive lists at ready.gov. My last thought for your survival kit: regardless of its size, it must be stored in a manner that is

going to survive the tornado. It isn't going to do you any good if it goes when the house does.

April elders potluck in Rossville:

The April elders potluck will be held on April 12 at noon in the CPN Community Center in Rossville.

The Senior Support Network staff has asked that you RSVP

if you plan on attending; their number is 785-584-6171.

2019 CPN Family Reunion Festival:

Don't forget; the 2019 CPN Family Reunion Festival will be held in Shawnee, Oklahoma, Friday, June 28 to Sunday, June 30. The honored families this year are the Johnson, Lafromboise, LaReau, LeClaire,

Melott, Rhodd, Tescier, Weld and Young families.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Jon Boursaw,
Wetase Mkoh (Brave Bear)
Representative, District 4
785-861-7272 office

785-608-1982 cell
2007 SW Gage Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66604
jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
Office hours:
9-11 a.m. Tuesdays
3-5 p.m. Thursdays
Other times: please call

District 5 - Gene Lambert



Bozho nich Bodewadmik
(Hello, my fellow Potawatomi),

Change

If what you are doing isn't making you happy to get up in the morning, then it is time for a change. We all resist change, as status quo is comfortable. We are comfortable in the sense that we know what to expect. Yet, it is the very thing that can make life boring and unsatisfying for some. Stagnation would be a good word. What that would mean for you differs person to person. You are the only one who can answer the questions.

"Why am I here, and why is it I do the same things over and over? I know I need to change!"

That's an easy answer — habit!

Perhaps you have reached a stage in life where comfort is everything. There is nothing wrong with taking breaks in life as you reevaluate your own growth or goals. What we think, want and feel changes every day to some degree.

What made us happy 10 years ago isn't what you have evolved to today. Does this make sense?

Have you ever had a friend you saw every day and enjoyed tremendously? You moved to another state or another part of town and didn't see each other for a year or two. The exciting day comes around where you have planned to meet for a long awaited lunch. You are excited you will be visiting with an old friend. Well ...

You arrive at the restaurant, look around and see her waiving in the corner. Likewise, she is happy to see you too. You greet and hug the person you remember as your friend. It is a happy moment connecting to your memories.

The lunch is complete, and you head for your car to drive home and realize you have nothing in common with the person you were just with. As a matter of fact, you sat in your car and thought to yourself, "What did I ever see in that person?"

She is shallow, superficial and self-indulged." We know it is all about self-acceptance. Nonetheless, it is a path she must walk. Do you walk in her path? Perhaps it is time to move on to new friends or new lessons.

Just because someone has lessons to learn here on this earth that differ from your own doesn't make them a bad person. Where they are on their path may be ahead of or behind you.

However, they have as much of a right to be here as do you. Respect that truth.

The point is that there was a fork in the road; she took one and you the other — just different paths! What is important to her now isn't to you. You grew apart.

People and things come and go in our lives, and we try to hang on. You can't! It will only weigh you down and throw roadblocks in your path.

Resistance is always a storm on the way to your door

I am sure you have heard someone say, "It is what it is."

If you cannot understand it, fix it, change it or accept it at face value, you *must* walk away. It does not belong to you. Learn to leave it behind,

and never go back. (I am working on this one.)

Two people (both) have to want a relationship. No matter how hard you try, if the other doesn't, it is a waste of your time and thoughts continuing pursuit.

Careers change, styles change, politics change, seasons change and everything changes. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation used to be Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe. We have evolved in many ways as we explore new possibilities.

Do you want something that does not change? The only reference I could share with you is the Creator! Our ancestors knew and started their day with gratitude for all things the Creator provided.

Spirit never changes. Now, there is the best stable datum I can give. Isn't that awesome to know? Here is a great base from whence to start.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

Malachi 3:6 "For I the Lord do not change."

1 Corinthians 15:51-42
"Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall

all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye."

The above references are there to help you and me to understand the hills and valleys in life that are necessary for our growth and understanding.

The interesting thing is we are all going through change every minute of every day. People may not be growing at the same rate as you, thus making it difficult to understand because we forget where we were at varying stages in life.

Be tolerant of the young as they go through the same process as have we. Look back and consider where you were at that stage. They cannot know what they have not experienced. Books and education are tremendous for knowledge, but wisdom comes with experience.

Love you all and looking forward to our visits throughout 2019.

Let me know what you think.

Eunice Imogene Lambert
Butterfly Woman
Representative, District 5
480-228-6569
euniceilambert@gmail.com

District 6 - Rande K. Payne



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

I want to come right out and start this month's column with my announcement that I am preparing to run for president of the United States. I have the solution to every challenge we

face in America today. April Fools! Actually, the only solution I can offer is the one who is the Creator of everything and everyone. The Creator is my source of guidance, peace, serenity and life itself. I sometimes don't listen very well or misinterpret, but I do my best to get back on and stay on the path of the red road.

Life is good — life can get messy, but life is good! Spring is the season of new life. However, the weather and the plants seem to be at odds with each other this year. The plants are whispering that it's spring, but the weather is adamant it's still winter. But it's starting to look like the plants are emerging victorious as Old Man Winter slowly gives way to spring.

So what that means is that Family Reunion Festival is just around the corner. You can't control the weather, but you can count on Festival every year the last weekend in June. Yippee!

Festival is, by far, one of my favorite events of the year. I'm sure this year will be no exception. As announced in Vice-Chairman Linda Capps February column, this year's honored families are: Johnson, Lafromboise, LaReau, LeClaire, Melott, Rhodd, Tescier, Weld and Young.

Understandably, not everyone can attend every year. But if it's possible, attending when your family is honored is a great time to do so. The activities and sights are overwhelming, and it's almost a dilemma not being able to physically

participate in all of them. But whatever you chose to do, you are sure to be enriched and have a great experience.

Coming to Las Vegas on Sunday, May 19, is the District 6 and 7 gathering. The event will be held in the Clark County Library's large conference room located at 1401 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89119. Representative Mark Johnson and I hope to see you all there. We will do our best to update you on current events within the Tribe, teach a craft and have some great fellowship!

My family is mourning the loss of my father-in-law Jerry Hurst who passed away March 7. He was a good man who loved his family. In closing, I would offer encouragement

in finding ways to spend time with loved ones. Be the support and encouragement they need. Life is short, make it sweet.

Wisdom from the Word: The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Psalm 23:1-3

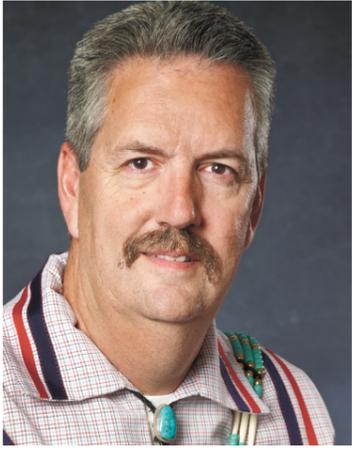
Migwetch! Bama pi
(Thank you! Until later),

Rande K. Payne
Mnedo Gabo
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Legislators are not able to retrieve your contact information from Tribal Rolls

Please contact your legislator and update your contact details so that you can receive important information.

District 7 - Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

California and most of the remainder of District 7 has

seen an above average winter as far as snowfall and rain goes. The grass crop growing in the foothill and mountain areas of the West is looking to be very heavy this year also. As a reminder for our families living in the mountain and foothill areas of District 7, make sure you have your 100 feet clearance around your home, if not more. Wildfires will return to the west again this summer as it does every year. You do not want your home to become this year's statistic.

I hope to see many of you in Shawnee at the Family Reunion Festival, which is

rapidly approaching. This year's dates are June 28-30. The honored families for 2019 will be the Johnson, Lafromboise, LaReau, LeClaire, Melott, Rhodd, Tescier, Weld and Young families. As part of our celebration of the Native culture for the Potawatomi, we have many activities, including Grand Entry for the honored families, cultural classes, a dance contest and the general council meeting. The Tribal elections are decided during the Family Reunion Festival. In-person voting is available for those who attend and didn't request an absentee ballot from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the

Tribal courtroom at the Citizen Potawatomi administration building. If you plan on attending with other family members, please let me know if you would like to be part of the District 7 hand games team.

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

information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and district.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Mark Johnson,
Wisk Mtek (Strong as a Tree)
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District 8 - Dave Carney



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

I hope spring is finding its way to you, wherever you live in District 8. Today was a balmy 52 degrees and sunny in my neck of the woods, and the afternoon air was filled with the sound of weed eaters and chainsaws. Warm weather is on its way, and summer is around the corner.

One of the most popular activities at a district gathering was a drum making class a few years ago. Our own Alan

Hernandez (Rhodd family) and his friend, Jessie Lucas, helped members make hand drums. There was so much interest in this activity, we had to turn folks away — something I never like to do.

I am glad to be able to announce that I am putting together a drum making class at this time. It is scheduled for the afternoon of May 19th and will be held at a gathering space in a local church in Olympia.

The kits that I've been looking at range from \$50 to \$100, so I will be asking members to pay a \$25 material fee per drum, and the Nation will be paying the remainder. More details will be coming your way; however, you

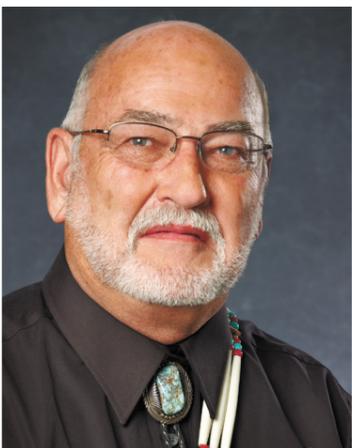
will definitely want to RSVP and pay the material fee to make sure you have reserved a spot. I will be taking only checks and money orders (no cash) made payable to CPN.

The gentleman teaching the class will be Paul Muxen, owner of Spirited Wolf Arts. Paul attends and is a vendor at many powwows in Oregon and Washington and has a lot of knowledge to share with us around drumming. He also knows quite a bit about Native flute as well.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Dave Carney
Kagasghi (Raven)
Representative, District 8
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District 10 - David Barrett



Bozho
(Hello),

I think our health facilities are the best in the land. Under the leadership of Director Mr. Chris Skillings, the CPN Health Services Department has approximately than 234 employees, which includes doctors, nurse practitioners, dentists, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, clinical laboratory technicians,

psychologists, ophthalmologist, nutritionists, physical therapists and licensed counselors, just to list a few. After visiting with various staff, I asked for the department's turnover rate, and I was told less than 5 percent. That is great because I am proud of our clinic, and I use quite a few of the services that they offer. This is a good thing in that I don't have to break in new people all the time with my medical history, thus allowing me to become friends with them along with having a professional/patient relationship.

Further talking with Mr. Skillings, I asked what his priorities are for the clinic. Chris told me he looked at the 10 most common services that they make patient referrals for, and they are trying to get medical staff to handle some of these in-house on a limited basis. Additional space is always needed to accomplish this, and a new building is being completed, hopefully by June of this year,



CPN works to expand health services including construction of a new imaging center.

allowing us to do MRI, CT cans, cone beam CT, mammography and others services. Our facilities are already doing ultrasounds, X-rays, sonograms, mammograms and EKGs.

Mr. Skillings also stated that we are still currently farming out dermatology, endocrinology, drug rehab and gastroenterology.

CPN dedicates resources through federal funding, grants, and Tribal revenue to provide these and other services to the Tribal and community citizens who need them most.

In 2018, CPN's clinics had more than 178,225 patients with an annual increase of approximately 10 percent in the last few years.

The pharmacy has filled more than 258,554 prescriptions, including the Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy. The total cost of prescriptions was over \$3,869,000.

What can I say? Great job!

What a privilege it is to be a Native American and belong to a Nation that is always seeking excellence in services for Native Americans.

It goes without saying, thank you for allowing me to represent you and our great Nation; what a privilege to serve.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

David Barrett
Mnedobe (Sits with Spirit)
Representative, District 10
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dbarrett@potawatomi.org

District 11 - Lisa Kraft



Bozho
(Hello),

Vote your priorities

The votes you cast today, in any election, have tremendous personal power. You may not always feel like you or your side are being heard or winning, but your voting actions have a ripple effect. If you vote, and your candidate wins or a measure you wanted passes, life is good. You feel optimistic about the present and the future. But when your candidate doesn't win, or your ideals aren't supported by the majority of voters, life is not so good. If you choose not to vote, that is just as powerful. The great thing about a democratic society is that we are guaranteed another chance to vote in future elections.

About eight years ago, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and I were driving to Tulsa together to

attend a National Congress of American Indians meeting. In one of our conversations, Mrs. Capps was giving me advice on a matter and explaining her rationale for making personal decisions in her own life. She told me to go through a process and think how my decisions impact my faith first, my family second and my career third, in that order. My take away: base your decision-making on what you believe in, weigh it against the best interest of those you love and safeguard, and then, see how your decision will impact your livelihood and ability to care for yourself and others. This simple logic has served me well, and I smile fondly as I remember that day together.

In the context of my duties as an elected Tribal leader, I also weigh my legislative decision-making by my moral compass, the betterment of all Citizen Potawatomi and how it will impact us as a Tribal sovereign. It took me a very long time to trust my gut or intuition, but once I did, it gave me more confidence to challenge ideals or bills that conflict with my core values or seemingly don't provide the greatest benefit to all. I am not afraid to vote "no" on a legislative measure. In fact, my vote — be it in a Tribal election, national election or in between — is an exercise of my personal power. I can be for something, against something or abstain.

I typically only abstain (which is rare) when I am voting on meeting minutes, and I was not in attendance of that electronic meeting or council meeting. When I miss voting in a local or state election, which is not often, I am giving my power away.

In the United States, there are 573 federally recognized American Indian tribal nations (ncai.org). A federally recognized tribe is just that. The tribal government has documented treaties with the United States and is recognized by all three branches of American government as a separate, functioning democracy and citizenship within the American population. State recognition means that a state's leaders, lawmakers and courts recognize tribal governments organized in their respective states, but the federal government does not. Only 35 states in America have federally recognized tribes. This means that not all Indian nations or people are treated the same by the U.S. government or even from state to state. Likewise, tribes offer their own members/citizens different benefits than they do other Indians living in the same communities.

Voter turnout in America, and in most elections, has the potential to harm or help Indian Country. This is most apparent to me in federal dollars and their subsequent administrative prioritization. As a federal grant writer, I watch where our government

spends money and if tribes can go after it. This changes daily, as some opportunities close and others open. Just yesterday, there were 1,246 grant opportunities available to federally recognized tribes (grants.gov). Of those, 1,162 are health related, 31 are justice related and only nine are for economic development. This would appear that American lawmakers and federal appointees prioritize health care funding as Indian Country's highest need, followed by crime. These funding opportunities — federal spending packages — are set by American lawmakers who are voted in by the American people. Inherently, there is Indian and non-Indian competition for federal money, competing values, competing families to protect and competing sovereignty issues. Only 1.5 percent of Americans are Native American or Alaskan Native (census.gov/quickfacts).

Aside from health dollars, if you look specifically at the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs federal funding FY2019 and FY2020 requests, the largest funding category of the BIA budget is for Indian Education. The BIA funds many tribal schools and universities. On a national level, this may be where most of the BIA dollars go, but Oklahoma has two BIA regions (Southern Plains and Eastern Oklahoma) and receives more Indian Child Welfare money than education.

In contrast, the Great Plains region of the BIA spends more on road maintenance, and the Navajo spend more on Community Policing and Investigation (cpn.news/kraftpdf). Drilling it down to a local level, a "one-size-fits-all" philosophy of national lawmakers and political appointees simply doesn't paint the whole picture for needs in Indian Country or even within a BIA region. That is why local voting has a direct influence on local lives.

Whether you view voting as a right, privilege or responsibility — or a waste of time — voting or not voting has a ripple effect throughout Indian Country; it impacts you and me as well as our families and our livelihoods. When a personal decision is made based in faith, family and then career (money and achievement), one vote can and does serve others.

Come June 29, regardless of which Citizen Potawatomi family member you vote for, let's set an all-time Oklahoma record for voter turnout.

As always, I am thinking Potawatomi.

Lisa Kraft
Representative, District 11
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JEFF FOXWORTHY
APRIL 27

Jeff Foxworthy



alanis morissette
MAY 11



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Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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Bonnie Moss-Thomas

Bonnie D. Moss-Thomas, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, went to Heaven on Feb. 20, 2019. She went peacefully after a lengthy battle with cancer without any regrets. Bonnie is survived by her husband of 27 years, Danny Thomas; her children, Ron Yerby, Travis Moss and Leslie Yarbrough; sons-in-law, Damian Gibson and Robert Yarbrough; daughter-in-law, Mindi Moss; grandchildren, Ashley Coleman, Brenden Moss, Kaylee Moss, Gracie Yarbrough and Becka Yarbrough; and her loving and caring nieces, Lexi and Courtney Barry, who loved their Friday nights with their aunt Bonnie. Also surviving Bonnie is her mother, Eula Labass.

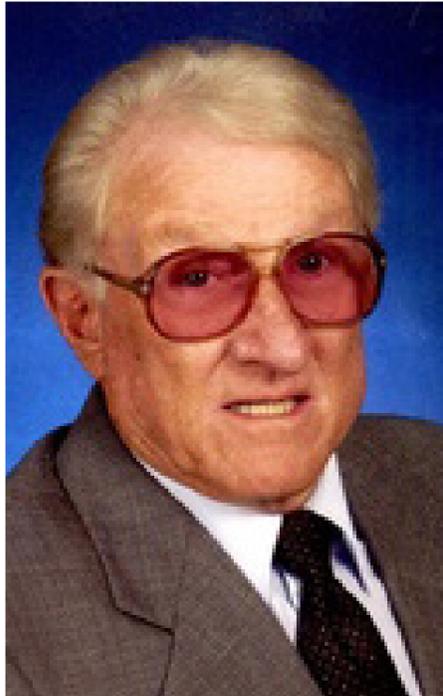
Preceding Bonnie in passing is her father, Dale Labass; and sister, Vicki Labass of Ada, Oklahoma.

Bonnie was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Her grandmother was Iola Bourassa, a descendant of Daniel Bourassa. Bonnie always made sure that her family was well cared for, and an evening family meal was always so important to her. When she was just a teenager, she began cooking an evening meal for her parents, who both worked all day long. She continued this throughout her life, despite working all day long herself. Bonnie always found the time to cook a meal for her children every evening. It was so important for her always to do this, no matter how tired she was. She always put family first and made sure they had a great home cooked dinner. It was an amazing gift to her family to be able to spend the time together, sharing

a great home cooked dinner and to talk about our day. Her cooking was always amazing, second to none.

In her memory, we would like all families to always think about their family first and make time to share home-cooked meals together. Bonnie had been a physician assistant since 1984, and she was one of the most kind and caring people you could ever meet.

A memorial service followed by a dinner reception to celebrate Bonnie's life was held on Feb. 25, 2019, at the Britton Road Church of Christ.

Leo Frank Lehman

Leo Frank Lehman, 91, of Sherman, Texas, passed away on Jan. 29, 2019, at his home in Sherman.

He was born on Sept. 16, 1927, in Konawa, Oklahoma, the son of Leonard Frank Lehman and Lucille Yott Lehman.

Leo was raised in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, with his two brothers and one sister. He was the oldest of the three. He graduated from Pauls Valley High School and then joined and served in the United States Air Force.

Leo married Martha Brandt Stephens on Nov. 27, 1958. They have three children, Frank Lehman and James Stephens of Lawton, Oklahoma, and Marcia McCloure of Sherman, Texas, six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Leo worked at Lone Star Gas for 34 years before retiring in 1989. He played golf and was an active member of both the Knights of Columbus and St. Mary's Catholic Church. He will be truly missed by all his family and friends.

Leslie G. Fox

Leslie "Gene" Fox, 86, a resident of Tecumseh, Oklahoma, passed Jan. 27, 2019. Gene was born June 18, 1932, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Guy and Ruby Fox. Gene was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend. He will be dearly missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Gene is preceded in passing by his parents, Guy George Fox and Ruby Marie Fox; and his son, Larry Allen Fox.

He is survived by his wife, Anna Bell Fox; son, Leslie G. Fox Jr. and his wife, Tonya; grandson, Nickolas G. Fox and his wife, Stephanie; great-grandchildren Ivy Fox-Lemus, Krystopher Fox, Elisabeth Fox, Mitchell Fox, Journey Fox, Dominick Fox and Castiel Fox. A memorial service was held Feb. 2, 2019, at God of No Limits Church in Oklahoma City.

The family would like to include this memorial note by CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps.

"Leslie 'Gene' Fox was proud of his heritage with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. As the vice-chairman of CPN, I have had many conversations with Mr. Fox over the years. He was always such a gentleman and such an intelligent man. I have had many conversations with both he and his son. They have always been special tribal members to me. Blessings go out to his wife, his son, and to his grandson, and to all of the family members. I can't keep from calling Gene 'Mr. Fox' because of my tremendous respect for him as a fine gentleman. With tears in my eyes, my prayer is

that Mr. Fox will rest in peace with our Lord and Savior." – Linda Capps

Leon Lester Hancock

Leon Lester Hancock, age 74, went to be with his Lord on Mar. 5, 2019, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Born June 11, 1944, in Tulsa to Roma Otho Hancock and Hazel Louise Anderson. He was a retired concrete finisher and lifelong resident of west Tulsa. He graduated from Daniel Webster High School and was honorably discharged from the Army National Guard.

He is survived by his brothers, Bobby J. Hancock and Jerry D. Hancock Sr., both of Tulsa; sisters, Wanda (Hancock) Willhite and husband Billy of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, and Linda (Childers) Wolf of Tulsa; daughter, Tammy (Hancock) Bartles and husband Jimmie; a granddaughter and grandson, several great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, stepfather Orbey Childers, brother Ray D. Hancock, sister Shirley M. (Hancock) Stephenson.

The funeral took place March 9, 2019, at Memorial Park Chapel with Reverend Johnny Boyce officiating.

Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document with **no more than 300 words**, a 300dpi photo and a contact phone number to

hownikan@potawatomi.org

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

For more information, please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email cclark@potawatomi.org.