

HOWNIKAN

Zisbaktokégises | April 2020

Top photo: Seamstresses make washable masks at the Cultural Heritage Center to donate to medical facilities.

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Walking on



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 Kassi Roselius, 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



FireLake Foods Director Richard Driskell and Jason Boyce restock shelves at FireLake Discount Foods.

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.

First National Bank CEO Bryan Cain on banking, beekeeping and blizzards

First National Bank & Trust Co. named Bryan Cain its new president and CEO in January 2020. A lifelong Oklahoman from Wewoka, Cain decided to spend most of his 20-plus years in banking helping individuals in his hometown.

"You're actually able to cultivate their growth through wealth management or through helping them buy their first car or their first home, helping them with an IRA for their retirement," he said. "And so there's a whole host of things you can do as a community banker."

He brings the same outlook to his new position at Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Car wrecks and snow

Cain's family raised cattle throughout his childhood, and he participated in the National FFA Organization in high school. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University, he worked for a livestock feed company in the mid-1990s.

However, his mind wandered to other potential career paths after a car wreck resulted in a trip to a local bank. While securing a car loan from Security State Bank of Wewoka, Cain's experience in sales and degree in economics impressed the bank president who offered him a job. At first, Cain declined. Not long afterward, a blizzard forced him to extend a business trip to South Dakota for a week.

"I had a lot of time thinking about what I want to do with my life. And I called (the bank president) from that hotel room and said, 'Hey, does that offer still stand?' And he said, 'Yeah.' And so I went to work at the bank," Cain said. "And I always thought that I would do that until I found what I wanted to do, and to be honest, I kind of fell in love with banking."



Bryan Cain

He began as a loan officer at Security State Bank of Wewoka in 1997. Cain worked there for nearly 25 years, aside from a brief stint in the early 2000s as president of the First United Bank branch in Durant, Oklahoma. He attended the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado in 2009 and 2010 and became president of Security State Bank in 2013.

He still enjoys connecting with customers today. He believes it makes community banking different from what he calls "big city banking." Cain's memory overflows with stories of meeting individuals' needs and offering them opportunities previously unavailable.

"I have one young man who he started at a very early age. He didn't have any parental involvement in his life. He basically was on his own by the time he was 16 and helped him get that first car. Now, he's a small business owner," Cain said. "He owns a construction company

and does construction work all over the country. ... You'd like to feel like that you did something to help that young man."

Cain family ranch

Cain owns land in Seminole County that has been in his family for nearly a century. He lives with his wife, Rita, and their five children, who range in age from 7 to 21.

"We grow a garden, cattle and kids," he said and laughed.

All of his children help around the farm. He and his oldest son, Tate, took on one of their most compelling ventures seven years ago — beekeeping. They own three hives that sit less than a mile away from their house, visible from the porch.

"I've always just kind of been fascinated with them," he said, in particular, their ability to make a perfectly smooth wax that pairs with the stickiness of honey.

"After you've worked with the honey and you're trying to spin the honey... you get that wax on your hands, and then all you've got to do is run it underneath water, and the honey comes off. They're just amazing," Cain said. "It's a real struggle, though, to keep them alive just because of (pesticides)."

A couple of years ago, he also joined the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's CP42 Pollinator Habitat program. The USDA provided the seeds to grow plants that are healthy and attractive to pollinators, including butterflies and bees. Now, milkweed and clover cover 30 acres of Cain's land and help make their migratory path easier.

Working for CPN

Cain calls working for CPN "the opportunity of a lifetime," full of

new challenges and chances to learn. He admires the Tribe's diversified economic portfolio, FNB's attention to customer security and the organization's focus on the future.

"But the greatest asset is its people," he said. "We have a great team of people, and I feel fortunate to be working with such a great team of people. I've been fortunate to do that, actually throughout my whole career, to work with great bankers. The other thing is that (FNB) is in a great community."

As CEO, he sets goals for the institution that keep it modern and give First National the ability to compete with other financial establishments in the area. Cain sees the accountability and one-one-one customer service that comes with local ownership as an advantage. In the last decade, communities across the country have returned to neighborhood grocery stores, restaurants and shops. Cain tries to expand that trend into banking.

"I don't think people take advantage of the opportunity to shop locally when it comes to banking sometimes and what kind of effect it can have in your community," he said.

That outlook pairs well with FNB's slogan, "Your bank for life."

"I know that sounds a little cheesy, but life happens. It really does, you know?" Cain said. "When you need help, you have a relationship with your banker to help you or to start your small business. Nobody's more invested in the community than a locally-owned bank."

For more information about First National Bank & Trust Co., visit fnbokla.bank or [facebook.com/FNBoklahoma](https://www.facebook.com/FNBoklahoma).

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 data is secure, our systems 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.



Linda Marie Arredondo

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 caring 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 existing focus on proactive and diligent cybersecurity measures, 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 of Science in Business Administration, summa 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, she currently 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.

CPN Health Services COVID-19 response

**By George A. Vascellaro, D.O.
Family Physician and
Chief Medical Officer, CPN
Health Services**

As an avid long-term reader of current events, I first became aware of COVID-19 when a *Family Practice News* article in mid-January 2020 educated me on a “mystery pneumonia” spreading in Wuhan, China. Shortly thereafter, it was determined to be a coronavirus and officially named COVID-19, or SARS-CoV-2. I kept daily watch on related current events and reports of spread patterns and concerns in the United States.

My upfront concern turned into action when I read Bill Gates’ coronavirus article ([cpn.news/gates](#)) published on Feb. 28 in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Rapidly, I started reviewing early national Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and quickly created a Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services coronavirus team led by Kassi Roselius, M.D., M.P.H. Dr. Roselius is a board-certified family physician, CPNHS medical professional director, public health coordinator and CPN tribal member. The team gathered to determine CPNHS COVID-19 pandemic preparedness and needs. From this came the initiation of COVID-19 patient screening tools at intake desks of all clinics. We updated these as CDC guidelines changed. Dr. Roselius and I began daily communication and joint conference call/emergency management meeting attendance with CPN Human Resources Director Richard Brown and CPN Emergency Management Director Tim Zientek. Information from these meetings was relayed to Vice-Chairman Capps and Chairman Barrett, which began their daily involvement as well.

This preparedness tier was considered up to date until the first documented case in Oklahoma occurred, albeit updating as other foreign nations were added to the CDC travel warnings.

Shortly thereafter, the first case in Oklahoma was in Tulsa on Friday, March

6. This led us to the next level of CPNHS COVID-19 preparation and planning — mainly to keep screening and ongoing planning processes modernized, but also proactively procuring available personal protective equipment. Shortages and order fulfillment delays were noted at this time.

Again, this preparedness tier was considered up to date until the first regional case occurred.

Ironically, the next domino fell in a dramatic fashion on Wednesday, March 11, due to a positive COVID-19 case of an NBA player in Oklahoma City. The OKC Thunder vs. Utah Jazz game schedule for that evening was cancelled abruptly, and the organization ended up cancelling the entire season shortly thereafter. The next morning, CPNHS implemented the next phase of preparation, per the most current resource at the time: the CDC’s *Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission*. At the time, we were in the “none to minimal” preparedness phase because there were no cases of community spread in Oklahoma. CPNHS then started implementing the “none to minimal” preparedness phase and planning for the “minimal to moderate” phase.

On Thursday, March 12, Dr. Roselius prepared a letter on behalf CPNHS, educating all of our patients about the COVID-19 pandemic and the steps implemented by CPNHS at that time to protect them, our employees and their families.

CPNHS medical leadership also started counseling other CPN enterprises, departments and community leaders on the truly dangerous reality of the COVID-19 pandemic situation and the CDC’s implementation of mitigation strategies. Each entity needed to be referencing, implementing and planning immediately both for work and home.

Once again, this preparedness tier was considered up to date until the first case of community transmission occurred.



George A. Vascellaro, D.O.

Just a few days later, the first case of community spread occurred two counties from CPNHS, and we implemented the “minimal to moderate” phase. This is when we began changing CPNHS patient care processes, which included limiting visitors and screening at all doors with temperature/symptom checks. COVID-19 tents were placed outside of both the East and West clinics to triage and separate potential cases from our still critical, acute and chronic care needs. We started collecting COVID-19 tests to send out to our reference labs. The CPNHS pharmacy started delivering medications curbside. We started implementing augmented patient care workflow for the safety of patients, health care employees and the families of both. All wellness exams were rescheduled for six months later. Megan Wilson, M.D. – family physician and CPN tribal member — was tasked with leading the hurried development of CPNHS plans and infrastructure for telephone and telemedicine.

On Monday, March 16, The President’s *Coronavirus Guidelines for America – 15 Days to Slow the Spread* was released. This designated health care, pharmacy and

food services as critical infrastructure industries that had a special responsibility to maintain our normal work schedule. CPNHS contains all three of these.

And again, this preparedness tier was considered up to date until the CPNHS positive COVID-19 lab result occurred.

On Friday, March 20, CPNHS received the first positive COVID-19 lab result on a patient successfully identified and triaged through our COVID process, so no undue exposure or potential transmission occurred. Due to this, Dr. Roselius implemented the next phase of our COVID-19 protocols. There are too many to list, but the main theme was minimizing patient contact by implementing CPNHS’ telephone and telemedicine plans.

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

With complete confidence, I can affirm that CPNHS is ahead of the COVID-19 preparedness curve and remains that way. CPNHS leadership has done everything it can up to this point to care for its patients’ essential medical needs while guarding the safety of patients, 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. CPNHS 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. ♫

Language Update

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 people in person and close to 700 watching online from across the country. I would first like to acknowledge that my staff did an awesome job with this. The presentations were well received and were done in a variety of mediums. We had some videos, some acted out live and some were done with PowerPoint. My extremely talented staff also did the original artwork.

I hope folks are still aware that there are a number of language learning opportunities for those who live local and afar. We have a number of self-paced classes available. We have Beginner I, Beginner II and Intermediate Moodle courses at [language.potawatomi.org](#). We also have three different courses on [memrise.com](#).

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

We have two YouTube pages: one geared toward kids with about 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 *Mtek Wigwam*. 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 *Gulliver’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 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 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 there, Jonathon Cervone. We appreciate their hard work in helping get this exciting project going. There are a lot of neat 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 *pegna*, a flat, Potawatomi corn bread, which shows how to prepare the dish. ♫

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

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 microfilm 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 have 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 Pottawatomie 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 Schneiter, Pottawatomie County Historical Society board president. "It



CPN's Cultural Heritage Center partnership with Pottawatomie County Historical Society helps preserve the wider community's history.

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 although the project will take years to finish, it will make researching family and historical data easier through optical character recognition once complete.

"You'll be able to literally go in to all those thousands of books and type your great-grandfather's name, and it would pop up every book he's in, whether land deeds — anything that had to do with the county, say tax rolls, will pull right up," Landry said.

The CHC is receiving a digital copy of every document scanned, and CPN members and CHC visitors will also have an opportunity to view the records in the Tribe's database. ♫

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 statics 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 eliminate 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 where 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



Many communities come together to make denim quilts with positive messages for Denim Day, held annually on April 29, to raise awareness of rape and sexual assault.

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 and happen to 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. ♫

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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 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 formulary at 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 American Indian/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 13 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 transmittable 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 Pottawatomie County Health Department.

"We are just a humble partner," Haverkate said. "We're just lucky to be a partner with a national reach." ♣

Veterans report



Bozho
(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/curator 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.org. Any future requests that we, the CPN Veterans Organization, receives 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-manned 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. *Migwetch* (thank you).

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@sbcglobal.net
405-275-1054

CPN VA Representative:
Andrew Whitham

CPN Office Hours: 1st and
3rd Wednesday each month
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

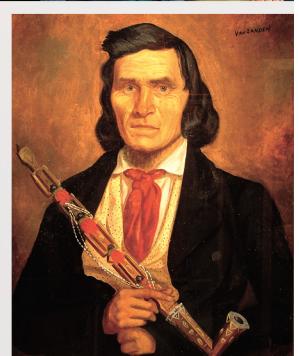
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Tribal Transit Department fuels independence

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-Native 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 Vieux descendant began driving clients to visits with 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 grants from the Federal Transit Administration to expand its services beyond the Title VI elders' program. Now, 29 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



The CPN Transit Department gives rides to area residents five days a week.

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/transporation or call 405-878-4833. ♣

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

In a time where 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 Vascellaro, 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



Dr. Kassi Roselius M.D.

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. 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. ♣

heritage and background succeeding and working in their communities."

Tribal Candidate Q&As



What piece of history or tradition makes you feel closest to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation community?

"The history of my Tribal family — the Burnetts — makes me feel as a contributing member of my Tribe. I'm so proud of my great-great-grandfather, Abraham Burnett, a former chief. He still inspires me. I feel bonded to

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft (incumbent)

him, and his DNA and blood flows through my veins!"

As at-large legislators, what do you think is the most difficult thing for CPN members who may live in Oklahoma but may feel disconnected from the Tribe? How can you as legislators help with that?

"I once felt disconnected from the Tribe. I read every issue of the *Hownikan* for years and saw how divisive the governing committees were. There were news stories about this and that argument or verbal fights for and against different personalities. It was a real turn off, and that's exactly what I did for years.

"I enquired about the new constitution and immediately knew that such a constitution would heal, prosper and propel our Tribe into the future as a

real Nation with great promise. I immediately knew that I wanted to be a significant part of our revised Nation.

"I hope Oklahomans realize our Tribe is the only Nation with a national legislature willing to serve their interest. I hope Oklahomans will never feel disconnected from our wonderful Nation and great culture. I stand willing to help any member to integrate and find help within our government and culture."

What do you see as the biggest short-term challenge facing CPN?

"Educating our young future leaders is the biggest challenge! There is nothing that excites me more than knowing that, as a legislator, I have always supported our executive branch by resolution and budget by increasing the number and

amount of school scholarships available to our members.

"We must fund more college and vocational graduates and prepare them to make contributions to our Tribe and enter the national workforce. I want to continue to increase the number and amount of future scholarships. This is, indeed, the future of our Tribe."

What do you see as the biggest challenge that the Tribe will need to deal with in the coming decade or longer?

"I feel a strong obligation to members outside of my state. Therefore, I want to extend more of our services to CPN members nationwide!

"I will propose by resolution or executive order that we do not make medical, dental

or eye appointments, except emergencies, for greater Shawnee area residents during the week of Family Festival. This will free up and allow more of our out of state members to take advantage of our services during their brief visit to the festival.

"Also, we can increase the amount of our death/burial stipends to every member nationwide."

To you, what does an effective Tribal legislator look like?

"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 and resolutions to improve services and to enhance our cultural traditions and history. I believe I'm such a legislator." ♣



What piece of history or tradition makes you feel closest to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation community?

"Being a part of our annual Family Reunion Festival, visiting our Culture Heritage Center, learning our language, learning our history, and meeting family and friends really makes me feel closer to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation community.

"Each time I learn something new about our history or make a new connection within our community, I become closer. Our entire community becomes closer. As these connections are made, and I learn more about others, I can see how traditions were passed down and how close we truly are.

"We've all had traits, lessons and traditions passed down from

District 9 – Jay Laughlin (challenger)

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."

As at-large legislators, what do you think is the most difficult thing for CPN members who may live in Oklahoma but may feel disconnected from the tribe? How can you as legislators help with that?

"Making connections within our Tribe and then staying connected. We offer a tremendous amount of opportunities through the Elders Center, the Child Development Center, and the Language Department to enhance our culture and community. This gives our citizen's a chance to really get to know someone as person and learn and grow together. It's very important to get connected and stay engaged and develop these relationships. However, a large portion of this is done near our Tribal headquarters, and I would like to see this branched throughout our Nation.

"It's a challenge to make those personal connections when you're several miles away. Work, family, and the day-to-day take

up most of this time. We must leverage technology, culture, communication, and offer incentives to promote these much needed bonds. We all have a part.

"I encourage you to reach out to me at jaylaughlin4cpn@gmail.com or on Facebook @ JayLaughlin4CPN to learn more."

What do you see as the biggest short-term challenge facing CPN?

"Short-term leads to long-term. We are faced with so many challenges at this time from getting our youth and middle-aged more involved to developing our defense against the immediate economic attack.

"Before the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the biggest short-term challenge was addressing the gaming compact. When the compact renewed in January 2020, the state of Oklahoma disagreed, and we were forced, along with other tribes, to file a lawsuit. Losing the compact and exclusivity to operate our gaming would have a devastating effect on services provided to both our citizen's and the local communities where we operate.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is and will drastically affect all of the communities we live in. This pandemic along with

the recent flood of oil into the global market is drastic. As a people, we will get through this together. We will prevail together. We must stay strong, diligent, and aligned."

What do you see as the biggest challenge that the Tribe will need to deal with in the coming decade or longer?

"Economic prosperity and sustainability. As mentioned in my previous response, our prosperity is under attack. In order to protect and nurture our culture, identity and services, we need to greatly expand our economic presence in various sectors and regions in order to sustain, grow, and mitigate risk.

"Our enterprises provide economic sustainability for our citizens and the communities we live in, making our Nation stronger. As your legislator representing District 9, in all of Oklahoma, 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 and stability to our Nation through investment returns for generations to come.

"We must maintain, develop, and promote alliances with

other tribes, the State of Oklahoma, and the U.S. government in order to advance our people and the interests of the communities that we live in."

To you, what does an effective Tribal legislator look like?

"An effective legislator must represent the people. They must be of the people. They must have the ability to influence others and receive buy-in to reach a common goal. They must have passion, integrity and the ability to communicate. They must draw the best out of people and empower them to reach our common goal. They must have real-world experience.

"I have the 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." ♣



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

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 *Sweet Caroline* 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 300 million. Harrell had never played for that many people before.

"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, Leeann, 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.

"We kept it casual because (the organizers) told us to act like it was relaxed and not be so tense like a normal marching thing would be. Just because they wanted us to have fun and look relaxed and carefree."

Music helped Harrell overcome some of her bashfulness since she began playing the trombone in the seventh grade concert band. Although Harrell picked music as an alternative to other unappealing classes, it quickly turned into a highlight of high school.

"It definitely made me a lot more confident in giving me a purpose," she said. "Before, I was kind of really shy. I didn't really know what to do with my time. Once marching band started, I had tons of stuff that I got to go and do. It just helped me come out a lot."



As a band member, Kayden Harrell pushes herself to refine her musical skills and make new friends. (Photo provided)

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 *Toxic* by Britney 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." 🔥

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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:

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c/o Prime Clerk LLC
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Email: purduepharmainfo@primeclerk.com - Phone: 1.844.217.0912**

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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.



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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 future.

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 bigger than oneself helps individuals realize they are important and have a role to fulfill. The thought, "My family/job/team/church/neighbors/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.

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ABOUT ME

- **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.
- **Tribal Alliance** - Building and strengthening our relations with Native American Tribes for a United Oklahoma.
- **Youth** - Our youth are the future. The stronger our youth, the more developed our Nation will become.

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JayLaughlin4CPN | JayLaughlin4cpn@gmail.com

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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



Marisa Mohi takes up a new hobby during a crafting class at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center.

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.

I won't say that I'm an expert at beading. In fact, I'm quite bad. But that doesn't really matter. Through the experience, I learned how to handle the tiny seed beads, how to hold the needle to work more quickly, and how to untangle the thread over and over again when I moved too fast or didn't pay attention to the thread slack.

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.

And for those who aren't interested in beading, there are other events, like Winter Storytelling, an occasion for Tribal members to hear stories traditionally only told in the winter.

"We love the hospitality that you offer," said Mable Kouteau Walton, a member of the Sac and Fox Nation who attended the event with three generations of her family. "We came to hear some of the older stories that we look forward to hearing."

Held in the Long Room of the Cultural Heritage Center on Feb. 26, the Winter Storytelling event was led by Justin Neely, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation language director. The stories were also streamed online in the Potawatomi Language Facebook group.

The event itself was a mix of both traditional and modern. Traditional stories were told while Tribal members ate pizza. The event began with a prayer spoken in Potawatomi, then the Potawatomi Youth Choir sang John Lennon's *Imagine* in Potawatomi.

"I really like that they have such talented people on staff," said Pam Vrooman, a Citizen Potawatomi Nation member. "I loved the stop motion animation for how the bear lost his tail."

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.

RE-ELECT PAUL WESSELHÖFT DISTRICT 9, OKLAHOMA



Fifth generation Oklahoman
M.A. in Religion, M.Div. in Theology
Married 44 years to Judy – son Justin and daughter Holly
Great-great-grandson of Abraham Burnett
Native American Name: Neganit, meaning Leader



Retired Chaplain, U.S. Army Major
Airborne Ranger, First Ranger Battalion
Served in Army during the Vietnam War era
Served in combat in the First Persian Gulf War

Elected 12 years to the Oklahoma House of Representatives
Chairman of the Joint House-Senate Committee on Tribal Relations
Organized the first committee/forum on Tribal Relations
Debated and voted on thousands of bills, authored many
Authored bill honoring Oklahoma's Billy Walkabout, most decorated Indian soldier in the Vietnam War



Elected Oklahoma Representative in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's National Legislature,
discussed and voted on hundreds of Resolutions
Elected Delegate to National Congress of American Indians, 65th Congress

Author of two books: *The Redfeather Pentalogy* (fiction) about a Potawatomi boy growing up in Oklahoma, and *Eros: Penultimate Love* (poetry). Next book: *Native* a collection of articles, essays and poems about Potawatomis.
"I'm legislatively experienced and committed to making our nation responsive to members, economically prosperous, and culturally great! I will represent you. Please vote for me."

Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



Bozho nikan
(Hello, my friend),

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.

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

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



Bozho
(Hello),

I 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
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lcapps@potawatomi.org



The Grand Casino Hotel & Resort after gaming was suspended.

POTAWATOMI NATION

FOOTBALL & SOFTBALL CAMP



District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



(Nottoway), Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Monacan, Nansemond, Nottoway of Virginia, Pamunkey, Patawomeck, Rappahannock and Upper Mattaponi.

But, as Dell explained, "Did you know the Potawatomi were cousins to the Powhatan!?" Me either. But that's what the Voting Officer said — and I never contradict the knowledge of the Government Official!"

(Note that Powhatan is not on the list of 11 tribes; I understand that most if 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) locals' 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 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*

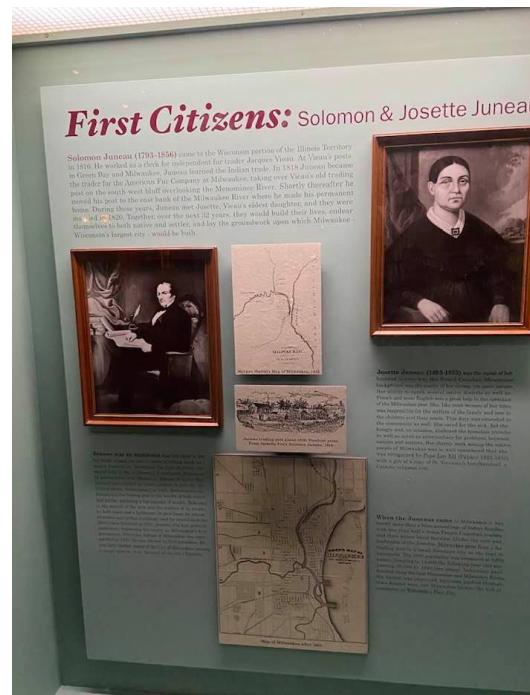


Exhibit about our Juneau ancestors housed at the Milwaukee Public Museum, March 7, 2020.

Warriors will run through April 4, 2021. The Neubauer Collegium companion show will close in August 2020.

Both locations highlight the art and culture of the Apsáalooke (pronounced "Ahp-SAH-luh-guh") 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 matriarchal 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 seven 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 bía (woman), bachee(i) (man), and batee (two-spirited).

As explained in *The Cherokee Phoenix* ([cpn.news/phoenixarticle](#)) from

March 5, 2020, "Women, as well as men, were allowed to choose their partners. Men are responsible for protecting 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 batee people who counted 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 Yohe, 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 at [cpn.news/saamwomen](#), including this reflection from one of my favorite Native authors, Louise Erdrich: "At long, long last, after centuries of erasure, *Hearts of Our People* celebrates the fiercely loving genius of Indigenous women. Sumptuous, gorgeous, eternal, strange, this art is alive. Be prepared for an encounter with power and joy!"

I already have plans to see the exhibition in D.C. and will offer my own 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.

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District 3 – Bob Whistler



due to the concern over the coronavirus, or 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 have an extra box or two of

crackers that can be used with peanut butter or soup over time.

It also doesn't hurt to keep bottled water on hand. A couple of cases at Costco or Sam's is not that expensive.

We need to think like our ancestors and prepare for the times when our basic needs cannot be met. Fortunately, today we have enough foods available with a good shelf life from the grocery store. And fortunately, we are not in need of canning, which takes time, and many of us are not sure how to accomplish the feat nor do we have the necessary tools.

In closing, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your elected representative. If

I can assist you in any area of our Nation relative to benefits or questions, please give me a call. I will do my best to get you the answers.

Bama pi
(Later),

Bob Whistler
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District 4 – Jon Boursaw



*Bozho
(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 Holzmeister, who like myself is a descendant of Joseph N. Bourassa. 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 CPN history presentation so she would have a better understanding of how we came to Kansas and the existence of Uniontown. We



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

were joined in that meeting by Angela Montgomery, who just happens to be a descendant of the same daughter of Joseph and Mary Bourassa as Scott, and they had never previously met. Small world. Angela lives in Shawnee, Kansas.

Following that meeting, we briefly toured the Uniontown 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



Three panels now open to the public in Skyline Park outline Burnett's Mound and historical Potawatomi connections in Topeka, Kansas.

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 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 saying 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.

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 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, Hardin, Higbee, Lewis, Nadeau, Slavin and Smith.

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

*Migwetch
(Thank you),*

Jon Boursaw,
Wetase Mkoh (Brave Bear)
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District 5 – Gene Lambert



*Bozho
(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 as 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 foolish!" 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 really thought it would work this time!" which, they say, is the definition of insanity.

We all do 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 un-

predictable atmosphere, we tend to fall back on what they call "the toddler brain." This means, while in that state, we cannot differentiate between good, bad or the consequences that lurk in the distance. We only know how we feel. We are not acting in our adult brain, instead regressing into a toddler brain that is learning life for the first time.

Guess the answer to that would be to ensure you do not overstress, 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

observe, then life becomes a calculated, narrow street.

When I am officiating a ceremony, 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

may make you do foolish things, but it is the child in you that enjoys life. There are two sides to every coin. What goes up must come down.

I know you have heard it all. If you are like me, sometimes you need a little reminder to be foolish in a fun way. Like the late Maya Angelou said, people will not remember what you said, but they will remember how you made them feel.

Regardless of where your attention goes in April, try to do

something you have never done before. Get out of that comfort zone and experience new.

Learn a new Potawatomi word or sentence. Try to experience a ceremony you have not done in the past. Talk to someone you have never spoken to before that belongs to your Potawatomi family.

In closing, just remember pranks can be fun as long as they are done in good humor. Don't believe everything

you hear and only half of what you see on that day.

It could be a clever way to throw you off your normal routine, which will bring you into present time.

I guess that's all we have anyway.

Have a great April, and I look forward to hearing from you. If I do not have your information, please take the time to let me know how you can be contacted. I promise it will only be for

meeting information and will not be given to anyone.

I love you all,

Eunice Imogene Lambert
Butterfly Woman
Representative, District 5
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District 6 – Rande K. Payne



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

I don't even know how to begin this month's column. The world is a much different place than it was just a short time ago.

I sincerely hope you are taking 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 slow. 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 abided 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 rangepayne@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

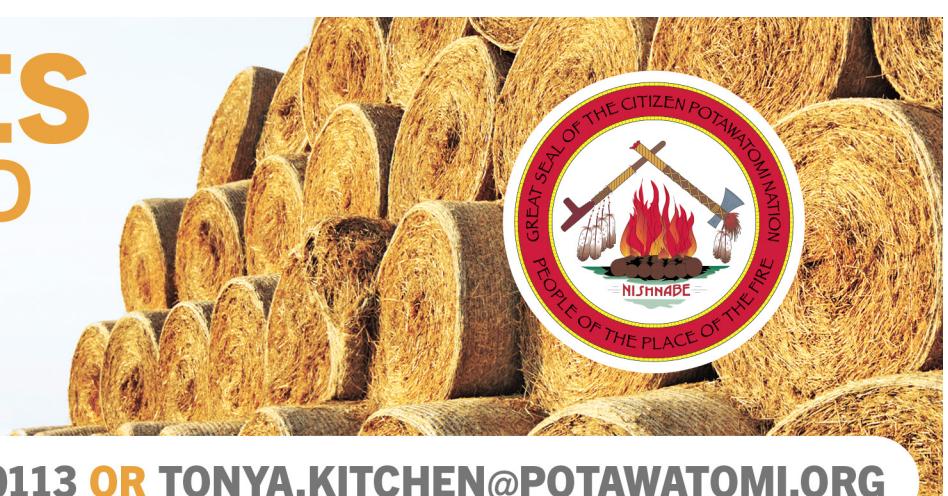
Please stay safe and healthy.
Bama pi (Until later).

Migwetch!
(Thank you!)

Rande K. Payne
Mnedo Gabo
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Hownikan

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District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

As 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),

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559-351-0078 cell
mark.johnson@potawatomi.org

District 8 – Dave Carney



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Sometimes 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. The

date is Saturday, Oct. 24, for a mid-day meal and get-together.

The venue will be the Great Spirit Native American Fellowship/Methodist Church. There are several CPN members that have connections with the church, including John *Zhabwate* Kochanowski who is on their board and Nancy Mitchell Fuller, whose general contracting company, Eagle's Nest Remodeling, overhauled the facility recently.

Please take care of yourselves as the current health situation evolves. Wash hands often, and wipe down surfaces with bleach

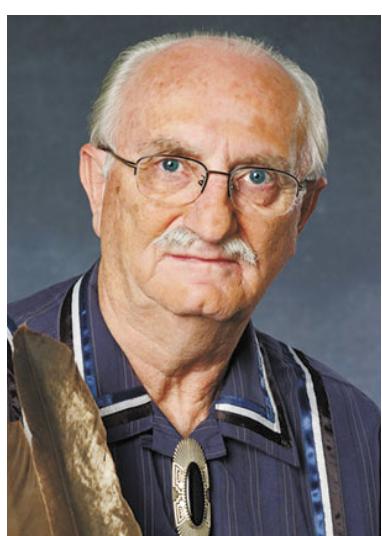
or Clorox wipes. Store a few extra supplies such as canned goods, rice and dried beans — and of course, bottled water and toilet paper. These are items that you will utilize in the future.

As always, it is my honor to serve you.

Migwetch,
(Thank you),

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

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Indians 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.

Here's why:

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 plant and grow our prosperity benefiting the whole Nation.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft
Naganit (Leader)
Representative, District 9
pwesselhoff@potawatomi.org

SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

JUNE 15 AT 5PM CT

Apply at portal.potawatomi.org



WALKING ON

Joseph Wayne Gardom



Joseph Wayne Gardom passed away Feb. 16, 2020, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was born in Choctaw, Oklahoma, to Dale Marshall Gardom and Minnie P. Tescier 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 of Silver City, New Mexico, and Keri 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. Mercer



Deanna Joy Mercer, 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 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.

Jessie Lou Taylor



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 Ivanhoe, 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.

She was a registered member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribe of Shawnee, Oklahoma, and was proud to be an American Indian. Jessie loved her family and was always there for them. She will be greatly missed by those who knew her and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Samuel and Ruby Brant; her husband, Robert; her son, Robert Jr.; and her two sisters, Laverne and Helen.

She is survived by her children, David (Vicki), Terry (Karen), Danny, Robin and Tina (Bill); eleven grandchildren, Robert, Gregory, Barbie Sue, Darren, Davie, Jennifer, Alicia, Brandy, Casey and Sunshine. She also leaves 19 great-grandchildren, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Michael Townsend



Michael Wayne Townsend was born on Nov. 27, 1958, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His parents were Karl Wayne Townsend and Frances Maritt 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 (Elsman) Townsend; maternal grandmother, Marie (Tescier) Maritt; 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 medical care providers at the CPN Health Clinics and others who assisted during his illness. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Robert Livingston



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

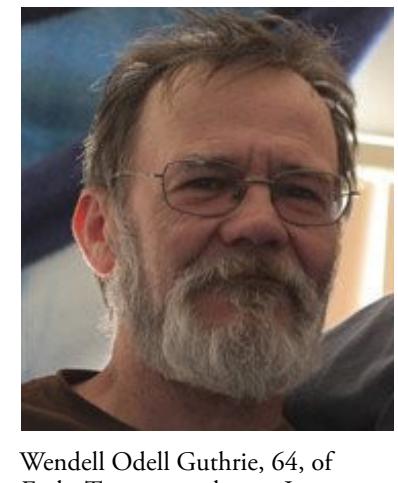
Bob was an avid golfer. In 2016, Bob was fortunate to enjoy his lifelong dream of attending the Masters Tournament come true, attending a practice round with his son. He enjoyed working up at our family cottage in Hillsdale, Michigan, on Cub Lake, a place that his grandparents bought in the early 1960s. Cub 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. Jeanne 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 (Ford), built together over nearly 40 years; son, Stephen Livingston; daughters, Staci (Brett) Cheloff and Jenna Livingston; granddaughters, Mila Cheloff and Caitlyn Livingston; grandsons, Chase Okuley and Wesley Cheloff; sister-in-law, Jodie (Chris) Browning; and mother-in-law, Judie (Rod) Irwin; and aunts, uncles and cousins.

Wendell Guthrie, Jr.



Wendell Odell Guthrie, 64, of Early, Texas, passed away Jan. 7, 2020. He was at home and died from natural causes.

Wendell was born on June 30, 1955, in Hobbs, New Mexico, to Dorothy T. Blackman Guthrie and Wendell Guthrie, Sr.

Wendell was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He was a descendant of Joseph Lafromboise and Theresa Lafromboise through their daughter, Theresa Lafromboise-Watkins-Hardin-Beaubien.

He worked most of his life in fabrication shops as a computer numerically controlled layout operator. He worked in shops in Odessa, Fort Worth and Brownwood, Texas. Before he learned how to be a CNC operator, Wendell worked with his cousin disposing of waste chemicals in Odessa, Texas. He also worked for Fussel Construction as a roustabout.

Wendell loved working with his hands. He enjoyed building models of radio control boats and planes. The last RC that he built was a truck. Wendell also enjoyed working on old cars and rebuilding them.

Wendell loved to talk to people. He would sit on his front porch and would talk to anyone that came by. He called his cousin, Ray Strange, and talked to him every day reminiscing about growing up together.

Wendell was survived by his son, Christopher Guthrie, of Islip, New York; two nieces of Odessa, Texas; and several aunts, uncles and numerous cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Dorothy T. Blackman Guthrie and Wendell Odell Guthrie Sr.; grandparents, Ashely Green Blackman, Sr. and Mamie M. Ray Blackman of Hobbs, New Mexico, and Oscar and Lizzie Byrd Guthrie of Brownwood, Texas; and his sister, Diane Guthrie Swink.

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.