

# HOWNIKAN

Minkégises | August 2019

Top photo: The view from below at the CPN Eagle Aviary near Shawnee, OK.

## A LOOK INSIDE

### Page 8



War of 1812 and the bloody Battle of Fort Dearborn

### Pages 12-13



Family Reunion Festival photos

### Page 17

CPN summer interns build pathways to different futures

### Pages 18-23

Tribal Executive and Legislative updates

### Page 24

Walking on



## Study highlights Native American tribes' impact on Oklahoma economy

The 38 federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma had a \$12.9 billion impact on the state in 2017. The study, sponsored through the Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium, found that the tribes directly employ more than 50,000 people and support 96,000 jobs to tribal citizens and non-citizens, accounting for more than \$4.6 billion in wages and benefits to Oklahoma workers in 2017. Citizen Potawatomi Nation employed 2,296 individuals with an impact of \$516 million in 2017. CPN continued to grow in 2018, with 2,354 employees and a \$537 million economic impact.

"This study shows that Oklahoma tribes are providing valuable jobs and employment to Oklahomans throughout the state," said Lisa Johnson Billy, Oklahoma Secretary of Native American Affairs. "We look forward to continued growth and cooperation that benefits all Oklahomans."

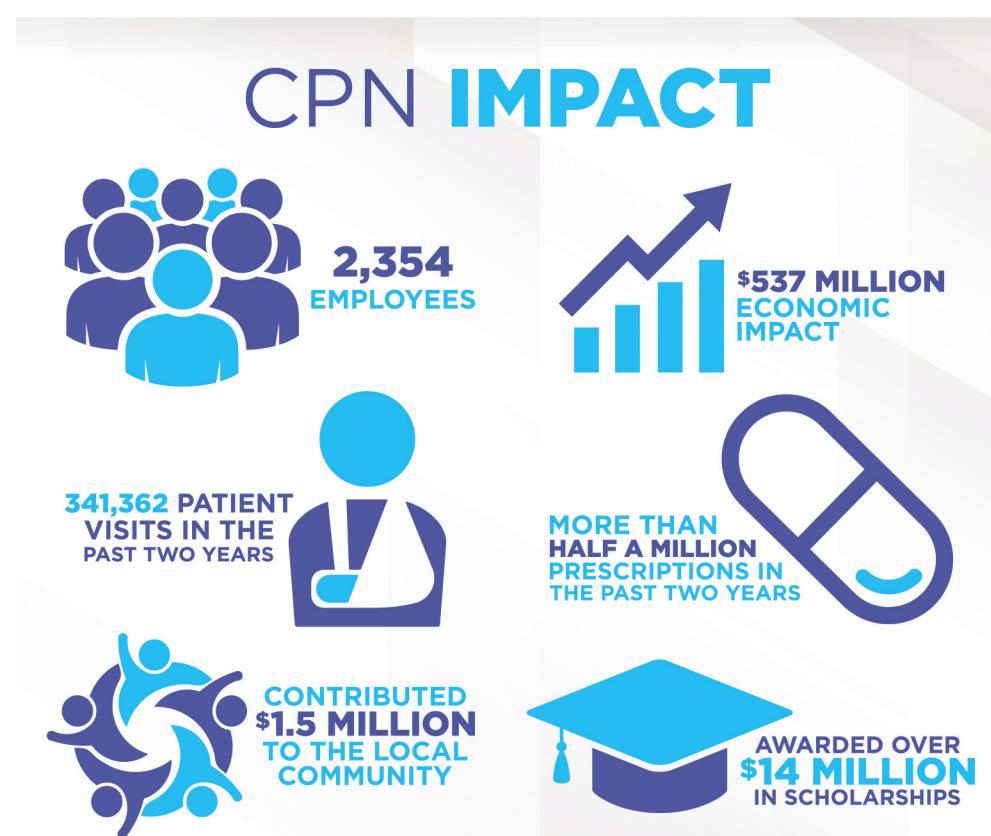
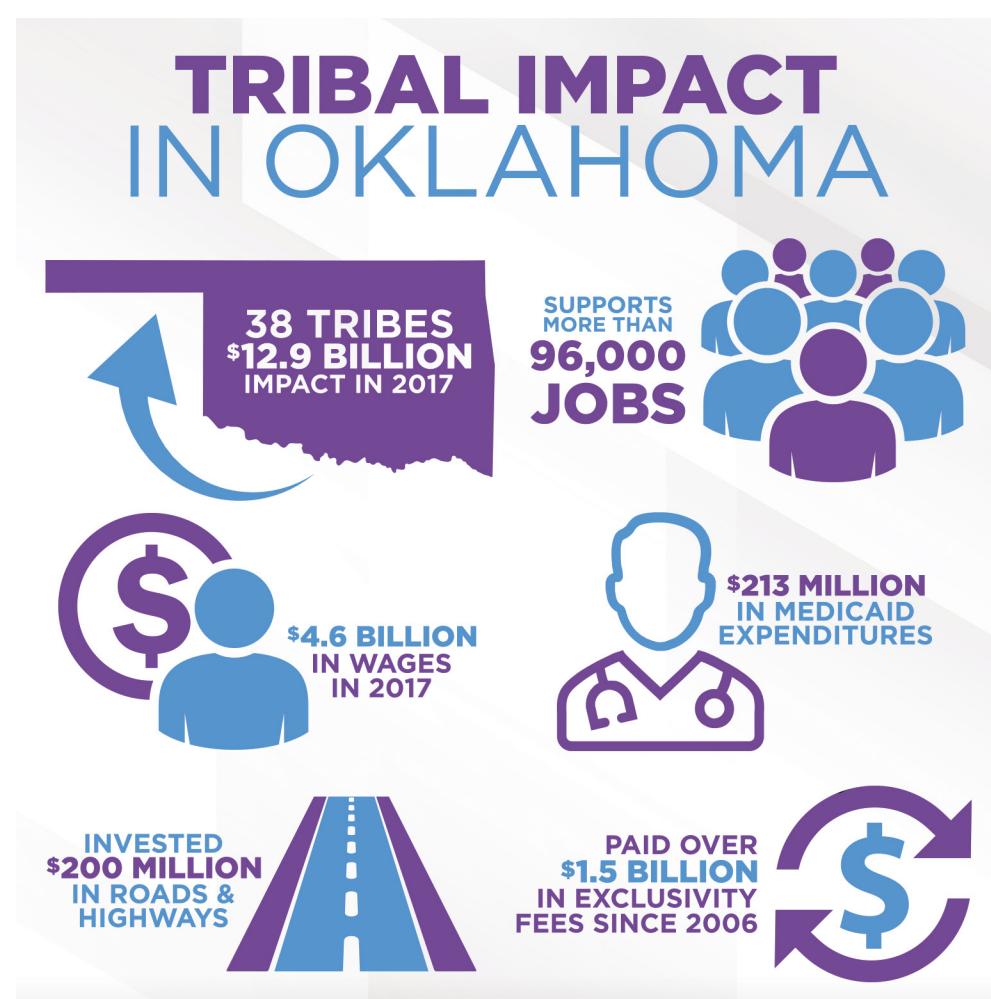
Kyle Dean, associate professor of economics and the director for the Center for Native American and Urban Studies at Oklahoma City University, analyzed data from 15 tribal Nations based in Oklahoma and prepared the study.

In the health care realm, tribes paid \$213 million in Medicaid expenditures at tribal health care facilities, saving the state \$88 million in 2018 by requiring no state matching funds. In fiscal years 2017 and 2018, CPN recorded 341,362 patient visits and filled more than half a million prescriptions.

The tribes have invested a total of \$200 million in transportation infrastructure, aiding the construction of nearly 27,000 miles of highways and roads. Oklahoma is first in the nation for federal dollars contributed through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Tribal Transportation Program.

Through gaming compacts between Oklahoma-based tribes and the state, tribal nations submit a percentage of their Class III gaming revenues for the exclusive right to operate casinos in the state. Oklahoma tribes have paid more than \$1.5 billion in exclusivity fees since 2006. The state sends the first \$250,000 of these fees to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Of the remaining funds, 88 percent is earmarked for public education, totaling more than \$1.3 billion. Tribal gaming garnished \$198 million in 2017 alone that directly supported Oklahoma schools. Additionally, CPN contributed \$556,612 from Tribal car tag fees in 2017 and 2018.



The tribes have invested heavily to support local communities and efforts. Citizen Potawatomi Nation uses 100 percent of its revenue to reinvest in government services, such as providing health care for tribal members and Oklahomans, paving roads throughout the Tribal jurisdiction, and supporting community partners through donations. In fiscal year 2018, CPN contributed \$1.5 million to the local community.

The tribe also awarded more than \$14 million in higher education scholarships across the country.

More information can be found at [oknativeimpact.com](http://oknativeimpact.com). The Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium's mission is to advance tribal economics and strengthen tribal finance within the state of Oklahoma. 🔥

# Summertime at the CPN Aviary

As the weather warms, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary gears up for the active summer months that include the Family Reunion Festival, the Potawatomi Leadership Program, summer camp tours as well as eagle feather molting. Although it is a busy time for the aviary, the heat requires staff to take precautions, and the severe weather that often accompanies Oklahoma's warmest months can pose additional issues for the state's avian populations.

"We live in seasons at the aviary, and our work schedule varies greatly because of that," said CPN Aviary Manager Jennifer Randell. "We worry more in the summer about the stress heat puts on the birds more than we do the cold in the winter."

## Heat management

The heat affects birds and other reptiles more than mammals that perspire. Staff take special care during the summer to make sure the birds in their care remain healthy and happy.

"Birds don't have sweat glands, so they don't sweat like we do to cool down," said CPN Aviary Assistant Manager Bree Dunham. "They will open their mouth to pant and get rid of excess body heat. Sometimes they will open their wings and raise their body feathers to allow airflow to cool off as well."

As the days get longer, Randell and Dunham take advantage of the cooler mornings to complete most chores, and they avoid activity during the hottest parts of the day by not holding tours, allowing the eagles to rest.

"The mister system is set on a timer and comes on daily during hot days. The mist helps lower the temperature in the enclosure, and the eagles love it," Randell said.

"The eagles seem to know when the timer is set to come on and will go wait in line for it to come on."



*When temperatures rise, eagles at the aviary enjoy spending time in the enclosure's water features.*

The enclosure's open design allows adequate airflow, and its shade sails offer additional cool spaces for the eagles to seek reprieve from the sun.

The aviary skips feedings for a day once temperatures reach 95 to help prevent the eagles from getting sick. With body temperatures averaging 106 degrees, metabolizing food can cause the eagles to overheat.

"Even raptors in the wild will eat less because of their body temperature and metabolism; they can overheat in the summer if they overeat," Randell said.

After meals in the summer, the eagles will often make their way to the water features in their enclosures.

"The recirculating streams have deep holding wells and floats to ensure the water level is adequate," Dunham

said. "Fresh water is added to the streams daily and completely changed and cleaned every third day."

## Common injuries

Early spring and into the summer, aviary staff witness a rise in juvenile eagles coming into rehabilitation facilities.

"That first experience out of the nest can be difficult, and like all youngsters, sometimes they don't always make the best decisions and they learn the hard way," Randell said. "Most injuries occur from fledging too early or falling from nests, to collisions with power lines, guide wires and cars on roadways."

In addition to their dedication to the health and well-being of all the animals in their care, aviary staff look forward to the educational

opportunities that exist during the warmer months, especially with youth.

"We get a lot of summer youth groups whose focus is on wildlife or STEM programming, and it's great to get the opportunity to visit with youth who want to be involved with conservation and are interested in improving our environment. It's exciting to see those kids and for us to hopefully help foster a respect for our wildlife, even in a small way," she said. "Summer also means our yearly Family Reunion Festival is here as well. That is always a great opportunity to get to visit with so many of our Tribal members as well as having the PLP here. We love sharing what we do and these eagles with our CPN tribal members the most."

Find more information on the CPN Eagle Aviary, request a tour and more at [potawatomihertiage.com](http://potawatomihertiage.com). ♫

# Preserving Native American Families

**By Darian Towner, Family Preservation Coordinator**

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Family Preservation Program operates under FireLodge Children & Family Services and strives to preserve Native American families. The goal of the program is to help families sustain an environment of safety and well-being by addressing family issues through a holistic approach. The program places a great focus on prevention and early intervention but also works with families whose children have been removed or who are at risk of removal from the home.

Services are easily accessible and delivered in a manner that respects cultural heritage, values and traditions. Each family is unique, and services are provided as needed by each individual family and can include parenting classes, family budgeting classes, case management, family support, referrals to community resources, home visits and financial assistance on a case-by-case basis.

FIRELODGE CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

## CPN FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The program is available to CPN tribal members as well as other Native Americans who live in the program's area whose children are at risk of removal or who have been removed.

Families that seek assistance from family preservation vary greatly in their needs. One family may only be interested in parenting classes to learn

skills and complete their Individualized Service Plan from either the Oklahoma Department of Human Services or an Indian Child Welfare program. Another family may be referred to family preservation by a separate program or department prior to the child's removal with weekly home visits, referrals to community resources or assistance with a particular need.

We believe children should remain with their families and be served in their local communities when possible, but we also understand that cannot always happen. If a family is currently working a on plan in order to get their children returned, family preservation can encourage and assist the family in completing the steps required by their plan.

Parenting can be a difficult job in general, but it can feel quite impossible when life delivers setback after setback. We're here to help Native American families and children in need and would love to have a conversation with you to discuss your current situation and needs.

If your children have been removed for child abuse or neglect or might be at risk of removal, please reach out to family preservation. For more information, contact Darian Towner at 405-878-4831 or visit our Facebook page @CPNFireLodge. ♫

# American-Chinese artist's career and work inspired by Native culture

Western artist Z.S. Liang spent the last two decades of his career learning and painting images of Native American history, culture and tradition. He earned degrees in art from universities in both Beijing and Guangzhou, China, as well as Boston, Massachusetts.

Liang started depicting Native-inspired subject matter in 2002 and wound his focus down to the 19th century — more specifically from 1803 to 1890, beginning with the Lewis and Clark expedition and concluding with Sitting Bull's death. Contact between tribes and the United States increased during this period as more colonists began moving west. It resulted in the exploitation and severe assimilation of Indigenous peoples, including the Potawatomi Trail of Death in 1838.

"The life of the Indian fundamentally changed because everything, basically, from the government. Once you have everything from government, you don't have much choice," said Liang, whose first language is not English.

Born in Guangzhou, China, he had never seen anything like Native culture before, and he wanted to share it with the rest of the world. Filling gaps in the artistic representation of Indigenous stories remains the goal of Liang's career. He believes even if people read little about American Indians, his artwork catches people's attention and establishes a base for knowledge from an initial exposure to their way of life.

"I can tell the story visually on my canvas to people rather than people to read the story. How many people can read the story? And how many people can see this story?" Liang said.

With an obvious intelligence and desire to continue learning throughout his life, Liang researches various tribes to decide on his next subject matter. That includes visiting museums, talking to Indigenous people across the country and finding new historical novels. Accuracy in his art remains one of Liang's primary concerns.

"(A historical painting) has to obey. It has to be true in the history, and that painting, it becomes valuable," he said.



*American Chinese artist Z.S. Liang's reverence for Native American culture shows in more than 200 Western art pieces depicting Indigenous culture and history. (Photo provided)*

After moving to the United States, Liang spent over a decade making a living by painting portraits. His desire and love for Native culture and a shift in his art's subject matter came after a chance encounter.

## Plimoth Plantation and the Wampanoag Homesite

In 2002 while living in Boston, Massachusetts, Liang became enthralled with the Wampanoag Homesite of the Plimoth Plantation living history museum in Plymouth, the site of the docking of the Mayflower in 1620. The Wampanoag portion shows Native Americans' way of life before colonization.

He visited the museum a couple of times but noticed the Wampanoag area after seeing an advertisement at a turnpike rest stop. He quickly returned and met American Indians willing to share.

"I want to paint something that has a story and paint something realistic, but I don't know how. I don't know what I

can paint," Liang said. "And when I look at that, and then all the sudden ... I thought, 'Wow, this is very interesting.'"

One man in particular patiently explained his tribe's customs. He taught Liang everything from agricultural methods including the Three Sisters (corn, beans and squash) to how to hunt deer and combat strategies. Afterward, he modeled for Liang.

"I asked him many questions, and he shows me as much as he can. So, that's the first time. I've never have a chance to talk to an Indian before," Liang said.

"I read a pile — almost like 2 feet high pile — of books from the library because books can tell you many about their history."

Afterward, he engulfed himself, attending powwows, meeting people from tribes across the country and studying historic photographs. A gallery accepted his first three or four paintings for display.

Within a few months, he switched from portraits to Indigenous scenes full time.

To this day, he travels throughout Montana, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico and South Dakota for research.

## Eagle Dancer Potawatomi

Approximately 10 years ago, Liang attended a powwow at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles where he saw a dancer wearing full wings on his arms and across his back.

"I'd never seen that before, and it's so real, and it's all made from the eagle feathers, Golden Eagle feathers," Liang said.

"He was an eagle stands, dancing and immediately, I said, 'That can be a great painting.' That's how I approach him and ask him to do the modeling."

The image became *Eagle Dancer Potawatomi*, a stunning portrait of an Ojibwe man performing a traditional number honoring the *Anishinabek* tale of the eagle in a color palette of browns, greys, blacks and whites.

The Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas, displayed the painting.

"I was so glad. There's someone collecting and putting into someone's house where nobody can see, and museum everybody can see. That's wonderful," Liang said.

As his career progresses, Liang finds his excitement about Native culture growing, including "what they believe, and about the traditions ... respect for nature and how to relate to the kind of religion and to relate to nature and human beings and the animals. All this, I think, has a universal value," he said.

That excitement and reverence translated into more than 200 paintings over more than 15 years.

"I try to paint as many as I can to find a story never painted before and almost no one knows before," Liang said. "I think that is my mission."

Each year, Liang participates in the Prix de West art show at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Visit his work online at [liangstudio.com](http://liangstudio.com).

## Tribal legislative update: July 2019

Following the elections on June 29, 2019, held during the CPN Family Reunion Festival, all members of the Tribal legislature met for a special legislative meeting on July 1. All members of the legislature were in attendance.

Also in attendance were the members of the Potawatomi Leadership Program.

After approving the minutes from the group's May 30, 2019, meeting, legislators approved a fee-to-trust acquisition application to the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. The application for a trust acquisition for non-gaming/on-reservation use was for the Willoughby property.

A grant funding application to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Program was approved with 16 votes in favor. The funding, if approved by the DOJ, will come from the Office for Victims of Crime 2019 Fiscal Year Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program.

In enrollment news, legislators approved a resolution acknowledging the conditional relinquishment of Tribal citizenship for Hugh Bennett Brinson. CPN legislators also enrolled 60 applicants into the Nation.

Finally, legislators discussed the issue of CPN identification cards becoming "Real ID" compliant, voting procedures and safeguards for future elections. ♣



# Navarre descendant's career positively influences special education across Texas public school systems

Texas educator and Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Stacy Venson's professional mission emphasizes supporting students with disabilities as well as their parents and guardians. An Oklahoma native, born in Lawton and raised in Eufaula, she is proud of her accomplishments within the Texas education system. Venson credits the support of former teachers, co-workers, family, mentors and CPN tribal scholarships for her successes. She recently spoke with the *Hownikan* about her management role at the Texas Education Agency. The department oversees public education across the state, and Venson's role focuses on special education services as well as supporting educators and parental guardians of those with disabilities.

## **What inspired you to have a career in education?**

"I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher. I started my teaching career standing in the bed of my dad's pickup. While he fed the cows, I taught them the alphabet. I also had many great teachers throughout my education who inspired me along the way."

## **What classes did you teach when you were in the classroom?**

"In the 22 years I have been in education, I have always taught various areas of special education in both elementary and secondary schools. I have taught special

education that focused on educating students with emotional behavioral disorders, functional life skills, resource, vocational skills and inclusion."

## **When did you step into administrative roles?**

"In 2009, I stepped out of the classroom and moved into central administration in Dallas Independent School District where I coached other teachers on vocational skills and transition planning. I later moved into the role as supervisor of transition services. In 2013, I became the director of curriculum and instruction for special education where I oversaw programming and instruction for students who received special education services. In 2017-2018, I served as the assistant superintendent of special education and special services for the El Paso Independent School District where I oversaw programming for students who receive special education services, Section 504 services and health services. In August of 2018, I joined the Texas Education Agency as a manager in the office of special populations and monitoring in the division of review and support."

## **How have your administrative positions compared to teaching in the classroom?**

"Both positions are very important, and I have always tried to keep the mindset that I'm a teacher first. The



*Supporting special education and families across Texas inspires Stacy Venson daily.*

difference is, in administration, I am now teaching and supporting adults who have a direct impact on our students."

## **What does it mean to you to be able to serve fellow Texans in your position?**

"I am so grateful for this opportunity to be able to support students with disabilities, educators and parents across the state of Texas. Being a mother of a son with a disability,

who went through the Texas public school system, it makes me even more passionate about the work we are doing at the Texas Education Agency."

## **What is your favorite aspect of your job and career?**

"Special education encompasses many topics and programs. This has allowed me to expand my knowledge in different

*Continued on page 7*

# Veterans report



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Family Reunion Festival 2019 was good for the CPN Veterans Organization. We had five new members join the organization who were eager to be active, especially with our color guard. Another special event the CPN Veterans Organization participated in was the Vintage Cars and Memorabilia Auction in mid-June. A former commander of the CPN Veterans Organization, Troy Graham, donated a 1968 Ford Mustang to the organization to auction off to raise money for us. *Migwetch* (thanks), Troy! The funds will be put to good use.

According to a recent U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs press release, there is good news for Blue Water Navy veterans of the Vietnam War. The VA has extended Agent Orange presumption to include them for eligibility for disability compensation benefits.

"The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing to process exposure claims for 'Blue Water Navy' veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.



*David Barrett (left) and Troy Graham.*

"These Veterans may be eligible for presumption of herbicide exposure through *Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Veterans Act of 2019*, which was signed into law June 25, 2019, and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020. They may also qualify for a presumption of service connection if they have a disease that is recognized as being associated with herbicide exposure.

"To qualify, under the new law, these veterans must have a disease associated with herbicide exposure, as listed in *38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e)*."

According to a report by *U.S. Medicine*, "Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)
- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes mellitus Type 2
- Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease
- Ischemic heart disease
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer

For more information visit: [cpn.news/agentorange](http://cpn.news/agentorange).

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

In June's *Hownikan*, we included the wrong name in the photo caption of Troy Graham, a CPN Veteran who, on behalf of our organization, donated a 1968 Ford Mustang to the June 15 OK Classic Auction at FireLake Arena. Apologies to Troy for the mistake, and thank you for your support of our organization for such a fantastic donation.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Daryl Talbot, Commander  
[talbotok@sbcglobal.net](mailto:talbotok@sbcglobal.net)  
405-275-1054

CPN VA Representative:  
Andrew Whitham

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

918-397-2566 ♫

# Edward Joseph Farms offers fresh produce in eastern Oklahoma County

Near the corner of Harrah Road and SE 15th Avenue in Harrah, Oklahoma, sits Edward Joseph Farms. Polish immigrant Walter Brzozowski started the business in 1924, and his son Edward Joseph took over operations until his passing in 2017. Today, nearly every member of the Brzozowski family steps up to help, from planting and harvesting to marketing and working the produce stand.

"It's a 24-hour deal," said Jeff Brzozowski, who heads the farm's operations with his mother Grace and assisted at times by his wife Tracy, children, grandchildren and others like his brother, nephews and cousins. "They help me by either helping me plant, pick or sell. Most of it, they help with distribution."

Many of the Brzozowski family are Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members, including Jeff's wife Tracy and their children Ben, Grace, Ali and Anna Timberlake. The Melott descendants are proud to continue their families' traditions, both Potawatomi and Polish, and pass them on to future generations.

"It's special. Especially the younger ones — my grandchildren — to see them excited about (the garden), it's special," Jeff said.

Growing up, Jeff's mother Grace and father Edward put countless hours into their garden every year, and they often gave their harvest away for free to assist their neighbors in

need. Jeff fondly looks back at his time helping his parents and the chance to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

"When I first went to school, I could not eat any of the things that they prepared in the cafeteria because it didn't taste the same as my mom's," Jeff reminisced. "Everything was either frozen or canned, and we had chickens, sheep, pheasants, cattle — the beef and chicken, those things, you know, we just didn't buy them. And I don't recall eating a green bean out of a can until I got in school."

For the Brzozowski family, store-bought produce holds no competition to homegrown.

"You can get a sweet potato from the store, put it into water, and it takes forever for it to sprout. But you can take a sweet potato that's being grown locally and put it in water, and in a week, it's sprouted," Jeff explained. Modern agricultural and wholesale storage practices encourage the use of chemicals to lengthen the shelf life of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Since its humble beginnings almost a century ago, Edward Joseph Farms strives to employ sustainable agriculture techniques. Today, the Brzozowski family continues the cattle ranch and grows crops like berries, cabbage, broccoli, onions, potatoes, tomatoes and more on an acre of tilled ground. The property also boasts a small orchard and blackberry patches.



*Melott descendant Lily Timberlake helps her grandfather Jeff Brzozowski bottle-feed a calf at Edward Joseph Farms. (Photo provided)*

"I'm trying to narrow it down to the cash crops that I can put in a dense area," Jeff said. "Then in the springtime, I really have developed the cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli crops."

Jeff constructed a greenhouse several years ago, which they use to start all their crops from seeds. More recently, the Brzozowski family began utilizing the greenhouse to grow plants to sell to the public.

"What I've been trying to do is at least break even on the cost by selling plants to customers, so I would have a zero cost when I stuck it into the ground. And well, it's kind of developed into a plus deal now," he said.

Edward Joseph Farms sold more than 1,000 tomato plants this spring alone. They also started offering succulents that they propagate from an heirloom hen and chicks plant originally grown by Jeff's grandparents.

"Jeff's mom literally had this pot of succulents for over 50 years that she dug up from her mom's place," Tracy said. "This is the first year we've actually sold succulents because we just clean it out, and it fills back up. You can neglect them to no end, and they seem to not die."

Jeff stressed providing healthy, fresh food as the most important part of his work in the garden, which he balances on top of his full-time job in communications.

"And honoring your family. You do a lot of that," Tracy interjected and smiled.

Edward Joseph Farms sells produce at their produce stand at 1347 S. Harrah Road, Harrah, OK 73045.

For more information, like Edward Joseph Farms on Facebook at [cpn.news/ejfarms](http://cpn.news/ejfarms). ♣

# One Time Grant Program pays closing costs on CPN member homes

By Sherry Byers, CPN Housing Department Homeownership Manager

A great collaboration between Citizen Potawatomi Nation and First National Bank & Trust Co. is entering its third decade of existence. The One Time Grant has now been in operation for more than 20 years. This program has evolved and improved over the course of time, assisting hundreds of Citizen Potawatomi with funds for their down payment or closing costs associated with the purchase, building or refinancing of a home.

In addition to assisting individual Tribal members with this program, we would also like to see the Citizen Potawatomi Nation First National Bank & Trust benefit by originating the mortgage loans. FNB offers most loan programs offered by other lending institutions, with the exception of those offered by predatory lenders.

Despite more than two decades of success, I often hear from CPN members who did not know about this program and the Tribal-owned bank.

All Citizen Potawatomi tribal members are eligible for this grant, one time only. The maximum amount available is \$2,125 and does not have to be repaid.



*Citizen Potawatomi Nation and First National Bank & Trust Co. help Tribal members become homeowners through the One Time Grant Program, which spans two decades.*

The grant cannot be used for any type of mobile home; convicted felons or other household member felons are ineligible; the home being purchased must be their primary residence; and the Tribal member's name must be on the loan.

The application must be completed thoroughly with the following submitted:

- Copy of borrowers CPN membership card

- Name of the closing entity (Title Co., Escrow Co., Attorney, etc.)

- Completed W-9 form
- Copy of appraisal

The application and support information is required in our office at least three weeks prior to the closing date. This gives our office enough time to get the paperwork processed and the check mailed back to the Tribal member by the specified date.

To request the application and/or general information regarding the One Time Grant, please contact me at 405-273-2833 or at [sbyers@potawatomi.org](mailto:sbyers@potawatomi.org).

This grant may also done after closing. The required paperwork must be in our office at least 30 days from the loan closing date. Please contact our office if applying after closing.

For information regarding loan products and lending requirements at First National Bank & Trust, please contact Jeff Scroggins, mortgage loan officer, at 405-275-8830 or at 1-800-227-8362. ♣

# Requesting feathers from the CPN Eagle Aviary

The Potawatomi people consider eagles one of the most sacred animals on earth. Oral tradition teaches that eagles fly so high in the sky that they deliver messages and prayers to Creator. As a sign of reverence, the Potawatomi use eagle feathers in ceremony, while smudging and as a part of regalia. Eagles molt from mid-March to late September, and during this time, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary staff collects feathers at sunrise every day. They clean, smudge and sort them according to type and size before safely storing them in cedar cabinets, awaiting to fill CPN tribal members' requests.

"That process actually really begins with the health and well-being of the eagles," explained CPN Aviary Manager Jennifer Randell. "The bird will not molt if they are not healthy or are overly stressed."

It requires a tremendous amount of energy and nutrition for birds to grow and replace feathers, and if strained, the trauma can become visible as lines that run across the shaft.

"Each stressful event will be reflected in their feathers," said CPN Aviary Assistant Manager Bree Dunham. "We keep an eye out for stress bars, not just for the feather, but to know if we are providing the proper care and enrichment or if the level of exposure and amount of tours is affecting the eagles."

## Process

Because of the importance that eagles hold in Potawatomi culture, many members incorporate eagle plumes into their regalia, including fans, bustles and more. However, each project requires specific types and sizes of feathers.

"Fans can be constructed from wing or tail feathers, depending on the type and design of the fan. Sometimes smaller plumes or body feathers may be used to 'trim' or finish the fan," Randell said.

When Tribal members receive feathers to create a fan, staff suggest looking for the natural curve of the feathers and placing each in a way that mimics an eagle's natural wing shape.



*Aviary staff take extreme care and employ mindful practices when collecting and storing eagle feathers.*

"Keep in mind, our eagles have been injured. Most have a significant wing injury. They may actually be missing a portion of their wing," Randell said. "Each eagle and the characteristics of those feathers are unique, so it is often hard to match a left of one to the right of another."

For projects like bustles that require a large number of feathers, staff encourage CPN members to reach out to the National Federal Repository, but the Aviary also works with Tribal members over time, which includes multiple applications.

"Should individuals need more feathers for a fan or regalia, we ask that they include that in their application," Dunham said. "While we may not be able to fill that request in one application, we can match feathers consistently."

CPN members can request five feathers per application. Forms are accessible online at [cpn.news/featherreq](http://cpn.news/featherreq). After the aviary receives a request, staff confirm the individual is a Tribal citizen through Tribal Rolls. Before filling the request, CPN Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett also signs and verifies an applicant's enrollment.

Aviary staff take tremendous pride in being able to provide this service to the Nation, smudging themselves and their workspace with mindful reverence.

"We take extra care to send these applications out in a good way," Randell said. "We are all human and have bad days. But on those days, should one of us loose our temper or not be in a good place, we do not handle feathers or an eagle."

Once staff fill a request, they cut foam to protect the feathers, and then safely place them inside a folder to be sent to or picked up by the applicant.

## Guidelines

"Any member of a federally recognized tribe can have an eagle feather. Our applicants are required to be 18," Randell said. "However, anyone, of any age, may be gifted a feather, whether it's coming of age ceremonies, graduation, veterans coming home from deployment, when someone's family member walks on, to honor that life, and many other ceremonies."

Sometimes during naming ceremonies, the individual receiving their Potawatomi name will receive an eagle feather.

"Once you have been named, you then may be asked to name someone, and the namer will need a feather to preform that ceremony," Randell said.

Once a feather has been used in ceremony or in regalia, if it falls on the ground, respect should be given to that feather.

"It represents a warrior who has fallen in battle. An elder veteran must pick up that feather and take care of it," Randell said. "They decide if the feather(s) should be given back to the individual."

Traditions also exist around women using and touching eagle feathers during menstruation.

"They have the ability to give life and are more powerful carrying that energy of creation. For this reason, women do not handle feathers during their moon time," Randell said.

Feathers have two sides and represent the important role both men and women hold in the world.

"Like the day and the night, man and woman, or fire and water, we need those things to have balance in our lives," Randell said. "Women speak for water, and our men are the fire keepers. Our ceremonies reflect that duality and the importance of both."

Receiving an eagle feather is an honor and one of the highest gifts a CPN member can receive.

"From that day forward, you must carry yourself in a way so that you don't disrespect that gift," Randell explained. "Those feathers are a reminder of the duality in life, *Mamagosnan* (Creator) above us and the earth below, and we are a part of both."

For more information on requesting feathers and feather care, visit [potawatomihertiage.com](http://potawatomihertiage.com). For regalia supplies, including fan handles, leather, beads and more, visit the Potawatomi Gifts' website at [giftshop.potawatomi.org](http://giftshop.potawatomi.org).

# McLoud emergency radio service set to increase

As storm clouds stirred several miles to the south, crew members from Top Hand Towers worked in heat indexes measuring over 100 degrees to complete the latest Pottawatomie County emergency radio tower on July 8. Paid for through funds secured by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, it stands 395 feet high and offers the community of McLoud, Oklahoma, increased 911 and emergency radio coverage.

Due in part to McLoud's location at a slightly lower elevation compared to the areas just south and east of it, the community's emergency responders occasionally have radio communication difficulties.

"This tower, located right next to FireLake Express Grocery McLoud, eliminates that," said Citizen Potawatomi Nation Emergency Communication Specialist Jodi Opela, who helped oversee the project. "The radio tower is well above that, allowing

for clear communications from the Pottawatomie County 911 dispatching center to responders in McLoud."

A concrete pad and a housing unit for the radio equipment will be completed, increasing radio coverage in northern Pottawatomie County.

Since signing an agreement between then-Pottawatomie County 911 Trust Chairman J.R. Kidney and Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett in June 2015, the Tribe has taken over costs and dispatching services for the county. On Oct. 13, 2015, the services officially switched over to the upgraded dispatching center located inside the CPN Tribal Police headquarters.

The Tribe spent \$500,000 upgrading the technology and infrastructure of the building as well as hiring 10 county 911 employees. The dispatching center remains there today and acts as the main dispatching agency for first responders from all communities across the county



*Staff members from Top Hand Towers secure the final 20-foot section of the radio communications tower next to FireLake Express Grocery McLoud.*

outside of the City of Shawnee, which has its own system. The two systems create a safety redundancy, allowing first responders a secondary option in either community should one go offline.

"With the distances between our fellow agencies, we want to see about providing better service when our first responders are out there," CPN's Opela said.

In collaboration with the county 911 authority and other agencies, he said the Tribe is now exploring opportunities to construct a second tower in the southern part of the county.

"The service provided by the Nation to build out these radio communication towers are saving lives all over the county," said CPN Tribal Police Chief James C. Collard. "This is positively impacting thousands of people in our community, and I'm very proud of our emergency management staff for taking the lead to help care for citizens in our area."

# Anderson leads Native American studies curriculum at Haskell University

Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, often lives in the shadow of its nearby neighbor, the University of Kansas. For those studying the intricacies of Native American history and Indigenous studies in North America, few higher learning institutions rival Haskell's reputation. One crucial voice amongst the college's many educators is Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Eric Anderson, a Nadeau family descendant.

Today, Anderson works in what he considers his hometown. Though he moved around a bit as a child, including stints in Oklahoma, he graduated from high school in Lawrence, Kansas.

The areas in and around Topeka, Kansas, share deep ties to Potawatomi history, with the then-Mission Band and Prairie Band eventually settling there in the middle of the 19th century. Anderson did not grow up in what some may consider a "traditional" household, even though he grew up near the two tribes' historic jurisdictions.

"We knew we were Citizen Potawatomi, but the real connection came from my grandfather," Anderson said.

His grandfather's interest in the family's Tribal past came as a result of his service in the Pacific Theater in World War II.

"Interactions with Indigenous cultures in the Pacific piqued his interest," Anderson said. "He was a medical doctor but also read widely into anthropology, which may be where I get it from."

Childhood visits south to Yukon, Oklahoma, to see his grandparents proved the building blocks for Anderson's academic and professional path.

While he had opportunities to study outside of his home state of Kansas, including Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, Anderson found the pull of being close to home a powerful draw. That, and the then-price of tuition at Harvard — approximately \$16,000 per semester — was daunting.

"I can't even imagine what it costs now," Anderson said. "So, I stayed in Lawrence."

## **Navarre continued...**

areas within the field of special education. I am always learning something new and staying up-to-date on the latest research and trends. My favorite aspect of my career is teaching others about the many areas within special education. I specifically enjoy providing resources and support to families who may feel like they are alone in the process."

**How many children do you have, and what are their ages? How did you balance a busy career and motherhood at the same time?**

"I have three sons, LaBryant (31), Eric (26) and Keeton (24), a daughter-in-law, Amina, and two granddaughters, Kinley



*Professor Eric Anderson, Ph.D., is an expert on Native American history in Kansas and is currently a professor at Haskell Indian Nations University.*

At the University of Kansas, Anderson's undergraduate studies focused on political science and philosophy. As graduation approached, he became increasingly drawn to the studies of a well-known professor Rita Napier, Ph.D.

Widely recognized for her expertise of the American West, Native American history and Kansas, Napier also established KU's first program for Native American history.

Under her tutelage, Anderson undertook graduate and doctoral degrees, completing the latter in 2009. He focused on the relationships between the United States and the Indigenous societies it encountered. With his political science and philosophy background, Anderson enjoyed focusing on historical intersections of the federal and tribal governments in American history.

Upon completion of his MA, Anderson joined Haskell Indian Nations University as an adjunct professor. Today he is an instructor in the school's Indigenous and American Indian Studies Department and is an expert on Haskell's own long and complicated history. He oversees the work of students taking part in the KU-Haskell bridge program on Native American history in the state as well as

and Kendall. My children are all grown, so life is a little easier now. However, as a young mom, times were very difficult. Less than 2 percent of teen moms earn a college degree by age 30. I have always been determined not to be another statistic. With the financial assistance from the Citizen Potawatomi tribal scholarship and support from family and friends, I was able to achieve a bachelor's degree and master's degree in special education as well as obtain my administrative certification."

**What does it mean to you to be Citizen Potawatomi?**

"My grandmother Viola Martin, a Navarre descendant, instilled in my mother the importance of family and traditions. We were fortunate to have

an American Indian film studies course. Additionally he supervises internships in the Indigenous and American Indian Studies curriculum. Anderson is most passionate about the senior capstone project course he instructs.

"Seeing these seniors at the end of their time, how they've grown and put the knowledge they've gained to the test in the capstone, is something I really enjoy," Anderson said.

Though his employer is a fraction of the size of KU, Anderson said the interest in teaching at Haskell was due in part to its unique position as a university for Native Americans.

"Every day, we learn about different tribal people, whether historical or contemporary aspects of their lives," he said. "It is a small school, but the diversity here is staggering."

First opened in 1884 as the U.S. Indian Industrial Training School, the institution brought Native Americans from across the U.S. to Lawrence. The first class boasted 22 students who were under the direction of government-appointed instructors. After arriving, students were "westernized" while being simultaneously removed from their tribal families, languages and cultures. Originally designed along the "kill the Indian ... to save the man" ethos of Carlisle Indian Industrial School founder Richard Henry Pratt, the institution has evolved from its sobering past.

In 1970, the school moved away from its original educational directions, re-opening as a two-year junior college.

In a 2015 interview with the *Kansas City Star*, Anderson pointed out that milestone served as a turning point for the institution.

"That is when we finally began to bloom," said Anderson. "It's when Haskell began to move toward the level of education that the early generations of American Indians envisioned for their children."

By 1993, it became a full four-year university. Today, Haskell treads a far more positive path in its original goal of educating Native Americans.

our grandparents, aunts and uncles who would share songs, stories and memories with us that we can pass down to the next generation. Some of those memories we have made at the Citizen Potawatomi Family Reunion Festival."

**How do you stay connected with your Tribal heritage?**

"We meet our uncle and cousins from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas at the reunion where we enjoy the Grand Entry, playing games, eating corn soup and fry bread, and watching my nephew dance."

**If you could give one piece of advice for those looking to start a career in education, what would it be?**

Instruction is no longer only technical, agricultural and mechanically focused, and it now offers more traditional liberal arts curriculum. Another stark difference is that the faculty are — like the majority of students hailing from more than 140 federally recognized tribes — Native Americans. Anderson is one such faculty member, bringing his own experiences to his instruction.

With students and coworkers from tribes across North America, Anderson has experienced what many Citizen Potawatomi have on occasion: not fitting the Native American stereotype.

"I've run into it, but I use it and talk about it in my courses," he said. "I tell them to 'look around the room, and you'll see every skin and eye color and body type imaginable.'"

Anderson's goal is to help his students understand a critical component of education at an institution like Haskell.

"Our ability as tribal citizens to determine your own membership is an inherent right of sovereignty — no one gets to tell you who is or isn't a part of your tribe," Anderson said.

He is currently working on a book about the history of Haskell Institute and regularly gives presentations on it to groups around the state. In May, the professor stood before more than 50 Citizen Potawatomi members at the CPN Rossville Community Center, describing his employer's inception and purpose in 19th century America.

"To have a CPN member present this to our Kansas Potawatomi was an honor," said District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw. "Professor Anderson is well known for his academic and historical work, so to have him visit here and tell this history was fantastic."

In addition to his work on Haskell, Anderson is also working on an American Indian studies and Native American history textbook.

Learn more about enrollment and continuing education opportunities at Haskell by visiting [haskell.edu](http://haskell.edu).

"My advice would be for those who are entering the field of education is to develop a relationship with veteran/mentor teachers and get to know your students. Your first year of teaching is the hardest, so it is imperative that you have a mentor that you can go to for support and help. It is also very important that you build a relationship with your students. You can build this relationship by listening and getting to know what is important to them."

Learn more about CPN tribal scholarships and higher education opportunities at [cpn.news/education](http://cpn.news/education).

**Get the Hownikan via email!**

If you would like your newspaper via email, please send your name and address to [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org) and let us know.

# War of 1812 and the bloody Battle of Fort Dearborn

At the confluence of the Chicago River and Lake Michigan once sat Fort Dearborn, where a bloody battle between the Potawatomi and federal troops occurred on Aug. 15, 1812. This year marks the 207th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Dearborn, once referred to as the Fort Dearborn Massacre.

The U.S. obtained the land to build the fort from the Potawatomi through the 1795 Treaty of Greenville. The fort's construction began in 1803 and finished in 1804 under the direction of U.S. Captain John Whistler. From 1804 to 1812, the fort — named in honor of the U.S. Secretary of War Henry Dearborn — served as a key U.S. post in an undeveloped, remote area of the country.

White settlers' movement into the Great Lakes region and hostility between Great Britain and the U.S. continued, even after the Revolutionary War ended and the Northwest Ordinance passed. Many Natives did everything in their power to hold onto their ancestral lands and traditions. The Battle of Fort Dearborn exemplifies the chaos surrounding Indian policy at this time and the response communities can take after exhausting all other apparent avenues.

## Accommodationists vs. traditionalists

After the founding of the United States, some Native groups desired to accommodate the Americans and adapted aspects of colonialism while others promoted traditionalism and encouraged abandoning non-Native practices and ideals entirely. The two varied responses created a divide within the Potawatomi and other Native American tribes. Each desired to find solutions to the mounting issues Native Americans faced. Some fostered relationships with the American settlers to develop and maintain profitable trade while others followed the teachings of Tecumseh and his brother *Tenskwatawa* (The Prophet).

Those with even limited knowledge surrounding the War of 1812 often are familiar with Tecumseh and his reputation; however, his brother *Tenskwatawa* also held great influence within Native communities at this time.

"The muscle behind the movement was divine intervention and inspiration. The medicine people were who the masses had always listened to above others," said Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center Curator Blake Norton. "This does not diminish Tecumseh's role, but his prowess was on the battlefield, not politics."

## Potawatomi Wabeno Main Poc

The brothers' platform caught the attention of Potawatomi Chief Main Poc. In October 1870, he traveled to Greenville where he spent nearly two months speaking with *Tenskwatawa*.

### CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER

**Monday-Friday**

8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Saturday**

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

1899 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, Oklahoma  
[potawatomihertiage.com](http://potawatomihertiage.com)

405-878-5830

Free entry



Learn about the Potawatomi involvement in the War of 1812 by touring the CPN Cultural Heritage Center's gallery Defenders of the Northwest.

In an article titled *Main Poc: Potawatomi Wabeno*, David Edmunds wrote, "At first many Indians regarded *Tenskwatawa*, the Shawnee Prophet, as a charlatan, but when he successfully predicted an eclipse of the sun in June 1806, even many of the former scoffers were converted. Main Poc probably learned of the rapidly spreading new religion from the Kickapoos, who were among the Prophet's first disciples."

The Potawatomi *Wabeno* (powerful medicine man) encouraged the Shawnee leaders to develop their hub, known as Prophetstown, near his village in northwestern Indiana.

"Main Poc played a crucial and leading role during this period," Norton said. "He was a renowned spiritualist and very proud of this. His initial interest was in *Tenskwatawa*. He wanted to know if this Shawnee prophet who was gaining notoriety was legitimate. *Tenskwatawa*'s feelings were mutual. Main Poc was also a famous warrior, with a near cultish following. This allowed him to build a strong relationship with both brothers, ultimately leading to their relocation from Ohio to Indiana."

Without Main Poc's military support, the message of Tecumseh and *Tenskwatawa* may not have caught the traction that it did. American Indian agent William Wells considered Main Poc as the "greatest warrior in the west ... the pivot on which the minds of all Western Indians turned ... (he) has more influence than any other Indian."

Norton added, "Comments like that put (Main Poc) neck to neck with *Tenskwatawa* and Tecumseh, in my opinion. This motivated officials to personally invite him to meet directly with Thomas Jefferson. In many ways, he embodied the balanced spiritual/military movement of Nativism."

On Nov. 5, 1808, agent Wells, Main Poc and others began traveling to Washington D.C. Although Wells hoped the trip would help settle the Potawatomi and other Native group's disdain for the government, Main Poc continued to dislike the United States.

In *Main Poc: Potawatomi Wabeno*, Edmunds wrote, "During the Christmas holidays he met personally with President Thomas Jefferson. Clad entirely in buckskin, his face painted in broad swatches of red and black." Main Poc refused to participate in activities alongside the rest of his companions, staying in his apartment. When the delegation held a private meeting with

President Jefferson, Main Poc refused the President's suggestion that the Potawatomi should become farmers.

## War

After returning to the Great Lakes region, Main Poc continued building a relationship with the Shawnee brothers. However, he refused to adhere to all of their policies, especially surrounding peace with other Native tribes. He kept leading raids against other tribal groups, and in 1811, Main Poc received a wound during a skirmish with an Osage hunting party. He spent the spring of 1811 healing, and once able, he traveled across Potawatomi, Sac and Kickapoo villages to help prepare them for battle.

Tecumseh desired all Native Nations possess what little Indian land

than a month later, British and Native troops successfully captured Fort Mackinac without firing a single weapon.

The fort provided an opportunity to control the Straits of Mackinac, which served as a key access point to Lake Michigan from Lake Huron. Because water travel was faster than on land at this time, the win gave British and Native forces an upper hand.

After the U.S. lost Fort Mackinac, Captain Nathan Heald at Fort Dearborn received an order to evacuate and destroy all ammunition and arms while giving any remaining goods and provisions to friendly Native Americans in the area. The two forts stood approximately 300 miles apart, and the U.S. military feared they would not be able to provide Fort Dearborn with adequate supplies without Fort Mackinac. Potawatomi leader *Winamek* delivered orders from General William Hull, the initial governor of Michigan Territory, for the Americans to leave their post immediately before any Natives in the area learned about their plans to leave Fort Dearborn. However, Captain Heald ignored his advice.

On Aug. 14, 1812, Captain Heald called a council meeting with the Potawatomi, informing them of his plans.

"To their surprise, he told them he intended to evacuate the fort the next day, August 15, 1812; that he would distribute the fire-arms, ammunition, provisions, whiskey, etc., among them; and that if they would send a band of Pottawatomies to escort them safely to Fort Wayne, he would there pay them a large sum of money," explained



Image depicts Fort Dearborn in 1810.

remained in common, with no tribe or community holding sole ownership. Federal policy at this time encouraged small groups and leaders to cede land, and as a result, large acreage quickly passed from Native Americans to white settlers' hands. Tecumseh and many others believed these treaties should not be upheld, and to ensure no more lands transferred in this manner, all Natives would have to ban together.

Edmunds continued, "The Shawnee chief realized that in the past the traditional tribal political structure had proven ineffective. Because the tribes had acted independently, federal officials had been able to manipulate them, often playing one against the other to the government's advantage."

The United States declared war against Great Britain on June 18, 1812. Less

Potawatomi Chief Simon Pokagon in an article titled *The Massacre of Fort Dearborn at Chicago* published in 1899.

By going back on his word, many Potawatomi no longer trusted Captain Heald, and it helped fuel their desires to reclaim the area as their own. On the evening of Aug. 14, Potawatomi leader Black Partridge met with Heald and gave him his peace medal. He warned the Americans to be careful when they began their journey the next morning and that he could not hold his men responsible.

## The battle

Stationed at nearby Fort Wayne, Indian agent and U.S. military Captain William Wells gathered 30 Miami warriors to help escort the Americans residing at Dearborn

*Continued on next page*

# 2019 PLP class build their leadership identities

During Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Potawatomi Leadership Program, the 10 college students chosen to experience the Tribe in a six-week, crash course internship learn a substantial amount about Potawatomi culture and businesses. Many connect with a previously undiscovered part of their heritage and personality, such as Spokane Falls Community College freshman Liam Wrixon.

"A lot of times, I almost felt bad for checking the Native American box on forms and stuff, even though I was already a member of the Tribe. ... And it's not always about blood percentage. It's about how willing you are to be involved in the culture, in the Tribe," he said.

Only a few weeks into their time living together in the Sharp House, the 2019 PLP class reflected during an interview with the *Hownikan* on the new activities, cultural teachings and the leadership skills born from being Potawatomi.

## Crafts and dancing

Some of their most meaningful and artistic experiences included helping make their regalia and attempting powwow dancing for the first time.

Shawls hold prominence as a part of women's regalia. Every year, each of the women in the PLP class receive one from their House Mother Margaret Zientek. They had a chance to give their input on colors, patterns and fabrics, and began fringing.

"Mine is black, red and white, and I chose red because I'm the second born, which has meaning to me," said University of Northern Iowa sophomore Jaclyn Michener. "And then we have feathers. I have a white and red feather crossing at the ends, which is beautiful, and Margaret did an amazing job."

The group also created pucker toe moccasins during a Family Reunion Festival class in June and learned traditional powwow dances. That was the favorite part of the summer for Fort Lewis College sophomore Katie Simpson.

"I felt very powerful. It felt moving, almost. It inspired me to want to come back next year and do competitive dancing," she said. "I think it's just so beautiful; I can't get enough of it."

It all came together during Grand Entry, and much of the PLP class enjoyed seeing everyone participating and their handmade pieces.

## War of 1812 continued...

back to Fort Wayne. On the morning of Aug. 15, Fort Dearborn's 96 inhabitants began their journey. A little more than a mile into the trip, 500 Potawatomi warriors under the direction of Blackbird and Mad Sturgeon, along with a few Kickapoos, Sacs and Winnebagos, took shelter behind dunes on Lake Michigan's shore. As Native warriors primed their weapons and waited for an opportunity to attack the Americans, Captain Wells saw them in the distance and warned Captain Heald of the impeding ambush.

Blackbird then instructed his men to attack, and the Potawatomi crossed the dunes to approach the Americans. Heald's troops attempted to strike the Potawatomi center, but it provided an



*The 2019 Potawatomi Leadership Program class builds relationships across the Tribe during the six-week internship.*

"It was just a really immersive experience, and I felt connected with the people around me and getting to see their regalia and outward expression," said Haskell Indian Nations University sophomore Maria Hrenchir.

## Around the Tribe

During meetings with each department, this year's class studied how the Tribe functions on a day-to-day level through an understanding of CPN's overarching relationships with other governments. The diversity of the Nation's services and enterprises surprised them.

"Just seeing how much the Tribe is constantly developing and creating new things and just really thinking ahead and being proactive is really cool," said Lilly Lewis, a sophomore at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Michener particularly enjoyed visiting the realty department.

"They took us to the clay shooting range, and we all got to participate in that," she said. "And it was a fun day overall, going and seeing where things are that the Potawatomi owns that you don't necessarily see besides the main powwow area."

additional opportunity for the Native warriors to circle the American column. Heald and his men tried to protect themselves with the dunes, but other Potawatomi fired upon the soldiers. About 15 minutes later, the two sides ceased fire.

In *The Potawatomis Keepers of the Fire* by R. David Edmunds, he wrote, "The Potawatomi attack took a heavy toll on the Americans. Heald's force suffered fifty-three dead and many wounded. Among the dead was Wells, shot from his horse and then riddled by musket balls as he lay on the beach. The Potawatomis lost about fifteen warriors. Among the wounded was Mad Sturgeon, who suffered a gunshot wound."

After the battle and the incineration of the fort, very few, if any, U.S. citizens

As a whole, the group learned the basics of self-governance and the Tribe's standing as a business entity and government, complete with three branches—legislative, executive and judicial—reflective of the U.S. federal system.

They also dove into the Potawatomi language with Justin Neely, the language department director. Several expressed a desire to pass it along to their friends and family after returning from the program.

Traveling around the Tribe and seeing how hard all of the employees work made them realize everyone contributes their portion to keep it running smoothly, including the Public Information Department.

"You see a flyer, but you don't think about all the work that goes in behind it and suddenly realizing that there's a voice behind the social media that we see; each Twitter page, each post has to be made by someone," Lewis said.

## Communication

With 10 people living in one house, communication is critical. They quickly learned various ways to speak and present themselves as

called the region home until the War of 1812 ended. However, because of the political and cultural climate across the United States at the time, the battle was commonly referred to as a massacre for many years, although it occurred during war. The choice of language helped relay a message and rally Americans together against their Native counterparts, and shortly after the Battle of Fort Dearborn, many Native villages experienced attacks by white settlers and U.S. troops. The word "massacre" plays into the idea that Native Americans were and still are nothing more than uncivilized barbarians, which is far from the truth.

According to Chief Simon Pokagon's 1899 article, "The Fort Dearborn battle has been denounced by the dominant race as a brutal massacre,

they moved together between social situations, work and ceremonies.

"I feel like going through this program, it helps prepare me to be able to work with people who I just met so that I can be a better partner, team member, and also be to develop myself and my identity so that I can be there for those people," said Mickey Loveless, sophomore at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Utilizing those skills and adapting them to any workplace remains a lifelong lesson from the program. Florida State University sophomore Kay-Sha Perkins now knows how to bring her ideas forward and make her voice heard.

"I've learned to at least step up and not be like a follower. ... You learn that it's not always something that you can just tag along. You've got to make your own decisions," she said.

Others grew by allowing their peers to speak and not always taking charge. Ally Smith, a California Lutheran University sophomore, found traditional talking circles a unique experience.

"You're all supposed to stay silent and just let one person talk, where when you're in a big group, usually people are talking over each other or things like that," she said. "So, I just really like how we can all just sit for a minute and listen to each other, like fully listen."

Drury University freshman Johnathon Tune discovered that, to him, leadership means teaching others and answering their questions. His plans following his six weeks with CPN include spreading his new knowledge at home.

"My college doesn't have an American Indian Student Association. So, that's something I actually want to look forward into starting or getting involved in at my school," he said.

As for Rachael Sanders, a sophomore at the University of North Texas, the PLP influenced her and prepared her for school, career and life to an incalculable degree.

"I probably won't even understand until I get back is the true answer because there are so many things that we've learned and developed, and understanding ourselves makes us better for the future," she said.

Visit [plp.potawatomi.org](http://plp.potawatomi.org) to find out more about the program and apply. ♣

regardless of its many individual acts of mercy and kindness. In this wholesale slaughter, not one white man stretched out a hand to save a single soul.

"Your own historians, true to their trust, have recorded the cruelty of their own race, that unborn millions might read it as a testimony against them. In the name of all that is sacred and dear to mankind, tell Pokagon, if you can, why less love, pity, or sympathy should be required of the civilized and enlightened people than of untutored savages."

Learn more about this era in Potawatomi history and the Battle of Fort Dearborn by visiting the Cultural Heritage Center's gallery *Defenders of the Northwest: Ndobani*. ♣

# Cultural Heritage Center staff seek to protect Potawatomi history and culture

For Tohono O'odham Nation citizen Tracy Wind, conserving Native American history for future generations inspired her career in the museum field. Wind joined the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center as an assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer fall 2017.

Wind studied journalism at Kansas University until Haskell Indian Nations University implemented the Indigenous and American Indian studies program.

"I knew I wanted to work for a tribal newspaper, and I wanted to learn from Native professors," Wind explained. She transferred to Haskell where she developed an interest in cultural resources and conservation. After graduation, she returned home to Arizona to work within the Ak-Chin Indian Community's cultural resource department and as a photojournalist for the Ak-Chin newspaper, *Ak-Chin O'odham Runner*.

"It's in the name preservation — you know, people forget," Wind explained. "When you don't share the stories, you don't share the songs, and you don't share the teachings, that's going to disappear, and they are all part of the story. The objects — artifacts — they all tell a story. The people that were there before us tell the story."

"That story is part of who you are, and you have to continue to share it. If we don't know it, we will forget who we are and who we were."

Wind grew up on the Tohono O'odham Nation Indian Reservation located along the U.S. and Mexico border in southern Arizona. She is enrolled in the Ak-Chin Indian Community just south of Phoenix. She met her husband, who is Sac and Fox and Creek, while attending Haskell. His familial connections inspired the couple to move from Arizona to Oklahoma to raise their family.

## Preservation

Since arriving in the state, Wind has held a variety of positions with organizations and other federally recognized tribes in the region. She believes being mindful and empathetic surrounding cultural preservation is integral to the success of all Native Americans.

"There aren't a lot of Native people in this field," Wind said. "It is really important because when you get



*Tracy Wind takes a break from research to help maintain CPN's community garden *Bodewadmi Widoktadwen Gtegan*.*

involved with NAGPRA, you're dealing with cultural artifacts and remains."

In 1990, congress enacted the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Its language describes Native American, tribal and Native Hawaiian's rights surrounding culturally significant objects including human remains and burial sites. If an organization, whether public or private, receives federal funding, they must adhere to NAGPRA.

CHC Director Dr. Kelli Mosteller serves as CPN's key NAGPRA officer and oversees all the heritage center's operations, which includes safeguarding and consulting with the federal government on protecting culturally relevant items, space and bodily remains. She, along with Wind, help determine whether findings and artifacts link to Potawatomi ancestors.

Also, when CPN and other entities that receive federal dollars want to build on current and former tribal lands, tribal historic preservation officers must conduct research on the land's history and importance before construction can move forward.

"We have to review anything that could be culturally significant, and it could be in Michigan, anywhere that they came along the Trail of Death, and anywhere Potawatomi ancestors settled," Wind said.

Piles of paperwork line Wind's desk. She wades through the stacks and conducts research to determine whether projects can move forward or if additional inquiry is necessary.

Though NAGPRA passed almost two decades ago, many museums and intuitions still possess Native American remains and objects.

"It's just so interesting to me, the process and the fight," Wind said. "Still, we have to fight — to this day — to get our people back."

The federal government removed the Citizen Potawatomi from the Great Lakes region, and the Tribe settled in Kansas and eventually Oklahoma. Because of this, the Nation does not encourage bringing remains or items from the Potawatomi ancestral homelands to where the Tribe moved to conduct ceremony and provide proper burials. Instead, CPN assists other Great Lakes tribes and fellow Potawatomi with NAGPRA-related issues, that way remains and objects receive the proper care and attention.

"We're there for support and to add our name and our weight to it," Wind said. "It's really important for tribes to support one another and give that backing because with most (NAGPRA) fights, if it's just one tribe, they can dismiss it easier," Wind explained. "But it's different if you have a whole bunch of tribes uniting together — and that's what we do."

Wind assists the Nation with repatriation through NAGPRA and ensures important pieces of Citizen Potawatomi and the greater *Nishnabe* community are not lost. Her ability to absorb and retain information helps Wind excel, and her tenacity for knowledge ensures CHC staff utilize the latest trends in cultural

preservation. In fact, she enjoys reading and learning so much that for the past eight years, Wind has held a part-time position at the Shawnee Public Library.

## Gtegemen

In addition to Wind's dedication to details, she supports the Nation's efforts to employ Potawatomi agricultural traditions at CPN's community garden, *Bodewadmi Widoktadwen Gtegan*, alongside CPN member and Community Garden Assistant Kaya DeerInWater.

"It's really nice, except on the days that it's really hot. But other times, when it's nice out, it's therapeutic," she explained. "If your mind's a mess, you can just relax. I love nature, and there is always something new out there. It helps clear your mind."

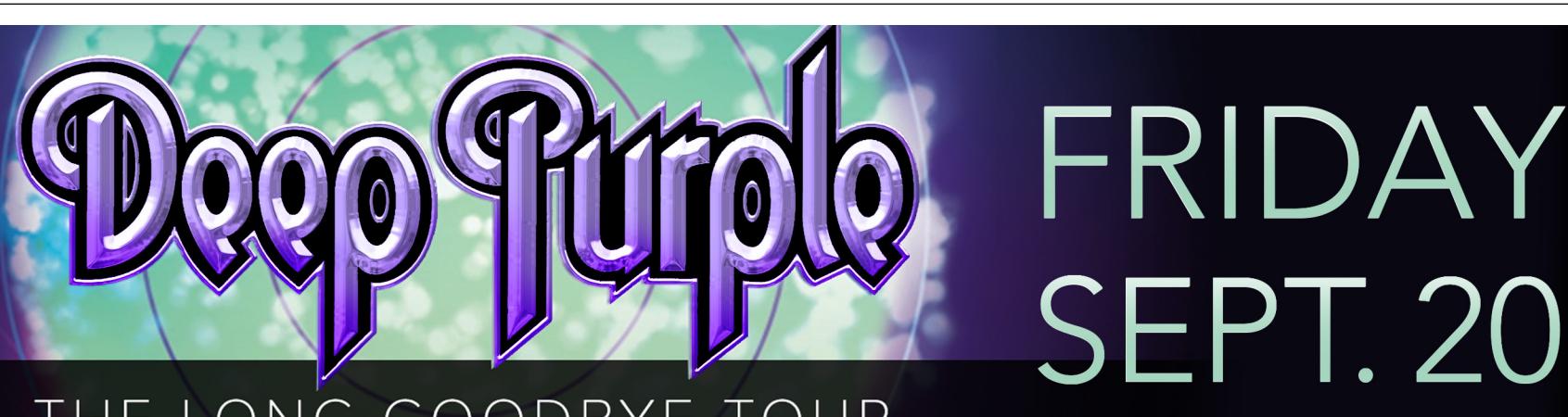
One of Wind's favorite projects at the garden includes CPN's partnership with Tribal Alliance for Pollinators. Garden and CHC staff are dedicated to habitat renewal and ecological management techniques that support insects like butterflies, bees and other animals that serve key roles in growing the food and fiber necessary to sustain us.

"Tracy helps me by providing suggestions that make the garden and gardening activities more culturally relevant," DeerInWater said. "It was really her idea to have planting songs and some ceremony before our planting of white corn this year. She is also a really hard worker and is always out in the garden weeding, even on the hottest days."

Wind is thankful for opportunity to learn about other Native American cultures through her position and her role in uplifting Indian Country as a whole.

"I always know that I'm going to do my best to take care of (the artifacts)," she explained. "It doesn't have to be just my tribe; we're all Native. We're all people, and I'm just happy to be a part of it."

For more information on the Cultural Heritage Center and its work to preserve Potawatomi culture, visit [potawatomihistory.com](http://potawatomihistory.com) and stay up to date on all *Bodewadmi Widoktadwen Gtegan* activities at [potawatomi.org/events](http://potawatomi.org/events). ♫



**FIRELAKE ARENA** [ BUY YOUR TICKETS AT [FIRELAKEARENA.COM](http://FIRELAKEARENA.COM) ]

# 2019 Family Reunion Festival Winners

## Adult Art - Professional

1 Laura Hewuse

## Adult Art - Other

1 Terra Galyon - *Red Butterfly Woman*  
2 Kaleb Roberts - *Wooden Eagle*  
3 Izzy Bonebreak - *Porky Roach*

## Adult Art

### Photo/Drawing/Painting

1 Betty Simecka - *Monarch of the Plains*  
2 Patty Buckmaster - *Sunset Silhouette*  
3 Wesley Fentress - *Preservation*

## Adult Basketball

1 Peltier Family: Logan Hubble, Trevor Hubble and Brock Hubble  
2 Higbee Family: Jace Taylor, Greg Jackson and Parker Lewis  
3 Curley Family: Kenneth Johnson, Monroe Carbitcher and Derrek Chewey

## Archery - Men's Non-Traditional

1 John Green  
2 Matthew Higdon  
3 Bryan Ramirez

## Archery - Men's Traditional

1 Donald Anderson  
2 Terry Bower  
3 Stanley Higdon

## Archery - Women's

1 Natalie Phillips  
2 Beverly Anderson  
3 Dotty Bower

## Checkers Adults

1 Jace Taylor  
2 James Winn  
3 Michelle Harmon

## Chess Adults

1 Monroe "Bud" Jeffrey  
2 James Brenner  
3 Sinjin Black

## Checkers (12 - 15)

1 Ethan Parsley  
2 Spencer Morrow  
3 Abby Morrow

## Checkers (6-8)

1 William Richardson  
2 Brynnlee Marcum  
3 Riley VanVactor

## Checkers (9-11)

1 Robert Collins  
2 Jacob Stone  
3 Baileigh Marcum

## Chess (6-8)

1 William Richardson  
2 Kirsten VanVactor

## Chess (9-11)

1 Crusher Watkins  
2 Jacob Stone  
3 Iam Samilton

## Chess (12-15)

1 Bryden Lenggenhager  
2 Spencer Morrow  
3 Robert Nagahnquet

## Coloring Contest (2-4)

1 Jude Parmer  
2 Oliver Gaillard  
3 Eloise Stock  
4 Avery Kelough

## Coloring contest (5-7)

1 Titus Sanchez  
2 Rylee Kirk  
3 Levi Parmer  
4 Myka Lenggenhager

## Coloring contest (11-14)

1 Laney Cavender  
2 Savannah Gaylord  
3 Luke Parmer  
4 Jasmine Brown

## Golf A

1 Team Kieffer

## Golf B

1 Team Bruner

## Dancing Under the Stars Boys (0-3)

1 Noah Kirk  
2 Tamus Nieman  
3 Oliver Galliard

## Dancing Under the Stars Girls (0-3)

1 Avery Kelough  
2 Isabella Nieman  
3 Madison Childress

## Dancing Under the Stars Boys (4-7)

1 Elvis Mackinney  
2 William Richardson  
3 Aidyn Wheelwright

## Dancing Under the Stars Girls (4-7)

1 Paisley Kissington  
2 Pharia Neiman  
3 Brynnlee Marcom

## Dancing Under the Stars Boys (8-10)

1 Charlie Foster  
2 Traceton Childress  
3 Prince Carey

## Dancing Under the Stars Girls (8-10)

1 Kaidynce Greer  
2 Jett Winn  
3 Kirsten Anderson

## Dancing Under the Stars Boys (11-13)

1 Leilan Jackson  
2 Lander Buckhatter  
3 Ian Samilton  
4 Tremayne Wallace

## Dancing Under the Stars Girls (11-13)

1 Santann Graham  
2 Branna Miller  
3 Serenity Goss

## Dancing Under the Stars Boys (14-17)

1 Ethan Parsley  
2 Kyler Kaminsky  
3 Joseph White  
4 Dominic Ferrell

## Dancing Under the Stars Girls (14-17)

1 Jasmine Brown  
2 Anna Anderson  
3 Emily Helost

## Dancing Under the Stars Couples (18 - 49)

1 Travis and Stormy Hunter  
2 Jace Taylor and Kasadie Lawson  
3 Derrick and Marisa Shouse  
4 Katherine Croxten and Dominic Ferrell

## Dancing Under the Stars Couples (50+)

1 Ranae and Roy Holloway  
2 Floyd and Jane Greene  
3 Ronald and Darlene Sale  
4 Rhonda Rhodd and Braylon Hunter

## Dominoes

1 Rosa Reed  
2 Ronnie Burnside  
3 Shaylon Burnside

## Dancing Competition Golden Men (55+)

1 George Godfrey  
2 Paul Deanwall

## Dancing Competition Golden Women (55+)

1 Maryann Welch  
2 Karen Weaver  
3 Jayne Fleischfresser

## Dancing Competition Adult Men (16 - 54)

1 Lyle Simmons  
2 Jesse James  
3 Jayson Lambert

## Dancing Competition Adult Women (16 - 54)

1 Gabriella Gombas  
2 Candace Painter  
3 Cortney Bolt

## Dancing Competition Youth Women (15 and under)

1 Abby Brimm  
2 Mollyann Baker  
3 Sadie Painter

## Dancing Competition Youth Men (15 and under)

1 Britton James  
2 Tyson Moore

## Hand Games

Winners: Mary Frances Riner, Alexis Riner, Joan Atkins, Linda Miller, Samantha Wichman, Joe Wulfkuhle and Anthony Wulfkuhle.

## Horseshoes Men

1 Bradley Burkhalter

## Horseshoes Women

1 Mariska Brow

## Mini Putt - Adult

1 Autumn Cory  
2 Kyler Kaninski  
3 Jay Cory

## Mini Putt Kids (6-8)

1 Annsleigh Wilson  
2 Coy Buckmaster  
3 Brazen Tate

## Mini Putt Kids (9-11)

1 Ryne Buckmaster  
2 Autumn Armbruster  
3 Lincoln Watts

## Mini Putt - Kids (12-14)

1 Nicholas White  
2 Jasmine Brown  
3 Cole Buckmaster

## Softball

1 Sandlot  
2 No Name  
3 The Buckmasters

## Volleyball

1 Buckmasters - Jarrod Buckmaster, Dennis Buckmiser, Jeff Buckmaster, Joey Buckmaster, Tanner Stephens, James Winn, Vanessa Buckmaster and Liz Buckmaster  
2 Weddle - John Weddle, Jame Taffee, Dacey Hutchison, Jeff Keiffer, Jessie Williams, Kristin McGirt, Cade Capps and Cole Capps  
3 Wood - Adrianna Wood, Kenneth Johnson, Ronnie Burnside, Dominic Wicker, Dominic Wicker Jr., Elizabeth Carbitcher, Tiffany Wicker and Derek Wicker

## Farthest Traveled

Nancy Rogers from Spain

## Widest in attendance

Bob Pearl, St. Marys, Kansas (93)

## Youngest in attendance

Rosemary Zientek (4 months)

## Youth Art (5 and under)

1 Alayna Gaillard with *Unicorn in the Meadow*  
2 Jude Parmer with *Ice Cream*  
3 Oliver Gaylor with *Rainbow Bomb*

## Youth Art (6-9)

1 Tinley Winn with *Flower Power*  
2 Kirsten VanVacter with *Saudi Arabia*  
3 Amelia Morrow with *Cinco de Mayo Skeleton*

## Youth Art (10-12)

1 Spencer Peacock  
2 Luke Parmer  
3 Savanah Gaylord *Two Little Indians*

## Youth Art (13-15)

1 Raelyn Hornbuckle with *Chief*  
2 Jacob Dieter with *Charcoal Hand Drawing*  
3 Cora Garcia with *Indian Woman*

## Pool - Youth

1 Will Hilton  
2 Malaki Keitel  
3 Kyler Kaminski

## Pool - Adult

1 Michael Pradmore  
2 Kenneth Wood  
3 Robert Brake

## Pistol Match - Open Men

1 Wesley Fentress  
2 Chris Farve  
3 Kenneth Netterville

## Pistol Match - .22 Men

1 Si Fentress  
2 Chris Farve  
3 Jack Barrett

## Pistol Match - Open Women

1 Anita Holloway  
2 Michelle McKenzie  
3 Ashley Anderson

## Pistol Match - .22 Women

1 Anita Holloway  
2 Michelle McKenzie  
3 Tammy Dunham

**FOLLOW US!**



@C\_P\_N



HOWNIKAN



CPN HOWNIKAN



Members of the 2019 Potawatomi Leadership Program learn how to fringe during a Festival class.



Tribal members compete in domino, chess and checkers tournaments every year.



CPN Education Department Director Tesia Zientek leads a powwow dancing class in the arena.

# 2019 Family Reunion Festival



2019 Family Reunion Festival powwow.



CPN Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett prepares for the 2019 Family Reunion Festival powwow.



The CPN Veterans Organization welcomes Tribal members to a flag retirement and folding ceremony.



More than 100 Tribal members spend their Friday night playing handgames at Festival.



The CPN Veterans Organization color guard marches the U.S. and CPN flags into the dance arena before Grand Entry.



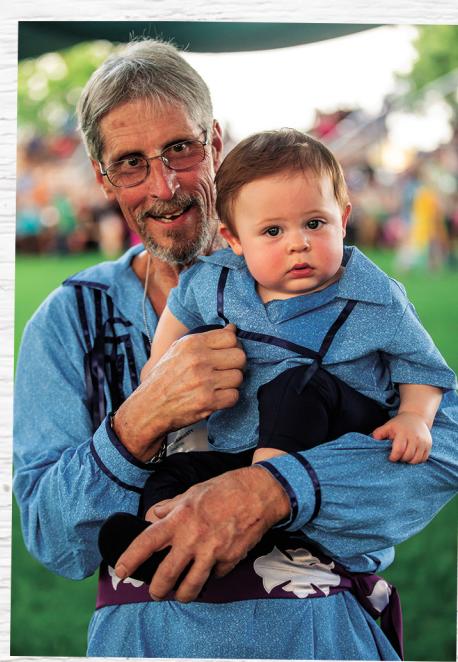
Tribal member Chris Favre and his son Beau represent the Peltier and Bostick families during the Saturday evening powwow.



Tribal members take their turns dancing around the arena during a social powwow song.



CPN Workforce Development & Social Services' Employment and Training Assistant Director and Grants Coordinator Margaret Zientek keeps watch over a new friend.



Mike Hardesty and his grandson Liam Bell await their chance to enter the dance arena.



CPN Tribal Court Judge Phil Lujan and others participate in the round dance Saturday evening.

# Census 2020: Why and how to be counted as a Native American

The decennial U.S. census begins in a few months. The government determines how to distribute millions of federal dollars to programs, grants and Native American tribes through the data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau. Filling out the form truthfully and accurately remains one of the best ways to ensure the Tribe remains vibrant and an essential part of the broader community.

The census' methods result in a habitual undercount of Indigenous people. The *Washington Post* called American Indians and Alaska Natives "one of the most undercounted minority groups in the country" with a 4.8 percent discrepancy in the 2010 census, according to the Census Bureau.

"Census takers in the past have been blasted for not doing a great job of ... assisting Native Americans in self-identifying as such if they're enrolled members of a tribe," said Citizen Potawatomi Nation Self Governance Director Kasie Nichols. "They haven't been sensitive culturally or otherwise to collecting that information."

During the 2020 census, the bureau will distribute only short-form surveys, making it more critical to know how and why to fill out the form to give accurate data.

## Data at CPN

Several departments across CPN use census numbers, including Workforce Development and Social Services, education, self-governance, and safety and housekeeping.

"It's very important information, and it's important because it's translated to federal dollars for us," Nichols said.

A few of the Tribal programs that depend on and receive aid from federal grants and organizations include Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act services for the Tribal area's unemployed, child care, Department of Labor workforce funds, Housing and Urban Development resources for Indigenous people in Oklahoma, and more.

Other nonprofits and organizations that distribute funds reference census numbers as well.

In 2013, the American Red Cross granted CPN a portion of the capital needed to build storm shelters in the Nation's jurisdiction following a natural disaster that destroyed land and houses. Safety and Housekeeping Director Tim Zientek showed a need through the numbers.

"We were awarded ... in part due to the fact that we had those census numbers and knew how many Natives were within our jurisdictional area plus how many Tribal members when we went through Tribal Rolls," he said.

Self-Governance Grants Analyst Jeremy Arnette says grant application processes also often use census data as a snapshot of CPN.

"It can be a contributing factor paired with other things," he said. "And we don't generally have control over what gets used, so we want all of the data sources to be as advantageous as possible."

As Pottawatomie County's biggest employer and a pillar in the eastern periphery of the Oklahoma City metro, CPN utilizes the data to determine its economic impact on the area, that effect on the larger Native population in the state, and worth to prospective business partners and employers.

"I'm finding new organizations that are volunteer organizations as we go along that their sole purpose is to reach out to Native American tribes that need assistance during disasters," Tim said.

From a self-governance perspective, the issue regarding the data boils down to "ensuring that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is always receiving whatever it is entitled to receive," according to Nichols.

## Selecting "American Indian"

In 2010, the Census Bureau did not send out long-form surveys for the first time in 70 years.

The bureau sent out the first American Community Survey in 2005, which replaced the long-form questionnaire. It distributes the ACS every month to a small number of households and aggregates data on a rotating schedule, generally providing estimates for responses every one to five years.

CPN Workforce Development and Social Services' Employment and Training Assistant Director and Grants Coordinator Margaret Zientek believes both the census and ACS fall short.

"It's a sample; they're doing nothing but sampling and projecting. It's a hit and miss," she explained. "When you have Tribal rolls, it says we have 34-35,000 people, but census says you have 1,400; you know there's an error."

The small number of households chosen and underrepresentation add to the importance of filling out both surveys.

One of the most crucial questions on the census defines the householder. If only one member of a family is not a citizen of a federally recognized tribe and they identify them as the householder, the census records the entire household as such, which includes enrolled children.

Labeling the Indigenous person the householder allows for more accurate Native representation in the federal population data.

"If you're a Native or you live in a home where maybe you're not Native but a spouse is or your children are, (make sure) that they are counted as Native because that makes an impact to not just our department but across the board," Tim said.

The "Race" section under the 2020 census includes the ability to check multiple boxes to increase specificity and accuracy. The survey also provides space to write out a tribal affiliation. Selecting Native American ancestry on the form, whether alone or in combination with another race makes the data more reliable.

Inclusion and representation in everything from advocacy to politics relies on an accurate calculation of Indigenous people.

According to Tim, tribes as a whole receive federal help and obtain more local dollars as the number of Indigenous citizens increases.

"If they're not counted as Native, then they don't exist as far as the federal government goes," he said. "But the federal government has a trust responsibility to support Native American tribes, federally recognized tribes. And if the numbers aren't there, then, of course, their support is going to be less."

Representation requires the U.S. government to acknowledge colonization and that American Indian people deserve assistance.

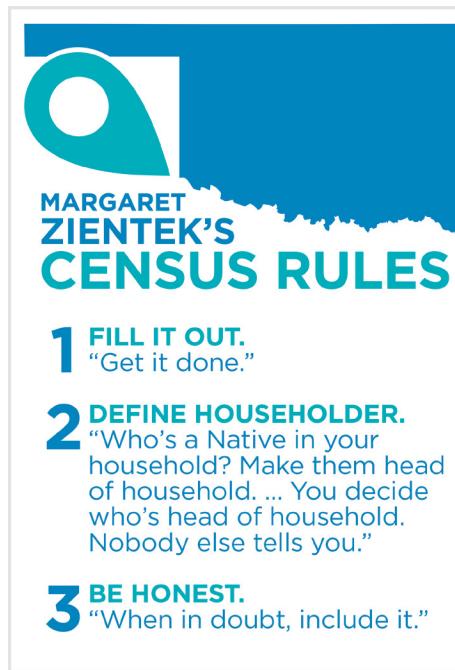
"Just because you might be Citizen Potawatomi and not living here in Oklahoma, but you live in California or Wisconsin or Florida or Texas or wherever, you're still Native American and need to be counted as such," Tim said.

Arnette also explained the necessity of updating decade-old numbers.

"Assuming you're in an area where population is increasing, the further you get away from a census date, the worse that data is for you if your population is growing because you're reporting potentially now 10-year-old data," he said.

Participation matters on every level.

Next year will be the first time citizens have the option to fill out the survey online. Read more about the census at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov). ↗



## Local and national

"For program funding, ensuring that the AI/AN, American Indian/Alaskan Native, population is not undercounted is really an important issue," Nichols said.

Arnette expanded, highlighting that while Tribal members outside of Oklahoma cannot physically use services bound by jurisdiction, services CPN members utilize everywhere use census numbers as well.

"CPN tribal members nationwide should answer accordingly because a program could serve them in their area or serve Native Americans in their area," he said. "And they could be counted in their area ... for the same purpose."

## BECAUSE LIFE CAN GET A LITTLE CRAZY



## TALK TO US. FIRST.

You live life on the go, between work, travel, PTA appointments and herding cattle (or kids). Having banking services at your fingertips is a requirement. Download our mobile app. Visit our website. You don't have to come to us, we'll come to you.

**FNB First National Bank & Trust Co.**

405-275-8830  
FNBOKLA.bank

Member FDIC

# Shawnee Forward names CPCDC's Freeman Ambassador of the Year

An unsung group of individuals from local businesses help propel the community forward through numerous volunteer hours and support when called upon. One such individual is the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation's Felicia Freeman, who Shawnee Forward named recently as its Ambassador of the Year.

"Felicia has not only been the most active ambassador in our program, but she brings an award-winning smile and genuine care for our members to every event she attends," said Jeremy Davidson, Shawnee Forward's marketing and events director.

The organization's brand ambassadors reach out to potential and new members while supporting existing members. Freeman, a commercial loan officer and certified credit counselor for the CPCDC, did not anticipate being recognized for her work.

"I was surprised," said Freeman, who is a CPN Tribal member from the Rhodd family. "Ambassadors with Shawnee Forward are advocates for our local businesses, so I was honored when they recognized me. Although it takes a lot of time and effort to serve on these committees and boards, it helps our local and Tribal economy."

Prior to joining the CPCDC, Freeman worked for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Housing Authority in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. She worked with tribal members transitioning from welfare to work, providing assistance such as education, transportation, employment and life skills training.

At the CPCDC – where she has worked for more than 12 years – Freeman is a commercial loan officer and certified credit counselor. During her tenure, she has assisted in making more than \$40 million in loans to Native American entrepreneurs. She also serves as the organization's liaison to the Comanche Nation Revolving Loan Fund and works closely on entering CPN members into the credit-counseling program.

"Part of our mission as ambassadors is to 'inspire entrepreneurial growth, economic opportunity, capacity building practices and community development initiatives in our tribal and local community.' These business owners are our neighbors, friends and relatives, and we all want our community to thrive and grow," Freeman said.

"CPN and the CPCDC also want to encourage business growth and thus, increase employment opportunities,



*Felicia Freeman*

promote a healthy economy and create a more self-sufficient community."

In addition to her work with Shawnee Forward, she is a board member for the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma; treasurer for the Neighboring 101 board; and a member of the Opportunity Finance Network, Native Community Development Financial Institution Network and Oklahoma Native Asset Coalition.

"As a Tribal Citizen, an employee and a community volunteer, Felecia exemplifies what is great about this community," said Shane Jett, CEO of the CPCDC. "She gives back in so many ways and we are proud to have her on our team."

Established in 2003, the CPCDC provides financial products and counseling services to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation members and employees nationwide as well as Native American-owned businesses throughout Oklahoma. To learn more about its services, visit [cpcdc.org](http://cpcdc.org) or call 405-878-4697.

Shawnee Forward is the recently formed business alliance of the Greater Shawnee Area Chamber of Commerce and the Shawnee Economic Development Foundation. Shawnee Forward is in place to lead the Shawnee area and surrounding region in community and economic development efforts. The organization brings together resources, commitment and energy of the chamber and economic development organizations and is the lead marketing and business attraction and retention entity for the community. Learn more at [shawneeforward.com](http://shawneeforward.com).

## New policies for Tribal license plate holders

With growing numbers comes the need to update policies and procedures, and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tag Agency is no stranger to such an endeavor. Since its establishment in May 2005, the tag agency has overseen the registration, sale and distribution of CPN license plates.

The ability to sell car tags to registered Citizen Potawatomi is enshrined in law. According to the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act, "(Indian Tribal License Plates) shall be designed for any vehicle of a native American Indian Tribal Association ... and used by the tribal association exclusively for the furtherance of its tribal functions."

The CPN Tag Agency license all manner of vehicles including automobiles, motorcycles, utility trailers and farm vehicles. Special veterans' tags and non-use decal Black Tags are available also to qualifying Tribal members.

As Tribal enrollment rises, so has the number of registered vehicles. However, the growth in those figures – there have been more than 29,000 tags issued since 2005 – requires more oversight from the tag agency.

"After suggestions from our fantastic tag agency staff, the Tribal administration agreed to support some legislative changes and policy updates to govern our license plate policies going forward," said Tribal Vice-Chairman Linda Capps.

The CPN Legislature approved the changes on May 30, 2019. Legislators amended several parts of Title 47, Transportation of the CPN Tribal Code.

For those registering a vehicle, only seven tags per CPN member are available. If any Tribal member is out of compliance with this new rule, they are encouraged to contact the tag agency as soon as possible.

If a vehicle is sold with Tribal tags, those tags must be returned and cannot be passed on to the next owner of the vehicle. Only spouses, parents or legal guardians, children, grandparents or a grandchild can be on the title of a vehicle with a CPN license plate. License plates are only for the use of Tribal members or those with the aforementioned connections.

"The issuance of Tribal tags requires the responsible exercise of tribal sovereignty," explained CPN District Court Judge Phillip Lujan. "Unfortunately there



are those who attempt to abuse this privilege of Tribal membership. The changes address issues which reinforce the responsible administration of the CPN Tag Agency and protect the rights of all Tribal members."

"We really want to encourage people, if they have questions, to call us first," said CPN Tag Agency Manager

Cheryl Tainpeah. "Our staff is here to help people understand some of the differences and provide the resources they need before they come out to see us."

Forms for many of the CPN Tag Agency services are available at [cpn.news/tag](http://cpn.news/tag). Toll-free calling is available at 1-800-880-9880. For local residents, standard rates apply by calling 405-273-1009.

# FOLLOW US! ONLINE



# Tribal sales tax raises more than \$52k for Pottawatomie County schools

In 2015, as funding for education across Oklahoma fell after state budget cuts and a crash in oil prices, Pottawatomie County voters were asked to consider another direction.

"People see that schools are hurting, and they want their students, their children, their grandchildren, to be taken care of," said Tecumseh Public Schools Superintendent Tom Wilsie in an interview with *The Oklahoman* in 2015. "We hope citizens in Pottawatomie County see the value in this," and they did.

With support from civic and school leaders across the county, voters approved a half-cent sales tax that would last 10 years, with 0.49 of a cent earmarked to fund each of 14 school districts in the county and 0.005 of a cent to the Pottawatomie County One Safe Place Family Justice Center.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation joined the community effort. Under the direction of CPN Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and support from the CPN Tribal Legislature, the Nation contributed funds to public school systems from sales tax receipts at Tribal enterprises. The *Shawnee-News Star* recently noted, "CPN has increased county school funding by an average of \$49,000 per

quarter — giving thousands of dollars in added revenue for the districts."

Shawnee Public Schools received the largest amount in 2019, with more than \$14,500, followed by Tecumseh Public Schools at \$8,000; McLoud Public Schools, \$6,500; Bethel Public Schools, \$4,700; and Dale Public Schools, \$3,100.

Since the collections began in 2016, CPN has given nearly half a million dollars to county schools and the Family Justice Center, the latter of which helps victims of sexual violence and family abuse.

At North Rock Creek, one of the smaller school districts in the county, the combined funds from the county and Tribal sales tax contributions can be seen firsthand. In recent years, North Rock Creek, which has 38 CPN members as enrolled students, paved the road and parking lot to the middle school using the sales tax donations.

"Paving is so expensive," said North Rock Creek Superintendent Blake Moody. "I couldn't see us being able to pay a couple hundred thousand dollars to pave it, so I would just tell myself, 'Oh, we can just drive on gravel.'"

Moody said the district is proud to see proceeds of the funding at



use. They're currently working on another project, a FEMA safe room for the elementary school.

"We have one for the middle school, but once we complete this, we won't have to worry about getting students out in the middle of a storm to run to the middle school," he said.

The safe rooms are part of a FEMA program that funds 75 percent of the costs with federal funds if a school district can meet the 25 percent cost share.

"Without the sales tax for schools, we wouldn't have even considered applying for a program like the safe rooms," Moody said.

School funding in education at local schools is vital to CPN's overall approach to the local community. With more than 2,300 employees coming from the areas inside and directly next to Pottawatomie County, the need for an educated and trained workforce is vital.

In the first quarter of the fiscal year, which began in October and ended in December, CPN contributed more than \$52,000 to the county's schools.

The Tribal sales tax isn't the only giving the Nation provides to public education. Since 2005, CPN has donated more than \$2.6 million to Oklahoma public schools from fees on its tribal vehicle license plates. In 2017-18, CPN tag owners donated \$311,000 to the public school of their choice when purchasing or renewing their Tribal license plates. ♫

## Language update

*Bozho jayek*  
(Hello everyone),

It's been a busy summer in the language department. We continue to offer the language in our Child Development Center, both at the west facility and the one by administration. Mrs. Enedina Banks does a great job with the little ones.

We have also started working again with the after-school program, which is now located at The Place. We have a new employee in the language department, Mr. Robert Collins. He has been doing a great job jumping right in and learning the language.

After a successful launch of our new dictionary and app at [potawatomidictionary.com](http://potawatomidictionary.com), we have seen a consistent number of folks visiting the dictionary, at over 60 a day. The dictionary has more than 8,500 words with over 50 percent having audio files. It also has cultural information on words, scientific names for plants, literal meanings, example sentences and historic audio recordings of many different speakers.

We wrapped up a 10-week language class at the Cultural Heritage Center shortly before Festival. We plan to start a new class sometime in late August or early September. We have been streaming classes regularly throughout the week in our Facebook group, Potawatomi Language ([cpn.news/langfb](https://www.facebook.com/cpn.news/langfb)). If you miss a class, it will archive the classes and save them in the videos section.

Speaking of Festival, we had a nice turnout for our annual Potawatomi language bingo games, averaging about



*A large group of Potawatomi drummers play through an evening of handgames at the 2019 Family Reunion Festival.*

a 100 people each session on Friday and Saturday. We also had a nice turnout for our immersion class on Saturday morning and children's class.

The language department is also involved with the men's powwow drum group. Every year, we participate in the hand game competition. This year, we had a great crew of guys, including a number of new faces. We had about 12 guys around the drum, and it was awesome. We are going to continue to drum Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m. every week. If you are a Potawatomi man interested in drumming, please come out and join us.

We have had a pleasure of getting to know the 2019 Potawatomi Leadership Program students and working with them on the language three days a week. Language staff

also lead lessons every Wednesday for our elders at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Elder Center at around 11:40 a.m. before they serve lunch.

We plan to start back up our youth language choir. We rolled it out last year, but it fizzled out. We are hoping for a stronger showing this year. It will be open to youth age 4 and up. We may make an exception for younger kids, so let us know if you are interested. We will be teaching the kids both traditional songs and contemporary songs.

We assisted District 4's Jon Boursaw with his youth camp July 26, and then headed to the Potawatomi language conference and the 2019 Potawatomi Gathering. The conference was Monday and Tuesday the week of Gathering. If you have never been, please take an opportunity to attend.

We will be offering the Potawatomi language this fall in both Tecumseh and Wanette school districts in the high schools for world language credit. We have offered it in Wanette the last two years, but this will be the first year at Tecumseh. We also hope to offer it in the near future in Shawnee and other districts in Oklahoma. Currently, it can be offered anywhere in Oklahoma, but districts are required to send a letter to the Oklahoma Department of Education's world languages division.

Other projects on the horizon include adding to and enhancing our current dictionary, working with Kaya DeerIn-Water, our assistant in the community garden, on the Joseph Napoleon Bourassa medicinal journal. This is tedious and involves transcribing the cursive handwriting and analyzing the plants with both Potawatomi and English names. We also plan to work on transcribing and analyzing an 1860's Potawatomi Bible.

Along with all the upcoming programs, our department also develops and manages a number of online language learning opportunities including beginner I, beginner II and intermediate starter courses online. Simply create a login and wait for a confirmation email to start a course. Then, you must do each lesson before the next section will unlock. We also have two courses at [memrise.com](https://memrise.com), Potawatomi Phrases and A Day in Your Life. Also, be sure to check out the online classes we stream in our Facebook group, Potawatomi Language, at [cpn.news/langfb](https://www.facebook.com/cpn.news/langfb), and we have cultural teachings available under "language and cultural teachings" at [potawatomi.org](http://potawatomi.org). ♫

# 2019 CPN summer interns build pathways to different futures

During the summer months of 2019, Citizen Potawatomi Nation welcomed 19 interns who worked in many Tribal departments, enterprises and career fields. The warmer months remain the most popular time to experience the Tribe as an employer; however, the program continues during the school year.

CPN Education Department Internship and Project Coordinator Channing Seikel sees the experience as an essential part of career development.

"Having the opportunity to go ahead and understand what the Tribe does for the community and what a sovereign nation is, I think is just phenomenal," for both tribal and non-tribal members, she said.

Summer sessions last six weeks and provide the knowledge that comes with attaining and keeping a full-time job. This year's students worked everywhere from the FireLake Wellness Center to the Tribal administration's Information Technology department.

Seikel conducts interviews and considers resumes while placing students, and while they may not end up in their exact line of study, she matches them with a department that rounds out their skill set and experience. The program is flexible, and Seikel encourages applicants to consider those new options.

"I wish I would have been able to kind of get my feet wet in different areas of study and different career paths," she said.

CPN welcomes anyone in higher education to apply — undergraduates, graduate students, vo-tech students — with no age, degree or tribal affiliation requirements. Three of this summer's interns came from a wide variety of experiences and degree paths.

## **Payge Wilson, Optometry**

Payge Wilson attends Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, studying business with plans to transition to the university's optometry program. She hopes to own a practice someday, and her summer as part of the Tribe's optometry department allowed her to gain knowledge on how a small clinic operates.

"Shadowing for this long is a really good experience because you do get to see a lot of day-to-day stuff and kind of how it works to be a doctor," she said.



Wilson pre-tested patients before their appointments, checking their pressures and taking retinal images of the backs of their eyes. She also sat in on exams, appreciating the chance to ask questions and have both optometrists explain what they see and recommend.

"You get to see someone that has been in the optometry field for a very long time, and then you get to see someone that comes right out of school and the different techniques," Wilson said. "It's been pretty cool to actually see both of those."

Along with working at the contact lens department at NSU's optometry college in Tahlequah, this internship helped build her confidence in optometry as a career choice.

## **Isaac Morris, Tribal Court**

Isaac Morris attends law school at Oklahoma City University, pursuing his American Indian law certificate. As a graduate student, he cherished the chance to sit in on all kinds of court cases.

"It really opened my eyes to how a tribal court is run. ... It's more laid back. It's more of a hands-on approach," he said.

Toward the end of his internship, he wrote, filed and presented his first petition as part of a legal case.

"Doing legal research for actual things that matter in cases instead of just for hypothetical situations in school is much different," Morris said.

Hoping to work for the Tribe as a lawyer, he began his internship with a different experience in mind, shadowing the legal department. The time in Tribal Court showed another side of the profession as a prosecutor.

"I didn't know if I was cut out for that kind of work," Morris said. "And seeing how tribal courts are not as adversarial, it was more of like we're trying to grow together as a community. So, I can see myself, in this context, being a prosecutor."

He encourages everyone to take advantage of the opportunities

presented by the education department as well as becoming more involved as a CPN member through cultural classes and resources.

## **Alex Upton, Information Technology**

Alex Upton attends Seminole State College in Seminole, Oklahoma. After earning his associate degree in liberal studies, he plans to transfer to the University of Oklahoma to study management information systems.

His dad told him about the internships at CPN, and Upton decided to learn from the Tribal administration's IT department.

"I've been interested in it, but I haven't done a lot of IT stuff until I started this internship. So, it's been a really good experience learning all the insides of the computer, like the hardware, and little tidbits that I never knew," he said.

Upton previously held positions at FireLake Golf Course and FireLake Discount Foods, and a full-time internship seemed like the next step to him.

"Since I'm a Tribal member, I think it'll help me get really intertwined with the Tribe and make good connections for my future," he said.

Upton spent time answering and finishing help desk tickets, logging equipment and fixing electronics as part of the department. He knows his time with computers and technology just started.

"There's so much more I could learn within the same aspect," he said. "Maybe more like things to do with hardware, like the guts of the computer, and things like cybersecurity and some networking."

CPN pays interns \$10 per hour, and individual institutions determine if time spent at the Nation counts as class credit. Applications require a resume and cover letter.

The CPN Education Department accepts applications for fall internships through July 10, spring through Nov. 10 and summer through April 10. For more information, visit [cpn.news/education](http://cpn.news/education) or email Channing Seikel at [channing.seikel@potawatomi.org](mailto:channing.seikel@potawatomi.org).

# Completing the Circle

**By Kendra Lowden, Indian Child Welfare Foster Care and Adoption Specialist**

Completing the Circle is a yearly event, planned by tribes and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, aiming to reconnect Oklahoma's Native American foster children to their tribe, culture and heritage. Many of these children are placed in non-Native American homes.

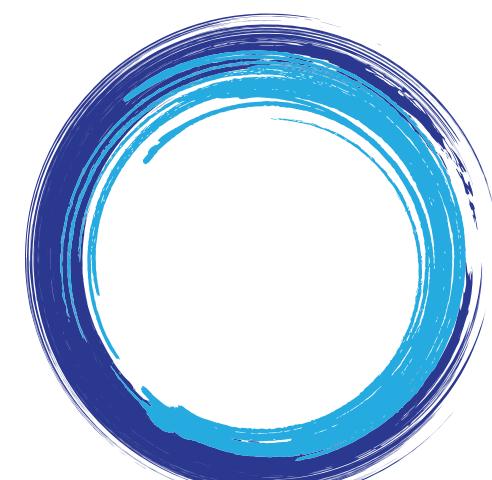
This year's event took place in June at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Festival

Grounds and Cultural Heritage Center. There was a record attendance with over 700 individuals participating in activities such as basket weaving, powwow dance lessons and storytelling. They also sampled traditional foods including corn soup, fry bread and grape dumplings. FireLake Bistro provided lunch.

A highlight of this year's event was a powwow designed to immerse families further in Native American culture. The CPN Veterans Organization presented flags during Grand Entry. Vice-Chairman

Linda Capps provided an opening blessing prior to dance demonstrations. Attendees participated in round dances and had the opportunity to take pictures with dancers.

If you are interested in becoming a foster home to help Potawatomi foster children connect with their heritage, please contact FireLodge Children & Family Services at 405-878-4831, or email Kendra Lowden at [kendra.lowden@potawatomi.org](mailto:kendra.lowden@potawatomi.org). To learn more about FireLodge Children & Family Services, please visit [potawatomi.org/firelodge](http://potawatomi.org/firelodge).



## Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello, my friend),

As many of you read this, it will be time for a return to school for many of our younger Citizen Potawatomi. I believe that we as a people understand the value of educating ourselves in order to best protect and grow the Nation. Education is better than money in the bank; it never lessens in value.

That is why our Tribe does so much in support of education. Whether it is the tens of

thousands of dollars gifted from Tribal sales taxes to Pottawatomie County public schools, fees from CPN vehicle tag sales to any school of the buyer's choice in Oklahoma, or our millions in higher education scholarships nationwide, people know the Citizen Potawatomi support education. The story goes back in our history. Education is how we are helping our people today overcome the handicaps and hardships that are a result of three prior generations in a row losing everything they had except what they could carry on their backs. Our great grandfathers and grandmothers inherited no land or money, no houses, no way to pay for education, and barely enough to keep from starving. They were moved hundreds of miles three different times in three successive generations. They faced discrimination in hiring, hostility from their neighbors, and fought in three wars during their lifetimes while the government was trying to kill or starve them and eliminate

their culture. Education was, and is, our way to "catch up" today's Citizen Potawatomi with the rest of society in America.

They say, "You don't know where you are going unless you know where you came from." Education is the answer to that lack of knowledge.

In that vein, oftentimes our schools lack proper curriculum to teach the unique history of tribes and their people. Even in a state with 39 tribal nations, Oklahoma schools simply do not cover American Indian subjects as in depth as other issues. Certainly, there are many facets of the state's history that are important for students to learn, but the point remains that a lack of understanding of Indian Country by those who are students today may result in poor decision making from policy makers in the future.

This is why it is important for us as Potawatomi to first learn our history and then teach it to our young ones, family members

and non-Native neighbors. I encourage you to take the opportunity to read about our people and where we have come from. While it would be a fantastic experience for you to visit the CPN Cultural Heritage Center, the fact remains that the staff there has created a great resource to learn from online at [potawatomihistory.com](http://potawatomihistory.com). Pre-colonial, Removal Era and contemporary history are all there at the click of a mouse for those who wish to learn.

Learning the names and dates of key events is important, but so is learning the cultural ties to our ancestors. One great way to do that is through our CPN Language Department. Equal to their counterparts at the CHC, Language Director Justin Neely and Language Instructor Enedina Banks have taught our little ones at the CPN Child Development Center and created a vast online resource center including language courses and a Potawatomi dictionary.

Additionally, the department is now teaching Potawatomi as a world language credit in several Oklahoma public schools. Please contact Justin at [jneely@potawatomi.org](mailto:jneely@potawatomi.org) to learn about getting into the classes.

Like learning anything, the provision of resources and guidance will only get you so far. We need Citizen Potawatomi to make the effort to utilize these tools, both as a benefit to yourselves and to the Nation. An educated Tribal population is a powerful constituency, and that is key to protecting everything we as a Nation have built since the days of having only \$500 in the bank and facing federal termination as a Tribe.

It is an honor to serve as your Tribal Chairman.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

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

## Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

My column this month consist of several topics. It also includes a few "thank you" messages for CPN Tribal members who have done good deeds. I am not honoring the Tribal members because they want the recognition; rather, it is a way of showing gratitude to some special folks.

First, I want to recognize Robert Mark Young from Lincoln, California, a member of the

Brant family. Robert has sent a donation for our education department for the last several years. He does so because his own children were recipients of the CPN scholarship. A special thanks goes out to Robert for his generosity in thinking of the Tribe in this manner. I also would like to thank Penny Moore of Fremont, Ohio, for her donation to our child development program. She donated the funds in memory of her brother James Talty, who passed away in June. Penny's heritage family is the Juneau family.

Patty Sarratt of Apple Valley, California, is a good friend of mine. She came to CPN for her daughter Nicole Dorst's graduation recognition ceremony. I am so pleased that they were able to travel such a long distance. I want to give special recognition to Patty and Nicole for making the trip. That ceremony in April was one that is bound to grow. It was an event for all graduates,

high school through higher education. We had students, parents and other relatives from Texas, Kansas, California and, of course, Oklahoma. Watch for the event next spring if you or a loved one will be a graduate in the 2019-2020 year.

As members of CPN, we constantly have a stream of young people who excel and make us proud. Whether our young Tribal members excel in academics, athletics, the job market, arts or sciences, we usually have new accomplishments to discuss. Our own Shirley Deatherage, who lives in Father Murphy, has every right to share her grandson's achievements this summer. Steven Cade Cavalli, who was a Bixby High School baseball standout, is now playing Sooners baseball at the University of Oklahoma.

Early in July, Cavalli was named to Team USA's 26-man roster to travel to Taiwan and Japan. As part of Team USA,

the young ball players are managed by recognized coaches throughout the United States. It is a great opportunity for a college baseball player. I know that Shirley and her daughter Rebecca Cavalli, Steven Cade's mom, are very proud. Good luck to the Sooners during the upcoming school year.

If you watch sports often, you will know that not only Cavalli's name was in the news for a couple of weeks this summer; our Tribal member Creed Humphrey had his share of publicity too. Creed has been in the news media many times within the last couple of years due to his status with the Oklahoma Sooners football team. Touted as one of the best centers in the country, Humphrey has an opportunity to help take the Sooners far for the pending season. Creed happens to be the grandson of Jerald "Jerry" O'Connor, longtime business owner in the Shawnee area as well as a charter bank

board member of CPN's First National Bank and Trust Co. of Shawnee. Creed's mom is Tribal member Melisa Humphrey, daughter of Jerry O'Connor.

We have two outstanding Oklahoma University ball players to watch for the coming year. I know that each of their family members are so very proud. Thank you for letting me share some information that is common knowledge to many, but unknown to our reading audience outside of the Oklahoma area.

Again, thank you for allowing me to represent you as the Vice-Chairman of your Tribe.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

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

**25% off all BEADED ITEMS**

SHOP IN-STORE AND ONLINE AT [giftshop.potawatomi.org](http://giftshop.potawatomi.org)  
405-273-0101 • POTAWATOMIGIFTS

Offer expires August 31. Cannot be combined with other offers. Other restrictions may apply.



CITIZEN  
POTAWATOMI  
GIFT SHOP

## District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

### More terrific entries in the District 2 heritage photo contest

I hope you enjoyed the contest photos printed in my May column. Here are some additional entries. First are some photos submitted by Cindy Jarrar (Juneau family). Cindy explained them as follows:

"I had my daughter and my granddaughter over to teach them the basics of beading. My daughter, Heather, wanted to learn appliqué beading and my granddaughter, Grace, wanted



*Grace with her first loom  
beading project.*

to learn loom beading. ... They both did very well. So, three generations beading in the Potawatomi tradition!"

Second is a photo sent by Barbara Daugherty captioned, "Receiving my Potawatomi name, *Mkokwe*, from my father Henry Byler, *Wiguwasatek*".



*Byler-Daugherty family naming.*

The third photo was submitted by Janet A. Pearl, *Wichap Gishék*, who wrote:

"This is a painting of my paternal grandmother, Florence Doyle Pearl, who kept the Potawatomi tradition alive in her family during the Depression years when being an 'Indian' wasn't very popular in the Midwest. She retold the Potawatomi stories she had heard from her mother to her own children, including my father, Robert (*KiweziI*) Pearl. Now 92 years old, he later shared the stories with me and my sisters as we were growing up. My father and his siblings revered their mother, a kind and gentle woman with a great faith in God, who faced many hardships in her lifetime. She lived far away from us, so I did not get to see her but once a year during our visits to Kansas.



*Painting of Florence Doyle Pearl.*

Gram Pearl died of cancer when I was 8 years old, and it was at her funeral that I saw my father cry for the first time in my life. I have a cherished memory of being in Gram's country kitchen as a four-year-old. I don't remember any words being spoken, just her peaceful smile making me feel safe and loved unconditionally. *Migwetch*, Gram, for the strength and resilience you showed and the tradition and love you sowed."

### Family Festival weekend update

District 2 put together four hand games teams this year; none took home the win this time, but everyone seemed to have a great time. The Squirrel Creek Singers' drumming and singing during the competition was terrific. I particularly enjoyed seeing my friend and fellow Legislator Paul Schmidkofer among the group of drummers and singers.

As always, the Family Reunion Festival weekend was jam-packed with events and opportunities to visit with

family and friends. Among the highlights were (1) a visit to our CPN Eagle Aviary, during which Jennifer Randall and Bree Dunham provided updates on the eagles and shared plans for expansion of the aviary; (2) Grand Entry and subsequent family honor dances, during which I was able to visit with all the Carneys and other Juneau relatives and catch up with other families and friends; (3) a visit to *Gtegemen* (We Grow It), the CPN Community Garden, during which I met gardener Kaya DeerInWater, whose postings I've been following via *Gtegemen*'s Facebook group; and (4) meeting the current Potawatomi Leadership Program students, including Kay-Sha Perkins, who studies at Florida State University and plans to become a veterinarian. An album of Festival photos is posted to my Facebook page, if you are interested. *Migwetch* (thank you) to everyone who worked to make this year's Festival so memorable.

During the very full weekend, I also fit in a presentation to Shawnee residents who expressed interest in learning more about The Kwek Society and a visit with CPN Director Richard Driskell who manages FireLake Discount Foods. Vice-Chairman Linda Capps has generously offered to donate period products to The Kwek Society via the grocery store; I met with Richard to discuss donation specifics and the possibility of future purchases of products from FDF. Richard has worked for the Nation for close to 20 years. He is a great communicator and a great steward of CPN funds — i.e., he negotiated with FDF's

suppliers for discounted prices on products that will be donated. I'm hopeful we can make an arrangement that allows The Kwek Society to make purchases through Richard and his team.

### Graduation announcements in the Hownikan

Each summer and winter, the *Hownikan* runs the names of those CPN members who've graduated from high school and college. With the hustle and bustle of completing classes and attending the ceremonies, sometimes a name doesn't make it to the newspaper before the print publication. Yet we're still very proud of those who are graduating, so in the months ahead of these fantastic events, please keep an eye on the *Hownikan* and CPN social media pages when they ask the information for graduates. In that vein, I'm happy to report that Lee Ziegler recently completed an Ed.D. from Trevecca Nazarene University. Congratulations to Lee and all the graduates this past summer!

Please contact me for any assistance you might need or to visit. *Migwetch* (thank you) for the honor of representing you.

*Bama pi*  
(Until later),

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

## District 3 – Bob Whistler



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

On the Monday following Family Reunion Festival, we held a regular legislative meeting with all of the legislators in attendance. It was a very short meeting, but on the agenda was a new and very important grant application resolution that was approved.

The federal government is making available funds to be used by tribes to assist their constituents who are victims of crime. The funds to potentially be received are not large but are

a start, and our legal department is working with the department that will implement our program.

One of the areas that we discussed was how it might be used for victims who have lost or been cheated out of money by a variety of means. While it can be anyone, our elders are one group that tends to fall victim to loss of the money or assets they have earned during their life for use during retirement.

I just picked up a Texas newspaper that specifically is designed for seniors and provides information on a variety of subjects. In the July 2019 edition, it covers "How seniors can protect themselves from fraud."

Most of today's seniors tend to fail to practice self-defense and become "courtesy victims." Because they were raised to be overly courteous, con artists take advantage of this and find ways to cheat them out of their money.

Many seniors are living alone and may not see many people or have many visitors, which may make them a bit lonely. As a

result, they become too trusting of strangers and drop their guard. You need to check people out, especially sales people, and make sure they are who they say they are and are reputable. One tactic used by telephone sales people is to develop a friendship with you so that you will be more trusting and become an easy target.

The use of fear is also used by those who will cheat you. They know that you will be too embarrassed or afraid to report the theft of your money or precious items. Many seniors fear being judged at being incapable of managing their funds and possibly being sent to a retirement facility and having a relative take custody of their financial matters. This, unfortunately, is one way that relatives are able to access assets that they plan to literally steal from their senior relative.

Currently, the greatest risk for most of us tends to be from what is called robocalls. This is where a senior needs to be most careful. The caller will try to gain enough information by being

very friendly so that they may steal your identity. Here, they may use personal information to apply for credit cards in your name and run up a very large debt. While you should be able to eventually resolve the situation, it may take lots of time and money. So, be careful.

In summary, the legislative resolution I started this article describing is designed to help victims that have been cheated. Since it isn't a great deal of money, the funds will most likely be used more in an advisory capacity to help victims work with banks and other financial institutions that initially held the funds that were stolen. There is not enough money in this grant to simply reimburse the victim with the funds that were lost.

As the program grows, more will be known, and I am sure the Nation will give us more information on how to apply, who is eligible and how the funds can most effectively be used.

In the meantime, for those of you who are living alone and really

don't have a lot of contact with others, the *Seniorific* newspaper out of Texas may bring you some good information. It does require a subscription. The price is \$14 annually. For subscriptions outside Texas, there is a \$2 add on. To subscribe, send a note with your name and mailing address along with your check to: Senior News, P.O. Box 23307, Waco, TX 76702, or visit [seniorific.com/subscribe](http://seniorific.com/subscribe).

I thank you for allowing me to represent you and am very proud that I am able to serve. Please call me on any Tribal issue or question where you think I am able to assist.

*Bama pi*  
(Until later),

Bob Whistler  
*Bmashi* (He Soars)  
Representative, District 3  
112 Bedford Road, Suite 116  
Bedford, TX 76022  
817-282-0868 office  
817-229-6271 cell  
817-545-1507 home  
[rwhistler@potawatomi.org](mailto:rwhistler@potawatomi.org)  
[cnp3legislator@yahoo.com](mailto:cnp3legislator@yahoo.com)

## District 4 – Jon Boursaw



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

### 2019 CPN Family Reunion Festival

Once again, those that attended the Festival this year had a really good time. Yes, it was warm (actually hot), but that didn't matter to the over 3,800 individuals who attended this year. At the completion of the Grand Entry for the powwow on Saturday night, the arena was totally filled with Tribal members. Once again, it appeared the

CPN Cultural Heritage Center and the eagle aviary were the popular attractions. I was very pleased with the large number of District 4 members I saw on the grounds, and I know I didn't see all of you. As always, I enjoyed seeing distant relatives and old friends during the Festival.

#### Other activities during Festival

As in past years, I was rather busy during the Festival. On Thursday morning, I had the pleasure of again giving my CPN history presentation to the Potawatomi Leadership Program students. What a wonderful group of young people. Among the group is Maria Hrenchir representing District 4. Maria is from Atchison, Kansas, and will be a sophomore at Haskell Indian Nations University this fall. She is a descendant of the Juneau family. Saturday was again a three-change-of-clothes day: first, the CPN Veterans meeting, then the presentation of the colors at the General Council meeting



*The once immovable sage bush in bloom.*

and finally, participating in the Grand Entry Saturday night, where I again had the honor of carrying the American flag.

#### CPN Honored Veteran

In the arena, prior to Grand Entry, it was my pleasure to present an American flag to this year's CPN Honored

Veteran, Joe Wulphkhule. Joe is a retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant, a Vietnam veteran and a member of the Bourassa/Ogee family from Topeka, Kansas.

#### Transplanted sage bush

As you may recall, late last year, I was involved in removing a rather large sage bush from a neighbor's yard. A few days later, I planted what appeared to be three or four dried sticks with roots in my backyard. I'm pleased to report that I now have a sage bush, complete with small purple blossoms.

#### Fall Scholarships

Applications for 2019 fall scholarships are now being accepted by the CPN Department of Education. The deadline is 5 p.m. Sept. 15, 2019. For more information, go to [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org).

#### August Elders Potluck in Rossville

The August CPN Elders Potluck, hosted by the Senior Support

Network staff, will be held at noon on Friday, Aug. 9, in the CPN Community Center in Rossville. Tracy and Pam will provide pulled pork sandwiches, and they ask that you provide a side dish or dessert. They ask that you RSVP by Wednesday, Aug. 7, if you plan on attending. Their number is 785-584-6171.

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

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Jon Boursaw,  
*Wetase Mkoh* (Brave Bear)  
Representative, District 4  
2007 SW Gage Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66604  
785-861-7272 office  
785-608-1982 cell  
[jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto: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),

Every year, we all talk about the awe-inspiring Family Reunion Festival. I have been here watching the growth and magnificent changes that have occurred over the years, and it never ceases to amaze me.

This year was no exception to the rule. Most Tribal members did not have their own regalia years ago, and we made shawls to hand out for Grand Entry, given the absence. The traditions were made known, and proper protocol was of the essence.

We all needed to learn the ways of our elders and the ancestral purposes they held.

This year, everyone had their own regalia and dances intact, which would have made our forefathers proud. The dancing colors and sound of the drums brought you home.

The recreation of our museum is astonishing and would bring a tear to your eyes just thinking about what our people have endured in this process. Wow! Some of us think life is tough now. Can you just imagine then?

The reason for our survival was made clear to me several years ago when I was attending my very first traditional sunrise service.

If the beginning of your day started as theirs did, we could alleviate all stress and concerns.

They gave thanks to the Creator for the many gifts and particularly Mother Earth, who cared for us then as she still does today. What did they have to give thanks for as they were being herded to new destinations? Life itself and the hope of a tomorrow!

We are still climbing out of the bondage in which we were held through the rules, regulations, shameful existence and rations of flour that held us hostage. It doesn't correct itself in a day.

It was brought to my attention during Festival that the very fry bread we eat, while traditional, was not of our choosing, but rather the white man's rations. I absolutely knew that. I just never thought it through. Why do we still do it? Traditions!

Let's go a little further back as in natural foods provided by Mother Nature — our true ways. Sometimes I think we have forgotten who we

are due to the generations of abuse. You learn to appease the abuser while in captivity. Wrong! But that too was a means of survival at the time.

We, of all people, were of nature and respect those connections. Everything we learned and lived by was the way of nature.

We gave thanks to the Creator and the animal for the food provided to fill our needs.

Today, life is good and easy by comparison. Yet, we still cry out to the Creator for the pain we bare. Your pain is from simple non-trust in his existence. We are not talking about physical pain that takes time to heal, rather the fear and anxiety that takes over in difficult times. He has taken care of us since the beginning of time. What makes us think he will abandon us now? Our lack of trust!

I want you to know I do not say these things out of judgment for us today, rather in clarifying the need to put it all in the Creator's hands and let it go. Count your blessings. It works! What we focus on we seem to get more of in return.

No matter how short or long our life is, it serves a purpose. We do not understand his ways. Only he has the "Big Picture."

I was asked to do the closing prayer at church on Sunday. While sitting in the congregation prepared and certain of what I would say

and do, it all changed. Instead of saying a prayer, something told me we needed to come together in prayer. What better way than the Lord's Prayer, one of the greatest prayers ever spoken? Hearing the voices united at the end of church services was heartwarming.

Additionally, it is always inspiring, seeing the elected officials come together spiritually. Each Legislator is from an entirely different background and viewpoint. While this was an election year, there were no changes to that body.

We did have the opportunity to meet the 2019 Potawatomi Leadership Program class. Eager, positive, bright, focused and respectful would definitely describe these students. They are our future.

When you hear how our young people just don't have it together, don't believe it! They are by far better equipped and capable than we were, given the lack of exposure and the information highway when we were introduced to the world.

Sometimes we look at the young and the mistakes made in the decision process, forgetting what we went through acquiring a balance in life. They will error, as did we.

The 2019 Potawatomi Leadership Program class:

Ally Smith – Simi Valley, CA

Lilly Lewis – Paris, TX

Jaclyn Michener – Newton, IA

Johnathon Tune – Roby, MO

Katie Simpson – Durango, CO

Kay-Sha Perkins – Brooksville, FL

Liam Wrixon – Spokane, WA

Maria Hrenchir – Atchison, KS

Mickey Loveless II – Bethany, OK

Rachael Sanders – Noble, OK

I would like to take the time to acknowledge those who did attend Festival 2019. The more we gather, the stronger we become. You've heard the saying, "United we stand; divided we fall."

After attending the first time, my son said, "I feel more Native now." You will too!

Come; see it all with pride in your heritage.

You need to start planning now for next year.

Thank you again for allowing me to be a part. It is a treasure I cherish!

Love you all,

Eunice Imogene Lambert  
Butterfly Woman  
Representative, District 5  
480-228-6569  
[eunicelambert@gmail.com](mailto:eunicelambert@gmail.com)

## 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 6 – Rande K. Payne



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

I'm a bit behind after a two-month absence from the *Hownikan*, so I have a number of things to share. I want to begin with saying thank you to those who attended the District 6 and 7 Las Vegas gathering back in May. As of this writing, it's been almost two months, and I'm still excited about seeing so many Tribal members gather in celebration of our heritage and visit with each other as family. I think it's great that members were able to travel from as far away as Southern and central California. Representative Mark Johnson and I certainly appreciate the effort members put forth to attend the gathering.

As we always do, our wisest, youngest and farthest traveled were honored with gifts. We honor the wisdom, life experiences and knowledge of our elders. We also recognize the future of our Tribe and support each other when there is need. Our wisest member in attendance was Marcene Spencer. Marcene is from Cal-Nev-Ari, Nevada, and she is a Rhodd and LeClaire



Toupin descendants Dan Trousdale and Cynthia Charbonneau.

descendant. Our youngest member was Nathan Fant from Las Vegas, Nevada. Nathan is a Melott descendant. The farthest traveled member was Karen Walker from Kerman, California. Karen is a Tescier descendant.

We also took time to recognize our veterans. Dan Trousdale, a Toupin descendant, served in the U.S. Navy from 1970 to 1974. Cynthia Charbonneau, also a Toupin descendant, served in the U.S. Air Force from 1976 to 1980. Thank you both for your service. Dan and Cynthia had never met prior to the gathering. They had a great time sharing family genealogy with each other.

Moving on to the Family Reunion Festival, I would first like to congratulate Representatives Bobbie Bowden, Lisa Kraft and David Barrett on their re-election. I look forward to serving with all of you.

Festival is always a great opportunity to learn more about our heritage and fellowship with Tribal members I work with, family, friends and people I've met somewhere along the way. The Cultural Heritage Center is amazing and takes a fair amount of time to take in completely. If you have not had an opportunity to visit lately, I highly recommend trying to get back to Shawnee for a visit. It is well worth it.

I had a great time visiting with many of my Tescier family members. The Tescier family was one of the honored families this year, and I was very excited to see such a big turnout of Tesciers. There was a large contingent that congregated at FireLake Fry Bread Taco on Saturday afternoon. It was a grand time for all! Some were from as far away as Pennsylvania and Montana.

I want to be sure to recognize this year's Potawatomi Leadership Program students and thank them for their generosity and hospitality in feeding the Tribal legislature after our council meeting on Monday. It was such a pleasure getting to visit with them and hear all about their hopes and dreams. I am so glad we have the PLP for our

best and brightest to participate in. I am sure they will all go home with their hearts and minds full of good stuff they will cherish for years to come.

### Events

Please join Representative Johnson and me for the District 6 and 7 Heritage Festival. It will be held Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, at Valhalla at the Grove at 31150 Road 180, Visalia, CA 93292. Please visit [cpn.news/dist67fest](http://cpn.news/dist67fest) to register. Invitations will be going out soon.

### Benefits and services

I want to share with you a bit about one of the great programs available to you around the country, regardless of location. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department has a "One Time Grant" available to enrolled Tribal members who are going to purchase, build or refinance a home. This grant is for closing costs or down payment only. All Citizen Potawatomi Tribal members are eligible for this grant one



*Wisest, youngest and farthest traveled winners.*

time only. The maximum amount available is \$2,125 and does not have to be repaid.

The full details on the program are available in this edition of the *Hownikan*, written by CPN Housing Department Homeownership Manager Sherry Byers, who can be reached at 405-273-2833 or [sbyers@potawatomi.org](mailto:sbyers@potawatomi.org).

The great thing about this grant is, if possible, CPN members also have the option of working with Tribal-owned First National Bank & Trust Co. for their mortgage and closing costs needs.

Please spread the word with your CPN family members. There are still many CPN members who are uninformed about this program and the Tribal bank. If you don't think that program is for you, but are interested in home owner questions with First National Bank & Trust Co., please contact Jeff Scroggins, Mortgage Loan Officer at 405-275-8830 or at 1-800-227-8362.

Potawatomi Phrase of the Month

*Nomek* - A little while

Wisdom from the Word

"I know where I came from and where I am going." John 8:14

Well, that's all for this go around. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative. It is my honor and privilege.

*Migwetch!* *Bama pi*  
(Thanks! Later),

Rande K. Payne  
*Mnedo Gabo*  
Representative, District 6  
31150 Road 180  
Visalia, CA 93292-9585  
559-999-3525 office  
559-999-5411 cell  
[rande.payne@potawatomi.org](mailto:rande.payne@potawatomi.org)

# 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

**Writer/editor:** Jennifer Bell  
**Writer/editor:** John VanPool  
**Writer:** Mary Belle Zook  
**Writer:** Paige Willett

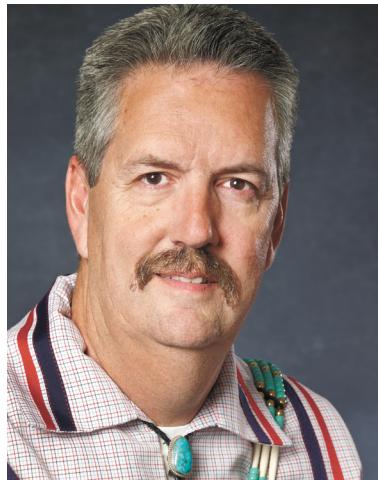
**Page/graphic designer:** Trey DeLonais  
**Graphic designer:** Emily Guleserian  
**Photographer:** Garrett Fisbeck  
**Editor:** Mindee Duffell

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 traceable address. All correspondence should be directed to *Hownikan*,

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

**Questions:** [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org) or 800-880-9880  
 Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,  
 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

## District 7 – Mark Johnson



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

June 6, 2019, marked the 75th anniversary of D-Day. I think it is a good time to share the story of a young Citizen Potawatomi man, born on Oct. 14, 1913, in Shawnee, Oklahoma. *Cheshawgan* was named after his great-great-grandfather and was the only son of Jefferson Davis (JD) Goulette wife Emma (Johnson) Goulette. He did have two older half-brothers from his father's first marriage. He went by the name C. Henry Goulette in school, where he was a good student; he graduated from the Texas Military Institute and then entered the University of Arizona where he studied geology, graduating in 1942. Having been in the Army Reserve for a number of years,

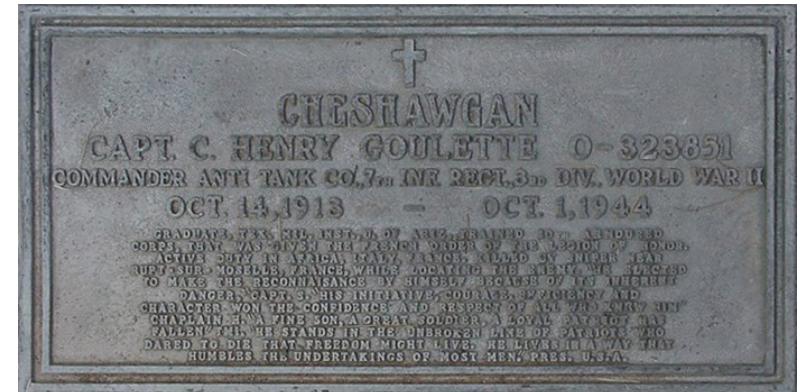
Henry was called to active duty after graduation, training at Fort Knox with an armored division and spending the next year or so training other recruits. In March of 1943, Henry was promoted to the rank of captain and continued his training assignment. In early January 1944, Captain Goulette headed overseas to take command of an anti-tank company, part of the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division, arriving just in time for its landing at Anzio, Italy.

Henry spent the better part of the next six months with his company as they fought their way to Rome. Although it was a relatively short distance, this area saw some of the most intense fighting during the war with Germany throwing everything they had at the Allied forces in an attempt to push them back into the sea. By the first week of June 1944, the 7th Infantry had helped liberate Rome and found themselves heading back to the beach in Anzio, where they loaded on ships and headed to a training area near Naples. I am sure the break was very much needed and allowed the regiment time to rest and resupply before they were off to their next adventure — this time in the south of France, where he arrived on the morning of Aug. 15, 1944.



*Captain C. Henry Goulette*

They found the landing near La Londe-les-Maures to have little resistance as they quickly made their way off the beach, only to be met by snipers who killed and wounded many in the battalion. As the battalion moved north toward the Rhine River and Germany itself, they met varying degrees of resistance, but one thing was for sure; the closer they got to Germany, the tougher the fighting became. On Oct. 1, Henry found that one of his platoons had taken a few casualties. Wanting to take care of his men, Henry and his first sergeant named Pratt headed off to find the second battalion. They soon found that they had made a wrong turn, but



*Captain C. Henry Goulette's Grave, Tucson, Arizona.*

Henry, true to form, wanted to take a look around and see if he could gather any information on the location of the German forces before leaving the area. As he rose up on his elbows in a nearby clump of bushes to take a look through his binoculars, he could see the German gun position only about a hundred yards ahead. He told Pratt, who was near his feet, to slowly back out, but at the same time, fire from a 20mm Flak cannon burst through the bushes. Later on, medics were able to recover *Cheshawgan*'s body and bury him in one of the many American temporary cemeteries in France until June 1948 when he was returned home and buried in Tucson, Arizona. He became one of the great warriors of our Nation and left his mark on our history. He will be remembered on our Wall of Honor at the Cultural Heritage Center.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always, give me a call, and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have or provide you with additional information you may need to access Tribal benefits that may be available to you. 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)  
Representative, District 7  
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202  
Clovis, CA 93611  
559-351-0078 cell  
[mark.johnson@potawatomi.org](mailto:mark.johnson@potawatomi.org)

## District 8 – Dave Carney



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello friend),

I am sending a short column this month ahead of our August meeting in Missoula. Please RSVP with me as soon as you can, and contact me if you need more information. I'll have updated information and photos from the meeting in September's edition of the *Hownikan*.

As always, it is my pleasure to represent you. Please

feel free to contact me at [dcarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:dcarney@potawatomi.org).

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Dave Carney  
*Kagasghi* (Raven)  
Representative, District 8  
520 Lilly Road, Building 1  
Olympia, WA 98506  
360-259-4027  
[dcarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:dcarney@potawatomi.org)

**JOIN US FOR A DISTRICT 8 GATHERING**  
Saturday, August 10 | 11 AM-2 PM  
**THE PUBLIC HOUSE**  
130 E BROADWAY ST. MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802  
Lunch, presentations, prizes and art contest will take place. Hear updates on the Nation and connect with fellow CPN D8 members and family.

**RSVP BY AUGUST 2**  
to [dcarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:dcarney@potawatomi.org)

## District 9 – Paul Wesselhoff



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello friend)!

Joy Harjo is the first Native American appointed as America's Poet Laureate. She is an enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 9, 1951, and lives with her mother in Tulsa today. Joy is also the first Poet Laureate from Oklahoma.

All Native Americans can share the joy of Joy. She has made us proud. As a poet myself, I am pleased to share an art form for which she has been honored. Harjo is the author of eight books of

poetry—including *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*. I look forward to reading them.

She "has championed the art of poetry—'soul talk' as she calls it—for over four decades," Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said in a recent news release. "To her, poems are 'carriers of dreams, knowledge and wisdom,' and through them she tells an American story of tradition and loss, reckoning and myth-making. Her work powerfully connects us to the earth and the spiritual world with direct,

inventive lyricism that helps us reimagine who we are."

"What a tremendous honor it is to be named the U.S. Poet Laureate," Harjo said as the news of her appointment was announced. "I share this honor with ancestors and teachers who inspired in me a love of poetry, who taught that words are powerful and can make change when understanding appears impossible, and how time and timelessness can live together within a poem. I count among these ancestors and teachers my Muscogee Creek people,

the librarians who opened so many doors for all of us, and the original poets of the indigenous tribal nations of these lands, who were joined by diverse peoples from nations all over the world to make this country and this country's poetry."

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Paul Wesselhoff  
*Naganit* (Leader)  
Representative, District 9  
[pwesselhoff@potawatomi.org](mailto:pwesselhoff@potawatomi.org)

## District 10 – David Barrett



*Bozho  
(Hello),*

T'han you! Thank you! Your support for me will not go unnoticed or unappreciated. I have always worked hard for all of our members, but this win will encourage me to even work harder.

I would like to comment on our last Family Reunion Festival about our CPN Veteran Flag Ceremony that we had on Saturday morning during the Festival. We always have a dignified disposal of unserviceable flags after the inspection of the flags and the recommendation that the flags be honorably retired from further service. The flags are dipped in kerosene and then placed



*Brian Zunker holding flag; David Barrett burning the flags; Joe Wulfhule with white straw hat and Bill Wano observing.*

over a small flame to complete the retirement ceremony.

As we did last year before the retirement, we added the 13 folds of the American flag. Judge Phillip Lujan (CPN District Court judge and Festival powwow arena announcer) came over to the west side of the round house and handed us the microphone to read the meaning behind each fold as the veterans folded the flag. We had the biggest crowd so far, and even afterward, with people asking where we got the meaning.

Our own Mindee Duffell from our public information department said she knew the folds had meaning but had never heard what those meanings were. "I got emotional after the reading of the 13 folds when the flags were placed on the fire; it was a memorable moment that I had the pleasure to witness," she told me.

The American flag is one the most important symbols of the United States. For many, it symbolizes respect, honor and freedom. For others, the flag represents reflection, courage and sorrow. The Flag-Folding Script 4 is a popular script for folding the flag; however, it should not be used in official ceremonies as it is

in violation of the Establishment Clause. The Establishment Clause (First Amendment) requires that expression not create the reasonable impression that the government is sponsoring, or inhibiting religion generally, or favoring or disfavoring a particular religion.

Veterans Affairs clarifies the policy on Flag-Folding Recitation of the "13-Fold" Ceremony to ensure burial services at the 125 national cemeteries operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs reflect the wishes of veterans and their families. "A family may request the recitation of words to accompany the meaningful presentation of the American flag as we honor the dedication and sacrifice of their loved ones," said VA Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs William F. Tuerk. Volunteer honor guards are authorized to read the 13-Fold Flag Recitation or any comparable script that reflects any or no religious folding traditions on an equal basis. The flag-folding ceremony represents the same religious principles on which our country was originally founded.

### 13-fold flag recitation:

- 1 The **first fold** is the symbol of life.
- 2 The **second fold** is for our belief in eternal life.
- 3 The **third fold** is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing rank, who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain third fold peace throughout the world.
- 4 The **fourth fold** stands for our weaker nature; as Americans citizens trusting in God, it's to Him we turn to in times of peace as well as war for his divine guidance.
- 5 The **fifth fold** is a tribute to America. In the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."
- 6 The **sixth fold** is where our heart lies. It's with our flag that we pledge allegiance to the flag and the republic it stands for.
- 7 The **seventh fold** is a tribute to our armed forces. For it is the armed forces that protect our country and flag against enemies, whether they be domestic or foreign.
- 8 The **eighth fold** is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death; that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
- 9 The **ninth fold** is a tribute to womanhood, for it is through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion the character of the men and women who have made the country great have been molded.
- 10 The **tenth fold** is a tribute to father, for He has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first born.
- 11 The **eleventh fold**, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- 12 The **twelfth fold**, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.
- 13 When the flag is completely folded, which some consider the **thirteenth fold**; the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

*It goes without saying, thank you for allowing me to represent you and our great Nation.*

*Migwetch  
(Thank you),*

David Barrett  
*Mnedobe* (Sits with Spirit)  
Representative, District 10  
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
405-275-3121  
[dbarrett@potawatomi.org](mailto:dbarrett@potawatomi.org)

## District 11 – Lisa Kraft



Thank you for believing in me.

I am energized that you voted me to remain your Oklahoma District 11 representative. As I sat at General Council,

processing the election results in my hand, I didn't even hear the election results announced. I wasn't computing the number of votes—fully—until Representative Bob Whistler told me that I had won with more than 50 percent of the votes.

I quickly turned to my dear friend, Dave Barrett (Oklahoma District 13), sitting next to me, who was also processing the numbers. You see, Dave won too, with 75 percent of your votes. He is such an advocate for our Tribal veterans and employees. He is also the most forthright and honest person I know. Representative Barrett

keeps patriotism flourishing in our Tribal ceremonies and holds the color guard and fellow vets in the highest regards. I am always learning something from him, as he is a loving husband to Connie, a doting father and grandfather, a farmer, rancher, business entrepreneur and Navy man. Over the last 17 years with the Tribe, he has become one of my dearest friends.

Bobbie Bowden (District 13) also won with 61 percent. This was an energized election and a healthy one. More members desiring to lead our nation, by offering their own unique help, is what we Citizen Potawatomi do by nature; that's why we are



*Bill Wano; Daryl Talbot reads the folds; David Barrett holds the flag while William Weldfelt supports the center of the flag.*

- always on the rise. The more members I meet, the more I find they have tremendous insight from their lives and truly want to offer their help back to our Nation. For that, I say please keep running and challenging the status quo if it will help more Citizen Potawatomi. It has taken the efforts of many Tribal members to get us to where we are today.
- For the sake of moving forward toward a fair candidacy process, we, the legislature and the membership, need to be clear in the next election whether or not a Tribal member employee can run for office while working or getting paid by the Tribe. If this

is determined by the employee manual, we need to be sure all employees know if they can run or not and still keep their jobs or paid (appointed) committee/commission appointments.

Over the coming months, I hope to gain legislative support to plan for constitutional change as well as making the *Hownikan* an independent tribal news outlet.

As always, I am thinking Potawatomi.

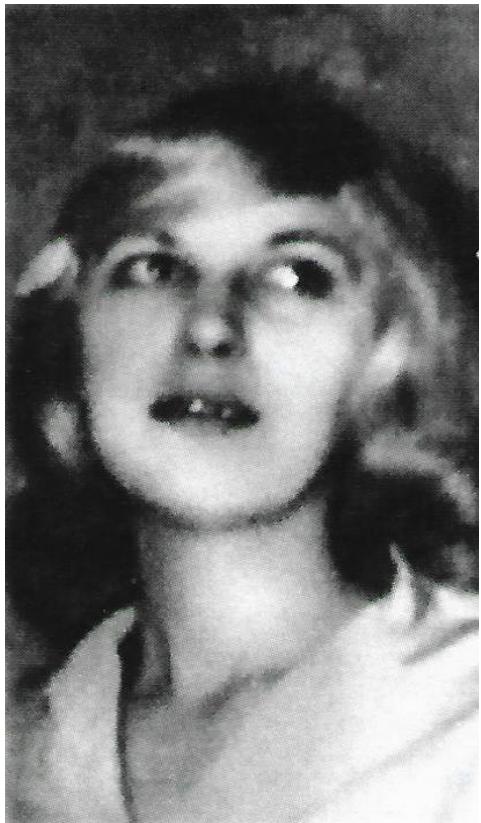
Lisa Kraft  
Representative, District 11  
601 S. Washington St # 335  
Stillwater, OK 74074  
405-612-8068  
[lisa@copperbearconsulting.com](mailto:lisa@copperbearconsulting.com)

**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.*

# WALKING ON

## Nancy Marie Leaper



It is with great sadness that the family of Nancy Marie Leaper, also known as (Nancy M. Mayhew), announces her passing after a sudden illness on June 29, 2019, at the age of 76 years old.

Nancy will forever lovingly be remembered by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including her daughters, Corrina M McDaniel, Tina L. Johnson and Tonia A Mayhew; and her many grandchildren, Robert E Lee, David J. McDaniel, Michael S. McDaniel, Skyler B. Johnson and Zachariah B Johnson. She has two great-grandchildren as well: David McDaniel Jr. and Wesley McDaniel. Nancy will be greatly missed by her sister, Donna Soupene, and brother, Robert Leaper of Beatrice, Nebraska, as well as her nieces, nephews and close friends. Her sons-in-law, Hank Johnson and Steve McDaniel, will also greatly miss her. Nancy enjoyed crossword puzzles, putting puzzles together, crocheting blankets and making Indian and Southern belle dolls. We will all miss you greatly. We will cherish the memories.

## Glenna L. Sanders



Glenna L. Sanders, 63, of Clarksville, Tennessee, (formerly of Columbia), passed away on Thursday, June 27, 2019, at her residence.

A Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, July 3, at Shelter Garden in Columbia.

She was born on April 14, 1956, in Moberly to Glen and Louise Richstatter Roberts. She was employed with State Farm Insurance for over 25 years. Glenna enjoyed traveling and shopping, but most of all, she loved her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband of 19 years, Michael Sanders; son, Cale (Bekah) Johnson; and daughter, Callie (Lance) Rodeman; children by marriage: Morgan (Gerard) Brodeur, Brett (Lacey) Sanders and Ben Sanders; brothers: Russell, Kevin and Roger Roberts; seven grandchildren and one on the way.

In addition to her parents, Glenna is preceded in death by her grandson, Cohen Johnson.

Please visit Glenna's guestbook at [sykesfuneralhome.com](http://sykesfuneralhome.com), and share a memory with the family.

## A Funeral Prayer



*Hau ndenwémagnek*

Ho my relatives

*Ébyé yak shote gnom*

We have come here today

*Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma*

To lay our brother to rest

*Ngom she épam sét ode*

Today he walks

*Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek*

Among those who have passed on

*I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngemwen*

That is why we offer this song

*Émno shketot wa je zhyat ibe shpemsegok*

That his journey will go well where he goes above

*Iw énaj moyan*

That's all I have to say

A Potawatomi prayer for a specific loved one who has walked on.

By Don Perrot

## Submitting obituaries

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

hownikan@potawatomi.org

## CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

For more information, please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email [cclark@potawatomi.org](mailto:cclark@potawatomi.org).