



HOWNIKAN

Zisbaktokégises | April 2022

Top photo: *Bgembisa* (rain arrives) along with green *datbekwen* (leaves) at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation grounds.

A LOOK INSIDE

Page 5

District 7 candidates

Page 8



Ancestors portal receives Oklahoma Historical Society award

Page 13



FDF donates to inaugural Potato Dance World Championship

Pages 17-23

Tribal Executive and Legislative updates

Page 24

Walking on



CPN's House of Hope recognizes Sexual Assault Awareness Month

This April marks the 21st nationally recognized Sexual Assault Awareness Month, building on many years of advocacy that has impacted community awareness, support services for assault survivors, and state and federal policy. Kayla Woody, prevention and education specialist at CPN's House of Hope, sat down with the *Hownikan* to talk about the importance of SAAM, ongoing advocacy and education.

Since the 1970s, advocates have been working to bring conversations about sexual violence out into the open, and pressing for increased awareness and support for survivors. In 1993, this advocacy led to the passage of the Violence Against Women Act.

"This was a huge step for those advocates and for survivors," Woody said. "It included provisions for rape and for battering that really focused on prevention. And it also provided a lot more funding for victims' services. It funded organizations just like ours to be able to really help survivors."

Advocacy groups dedicated the month of April to raising awareness and support for several years before the first nationally recognized SAAM in 2001. Since then, SAAM has continued to educate and engage the public in addressing what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls "a serious public health problem in the United States."

Definitions

Each person has the inherent right to decide if, how, when and with whom they engage in sexual activity. Consent is an agreement between participants to engage in sexual activity, and any sexual contact, physical or verbal, made against a person's will and without their consent constitutes sexual assault, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Consent must be freely given and clear, Woody explained; it can also be revoked at any time, including during sexual activity.

Neither intimate partner status, including marriage, nor prior consensual sexual activity nullify a person's right to make decisions about their own body, or the necessity of obtaining clear and freely given consent. People who are underage, incapacitated by drugs or alcohol, or asleep or unconscious cannot give consent. Consent cannot be obtained by force, coercion or manipulation.

Woody emphasized that sexual assault takes many forms. Anyone, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race or age can experience or perpetrate sexual assault.



Numbers

Statistics from the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network show that every 68 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted. More than one in three women and one in four men experience sexual violence in their lifetime, according to the CDC. That number increases significantly for Native Americans, who are at the greatest risk of sexual violence and experience rape at more than twice the rate of any other race.

As few as one in five victims report their sexual assault, according to the global Start By Believing campaign from the nonprofit End Violence Against Women International. Native women in particular are unlikely to report sexual assault. Woody explained that this is due to a number of factors, including culture and taboo, but also loopholes in the legal system which has made assaults against Native Americans much more difficult to prosecute.

Forty-one percent of sexual assaults against Native Americans are committed by a stranger, compared to only 19.5 percent throughout the general population, according to RAINN. Tribal courts have long lacked jurisdiction to prosecute non-Native offenders in these cases, and a 2010 Government Accountability Office report shows that the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office denied two-thirds of the cases passed on to them.

"We've got to really start making changes in legislation to hold these perpetrators

accountable," Woody said. "And I feel like once our Native women can see that their crimes are taken seriously and they're being prosecuted, then more and more will start standing up and coming forward. And we can start making a dent in this issue and really trying to prevent it from happening."

The Biden administration signed the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act (2022) on March 16, reauthorizing the legislation for the first time since it lapsed four years ago. The reauthorization also includes several updates to the legislation as well as a significant win for Indian Country: tribal courts will now be able to prosecute non-Natives in cases of sexual assault, child abuse and sex trafficking.

The provisions under the VAWA reauthorization are not a complete solution to violence against Native people but are a major step in empowering tribes to protect their people. Woody is excited to see the reauthorization and the new changes to the legislation.

"Allowing Tribes to hold perpetrators accountable, I believe, is a big step in helping to stop this violence from happening. I know that it will not happen overnight, but it is definitely a step in the right direction," she said.

Education and advocacy

For Woody, education plays a key role in interrupting cycles of violence

Continued on page 3

Slavin family

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives and video interviews.

To highlight some of the archive's holdings, the *Hownikan* is featuring photographs and family history of every founding Citizen Potawatomi family. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830.

Born from Irish roots

Thomas Slavin was born in Ulster, Ireland, in about 1820. After his first wife died, he later married *Nab-nis*, or Mary. She was the daughter of *Nab-nim-nuk-skuk* and *O-Ke-wich*. She was born in Kansas in 1848. Thomas and Mary had two children: Mary in 1869 and Joseph T. on April 12, 1870. Thomas died on Dec. 12, 1897, in Belview, Kansas.

Joseph married Nora Ellen Morris on March 16, 1904, in Oklahoma. Joseph died on Feb. 18, 1951, in Miami, Oklahoma.

Trail of Death survivor

Thomas Slavin had a brother named James. He was also born in Ulster, Ireland. He married *Equa-Ke-Sec*, a Potawatomi woman, on Jan. 20, 1861, in St. Marys, Kansas. She was born about 1837 in Indiana.

As squatters looked toward Potawatomi lands for expansion, the state and federal governments stepped in to forcibly remove the Potawatomi from their ancestral lands in Indiana. On September 4, 1838, 859 Potawatomi set out on a forced march from Indiana to a small reserve in present-day Kansas. Their homes and fields were burned to discourage their return.

The 660-mile journey consisted of oppressive heat, scarce water, few supplies and not enough wagons to carry the sick or elderly. More than 40 people died along the way. Families were not allowed to bury their loved ones in a traditional or respectful manner.

A marker at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Quincy, Illinois, memorializes the Potawatomi the U.S. government

forced along the Trail of Death from Sept. 4 to Nov. 4, 1838.

It notes that *Equa-Ke-Sec* was a young girl who was one of the few children to survive the enforced journey from southern Michigan and northern Indiana to eastern Kansas. At the end of the trail, St. Marys Mission in Kansas baptized *Equa-Ke-Sec* and changed her name to Theresa Living.

James appears on the 1861 Kansas roll at a "settlement eight miles west of the crossing at the bridge over Soldier Creek." Teresa Living Slavin received an allotment in Kansas on April 11, 1867.

James and Theresa had a daughter and two sons: Mary in about 1865, John on Dec. 1, 1867, and James on April 17, 1875. They appear on the 1887 Citizen Band Potawatomi of Oklahoma roll.

Theresa died on Oct. 18, 1876, in St. Marys, Kansas. James died on Feb. 7, 1880, in St. Marys, Kansas.

A history of service to others

John Slavin married Lulu Harris in Topeka. They had Claude, Earnest, Roy R. and Teresa. Mary married James Albert Doyle on Feb. 17, 1892, in Westmoreland, Kansas. They had Evelyn, Leo, Florence and Regina. James married Dellie Rosella Ott on Jan. 2, 1907. They had Joe, Roy, George, Bill, Frank, Thomas, Bob, Jessie, Teresa and Alice.

Teresa Slavin Humphreys Reed was born on Dec. 6, 1902, in Wanette, Oklahoma, the daughter of James and Dellie Slavin. She moved to Pampa, Texas, in 1930 and later to Wheeler, Texas.

She was a long-time educator in Pampa, retiring at the age of 70. Because she believed so strongly in the importance of educating children, she continued teaching on a southwest Native American reservation even after her retirement.

Teresa was still driving at age 103 and lived alone until she was 105. She was a member of First Christian Church in Pampa and played the piano each week at services. Before she walked on May 16, 2012, she was the oldest living CPN elder at 109.

Roy Slavin

Roy Slavin (*Netagtege*, Forever Planting) served as a long-time legislator for District 1. He was born in 1933 in Weatherby, Missouri, to Roy and Irene Slavin. He joined the U.S. Army at age 17, attending basic training in Ft. Knox,



Nab-nim-nuk-skuk, the father of Nab-nis, or Mary.

and established the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Oklahoma. Roy and his wife, Julia, were a fixture at Tribal gatherings in District 1 and nationally.

"I'm glad to see my kids, grandkids and great-grandkids involved with the Tribe in ways that those people my age just weren't able to back then," Slavin told the *Hownikan* in 2013. "I look at my great-granddaughter, Mollyann, who has never missed a CPN Family Reunion Festival, who knows how to dress in proper regalia for Grand Entry, and it makes me proud to see how far we've come."

Roy Slavin walked on

April 21, 2020, at the age of 87.

From their humble roots in Ireland, the Slavin family forebears were among the many Irish immigrants who sought independence and stability in the United States. Together, with their Potawatomi relatives, they withstood numerous challenges to help establish a firm foundation for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Oklahoma.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives and family interviews. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830. Schedule interviews online at portal.potawatomi.org. Learn more about the Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/festival, and find research resources online at potawatomiheritage.com. ♡

Kentucky. Roy completed electronic school and was awarded a Q Clearance by the Atomic Energy Commission for his tour of duty at Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands. This assignment, called Operation Greenhouse, was a program for testing of the first hydrogen bomb.

Roy married his wife, Julia, in May of 1952. He returned to Ft. Monmouth and was honorably discharged in March 1953. Together, they had three children: Rod, David and Verna.

The expertise he developed in the Army helped him start his career as a radio repairman, then as an avionics technician for Trans World Airlines. He retired from TWA after 28 years of service.

Roy began representing District 1 in August 2007, following the constitutional amendment that created the current legislature. He saw running for office as a chance to continue his Potawatomi family's legacy. Roy's grandmother was among the Potawatomi who survived the Trail of Death. His uncle, Jim Slavin, was with the original settlers who left Kansas

Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

CPN Executive Committee

Tribal Chairman: John "Rocky" Barrett

Vice-Chairman: Linda Capps

Secretary/Treasurer: D. Wayne Trousdale

Editorial staff

Editor: Jennifer Bell

Writer: Paige Willett

Writer: Mary Leaver

Writer: Rachel Vishanoff

Page/graphic designer: Trey DeLonais

Graphic designer: Emily Guleserian

Photographer: Garrett Fisbeck

Submissions coordinator: Brittany Oswald

The *Hownikan* is published by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and is mailed free to enrolled Tribal members. Subscriptions for nonmembers are \$10 a year in the United States and \$12 in foreign countries. The *Hownikan* is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Reprint permission is granted with publication credit to the *Hownikan*. Editorials/letters are subject to editing and must contain a traceable address.

All correspondence should be directed to *Hownikan*,

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Questions: hownikan@potawatomi.org or 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Connections between Potawatomi and Kickapoo endure

Once neighbors in the Great Lakes region prior to colonial contact, the Potawatomi and Kickapoo people have a great deal in common. These connections have been seen in food, housing and other customs, extending even to ancestors.

Today, those close connections remain after both nations fought to survive displacement from the Great Lakes and the federal government's continued hostile incursions through Indiana, Kansas and finally arriving in present-day Oklahoma.

A home in the Great Lakes

Author A.M. Gibson noted in *The Kickapoos: Lords of the Middle Border*, that the word Kickapoo comes from the Algonquin *Kiwigapawa*, which means "he moves about." The Kickapoo traveled to Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, parts of Ohio, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, eastern Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and northern Mexico.

The traditional homelands of the Potawatomi and Kickapoo were bordered on the east and north by the Great Lakes, on the west by the Mississippi River and on the south by the Ohio River.

Both nations lived in a similar manner in villages where they planted crops and conducted tribal affairs, Gibson wrote. They spent autumn and winter away from the village hunting. Their weapons, methods of raising war parties and conducting warfare, as well as marriage and family customs, contain similarities. They also had similar methods of preparing food, and their clothing and implements looked alike. Dances, ceremonies and feasts followed a common pattern.

The Cultural Heritage Center displays some of these items, and visitors get a sense of how Potawatomi ancestors lived prior to colonial contact, said CHC Senior Curator Blake Norton.

Trees provided a variety of useful materials. Some trees were stripped and

used to make baskets, Norton said. Bark stripped from a tree was used as roofing material. Other trees were cut down and used as poles to construct a frame to build a home. Some were best for fire wood for cooking or heating the home.

In the Great Lakes area, Potawatomi and Kickapoo people likely used birch bark, he said. Birch can be stripped without compromising the tree's health, providing a renewable resource for many years.

"For birch bark, you can peel the outer layer," Norton said. "If done correctly, it will layer over and be fine."

Whatever the tree, the process to strip the bark is time and labor intensive, he said. Depending upon the product needed, the process can involve soaking the bark for days to make it pliable. For some species of tree, the thickness of the bark, with added water saturation, can become heavy and challenging to harvest.

French contact leads to conflict among nations

According to Gibson, the Kickapoo were first mentioned in 17th century historical accounts, at which time they lived in lower Michigan. By 1654, French explorers documented meeting the Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Sauk and Fox tribes in southeast Wisconsin. The Iroquois, fighting a war with colonialists in the northeast, fled west, displacing many Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Sauk and Fox from their traditional homelands.

After exhausting most of the lucrative furs in the east, the Iroquois, supported by the British, moved west in hopes of occupying the Great Lakes and controlling the untapped valuable resources, Norton said.

As these nations moved into present-day Wisconsin, they entered territories largely occupied by the Winnebago and Menominee nations. Outmatched militarily, tribes in the lower lakes fled north and became refugees in

Wisconsin, near present-day Green Bay and Milwaukee, he said.

All this movement led to war, trading disputes and disease epidemics from encroaching Europeans. After the Iroquois were defeated and a peace treaty signed in 1701, some tribes returned to Michigan. Instead, the Kickapoo claimed land in Illinois and western Indiana.

With the support of other Algonquin allies, the Potawatomi and Kickapoo flourished in their new home, Gibson wrote. In 1768, the Kickapoo and Potawatomi territories were next to each other extending from northeastern Illinois, toward southeastern Wisconsin, alongside the western shore of Lake Michigan.

CHC records indicate Antoine Ouilmette was born in 1760. He married Archange Chevalier, who was the granddaughter of Potawatomi headman and warrior *Naunongee*. Archange was born in 1764. Their grandson, Lewis Wilmette Jr., married *Wam-be-quah* (Susan Masquas), a Kickapoo woman. They had Louis L. Wilmot, who married Hazel Trombla.

Treaties and dispersal

After making 40 treaties with the U.S. government between 1795 and 1854, the Potawatomi began to move to Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and eventually Oklahoma while the Kickapoo stretched across Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and northern Mexico.

A number of Potawatomi joined the Kickapoo as they moved south, eventually stopping in Eagle Pass, Texas. Today, descendants of that group are known as the Kickapoo Tribe of Texas. They worked to establish new communities, yet harassment from government entities continued.

"A group of Texas Rangers attacked an encampment while all of the young men were away hunting," Norton said. "With

just the women and elderly there, the (Rangers) began raiding the camp. After an elderly man, left to guard the camp, was killed, the women armed themselves with pots and pans, attacked and killed the raiding Texas Rangers. Fearing that reinforcements would arrive, the dead Rangers were buried and the camp fled."

Battles between Tribes and Texas Rangers in Dove Creek and other locations resulted in a tremendous loss of life for the combined Potawatomi and Kickapoo groups. Survivors faced tremendous government resistance when trying to reclaim the remains of their loved ones from locations in Texas, Norton said.

Kennekuk emerges as a leader

With their ties going back many generations, the Kickapoo and Potawatomi stood together to face the continuing threat of European incursion.

As settlers began to squat upon their homelands, Kickapoo turned to Kennekuk, known as the Kickapoo Prophet. He urged the Kickapoo and Potawatomi to work together to resist efforts by the U.S. government to remove tribal nations from their homelands. His approach encouraged members of both Nations to pool their resources, and he treated Kickapoo and Potawatomi equally. In response, the U.S. government cut off annuity payments to Potawatomi who refused to move to their reservation along the Kansas River. But many Potawatomi remained with the Kickapoos anyway. Eventually, the group took up agriculture near present-day Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Unfortunately, Kennekuk died from smallpox in 1853, and without his strong leadership, the community dwindled in size. With westward expansion continuing, the land the community sat on continued to shrink. From a size of 768,000 acres, it dwindled to 150,000 and eventually was only six square miles.

Continued on page 15

Sexual assault continued...

and creating safer communities. She said that a lot of people usually have a narrow understanding of sexual assault, often driven by media depictions, but understanding the full scope and impact plays an essential part in raising awareness and increasing safety and support.

Woody emphasized the importance of education for youth, who experience sexual violence at higher rates. It is essential that they have information about healthy relationships and sexual practices, bodily autonomy, boundaries and consent as well as resources available to them in the case that they, or someone they know, experiences sexual violence.

Small actions such as sharing infographics on social media or reading and passing along information about sexual assault's impact on local communities hold enormous potential to raise awareness and increase safety, Woody said.

Other critical actions include fighting for tougher legislation and holding legal systems accountable. While the Violence Against Women Act shows legislative progress, Woody believes there is always room for improvement.

Finally, she said creating safe spaces for survivors of sexual assault to share their stories remains essential. This means a personal and collective commitment to believe survivors and not to victim-blame.

"It takes extreme courage to come out and tell someone that you've been sexually assaulted," Woody said. "I think the most important thing we can do in our communities is really encourage (survivors) to speak up and let them know that their voice is important and that we believe them."

Sexual assault, Woody said, is one of the only crimes that victims often blame themselves for. Not believing sexual assault survivors when they disclose their experience and blaming them for the violence committed against them exacerbates the issue. The freedom to speak openly and honestly about their experiences is a critical element to the healing process as well as addressing sexual violence at the community level.

House of Hope

The House of Hope is partnering with the YWCA of Oklahoma City to offer a series of training sessions for nursing students throughout Pottawatomie County, encouraging

them to pursue certification as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner.

HOH will also place informational signs at local businesses to raise awareness about sexual assault and its impact, as well as share important information and statistics through a social media awareness campaign during the month of April.

Throughout the year, House of Hope offers emergency shelter, crisis intervention, assistance with protective orders, court advocacy, safety planning, and mental health and counseling services. These services are available to all individuals, Native and non-Native, who are experiencing sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking and who reside in Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal jurisdiction and neighboring communities.

Resources

Woody urges readers to take care during this month of advocacy and awareness. Step away from news and media when necessary, lean on community supports and loved ones, and consider seeking counseling if you are able.

"I just want to encourage anyone who's had to experience sexual assault to know that you're not alone. We're

here to support you. We're here to help you with that. There are so many other people in the community who have experienced the same thing, and given the opportunity, would also support you," she said.

And for those who "may not know what sexual assault is or may not have a good understanding," Woody encourages them to utilize the resources at cpnhouseofhope.com.

"I feel like the more knowledge we can have, the better we can assist someone who may have experienced (sexual assault). And knowing the statistics, there's a pretty good chance that you know at least one person who's gone through it," she said.

The House of Hope crisis line is open 24/7 at 405-878-4673, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline can be reached at 800-787-3244. A directory of Tribal programs in the state of Oklahoma can be found through the Oklahoma Native Alliance Against Violence at oknaav.org, and a directory of national resources is available on the House of Hope website at cpnhouseofhope.com. Read more about the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act (2022) at cpn.news/vawa. ♡

CPN veteran shares Vietnam War stories in new novel

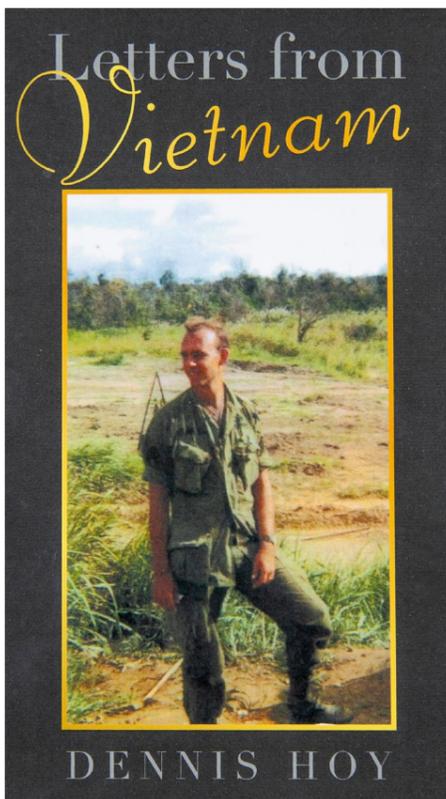
Dennis Hoy shares his stories about his time in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War with almost anyone willing to listen. While many soldiers shy away from telling about their tours, the Citizen Potawatomi veteran never saw the point. He spent the last year and a half working on his new book, *Letters from Vietnam*, which outlines the year he spent trudging through the jungle and valleys of Southeast Asia in 1967 and 1968.

"I think it's important for our heritage to know that (Native Americans) are true Americans and true patriots and served in all the wars," Hoy said. "It's just a memoir of my year in Vietnam, and whether you're Potawatomi or Shawnee or whatever, we're Native Americans, and we do serve our country."

He and his wife, Beth, composed the autobiography from letters that Hoy sent her and his parents while he was overseas. They saved every single one and brought them out again in 2020.

"I opened them up, and they just fell out of the envelope. Dust was on them and everything. And we had never opened them up. ... They were still in the box," Hoy said.

He and Beth read them, and he started writing summaries on legal pads and filming verbal accounts of his memories before writing *Letters from Vietnam*. It took approximately a year, and he began remembering more as they wrote.

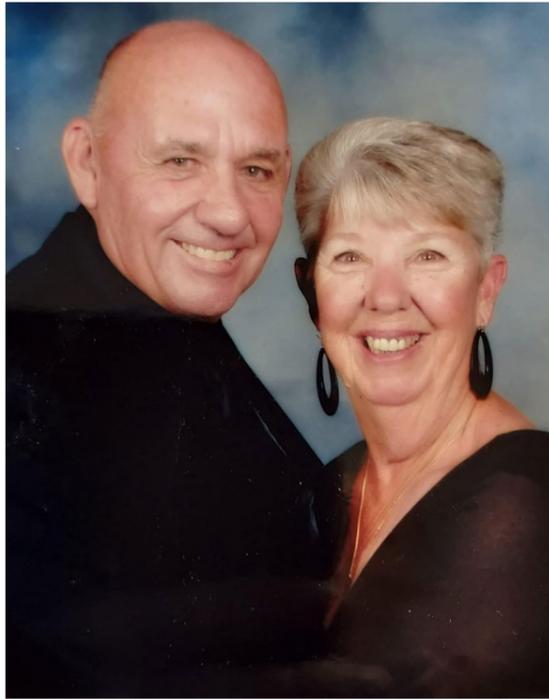


Letters from Vietnam by Dennis Hoy

"I still dream about Vietnam. And don't get me wrong. I don't want to ever quit dreaming about it. They're not nightmares. And that big battle we were in, I've had it I can't tell you how many times, and I've changed it in my mind, in my dreams, where you do things different. It's just your life," Hoy said.

The Bourbonnais family descendant acknowledges his time in the Army helped shape him and taught him dignity and self-respect. Drafted at 24 years old, Hoy was the "old man" in his company. However, he admits he still needed to mature some.

"It was a time in my life when I grew up, and it gave me some discipline and some guidance in my life. And why do



Dennis and Beth Hoy (Photo provided)

I want to forget those times that helped me become who I am?" Hoy said.

One of his favorite sayings is "Knowledge is the key to success."

Whether Hoy is fishing, learning how to paint or perfecting his golf game, he strives to become the best at everything he attempts. After he came back from Vietnam, he became a teacher and coach and used the same principles to push his students to learn and improve themselves.

"Height of competition"

Always a competitive person, Hoy played baseball in his youth, became a professional bass fisher after he retired and walked point during his time in Vietnam. He remembers leading his unit through the jungle, chopping down bamboo to clear a path and remaining calm when he saw the opposing forces first.

"I had the opportunity to experience something that a lot of people have never experienced. ... It was the height of competition. I was always in sports and competed all my life. And if you lose (in war), you don't get to play the next day. You're dead," Hoy said.

His composure made him an ideal candidate to lead the line during exploratory missions. Hoy often saved other soldiers from enemy fire, but sometimes they passed away in his arms. The Army awarded him a Silver Star for his actions during the biggest battle of his tour, and a medic in his unit was awarded the Medal of Honor as well.

"We lost more people at the (beginning of their tour) because they didn't know really what was going on. And I don't care how well they trained you back then, it never applied to what really goes on over there. And then (we lost more at the end) because you're short and you're too careful and get hurt. And in between I walked point, and that was really exciting. ... I was really good at it, and I enjoyed it because I was good at it," Hoy said.

His deployment occurred during a portion of the Tet Offensive that lasted most of 1968. He returned home although Hoy saw other troops gunned down by the Viet Cong around him. However, he told the *Hownikan* in a recent interview that while things were sad, sometimes

they were funny too. *Letters from Vietnam* covers it all.

"If we were there to win the war, if that was our purpose — it didn't feel like it was to win the war — then my attitude would have been different. But (the government) never gave us a chance to win it. I can't tell you how many times we had to go back into the same valleys that we had been in and fought battles in before, and then a month later, we'd have to go back in the same places again," Hoy said.

Love letters

Hoy noticed a pattern while editing the book. Since letters between him and his wife largely inspired and provided the structure of his work, it "sounded more like a love story

than anything else," he said. Looking back, Hoy believes reuniting with Beth got him through his tour overseas.

"I had something to come home to. I look at those 18, 19, 20-year-old kids, and most of them didn't even have girlfriends," he said.

Hoy and Beth got married just a few months before he left for basic training, spending almost their first year as husband and wife apart. They wrote to each other about their plans for Hoy's trip during his Rest and Recuperation Leave Program period while on tour.

They met and spent a week in Hawaii together. Beth wrote a chapter in *Letters from Vietnam* about quickly catching a plane and reuniting. They said their goodbyes again afterward and waited for the end of his time in the Army.

"We just started all over again. Just took another honeymoon and got to know each other, and we're still honeymooning. And ... when we went hunting, she went with me. I'd rather have her out with me than some of the other guys that I didn't want to be around to begin with," Hoy said.

Decades later, Hoy and his wife continue to make a point of respecting each other and taking things day by day. They remain partners in everything, including writing a book about his time in Vietnam.

Hoy and Beth hope it serves as a memoir with life lessons for their family, friends and colleagues, and Hoy felt a book provided an ideal platform to learn about his life as a Native American veteran for former students and other Tribal members.

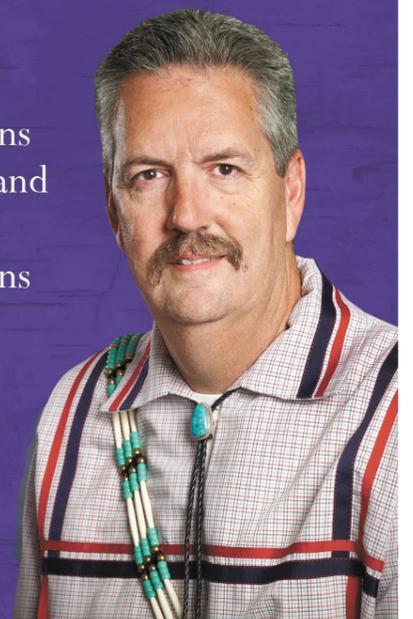
"It's so important that people can grasp their background and hang on to it and pass it on," he said.

Letters from Vietnam will be at several domestic and international book fairs and conventions throughout 2022 and 2023. It is available on Amazon (cpn.news/Hoy1), Barnes and Noble (cpn.news/Hoy2) and other major retailers. ♡

CAST YOUR VOTE TO RE-ELECT MARK JOHNSON

FOR DISTRICT 7 LEGISLATOR

Mark Johnson readily understands what it means to have honor, integrity and cooperation. He also understands what it means to be an experienced, dependable and honest legislator.



PLEASE HELP US KEEP MARK AS DISTRICT 7 LEGISLATOR!

Paid for by Linda Capps

District 7 election candidates

Incumbent - Mark Johnson



What kind of future do you envision for Citizen Potawatomi Nation?

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation will surpass 38,000 members by the middle

of this year. The future that I see, is one filled with Opportunity, Hope and Optimism, but also a future with many challenges that we must navigate in the 21st century. As a current Legislator, I know that the demands for services and benefits that we are providing today as a Tribe will require our full attention in order to protect and grow those services into the future. Our Nation will continue being a leader in preserving our heritage and culture. This has been a high priority for not only myself, but the other members of our legislature. Many avenues of information are now available to our members through the Cultural Heritage Center, from language classes to finding your families allotment and searching for family records online. I will do everything I can to expand these offerings as your representative. With the growth of our Nation and enrollment of members ever increasing, we also need to maintain and grow the economic engine

of our tribe into a true powerhouse through well thought-out and wise business investments. As a tribal member who lives outside of Oklahoma, I am also keenly aware that our members also don't always have access to the same services that are available to those who live in Oklahoma, that is why the CPN Care program is such a huge benefit to those of us out here in the districts, and a perfect example of the wise capital investment choices paying off for all members and their families. I am not one who has ever been the one to jump on the hot button topics of the day, or sway to the direction the wind is blowing on any given time; I have chosen to look to those subjects that will guarantee our survival as a Nation so that we may all reach our full potential and fulfill our destiny as a tribe, and never again suffer a fate like our ancestors did. We do indeed have a bright future as a Nation, one built on the bedrock of wise, reasoned choices.

What makes you qualified to be a CPN legislator?

I have a deep understanding of who I am, and why I was placed on this earth, to work in the service of others. I have always placed others before myself and have been blessed to have had a 41-year career as a professional firefighter, retiring at the rank of Chief from CAL FIRE. I believe that having been in public service for all those years, I have the skill set needed to work with the other tribal legislators and evaluate other points of view. I also have a good working knowledge of the tribe, allowing me to navigate the system on behalf of our members when they need help. I was also raised in the culture, so my roots run very deep there. I believe that I am a very well-rounded person who can get the job done, on your behalf.

Challenger - Browning Neddeau



What kind of future do you envision for Citizen Potawatomi Nation?

The future of our Tribe depends on our collective effort. Together, we will keep the fire burning. I am humbled that Tribal citizens within and outside of District 7 have encouraged me to seek the legislative seat. *Chi migwetch!* Many thanks for being in community with me. I envision a future that centers being Potawatomi as I stand on the

shoulders of my ancestors. I imagine District meetings occurring *in* the District as they are intended. Having *mawjeshnowen/get together* spaces instead of business meetings would support what it means to be *Bodéwadmi ndaw!* Potawatomi Indian. Enterprise provides commerce, but people come before business and we must invest in our people and build relationships. It is imperative that we stress the importance of cultural survivance and thrivance through people and stories, not products.

I envision a future that increases accessibility to programs and services for our Tribal citizens, regardless of physical location. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government provided our Tribe millions of dollars to expand programs and services. We need to assess these programs and services to ensure they support *all* citizens. CPN Care's creation is a start at increasing accessibility, but it is not the end.

Accessibility includes a future where we embrace virtual, hybrid, and in-person *mawjeshnowen*. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, I hosted six virtual storytelling events with hundreds of oral and visual storytellers and attendees participating (including

Tribal citizens) from around the world. I continue to create virtual *mawjeshnowen*, such as *Shkodé!Fire*: Conversations at the Virtual Fire, virtual breakfast socials, and the Facebook group *Ni Je Na Ginwa* District 7 from Browning Neddeau. Email me at bneddeau@gmail.com to join future *mawjeshnowen*.

Lastly, I envision our Tribe will intentionally place value on inclusion. Multiple years ago, Chairman Barrett and several legislators voted in favor of a marriage ordinance that supported all loving families. I wrote an email to all Tribal leaders requesting support for all loving families. Unfortunately, the marriage ordinance failed. Our current District 7 legislator voted against it. I envision a future where all citizens are seen, heard, and loved.

What makes you qualified to be a CPN legislator?

I invite all Tribal citizens to explore my website browningneddeaucpn7.com for details about my qualifications to serve as the District 7 legislator. My website includes examples of my sustained and heavy involvement in Indian Country which have prepared me to serve our Tribe well. Below is

an *abbreviated list* of what makes me qualified to serve you as a CPN legislator.

Culture

- *Cultural knowledge holder
- *Assist with Potawatomi language and protocol
- *Active in American Indian community organizing and resource sharing

Leadership

- *Chair of Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Commission: National Art Education Association
- *National Advisory Councilmember: National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education
- *School Board Member: Ipakanni Early College Charter School, a school focused on serving American Indian students

Related Credentials

- *Educated — Doctorate (Ed.D.)
- *Published scholar in American Indian Studies
- *Program evaluator and grant Director, accountable to government agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education ♣

Citizen Potawatomi Nation • Request for Ballot • 2022 Election

Name _____ please print

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I reside within the boundaries of CPN Legislative District No. _____
(Oklahoma residents should write Oklahoma in the blank above)

Under penalty of perjury, I hereby declare this to be my legal signature and Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal roll number.

Signature _____ Tribal Roll # _____
(If you do not know your roll number, call 800-880-9880 and ask for Tribal Rolls)

Must be postmarked no later than June 5, 2022

Mail to

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Election Committee
PO box 310, Tecumseh, OK 74873-9900



REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

Cut out and mail back to receive your absentee ballot.
Please only return one request for ballot.



Family tradition helps Oklahoma wrestler find success

Setting goals and careful preparation helped one high school wrestler qualify for and eventually place at the Oklahoma high school wrestling state championship.

High school sophomore and Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Lane Gourley took his 33-8 season record to the Oklahoma state wrestling tournament on February 26, representing Little Axe High School in the 3A division. Lane took fourth place in his 220 lb. weight class.

Qualifying for the state tournament is an accomplishment in itself, but for a sophomore to have qualified at the 220 lb. weight class is special, said Rickey Gouley, Lane's father.

Most of the competitors Lane faced were high school seniors, many 18-19 years old, and with previous state tournament experience. Rickey's pride shines as he talks about his son.

"There's a difference in a 16-year-old, 220 pound kid, than an 18 or 19-year-old, 220 pound kid," Rickey said. "So for him to be able to have the success that he's had this year at this weight, it's pretty impressive."

To prepare for the tournament, the Rhodd family descendant fit in extra workouts when possible and tried to stay relaxed and focused.

"I hadn't really done anything differently and just continued to practice," Lane said. "I just tried to work and prepare like this is any other tournament. I was definitely a little bit nervous, too."

Lane also relied on his best friend, Chadd Kriz, whom the family calls his "brother" and wrestles in the heavyweight division. Having such a close friend, teammate and support system made a difference, Rickey said.



Lane Gourley and his "brother," Chadd Kriz compete at the 2022 state tournament. (Photo provided)



Wrestler Lane Gourley, far right, celebrates at his first state tournament. (Photo provided)

"The two of them both qualified for state this year," Rickey said. "Having that person that's there with you every step of your journey not only makes you better, but it makes your partner better. And we've been blessed to be able to have that young man by our side the whole time."

That support can also include jokes and teasing.

"He is always by my side; he is just like my brother," Lane said. "He made fun of me a little bit for being the youngest person in my bracket."

Rickey Gourley said Lane also benefited from Summer Pride workouts at Little Axe High School. The off-season workout program is open to all LAHS athletes, and sponsored by CPN, he added.

Lane has attended the state tournament before, but this was his first time as a competitor.

"Well, (I've attended) the past three years; I think it's pretty cool," Lane said. "I'm glad I was able to do it rather than be a spectator."

Rickey said his son began preparing for this moment when he started wrestling in elementary school. Lane always writes down his

goals, from weekly to monthly to yearly. His goal for 2022 was to qualify and then place in the state tournament.

"It's all in preparation for your high school and collegiate career, obviously," he said. "And this is kind of like, it's all come together."

Lane has faced challenges, among them being diagnosed with ADHD, Rickey said. Lane has worked hard to maintain his grades so he remains eligible for wrestling. Last year, he had a broken finger in his hand that required surgery and rehabilitation before this season started. Lane also lost his paternal grandfather, who walked on earlier this year. He wrote his grandfather's initials on athletic tape around his wrist as a reminder of his grandfather's belief in his abilities.

Overcoming those challenges made this year's accomplishments even more meaningful, Rickey said. Helping Lane tackle ADHD has provided the Gourley family with a mantra.

"At times, we have to step back, take a deep breath, pause, maybe leave the situation that we're working on and come back to it," Rickey said. "I think that's just life. You may have to take a break (and say), 'It's not that serious. Just chill.'"

Rickey said his son hopes to wrestle collegiately. They travel to out-of-state tournaments, both to challenge Lane and to get experience against different opponents. He placed third in a regional competition in Plainview, Texas, earlier this year.

They also work with University of Oklahoma wrestler Justin Thomas. Thomas has conducted clinics at Little Axe High School, and Lane was able to spend extra time with Thomas, improving his strategy and making adjustments.

"We got that extra (time) working with him to tighten up some of the skills, to teach him some things that he was missing and just give him a look from a division one collegiate athlete," Rickey said.

When Lane is not wrestling or in school, he works two part-time jobs, including refereeing wrestling matches on the weekend. That experience also helped him develop as an athlete.

"It gives him an understanding of the rules," Rickey said. "He utilizes that in his own matches like, 'Oh, if I drag my toes, I'm going to score the points rather than lift my toes.' He wants to learn everything about it."

Throughout the years, Lane's family has seen positive changes in his personal development, something his father attributes to wrestling.

"He listens more," Rickey said. "More 'Okay, you are the coach, and you've been here before. What do I do?' Whatever choice we go with, he just rolls with it and goes out and does it."

This mindset works for Lane. One of his highlights this season was defeating a senior in double overtime, Rickey said.

In his downtime, Lane likes to relax with friends and family.

"We like to go to the lake and have a good time," Lane said. "We also like to play Madden."

Fishing, camping, bowling with his friends and time to unwind are important, Rickey added.

The family attends the Family Reunion Festival each year, and they spend time at the Cultural Heritage Center to help their children connect with their Potawatomi roots.

Rickey Gourley said Lane's "Paw Paw" Paul Howell enjoys making dreamcatchers. Howell and Lane share an appreciation for dreamcatchers and look at Tribal art together.

Out of everything he has learned, Lane is most interested by the Potawatomi language.

"I learned some of the language, and what (different words mean)," he said. "It was (what) I found most interesting."

Find more information about the language at potawatomiheritage.com and learn about CPN's Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/festival.

"I HAVE SEEN HIS **COMMUNITY-BUILDING** AND **DISTRICT-STRENGTHENING** EFFORTS FOR YEARS AND I CONSIDER HIM A FRIEND."

- KATHRYN OLSEN (POTAWATOMI FAMILY NAME: MOORE)

BROWNINGNEDDEAUCPN7.COM

VOTE

BROWNING NEDDEAU

FOR CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
DISTRICT 7

PAID FOR BY BROWNING NEDDEAU

CPN legislative meeting minutes

Present: Chairman John A. Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale and Representatives David Barrett, Jon Boursaw, Bobbi Bowden, Dave Carney, Eva Marie Carney, Mark Johnson, Gene Lambert, Alan Melot, Rande Payne, Paul Schmidlkofer, Andy Walters, Paul Wesselhöft and Robert Whistler.

Absent: None.

Guests: George Wright, Jason Smalley, Greg Quinlan, Chris Abel and Jamie Moucka.

Call to order: Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., followed by the invocation.

First item of business: Minutes from the previous legislative meeting held on December 2, 2021. Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Representative Schmidlkofer and seconded by Representative Payne. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Second item of business: Resolution 22-25-R&G: A resolution approving the rescheduling of the Quarterly Meeting of the Tribal Legislature from Thursday, February 24, 2022, to Thursday, March 3, 2022. Motion to approve Resolution #22-25-R&G was made by Representative Schmidlkofer and seconded by Representative Dave Carney. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Third item of business: Resolution 22-26-J&PS: A resolution confirming the nominees for tribal judicial office subject to electoral confirmation by the General Council. Motion to approve Resolution #22-26-J&PS was made by Representative Boursaw and seconded by Representative Bowden. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fourth item of business: Resolution 22-27-J&PS: A resolution approving the

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the United States Department of Justice fy2022 Office for Victims of Crime Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside formula program. Motion to approve Resolution #22-27-J&PS was made by Representative Eva Marie Carney and seconded by Representative Schmidlkofer. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining

Fifth item of business: Resolution 22-28-J&PS: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the U. S. Department of Justice's fy2022 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) program. Motion to approve Resolution #22-28-J&PS was made by Representative Payne and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Sixth item of business: Resolution 22-29-TC&A: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the National Park Service fy2022 Tribal Historic Preservation Office grant program. Motion to approve Resolution #22-29-TC&A was made by Representative Wesselhöft and seconded by Representative Boursaw. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Seventh item of business: Resolution 22-30-TC&A: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the National Park Service fy 2022 Tribal Heritage Grant program. Motion to approve Resolution #22-30-TC&A was made by Representative Boursaw and seconded by Representative Melot. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Eighth item of business: Resolution 22-31-Ed: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the Institute of

Museum and Library Services' fy2022 Basic Library Services program. Motion to approve Resolution #22-31-Ed was made by Representative Walters and seconded by Representative Johnson. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Ninth item of business: Resolution 22-32-Ed: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the Institute of Museum and Library Services' fy2022 Library Enhancement program. Motion to approve Resolution #22-32-Ed was made by Representative Boursaw and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Tenth item of business: Resolution 22-33-TC&A: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Native Americans fy2022 Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance Program. Motion to approve Resolution #22-33-TC&A was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Eleventh item of business: Resolution 22-34-LCoE: A resolution enrolling 295 applicants into the membership of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Motion to approve Resolution #22-34-LCoE was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Walters. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Twelfth item of business: Resolution 22-35-App: A resolution approving a 2022-2023 annual budget from the estimated earnings and interest on program money from judgment funds awarded by the United States Court of Claims, subject to approval by the General Council pursuant to Article 5, Section 3 of the

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Constitution. Motion to approve Resolution #22-35-App was made by Vice Chairman Capps and seconded by Representative Payne. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Thirteenth item of business: Resolution 22-36-ED&C: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the U.S. Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative program. Motion to approve Resolution #22-36-ED&C was made by Representative Bowden and seconded by Representative Wesselhöft. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fourteenth item of business: Resolution 22-37-App: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation opting-in to the settlement of opiate class action litigation. Motion to approve Resolution #22-37-App was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Recess at 7:45 p.m.: (Executive Session)

Reconvene at 9:00 p.m.

Fifteenth item of business: Resolution 22-38-CotW: A resolution rescinding Citizen Potawatomi Nation Resolution #22-03-CotW. Motion to approve Resolution #22-38-CotW was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Boursaw. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Sixteenth item of business: Adjournment: There being no further business before the Tribal Legislature, motion to adjourn was made by Representative Schmidlkofer and seconded by Representative Lambert. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. ♠

More Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners needed to meet critical community need

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

Chances are, you know someone who has experienced sexual violence.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will experience sexual assault, calling it a serious public health problem — and it's one that disproportionately affects Native American communities. Native American women are raped at more than twice the rate of any other race, but they are least likely to report due to cultural taboos and legal loopholes that make it impossible for tribal courts to prosecute non-Native offenders.

As a community, we need to do much better in terms of medical care for sexual assault survivors. There is specific training available for nurses and nursing students, enabling them to become a



Kayla Woody

certified sexual assault nurse examiner. SANE nurses meet with victims of sexual

assault and abuse to conduct a thorough forensic exam as well as provide expert testimony in court when needed.

There is currently an emergency shortage of SANE nurses to adequately support our state's prevalence of sexual assault. According to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the rate of rape (or attempted rape) reported by Oklahoma women to law enforcement is 35-45 percent higher than the national average. And it has been — for a decade.

Out of the 77 counties in Oklahoma, only 32 — less than half — have SANE nurse programs. In Pottawatomie County, where the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is located, there are only two SANE nurses to serve 73,000 residents.

This is simply unacceptable. We need to do better for the vulnerable members of our community.

CPN's House of Hope, which supports domestic violence victims, is partnering with local colleges to provide information about this vital care. Pottawatomie County nurses and nursing students are invited to take part in a series of training sessions to learn the role of a SANE nurse and steps to SANE certification.

If you are in the nursing profession or are studying to become a nurse, I urge you to take part. Sexual assault survivors throughout Oklahoma deserve better. You can be the catalyst to providing hope and healing.

Kayla Woody is a domestic violence prevention specialist at Citizen Potawatomi Nation's House of Hope, a program that offers free assistance to all individuals, Native or non-Native, who have experienced intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. ♠

April is SEXUAL ASSAULT awareness month cpnhouseofhope.com

Ancestors portal receives Oklahoma Historical Society award

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center and Information Technology Department won the Oklahoma Historical Society's 2021 Bruce T. Fisher Award for Outstanding Oklahoma History Project for their online platform, *Ancestors*, a new family history research tool accessible to Tribal members through portal.potawatomi.org. A banquet was held March 24, 2022, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City to honor award recipients.

Ancestors

Launched in June 2021, *Ancestors* reflects many years of work at the Cultural Heritage Center to preserve and make available to Tribal members an extensive archive of documents relating to Citizen Potawatomi Nation genealogy and history, especially during the period of removal from Kansas to allotments in Indian Territory.

"Being a source for family research and history has always been one of our mandates," said Dr. Kelli Mosteller, director of the Cultural Heritage Center.

For many years, Tribal members wanting to research their families had to sift through large, grey archival boxes by hand — a tedious and unsecure process. As more people sought information about their families, the CHC started photocopying and digitizing records.

Bringing them online was the next logical step in developing the Cultural Heritage Center's archive and research services to Tribal members.

In a recent interview with the *Hownikan*, Dr. Mosteller explained the *Ancestors* platform combines data from the Tribe's archival holdings with shared knowledge passed down through generations and across kinship ties with Potawatomi throughout Turtle Island.

The tie that binds

The Oklahoma Historical Society award recognizes *Ancestors*' significant contribution to the field of Oklahoma history. Blake Norton, senior curator at the CHC, and Dr. Mosteller were encouraged to apply for the award by colleagues within the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums as well as the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

For Norton, the nomination is a great testament to value of the CHC's work and the way that tribal, state and federal histories overlap — something that he and the Heritage Center staff know well. The additional recognition from colleagues from other areas of Oklahoma history is an honor.



Blake Norton accepts the Bruce T. Fisher Award at a ceremony held on March 24, 2022. (Photo provided)

"It's really murky, I think, for a lot of people in Oklahoma," Norton said. "They're aware that they live among Native communities, but they don't really understand what those Native communities are about or how they exist and how they operate."

Many Oklahomans know about the Land Runs and the path to statehood, but not many know that those major events in the state's history stemmed specifically from tribal relations with the U.S. government.

The allotment period in particular was critical to the processes that led to the Land Run and to Oklahoma statehood, and the Tribe's archive and historical work shed light on that history in great detail.

"We really have a grip on what the allotment process entailed for the community, who came down (from Kansas), when they came down, why they came down, how the process worked," Norton said. "It's necessary for people to understand that this history is part of yours, too."

Norton is excited to see how the directives of the Cultural Heritage Center and years of work coincide with the projects of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

For Dr. Mosteller, the Oklahoma Historical Society award also highlights the important place that Oklahoma holds in Citizen Potawatomi history.

Even though the majority of Tribal members who use the *Ancestors* portal reside outside of Oklahoma, CPN's history is still "uniquely tied to the reservation in Indian Territory and the history that played out here," Mosteller said.

Many Potawatomi who live and work in Oklahoma, including Dr. Mosteller, associate the idea of "homeland" with the Great Lakes. However, for many others who have moved away from Oklahoma over time, it is the homeland.

"Oklahoma is the tie that binds," she said. "(There is) that ancestral connection, even if your family left the reservation while it was still Indian Territory."

While Oklahoma plays an essential part in Potawatomi history, it is important to Dr. Mosteller that access to — and authority on — that history not be limited to the geographical site of the Cultural Heritage Center or CPN jurisdiction. Potawatomi history, heritage and community far exceed those borders.

"We want people to understand that you don't have to be here in Shawnee to be a community, to be a family," she said. "It doesn't take that to be a Tribe, especially in the 21st century. It's just knowing who you are, knowing about your community, being proud of that and wanting to share that."

Living archive

Since the *Ancestors* platform was unveiled publicly in June 2021, Norton says that more than 6,000 people have registered their profiles.

Each registrant is able to access archival documents, build family trees, upload documents and photographs to their own profiles, and connect with other Tribal members through a friend request function.

The *Ancestors* development team considered a two-way interface high priority. Though extensive, the Tribe's archives also contain missing or contradictory information.

"We cannot be so bold as to assume that we here at the CHC have all of the information," Dr. Mosteller said. "We also know that Tribal members not only have treasures and information about their own family members, but about themselves because they are our future ancestors."

The archives develop over time as users engage with and contribute to the material on the site. Family History Specialist Czarina Thompson encourages users to continue to return to the portal often to see updated information and view the collections with a fresh perspective.

"As you revisit and go back, you're going to find something because you're building on the knowledge. As the knowledge builds, it keeps building. So I think that's really important," she said.

"It's a bit of a learning process as we go through on how to build a database that also takes into account a lot of missing information," Dr. Mosteller said. She appreciates the patience and feedback Tribal members have extended throughout the whole process.

"This is something that's always going to be adaptable and updated and made better," she said.

Norton sees this new platform for family and historical research as a part of a period of reawakening in the community, calling it a "real world application" of the tradition of the Seven Fires Prophecy. The Cultural Heritage Center has built much of its work around this prophecy, including the layout of the museum itself.

"The Seven Fires Prophecy ... talks about a time of rejuvenation and the new people being born and reawakened to walk along this path of their ancestors — pick up all these missing pieces to put the culture back together," Norton said.

He looks forward to seeing how the program continues to grow, including more educational opportunities and awareness.

Founded in 1893, the Oklahoma Historical Society works to collect, preserve and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people. Find the OHS online at okhistory.org or follow them on social media @okhistory. Visit the Cultural Heritage Center online at potawatomiheritage.com or on Facebook @CPNCulturalHeritage, and access *Ancestors* at portal.potawatomi.org. ♡

THE CPN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER 2022

APPLICATION DEADLINE
APRIL 10, 2022

Do you want to serve the Tribe in an internship role that aligns with your career goals? If so, this is the program for you. The Internship Program offers a paid, 240-hour internship with a CPN tribal department to members who meet qualifications.

To learn more or apply for the summer 2022 session, apply online at portal.potawatomi.org.

CHC cultural classes teach art skills, build community

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center offers cultural and art classes several times a month as a service to the greater surrounding Indigenous community. Participants typically learn how to bead a piece of jewelry or create a piece of regalia led by Cultural Activities Coordinator and artist Leslie Deer.



Participants of the art and cultural classes held by Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center walk away with a new skill and rewarding project.

“So today we are making hairpipe bandoliers. ... A bandolier is typically worn by men as part of their regalia in the arena. And these bandoliers we're making are two strands that go probably from one side — either your left side or your right side — across your chest, over your shoulder, down your backside and meets up again where it started on your side, at your hip,” she said.

Participant and Choctaw Nation citizen Chrischelle Baker enjoys Native crafts and making new friends. She keeps up with the Heritage Center's classes online and always looks forward to a new challenge, including the bandolier.

“Honestly, I didn't know what it was to tell you the truth,” Baker said. “And so I'm like, ‘I want to learn something new.’ And so here I am, I got in the class.”

Ponca and Muscogee Creek tribal member Jill Primeaux Hunter plans to give her bandolier to a new dancer as part of his first set of regalia. She chose red and yellow beads to represent and honor the element of fire. Hunter knew the significance of bandoliers before the class.

“These represent the bullet casings that they used for veterans. And so originally it was just veterans that used these to dance with. But now almost all the dancers use them, whether they are (veterans or) not. It just kind of has evolved into that. But that's what I was told by my dad was that they were for veterans and that's what that represented as part of the warrior wear. They used them for straight dancers, mostly,” she said.

CPN Tribal member Charles Scott also attended, sitting next to CPN District 12 Legislator Paul Schmidlkofer. Scott began taking classes a few years ago as an opportunity to make regalia pieces at no cost. While he gives away many of his completed pieces as well, he wants to keep his first bandolier. Scott

picked red and purple to go with his ribbon shirt for the dance arena.

“If you go to the store and buy it, it's really not special to me,” he said. “If you make it, then it's special. I've met people down here who've made me stuff. My ribbon shirt, for example, that was made for me. So the more you come down and the more we do this culture stuff, the more other people come down and use it.”

The process of beading and crafting includes making mistakes, and Schmidlkofer is no stranger to taking apart and redoing sections of his work.

“I got the colors mixed up and left the silver ones out three times. So that's not bad for an old guy that doesn't know what he's doing, you know? Personally, I don't think it is. I was pretty sure I was going to make mistakes anyways,” he said.

Schmidlkofer has taken almost every class available at the CHC since he retired after making a promise to himself to learn more about Potawatomi culture and language. Even when he messes up, he has fun.

“Leslie does a great job of explaining how to do things and (is) very patient, and on several occasions she's helped me undo my bad work and correct it and end up with a quality product at the end.

So I love the classes. A lot of fun. The fellowship is good,” Schmidlkofer said.

He focused on a green and yellow palette, making his bandolier match the rest of his regalia. However, his classmates know Schmidlkofer usually brings his own beads or other adornments to add something special.

“I was gifted some orange things two or three years ago. So I've started blending orange into my stuff, too. So my bandolier is, primarily the colors are green and yellow. But I had some nice orange accent beads that I had bought at a thrift store. They were just in a bag, and I'm going to put one of those in each one of these rows to kind of give me an accent color of my orange to help tie it into my regalia also,” he said.

Deer and the other participants feel like those extra flares make the pieces individual and unique. She often picks simple projects that require only a few hours to complete so participants walk away with new skills and a beautiful creation.

“We've all been there where you've taken a class, and you don't quite finish, and you pack it all up and take it home and go, ‘Oh yeah, I'm going to finish this,’ and then it sits on the shelf, and you never really do finish it,” Deer said. “I've done that before in my life, so I don't ever like

to see that happen because everyone's always excited to walk out with a finished product, whether you wear it, whether you have it to take as a gift for somebody, or you just want to go home and show it off and say, ‘Look what I did.’”

When it comes to beading and crafts, Baker has mostly taught herself. She takes classes like those at the CHC and attends beading groups in her community. She makes jewelry for her daughters and teaches them how to bead as well. Baker believes the importance of art shows itself every day.

“Because it's part of our heritage, and we need to keep it. Nobody else is going to teach us. So we have to teach each other. What you learn, you share with those that want to learn, and especially the younger generation,” she said.

As a teacher and artist, Deer agrees. She notes spending time together and passing on the skills holds as much importance as the finished product. One person's accomplishments sometimes inspires the whole class, and many of her students surpass their own expectations.

“They'll look at it at the end and say, ‘I can't believe I made this. I can't believe I did this. I'm so proud of it. I'm going to go show my mom or my sister or my dad or whatever.’ They really are surprised at what they can do, and they're surprised that it's right here in their community for free,” Deer said.

She encourages everyone to tap into their inner-artist, harness their creativity and attend at least one class.

“Arts are important because it's who we are. It's part of our culture. It's a way of communicating. It's a way of marking time. It's a way of remembrance. It's a way of celebration. It's a way of looking to the future. So without art, it's almost like there is no culture,” Deer said.

The classes offer many basic skills that apply to larger or more complex pieces for the future. They are free and open to everyone, and the CHC provides most of the materials. Registration is required, and class sizes are limited. Find a calendar of classes and sign up at cpn.news/events.

CPN CARE

Have you heard the good news?

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has officially launched CPN Care — a telehealth benefit offering for you and your family. Through CPN Care, you gain 24/7 access to care in minutes by phone, video or mobile app — at NO cost to you.

Ready to get started?

Simply scan the QR code or visit potawatomi.org/cpn-care to activate the benefit. Once activated, you'll receive an email in 48-72 hours with registration instructions. From there, it is as easy as creating your username, completing your medical history, and you're good to go!

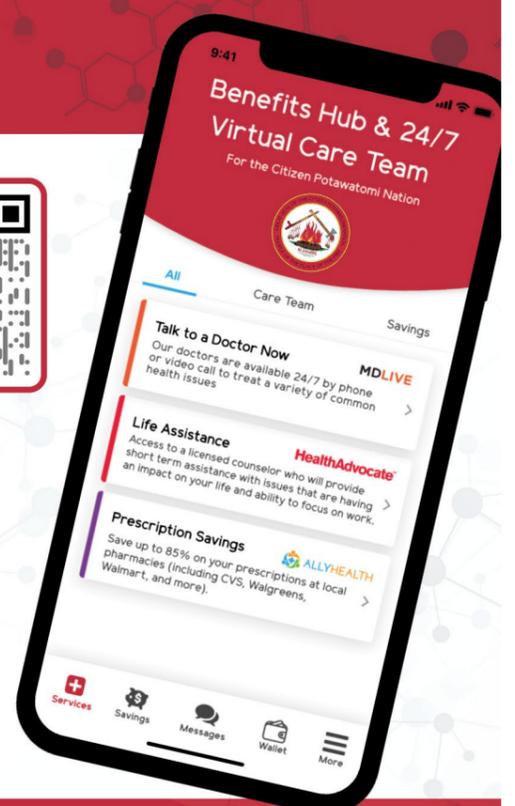
Please call 888-565-3303 or email support@allyhealth.net for questions or assistance.

And don't forget to download the CPN Care app!

SCAN TO GO TO CPN



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD



RE-ELECT

MARK JOHNSON

VIEUX AND JOHNSON FAMILY MEMBER

FOR DISTRICT 7 LEGISLATOR

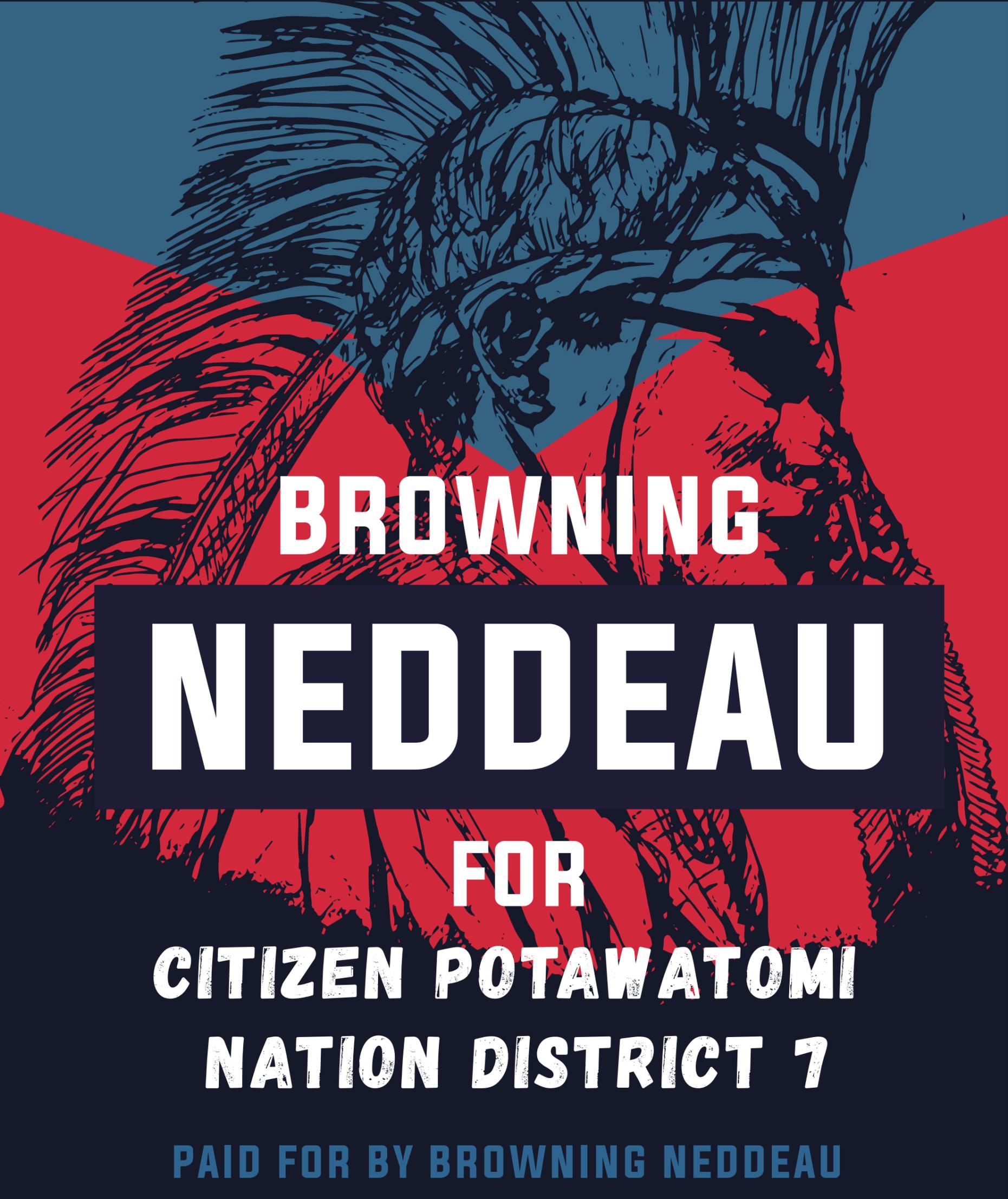


It has been my honor to serve as the District 7 Legislator since 2010. I am proud of my voting record and the work I've done on behalf of our members. I am asking for your continued trust and your vote in the upcoming election. Standing together, we are strong. Our Nation now has more than 37,000 members and through hard work, we have maintained a strong financial position and protected and expanded benefits that so many of our members depend on. I hope to continue this work on behalf of the members I represent in District 7.

HONOR, INTEGRITY AND COOPERATION

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

HONOR OUR ANCESTORS



BROWNING

NEDDEAU

FOR

**CITIZEN POTAWATOMI
NATION DISTRICT 7**

PAID FOR BY BROWNING NEDDEAU

BROWNINGNEDDEAUCPND7.COM

Smith descendant named finalist for 2022 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year

With almost two decades of experience, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member and Smith family descendant, Kortni Torralba was named one of 12 finalists for 2022 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. She brings a unique skill set and outlook to her position as a therapeutic educator at Moore Alternative School and Treatment.

As part of Moore Public Schools, the MAST Academy is the only school of its kind in Oklahoma. Along with Moore Youth and Family Services, staff provides students educational support, life skills development, individual and group counseling sessions, and art and recreational therapy, among other services.

“It’s spending your day working with therapists and social workers and parole officers, and these are all people who are there in some capacity to serve the child. We have been able to have these services fairly close together,” Torralba said.

While earning her bachelor’s degree, she received special education training and always wanted to work with youth with emotional behavioral disorders. Torralba connects with her students on a deep level and knows their hardships. As a teenager, she spent time as a ward of the state and graduated from an Oklahoma youth facility. Torralba viewed college as a way to prove wrong the teachers and adults who believed she would never achieve that goal.

“I think I somehow grabbed on to this idea of wanting to be a teacher, mostly because I felt like most teachers were terrible at their job,” she said. “And I thought, ‘I want to be a different teacher.’ I want to be the kind of teacher that says, ‘I really do care about you, friend. I really do.’ And I wanted the kids to know that.”



2022 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year finalist Kortni Torralba (Photo provided)

In her youth, Torralba disliked school, and she knows how her students feel when the education system gives them little to no attention. Her empathy acts as a critical component to their success, and she strives to provide a listening ear every day.

“I feel like somewhere in all this education and concern about standards and testing that we have lost the humanity of looking across the aisle at someone and saying, ‘Hey, I want you to know you’re a beautiful, interesting, amazing person. And I want to know you,’” Torralba said.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education interviewed Moore Youth and Family Services Executive Director Lisa Williams for a short video highlighting Torralba’s nomination.

“That unique combination that she has — her empathy, her understanding — but her skillset on top of that. Somebody who’s willing to look at the ‘why’ instead

of just the behavior. ... She will not give up until she knows that kid has gotten everything possible,” Williams said.

Throughout the last two years, many teachers across the country left their profession because of stress and burnout from the pandemic with no plans to return, exacerbating the already crippling staff and teacher shortage in Oklahoma. As a result, the state approved more than 2,600 emergency-certified teachers for the 2021-22 academic year, the most ever, according to *Oklahoma Watch*.

“The concern for me is that if we continue with this kind of system, what we’re losing out on is that experience, and experience makes a difference. ... We’re at a point right now where all we’re focused on getting is instructors,” Torralba said, with little attention to social and emotional growth.

She prioritizes mental health and self-awareness as both a teacher and parent. She also gives some educational autonomy to the students, and the results speak for themselves. Many of Torralba’s high school-aged students enter her classroom with elementary-level reading comprehension. She helps them find books and other materials that spark their interest, and their love of reading follows. Torralba remembers one student who grew from a fourth-grade reading level to past high school in two years.

“I said, ‘Do you realize how many Nobel Prize-winning books you’ve read now?’ It’s amazing to think about. ... And that kid can read like a beast. And I (told him), ‘Don’t let anybody ever, ever tell you, you can’t do something,’” she said.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education also interviewed Southmoore

High School Freshman Principal Wendy Toscani, who has seen Torralba’s success and student empowerment for herself.

“We send her some of the most difficult kids that we have, and I hear stories about their improvement that are just amazing. She turns them into leaders by empowering them and giving them a sense of, ‘I can do this,’” Toscani said.

As an Indigenous person, Torralba recognizes the importance of improving education on a state and a tribal level.

“I feel like particularly as Native people, we need to look deep within our values and what is important to us, and use that to somehow create some kind of an educational system that’s going to nurture and support our children within it. Because it really is about relationships at the end of the day, and we have to have those teachers that are going to be there to truly connect one on one with kids,” she said.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education announced the 2022 State Teacher of the Year on Thursday, March 2, and Torralba did not win. More than the title, she wanted the chance to speak her mind about the state of education in Oklahoma and implement change. She hopes the winner feels the same.

“I want it to be somebody who’s going to be out there doing things and shaking stuff up a little bit. ... We need some major system changes. I’m at least very specific with what I think needs to be changed,” Torralba said.

View Kortni Torralba’s Oklahoma State Department of Education Teacher of the Year finalist video at cpn.news/ODETtorralba. ♠

Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho jayek
(Hello everyone),

On *Nmebne gises nswe* (March 3rd) we had our annual *Bbon yatsokewen mawjeshnowen* — Winter Story Telling gathering. *Manek bmadzejek gi byék*. Lots of people came. *Gnebech shwatsomtene shech nish ezhi yatsokewemek*. Maybe 82 over there at the Cultural Heritage Center. *Mine gé megwa tasomkekosek*. And more on the computer. *Neyewabtek anake nyanomtene megwa bmadzejek*. 40 or 50 more people. *Bodéwadmimwen makchewijek mine ngot widoktadwen bmadzet egi yatsokewat mdatso shech ngot bkan yatsokagnen*. The Potawatomi language staff and one community member told 12 different stories. *Gi Weptamget madmowen mine ngot ngemwen gi sengo zibiwes ngemjek*. It started with a prayer and song by the Squirrel Creek



drummers. *Ggshketomen déwégyak gme ngot gishgok mine gme-nyew gishgok zhi yatsokewemek nso dbegnék*. We try and



drum on Mondays and Thursdays there at the Cultural Heritage Center at 3 p.m. *Mine nkenomage bodéwadmimwen*

kenomagewen ngot dbegnék gme-ngot gishgok mine gme-nyew gishgok zhi yatsokewemek ngot dbegnék. *Ndemzenaksegemen node kenomagewen mine etoyak mbwaka myewek izhi YouTube zhenkadek*. I also teach a Potawatomi language class at 1 p.m. every Monday and Thursday at the Cultural Heritage Center, which we also put on the internet and YouTube.

Zisbaktoge gises, April, is the time that we traditionally did maple syruping. Maple syrup was our main way of seasoning our dishes. The process of making sugar or making maple syrup is a long process. It requires tapping a tree and then gathering the sap and then boiling it down. The whole process might take two or three days to complete. You first need the right kind of conditions for the sap to run. Usually, it needs to be very cold for a long period of time, then an abrupt warm up. These pictures are of our relatives in Forest County doing maple syruping back in 2008. ♠

“BROWNING IS WELL-VERSED IN THE
POTAWATOMI TRADITIONS AND CEREMONIES.”

- JENNIFER PORTER (POTAWATOMI FAMILY NAME: PELTIER/BOURBONNAISE)

[BROWNINGNEDDEAUCPN7.COM](https://browningneddeaucpn7.com)

VOTE

BROWNING NEDDEAU

FOR CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
DISTRICT 7

PAID FOR BY BROWNING NEDDEAU

FDF donates to inaugural Potato Dance World Championship

The First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City hosted the first-ever Potato Dance World Championship on Feb. 12, 2021. FAM Director of Learning and Community Engagement Adrienne Lalli Hills (Wyandotte) said the museum wanted to bring Native humor to the forefront for Valentine's Day.

"We're using it as a humorous way to introduce Native people who might not be as culturally connected to their tribes and non-Native people who may have never been to one of our social dances or social gatherings. ... And so I figured, why not? Let's have it at First Americans Museum," she said.

Lalli Hills requested a donation of potatoes from Citizen Potawatomi Nation's FireLake Discount Foods for the event. FDF Director Richard Driskell called it one of the most unusual appeals throughout his more than two decades with the Tribe.

"It was a unique request to have that many potatoes for a dance competition," he said. "I've never heard about that before. It surprises me sometimes, and I'm always learning about Native American traditions and what they do. Learning about the competition and what the potatoes were going to be used for, it was very unique, and I'm glad that we were able to donate to the cause."

Many powwows use the potato dance to give competitive dancers a break between songs and to provide another social dance for all attendees. Fun, lighthearted and often funny, it requires two competitors to move to the beat with a potato between their foreheads.

"They cannot use their hands, and they have to keep dancing no matter what," Lalli Hills said. "The emcee can make it harder by introducing new challenges that make it increasingly more difficult — dancing while waving your hands, dancing faster, dancing more vigorously, so on and so forth. Eventually, of course, that potato is going to slip and end up on the ground and be a smashed potato, which then disqualifies you."

The museum introduced the world championship Valentine's Day weekend to encourage couples to sign up, but potato dances mostly welcome any two people to participate as a team.

"If your relationship can withstand a potato dance, that bodes well for your future," Lalli Hills joked.



Isabella Aiukle Cornell and partner Jake Tiger test their skills and fight for the title of Potato Dance World Champions at First Americans Museum.

Eight couples decided to put themselves to the test and signed up, including James (Comanche/Otoe/Pawnee) and Jamie (Arapaho) Yellowfish, who won the potato dance competition at the 2021 Thunderbird Intertribal Powwow.

"We're hearing our songs, and that's part of our culture, and it just brings you good feelings," James said.

Isabella Aiukle Cornell (Choctaw) and her partner Jake Tiger (Seminole) also competed and made matching outfits for the occasion. While it was Tiger's first potato dance, Cornell had some experience.

"I was younger whenever I did it, but it's just super fun. It's kind of hard to stay focused whenever it's right between your eyes, but we're hoping for the best," she said and laughed.

DJ Nymasis and the Thunder Boys drum group provided the music during the competition. The museum welcomed any visitors to sign up. The eight couples danced individually during the first round, and the judges, including music and comedy duo Lil Mike and Funny Bone, evaluated their style and technique.

The museum hosted a fancy dance demonstration in a break between the first and second round. FAM cultural ambassador and event emcee Ace Greenwood (Chickasaw/Cherokee) spoke about the importance of hosting ceremonial, competitive and social dances and their ability to bring Native people together despite a history of assimilation.

"Obviously, this was a tactic. This was something important to Native American people — that family, that community. And so, this is a huge part of what you see here. This a very important part," he told the crowd.

All participants danced together for round two of the competition to see who could last the longest.

Jordan Poorman Cocker (Kiowa) and Christopher Cote (Osage) won the longest dance, defeating Mary Stimson and Goran Abdullah, a couple visiting from Seattle, Washington, who happened to come to the museum during their trip. Hundreds of spectators watched the two couples follow directions and dance for almost 20 minutes.

"They were looking like professionals," Abdullah said. "They prepared for that, and we just got here, and our friend said, 'Let's join them and do the potato dance.'"

In the end, the Yellowfishes held their winning streak and earned the title of Potato Dance World Champions, earning the most points for their style, technique and time.

"It felt amazing. I'm just glad. I'm blessed to be here," Jamie Yellowfish said.

"Bigger and better next year."

While Cornell and Tiger failed to place, they still made memories and participated in a first-of-its-kind event.

"I think it's really good to bring everyone together and be able to do all these like



James and Jamie Yellowfish dance their way to becoming Potato Dance World Champions and Best Dressed.

fun things and different activities, get to know people, and just come out and have a good time," Cornell said.

CPN and FireLake Discount Foods enjoy bringing the community together as well, and teaming up with a Native-operated organization for Valentine's Day fun meets their mission.

"We have a slogan that FireLake gives back, and we take that to heart. People shopping with us and patronizing our stores allows us to generate funds that we're able to give back to the community," Driskell said.

As for next year, Lalli Hills hopes the museum hosts round two.

"I think this is definitely worthy of an annual event, so we can see if our current champions can keep the title next year," she said.

Find First Americans Museum online at famok.org or on Facebook @FAMokMuseum. Visit FireLake Discount Foods at firelakefoods.com and on Facebook @firelakefoods. ♡

ENDORSED BY TRIBAL CHAIRMAN JOHN "ROCKY" BARRETT

Being a leader is never easy, but this tribe has produced excellent ones. District 7's Mark Johnson is one of many who fit that description. Together in the tribal legislature we have worked to get more services and cultural programs to our members around the country. Mark Johnson has proven he is committed to the cause. Stick with those who have gotten us this far.

VOTE MARK JOHNSON

PAID FOR BY JOHN "ROCKY" BARRETT



Potawatomi tradition influences Montana artist

Artist Riley Wolery freely admits he has always had a pencil in his hand and art on his mind.

“My mother, she would be the first one to tell you, I had a pencil in my hand before I could walk,” he said. “I have just always been drawn to art, no matter the shape or form. ... It’s always been there from a very young age.”

Artists Ruby Hahn, John Potter, Kevin Red Star, Elyssa Leininger and 20 other artists will join Wolery at the Generations 2022 Art Show in Billings, Montana, on May 14. The exhibit will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Petroleum Club. A VIP event is from 5 to 7 p.m. General admission is \$5. The VIP tickets are \$25 per individual and \$40 per couple.

“This show would be my second show that I’ve curated,” he said. “And me personally, I’m trying to restructure the art scene that takes place here in Billings. I’ve had the chance to meet a lot of local people that are artists.”

As a child, Wolery refused to use color, preferring to draw using black, white and gray. His mother enrolled him in an art class to introduce him to new methods because she recognized his skill. After the class, Wolery began using color. His experience includes sculpting, photography and painting in addition to sketching.

“I’ve only been painting regularly for the last five years,” he said. “But as far as other forms of art, I like to try new things. Painting with acrylics is what I’m most comfortable with. But as far as trying new forms, I’m always game for that as well.”

While he creates most of his art in an organic way, Wolery also sets aside time to refine his techniques and develop new skills. It can be a challenge to carve out time for art since he works full-time. Among the local artists he knows, a few are full-time artists, but it is rare.

“Others that are in the same boat where I am, it’s where you have a Monday through Friday job, and we just do it when we have time,” he said.

Wolery hopes to become a full-time artist.



Potawatomi artist Riley Wolery’s skills include sculpture, photography and painting. (Photo provided)

“I would like to see it to where I could make this a living someday,” he said. “I know it’s easier said than done. But my overall hope for these shows is each year that I do this, it gets bigger and bigger and more people are aware of it and more people come in.”

The Bowles family descendant gets inspiration from a variety of sources: the natural world, music and his Potawatomi heritage.

“Now lately, I’m getting more interested in my roots — learning about (Potawatomi) arts and art forms. And that’s where I learned more about Woodrow Crumbo,” Wolery said.

Crumbo, the Potawatomi artist, was known for his work celebrating the culture of the Potawatomi, Creek, Sioux and Kiowa nations. The Smithsonian Institution, New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Thomas Gilcrease Institute in Tulsa, Oklahoma, all display his work.

“I feel bad I never got to meet him in person, but just from what information I could gather from him, I’d say he was an advocate for the arts,” Wolery said. “And the history, he was trying to create an art movement where his paintings reflected on traditions that the Tribe had.”



The Montana landscape and its inhabitants inspire Wolery. (Photo provided)

Crumbo’s dedication to preserving history and culture through his images struck Wolery.

“That’s what I love about it. You know what’s going on and it solely tells a story,” he said.

Artists like Vincent van Gogh and Pablo Picasso also provide Wolery inspiration. Growing up, his family appreciated all art forms. His mother often purchased the work of local artists, which hung in the family living room.

Music is also a great influence. As Wolery puts in his earbuds and listens,

an image begins to form in his mind. He then paints the picture he sees.

Wolery believes many forms of art are closely tied together, from music to painting, sculpture to photography. He hopes to show those relationships through his work as well as remind people that art and inspiration are everywhere.

“That’s the emphasis of my shows,” Wolery said. “I’m trying to (show) people art is in multiple forms. It doesn’t just stop at a paintbrush. Art is everywhere.”

Follow Riley Wolery on Facebook, @woleryartwork and Instagram @Wolery_Artwork. ♡

2022 POTAWATOMI GATHERING BUS TRIP

Tuesday, July 26th – Bus will leave CPN Administration at 6:30 a.m.

Arrive at Red Roof Inn Des Moines, 5020 NE 14th St. Des Moines, IA 50313
(1 King Bed - \$80.74 + taxes/fees per night. Rate goes up for more than two adults.
2 Queen Beds - \$82.44 + taxes/fees per night. Rate goes up for more than two adults.
Block Code: B962CPN726) Call 1-800-733-7663 and give them the block code listed.

Wednesday, July 27th – Arrive at Iron Mountain, MI

Comfort Inn in Iron Mountain, 1565 N Stephenson Ave. Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(2 Queen Beds \$114.00 + taxes/fees per night on Wednesday and Thursday \$169.00 + taxes/fees
per night on Friday and Saturday - Block Code: CPN) Call 1-906-774-5505 and give them the block code listed.

The Comfort Inn has free wireless internet, 24-hour fitness room and free breakfast.

Sunday, July 31st – Arrive at Des Moines, IA

Red Roof Inn Des Moines, 5020 NE 14th St. Des Moines, IA 50313 (1 King Bed - \$80.74 + taxes/fees per night. Rate goes up for more than two adults. 2 Queen Beds - \$82.44 + taxes/fees per night. Rate goes up for more than two adults. - Block Code: B962CPN731) Call 1-800-733-7663 and give them the block code listed.

Monday, Aug. 1st – Arrive at CPN Administration

Deadline to reserve spot on bus and book rooms is Sunday, June 26, 2022. It’s \$50 per passenger refundable deposit is required to reserve spot on the bus. All passengers 18+ must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and must mail in a copy of their vaccination card with the \$50 deposit. Mail deposit to ATTN Travel Department 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 74801. If you have questions, please call 405-275-3121 and ask for travel.

Tribal members who attend are responsible for obtaining their own food, lodging and incidental expenses.



Smith family

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives and video interviews.

To highlight some of the archive's holdings, the *Hownikan* is featuring photographs and family history of every founding Citizen Potawatomi family. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830.

Countryman family beginnings

Frederic H. Countryman (Contramam) was born about 1795 and appeared on an 1823 Michilimackinac County, Michigan, voter list. He married a Potawatomi woman named *En-do-ga* and was fluent in Potawatomi. It is possible that a woman named *Doga* who appears in a George Winter watercolor sketch is actually *En-do-ga*. She was the niece of a respected Indiana Potawatomi leader named *Naswawke*. Frederic and *En-do-ga* had three daughters — Betsy, Nancy and Sarah.

They lived near Kellogg's Grove in a log cabin and a bark wigwam. He was appointed Peoria County constable in 1825 because of his established relationship among the Potawatomi.

In 1831, the Countryman family joined a large group of Potawatomi who were moving west to Paw Paw Grove. In 1834, the Potawatomi and the Countryman family were forced west again to Calhoun County, Kansas. Frederic appears in the Kansas Territory Census of 1855 and 1857. Their home was on the Potawatomi reservation south of the military road leading from Ft. Leavenworth to Ft. Riley, near Solider Creek, Kansas.

Following the 1833 treaty, the U.S. government paid Nancy, Sarah and Betsy cash grants in lieu of allotments, each for \$600.

Smith family establishes Kansas ferry

Kickapoo connections continued...

Caught in the midst of Kansas' own Civil War battles between pro and anti-slavery factions, the group finally moved to Oklahoma.

A shared legacy

The CHC's *Ancestors* portal allows Tribal members to research their families' ties within the community. Norton said the Tribal rolls from the 1872 and 1887 allotments reveal the foundation for the community that exists now in Pottawatomie County.

"We focus on Potawatomi heritage, but it's interesting to learn about the mixed ancestry of our tribal families," Norton said.

One of the world's greatest athletes is descended from the Vieux family, and shares Potawatomi and Kickapoo ancestry: Jim Thorpe.



Louisa Smith Storm Hartman (third from left) and her family. The photo was taken in about 1898 or 1899.

Nancy Countryman married Peter McClain in 1839. Together, they had Albert and Josephine. Nancy then married Andrew Johnson in 1845. They had Rachel and Matilda. Sadly, Matilda died at age 3.

Nancy later married Sidney W. Smith in 1853. Sidney had established Smith's Ferry along the Oregon Trail. The southern landing was near the Potawatomi Mission. Smith's Ferry ran for eight years, helping travelers cross the Kansas River. Sidney and Nancy had Louisa, William (Smith McLane) and Thomas. They divorced in 1860.

Sidney is then documented as remarried to Nancy in 1861. Nancy died in approximately 1876. Sidney died in May of 1887.

1887 Oklahoma allotment roll

Several of Nancy's descendants were listed on the 1887 Oklahoma allotment roll:

Josephine Smith Bourassa

Nancy's daughter Josephine married Andrew Smith in about 1860. Together, they had Martha (Mullen), Nancy (Fehlg), Frank, Zoe (Denton), Eliza (Edwards Calvin) and Sidney

Shissahecon, (*Cheshawgan*) was a prominent leader among the St. Joseph Potawatomi. His father, *Nanaquiba*, and brothers, *Topinabee* and *Chebas*, were very respected and important to tribal history as well, Norton said. It is believed that *Nanaquiba's* wife was Kickapoo.

Shissahecon's daughter, *Ches-Hawgan*, or Charlotte, married Louis Vieux, Sr., who was descended from prominent Potawatomi and Menominee families. Together, Lewis and Charlotte had Jacob Vieux, born in 1835.

Jacob Vieux married Elizabeth Goslin. Elizabeth's father, *Keoduck*, was Kickapoo. Her mother *Massaw* was considered a chieftess among the Indiana Potawatomi. *Massaw's* father, *Wassato*, was also a respected leader.

Together, Jacob and Elizabeth had Charlotte, Charles, Ellen and Mary and Angeline.

Jr. Josephine later married James Bourassa. They had a daughter named Nellie "Ellen" (Bourassa Wiley).

Frank Smith

Josephine's son was born in 1872 in Kansas. He married Sarah Cook on May 3, 1893, in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. The couple's son, Willie Bryant Smith, was born in Maud, Oklahoma, in 1898. Frank died in 1928 in Shawnee and was buried at Tecumseh Mission Cemetery.

Rachel Johnson Catick

Nancy's daughter, Rachel Catick, received an allotment in 1887 in Oklahoma. She is listed in the roll, age 39, along with her children, Louise, 19, Blanch, 6, and Benjamin, 1.

Louisa Smith Storm Hartman

Nancy's daughter married a Dr. Storm in St. Marys, Kansas. They had two daughters, May "Mary" (Hammer) in 1871, and Zoe (Whitmere) in 1874. After Dr. Storm died, Louisa then married John Hartman in 1881. Their daughter, Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Lynn) was born in 1882. Another daughter, Dora (Stewart), was born in 1884. Their

Charlotte Vieux was born in 1863. She married Hiram P. Thorpe. Together, they had twin boys: James Frances (Jim) Thorpe and Charles in 1887. Jim and Charley were originally enrolled on the Citizen Potawatomi rolls at Sacred Heart, but their father forced them to relinquish and enroll with the Sac and Fox, Norton said. Charlotte and Hiram also had Minnie, Frank, George, Mary, Adeline and Edward. The family lived near present-day Prague, Oklahoma.

While at Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, Jim discovered his athletic talents by breaking the school's high jump record and participating in Carlisle's hockey, lacrosse, ballroom dancing and football programs.

Sac and Fox tribal member and Citizen Potawatomi and Kickapoo descendant Jim Thorpe is widely recognized as one of the world's greatest athletes. He was the first Native American to earn an Olympic gold medal at the

son Thomas followed in 1886. Two daughters were also born: Nettie (Peck) in 1888 and Henriette (Beeler) in 1891.

Zoe Smith Denton

Nancy's granddaughter Zoe married Reuben Denton in 1880 at Dover, Kansas. Together, they had Minnie (Cook), Hattie (Bixby), Nellie (Allen), Pearl, Anna, Mary (Powell Devine), Ellen, Josephine (Smith), Clinton, Jesse, Leroy and Dorothy. A family history document reveals the heartbreaking loss of four daughters: Anna and Pearl, twins, who died in 1908 at age 16. Dorothy died at age 12 in 1908. Lily died at age 1 in 1908.

Zoe and Reuben enjoyed nearly 55 years of marriage. Tragically, they both died within 60 hours of one another. Reuben suffered from a stomach disorder for years. On Feb. 8, 1935, he learned that his beloved wife had suddenly died of a heart attack. The 79-year-old farmer died on Feb. 10, 1935. They were remembered by their family and loved ones during a funeral mass and buried on the same day.

Elizabeth Hartman Lynn

Nancy's granddaughter Elizabeth married Tom Lynn, and they had a son named Graydon D. Lynn. A daughter, Dora, lived to adulthood and married J.C. Stewart. They also had a daughter named Martha Louise (Green) and two sons named Lewis and Thomas. An unnamed baby died in infancy.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives and family interviews. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830. Schedule interviews online at portal.potawatomi.org. Learn more about the Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/festival, and find research resources online at potawatomiheritage.com. ♡

1912 games in Stockholm, Sweden. Following his Olympic career, he went on to become the highest paid Major League Baseball player in 1913. He became a star on Indiana's first professional football team in 1913. Jim Thorpe walked on March 28, 1953.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives and family interviews. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830. Schedule interviews online at portal.potawatomi.org. Learn more about the Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/festival, and find research resources online at potawatomiheritage.com. ♡

Get the *Hownikan* via email!

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

CPN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT

FALL 2020



1,333 FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS
\$2,633,500



304 PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS
\$238,000



1,637 TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS
\$2,871,500

SPRING 2021



1,192 FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS
\$2,315,250



310 PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS
\$227,250



1,502 TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS
\$2,542,500

TOP 10 UNIVERSITIES

University of Oklahoma	149
University of Central Oklahoma	129
Oklahoma State University	97
Oklahoma City Community College	94
Kansas State University	79
University of Kansas	61
Rose State College	59
Seminole State College	56
Oklahoma State University - OKC	51
East Central University	48

TOP 10 STATES

Oklahoma	1,244
Kansas	408
Texas	405
California	273
Missouri	124
Colorado	105
Washington	100
Florida	90
Arizona	90
Arkansas	87

SUMMER 2021



238 FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS
\$459,500



343 PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS
\$255,950



581 TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS
\$725,450

OVERALL TOTAL



3,067 FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS
\$5,408,250



957 PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS
\$721,200



4,024 TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS
\$6,139,450

VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

\$98,130 40 CPN tribal citizens awarded 55 scholarships

ADVISING

275 Advising sessions

GENDER BREAKDOWN



FEMALE
1,199



MALE
787

GRADE LEVEL DISTRIBUTION

Concurrent High School Student 128 | Undergrad Freshman 713 | Undergrad Sophomore 810
Undergrad Junior 689 | Undergrad Senior 714 | Graduate 661 | Other 44

RECOVERED FUNDS

\$228,825

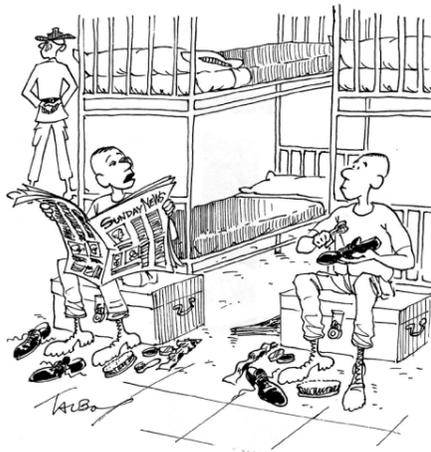
Veterans report



Bozho
(Hello),

This year has, so far, been a very difficult and unpredictable one. I hope we will be able to reach some normalcy, whatever that may be, soon. We have been plagued by illness, severe weather, the threat of a world war, and even family and close friends' deaths. We have had to cancel our monthly meetings due to weather and illness and health safety. We are trying to get back to a safe routine with regular meetings as well as Color Guard events and Honor Guard for funerals. Our socializing and representing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Veterans at public events is the purpose of our creation and existence. We have very few active members at this time, but we still manage to represent our Tribe's Veterans. All help is welcome.

With our war threats on two fronts, reminiscent of World War II, everyone is on edge about what is coming our way and how much more is it going to affect our lives. Planning for daily living has become more difficult. The media is full of information, but the information changes as quickly as our Oklahoma weather. The best advice to follow is to play each day as it happens. Like our weather, you can't change it, so you just



I KNOW IT'S SUNDAY, BUT I KEEP HAVING THE FEELING WE SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING GRUELING!

live through it and laugh. Look at each day as it happens — as a new comedy to entertain our existence. Of course, my being a cartoonist, this approach may come a little easier for me than for the average citizen, but with practice, life can be very amusing. Laughter is the best medicine for all of your fears.

Remember the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization meets each month, Lord willing, on the 4th Tuesday at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall at the CPN Powwow Grounds. All CPN Veterans and spouses and their families are welcome. I hope to see you there.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Daryl Talbot, Commander
daryl.talbot75@outlook.com
405-275-1054



A Mortgage that puts you First!



Rachel Vallandingham
Mortgage Loan Officer
NMLS# 1036288
Apply at: rachelmortgage.com

Offering Native American 184 Home Loan Program!

A mortgage process that is fast and easy. Our experienced lenders know exactly how to guide you through a purchase or re-finance.

Contact Rachel today!



130 E MacArthur, Shawnee, OK 74804 | FNBOKla.bank
NMLS# 486434 Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



Bozho nikan
(Hello, my friend),

As I talked about in my previous *Hownikan* letter, we decided that this year's Family Reunion Festival would not feature Honored Family dances but would instead feature an honoring ceremony for all our fellow Tribal members

and relatives who walked on because of the coronavirus pandemic. Many have asked the nature of these ceremonies.

There is a traditional ceremony usually done for a member of one's own family that has passed on. It is called the "Ghost Plate Supper" and is performed by the lost loved one's family. An extra place is set at the dinner table on the anniversary date, or any date chosen, of the loss. A small portion of every dish, or a small portion from everyone's plate, is placed on an empty burnable plate. A ceremonial fire is built outside and every member of the family puts tobacco on the fire. After the tobacco, the food is placed in the fire, and after it burns and a prayer or talk is said by a family spokesperson, water is poured on the fire.

The method we have chosen this year to honor the losses in many families is called a "Spirit Plate" ceremony. A burnable plate will be circulated among all the families who lost someone to coronavirus or illness this year. Each person of the mourning family will put a small bit of food on the plate, and it will be taken to the Prayer Circle down below the Sharp House and pond where the Four Day Fire for the Festival is burning. Then, I will offer a pipe prayer on everyone's behalf, and all there will offer water to the fire.

The old tradition of not dancing at the Festival in observance of the death of a spouse, parent, child or sibling has other ways of observance. Just like Lent in Christian worship, one can give up something other than dancing. You could give up

for one year any activity that is meaningful for you: food, drink, sport — anything that makes you feel like you are making a memorable sacrifice. So many of you may choose to observe this anniversary of our Tribal loss by dancing but giving up something else.

If you are not going to dance in observance of the Great Circle Journey of a loved one, when the honor song is played, stand outside the dance circle, and those dancing by will symbolically join you as they pass.

This may all seem unusual since we have never done a full Tribal ceremony of a Spirit Plate before. But all who have planned it believe it is proper and honors our loved ones now walking the dark — or "spirit

side" — of the Great Circle of Life. We hope many of you will come for the Festival for the full three days, but if you can't, please try to come to the Saturday dinner when we will do the Spirit Plate Ceremony.

The rest of the Festival will be as we have done before — games, dancing, food and lots of teaching of old Potawatomi cultural ways.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Tribal Chairman these many years. It is a great honor for me and my family.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



Bozho
(Hello),

By the time you receive this edition of the *Hownikan*, you may be contemplating whether you will attend the CPN annual Family Reunion Festival of 2022. I certainly hope you can work out arrangements to join us June 24th and 25th in Shawnee. It will be a special festival since we have missed the last two years due to the

COVID-19 threat. I applaud our employees for presenting a virtual festival both years. Employees of the Tribe's Public Information Department, Cultural Heritage Center, Language Department, Eagle Aviary, Information Technology and other employees worked diligently to provide the virtual festivals.

Unless a miracle occurs, you will experience fuel cost increases this year on your trip to Shawnee; however, I believe there are features at our festival that can offset the costs. The CPN Festival offers free food Friday evening through Saturday evening. In addition, there are free snacks and water throughout the festival. The cost of lodging in our area is less or equal to most places in our state, and less than our surrounding states. Many of you are "coming home" to relatives that might provide lodging during the festival. There are also options to camp free of charge with clean restroom facilities and

showers. The children have a variety of activities to keep them occupied, including swimming. There are kiddie rides, a petting zoo and various games to play. Overall, the fuel costs can be negated due to the amenities that are provided at the festival.

Many of our local residents have now attended their first Potawatomi Fire basketball games. I have enjoyed the last two home games. If you like basketball, the Fire can be as exciting as any team you will encounter. The team is a huge draw for basketball fans to experience. I have even purchased a Potawatomi Fire sweatshirt with my favorite mascot on the front. The mascot is a wolf named Mo, short for the Potawatomi word, *mo'ewé*. The games are a lot of fun with entertainment for children and adults alike.

I want to include a short paragraph about CPN Care.

An ad on page nine of this edition of the *Hownikan* briefly describes the program. CPN Care can be a tremendous benefit to our enrolled Potawatomi citizens. I believe this is especially true for those that do not have access to Indian Health Service or Tribal operated health facilities, and do not have medical health coverage; however, all our citizens can potentially benefit from the program. There is no charge for CPN Care to our Tribal members. Please take note of this main message about the program. I realize there are members that do not know as much about computers as their younger counterparts. This is why CPN and the provider, Call A Doctor Plus, will be working on a paper application that can be used to enroll in the CPN Care program. You must be patient because it may take a few weeks, but it will be another avenue for those that do not

have access to a computer to be able to enroll with the program.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts about what I consider important to our CPN members.

In closing, I have received cards, emails and texts from many Tribal members expressing their sympathy toward my daughter's passing on March 15. My deepest appreciation goes out to those that sent messages. Life presents new challenges each day, and we must be strong in our faith to accept the trials.

My best to you,

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



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION TRIBAL ROLLS

The Tribal Rolls Department is responsible for determining eligibility for Tribal enrollment, burial insurance, and Tribal ID cards, and assists with genealogical and historical research. The department is also responsible for maintaining and updating the computer membership list, utilizing Tribal membership information for various types of census data, and creating the voter eligibility lists in the direction of the Secretary-Treasurer for the CPN Election Commission's Secretary-Treasurer.

TO ENROLL OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Visit portal.potawatomi.org

District 1 – Alan Melot



Bozho jayék
(Hello everyone),

We are fresh off of our recent legislative session, and I continue to be glad that I get to travel to Shawnee, Oklahoma, to make those meetings in person. It is always a pleasure to meet with the other legislators, our Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer.

Among other things, we discussed the Bourbonnais Cabin that is on the grounds of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center and things that need to happen to continue to preserve it for future generations to appreciate. I'm glad that we are able to preserve historic objects like this; while it bears the name of one founding family, we can all be proud of this shared history and know that it represents all of us.

I spent some time on this trip visiting the final resting places

of my ancestors who have walked on as well as the site of the original Melot cabin near Wanette, Oklahoma. Tradition in my family is that Joe Melot led the first group of Potawatomi from Kansas to the Shawnee area after he returned from a trip to scout out the area and break a trail. Land allotments were underway, and he built a small cabin on his allotment that the family stayed in while they constructed the larger cabin. Once the larger cabin was complete, the smaller cabin was used for storage for grain, extras and visitors. The smaller cabin is still standing, though much worse for the wear, and is (to my knowledge) the first cabin built in CPN territory. I think that's pretty cool, and I spent some time reflecting on our family history and what it means to me.

An important part of being in the Melot family is being a good storyteller, and we have a long tradition that one should never let the truth get in the way of a good story. A story my Grandpa Melot told one of the last times I saw him was about going coon hunting with a couple of hound dogs he had traded for — dogs he was pretty proud of. He was well into his 80s and still tough as nails. Grandpa grabbed a gun, herded his prized hounds into a pickup and rambled off to the bottoms on their old farm one evening when it was getting dark. It wasn't too long until the



Original Melot cabin built in 1868.

hounds got on a coon, and then the race was on. Sure enough, they got it treed, and Grandpa and his flashlight caught up to where they were. The coon was in the dense part of a smallish cedar tree in the middle of a field, and Grandpa couldn't see it well enough to shoot at it. He thought maybe he could give the tree a shake and make the coon move, so he waded into the cedar boughs, getting all scratched up in the process. When Grandpa gave the tree a shake, it broke... which left the coon no place to be, so it bailed out. With hounds barking all around, the coon had to find a place to go. Having just broken the only tree in the field, Grandpa was now the tallest thing around, a realization that Grandpa and the coon came to at the same time. At this point, things turned dramatically for

the worse, and the coon ran up Grandpa's leg, scaled his torso and knocked off his hat while climbing right up onto his head. Grandpa panicked, as one would, and tossed his flashlight in one direction and gun in another when the coon cranked his claws into Grandpa's old bald head. The hounds were still in full bay and were pleased as punch that they had treed the coon again and jumped on Grandpa from every direction. Grandpa already had his hands full trying to dislodge the coon from his head, so he had to kick at the dogs with his feet, and the whole thing turned into a silly jig in the moonlight with blood and fur and feet and hands and hounds and — finally — a raccoon flying everywhere. Grandpa grabbed his light and his gun and hoofed it to the truck as



Detail of Melot cabin corner with full dovetail notch.

fast as he could and never saw the coon or dogs again. That was the last time he went coon hunting, and he laughed and laughed when he told the story.

I hope to hear your stories and learn your history. If you have a good story, shoot me an email and share it with me!

It's an honor to be your legislator, and I continue to ask for your prayers.

Iw
(That's all),

Alan Melot
Legislator, District 1
608 S. Sergeant
Joplin, MO 64801
417-312-3307
alan.melot@potawatomi.org

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho jayek
(Hello everybody)!

Clearwater meeting on Saturday, April 28

Since your addresses are not made available to us legislators, the heatmap we are provided is the best means I have to identify District 2 population centers for meeting planning. The heatmap indicates that lots of Potawatomi live on Florida's west coast — and that is where I am hosting our first District 2 in-person meeting since the pandemic began. I hope we will have a good turnout for our Saturday, April 28 gathering at Moccasin Lake Park in Clearwater, Florida. Please get your RSVPs in by April 21. I would appreciate your letting me

know your Potawatomi family/heritage name and the number of folks you are bringing along, and ages if under 12. You do not need to have received a mailed postcard invitation to attend, but you do need to RSVP. Details on location, time and how to RSVP are on the postcard pictured here.

Beware romance scams

During Valentine's week, many media outlets covered the Federal Trade Commission's recent report on romance scams. The report notes that while some folks find lasting love through online sites like Facebook or Instagram, people have reported losing a staggering \$1.3 billion to romance scams over the last five years, more than any other FTC fraud category. The report is worthwhile reading. It offers the following suggestions for spotting scammers when looking for romance online:

- Nobody legitimate will ever ask you to help by sending cryptocurrency, giving the numbers on a gift card or by wiring money. Anyone who does is a scammer.
- Never send or forward money to someone you haven't met in person, and don't act on their investment advice.

CPN District 2 Family Meeting and Lunch

April 30, 2022
11am-2pm

Moccasin Lake Environmental Education Center
2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, FL 33759

with Rep.
Eva Marie Carney

We will meet in the Classroom. Please park in the lot at the far eastern end of the park. The Classroom is between this parking lot and the Turtle Pond (be on the lookout for Turtle Pond signs – and turtles.)

Come to learn about Tribal traditions and CPN developments and programs available to you as citizens, and to enjoy the company of other Citizen Potawatomi. A lunch will be served, so please RSVP!

RSVP by April 23 to ecarney@potawatomi.org, evamariocarney@gmail.com or by calling 1-866-961-6988

- Talk to friends or family about a new love interest, and pay attention if they're concerned.
- Try a reverse-image search of profile pictures. If the details don't match up, it's a scam.

Please cut off all communication if you have any doubts!

The report ends with the request to help stop scammers by (1) reporting suspicious profiles or messages to the dating app or social media platform and (2) telling the FTC about your

experience at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identity-theft/identity-theft-reporting). If you can, please share these suggestions with your loved ones.

COVID-19 test ordering

When I started this column in early March, nearly half of the 500 million free at-home COVID-19 tests available from the federal government have not been claimed. "Every home is eligible," according to the website [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov), which urges all to "order your tests now so you have them when you need them." With

masks no longer mandated most anywhere, testing is becoming more important. While awaiting publication of this column, the White House announced that now everyone can order a second set of tests to supplement your earlier order — and those of you who haven't ordered yet can catch up! To order online, you need to provide your first and last name and a shipping address; you will get 2 boxes in the mail — a total of 4 tests if you ordered tests earlier; if you are just getting your order in,

you will get 4 boxes — a total of 8 tests. If you need help placing an order for the tests (which will be delivered by the postal service), you can call 1-800-232-0233. If you have family and friends who could use your help in ordering these free tests, please give them a hand.

Celebrating Kiwezi's birthday

Please join me in celebrating the 96th birthday of Robert (Bob) Pearl (*Kiwezi*) in May! You can mail me a note or a card for him or share an email greeting with me and I will collect all the good wishes and get them to him. My mailing and email address are at the end of this column. *Kiwezi* is a sweet gentleman with a lot of energy and enthusiasm. I have enjoyed getting to know him at various gatherings. He can outdance many younger men at any powwow!

The Kwek Society in the news; traditional teachings about moon time

The Daily Yonder recently reported on The Kwek Society's work to address period

poverty across Native North America. You can read the piece, *Providing Access to Period Supplies in Indian Country*, at cpn.news/periodsupplies. The coverage prompted The Roundhouse Foundation, based in Oregon, to provide us substantial funding to expand our reach to the Pacific Northwest. Currently, we are supporting students and community members in 75 schools and organizations in 10 states (Alaska, Arizona, Iowa, Maine, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota and Wyoming) with menstrual hygiene supplies and puberty education materials. Close to CPN's reservation lands, we support middle school and high school students attending the Shawnee Public Schools, the students at Pleasant Grove School in Shawnee, and the students participating in the Chapter Houses operated by Community Renewal of Pottawatomie County. We also support students attending Oklahoma City Public Schools and the Mason and Nowata Public Schools. We have offered to get our moon time bags (cloth



Bob Pearl being recognized during Family Festival.

bags sewn by friends around the country, filled with period pads and liners), to the CPN's House of Hope residents, Indian Child Welfare (ICW) and Women, Infant and Children's program clients, among other who the CPN assists. (We are waiting for responses on those offers.)

I am doing this work separately from my CPN legislative work

and am not doing it alone! Other Citizen Potawatomi *kwek* (women) serve on the board of directors, namely, Linda Arredondo (OK), Kim Chatfield Pratt (VA), Susie Howard (NH), Kathy Meacham Webb (TN), Paige Willett (OK) and Tesia Zientek (OK). Winona Elliott, a Potawatomi and Ojibway *kwe* from Neyaashiinigiing First Nation located on the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, Canada, also serves on the board. We have been buoyed by the interest and support of many Potawatomi and Anishnabe family and friends, including Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, who has conveyed to the directors of the CPN programs identified above our offer to support clients with our supplies. And in early March we got more good news — an annual pledge of \$5,000 per year from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation!

A critical part of our mission is to educate the public, including the young people we serve, about periods as a time for celebration. One way we do that is to share beautiful and empowering traditional stories about

menstruation, often referred to in many Native American cultures as "moon time."

I hope you will explore our website at kweksociety.org and read and share the traditional stories posted there. If you have a traditional story not shared on the site, we would love to hear it. Please share it with me or another board member. If you know of a school or organization with a substantial Indigenous population that can use the support we offer, please put us in touch. We need to keep expanding so that students and community members do not miss school or risk their health or dignity because they cannot afford menstrual hygiene products.

Thank you for the honor of representing you.

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe (Blue Bird Woman)
Legislator, District 2
5877 Washington Boulevard
PO Box 5591
Arlington, VA 22205
866-961-6988 toll-free
ecarney@potawatomi.org
evamariocarney.com

District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

Voting

One thing that I believe is important to all of us is voting, which was a point in my article last month. After a vote has taken place that we didn't partake in and we are stunned with the results, do we want to say "*je ezhewebek*" (what happened)? In our last Tribal election in June 2021, there was about an overall 7.5 percent participation in the election of our Chairman and others. In the most recent Texas primary election on March 1, there was only an 18 percent vote participation to determine who will be on the November national election ballot.

On May 7, many Texas cities will vote on city items and council members and/or their mayor. Then the runoff election is held on May 24 for candidates in the November election of state representatives. Historically in run-off elections, the voter turnout is roughly half of those who initially voted. Citizen Potawatomi Nation will be holding an election on June 25 on the budget for Texas.

Districts 5, 6, 7 and 8 will vote on both the proposed budget and their district representative. All other districts, including Oklahoma, will vote on the budget that encompasses funding for the Family Reunion Festival, district meetings, Rural Water District 3 and more.

For those in the following states, your preliminary elections in May determine who your party representatives will be in the November election. Your state name and election day are: Alabama (May 24), Arkansas (May 24), Georgia (May 24), Idaho (May 17), Indiana (May 3), Kentucky (May 17), Nebraska (May 10), North Carolina (May 17), Ohio (May 3), Oregon (May 17), Pennsylvania (May 17) and West Virginia (May 10).

Repeating, in Texas, the next most important election dates are May 1, May 24 and June 25. Please vote. That way you can answer the question, "What happened?"

Potawatomi Fire

On March 4, I had the opportunity to attend our Tribe's professional basketball team's first game of the opening season, playing the Rockwall 7ers in Royce City, Texas, which is just east of Rockwall. Rockwall is a city of around 45,000 people about 20 miles east of Dallas. Our team had quite a challenge and started the game with a 6-point lead in the first five minutes. They never lost the lead but did get down at one time to just a 2-point advantage. The final score on March 4 was 112 to 104. A very nice victory. Our team will meet the Rockwall 7ers



Potawatomi Fire head coach Derrick Rowland speaks to the team during their game against the Rockwall 7ers on March 4, 2022.

again several times this season, both at our FireLake Arena in Shawnee and at their facility in the Rockwall area. For those of you that live in North Texas, I hope to see you at the game on May 15 at 4 p.m. in the Royce City High School gym. Admission for adults is \$15 and seniors \$10. I'm not sure of the admission for students and children. The Potawatomi Fire will have a 24-game season, playing in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. If you are unable to attend the games they are broadcast on tbltv.tv/fire. Do not add in the "www" when typing in the web address. There is a charge for the service to see all of the games that Potawatomi Fire plays. Once on the site, you click on the blue "Start Watching" button. The Fire team pass is \$47.89 for the full season. The pass should allow access to the game being live streamed and for three days of replay access. At the game, I sat with our Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett. I have included a photo of coach Derrick Rowland

briefing our team during a time-out break. The team has a real challenge in playing their first five games on the road.

Language

While in Shawnee to attend the March legislative meeting, I happened to meet with our language department director, Justin Neely. He presented me with a new language item by Ragan Marsee, who is a very

good artist and just created a book in English and Potawatomi for all ages. It is one of 12 to be created under a grant that staff was awarded. The book *Chicken Little* was a sight to behold when I first saw it. A photo of the cover accompanies my article. I was gifted six advance copies of the book to give to members of District 3. I will send these books to the first six District 3 Tribal members who send me a request for the book.

Justin advised that after they have a couple more of the books created and produced, he will be putting out a notice that they are available and may be mailed to you. So, look for that announcement so you may submit a request.

Our language department consists of a staff who collectively creates great art and mixed media options in concert with basic educational tools to learn Potawatomi and much about your family roots. I urge you to use this great resource to learn our language and limit missing out on your culture and heritage.



Chicken Little in English and Potawatomi is one of 12 books being produced by the CPN Language department.

ARPA money

At our March legislative meeting, the ARPA funds distribution was discussed. The Tribe allocated \$50,841,000 in ARPA funds to 36,315 eligible Tribal members. Of that number, only 30,625 Tribal members applied for and received that benefit. In District 3, 2,605 eligible Tribal members received their \$1,400.

Keep in mind that you had to be officially enrolled as a Tribal member before Feb. 1, 2022, to be eligible. We did have applications for membership prior to that date, but it takes around six weeks to process applicants, and then they are voted on for approval at the next legislative meeting. Our last regular legislative meeting was held in December 2021. The Chairman called a special

meeting to vote in applicants that Tribal Rolls had validated in January 2022. That meant that Tribal Rolls for ARPA funds ended on that date. In looking at the final eligibility versus applicant, there are still over 5,000 Tribal members who are eligible for the \$1,400. So, if you didn't receive a check for \$1,400 and believe you are eligible, please read more at cpn.news/ARPA.

I am here to be your voice, so contact me if there is anything Tribally where I may be of help. Just go onto my website at cpndistrict3.com to send me a note. You can also request a copy of *Chicken Little* there while available. I am honored to serve you and thank you, migwetch, for this opportunity.

Nagech
(Later),

Bob Whistler
Bmashi (He Soars)
Legislator, District 3
112 Bedford Road, Suite 116
Bedford, TX 76022
817-229-6271 cell
rwhistler@potawatomi.org
cpn3legislator@yahoo.com
cpndistrict3.com

District 4 – Jon Boursaw

Bozho
(Hello),

Native American exhibits at Old Prairie Town in Topeka, Kansas

It has been a year since I first mentioned in my article that I was asked to participate with the board of directors for Old Prairie Town in Topeka to add several Native American exhibits to their current display of various buildings depicting an early Kansas town. Currently, these include a small-frame church, one-room school, general store, early drug store, blacksmith shop and a small-town train station. The Old Prairie Town is located on the grounds of the historic Ward-Meade house, one of the earliest homes in Topeka. The board of directors was very interested in adding Native American exhibits to represent the tribes that at one time lived on or near the current location of Old Prairie Town. This includes the Prairie Band Potawatomi, Kanza or Kaw, Delaware, Shawnee and Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The project is nearing completion, and

when finished, it will include a wigwam, 16 ft. diameter medicine wheel, small prayer circle and traditional garden area. The medicine wheel will be outlined with appropriately colored rocks depicting the four directions and contain the four appropriate plants: sweetgrass, cedar, tobacco and sage. A group of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation ladies have volunteered to plant and raise several traditional foods in the garden. I recently completed a narrative telling the history of the Native American tribes who lived in the area up until the early 1800s as well as the history of those tribes who were forcibly relocated to the area a few decades later. This narrative will be used to create the signage in the exhibit area.

2022 CPN Family Reunion Festival

Plans are well underway to hold the Family Reunion Festival as scheduled. The dates are Friday, June 24 to Sunday, June 26. A decision has been made not to recognize honored families this year but rather recognize those Tribal members who were lost as victims of COVID.

Upcoming CPN Elders Potlucks

The dates for the next two Elder Potlucks held in CPN Community Center in Rossville, Kansas are:

- April 8: Baked ham and mashed potatoes RSVP by the 5th
- May 13: Menu, to be determined RSVP by the 10th

Come join us and bring your favorite side dish or dessert. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Tracy or Brenda at 785-584-6171. Masks are not required but highly recommended.

Joint meeting for Districts 1 and 4

Alan Melot, the District 1 legislator, and I have decided to hold a joint meeting in the Kansas City area in the fall. The date and location have not been finalized. I'll keep you posted.

Uniontown Cemetery restoration

Dr. Kelli Mosteller, Director of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center, has submitted a grant application to the U.S. National Park Service Tribal Preservation Division, which if approved would provide funding for the restoration of the Uniontown Cemetery. These funds are available to assist with the preservation of sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This cemetery is on the list of such sites in Kansas. This funding would enable us to remove and rebuild the stone wall around the Bourassa family burial site located in the middle of the cemetery. Before the wall is replaced, Dr. Blair Schneider would be able to conduct a ground-penetrating radar survey of that area to determine the location of the actual gravesites. In addition, the existing grave markers would be cleaned, repaired or replaced if necessary. This funding would also enable us to have signage telling the story of Uniontown and the cemetery.

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

As I'm typing this, it is snowing in Topeka, but we all know that spring is coming. That normally is the beginning of tornado season. Obviously, none of us want to experience going through and recovering from a tornado. We all need to take that extra effort now and be prepared just in case. In previous years, I have furnished a long list of items that you should have securely stored away in case your home is hit by a tornado, but this year, I have only included a few small items you may have overlooked. The following list is far from including many of the items that you may or should have in your emergency kit, but rather it is a simple list of those important items you will need.

- Toilet paper
- Dog leash(es)
- Sturdy shoes and a change of clothes (Remember: you may be in your PJs when it hits.)
- Towels and soap, extra toothbrushes and paste
- Battery powered radio and lots of extra batteries
- Flashlights, several and lots of extra batteries—all necessary sizes
- Wear glasses? Extra pairs in your kit for all family members
- Cell phone charging cords, in case you have power

- Prescriptions/other meds, seven-day supply, and a list of prescriptions for first responders
- A small amount of cash and/or extra credit card in case you lose your wallet
- Copies of driver's licenses, IDs and medical insurance cards
- Backpacks or bags to carry all of this in case you need to evacuate

Honored to serve you

It is an honor to serve you as your district legislator. I appreciate hearing from CPN members in Kansas, whether in the form of a letter, email, phone call or in the office. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to you. If you are not receiving emails from me, it is because I do not have your current email address or what I have is incorrect. All you need to do is send me your email address, and I will enter you into my District 4 information file. My contact information is listed below.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Jon Boursaw,
Wetase Mkoh (Brave Bear)
Legislator, District 4
2007 SW Gage Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66604
785-861-7272 office
785-608-1982 cell
jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
Office hours:
9-11 a.m. Tuesdays
3-5 p.m. Thursdays
Other times: please call

District 5 – Gene Lambert

Bozho
(Hello),

Time has acquired wings, I guess it is safe to say.

Friday, April 1, 2022, was April Fools' Day, so I hope you remembered to wear green and not get caught in some elaborate scheme at your expense. It is all in fun, but sometimes they become a bit much. It does dance in the 4th month of 2022, but who is counting? Me!

Our world has changed, and we need to change with it as long as it does not impinge on our personal and social integrity. The young will have new ideas while the mature will hold the stability intact as we grow in the times.

Many shifts have occurred in the past few years, both positive and negative, depending on

your personal compass, politics, religion and what you hold dear.

There are many wonderful things occurring in the world, but you don't get to hear about them as the drama seems to outweigh them in the news.

However, I would like to talk about the appointment President Joe Biden made a few months back as the Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, the nation's first Native American cabinet secretary, took office. I mentioned her a few articles back. What an asset for our Native people.

I have been doing a lot of research on what she is

supporting and her priorities as we go forward.

It does make a difference when you have someone in office that has walked the walk and lived the life of our Indigenous people.

While all of the United States will benefit from the efforts made, the West appears to be of special interest given the present water shortages and land disputes.

One of Secretary Haaland priorities, which you may be aware of or not, includes changing the derogatory Native American names labeling various federal lands.

Arizona was challenged several years ago to change the name from Sq**w Peak. (I leave out the complete word as requested by Secretary Haaland.) If you keep saying it, it will never go away.

The name of our magnificent mountain admired by many was changed to Piestewa Peak to acknowledge the first Native American female soldier who was killed in combat in the Iraq War.

The average person did not realize what the original name meant, and the time allotted for change so there was a lot of controversy. John J. Goldman wrote for the *Los Angeles Times*:

Advocates said the decision to honor Army Pfc. Lori Ann Piestewa, a Hopi, who was slain in a firefight after members of the Army's 507th Ordnance Maintenance Company made a wrong turn and were ambushed March 23 near Nasiriya, also was designed to remove a name many Native Americans found derogatory.

...

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano had lobbied hard for the name change.

...

The Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names voted 5 to 1 (in April 2003) for the change, but its decision was not without controversy.

The board erased the customary waiting period of five years before a landmark can be officially renamed.

"There is no disrespect meant to Private 1st Class Piestewa by my vote on the board," said Lloyd Clark, an historian, who was the only member to cast the dissenting vote. "It did not follow our practice over many years of waiting five years for a person to be deceased before we could accept an application."

...

Richard Pinkerton, another board member, resigned in protest before the meeting held in the former Supreme Court chambers at the Arizona state Capitol tower.

...

(Arizona State University geography professor Martin J.) Pasqualetti said that before casting his vote with the majority, he did extensive research and found "there are few hard and fast laws that govern the naming of individual landmarks. They are largely policies."

"Changing it from Sq**w ... is a proper move. It is an appropriate change," he said. "Secondly, this woman was singular in her sacrifice."

Governor Janet Napolitano argued and fought for the name change and concurrently argued that the five-year application process be waived. And so it was! She plead that we will never have another opportunity to name the first Native American woman who lost her life in a military battle. That was back in April of 2003. This has been an ongoing issue for decades.

We are pleased that over 600 derogatory names on Federal lands will be renamed and that an advisory board has been organized to complete the project.

While 600 names and their locations would be space consuming, you can Google the issue and it is listed. In a November 2021 press release from the Department of the Interior, Secretary Haaland declared the pejorative term "sq**w" to be derogatory. It also noted the newly created Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force will follow procedures to remove the term from federal usage.

Under SO 3404, the Task Force will recommend replacements for more than 660 geographic features to the BGN in a matter of months, starting from a list of five candidate names for each individual feature. This process stands to significantly advance and accelerate the name change process across the nation.

Tribal consultations and public comment period announced in the Federal Register today will give the Task Force the chance to seek additional candidate names and feedback from Tribes and the public. The Task Force will prioritize these names in its review and provide a final recommendation for the BGN to vote on when it convenes later this year.

It is my understanding this time period continues to the end of April 2022. Any communication directed to the Secretary should be addressed "Madam Secretary," or, more formally, "the honorable Secretary Deb Haaland" (Department of the Interior, of course). I was always taught you address with title and last name unless the person gives you the first name in an introduction, in which case you can use the first name in conversation. That is, unless you want to create distance in the conversation and then continue with title and last name. Please advise if you want to add something to this.

You may want to make a contribution to naming federal land or landmarks if

you have an issue no matter what state you live in.

I think most states have such issues as you go back in history. This would not be limited to Native Americans, rather any derogatory term used in connection to other cultures as the incarceration of the Japanese, etc. Let's get rid of the ugly is the point.

From the Department of Interior's website: "The Department of the Interior manages public lands and minerals, national parks, and wildlife refuges and upholds Federal trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and Native Alaskans. Additionally, the Interior is responsible for endangered species conservation and other environmental conservation efforts."

These are all issues particularly involving most Native American communities.

This lady is the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet Secretary and a member of the Pueblo of Laguna. She proudly calls herself a 35th generation New Mexican. She was from a military family and a single mother. Secretary Haaland put herself through school living paycheck to paycheck and utilizing food stamps to get by at times. She received her bachelor's degree in English and later J.D. from University of New Mexico Law school.

It was commented that she is still paying student loans.

I found that interesting in her position.

Haaland created her own successful business canning Pueblo Salsa. After running for New Mexico Lieutenant Governor in 2014, Secretary Haaland became the first Native American woman to be elected to lead a state party. She is one of the first Native American women to serve in Congress. In Congress, she focused on environmental justice, climate change, missing and murdered Indigenous women, and family-friendly policies.

I take the time to write about her and her accomplishments to encourage especially Native American single moms who are in difficult situations. No one said it would be easy, and I will admit she is extraordinary.

What an example and how fortunate for us she is Native American.

Take care of yourselves, and let me know if there is any way I can be of assistance to you and your family. Please remember we will be having the Festival this year, and I look forward to seeing all of you. Make your plans now!

Love you all,

Eunice Imogene Lambert
Butterfly Woman
Legislator, District 5
270 E Hunt Highway, Ste 229
San Tan Valley, AZ 85143
480-228-6569
uniceilambert@gmail.com

District 6 – Rande K. Payne



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

I hope all is well with you wherever you may be. As we continue to navigate our way through the pandemic, let us not lose heart that this too shall pass. Hopefully, we are on the downhill side of things as we see positive changes indicating that we are moving toward life as we knew it prior to COVID-19.

If you haven't already done so, I would strongly encourage you to enroll in CPN Care. It is a free telehealth program available to Tribal members

and certain members of their families. The enrollment process is straightforward and fairly easy to navigate. Simply go to portal.potawatomi.org and create an account, or log in if you already have one to start the process. Click on the "Tribal Rolls" link then select "CPN Virtual Care Instructions" for how to enroll. Services include general telemedicine with actual doctors, life assistance counseling, pharmacy discount services and help with negotiating down the cost of larger doctor bills from outside of the CPN Care program. This program makes sense even for Tribal members with health insurance. In person doctor visits can be difficult and have limited hours of service. CPN Care is available 24/7 from the comfort of your home. Please let me know if you need help enrolling or have questions about the program.

In case you haven't already heard, Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee, Oklahoma, is back and in person this summer. Instead of our traditional honored families, we will be remembering Tribal members

that have walked on due to COVID-19. Details are in the works with more information to follow at a later date. This year's Festival runs June 24 through 26.

The 2022 Potawatomi Gathering is being hosted by the Hannahville Indian Community in Wilson, Michigan. It runs from July 25 through July 30. Lodging is scarce in the area so if you are thinking about attending, it would be wise to find accommodations soon. More information is available on the Hannahville website at hannahville.net. They are advising to find them on Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

Every five years the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association does a caravan to commemorate the 1838 forced removal of the Potawatomi from Indiana to Kansas. I have yet to participate in one of the caravans, but it is on my bucket list. 2023 just might be the year. George Godfrey, president of the association, sent out this notification and invitation to participate in the caravan:

The Potawatomi Trail of Death Association is planning a caravan to commemorate the 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi from Indiana. The caravan will start Sept. 18, 2023 (Monday), at Menominee's statue (Twin Lakes, Indiana) and end Sept. 23, 2023 (Saturday), at the Sugar Creek Mission site located in the Saint Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park in east central Kansas.

Please consider this as an invitation to join the caravan. Your presence would be an honor. While your duties may preclude the entire week of participation, you may wish to be at the closing ceremony in the afternoon of Sept. 23, 2023, at the Sugar Creek site. At this early date, I do not know what other Potawatomi leaders or Kansas State officials will be present.

The early date of this invitation is being sent to help you consider the above. I will advise you when plans for the commemorative caravan are finalized.

As opportunities arise, please let others know about the 2023 Commemorative Caravan.

I will keep you posted as more information becomes available. You can visit the website at potawatomi-tda.org for extensive information about the Potawatomi Trail of Death.

Words of Wisdom: "The more interested you are, the more interesting you become."

Wisdom from the Word: "And we urge you, brothers and sisters, admonish the undisciplined, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient toward all." 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Word of the Month: *mnokme* — spring it is

Migwetch! Bama pi
(Thank you! Later),

Rande K. Payne
Mnedo Gabo
Legislator, District 6
31150 Road 180
Visalia, CA 93292-9585
559-999-3525 office
559-999-5411 cell
rande.payne@potawatomi.org
randepayne@comcast.net

District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

As I said last month, planning is underway, and the Family Reunion Festival is rapidly approaching. This year's dates are June 24th–26th,

and as always, will be held in Shawnee, Oklahoma. The normal Honored Families will not be held for 2022; instead, we will honor all those Tribal members lost during the coronavirus pandemic. Native American communities across the country suffered a disproportionate loss during this pandemic. The legislators and executives recognized the loss and the need to hold up our families who have been impacted by this terrible pandemic. If you and your family can attend the last weekend in June, there will be many cultural activities, including Grand Entry, where we will dance to honor those lost, and the General Council meeting. The Tribal elections are decided during the Family Reunion Festival. In-person

voting is available for those who attend and didn't request an absentee ballot or did not bring their ballot with them, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday in the Tribal courtroom at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation administration building. 2022 is an election year for District 7. Please take the time to make your voice heard. Return your request for an absentee ballot and please take the time to vote when it arrives. If you plan on attending with other family members, please let me know if you would like to be part of the District 7 handgames team on Friday evening.

Sign up now for CPN Care. This new benefit is available to you and your family, including non-Native children under 18 years old and non-Native

spouses. It will take two to three days for your account to become active, so sign up now before you need it at 2 a.m. It is no cost to you and your family to join. Besides being able to talk to a doctor 24/7/365 for general telemedicine, there is also life assistance and pharmacy discount services. Sign up, even if you have good insurance. It may come in handy in the middle of the night when your regular doctor is not available. Read more at cpn.news/CPNCare.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 Legislator. 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 that you are entitled to. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and District.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Mark Johnson
Wisk Mtek (Strong as a Tree)
Legislator, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611
559-351-0078 cell
mark.johnson@potawatomi.org

District 8 – Dave Carney



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Spring and Easter are right around the corner! I've got daffodils and other bulbs popping up in beds around my home promising better weather soon. In the next week or so of writing this column, mask mandates will be lifted, and hopefully, life will be getting back to normal. In that spirit, I am planning an outside gathering at the

CPN District 8 Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 28 | NOON TO 3PM

REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX - SHELTER C
8345 Steilacoom Rd SE, Olympia, WA 98513

Come cook-out with us!
All food provided (bring a dessert to share)
Art contest | prizes for youngest & wisest | updates & speakers
Lots of parking and play structure for kids in line of sight

RSVP BY MAY 20
to dcarney@potawatomi.org
(please include number of people attending)



end of May. Several years ago, I had an outdoor cookout at beginning of May and was treated to shower bursts. We will see how the weather for this event goes.

Please note that there will be an art contest at this event. All art must have a Native American theme, and there will be three categories: fine art, crafts, and 16 and under.

Artists must also agree that a photo of their submission may be published in the *Hownikan*.

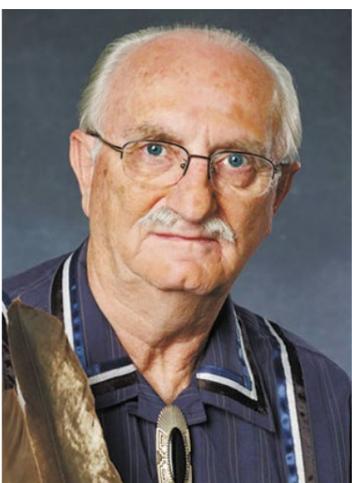
One very positive development is the progress made on a

project that has been in the planning for over a decade. That is a columbarium for cremated remains of Tribal members. A designer has been approved, drawings made and a contractor hired. This is great news as more and more of us are making the decision for cremation. Each niche will have enough space for a member and a significant other. You'll be hearing more about this in the months to come.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve you as your legislator.

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

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Arrows to atoms

We have come a long way from arrows to atoms, from a primal tribe along southern Lake Michigan in the 1800s to the marvels of science and technology of the 21st Century.

Our ancestors were confronted with a difficult life or death decision. We could have either stood our ground, protected our homeland and warred against the enemy, or we could have survived and thrived in a place of their choosing. We resisted, we fought but it was futile. We lost our land, but we refused to perish.

Had our chiefs and leaders decided to fight to the death,

our Tribe would have been virtually obliterated. There probably would not have been a Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquartered at 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive.

It's a terrible lesson learned by not just North American Indians, but people and tribes in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe. The aggressors who are more numerous, brutal and furnished with the most lethal battlefield apparatuses rule the land. That is a brute historical fact. Native Americans were at a clear disadvantage. Arrows and tomahawks were no match for rifles and cannons.

Some critics, including Native Americans, insist that because Indians were wronged, they should have done the noble thing — fight until death. "Give me liberty or give me death." Choosing death and the likely liquidation of one's tribe would not have been a noble act. It would have been a disastrous decision. Potawatomi wisely chose to survive and thrive, and that we have done.

Now, we are a great Tribal nation of over 30,000 members with a thriving culture, a constitutional government and a prosperous economy. We not only survived but also thrived. Our nobility

lies in the realization that we are a people well prepared to contribute significantly not only to our culture, government, economy and nation, but also to the culture, government, economy and nation outside of our jurisdiction.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft
Naganit (Leader)
Legislator, District 9
reppaul@gmail.com
pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org

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

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

District 10 – David Barrett



Bozho
(Hello),

Bill Wano (secretary of the CPN Veterans Organization) and I (treasurer of the CPN Veterans Organization) attended the presentation of a quilt to Don Anderson, one of the longtime members of our veterans organization. It was held at his home with his wife, Kay, and family and friends in Norman, Oklahoma, on Feb. 21, 2022. Don joined the Air Force in 1956, and after boot camp, he was stationed in Newfoundland, Canada for 18 months. After being discharged, Don went into the Oklahoma National Guard at Will Rogers Airport as a flight engineer on the C-97, C-124 and C-130. He said his platoon “hailed cargo and troops when and where needed.”

Above all, allow me to list his ribbons: National Defense Service Ribbon, Basic Military Training Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, Vietnam Service Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon.



Janet Hart and Sharon Reid from Quilts of Valor's Group 586 Sew Random Quilters in Oklahoma City present Don Anderson with a quilt for his service. (Photo by Andrew Anderson)

Catherine Roberts began the Quilts of Valor Foundation in 2003 after she had a dream one night while her son was deployed in Iraq. From the Quilts of Valor Foundation website:

“The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing,” Roberts wrote.

“Not everyone answers the call to serve our country,” QOVF Executive Director Lori Thompson wrote. “It is those rare individuals who are selfless enough to sacrifice so much so

we can enjoy the freedom we have. We'll never know exactly what each Veteran experiences and how they are touched by war. But we can welcome our Veterans home, support them and their families, and thank them for their service whenever possible.”

The U.S. Military Oath of Enlistment states, “I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.”

“All enemies, foreign and domestic. These Veterans vowed to lay down their lives for you and me, no questions asked. We cannot judge what being ‘touched by war’ means to a Veteran. It will be different for each one, no matter where or when they served,” said QOVF Former Executive Director Ann Rehbein.

Debbie Bass is one of Oklahoma's state coordinators for this foundation. Quilts that have been awarded to veterans so far have comforted 297,270.



(Front) Areta Blooding-Laird and Don Anderson (back, left to right) Dan Glenn, Bill Wano, Mark Holderbaum, Legislator David Barrett and Chester Warner (Photo by Andrew Anderson)

The ladies that presented the quilt were Janet Hart and Sharon Reid from the group (586).

If you have a Veteran that you would like to receive a quilt, go online to Quilts of Valor and fill out an application, or contact Sew Random Quilters in Oklahoma City. QOVF is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit foundation.

“I knew a Quilt of Valor had to be a quality-made quilt, not a ‘charity quilt,’” Roberts wrote. “A Quilt of Valor had to be quilted, not tied, which meant hand or machine quilting. It would be ‘awarded,’ not just passed out like magazines or videos, and would say unequivocally, ‘Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor in serving our nation.’”

Veteran's Day and Memorial Day are both holidays that honor the U.S. military. However, there are major differences between the two. Veteran's Day falls on November 11 every year. It recognizes all veterans in the Armed Forces. Memorial Day honors the men and women who died serv-

ing in the military. It's observed on the last Monday of May.

I personally would like to say thank you again to all those who serve: military, first responders (firefighters, medical, etc.) men and women in blue, border patrol and child protection. These are the people who try to give us our safety. Let us be mindful that our own Nation creates that safety and comfort from our own police and medical staff. I couldn't be more proud to be a Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

David Barrett
Mnedobe (Sits with Spirit)
Legislator, District 10
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801
405-275-3121
d Barrett@potawatomi.org

District 11 – Andrew Walters



Bozho
(Hello),

While back, one of our Tribal members, who is taking a leadership development class, asked me some questions for a class assignment. He asked, “What does it mean to be Potawatomi?” and “What am I doing to ‘be’ Potawatomi?” He and I talked over the phone and by email, and then met for lunch one day and talked some more. It was to me, enlightening and educational

to learn his viewpoints and understand his concerns. Here is my email response to him:

“Well...here's some stuff you can sit and cogitate on. Chew it up and see if this helps answer your questions. If not, then call me and I'll throw some onion in.

“What does it mean to be Potawatomi?” is one of those things that change throughout your life. As a young person, you probably never really think about the fact you are. It's meaningful but not impactful. As you grow older, the question becomes more complex and personal to answer. To some, I think, it means ‘I get money.’ To others, ‘I have benefits.’ To some, ‘I have a family history. I know where I come from.’ Others are mystified. I am one of the mystified ones. It's like trying to define love or explaining what time is without using the word time. To me, it's a portal. A way to look back in time and see the successes and failures of our people. To see how we became who we are today and who I'll

be tomorrow. It's a prideful thing. It's knowing I have more family than most anyone can imagine. It's understanding the ways of our people and how those apply to today's life.

“What am I doing to *be* Potawatomi?” Wow... That's like asking a Black person what they do to be Black... or what the sky does to be the sky. I think we put too much emphasis on ‘being’ Potawatomi. Some in the Tribe measure our ‘Native-ness’ by who is most traditional... whatever standard that is...

most linguistically proficient, has the best regalia, can dance or drum, and on and on. I am Potawatomi. Like a tree is a tree, or a cloud is a cloud. I try my best to live by the tenets of the Gifts of the Seven Grandfathers. In my professional life as a Police Chief, I used those tenets as guidance in my decisions and teachings to my officers, citizens and even folks who had been arrested. Today, I use them to guide my life and to teach my children and grandchildren the proper, respectful and loving

way to a good life. I owe no one a responsibility of acting like or ‘being’ what they perceive as Potawatomi. No one has the right to judge how ‘much’ Potawatomi I am by using their own standard. We, as a people, have for too long let others judge what we are, who we are and how much we are. I am, every square inch, from my boots to my hat, Potawatomi. God given. Paid for in full by the blood, sweat and toil of my ancestors. No one can take that from me even if they took my life.”

I felt it was important for you to see my words. I am proud of my heritage. I understand the power of tradition. Tradition is like the foundation of a home. If it's strong, the house will last. If it's weak, the walls will fall. But tradition alone doesn't make the structure. The walls, ceiling, windows and doors are part of each individual's “spirit home.” And those walls, ceilings, windows and doors can be different from other people. And like any home, ours need to be updated as times change.

The secret to success for Native American tribes is in keeping a firm foundation while upgrading and adapting to the changes in time. We live in a “today” world. We would not survive living in a “yesterday” world. In today's world, we must integrate with other cultures, thoughts and needs. In today's world, we must adapt, but we should never lose our direction, our compass, our tradition. Our language needs to be preserved. Our old ways practiced. But never should we compare ourselves to others in a way that makes one better based on some popular or mythic standard. We are a family. A family with a rich and wonderful history. Of sorrow and successes. One is no more or less than the other. We are all Citizen Potawatomi, brothers and sisters. And that alone makes us a Tribe.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Andrew Walters
Legislator, District 11
andrew.walters@potawatomi.org
nibwemko@gmail.com

**Kimberly (Capps) Brown
Navarre Family**

*Beloved Mother, Grandmother,
Daughter, Sister, Aunt*

Kim Brown went home to be with the Lord Tuesday, March 15, 2022, after a 4-year battle with lung cancer.

She was born June 22, 1966, in Stillwater, Oklahoma, to Roy and Linda Capps of Shawnee, Oklahoma. As an elementary student, Kim attended Jane Brooks School for the Deaf in Chickasha, Oklahoma and middle school at South Rock Creek in Shawnee. She graduated from Tecumseh High School in May of 1984.

Upon graduation, Kim worked for Tinker Air Force Base. She married Larry Brown in August of 1986. One daughter, Kayla Marie, was born to this union on Nov. 9, 1990.

Kim was preceded in death by her father, Roy Capps, grandmother and grandfather Duel and Polly Capps, grandmother Jessie Moore, first cousins Donnie Clark and Gary Hopcus, plus several aunts and uncles.

Survivors include mother Linda Capps, daughter Kayla (David) Rogers of Shawnee; grandchildren Rylee and Bennett; brothers Brian (Staci) Capps of Ada, Oklahoma; Aaron (Melissa) Capps of McLoud, Oklahoma; uncles Cecil (Nancy) of Las Vegas, Nevada, Jim (Oneta) of Meeker, Oklahoma; aunts Marilyn (Don) Clark of Macomb, Oklahoma, Rosa (Hub) Reed of Shawnee and Sue Moore of Choctaw, Oklahoma; nephews Hunter (Shadley), Scout, Cole, Cade, and Carson Capps.

Kim Brown was a loving mother and grandmother (Mimi). Her two grandchildren were the light of her life. She loved to attend her granddaughter's softball games and watch her two-year-old grandson play imaginary baseball in the living room, complete with running bases and sliding.

She showed her love to all her family members by remembering their birthdays and making sure they received at least a text. She never forgot details, and her amazing memory never failed to astonish her family.

You never saw Kim without a smile. That smile not only made

her feel better, but the recipient as well. She faced adversity with an inner ability to overcome. A fighter in confronting her cancer with the will to live, she did just that for four years. Although she was deaf, she would freely communicate with those who were hearing. She did a remarkable job in getting along in a hearing world. She enjoyed her church family at Blackburn Chapel but struggled to attend in the past year. Kim appreciated the many cards, flowers and food that were sent by church members.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to one of the following organizations in Kim's name. SSM Cancer Center, Heartland Hospice, and CPN Senior Network Services.

**Donnie Ray Roselius
Vieux Family**

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Donnie (Don) Ray Roselius, 75, from Hanford, California. Don passed away peacefully with loved ones by his side on Nov. 10, 2021.

Don was born on July 26, 1946, in Shawnee, Oklahoma. He and his family moved to Hanford soon after his birth. He graduated from Hanford High School in 1965 and joined the Army, serving six years. Don would go on to work for Verdegaal Brothers, Inc. for over 40 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, cruising the countryside and tinkering away in the garage. Don will be greatly missed and will be remembered for his sense of humor, stubborn ways, kind-hearted spirit and his love of dancing and westerns.

Don will forever be loved and remembered by his four daughters, Katie Askins and husband Kevin, Rebecca Roselius, Mary Hagan and husband Corey, and Renee Roselius. His family includes 10 grandchildren, Marissa, Justin, Brendan and Tyler Askins; Brianne and Christopher Roselius; Liam and Amelia Hagan; and Gavin and Kaia Johnson. He is remembered by his brother, Ron Roselius and wife Debbie; along with many nieces, nephews and loved ones dear to his heart. He is preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Charlene Roselius; daughter; Karen Morris; and parents, J.W. (Dub) and Opal Roselius.

Visitation was held Dec. 13, 2021 from 4 to 7 p.m. at People's Funeral Chapel in Hanford. Church services were on Dec. 14, 2021 at 10 a.m. at South Valley Community Church in Lemoore, with burial following at Grangeville Cemetery in Armona.

**Jessie Glenora
(Roberson) Jeffers
Willmet Family**

Jessie Glenora (Roberson) Jeffers, loving mom, sister and nanny, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, at the age of 82.

Jessie was born on March 10, 1939, in Choctaw, Oklahoma, to Leon and Inez Roberson. She worked as a distribution vendor for Mission Foods until she retired in 2012. In 1955, she married Maurice "Bud" Jeffers, and they raised three sons, Gary, Eddie and Randy, and one daughter, Barbara. When Bud and Jessie separated, Jessie found love again with Don Bennett, whom she met while working at Mission Foods. She and Don enjoyed their life together for 32 years, living in Midwest City until Don passed away in Nov. 2020.

Jessie was a devout Christian and a dedicated daughter, sister, mom and nanny who loved her family very much. She cherished having her home filled with the conversation and laughter of her kids, grandkids and great-grandkids. Jessie was very proud of her Native American heritage and was enrolled with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She was a descendant of the Willmet (Ouilmette) family. Her favorite things to do were attending the yearly Family Reunion Festival held in Shawnee, Oklahoma, spending time with her family, making jelly and canning, decorating for the holidays, and picking and eating poke salad.

Jessie was preceded in death by her husband, Don; mother, Inez; father, Leon; brothers, Ronnie and Bobbie; sons, Eddie and Randy; daughter, Barbara; and great-grandson, Jessy. She is survived by her son, Gary Jeffers; her sisters, Marcella Johnson, Evelyn Garton (Rex), Sherry Effinger and Kelly Wood (Jack); her grandchildren, Angela Jeffers, Kristel Jeffers (Christian Sanchez), Shauna Bass (Donny Reisig), Amber VanBeber (Jamie), April Jeffers, Amanda

Bradley (Keith), Holly Bass, Matthew Jeffers, Juan Jeffers (Amanda), Eric Bass (Anna) and Sarah Jeffers (Megan Baker); 18 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Dorothy Jean
Smith Foshee
McKee Family**

It is with great sadness that the family of Dorothy Jean Smith Foshee announces her passing. Dorothy was born on July 16, 1954, and passed from this world on Jan. 30, 2022. She walked on at the age of 68 years and 6 months to be with her Lord and Savior.

Dorothy was raised in a military family. Her patriotism was nearly as big as her love for serving the Lord. She was a devout Christian and it was her life's passion to share the good news to all who would listen. She was a beacon of hope to all who knew her.

Dorothy's heart led her to selflessly serve and help others. She enjoyed being a Sunday school teacher. She made sunshine baskets for the elderly in her community to bring love and light into their lives. She worked in group homes with children and adults. She was a second mother to many. Her door was always open and she was always available to listen, love and lend help.

Dorothy had many passions in life and had a lot of love to give. She loved animals, and they were drawn to her kindheartedness. She loved the outdoors and camping. She loved to spend afternoons in her garden. She loved cooking and baking and she loved a good meal. She was always ready for a road trip, especially trips that led her to friends and family. She rarely missed a game night or potluck, and enjoyed reminiscing on 'the good ole days.'

Dorothy was a dedicated wife to her husband and best friend

Stanley Foshee of 37 years. She was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband, and her brother. She is survived by a large family, numerous friends and a church community who all love her wholeheartedly.

**Jessica Lea
Richardson Stogsdill
Willmet Family**

Jessica was born on Sept. 30, 1943, at Grady Memorial Hospital in Chickasha, Oklahoma, to Jess (Bigeon) L. Richardson (born Dec. 3, 1908) and Viola (Sis) Mae Spencer Richardson (born Aug. 10, 1920), the youngest of three daughters. She attended and graduated high school in Chickasha before going on to the University of Science and Arts in Chickasha. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Grove, Oklahoma. One of her first careers was working with a photographer in Chickasha, before changing to healthcare. She worked at Grady Memorial Hospital, Grove General Hospital, and managed the offices of Dr. Ronald Bortz and Dr. David Hill before rounding out her career at Grove Drive-In Pharmacy. Jessica moved to the Grove area in 1971. She had a great love for animals and cared for many throughout her lifetime. She would often clerk at the sale barn or area horse sales, and she also dabbled in painting. She was well-spoken and well-written throughout her life. She loved the challenge of word games and puzzles to solve. Her greatest loves were her family; she enjoyed family gatherings and was always up for a good board game. She was married to F. Joe Schneider (born Sept. 8, 1962) and had two children. She later married the love of her life, F. Doug Stogsdill (born Aug. 11, 1979) in Grove, Oklahoma. She was preceded in death by her parents and her middle sister, Mary Alice Schenk. She is survived by F. Doug Stogsdill of the home; her children, Joel Schneider of Grove and Jona Rutherford of Sapulpa, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Tucker Rutherford (Katheryn) of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Spencer Rutherford (Peri) of Grove, and Emilea Butler (Kody) of Grove; great-grandchildren Bradee Rutherford of Jay, Oklahoma, Rhymee Rutherford of Jay, and Finnleigh Rutherford of Tulsa; her older sister, Myrleen Freeman of Mesa, Arizona; and many nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly.

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