Nation responds to pandemic

Like much of the U.S., Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s reaction evolved quickly as concerns about the COVID-19 virus spread across the country.

In the weeks ahead of the outbreak in the U.S., Tribal leadership consulted with CPN Health Services to best prepare workers, Tribal members and patrons for the coming weeks. Medical Director Adam Vascellaro, D.O., Public Health Director Kusi Rosebus, M.D., and Operations Director Chris Skillings, CPNHS met with executive branch leaders to plan for what lay ahead.

Discussions included issues of patron and employee safety, human resources and clinic supplies as well as the feasibility of keeping commercial and government programs running as long as possible.

As the outbreak’s growth became more apparent, Tribal leadership met in person or via teleconference with CPN public health services each morning on how best to navigate the day-to-day changes impacting the Nation.

The existing deep cleaning regimen under the Housekeeping and Emergency Management Department was expanded at enterprises and locations across the Nation. Wipe downs of common surfaces, deep cleaning of heavily trafficked areas and temperature scans were implemented at Tribal government facilities.

Employees across CPN were encouraged to practice social distancing, and restaurants like FireLake Fry Bread Taco and FireLake Pizza closed dining rooms and encouraged to-go options. The Cultural Heritage Center temporarily closed the museum floor on March 17 and closed the building completely on March 25.

Health

CPNHS COVID triage policy launched on March 12 and requires patients to answer a pre-screening questionnaire over the phone or prior to entering the facility. If patients meet the criteria for a COVID-19 test, they are directed to a triage tent located outside each medical facility. These areas are routinely sterilized and cleaned.

Once patients are tested in triage, they are instructed to self-quarantine and monitor symptoms until they receive test results. Should patients receive a positive test result, they are instructed to remain in self-quarantine and follow the directions given by the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

CPNHS encourages its patients who believe they have symptoms of COVID-19 to call 405-273-5236, ext. 3062 or 405-695-6003, ext. 3315 for pre-screening.

Grocery

To better serve those most vulnerable to COVID-19, FireLake Foods reserved the first hour of operations for seniors and others deemed high risk by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Additionally, high demand has strained FireLake Foods’ normal wholesaler. Richard Driskell, director of FireLake Foods, began working with different suppliers to ensure essentials are always in stock.

“As a local grocer, we know our community places significant faith in us, and we don’t take our commitment lightly,” Driskell said. “We strive for retail excellence and will continue to do everything we can to keep our shelves fully stocked with needed resources and are prices low.”

Gaming

Citizen Potawatomi Nation suspended gaming operations at Grand Casino Hotel & Resort and FireLake Casino on March 19, 2020. As of March 22, all gaming operations across Oklahoma had been suspended. On March 26, the National Indian Gaming Association confirmed all tribal gaming in the U.S. was suspended.

“Nothing is of greater importance to the tribes than the health and well-being of the citizens of their Nations and the citizens of Oklahoma. We always want to be good neighbors, and to lead by positive example. In making the decision to temporarily suspend our gaming operations, we are hopeful that we will have a positive impact on the health of Oklahomans,” said Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association Chairman Matthew L. Morgan.

Helping hand

FireLake Designs, a Tribal enterprise, and the Cultural Heritage Center assembled more than 1,000 face masks for CPN Health Services and other local health providers to help with shortage situations. The mask pattern was the same approved by hospitals and medical professionals nationwide. While not N95, they can be used by patients entering the Tribe’s clinics, leaving much needed personal protective equipment available to nurses, doctors and staff.

FOR MORE UPDATES ON COVID-19, VISIT POTAWATOMI.ORG/COVID-19.
Arredondo Boasts More than 20 Years in IT Industry

By Express Employment Professionals

Linda Marie Arredondo has joined Express Employment Professionals as its first-ever Chief Information Officer (CIO).

As CIO, Arredondo will lead Express through an IT transformation, implementing integration tools to help current systems work better together, while determining an Enterprise Architecture Strategy to modernize and transform technology delivery, system-wide.

“We are excited to add Linda Marie to the Express family as we embark on a new decade of growth and innovation,” said Express CEO Bill Stoller. “She will play an instrumental role in ensuring our internal IT services are efficient and our processes are fully supported from a technical standpoint.”

With an impressive and diverse career in information technology spanning 20 years, Arredondo previously worked at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as Director of Information Technology and CIO and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation as the Chief Technology Officer.

Most recently, Arredondo served as the Director of Research and Executive Advisor within the CIO Practice at Info-Tech Research Group, where she served as a trusted counselor to IT and business executives in diverse industries around the globe. This role offered Arredondo the opportunity to leverage her diverse IT experience and business acumen to provide innovative perspectives and solutions that alleviated the top IT challenges that impact the holistic success of the business.

A technologist first and a servant leader at heart, Arredondo’s professional expertise will allow her to utilize her knowledge to help Express further reach its goal of putting a million people to work and doing good in the communities we serve.

“By consistently demonstrating a commitment to our mission and vision statements, I’m drawn to Express and the opportunity to improve the quality of life for others through staffing, both directly and indirectly,” Arredondo said. “Within the communities I have visited, Express’ positive reputation and culture of giving back are consistently demonstrated not only through connecting people with jobs, but also through the company’s acts of social responsibility.”

Collectively, Arredondo’s experience allows her to strategically help Express identify opportunities for improvement as related to growth and connection to franchisees, client companies and associates. Her background lends itself to handling new and exciting opportunities in both staffing and franchising as the company dives into a new decade and beyond.

“Through our ongoing focus on proactive and data-driven strategies, we will continue to shepherd a culture of cybersecurity awareness both internally and externally with our trusted partners and various stakeholders,” Arredondo said. “By renewing our commitment to providing world-class customer service, I hope to empower the Express IT team to clear pathways to drive innovation through technology to achieve greatness.”

A graduate of St. Gregory’s University with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, summum cum laude, Linda Marie’s approach to education is rooted in the philosophy that lifelong learning is a valuable and meaningful endeavor. Professionally, she’s an active member of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO) and is a 2018 graduate of their Leadership Native Oklahoma program. Giving back to the community is important to her and she serves as secretary on the Board of Directors for The Kwek Society and treasurer on the Board of Directors for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Tribal Chapter – Shkodedeajek.
By Justin Neely, Director of the CPN Language Department

We had our best attendance ever for our annual Winter Storytelling event on Feb. 26, with more than 100 percent in person and close to 200 watching online from across the country. I would first like to acknowledge and thank our team members for their hard work and dedication.

Our team has been working hard to provide resources for our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have received positive feedback from our patients, families, and community members about the resources we have provided.

In order to find the Potawatomi courses, it’s easy to go to the site on a computer first, then try on your phone.

We have two YouTube pages: one geared toward kids with 130 videos and another more geared to adult learners with about 80 videos. Both can be found by searching for “Justin Neely” and “Potawatomi language.”

We are working on a kids’ puppet show called Miek Wiyugum. It’s about a group of friends who decide to build a treehouse and the misadventures they have along the way. The idea behind the show is to introduce young kids to the language, a word or two at a time, with the English supplementing the learning. After they have heard the Potawatomi word a few times, the video stops using it in English. As the show progresses, we hope to have the show mostly in Potawatomi.

We have also been working on putting a number of public domain films into Potawatomi. We are currently finishing up the 1939 cartoon version of Galliver’s Travels. Next we plan on tackling a couple of different Popeye the Sailor cartoons. We also have done a number of songs in Potawatomi such as Imagine by John Lennon, What Does the Fox Say and others. The idea is that our children need material to watch and sing along with in our language that we will stay with them.

The Potawatomi language course is now available online for any school district to pick up. We have offered the course for the last three years in Wanette High School. This last semester, we offered it for the first time at Tecumseh High School. We will begin offering it this fall at Shawnee High School. The course counts toward the required world language credit for Oklahoma students need for graduation.

We are also continuing work on our online dictionary at potawatomidictionary.com. We currently have about 9,500 words. We are working each day, adding audio files and example sentences, as well as video links on many of the sources. This project was developed in-house in collaboration with our IT department and a staff member, Jonathon Cervone. We appreciate their hard work in helping get this exciting project going. There are a lot of near features such as historical audio clips from various speakers, a cultural context button on many words where we can tell more detailed cultural information about certain words and concepts, and a video link on words like pega, a flat, Potawatomi corn bread, which shows how to prepare the dish.

Understanding this is a general overview, and there have been so many levels of preparation and unbridled support from Tribal Chairman Barrett, Vice-Chairman Capps and CPNS staff and all other CPN departments and enterprises.

With complete confidence, I can affirm that CPNS is ahead of the COVID-19 preparedness curve and remains that way. CPNS leadership has taken everything it can to use this point to care for its patients’ essential medical needs while guarding the safety of patients, employees, families and communities.

Unfortunately, by best estimation, we are in the early innings of this pandemic, and it may last months to over a year. CPNS will continue to find the balance between essential patient care needs and the safety of patients, employees, their families and their communities. What you need to do first is keep up frequently with CDC COVID-19 guidelines for families, work, communities, etc. The hard part will be to continue to be aware, obedient, patient and steady. This too shall pass.

Thanks to all from the bottom of my heart. God bless and stay safe. I am praying for all.
Ten years ago, Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center saved more than 1,000 Pottawatomie County historical ledgers from destruction. They span over a century and include records before and after Oklahoma statehood. The CHC recently donated the collection of books and preservation equipment to the Pottawatomie County Historical Society to ensure an important portion of county history is available for future generations.

"Kudos to CPN because the Oklahoma History Center decided to macroleave what they wanted and throw the rest away, and CPN chose to take the books,” said Pottawatomie County Historical Society Director, Ken Landry. “We wouldn't have them if it hadn't been for CPN. They'd be demolished.”

Knowing how important the records are to preserving Potawatomi and county history, the CHC safely stored the books in its archives until an opportunity with the historical society manifested.

“We felt that the history and most of the records that we had really does fall more within the Pottawatomie County Historical Society's mission and objective of following the big picture history of Pottawatomie County, so we felt like it was a great partnership,” said Dr. Kelli Mosteller, CHC director and Potawatomi County Historical Society board member.

The donation and partnership with the Pottawatomie County Historical Society allows the CHC to continue working toward its mission without taking precedence over the day-to-day operations of preserving Potawatomi history.

“It goes back to our bigger mission of being a caretaker for the history and culture of this area,” Dr. Mosteller said. “So many of our Tribal members are intertwined in the bigger history.”

**Digitizing**

“County records are a particular kind of civic documentation that may not be the most exciting on its surface, but if you're really trying to understand the community and do genealogical research and things like that, those are really necessary documents to be able to track someone throughout their life,” Dr. Mosteller said.

The historical society changed its boardroom to a digital scanning room fit with three scanners, including one donated by the CHC. It also has dedicated staff, interns and volunteers to help complete the hefty task of recording more than 1,000 ledgers.

"CPN gave us the scanner so we could complete the project, and the project benefits everybody in the county," said Mark Schneider, Pottawatomie County Historical Society board president. “It won't only benefit our museum. … It extends everybody's resources.”

With two scanners but three volunteers and interns devoted to working on making digital copies, the CHC donated a third scanner so the historical society could take full advantage of their time.

Staff and volunteers started with the earliest books first, making digital copies of each page within the ledgers. Landry said through the project will take years to finish, it will make researching family and historical data easier through optical character recognition once complete.

**Citizen Potawatomi Nation donates more than 1,000 pieces to Pottawatomie County Historical Society**

**Sexual Assault in Indian Country**

By Kayla Woody, CPN House of Hope Prevention Specialist

The epidemic of violence against our Native women has become a life-threatening trend that affects current and future generations. In the United States, violence against Native women has reached astonishing levels with more than half of this population reporting they experience sexual violence in their lifetime. Of those sexual assaults, the National Congress of American Indian's Policy Research Center's February 2018 report estimates 96 percent are committed by non-Native men. These statistics are overwhelming, but if taken into consideration that less than 40 percent of sexual assaults are reported, the issue at hand becomes a crisis that we cannot afford to overlook.

There are steps that everyone should take to respond to this epidemic. The most vital is to gain a better understanding of the definitions of sexual harassment and assault. When the signs are clear, it is easier to step in and make changes. The only person responsible for sexual violence is the perpetrator. We all have the ability to look out for one another's safety.

The next step in eliminating sexual violence is bystander intervention, which is when a person who is not directly involved in the violence steps in to change the outcome. Intervening in the situation could give the victim a chance to get to a safe place or even diffuse the situation altogether. This could include creating a distraction, referring to someone in authority or even enlisting others to help. It is not always easy to step in. Some think, “It's not my business,” or “I don't want to cause a scene.” It is natural to think this way, but on the other hand, the bystander must realize that their actions have a huge impact on whether a sexual assault takes place.

Third, we must realize that sexual violence can be committed by anyone. Assaults are commonly committed by people that the survivor knows and trusts. Most of the time, perpetrators are those in authority or have successful careers and community ties. These offenders must be held accountable for their actions. The community cannot just look the other way.

It is just as important to know how to respond to our sisters when sexual violence terrorizes their world. The way you respond to someone who has been assaulted is crucial in their healing process. For a survivor, disclosing this information can be extremely difficult, and the most supportive thing anyone can do is just believe them. The story of an assault survivor is often questioned, and many place the blame on the victim saying, “She asked for it.” With responses like this, survivors choose to not disclose the attack, which then leaves the perpetrator facing no responsibility for the assault. Support is necessary for survivors of sexual violence. This can include avoiding judgment, checking in with them periodically, and knowing resources and service providers that can help.

This month at the House of Hope, we are focusing on sexual assault awareness and informing the public about these steps and other ways to help end sexual violence, for not only Native women but also those around the world. The House of Hope is set up to assist any survivor of sexual violence with resources like a 24/7 crisis line, safety planning, court advocacy and referrals. We work with organizations like Native Alliance Against Violence that provide many tools and resources for women who have become victim to sexual harassment, abuse and rape as well as other forms of sexual violence.

If you or someone you know is experiencing stalking, intimate partner violence, and/or sexual assault and would like more information, please contact House of Hope at 405-275-3176, or visit us online at facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope.
Indian Country continues to address HIV and AIDS

By Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton

With an estimated 18 percent of HIV-positive Native Americans and Alaska Natives unaware of their status, Indian Health Service is among the agencies specifically tasked with helping to stop the virus’ transmission. As part of the 2019 State of the Union address, President Donald Trump announced an initiative to reduce the number of HIV cases by 75 percent within five years and 90 percent within a decade. A citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Rick Haverkate is IHS’ National HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis C program coordinator.

Under the auspices of the initiative, IHS is working with tribal epidemiology centers in each of its regions to determine how to best address HIV testing and prevention efforts. A pilot program is also underway with the Cherokee Nation Health Services. Plans are also in the works for consultation sessions through the National Indian Health Board and the National Council on Urban Indian Health.

“We look at it as targeted community-specific plans,” Haverkate said. “It’s not just a national voice speaking from D.C. We’re trying to get funds into the local communities and meet their specific needs.”

Although it is too early to determine what impact the initiative has had on the transmission rates in Indian Country, Haverkate noted that IHS has been working with urban clinics and tribally operated facilities for years to promote testing and access to care for HIV and AIDS patients.

“More than half of the patients coming into IHS clinics have had at least one HIV test,” he said. “We are also making efforts to screen all pregnant moms.”

In the interim, efforts are underway to facilitate access to preventative services. Sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services, another partner organization in the elimination efforts, the Ready Set PrEP Program provides free pre-exposure prophylaxis medication to people who do not have prescription drug coverage but are considered at risk to contract HIV or AIDS.

If taken daily, PrEP medication alone can reduce the risk of contracting HIV through sexual contact by up to 90 percent. Among intravenous drug users, PrEP medication reduces the transmission risk by 70 percent. It is part of the standard formula for IHS pharmacies.

Additionally, the first day of spring, March 20, has been observed as National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day since 2007. Overseen by the National Native HIV Network, this year’s theme was “Resilience + Action: Ending the Epidemic for Our Native Communities.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s 2017 HIV Surveillance Report, the diagnosis rate for HIV is higher among both Indigenous men and women than their white neighbors. For every 100,000 people, 17.4 Americans and Alaska Native men and 4.5 American Indian/Alaska Native women are diagnosed with HIV, compared to 10.2 white men and 1.7 white women.

Between 2012 and 2016, the number of new HIV diagnoses across Indian Country increased by 34 percent with the highest spike among gay and bisexual Indigenous men. The higher rate of diagnoses coincides with a 63 percent increase in screening among Natives ages 15 to 64.

HIV transmission happens when infected blood or bodily fluids containing blood cells enter the body. Infection cannot occur through normal or casual contact, such as hugging, kissing, dancing or shaking hands with someone who has HIV or AIDS. Additionally, HIV cannot be spread through insect bites, air or water.

An estimated 38.000 people are infected annually in the United States with 9 out of 10 HIV infections transmitted by people who are not diagnosed or in care. Despite not being identified until 1984, the virus has killed more than 35 million people with an estimated 1 million annual casualties.

The longer gap between contracting the virus and getting a diagnosis provides more opportunities for HIV to destroy a person’s immune system and an increase risk of developing AIDS. However, early diagnosis and a regular course of antiretroviral medication can suppress the virus’ growth in a person’s blood to the point it is not transmissible in as little as six months.

HIV testing is available at both of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s clinics to Tribal citizens, employees and area residents who are enrolled with a federally recognized tribe. It is also available for free through the Portawatomi County Health Department.

“We are just a humble partner,” Haverkate said. “We’re just lucky to be a partner with a national reach.”

Becho

(Hello),

The CPN Veterans Organization receives numerous requests and inquiries about the CPN Veterans Wall of Honor. Many veterans and their family members are anxious to see themselves and/or loved ones recognized on the Wall of Honor. The Cultural Heritage Center houses this monument honoring our tribal veterans and is responsible for the collection of the names and photographs displayed on the wall. The person/custodian in charge of the wall is Blake Norton, and anyone interested in adding a veteran to the honor wall can contact him at bnorton@potawatomi.com. Any future requests that we, the CPN Veterans Organization, receive will be forwarded to him.

For those who are unfamiliar with the history of our country’s military, I have composed a brief chronological record of events. At the start, following the American Revolution, our government thought that a standing army in time of peace was too dangerous to the liberties of a free people. So, the U.S. Legislature disbanded the Continental Army, except for a few dozen troops guarding munitions at West Point, New York, and Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania. However, they allowed for well-managed state militias in case of future threats. This was reorganized for the First American Regiment that President George Washington insisted on when he took office in April 1789. Congress passed a bill empowering the president to call into service, from time to time, such part of the militia of the states as he deemed necessary.

The first women enlisted during World War I, but during the Revolutionary War, American women served on the battlefields as nurses, seamstresses, and cooks, and a few saw combat, taking the place of wounded men. The same was true in the Civil War and other 19th-century conflicts. They were not allowed to officially serve until the Army and Navy Nurse Corps were formed in 1901 and 1908, respectively. The first non-nurse women enlisted in 1917, serving in clerical positions stateside and as Signal Corps operators overseas. In 1948, President Harry Truman signed a bill allowing women to serve permanently. The first women were promoted to the rank of general in 1970 and were allowed to attend military academies in 1976. Today, women make up about 16 percent of the Army, and in 2016, they were accepted into ground combat units. The military is the world’s largest employer.

Given the current public health crisis, we will advise when our next meeting is. If you are in need of information, please reach out to us using the information below.

Migwetch (Thank you).

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

CPN VA Representative:
Andrew Whitham

CPN Office Hours: 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
918-397-2566

VOTE JAY LAUGHLIN

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 9

INTEGRITY | PROSPERITY | HOPE

PAID FOR BY JAY LAUGHLIN
Tribal Transit Department fuels independence

A car is a necessity in almost all of Oklahoma, and public resources often fail to meet the need. Mass transit options remain rare, especially in rural areas like Pottawatomie County, where most of Citizen Potawatomi Nation's land lies. Because of this, the Tribe attempts to fill some of the gaps with its transportation department.

"Administration saw a need," said Transit Department Director Denise Smith. "A lot of people around here need rides, and they can't afford it. Because we have a large elderly population. We have people that are low income, and (we) just decided to keep it a free ride, which is great. It helps out lots of people."

The program offers rides between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and focuses on helping people access necessities. As a curb-to-curb service, elderly and disabled individuals are encouraged to bring someone along to assist them between the vehicle and buildings if needed.

"Those who are trying to work and those who are trying to get to their medical appointments that need some help. … That's who we want to help," Smith said. "But, you know, there's times that people have their cars break down, too. And they've called us and needed a ride, and we know how that is because we all drive."

However, it is a public service, and the department welcomes anyone — Native and non-Natives — living within CPN’s jurisdiction — to schedule a ride. CPN Transit is not a non-emergency medical transport service.

30 years of service

Smith started with the Tribe nearly three decades ago as part of the Title VI elders' program. In 1997, Title VI received its first transit grant from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and purchased an ADA-compliant cutaway bus. The descendent began by helping clients to visit friends, the grocery store, social outings and more. She enjoyed helping them maintain their independence.

"Some of the elders that I've known for years still ride our system, and so I still get to talk to them," Smith said. "Although I don't get to see them every day, I still enjoy talking with them and catching up."

They added a second bus in 1999, and things quickly progressed. By 2005, the Nation received its first transit authority from the Federal Transit Administration to expand its services beyond the Title VI elders' program. Now, 20 years after she began at CPN, she still drives and dispatches when necessary and enjoys helping others get to work or taking them on errands.

"I just came in as a part-time person. Didn't intend on staying very long, but I evidently did," she said.

By the numbers

Currently, the transportation department has eight mini-vans, three of which are ADA compliant. It employs seven drivers as well as dispatchers who fill in as needed. To meet grant requirements, the drivers complete training through the FTA, National Rural Transit Assistance Program as well as ADA safety and transportation requirements. Their job also requires drug and alcohol safety training, and human trafficking training, which all apply to transportation.

"There's a lot more to it," Smith said. "You don't just come here and just jump in the van and start driving it."

In fiscal year 2019, the department provided more than 40,000 rides — an average of 22 rides per weekday, per van. The drivers spent nearly 22,000 hours on the road and logged more than 201,000 miles. Smith says most people find out about their services by word of mouth.

"I've told people about it when I've been out talking, and they've said, 'Well… it's hard for me to get a ride. I can't depend on my kids,' or whatever. I tell them, 'Call! We do that,'" Smith said.

The department continues to grow. Right now, dispatch receives calls for approximately 35 rides a week that it is unable to fit into its schedule. Their service area covers roughly 40 square miles; however, out of town rides for medical appointments are available on an as-needed basis.

Life in the car

The drivers often foster personal connections with the riders they serve. On the road with clients, they compare hobbies and interests, talk about past jobs and teach each other new things. Many of the regulars know every person in the department.

"Most of the people we recognize their voice when they call, and they recognize our voices when one of us answers," Smith said. "They know who we are, and I just like that personal aspect of it."

Patrons occasionally bake cookies for the drivers during the holidays or send a box of candy to the office staff for Halloween. Some of them even know each other's birthdays and exchange cards.

"(The drivers) become friends with some of them. And there's some of them that whenever they get sick and stuff like that, the drivers will check on them on their off time. … If there's services that they need that we may know about, then we can refer them," Smith said.

"Although I didn't plan on working here for the long term, I'm thankful for the opportunities I have been given here. I've seen our Tribe grow into a great place."

Find more information about the CPN Transit Department, visit cpn.news/transportation or call 405-878-4833.

Dr. Roselius selected as one of Oklahoma Magazine’s 40 Under 40

In a time when public health questions have become normal dinnertime discussions, one of Citizen Potawatomi Nation's own has received recognition for her work in the medical sphere. As a result of her accomplishments and service in the public health and medical fields, Oklahoma Magazine's recently named Kassie Roselius M.D., MPH, as a prestigious 40 Under 40 award recipient.

Dr. Roselius is a member of the Vieux family and originally from Choctaw, Oklahoma. Like many Tribal members, she utilized the CPN college scholarships to help pay for parts of her education. Following graduation from Southern Nazarene University with a bachelor's in science, she completed a master's of public health at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and later completed her residency at Clarkson Family Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska.

Dr. Adam Vascello, CPN Health Services medical director, specifically recruited Dr. Roselius to the Nation due to her academic background.

"From day one, she has not only been a practicing board-certified family physician, but she was also given the leadership role of CPNHS Public Health Coordinator, and she has excelled at both," he said.

She currently serves in three capacities for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services as medical professional director, public health coordinator and a family physician.

"Dr. Roselius is a proud member of the CPN and is a shining example of the good that can come from our Tribe's investment in our younger generations," said Tribal Vice-Chairman Linda Capps. "It is important that our young people, especially Native Americans, can see people with their shared heritage and background succeeding and working in their communities."

Vice-Chairman Capps cited Dr. Roselius' recognition as one of Oklahoma's 40 Under 40 as evidence of her success managing multiple roles and enhancing CPNHS offerings.

"Overseeing these responsibilities at such a young age only further proves the Nation has more than recouped its investment," he said. "We are proud to have her on staff serving our people," Vice-Chairman Capps said.

The professionals honored in Oklahoma Magazine's 40 Under 40 Class exemplify leadership, both at the office and in the community. These are Oklahoma's mavericks — innovators who go the extra mile, disrupt the status quo, push to improve the state and guide others by unwavering and fierce example.

These leaders come from a wide array of professions, from an entrepreneur, nurse and professor to doctors, lawyers and company presidents.
Tribal Candidate Q&As

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft (incumbent)

“An effective Tribal legislator is one who is responsive to the needs of every member. Also, an effective Tribal legislator is one who is always thinking of ways and means to improve services and to enhance our cultural traditions and history. I believe I’m such a legislator.”

District 9 – Jay Laughlin (challenger)

“My real-world experience and education needed to move our Nation forward. I have directed multi-million-dollar projects in various capacities, been on the board and supported nonprofit organizations, raised children, been married, failed and got up again to succeed. I’m a team player and know we can and will succeed together.”

By electing me to District 9, you will bring a fresh perspective to our legislative body and a legislator that plans for the future.”
Music expands Tribal member’s worldview on a trip to London

On Jan. 1, 2020, Tribal member and baritone player Kayden Harrell stood on the corner of Piccadilly Street and St. James’s Street with more than 100 Southmoore High School marching band members from Moore, Oklahoma. They anxiously awaited the chance to perform as part of London’s New Year’s Day Parade, instruments in hand.

“Once we got started, it passed by quite quickly, but it was still a lot of fun,” Harrell said.

More than 10,000 people from around the world put their talents on display in some of London’s most historic neighborhoods that afternoon. Harrell and the band blasted out marching favorites such as “Sugar Carolina” by Neil Diamond and “Hey! Baby” by Bruce Channel. They finished the 2 and 1/2 mile route with a performance of the 2014 hit “Shut up and Dance” by Walk the Moon, which was her favorite.

“It just sounds really nice whenever you’re actually playing it with everyone,” Harrell said. “It just sounds different to me now than it did listening to the song beforehand.”

They took to the streets as the only marching band from Oklahoma. The school participated in 2016, and the parade invited them back. They marched for approximately three hours, entertaining a street crowd of nearly a half-million people and a television audience of more than 90 million. Harrell had never played for that many people before.

“Before, I was kind of really shy. I didn’t really pay attention much to music until I got into band. I just didn’t really understand it, but now I kind of have a different look on it,” she said.

Harrell had little interest in the art of music as an alternative to other classes, it quickly turned into a highlight of high school.

“It definitely made me nervous, especially during the big performance because there was a camera going in front of us, and my group, we were in the very front,” Harrell said. “It stopped like right in front of me, and that freaked me out a bit.”

Her mother, Leean, took the New Year’s trip with Kayden and watched the band perform its final number from the grandstands. Although they traveled to Westminster Abbey, Hampton Court, St. Paul’s Cathedral and much more during their eight days in England, the parade remained Harrell’s favorite.

“I think it was the highlight of my trip because I just got to do kind of whatever,” she said.

“Shut up and Dance” by Walk the Moon

Most of her friends also participate in marching band, and Harrell enjoys spending time with them before school at practice. Several of them went on the trip to London together as well. The sense of community makes marching band unique.

“All of the grades of band are together, where in concert band, we’re all kind of different classes. So you just feel really connected with everyone else. You’re just together all the time, and you get to make good friends,” Harrell said.

Her appreciation for all kinds of music has grown as well. However, Harrell had little interest in the art form before she learned to play.

“I didn’t really pay attention much to music until I got into band. I just didn’t really understand it, but now I kind of have a different look on it,” she said.

She listens to jazz and pop as well as different kinds of instrumental music, and she enjoys breaking it down into parts. One of her favorite pieces from the most recent marching season was “Tico” by Brinney Spears, and she looks forward to learning more.

“I love marching band,” she said. “I actually miss it, and I’m really excited for it to start up again.”


WHAT IS A CLAIM AND WHO CAN FILE?

A “claim” means a right to seek payment or other compensation. You must file a Proof of Claim Form so it is actually received by the deadline. It can be filed by you, by a legal guardian, by survivors, or by relatives of people who have died or are disabled.

Additionally, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, trusts, governmental units, and Native American Tribes may also file a proof of claim against Purdue. The deadline to file a claim is June 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

WHAT IS THE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID CRISIS AFFECTED YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

You could be compensated from the Purdue Pharma L.P. Bankruptcy.

Please read this notice carefully. Your rights may be affected. Para información en español, visite el sitio web.

Who does this affect and what are your rights?

If you think you’ve been hurt by Purdue Pharma L.P., a U.S. limited partnership, its general partner and its subsidiaries, including Imbrium Therapeutics L.P., Adion Therapeutics L.P., Greenfield BiVentures L.P., Auro-Health L.P., Rhodes Technologies, and Rhodes Pharmaceuticals L.P. (“Purdue”), or Purdue prescription opioids, like OxyContin®, or other prescription opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue, you can file a claim for compensation in the Purdue bankruptcy proceeding. The deadline to file a claim is June 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

If you do not file a claim by the deadline, you will lose the right to file a claim against Purdue, and you will lose any right to seek payment or compensation you may have had. Proof of Claim Forms, a list of opioids produced, marketed or sold by “Purdue,” and instructions for how to file a claim are online at PurduePharmaClaims.com. You can also request a claim form by mail, email or phone:

Purdue Pharma Claims Processing Center
C/o Prime Clerk LLC
850 Third Avenue, Ste. 412, Brooklyn, NY 11232
Email: PurduePharmaInfo@Primeclerk.com - Phone: 1.844.217.0912


Please read this notice carefully. Your rights may be affected. Para información en español, visite el sitio web.

This is only a summary of the information.

Is Purdue out of money? No. For more information concerning Purdue’s bankruptcy, Frequently Asked Questions, Proof of Claim Forms, examples of personal injury and other claims that can be filed, instructions on how to file a claim, and important documents including the Bar Date Notice, visit PurduePharmaClaims.com or call 1.844.217.0912.

This is only a summary of the information.
Protective factors for thriving families

By Darian Young, FireLodge Children & Family Services Family Preservation Coordinator

All children deserve happy and healthy childhoods, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and FireLodge Children & Family Services is working passionately to show the community that abuse and neglect are happening, while also highlighting that we can prevent and protect additional children from such a fate.

To raise awareness locally, FireLodge Children & Family services placed a pinwheel garden outside Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s administration building. The pinwheel garden demonstrates the happy and healthy childhood all children deserve.

In addition to local efforts to spread awareness, FireLodge desires to inform Potawatomi families and friends about protective factors. When present, protective factors in a child’s life may lessen the probability of abuse or neglect and can also allow families to thrive on their own.

The Center for the Study of Social Policy’s Strengthening Families Approach program describes five main protective factors: parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children.

Parental resilience

An interesting characteristic that can help buffer families from stressful situations becoming disastrous is parental resilience. The American Psychological Association defines resilience as “the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or significant sources of stress — such as family and relationship problems, serious health problems, or workplace and financial stressors.” A parent with resilience is not a parent who does not face problems or pain, but is a parent who trudges through challenges with a mindset that is hopeful and persistent.

Social connections

Having direct avenues of support protects families by allowing parents a safety net made up of people or groups to turn to with questions, for advice or with assistance. Connections act as a buffer for families when struggles come their way. Furthermore, being a part of something larger than oneself helps individuals realize they are important and have a role to fulfill. The thought, “My family/job/team/church/neighbor/friends/etc. will miss me if I don’t show up or play my part,” can significantly motivate individuals to keep moving forward and persisting.

Concrete support in times of need

Families with the basics, including adequate food, shelter, health care and clothing, are sometimes all that is missing between a family successfully making it on their own or being subject to failure. In addition, community services, such as behavioral health, domestic violence programs, substance abuse programs, and after school programs/childcare, provide families useful and specific support during crises.

Knowledge of parenting and child development

Having the tools to respond properly to children’s needs and having accurate expectations of a child’s developmental stage greatly impacts parents’ abilities to care for their children. Community resources such as parenting classes can be helpful in providing families those necessary tools, but so can positive parenting strategies that are passed down through generations. Negative parenting skills are passed down as well. For example, if an individual grew up receiving beatings as discipline, that can become that person’s “normal” and is then often passed down and used on the next generation of children. Stopping generational child abuse and neglect is monumental in putting an end to it overall.

Social and emotional competence of children

Similar to the knowledge of parenting and child development, the social and emotional competence of children starts with the skills of the parents. If parents can properly model how to express and manage emotions in a healthy way, such as anger, sadness or self-control, it is then likely that children will also learn those skills. It is also important for children to know how to interact in a positive way with peers. If children are not given the tools for healthy emotional or social expression, the parent-child relationship can suffer, which can increase the odds of child abuse/neglect occurring.

As a community member, FireLodge challenges you to look out for the families around you and help promote protective factors however possible. Be it making a connection with a fellow parent who might need the support or sharing resources for tangible needs such as local food pantries, you can make a difference in a child’s life.

If you would like to receive more information on practical parenting skills or if you are a Native American family at risk of child abuse or neglect, please give FireLodge Children & Family Services a call today at 405-878-4831, or visit us online at facebook.com/CPNfirelodge.
Connecting with Tradition at the Cultural Heritage Center

By Marisa Mohi

The following is part of a series by CPN tribal member Marisa Mohi who is learning about the various ways Citizen Potawatomi can learn and connect with the Nation.

For some Citizen Potawatomi Nation members, it can feel like tradition is hard to access. If your family hasn’t attended Tribal events in the past, or if you live far from Oklahoma, it can feel like your history and culture are out of reach.

Luckily, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center has many programs and events that make learning about Tribal history much easier.

A few weeks ago, I attended a beading class at Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center. Just beyond the museum galleries sits a classroom full of supplies where Tribal members can learn some of the skills our ancestors honed long ago. Leslie Deer, the workshop instructor, selected a beading project and led the class on how to complete it.

For the particular class I attended, we learned to make a beaded wristlet keychain loop. However, there are classes on how to make everything from earrings to tobacco pouches.

Going in, I had little to no experience with beading. There was a time in elementary school where I had a craft container of beads, but I didn’t really do much with it. I wouldn’t consider myself very good at any kind of visual art, but beading is something I’ve always wanted to try. I knew that great beadwork takes a long time to learn, and like most things, years to perfect. Even so, the beading classes at the Cultural Heritage Center are incredibly accessible, even if you’re like me and have fat and clumsy fingers.

The act itself was incredibly meditative. Though the attendees chatted with each other, we all eventually got lost in the activity. Counting beads, stringing them on thread with the needle, wrapping the cord with the strand of beads to create the pattern — we slowly made our way through the project, learning to keep tension on the thread and how to fix the small mistakes that inevitably happen.

For more information on Tribal and cultural events, check out the Cultural Heritage Center’s Facebook page.

Marisa Mohi is a member of the Nadeau family and is a freelance writer and media producer. You can follow her on Facebook or Twitter @themarisamohi. Her writing can be found at marisamohi.com.
By now, you have all certainly heard about Novel Coronavirus 2019. As I write this, we have more than 500 confirmed cases in Oklahoma and five in Pottawatomie County. By the time you read this, it’s likely this will have changed. Many cities across the state have enacted emergency proclamations, limiting restaurants to takeout orders, closing bars, canceling events and encouraging social distancing. We have done the same at Citizen Potawatomi Nation, including closing both of our casinos and our arena concert venue, which is an unprecedented move. You can find a full list of our postponed activities and temporarily closed enterprises and programs at cpn.news/covid19. Our Tribal health services response has been led by Medical Director Adam Vascellaro, M.D., Public Health Director Kassi Roselius, M.D., and Operations Director Chris Skillings. They have provided medical advice and leadership and have been instrumental in helping us determine our new policies and procedures across all Tribal programs and enterprises. We are doing our utmost with the tools and staff we have in order to help prevent the spread while providing quality medical care. Tribal clinics like ours will play a vital role in Oklahoma’s response to the coronavirus outbreak. These facilities across the state’s rural areas help alleviate wait times at non-tribal clinics and hospitals as well as provide much needed staff and resources in our nation’s greatest time of need.

By now, you have all certainly heard about Novel Coronavirus 2019. As I write this, we have more than 500 confirmed cases in Oklahoma. We have also seen an increased demand at our grocery stores. Richard Driskell, our grocery director, has been in the business for more than 30 years and told me he has never seen anything like this. They are working around the clock to keep the stores clean and the shelves stocked. We are the only grocery stores for miles in many of our communities, and we believe that this is a vital service for us to provide, especially during this time. I want to thank our brave and dedicated people at our grocery stores and those from other Tribal departments who have transferred over to help them. The coming weeks and months may be unlike anything we as Americans have ever seen. As Citizen Potawatomi, our history demonstrates that we can endure hardships and tragedy. We know that our current problems are likely to last a limited time. The light is there at the end of the tunnel. We will reach the light at the end of the tunnel and find a bright new day, because this trouble will only last for so long. We will get through this.

Migwetch
(Thank you),
John “Rocky” Barrett
Keweoge
(He Leads Them Home)
Tribal Chairman

The Grand Casino Hotel & Resort after gaming was suspended.

Hope you all are doing your best to stay safe and well as we navigate these trying times. Like the rest of the country, in fact, like the rest of the world, we at the Nation have had our lives and business turned upside down in the span of a few short days. This is a short column for me. We have been meeting most days to adjust to the landscape that the pandemic has shaped. I have included a photograph of the empty parking lots on a Friday evening at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort to illustrate just how impactful this has been on our Tribe.

Rest assured, we at the Nation will do all we can to continue on the solid foundation we have built for Tribal members and employees in recent decades. It is an honor to serve you and the Nation.

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

The coming weeks and months may be unlike anything we as Americans have ever seen. As Citizen Potawatomi, our history demonstrates that we can endure hardships and tragedy. We know that our current problems are likely to last a limited time. The light is there at the end of the tunnel. We will reach the light at the end of the tunnel and find a bright new day, because this trouble will only last for so long. We will get through this.

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Tribal Chairman

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps

The Grand Casino Hotel & Resort after gaming was suspended.
District 3 – Bob Whistler

We had initially scheduled a regalia workshop for District 3 on April 14 at the Urban Early Tribal Center in Dallas, which we have cancelled due to the concern over the coronavirus, COVID-19. My plan is to reschedule the meeting in late summer or the fall. It really depends upon the medical field getting a handle on how to fight this disease and come up with a vaccine or something. Once that is accomplished, we can get back to our regular day-to-day activities.

Given the fact that persons diagnosed with this illness usually undergo a two-week quarantine, it is recommended that you stock up on about a two-week supply of the groceries and other items that you normally use. It is a good basic plan to do this routinely since you never know when an emergency may impact you or the area you live in. You can always buy a few extra frozen or canned vegetables, fruits and meats like tuna or spam. Pasta and rice literally have no expiration date and can be used over time. Other items may be frozen, but you are better off not relying on the refrigerator or freezer in case of a future loss of electric power. Some fresh vegetables also keep for some time such as potatoes or squash. Dried beans come in a variety of types and packages and will store in a dry place for many months and may be used later to make soup. Instead of bread, you might try some photos in a future column.

I look forward to hearing from you and to meeting up with you when that's possible. Please reach out. Let's keep on building our CPN community in District 2.

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney

This is a final reminder via majestic Hownikan to send me an account of your (successful) presentation of your ID card — extra credit for funny or oddball stories. There will be a drawing from all CPN District 2 entries for a special prize, selected at random. You don’t have to live in District 2 to enter, but to win the special prize, you do need to be in the district. The contest deadline is April 15. I will announce the prize winner and print the prize-winning entry with some of my favorites in future columns.

District 2 resident Dell Chall’s recent contest entry reports her use of her CPN tribal ID to vote in a Virginia state election. I scratched my head a bit when I read this, knowing that Virginia law permits a voter to use a tribal enrollment ID if issued by one of the 11 tribes recognized by Virginia. (See Va. Code §§ 8.0-1:385, 51:1-700). The eleven tribes are Cheroenhaka

(Noroteway), Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Monacan, Nansemond, Pocahontas, Powhatan, Pocomoke, Rappahannock and Upper Mattaponi.

But, as Dell explained, “Did you know the Potawatomi were counting to the Powhatan? Me either. But that’s what the Voting Officer said — and I never contradicted the knowledge of the Government Official!”

(Not that Powhatan is not on the list of 11 tribes; I tend to treat that not all of the 11 tribes recognized by Virginia have roots with the Powhatan.)

Please do keep using your Tribal IDs and your powers of persuasion, as needed, and submit your stories to me by April 15.

Keys to the city

I wasn’t given the keys to the city as a direct descendant of the “First Citizens” of Milwaukee, but I only had to pay the (discounted) folks’ entry fee to the Milwaukee Public Museum during my Milwaukee weekend visit. I particularly enjoyed the museum’s display about Josette and Solomon Juneau.

Other ongoing museum exhibits

Two current Native-women-focused exhibits are on my radar and may be of interest to you as well.

In Chicago, the Field Museum’s newest special exhibition will be the institution’s first large-scale exhibition curated by a Native American scholar in collaboration with women with their community. Apsáalooke Women and Warriors opened in early March 2020 at the Field Museum in partnership with the University of Chicago’s Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, which will host a companion show, Apsáalooke Women and Warriors through April 4, 2021.

Both locations highlight the art and culture of the Apsáalooke (pronounced “Ahp-SAHL-uh”) people, also known as the Crow. Each site will feature historical and contemporary cultural material, from historic battle shields to high-end fashion designs, and will explore the powerful roles that women and warriors hold in the complex society of the Apsáalooke Nation, who are a Northern Plains people.

The special exhibit explores the history, values and beliefs of this Native American community known for their horsemanship, artistic pursuits and martial ways of life. It also honors the tradition of “counting coup,” performing acts of bravery. Visitors at both sites will learn about Apsáalooke origins, cultural worldviews and the powerful roles that both women and warriors hold in the community through a unique mix of traditional objects and contemporary Native American pieces from the perspective of guest curator Nina Sanders. The exhibit will feature several never-before-displayed Apsáalooke war shields from the museum’s collection. Apsáalooke warriors made the war shields, while women were keepers of the shields. Also highlighted are Apsáalooke gender concepts — the three genders include bia (woman), bache (man), and barse (two-spirited).

As explained in The Cherokee Phoenix (cherokee-press.com), “Women, as well as men, were allowed to choose their partners. Men are expected to protect the woman so that she could carry on as a life-giver, culture keeper and foundation of the family and community. In the community, people who identify as LGBTQ are considered two-spirited, imbued with the qualities and characteristics of all genders. We have many stories about exceptional native people who choose not to coup or made beautiful works of art.”

If you are able to attend, I’d love to hear your thoughts on the exhibit and/or companion show.

In Washington D.C., the first major thematic exhibition to explore the artistic contributions of Native women, Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists, celebrates the achievements of these Native women and establishes their rightful place in the art world. I’ve heard great things about this exhibit from friends who saw it in Minneapolis. Jill Ahlberg Yohé, associate curator of Native American Art at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and Teri Greeves, an independent curator and member of the Kiowa Nation, are its organizers. It includes 82 artworks dating from ancient times to the present, made in a variety of media, from textiles and ceramics to sculpture, time-based media and photography. This exhibition is multi-lingual with wall text, audio recordings and labels presented in the artist’s Native American or First Nations languages as well as English, aiming to present the works in the context of each artist’s own culture and voice. It is on view at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum from Feb. 21 through May 17. It will then travel to the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where it will be on view June 28 through Sept. 20. You will find more information about the exhibit in D.C. and will offer my reflection about it and some photos in a future column.

Keeping in touch

I look forward to hearing from you and to meeting up with you when that’s possible! Please reach out. Let’s keep on building our CPN community in District 2.

Eva Marie Carney

Ojibdawidas (Blue Bird Woman), Representative, District 2

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District 4 – Jon Boursaw

Beaho (Hello),

Ground-penetrating radar project at the Uniontown Cemetery

We are finally seeing activity associated with the ground-penetrating radar project at the Uniontown Cemetery. But to have an appreciation for why we are involved in this project, you must know a little history of Uniontown. In the late 1840s, Uniontown was one of the first commerce centers on the Oregon and California Trails west of Westport, Missouri (now Kansas City). It is estimated that at one point, Uniontown consisted of 60 structures, and literally hundreds of Potawatomi lived in and around this community and Plowboy, a community just to the east. However, these communities were devastated by cholera in 1849 to the point that Uniontown was burned to the ground in an attempt to stop the spread of the disease. Hundreds of Potawatomi are thought to have died of cholera and are buried in this tiny cemetery and the adjacent fields. Uniontown was rebuilt, only to be abandoned in 1856. Twenty-two Potawatomi are said to be buried in a mass grave near the center of the cemetery. For several years, there have been discussions about having a GPR survey conducted to confirm existence of these burials; however, we were unsuccessful in locating an individual or agency that had the necessary equipment. I’ve been supported in this effort and interest by Scott Holmmeister, who like myself is a descendant of Joseph N. Boursaw. Scott was originally from Lawrence, Kansas, and now resides in Arizona.

About a year ago, I was speaking with the archaeologist for the State of Kansas on another matter, and I just happened to ask him if he knew of anyone with access to a GPR system that we could contact. He said he did, and then emailed me the name and contact information for Blair Schneider, Ph.D., who is on the University of Kansas staff. It took a while to reach the point where we could actually sit down with Dr. Schneider and discuss plans to initiate the survey. In February, Scott and I met with her in Rossville, where I gave her my CPHN presentation so she would have a better understanding of how we came to Kansas and the existence of Uniontown. We were invited to the cemetery on a very cold afternoon in about 3 inches of snow. Did I mention the strong wind that was blowing? Dr. Schneider then informed us that the next step was a preliminary survey, which was necessary to determine such things as soil density, evidence of rocks below the surface, etc. In early March, I accompanied her while she conducted this preliminary survey. She told me after she finished that all of the environmental conditions were good to proceed with a complete survey. The accompanying photo shows Dr. Schneider performing a ‘run’ on a tract adjacent to the south edge of the mass burial site. A few days later, she sent me a printout of a small portion of the images from that run. I immediately, with my untrained eye, got excited thinking the images could be burial sites, so I emailed her immediately for confirmation, and here is her response: “I can’t say what they are (because I don’t know), but I will have a much better idea when I set up an actual grid. I was pretty excited to see such strong diffractions though. I can say that!” She had previously expressed to me, while still at the cemetery, that she is very confident that the survey will produce very positive results. I have recently heard from her that she hopes to proceed with the full survey in mid-April. At this point, she does not know if the university’s closing will have an impact on her availability to perform the survey.

Blair Schneider, Ph.D., conducts an initial survey of a potential mass grave with ground penetrating radar within Uniontown Cemetery.

Burnett’s Mound exhibit

The exhibit is finally installed. The Shawnee County Parks & Recreation Department has completed the installation of the three panels near the entrance to Skyline Park on Abram Burnett’s Mound in Topeka. They are available for public viewing. An unveiling ceremony was scheduled for Friday, March 27, but was cancelled by the county as a result of the coronavirus threat. The three panels briefly tell the history of the Citizen Potawatomi and Abram Burnett, a Potawatomi who was on the Trail of Death.

2020 CPN Family Reunion Festival

The last I heard was that a decision on whether or not to hold the Festival will not be made until sometime in mid-May — stay tuned. The current dates are Friday, June 26 to Sunday, June 28. The honored families this year are Bruno, Darling, Hardig, Hibeew, Lewis, Nadeau, Slavin and Smith. As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your legislative representative.

Megwatch (Thank you),

Jon Boursaw, Representative, District 4 80 State Blvd., Topeka, KS 66604 785-861-7272 office 785-688-1982 cell jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org Office hours: 9-11 a.m. Tuesdays 3-5 p.m. Thursdays Other times: please call

District 5 – Gene Lambert

Beaho (Hello),

There is a lot going on in April, as with every other month. Easter Sunday, which should be held in the highest honor, is April 12, 2020. Honor our Creator and his resurrection in the way the spirit guides you.

All that being said, we still seem to mentally direct our attention to April Fool’s Day, Wednesday, April 1, as the monthly theme.

The United States of America is not the only country to celebrate April Fool’s Day. It is celebrated by New Zealand, Singapore, U.S. Virgin Islands, Ukraine, France, Brazil, Greece and India, just to name a few. Don’t forget about the trickster at play in Potawatomi folklore. Some say it is the coyote, and others associate the prankster or trickster with the raccoon.

Whatever you do, don’t forget to create the gag of a lifetime for your favorite fool. You have heard, “Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me!” And, “No fool like an old fool. Don’t be fooled!” Of course, I have heard even more.

You have also heard the saying, “Here’s your sign!” This means, “I can’t believe you just did what you did.” Warnings, warnings, warnings — they are everywhere. Do we listen to them? Not on your life. We dive in time after time and say, “I should have known better.” Dang it, I did it again.” I truly thought we would work this time!” which, they say, is the definition of insanity. We do all foolish things occasionally, even when we know better. Why do we do that? It just feels comfortable, and you think it couldn’t possibly happen again.

The point is, you aren’t thinking.

You see, people every day choose the same friends and partners only to find they are the same as the one they failed with in the past. Are they being foolish?

Psychology says that when we are overstressed and in an unpredictable atmosphere, we tend to fall back on what they call the “childhood brain.” This means, while in that state, we cannot differentiate between good, bad or the consequences that lurk in the distance. We only know what we feel. We are not acting in our adult brain, instead re- gressing into a toddler brain that is learning life for the first time.

Guess the answer to that would be to ensure you do not over stress, as that is usually when we do foolish things. Temper tantrums might be your first clue to reexamine.

History says that April Fool’s Day was probably established in the mid-1500s when the Council of Trent changed the calendar from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. Given that the information superhighway did not exist at that time, it took years for the new calendar to be acknowledged by the masses who celebrated the New Year from the end of March to April 1. This was a two-day holiday. Because they did not know and continued their celebrations, they were made fun of and had practical jokes played on them constantly due to their lack of knowledge.

We all have those moments where you hear yourself saying something you would swear was so dumb it must have come from another person in the room.

No! It was you. But don’t stress, or it will just get worse, according to Psychology Today.

Learn to laugh at the foolish things that happen in life. The mistakes we make provide the soil for success to grow.

If we cannot laugh at the childish things we do or
HOWNIKAN

observe, then life becomes a calculated, narrow street.

When I am officiating a ceremo-
nity, I always tell those involved, "Don't worry about the mistakes
today because they will become
the highlight of the future. This
is what makes your day special."

From those moments of
feeling foolish, we learn it is
what we laugh about years
later, if not when it happens.

After all, as I have said many
times before, the toddler brain
takes all of the necessary
precautions to keep yourself
safe. Our elders, especially
those living with other health
issues, are in my prayers daily.

Drastic measures are being taken
at every level to help slow the
spread of this dreadful virus. On
Sunday, March 15, Governor
Newsome ordered restaurants to
reduce capacity by 50 percent.
We opened our restaurant
Monday morning prepared to do
that, but business was dreadfully
down. Ironically, our loyal elderly,
highest risk customers came in
that day. We knew we couldn't
continue to operate at that level
of sales. But more importantly,
we felt that we owed it to
our customers to help protect
their health. It was becoming
very real that things would
continue to get worse before
they got better. For the safety
of our staff and customers, we
temporarily closed our restaurant
the next day. We've been able
to keep some of our employees
busy deep cleaning, painting,
maintenance and etc. We've
also distributed our perishable
food inventory and other
necessities among our employees.

However, Governor Newsome
just issued a stay-at-home order
for the state of California. We
shied by the order and ceased
all activity at the restaurant
effective 5 p.m. Friday, March
20, and recommended that
our employees stay at home.

Who even heard of "social
distancing" and "shelter in
place" until now? This is like
a science fiction movie.

In Oklahoma, CPN has
temporarily closed gaming
operations at FireLake Casino
and Grand Casino Hotel &
Resort. Hopefully, operations
can resume by April 1. For updated
information regarding events
and CPN facility operations,
please visit cpn.news/covid19.

I have rescheduled the April 4
event in Temecula to Saturday,
July 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 3
p.m. The location remains the
same at Ronald H. Roberts
Public Library in Temecula.

I spoke with the library
representative who stated
that they are working hard
to minimize the likelihood
of anyone contracting the
disease at the library.

After speaking with Vice-
Chairman Linda Capps, I
felt it would be best to move
the event out to a future
date. Hopefully, things will
be much improved by that
time, and we can get together
when there is less health risk.

If you are currently registered
for the event on April 4 and
you want to attend on July 25,
you don't need to do anything.
Your current registration will
work for July 25. If you decide
not to attend on July 25, you
can log in to your Eventbrite
account or email randepayne@
comcast.net to cancel.

I apologize for any
inconvenience this
may have caused.

To register for the July 25 event
if you haven't already registered
for the April 4 event, simply
open your web browser and
type cpn.news/D62004.

Wisdom from the Word: “And I
am convinced that nothing can
ever separate us from God’s love.
Neither death nor life, neither
angels nor demons, neither our
fears for today nor our worries
about tomorrow — not even the
powers of hell can separate us
from God’s love.” Romans 8:38

Please stay safe and healthy.
Bama pi (Until later).
Migwetch! (Thank you!)

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Hownikan
District 7 – Mark Johnson

Bezhoo nikan (Hello friend),

A s I write this article, the country is experiencing the start of the Novel Coronavirus, better known as the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools have shut down. I went to the store today to pick up a loaf of bread for my wife; there was none. Minutes ago, it was announced that the local tribal casino was closing for the remainder of March. There seems to be a very high level of concern among the population. I am sure there is good reason; the unknown has always been cause for grief among people who have no idea of what the future holds.

I have always found that what brings me the most comfort is the realization that I am far from the first one to be in this situation. I can surmise that our people who were marched along the Trail of Death at the end of a gun had no idea what the future held for them. They endured more sickness and unsanitary conditions than we could comprehend today. And in spite of that, we are all here today as a testament to the strength of our people. My Father told me that when he stepped off the landing craft ramp in the Pacific during WWII, he never thought he would see home again. But he put his trust in God, and he made it through when the others in his platoon didn’t. My brother, sisters and I are testament to the strength that our Greatest Generation and my father had.

I have great hope that the Family Reunion Festival will be able to go on as planned, but please watch the Tribal website (potawatomi.org) for the latest information. Wash your hands, keep your distance, and always remember, you are not the first to go through something like this.

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 you with additional information you may need to access Tribal benefits. 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,
Wiiutch (Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Chico, CA 95921
559-351-0078 cell
mark.johnson@potawatomi.org

District 8 – Dave Carney

Bezhoo nikan (Hello friend),

S ometime it seems like there is just too much going on. In addition to our daily work and family life, we are in the midst of a presidential primary season and coronavirus pandemic. In such an environment, it’s hard to plan for the short term. As of today, the two major universities in Washington state have gone completely online for instruction. My son, Luke, for example, was planning to come home for spring break but has now been informed that he is to stay home and finish this semester’s classes online. This is to increase “social distancing.”

As of today (it’s mid-March as I write this), there have been 120,000 cases of the virus, 80,000 of which are in China. There have been 4,300 deaths worldwide. In the United States, there have been 1,200 cases and 30 deaths. Washington state has been ground zero, with the majority of the 30 deaths occurring in a Seattle-area nursing home.

I also received an email today, updating Tribal legislators about the Nation’s plan to limit non-essential employee travel and suspend regional gatherings in the immediate future. This will curb plans to get our District 8 family together; however, I will continue to coordinate plans for our Fall Feast in Portland.

As always, it is my honor to serve you.

Migwetch (Thank you),
Dave Carney
Kagagig (Raven)
Representative, District 8
520 Lilly Road, Building 1
Olympia, WA 98506
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dcarney@potawatomi.org

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft

Bezhoo nikan (Hello friend),

I ndians are doing to themselves what the government wanted to do from the beginning — doing away with Indians!

Blood quantum and per capita distributions of tribal revenue are policies originally designed by the government, for the government. These policies do not benefit Native Americans.

Such policies were designed by the federal government in order to dramatically reduce the number and membership of Native Americans. How’s that workin’?

Blood quantum is used by too many tribes, and its very nature was designed to dramatically reduce tribal membership. With generational intermarriages, the number of full-blood or half-blood Indians will continue to decline until, for some tribes, qualifying for tribal membership will be nearly impossible. I have friends who are considered half-blood Indians, but can’t run for the highest office in their tribes because they don’t have enough Native American blood.

Per capita distribution is also instituted by too many tribes. When in place, it can dramatically reduce the Indian population because too many tribes desire that their membership be reduced and limited. The reason? So that their checks will be much higher with less competition. This policy is born of greed and selfishness.

It is ironic but more so tragic that too many Native American nations and tribes have implemented the very policies that the federal government desired — ridding America of Indians, like the old saying, “The only good Indian is a dead Indian.”

I’m so proud that our chairman, vice-chairman and our CPN national legislature has not implemented such policies. We never will. Chairman Barrett ensures that our revenue sources are invested in our infrastructure, programs, scholarships and enterprises. He refers to our revenue as "seed money." With these "seeds," we plan and grow our prosperity benefiting the whole Nation.

Migwetch (Thank you),
Paul Wesselhöft
Naganit (Leader)
Representative, District 9
pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org

APRIL 2020 15
Joseph Wayne Gardom passed away Feb. 16, 2020, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was born in Chocow, Oklahoma, to Dale Marshall Gardom and Minnie P. Tesier Gardom on May 3, 1927. He was raised and graduated from high school in Fence Lake, New Mexico. He married Bobbie Nell Fort in Reserve, New Mexico, on Oct. 23, 1952. They moved to El Paso, Texas, and he worked for Southern Pacific Railroad for 37 years. Wayne was a veteran and served in the United States Marines. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, James Gardom, Zula Jolly, and Charles Gardom; and his second wife, Virginia Reed Gardom. Wayne is survived by his brother, Paul Gardom of Las Cruces, New Mexico; sister, Hester Brunt of El Paso, Texas; his daughters, Donna L. Gardom Guldemann; son-in-law, John L. Guldemann; grandson, John J. Guldemann; his wife Angela and great-granddaughter Natalie Aquino; and many nieces and nephews.

Deanna J. Mercerc, 80, of Topeka, Kansas, passed away Friday, Feb. 21, 2020, at Midland Hospice House in Topeka. She was born April 21, 1939, in Mayetta, Kansas, the daughter of Edmund House and Anna (Archdale) Maines. Deanna was a high school graduate and had attended training for the federal government. She retired as a federal employee for the United States Air Force and had also worked for the Veteran Affairs and Internal Revenue Service. She had lived in the Topeka area since 1999. She had also lived in Texas, Turkey, Mississippi, Florida and Alabama. Deanna was a member of Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Assiniboine Tribe of Fort Peck, Montana. She married Richard E. Mercer on April 15, 1961, in Andalusia, Alabama. He preceded her in death on Feb. 3, 1999. She was also preceded in death by two sons, James Eugene Mercer and Richard Eugene Mercer. Survivors include many cousins. Deanna was a member of Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Assiniboine Tribe of Fort Peck, Montana.

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Jessie Lou Taylor

Jessie Lou Taylor was born Aug. 14, 1939, in Denver, Colorado, to Samuel and Ruby Brant. Went to be with the Lord Jan. 4, 2020, in Santa Maria, California. She has been laid to rest with Robert Taylor at the San Joaquin National Cemetery in Santa Nella, California. She was the youngest of six girls: LaVerne, Imogene, Helen, Genevieve and Mary Alice. The family settled in Indiana, California. Jessie attended Redwood High School and graduated in 1957. She married Robert Henry Taylor on March 29, 1955. They had six children: David, Robert Jr., Terry, Danny, Robin and Tina.

After their marriage, they lived in Visalia. The family moved to Big Creek in 1958, then moved to Merced in 1963. While in Merced, Jessie attended Merced College and got her degree to become a LVN at Mercy Hospital. The family then moved back to Visalia in 1973 where she was a nurse at Kaweah Delta Hospital. She retired before moving to Santa Maria.

Robert Livingston

Robert (Rob) James Livingston, 59, of Sylva, Ohio, passed away unexpectedly, but peacefully, in his home Monday morning, Feb. 3, 2020. He was born on Jan. 19, 1961, to L. Jeaneen Livingston (McEvers) and Robert Earl Livingston.

Bob was an avid golfer. In 2016, Bob was fortunate to enjoy his lifelong dream of attending the Masters Tournament come true, attending a practice round with his son. He enjoyed working up at our family cottage in Hillsdale, Michigan, on Cab Lake, a place that his grandparents bought in the early 1960s. Cab Lake was one of Bob’s all-time favorite places to be. Bob was a very talented woodworker, following in his father’s footsteps, and was often working on projects in his barn at the cottage. Wherever Bob went, whatever he did, he built lasting relationships and friendships. He loved and cared deeply about his wife, his family, and the many, many friends that he developed over the years.

In 1980, Bob married his high school sweetheart, Dana, and they were to celebrate 40 years together later this year. Bob was a proud citizen of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and descendant of the Anderson/McEvers family. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, L. Jeaneen Livingston and Robert Earl Livingston; and his brother, Greg Livingston. He is survived by his sister, Diane Livingston, and leaves behind a beautiful, loved-filled family and a wide group of deeply close friends that he and his wife, Dana Livingston (figured as much together over nearly 40 years, son, Stephen Livingston; daughters, Staci (Brent) Cheffol and Jenna Livingston, granddaughters, Mila Cheffol and Carolyn Livingston, great-grandsons, Chase and Wesley Cheffol, sister-in-law, Jodie (Chris) Browning; and mother-in-law, Judy (Rod) Irwin, and uncles and cousins.

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Michael Townsend

Michael Wayne Townsend was born on Nov. 27, 1958, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His parents were Karl Wayne Townsend and Frances Marit Gordon. After struggling with heart disease and its complications, he walked while at Midwest City Hospital in the early morning hours of Jan. 7, 2020. Michael was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and retired from civil service, having worked for the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Air Force at Tinker Air Force Base. Michael was proud of his ancestral heritage as a Citizen Potawatomi tribal member.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, H.L. and Rita (Elman) Townsend; maternal grandmother, Marie (Tesier) Mattir; beloved brother, Tony Dal Stephens; and step-father, Terry Don Ming. Survivors left to mourn this loss include his mother, Fran Gordon; brother, John Don Ming; and many uncles, cousins, extended family, friends and co-workers.

Special thanks to caregivers and the nurses, medical assistants at the CPN Health Clinics and others who assisted during his illness. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.