Citizen Potawatomi Nation CARES Act programs have expanded, allocating more than 65 percent of CPN’s CARES Act distribution to Tribal member programs.

On June 29, the CPN Tribal Legislature passed a resolution to expand funding access to CPN members nationwide who have been impacted by the economic fallout due to the coronavirus. Phase II of the Tribe’s CARES Act response will provide several options to support Citizen Potawatomi members around the country with various needs that may arise from the pandemic.

While the CARES Act was enacted on March 27, 2020, tribal governments did not begin to receive payments until May, which was later than the deadline established by Congress and after states began to receive distributions. "We have crafted these programs to get financial support to our Tribal citizens by using the most up-to-date information from the federal government, who has put up roadblock after roadblock on the distribution and use of these funds," said Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett. "In Phase II, we have established a legal and more efficient means of helping our members while this economic and public health crisis continues. As we receive new guidance, we will continue to adapt these programs to serve our Tribal population."

In Phase II of the CPN CARES Act programs, financial support for school and college age students around the country is available. Housing support and grocery stipends for Tribal elders and those on disability will also be provided. "Our Tribal Legislature approved these new programs at the end of June. Since that time, our staff has been working to prepare for a significant demand in assistance," Tribal Chairman Barrett said. "The elder and disabled food assistance programs offer monthly support. Due to the timing of the applications becoming available, any applicants deemed eligible in August will also receive a payment for July."

Phase I updates

As previously reported, Phase I’s programs primarily focused on two direct financial support issues for either individual assistance or Tribal member-owned businesses. According the federal guidance provided at the time of their release by CPN, the Nation had to count federal stimulus funds when determining the payment amount and eligibility for applicants. After consultation with external and internal CPN legal counsel, Tribal executives have ordered that the stimulus funds not be counted against the total support that the Nation can provide to members. "We received clarification to direct questions we asked the Treasury concerning these issues. Having done that due diligence, we believe it is safe for our Tribal government to amend this requirement," said Tribal Attorney George Wright. For members who have already applied but did not meet the previous standards, the COVID-19 Crisis Compliance Department will review previously submitted applications. If a member was denied support due to the federal stimulus check, staff will issue a distribution of funds according to their need.

Future programs

"As this unprecedented situation continues to evolve, we’re going to adapt our programs to best serve our Tribal population," Barrett added. "We’re working with our legal department, the U.S. Congress, and U.S. Treasury to build programs within the federally-issued guidelines to serve our Tribal citizens."

A full listing and description of the CPN CARES Act Phase II Programs can be found on page 3 of this edition of the Hownikan. The application portal can be found by visiting potawatomi.org/cares.
**The scoop on HUD 184 loans**

**By Jeff Scroggins, First National Bank & Trust Co. Mortgage Loan Officer**

Get it — the real estate world can be overwhelming. Whether you're purchasing, constructing, renovating or refinancing your home, there are many factors to consider when choosing financing.

Members of federally recognized tribes have an option not available to other people. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development offers a special program for tribal citizens called the Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program, often referred to as a HUD 184 loan. These home loans come with lots of security and extra benefits, including manual underwriting, no minimum credit score, lower down payment requirements, and no hidden fees. HUD 184 loans are reasonable and affordable, and fees are closely monitored.

• **Easier financing.** A HUD 184 loan is a simple, pain-free financing option for tribal members. This program was specifically created for federally recognized tribal members, and people can rest assured it is designed to work for them.

• **Spreads and overcharges.** Before borrowers start the process, there are a few things to consider. Do they or will they own the land your home is situated on, or is it part of tribal land? This will determine if FNB can process the loan, so we'll ask right off the bat.

It’s also a wise idea to do a self-assessment. Do people have adequate and stable income? What are their outstanding debts? Do they have sufficient funds to cover the down payment and closing costs? First-time homebuyers might consider education classes; they can visit HUD.gov/counseling to find HUD-approved counseling agencies.

**HUD 184 loan uses**

The program isn’t just for people purchasing existing homes — it’s also for those interested in refinancing, building a new home and rehabilitating a home (such as weatherization). Though we most frequently work with powwow students who are pursuing a career in microbiology, we're equipped to handle a variety of unique situations.

**Talk to your Tribe’s bank, FNB, first**

Our highly qualified team is here to help customers through every step of the process, making them feel relaxed and secure. With thousands of successful HUD 184 loans approved, they can trust they’ll be taken care of. Learn more by visiting FBOKla.bank or calling 888-649-8934.
Tribal Legislature allocates majority of CARES Act funds for direct Tribal member support

Phase I
COVID-19 UNEMPLOYMENT INCOME SUPPORT ($1,200)
Program Summary
This relief will be available to Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members who have experienced loss of income or other financial hardship resulting from unemployment, furlough or layoff due to COVID-19. They will be eligible for up to $1,200.
Qualification Requirement
To qualify for the $1,200 benefit, Tribal members will be required to provide proof that they have been furloughed without pay or unemployed and attest that they have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
Benefit: Up to $1,200 per eligible Tribal member
COVID-19 BUSINESS INTERRUPTION GRANT FOR TRIBAL OWNED BUSINESSES
Program Summary
This relief will be available to CPN tribal member-owned businesses to assist with the financial loss due to interruption caused by mandatory closures, limited opening or decreased customer demand. Businesses will be eligible for up to $5,000. Eligible expenses include rent, mortgage payments, utilities, salaries, retirement plan contributions, group health insurance or costs of debt service that preexisted March 1, 2020.
Qualification Requirement
To qualify for the $5,000 benefit, Tribal members will be required to provide proof that their business has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
Benefit: Up to $5,000 per eligible Tribal member-owned business
Phase II
COVID-19 STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Program Summary
The COVID-19 Student Assistance Fund will provide eligible CPN tribal member students with a one-time $300 allowance, per eligible CPN dependent, that may be utilized for school clothes, masks and other necessary school supplies needed to respond to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. To receive this assistance, CPN tribal members will be required to attest that they and their children have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
Qualification Requirement
Eligible Age: 5 to 18; must currently be an enrolled, non-post-secondary student to qualify.
Benefit: $300 per eligible tribal member dependent
COVID-19 TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
Program Summary
The COVID-19 Technology Program is offered to equip all school-aged CPN children with technology tools, such as laptops and internet access, that will better enable distance learning necessitated by COVID-19. Eligible applicants would receive a one-time $400 allowance per eligible CPN dependent.
To receive this assistance, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members will be required to attest that their child's or children's learning opportunities have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
Qualification Requirement
Eligible Age: 5 to 18; must currently be an enrolled, non-post-secondary student to qualify.
Benefit: $400 per eligible Tribal member
COVID-19 ACT/SAT ONLINE WORKSHOP
Program Summary
The COVID-19 ACT/SAT Online Workshop Program will provide eligible CPN tribal members with the opportunity to receive a $40, one-time reimbursement payment for ACT/SAT online prep fees. CPN tribal members will be required to attest that they have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency to receive this assistance.
Qualification Requirement
Eligible Age: 14 to 18
Benefit: One-time $40 reimbursement payment for ACT/SAT online prep fees
COVID-19 POST-SECONDARY TECHNOLOGY AND STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM
Program Summary
The COVID-19 Post-Secondary Student Support Fund will provide eligible CPN tribal members with a one-time $1,150 support grant that may be utilized for costs related to housing insecurity and overcrowding, online fees, extra travel

A note on CARES Act allocations:

By John “Rocky” Barrett, CPN Tribal Chairman

In Phase II of the Tribe’s program, we can now show that 65 percent of the money CPN received from Treasury will go directly to Citizen Potawatomi member support programs. 65 percent.

Eligible Tribal members can request money for expenses such as rent, mortgage payments, car payments and insurance premiums. Elementary through higher education students can get clothes, masks, school supplies and technology assistance that will help with distance learning and internet connectivity. Elders will get assistance with food security and housing support costs.

In addition, we have received further clarification from the federal government in recent days about our Phase I individual financial support program. This clarification is based on advice from legal counsel, confirms that we do not need to count the earlier national $1,200 stimulus payments against any amount we distributed as individual assistance support. Therefore, our staff will reexamine all past applications that had this provision applied. Those found to have qualified under our most recent guidance will receive more money.

We will keep speaking to the needs of our Tribe for as long as we are able – until we run out of this money.

Job protection, technology, prevention, infrastructure and supplies will account for the remaining funds. This includes investment in medical and personal protective equipment, cleaning and disinfecting supplies and health care expenses associated with COVID-19. These funds will also cover the costs associated with reopening and stabilizing our enterprises. This includes paying for COVID-19 communications and training, protective physical barriers, information technology system infrastructure and equipment that includes remote work capabilities. We have seen revenues decrease more than $20 million this year due to COVID-19, and this amount cannot be made up for legally by using CARES Act funds (according to the legislation passed by Congress in March).
Jeremy Bryan began training for his career at an early age, plumbing his first project at 15 with his dad’s supervision. When Jeremy married Connie, a Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member and Peltier descendant, they opened J Bryan Plumbing in Purcell in 2013 before relocating the business to Norman.

J Bryan Plumbing specializes in all general plumbing as well as water conditioning and testing, serving Oklahomans statewide. Due to the demand for the company’s offerings, it is hiring additional apprentices and journeymen.

“We need someone that can talk to customers, not just go out into the field and work. Someone who can provide quality service and represent us in a professional manner as well,” Connie said.

**The company**

Connie’s customer service expertise helps set J Bryan Plumbing apart and also helps the company build a tradition of quality and professionalism.

“She’s a great asset to the company,” Jeremy said. “We were always focused on doing the best job possible, but she makes sure we pay attention to the small details. For example, creating as little mess and inconvenience for the customers while working in their home is a priority. She’s also excellent with client interaction, and she oversees daily operations.”

Just like his father before him, Jeremy prides himself on taking on apprentice plumbers who are eager to learn, Connie said.

“You don’t just wake up and decide to be a plumber. It’s a true trade,” Jeremy said.

**Future Scholarship**

The mentorship provided while employed at J Bryan Plumbing through Jeremy’s hands-on approach could assist someone starting a successful contracting career.

“You’re going to learn all aspects of plumbing,” he said. “You’re not going to be locked into just doing something, just doing construction or just doing residential or commercial. It’s something that provides a path to becoming a more complete plumber.”

To the Bryans, employees are more than just a number. Although experience is not required, they said excellent customer service, self-motivation and willingness to learn are essential for employment.

“We’re looking for people with a strong work ethic,” Jeremy said. “We want them to be part of our team representing us and taking pride in the work they do.”

“What may seem like a simple job to us can make a difference in someone’s day. You’re a hero sometimes to people.”

J Bryan Plumbing works throughout Oklahoma, traveling more than 100 miles to do a job when the occasion arises. Additional employees would help the company assist more Oklahomans. Those interested in applying, call 405-510-3143.

“We look forward to talking with you and building our expanding company,” Connie said.

**Harker uses artistic skills on path to becoming a nurse**

Tribal member Katelyn Harker’s senior year at Lakin High School in Kansas moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, she took advantage of the opportunity to work toward a new goal inspired by those on the frontlines fighting the virus and the science behind a cure.

With her experience raising livestock and participation in 4-H, she intended to attend the University of Kansas veterinary program. However, the Anderson family descendant decided to enter the nursing program instead.

During a video interview with the *Hownik*, she said the recent focus on the medical community “has had an effect on my interests.”

“`I don’t know why, but I always like the gory things, like dissecting and all of that,’ Harker said. “I’ve always thought that was interesting, seeing all the bloody stuff. And also how molecules work and atoms … figuring out why things do the things they do,” including viruses and bacteria.

Harker’s mom is a certified nursing assistant at a local retirement center adjacent to a hospital, and Harker sees the daily effort and affection her mom puts into her job.

“There’s times where it’s like, ‘Man, that stuff is hard work, having to feed a resident that can’t feed themselves, and then they don’t want to eat everything,’ and my mom is just there, helping them, convincing them to eat,” Harker said.

“It’s just kind of amazing, the work that she does. (She’s) so patient doing all that.”

Harker has shadowed her mother and recently worked as a janitor at the same hospital. In spring 2020, she also took an eight-week CNA class at Garden City Community College, and it motivated her to make the change as well. She hopes to become a traveling nurse, working on mission trips or for a nonprofit.

“I decided that becoming a traveling nurse, I would get the chance to help people and to be able to travel someplace — kind of enjoy my work and be able to help others in different countries. I just like learning about different cultures and seeing new things,” Harker said.

**Framing her future**

A well-rounded student, Harker also paints and enjoys crafts. She began sewing masks after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines created an uptick in demand. In approximately a month and a half, she made and donated over 160 to the local hospital, grocery store workers and others.

“The pandemic is affecting people’s paychecks and all that. Money is pretty tight for a lot of people in these situations. So, I just want to be able to give them something that they can use and that they need and not have to price gouge them or anything like that,” Harker said.

She highlighted her mask making in her entry for Church Hill Classics’ Frame My Future Scholarship contest. The custom framing company asks participants to take a photo or create a piece of artwork that shows their educational goals. In Harker’s image, she wears scrubs and a stethoscope as well as a cloth mask.

“I decided to include it because the deadline was during the pandemic, and that was a time when everybody needed masks and everything. And I thought it’d be cool to incorporate one of them that I made into the photo to kind of show that, ‘Hey, I’m giving to the community some,’ ” Harker said.

Work from other science classes and artistic representations of electrocardiograms in tattoos inspired her collage as well. Judges selected her first attempt at creative photography as one of 24 pieces vying for the popular vote, which she unfortunately lost.

Although the University of Kansas hopes to welcome students back for the fall 2020 semester, the probability that Harker begins her college career online remains strong.

“I’m kind of a little bummed because I was excited to go to campus and have all those experiences where it’s like, ‘Oh my gosh! Look how amazing this place is. And look at all these classes and all these different supplies that we have and everything,’ and just being overwhelmed by what the campus looks like,” she said.

While she appreciates the efficiency of online learning, Harker looks forward to meeting her classmates and professors face-to-face and asking questions in person as she embarks on her higher educational journey.
Threaded with care

Potawatomi artisan Peggy Hancock

Kinder's artisanic outlets span all forms of needledwork from hand-tied shawls, hand-stitched ribbon work, aprons and other regalia to beaded appliqué earrings and beaded fan handles. In her youth, Kinder honed her skills by spending quality time studying under her aunt, mother and other relatives. Today, the Bourassa descendant continues the family tradition.

"Some people can read books, and the world could fall around them and they don't know it; that's how I am when I do beadwork," she said.

Inspiration

For her creations, Kinder utilizes Nishnabé imagery and themes from traditional garments held in museum archives as well as contemporary, natural elements.

"I went up to the archives in Washington (D.C.) … It was incredible, just being able to look and touch things that were made by ancestors," she said, "I just couldn't stop thinking about who the person was who made this and all the knowledge that this piece has that we don't know.

She explained that beaded designs often included traditional medicinal recipes and information, and Kinder takes her role seriously in keeping Potawatomi needlework traditions alive for generations to come.

"It would be great to know all about the reasons certain florals were chosen … what their purposes were to the beader," she said. "I ask people up north what I can, and they can give me the information they can. It's all very interesting; you never stop learning — never ever." Floral and woodland-inspired imagery are mainstays in her work, continuing the Potawatomi tradition of incorporating nature's beauty into art.

"I love to do berries, like chokecherries and blueberries and juniper, but the strawberry and strawberry blossom are probably my favorites," Kinder said.

Foraging connections

Kinder appreciates those who have taken the time to impart their knowledge, helping improve her craft.

"It means so much," she said. "I feel that I am an extension of my aunt's work, and especially when I do hand-stitched ribbon work. "It connects me to my aunt and my grandmother. Not many people do it anymore."

Throughout the years, Kinder has noticed fewer individuals showing interest in hand-stitched ribbon work. This further inspires her efforts. She utilizes every chance to share her skills with others to reciprocate the gift of knowledge.

"It means a lot to teach these classes because the women that attend, and sometimes men, are so amazed by the process, and it's a process that our relatives did," she said. "It just feels so good to show them and to see somebody get excited about it.

"Hand-stitched ribbon work is a dying art, and anything I can do to prevent that from happening means the world to me."

For many, ribbon work can appear difficult and intricate, but Kinder enjoys uncovering its simplicity.

"I love the process — the creative process, and the colors. It's really very cool," she said.

Kinder encourages beginners to learn the "old-style" first.

"I always tell (my students), 'I'm going to teach you this way first because this is how it was done,' before we move on to the sewing machine and Wonder-Under. I want them to have the experience of connecting with our ancestors," she said.

Personal touches

Kinder usually does not fill in the background of her applique beadwork. Her approach utilizes the negative space fabric, leather or other mediums to make each design shine. For most pieces, she uses black ultra-suede or black velvet as the base.

"And that's a very woodland thing to do, although I know that filling in the background with white is also very Potawatomi," she explained.

Though versed in several beading methods, Kinder prefers single-needle applique and peyote stitch.

"I feel like I can hold onto the tension better and kind of manipulate things a little bit more with a single needle than double," she said.

She keeps ideas new and fresh by evolving her designs to meet customer requests.

"I would say I go in phases," Kinder said. "There was a period of time where I worked on ribbonwork all the time: skirts and men's dance aprons and trailers. But now I love doing beadwork, and I am in that phase right now. I am blessed that I get a lot of orders for my beadwork."

Potawatomi Gifts inside the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center has a limited number of Kinder's beaded Nishnabé-inspired earrings in stock. Shop in store or online today at potawatomimagifts.com.

Domestic violence safety applications

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope Prevention Specialist

With telemedicine on the rise and virtual appointments becoming a necessity, we are finding new ways to help people manage chronic conditions in health care. Countless smartphone applications can also help individuals track their everyday issues. It should come as no surprise that with telemedicine on the rise and virtual appointments becoming a necessity, we are finding new ways to help people manage chronic conditions in health care.

The app was released in May of 2020 and is available for iPhone and iPad users only. The app allows the victim to upload images and videos for safekeeping with secure technology. It also allows the user to send materials to trusted contacts and catalogue evidence for law enforcement, attorneys and advocates.

The DocuSAFE app also includes information and resources to help the victim better understand the many different forms of domestic violence. By storing documentation of abuse in one central location, victims can easily identify the abuse that is happening to them and prepare for possible escalation of their perpetrator’s behavior. Not every person in an intimate partner relationship experiencing violence believes it is abuse. The app will provide helpful information to these victims, and being able to see all the red flags together can bring that to light.

Before downloading the app, our advocates ask that you do consider whether it is safe to do so. Some perpetrators may have access to their victim’s technology and can control these devises, either physically or remotely.

If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault and would like more information, please contact House of Hope at 405-878-4673, or visit us online at gphouseofhope.com. You can also follow us on social media @gphouseofhope to find helpful tips and resources.
As Potawatomi County’s largest employer, Citizen Potawatomi Nation has approximately 2,300 people working across its 15 enterprises and numerous offices. Throughout the pandemic, the Tribe’s Human Resources Department workload has remained unhindered. According to department director Richard Brown, HR staff were prepared to face new challenges because they adapt every day, regardless.

“We do everything,” he said. “Some of (CPN’s employees) need help. They’ve been locked in the house for a couple of months looking at four walls, not having anyone to talk to or whatever the need may be, HR is there for them. And so, we’re treating them like we can, or we can find them assistance if it gets to a point to where they and we think they may need additional help outside the normal workplace issues.”

Usually, the HR Department is reliant on face-to-face communication. However, staff continues to harness creativity, developing contactless ways to serve CPN’s workforce.

A new normal

Before COVID-19, the Tribe held extensive new hire orientations in person every Monday. Due to the circumstances caused by the virus, the Nation acknowledges the impracticality of gathering multiple individuals in a room for hiring purposes. As a result, the department developed a “curbside” orientation.

“We meet them at the curb, give them their badges. They present to us their identification proving their eligibility to work in the U.S., and in turn, we’ll send them out to their supervisors and departments. And therefore, we’re keeping that social distancing going from that standpoint,” Brown said.

Human resource’s online capabilities allow for electronic review and signature of all necessary documents. Employees process and complete their paperwork before they meet with a staff member from their career.

“When they get here, that six-hour day that they spend with HR has gone from that to about a 15-minute meeting at the curb,” he said.

While some Tribal departments and enterprises cut their hours back, others hired employees as their workload increased throughout the pandemic. The three FireLake Discount Foods locations saw increased foot traffic, and other essential positions still require qualified candidates to fill them.

“We’re always available for a phone call, or if there are questions about what we’re doing, what you need to do, what people in your family need to do from a COVID-19 standpoint,” Brown said. “We still have our central businesses that we are hiring for, which basically is law enforcement, our health care facilities, our daycare and our grocery. That’s really important.”

A new focus

As a department itself, human resources now relies on virtual meetings, staggered office days between staff and telework. In the last few months, they’ve taught and helped other departments do the same.

“I don’t think so much that the job has changed,” Brown said. “We still do everything that we’ve always done. It just may be from the standpoint that you’re not sitting in front of me, or I’m not sitting in front of you. We’ve had to learn phone etiquette all over again because (that’s how) we’re having a whole lot of our conversations.”

New and current employees also complete mandatory training regarding COVID-19. It includes the basics of the spread of the virus as well as safety measures, including CPN and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Continued on next page

CPN department continues its mission to serve Tribal employees during a pandemic

As Pottawatomie County's largest employer, Citizen Potawatomi Nation has approximately 2,300 people working across its 15 enterprises and numerous offices. Throughout the pandemic, the Tribe's Human Resources Department workload has remained unhindered. According to department director Richard Brown, HR staff were prepared to face new challenges because they adapt every day, regardless.

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Usually, the HR Department is reliant on face-to-face communication. However, staff continues to harness creativity, developing contactless ways to serve CPN's workforce.

**Foster parents assume strong role in reunifying families**

**By Kendra Lowden, CPN FireLodge Children & Family Services Foster Care/Adoption Manager**

Reunification with birth parents has steadily remained the primary permanency plan for children in foster care, and foster parents can be one of the most important resources to aid in the process. FireLodge Children & Family Services works diligently to ensure Potawatomi families stay connected. Our work includes encouraging and supporting relationships between foster parents and birth families.

Here are some ways foster parents can promote reunification efforts while respecting a child's family of origin.

**Show respect and compassion**

Foster parents play a unique role within the child welfare system. While many people consider the main responsibilities to be caring for the physical and emotional needs of children, they are also vital to the process of reunification. Birth families may have feelings of fear and anxiety once their children have been placed outside the home. Foster parents can help families by verbalizing empathy and sharing their support of the parents' journey to regain custody of their children. Successful foster families know that people need help and not judgement.

**Encourage family visitation and communication**

In many cases, foster parents are allowed to have relationships with birth families and even supervise visits in the community or in their home. If in-person visitation is not feasible, phone and video contact is a common method for parents to communicate with their children outside of the typical weekly visit inside the child welfare office. Parents may become approved to attend events, sports activities and medical visits with the foster family. Visitation is not just an opportunity for parent-child contact; it can also improve the relationship between the foster family and birth family. Children's emotions are often reassured by experiencing love and respect from all of the adults in their lives. Additionally, the more time children spend with their parents, the more comfortable they will be when they return home.

**Remember why reunification is important**

Foster parents who actively support reunification acknowledge that it is most often in the child's best interest to be placed with family and are committed to doing what is best for the child. Foster parents must hold a deep belief that they answered the call to become a foster parent so they can help families transition back together. Even in situations where the permanency outcome is adoption, foster parents can still work to maintain lifelong connections with a child's birth family.

An open, encouraging relationship with birth parents is one of the best gifts a foster parent can give their foster child.

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Since opening its location across from Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquarters in 2001, FireLake Discount Foods has expanded, providing access to fresh groceries at two more locations in Tecumseh and McLoud. In each community served, FireLake partners with local nonprofits, youth programs and more, giving volunteer hours as well as supporting initiatives like Receipts for School and the coupon book program.

“Educators are the backbone of who we are,” said FireLake Foods Marketing Manager Nicole Sanchez. “They are our customers, and it is our way of giving back to the community, to them. If anyone is more apparent than now, we must work together because we’re all in this together.”

As COVID-19 makes its impact across the United States, FireLake Foods remains dedicated to the communities and individuals it serves.

Nonprofits

“You all are a lifesaver,” said Shawnee Salvation Army Captain Stacey Connelly. “We would not be able to keep our doors open and our lights on if it weren’t for CPN.”

FireLake Foods has partnerships with numerous area nonprofits, including The Salvation Army. One easy way that FireLake supports the community is through giving away unwanted groceries to supplement the organization’s food bank.

“We never have to purchase food. It’s all donated from FireLake and donations from people in the community. But I would say 98 percent of our food pantry comes from FireLake donations,” Connelly said.

Every month, FireLake employees spend a few hours preparing The Salvation Army’s daily meal. And during the holidays, team members give their time in a variety of ways, including helping provide 350 boxes filled with holiday favorites and essentials like ham, bread and milk.

According to Connelly, the nonprofit’s annual spaghetti fundraising event would not happen without the Nation.

“That is one of the biggest ways that FireLake helps us, knowing that we don’t have that upfront cost so that all that money goes straight into programs,” she said.

Even when faced with a global pandemic, FireLake Foods continues to give back. Salvation Army worked with staff to purchase water bottles at cost, which helps the organization to continue to provide meals to those in need.

“We never stopped our feeding program. We just had to adapt to it, and so we weren’t able to let people into the building for tea. Bottled water was the best option. But having to purchase at cost would be costly, but thanks to FireLake, it has been minimal,” Connelly said.

She estimated FireLake’s in-kind food donations to exceed $100,000 annually.

“We would not be able to survive if it wasn’t for CPN,” Connelly said.

Education

In addition to nonprofits, FireLake Foods also employs efforts to assist area schools.

The Receipts for School program is a key way FireLake supports education, and contributing is as easy as saving receipts after shopping at any three FireLake Foods locations.

“Each school is set up differently, so contact your local school for more information on where to donate your receipts,” Sanchez said.

Once the receipts add up to over $10,000, the school can exchange them at FireLake Discount Foods for a $100 gift card to Copelin’s Office Center, Staples or FireLake.

“This program has been very helpful. A lot of teachers utilize this to help supplement things in their classroom,” she said.

Receipts for Schools is open to any educator, in the surrounding area. For more information, visit firelakefoods.com/donation-requests.

Funding

Local organizations, ball teams and nonprofits rely on community financial support to operate, and FireLake Discount Foods offers solutions through its coupon book program.

Any group can participate in this program, and we offer it twice a year,” Sanchez explained.

The books sell for $10 apiece and include 25 different incentives and opportunities to save across CPN-owned enterprises, with no fundraising overhead.

“It’s 100 percent profit, and there is no cost to the group participating,” Sanchez said.

For more information on the coupon program, email firelakefundraising@potawatomi.org.

Other efforts

While FireLake Discount Foods has specific programs in place, staff also step up to the plate in other ways, whether that includes finding quality, affordable earbuds for a classroom or working with local nonprofits to find solutions.

“It’s been amazing to be the boots on the ground to help facilitate and foster relationships that allow others to help local teachers meet the needs in their classrooms.” Sanchez said.

FireLake Discount Foods staff also visit schools and classrooms to read to students as well as discuss healthy living and how grocery stores operate.

In late 2019, Sanchez volunteered at the St. Paul United Methodist Church’s Early Foundation program in downtown Shawnee, teaching its students about FireLake Foods and the importance of eating a balanced diet.

“I had story time and a hands-on activity with the kids. We made Blue Zones-friendly fruit pizzas, and I spoke about the different colors, shapes and fruit; the kids and teachers loved it!” Sanchez said.

Based on cultures across the world with the longest life expectancies, The Blue Zones Project seeks to improve the overall well-being across Potawatomi County. The Nation and FireLake Discount Foods partner with Blue Zones as approved worksites and grocery stores.

St. Paul’s also created a miniature grocery store fit with FireLake Discount Foods’ bags as a tool to teach through play. With a degree in education, Sanchez appreciates every opportunity she has to represent CPN in the classroom.

“It’s another little way that we can give back, and literacy, that’s a really an important thing to me,” she said.

For more information on how to participate in FireLake Discount Foods Receipts for School or the coupon book program, email firelakefundraising@potawatomi.org or visit firelakefoods.com/donation-requests.

As staffing increases and business continues, the Nation looks forward to welcoming new team members at every level.

“We’re always looking for good people at CPN and want them to come join our big happy family,” Brown said. Visit firelakefoods.com to browse current job openings and apply for positions across all Tribal enterprises and offices.
HOWNIKAN

8 AUGUST 2020

One of CPN’s first COVID-19 patients gives back

Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Michelle Dykstra-Tibbs caught COVID-19 in early March of this year after attending a large event at the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colorado. She took precautions while attending and traveling but spent the next month recovering at her home in Oklahoma City. “It’s truly the most mysterious, unbelievable experience I’ve ever had in my entire life, and I’ve had some crazy stuff happen to me. I’ve had multiple surgeries and recovered, and this has been the scariest thing I’ve ever been through,” she said.

“I thought I was going to die.” Afterward, the Peltier family descendant found a renewed sense of purpose. She sought to improve the recovery process for others as the pandemic worsened in the United States; Dykstra-Tibbs learned her body’s response to the virus could benefit others, which prompted her to donate toward a new type of treatment in Oklahoma.

**Diagnosis and recovery**

Dykstra-Tibbs’ symptoms worsened while demands for testing skyrocketed in Oklahoma following the cancellation of the NBA OKC Thunder vs. Utah Jazz game in March. She attempted to find testing but encountered an overwhelmed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention system.

Dykstra-Tibbs then turned to CPN Health Services. That same day, they assisted her at one of the clinic’s outdoor triage tents established to isolate COVID-19 patients and reduce the spread of the highly infectious disease. “I am so impressed with what we have going on at our Tribe,” Dykstra-Tibbs said. “And I’ve told everybody, ‘I wouldn’t have gotten through this without you and the Tribe.’ And I think it’s just amazing what (Chief Medical Officer) Dr. Vascellaro is doing out there and (Public Health Coordinator) Dr. Roselius. They had an amazing setup. They were very well organized. I wish that more people knew.”

She treated intense symptoms with over-the-counter products and an inhaler during the three weeks she waited for her test results. Dykstra-Tibbs became one of the first post-COVID cases in Oklahoma and CPN Health Services. She regained most of her strength a month after her symptoms appeared and returned to work as a hair stylist a few weeks later.

“Right now, I feel really good. I got my energy back, and I really upped my cardio. And, I’ve been following up (with doctors),” Dykstra-Tibbs said.

Although she has improved, she sees a pulmonologist for scar tissue in her lungs. Some routine blood testing also revealed she developed insulin resistance, and she is now pre-diabetic. Dykstra-Tibbs attributes this change to the illness. In June 2020, The New England Journal of Medicine published a study of Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) and COVID-19, a letter to the editor signed by doctors around the globe. It describes a “bidirectional relationship” between insulin resistance and the coronavirus.

“These observations provide support for the hypothesis of a potential diabetogenic effect of COVID-19,” beyond the well-recognized stress response associated with severe illness. However, whether the alterations of glucose metabolism that occur with a sudden onset in severe COVID-19 persist or remit when the infection resolves is unclear, they wrote.

Dykstra-Tibbs continues to participate in blood sampling with CPN Health Services to monitor her insulin and antibodies levels, which remain high after more than four months. The experience also pushed Dykstra-Tibbs to encourage others to donate.

**Saving others**

“To be as healthy as I was and for (the coronavirus) to affect me the way it did, it’s just frustrating. And it kind of pushed me to want to help others because it’s not going to go away any time soon,” Dykstra-Tibbs said.

She volunteered to provide blood samples as antibodies testing began in Oklahoma, and IMMY Labs in Norman tested them as part of a survey. Dykstra-Tibbs also tracked convalescent plasma donation development in the Oklahoma City metro. The treatment option is still a learning experience, for sure.”

It’s an option that’s been renewed to treat people because it’s giving them an influx of the antibody to fight off the virus,” said OBI Marketing and Media Manager Heather Browne. “It’s really an experimental initiative at this point.”

Oklahoma Blood Institute began collecting convalescent plasma for the first time in April, and Dykstra-Tibbs signed up. At the time Dykstra-Tibbs’ deal with the illness, health care workers lacked treatment options for the virus that had only emerged globally in November 2019. She jumped at the chance to provide one after OBI screened and approved her. She became one of the first donors in the state within a few days.

Did you know CPN’s response to the coronavirus at cpn.news/COVID19.ORG

“Tribal member Michelle Dykstra-Tibbs continues to improve her health after recovering from COVID-19. (Photo provided)"

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

**Veterans report**

**Bezho**

(Hello),

I was listening to a preacher on the radio the other day discussing Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, which reminded the nation the purpose our founding fathers had in forming this new kind of nation. During this period of the pandemic and public unrest plaguing our country, we need to listen to his words and better understand what our country is: a new kind of country. There is no other like it in the world, and it may be difficult to understand its goals. Read his words, and listen to their meaning. He was speaking to everyone, and these days we have a lot more “everyone” than Lincoln had when he said these words.

The Gettysburg Address

“Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

This was not just another nation, but something new that had never been done before.

“Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

“But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work, which they fought for here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

These words should always guide our nation’s purpose for being.

I have had many veterans contact me concerning Veterans Administration contact. I have investigated and found some answers for who and how and when to contact for your veteran needs.

The VA Representative for Shawnee, Oklahoma, is Travis Stanberry. Email: travis.stanberry@voydla.ok.gov

Phone: 918-397-2566

Shawnee office: Gordon Cooper Technology Center, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Our CPN Veterans Organization meetings are still on hold until further notice.

Migwech

(Thank you),

Daryl Talbot, Commander
talbotok@sbcglobal.net

405-275-1054

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The importance of early melanoma detection

By Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton

It may be uncomfortable in the summer heat, but a long-sleeved shirt can go a long way toward cancer prevention.

Melanoma is a form of skin cancer that occurs when melanocytes, the cells responsible for skin pigmentation, start growing uncontrollably. Extended repeated exposure to ultraviolet radiation — either from the sun or artificial light sources like tanning beds — can damage the cells’ DNA enough to expedite that process.

Among the key warning signs of melanoma or other forms of skin cancer are the appearance of new or unusual growths, such as moles, lumps or blemishes that do not look like those already on one’s body. For women, most growths start on the legs, while for men, they are more likely to show up on the chest or back. However, a melanoma growth can develop anywhere on the body, including the mouth, scalp, iris or under the fingernails.

Mark Beutler is a spokesperson for the Oklahoma chapter of the American Cancer Society. Like most forms of cancer, early detection is the key to bearing the disease, he said. Melanoma has a five-year survival rate of 99 percent if caught before it spreads beyond the patch of skin where it started.

Among American Indians and Alaska Natives, the rates are even lower, both nationally and in Oklahoma. Nationwide, the rate of melanoma cases is five for every 100,000 Indigenous people, while in Oklahoma, it is 13.3 for every 100,000 Indigenous people.

However, Oklahoma and California are the only two states with data available. Indigenous melanoma cases reported to generate a data set. Although there is not a fool-proof way to completely safeguard against developing melanoma, there are preventative measures that can be taken to minimize the risk. Along with a long-sleeved shirt, a hat and sunglasses can help minimize exposure to ultraviolet rays. Regularly applying sunscreen can also help reduce the risk, particularly when the long-sleeved shirt option is not feasible.

“Bottom line is to be sun-safe anytime you are outdoors,” Beutler said. “Being outside in the fresh air is good for the soul, but the summer sun can be relentless.”

Language update

By Justin Neely, Director of the CPN Department of Language

The Potawatomi language is mainly in the form of verbs. Even many of our nouns come from verbal forms. Here are a few ways of conjugating verbs in Potawatomi:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VAI verb</th>
<th>Conjunct</th>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Prohibitive</th>
<th>VII verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nkisçegeo – I clean</td>
<td>Bincegeo – he/she cleans</td>
<td>Bincegeo – clean (telling one person)</td>
<td>Gêgo bincegeo – don’t clean (singular)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gläncsegeo – you clean</td>
<td>Bincegeo – he/she cleans</td>
<td>Bincegeo – clean (telling more than one)</td>
<td>Gêgo bincegeo – don’t clean (plural)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkisĉegem – we, you clean</td>
<td>Bincegeo – you all clean</td>
<td>Gêgo bincegeo – don’t clean (singular)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Bincegeo – you all clean</td>
<td>Gêgo bincegeo – don’t clean (plural)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkisĉegyek – you clean them</td>
<td>Bincegeo – they clean</td>
<td>Gêgo bincegeo – don’t clean (plural)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skebgas – it is green</td>
<td>N-bindon – they clean it</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skebgas – it is green</td>
<td>N-bindon – they clean it</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no prohibitive or command form. You can’t make something be a certain color or not be a certain color.

Binden – clean s.t. he/she does

VTI is used when mentioning the inanimate object such as: Dopwen nbindon – I am cleaning the table.

There are four main types of verbs in Potawatomi: VAI — animate intransitive, VII — inanimate intransitive, VTI — transitive inanimate, and VTA — transitive animate. Potawatomi is very specific.

Even things that are considered adjectives in English are verbs in Potawatomi. Red, big and long are all verbs.

Meha – it is red
| Mēhej – it/they are red |

Meha – it is big
| Mehag – he/she is big |

Meha – it is long
| Mehag – he/she is long/tall |

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Rosewitz family donate cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment to CPN and Navajo Nation

As the coronavirus pandemic took hold of the United States, Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Rebecca Rosewitz moved to Denver, Colorado, to take a dream job with the Veterans Affairs Eastern Colorado Health Care System. She intended to work as a blind rehabilitation specialist at its clinic for the visually impaired; however, she was relocated to the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center in Aurora to track personal protective equipment for several months before beginning her original assignment.

“That was really crucial to make sure that anybody and everybody who works for the hospital has had a test and that they have the respirators that they need to keep them safe. It was a big blessing,” Gardom said. Her impressive resume includes more than 12 years of experience as well as multiple degrees and certifications. She has taught patients how to adapt to blindness and visual impairments in South Carolina, Miami and now Colorado. The Tesori family descendant received Tribal scholarships and other financial assistance, helping her become a sought-after employee in a niche field.

Love of veterans

After Gardom lived on the East Coast for more than a decade, she began looking for jobs closer to her family in Arizona and New Mexico. The position with the VA in Colorado filled all of her wishes; her relatives lived within driving distance, and it utilized her skill set.

“I was hired on at the VA to instruct veterans with visual impairments and blindness how to travel safely in their environments,” Gardom said. “Orientation mobility skills are often taught with a long white cane, which are commonly known as blind skills and blind travel skills.” She had wanted to work for the VA for a long time as well.

“This is my way of giving back to veterans who serve us in my own small way,” she said.

Family

The project also allowed the Rosewitzs to feel a closeness amongst themselves, despite quarantining. They usually volunteer together, using their skills at animal rescues, fundraising for diabetes research, schools and more. The coronavirus dampened their efforts initially, but Rosewitz found a creative way to expend her family’s philanthropic energy through collecting and donating goods.

“There really not been any kind of visiting or really getting together, outside of just standing on opposite sides of the door,” Rosewitz said, since she lives with her grandparents, who are both immunocompromised. “But (collecting donations) is kind of a way for us to be able to do something together without actually getting together.”

As a frontline worker at a grocery and retail store, she took no time off through the peak of the virus and could not work from home. Rosewitz finds ways to warm her heart and hold her positivity while missing her family. She encounters stressed and frustrated people every day while trying to function and maintain her duties, and she encourages others to practice empathy.

“Keep in mind that everybody sort of has had a different experience with quarantine and with everything that’s going on, and just keep an open mind and be as patient with everyone as possible,” Rosewitz said. “I’ve taken to watching feel-good movies in the evenings, and I’ve watched the most recent live-action Cinderella repeatedly. I try to keep that quote from her, ‘Have courage and be kind,’ just in my head all of the time.”

For more information on CPN’s response to the coronavirus, visit cpnnews.com/COVID19.

As the coronavirus pandemic took hold of the United States, Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Emily Rosewitz wanted to find a way to help others during the pandemic. While reading news about the spread of the coronavirus, she became inspired to recruit her family to put together donation boxes of cleaning supplies. The Toupin family descendants started by purchasing hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, laundry sanitizer, aerosol disinfectant and more.

Rosewitz works in the shipping and receiving department at her local Target. She kept an eye on merchandise as the staff processed it and took advantage of opportunities to purchase things at work while adhering to rationing. Her impressive resume includes more than 12 years of experience as well as multiple degrees and certifications. She has taught patients how to adapt to blindness and visual impairments in South Carolina, Miami and now Colorado. The Tesori family descendant received Tribal scholarships and other financial assistance, helping her become a sought-after employee in a niche field.

Rosewitz family uses their altruistic spirit to support Native Americans across the nation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo provided)

Rosewitz said it’s getting to people who need it and it’s being used by our friends and our family and our Tribe to sort of help bear this thing,” Rosewitz said. “If it’s one less thing that somebody needs to worry about, where they can put their efforts to something else, whether it be taking care of their kids or they’re just doing their everyday jobs.”

CPN Director of Purchasing Stacey Bennett served as Rosewitz’s contact with the Tribe through the process. Bennett said right now, anything helps.

“It’s just great to be able to utilize those items, and I think, it’s awesome that she thought of the Nation in this time of need, just with the way our world is, that someone was thinking of others instead of just their direct needs,” she said.

The CPN Child Development Center washes its bedding with the laundry sanitizer every day in order to adhere to heightened protocols. CPN’s clinics and other frontline workers clean their hands and surfaces with the hand sanitizer and wipes. Rosewitz’s dad also donated 600 recently expired N-95 masks for health care workers.

“I greatly appreciate the Rosewitzs for donating items to help enable our Tribal workforce to combat COVID-19,” said CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps. “The donations expanded our ability to keep our work stations safe.”

Without water

In April, Rosewitz read an NBC News article that outlined the hardships for the Navajo Nation faced trying to contain the virus and care for its people with COVID-19. It featured family practitioner Dr. Michelle Tom from Arizona. She lives on the reservation with her husband, running water at home, caring for patients who also make weekly trips to fill their water tanks.

“She was talking about how … it’s so hard to just say, ‘Wash your hands frequently,’” Rosewitz said. “It’s hard to do that when you don’t actually have access to that water. So that was kind of when we started thinking. It was like, do we have access to these cleaning products and this hand sanitizer where you don’t need the water. Can we use our ability to get product in a way that’s going to be helping other people?”

The Rosewitzs chose to donate items other than money because it seemed more logical to distribute the product itself to places in need, especially the Navajo Nation.

“In many ways, we knew that it doesn’t matter to have the money there, necessarily, if you don’t have access to products to spend it on. So, that kind of decided that was something that we would like to be able to continue doing,” Rosewitz said.

“We may be different tribes, we may be living in different states, but we are all in this together. And we do need to help each other out.”

The Rosewitz family uses their altruistic spirit to support Native Americans across the nation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo provided)

CPN member oversees PPE at Colorado hospital

Cultural Heritage Center honors those who served in the military by displaying their pictures on the Potawatomi Veterans Wall of Honor.

“My grandfather, James Gardom, then all of his brothers, Wayne Gardom, Paul Gardom, Charles Gardom — and all of them have been our veterans. And right now, there’s just one brother, Paul, living. My grandfather passed. But they are all represented there,” Gardom said. She and her brother stop and see the wall whenever they travel through Oklahoma.

Essential respirators

At the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center, she kept track of personal protective equipment as part of the Occupational Safety and Health Team, specifically the Controlled Air Purifying Respirator systems. The battery-operated air filtration devices added to PPE offer another safety precaution against the coronavirus.

Many members of the Potawatomi side of her family are veterans. CPN's

Continued on next page
Native Americans and infectious disease

Culture, warfare and assimilation all play significant parts in the history of Native Americans and infectious disease, spanning from the 1600s to the present day. Scarcely medical records among Native Americans and infectious disease is documented in our records. There is a spiritual awakening for me, to think, European Americans not only have power in large numbers and wield incredible weapons, but now, they're able to tap into their spiritual abilities and their gods to create deadly infectious diseases. That's a morale killer for the strongest warriors,” he said. 

“During this time, local Native populations faced that time as they descended from the area. Nicoll’s records note meeting 4 to 5,000 Ho-Chunks; however, other historians’ records indicate their population reached upward of 25,000.

Throughout the next 20 years as more contact with people and there was a lot of interaction. You're moving between smallpox in the 17th century,” said Cultural Heritage Center Curator Blake Norton.

Biological warfare and psychology

European forces also used smallpox as a biological weapon against Native Americans in the Great Lakes region — both during Pontiac’s War and the American Revolutionary War.

In early spring 1763, British forces used Fort Pitt in Pennsylvania as a makeshift hospital for troops and traders during a large smallpox outbreak. Only a few months later, Commander in Chief Jeffrey Amherst and Colonel Henry Bouquet presented tribes with infected hospital linens as false gifts of peace during the siege of Fort Pitt at the beginning of Pontiac’s War. 

“Settlement patterns were dispersed enough that you could walk to one location and another, you just didn’t have a whole lot of sick people who were infectious and feeling ill, traveling back and forth, because people weren’t bunched up together,” said Dr. Kelli Mosteller, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center director. However, those settlement patterns changed with new technology and economic ideologies.

Great Lakes and first contact

The Potawatomi fought the Iroquois for control of land in the Great Lakes region, eventually settling in Wisconsin with other refugees in the early 1600s. They met French explorer Jean Nicolet in 1634, their first European contact. The Potawatomi likely lived amongst the people of the Ho-Chunk Nation at that time as they descended from the area. Nicolet’s records note meeting 4 to 5,000 Ho-Chunks; however, other historians’ records indicate their population reached upward of 25,000. 

“There are so many people who use the CAPRs, like the COVID mobile testing sites and the drive through testing sites and in pathology, the lab, they’re using them, and ICU and inpatient wards,” as well as HVAC repairmen, cleaning crews, nurses and more, Gardom said. When she arrived to work each morning, Gardom located every CAPR to check their functionality. With more than 5,000 employees at the hospital, it amounted to a full-time job. Gardom also led every CAPR in a database, ensured engineers made the appropriate repairs and charged the batteries. Her shifts lasted between 12 and 17 hours, and her weekday began at 3 a.m. The database is such an asset that the hospital added additional staff to assist Gardom on the Safety team for COVID operations.

Feeling called

“I absolutely was helping out, and I didn’t realize how much of a help it was until other staff were like, ‘Well, thank goodness you’re here because we can’t find a CAPR,’ or ‘This one, we dropped it today,’” Gardom said. She also realized her positive attitude made as much of an impact for the exhausted staff. She prayed for everyone as she walked through the hospital, making her rounds. “There is a spiritual awakening for me, as I drew closer to Mamoogonwe, our one village and the other regular, now. There were people settled in between those locations,” Dr. Mosteller said.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Native American boarding schools aimed to assimilate young generations of tribal members. Students left their families and moved across the country to live in dorms and bunkers, forced to do manual labor without adequate hygiene facilities. An ideal situation for infections to spread. The high mortality rate led to mass graves at schools across the country, some of which are still being uncovered today. The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 granted parents the legal right to refuse their child’s attendance at an off-reservation boarding school. “When we’re talking about what the psychological aspect of how many parents had their children taken away, and they never came back. And, they never learned why; that’s a real legacy of the trauma of residential schools or boarding schools,” Dr. Mosteller said.

Community-oriented, Indigenous cultures revolve around time together eating, participating in ceremonies and caring for one another. COVID-19 and other diseases with prolonged incubation periods force participation in those group practices to dwindle. “A particularly painful challenge of this is that in a lot of Native communities, our ways of healing ourselves, whether in sweat lodges or other healing ceremonies, requires the community to come together and be able to do ceremony for this (sick) person,” Dr. Mosteller said. “There’s a spiritual and the ability to do ceremony for the residents of schools or boarding schools,” Dr. Mosteller said.

Cultural and COVID-19

According to a U.S. Census Bureau report from 2012, more than 10 percent of Native American households are multigenerational, compared to less than 4 percent for non-Hispanic whites. In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention labeled those 65 and older a “high-risk” segment of the population for COVID-19 and advised quarantining to slow transmission rates. “In a lot of ways, it's so counter to the deeply ingrained teachings of ’You keep your elders with you. You keep them close. You check on them. You make sure they have what they need. You prepare.' But right now that can be the biggest risk, and to leave them isolated is also a risk,” Dr. Mosteller said.

Some reservations allow for ample conditions for the spread of viruses and bacterial infections, including government funded living quarters built close together and restricted access to necessities such as running water. In May 2020, the Navajo Nation, primarily in Arizona, had the nation’s highest COVID-19 infection rate per-capita in the U.S. Doctors without Borders sent nine specialists to the reservation. It was the first time the organization dispatched units within the United States. Modern struggles with infectious disease as seen at the Navajo Nation and other tribes across the United States ensure the legacy continues for generations across Indian Country. However, CPN’s robust efforts to mitigate the coronavirus’ spread focus on the safety of Tribal members, staff and health care workers. For more information at cpn-news/COVID19

Gardom continued...

There are so many people who use the CAPRs, like the COVID mobile testing sites and the drive through testing sites and in pathology, the lab, they’re using them, and ICU and inpatient wards,” as well as HVAC repairmen, cleaning crews, nurses and more, Gardom said. When she arrived to work each morning, Gardom located every CAPR to check their functionality. With more than 5,000 employees at the hospital, it amounted to a full-time job. Gardom also led every CAPR in a database, ensured engineers made the appropriate repairs and charged the batteries. Her shifts lasted between 12 and 17 hours, and her weekday began at 3 a.m. The database is such an asset that the hospital added additional staff to assist Gardom on the Safety team for COVID operations.

Feeling called

“I absolutely was helping out, and I didn’t realize how much of a help it was until other staff were like, ‘Well, thank goodness you’re here because we can’t find a CAPR,’ or ‘This one, we dropped it today,’” Gardom said. She also realized her positive attitude made as much of an impact for the exhausted staff. She prayed for everyone as she walked through the hospital, making her rounds. “There is a spiritual awakening for me, as I drew closer to Mamoogonwe, our God, to say, maybe being the smiling face for somebody who is getting off a 12-hour shift and totally exhausted and letting them know, ‘Hey, I’m here to help you out,’” Gardom said. “I’m just filled with joy and love and peace and kindness, and I really spread that to the best of my ability.”

The staff’s hard work inspired her, too. In late June, the Occupational Safety and Health Team presented her with a department award — a 14-karat gold coin.

“It’s very special. On one side, it has a picture of the Rocky Mountain Regional Hospital, and on the other side, it says, ‘Safety through education and awareness.’ And I was blown away by this award, and I’m so grateful,” Gardom said. She feels called to service no matter the job, as long as it helps others. She briefly met her co-workers at the blind and low vision clinic before moving to her new assignment at the main hospital. In mid-July, Gardom’s boss asked the hospital to allow her to return to her normal duties. She is very excited about serving veterans in her niche capacity and already planning for her next certification; however, both experiences met her expectations about working for the organization. “The VA found a productive job for me to do to ensure that all veterans are safe, all employees are safe, at all times,” Gardom said. “And so it’s truly been an honor to serve in that light.”
OFN announces CPCDC receives grant to help small businesses recover from Covid-19

On June 17, 2020, Opportunity Finance Network announced that Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation was one of four Community Development Financial Institutions in the first round of Grow with Google Small Business Fund loans and grants from Google.org. CPCDC will use the capital to support small businesses in its service area hardest hit by the economic impact of the coronavirus and recent civil unrest.

One of the largest Native-owned CDFIs in the nation, CPCDC finances, promotes, educates and inspires the entrepreneurial growth, economic opportunity and financial well-being of the Citizen Potawatomi National tribal community and other underserved Native populations through financial education, access to capital, business development services, innovative capacity building practices and community development initiatives. CPCDC’s commercial and business borrowers are 96 percent Native-owned.

Launched in March, the Grow with Google Small Business Fund delivers financing to CDFIs, like the CPCDC, that are supporting the short-term recovery and long-term financing needs of America’s small businesses affected by the pandemic.

On June 17, Google’s CEO Sundar Pichai announced that the company will provide to OFN an additional $45 million in loans on top of the original $125 million to assist Black-owned small businesses. In total, Google has now committed $170 million.

In addition, Google.org has made a $10 million grant to OFN to enable its member CDFIs to improve access to capital for the most marginalized communities. The unrestricted grants can support operations, loan capital, loan loss reserve, capacity building or any other purpose.

“We’re excited to be able to offer Native-owned businesses access to funding in these uncertain times,” said CPCDC Chief Financial Officer Cindy Logsdon. The other first round of loan and grant awardees are Grameen America, Opportunity Fund and PeopleFund.

“CDFIs are America’s best community lenders with 40 years of experience providing capital where mainstream finance can’t or won’t. Today, CDFIs are vital to ensuring a more even recovery for America’s small businesses. We applaud Google for stepping in to help bridge deep gaps in access to capital for minority and women-led small businesses. Google’s significant investment and grant helps CDFIs to combat economic inequity during a national health and economic crisis that has been recently compounded by civil unrest,” said Lisa Mensah, president and CEO of OFN, a leading national network of CDFIs.

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Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett

Since we began re-opening, we have had to close the FireLake Casino and Entertainment Center, CPN Tag Office and the Executive Order Office due to rapid increases in COVID-19 exposure among our employees. Fortunately, the FireLake Arena and the Grand Event Center remain closed. Here at the Tribal headquarters, we do our best we can to follow our employees and guests safe. This includes mandatory temperature checks and mask-wearing for all employees, handwashing and breath guards for those in stationary posts.

That is how we try to protect our employees and guests to make sure we need your help. We need your voice. Our employees are growing increasingly frightened by their exposure to coughing, snout-nosed, angry, unmasked people who spew their anger and the virus at them with indifference to the difference. Their President told them the virus was not very contagious. They are sick. They want someone to blame.

Our employees are true heroes who are simply asking for a little compassion from their fellow man. If you are afraid of a job where he or she must take this abuse, come to our defense. Speak up for us.

No one has the Constitutional right to endanger another person and then blatantly blame on the Democratic conspiracy! That is nuts! No one has a right to belittle another for wearing a mask. If the state can ask you to wear a seatbelt, and fine you if you do not, then the state can require you to wear a mask. Both are public safety issues. Both will save lives. Both are Constitutional.

Here is the big difference: the reason there is a law on seat belts and not COVID-19 masks is because the state can ask you to wear a seatbelt, and fine you if you do not, then the state can require you to wear a mask. Both are public safety issues. Both will save lives. Both are Constitutional.

As you may have heard, there is a law on seat belts and not COVID-19 masks is because the state can ask you to wear a seatbelt, and fine you if you do not, then the state can require you to wear a mask. Both are public safety issues. Both will save lives. Both are Constitutional.

If we handle money illegally at the Tribal government require us to follow the laws of the IRS. They are very poor and illegal argue that if we could get the per capita funds by the IRS.

Sure, there are arguments for just sending money out the door and stopping the federal government will just ignore our disregard of the rules. They are very poor and illegal arguments that are explicitly prohibited in writing by the published rules. I am absolutely certain that we cannot pay for this money. I will staky my 40 years in office on it, no matter that the reckless advice of the Governor for Chairman is causing ill will against me. It is against the law, and I won't do it. Without doubt, history has shown that local, state and federal governments have been eager to prosecute Native American govern-

ment and their people whenever the opportunity arises. This time will be no exception. There are some of us who remember when our grant pro-
grams were suspended by the federal government. We are not in that situation, and we will not take that risk with our reputation or our assets. We work hard for our people. We are the founders of so many programs such as Tribal health services, health aids, mail or-
der pharmacy, college scholarships, and culture and language programs. Doing something foolish and illegal would hurt our people and our reputation.

Bank are creatures of public reputation. If we handle money illegally at the Tribal government require us to follow the laws of the IRS. They are very poor and illegal arguments that if we could get the per capita funds by the IRS.

Chairman is causing ill will against me. It is against the law, and I won't do it. Without doubt, history has shown that local, state and federal governments have been eager to prosecute Native American govern-

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puts at the tribal government require us to follow the laws of the IRS. They are very poor and illegal arguments that if we could get the per capita funds by the IRS.
District 2 – Eva Marie Carney

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends),

CARES Act assistance

This pandemic is causing job losses, wage and hour reductions as well as increased costs and great uncertainty for our families’ futures. Elsewhere in this paper and on the Nation’s website, you can read stories about the impact and learn more about eligibility for CARES Act funds. The CARES Act funds the Nation received from the U.S. government came with many strings; the Nation’s leaders and the executive team and staff are working hard to navigate with care among those strings. I urge everyone who register to receive current updates on the CARES Act distribution program here: potawatomi.org/care. Apply if you may be eligible, and share the application information widely with your CPN relatives.

Braiding Sweetgrass

I can’t rave enough about CPN author Robin Wall Kimmerer’s audiobook, Braiding Sweetgrass. It’s a treasure trove of Potawatomi cultural teachings and much more, narrated by Robin. You, like me, can get a free 30-day trial of Audible at cpn.news/audible and then download Robin’s audiobook from that site. This summer, I’m growing The Three Sisters – corn, beans and squash — from seeds I received from our CPN Community Garden. Robin’s words are keeping me company as I water and weed them and otherwise work in my yard. This audiobook, at 16 hours and 44 minutes running time, may be a great way to work your way through the month of August!

Fall Feast

I hope we can gather this year for another District 2 Fall Feast. Your input to date via my legislative survey indicates that a good number of District 2 residents are interested in a virtual business/traditional teaching (craft) meeting that all can attend, wherever located in the district. I hope to pull off both an in-person and an online event before the year is out. Please watch this space. Facebook and potawatomi.org/events for details.

Challenging sports team names and mascots and other embodiments of racism

You’ve probably seen the reports that the NFL Washington football team owner is expected to announce a change in team mascot and name. The same reports note that the owner has not sought any ‘Native persons’ input on the change. Since I live in the Washington area, I’ve read lots of coverage of this and bookmarked the opinion piece written Kevin Gover, the director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian and a citizen of the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, as the one to share in this column. Gover wrote, in part:

Social media has since been abuzz with proposed replacement names, including some alleged to honor this country’s indigenous peoples. Do us a favor, Mr. Snyder. Don’t pick a new, native-inspired name or mascot that references our culture. Being your mascot is not an honor, nor does it honor the bravery of native people. In fact, it would be doubling down on the way your team has mocked our history and culture, reinforced stereotypes and promoted prejudice. It would further harm the self-esteem of American Indian young people and undermine the educational experiences of all communities — especially those who have had little or no contact with indigenous peoples. And it would distract from real-life-or-death challenges American Indians face today, such as the disappearance of an untold number of American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls under suspicious circumstances; the disproportionate number of our brothers and sisters affected by the novel coronavirus; and the fact that Native Americans are more likely to be killed in police shootings than other people.

You can read the full piece keeping me up to date on the NFL. In July, I joined the board of directors of Challenging Racism, a nonprofit organization that works in my adopted home town of Arlington, Virginia, to spark productive conversations about issues surrounding race. As I learn during my board service about useful resources for challenging racism, I will share them with you.

Kwek Society update

We will have a new logo and website, and expect to issue our first newsletter soon. Please let me know by email or phone if you are interested in receiving the newsletter. I expect that a newsletter sign-up function also will be available soon on Facebook and our website. All the uncertainty around school reopening in the fall is making it hard to know how many of the 40 schools and programs we support will be able to distribute resources from us and get the supplies out to students. We do want to keep expanding our reach, so we are continuing outreach to new potential partners with the goal of eradicating period poverty among Native American students and in Native American communities. If you have contacts in schools or organizations that can use our help, please let us know. At our recent annual meeting, we expanded our board to seven and now have four Citizen Potawatomi Kwék (women) on our board: Linda Arredondo, Kathy Meacham Webb and Tesla Zientek, who so many of you know from her work as the CPN Education Director, and me. Linda and Tesla are based in Oklahoma, and Kathy lives in Tennessee.

We do know that our partners will have an ongoing need for cloth masks. If you sew and want to assist us by making and delivering your mask, please visit our website, kweksociety.org, or our Guidebar page: cpn.news/kweksbiz to learn more about our work and donate to us if you are able. Please contact me if I can be helpful; it is an honor to represent you.

Eva Marie Carney, Ojindiskwe (Blue Bird Woman)
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District 3 – Bob Whister

Marge Hobdy. Both were my direct predecessors to serve the Texas CPN citizens. On June 27, Marge Hobdy walked on, and her funeral was held June 30, 2020. I do miss them as they helped me during the transition over to my serving both of their areas. They along with Craig Anderson, who served before Marge in north Texas, provided our Tribal citizens with a local representative to work with CPN staff. Craig is still a very active CPN citizen where he actively supports American Indian Heritage Day of Texas and regularly attends the Family Reunion Festival as well as the Potawatomi Gathering. I thank all three of them for their time, effort and service on behalf of our Texas CPN members. Their footsteps are very hard to follow.

U.S. Census

Several months ago, I mentioned the need for you to be sure you registered with the U.S. Census. I advised specifically that you and any children you may have need to list yourselves as members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. At this time, CPN was granted funds under the CARES Act program to compensate Tribal members on the basis of specific guidelines. At this time, our Tribal membership is about 35,000 members. The funds that were granted to us by the U.S. Treasury Department were based upon a membership of only 17,700. This is a good example of how important it is to participate in the U.S. Census, and be sure to list our Tribe by name. Had the U.S. Treasury had a larger number for our membership, no doubt the CARES Act funds grant very well may have been almost double.

Property theft

With licensed property now being basically online by each state, there are more and more cases of individuals being someone show up advising them they must move because they do not own their home. What has happened is that the house is sold by an unknown person who secured a copy of your deed, went to closing and had it all legalized, and the county courthouse lists the property on a new deed under the name of a new owner. The party that now claims your home did pay the theft, and you are now going to have the need for an attorney and incur much expense. With the current economy, this is happening more and more, especially to elders since their homes tend to be sold for and there is no mortgage lien on the deed. With a simple phone call to your county courthouse, you can have a fraud alert listed for your name. That way the courthouse will contact you before they change anything they have listed in your name. It could be your home, or the one which predates you. If you live in Tarrant County, the phone number to call is 817- 884-1100, and tell them you wish to setup a fraud alert. If you live in another area, simply call your county courthouse and ask them to give you the office to setup the alert. It is only good for one year, so you will need to renew it periodically.

November voting

The November federal election will be here before we know it. I am very concerned that many voters are not going to be looking deeply into ballot and candidates. For example, any U.S. president, you are voting for not just the president but their replacement, should they walk on or be unable to serve out the term. When you make your choice, be sure you know what it is and what their position(s)
District 4 – Jon Boursaw

Our Rossville nurses

I just finished reading a book titled Send Me an Angel, which told the story of the American aviatrix’s willingness to serve in WWII. There was something about their story that reminded me of the nurses who over the years have served on the Senior Support Network staff at the CPN Community Center in Rossville, and particularly, the two who are here now. Without a doubt Tracy Kinkerdieck, RN, and Sharrotn Long, CNA, routinely go far beyond what is in their job descriptions to serve and care for the dozens of CPN elders in the greater Topeka/ Rossville area. This has been exceptionally apparent during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused them to increase the attention they render to our elders. For example, they have made twice a week telephone calls to over 150 elders to ensure they were OK, and they have expanded their delivery of food, medicines, and other needed items to those who could not travel or had self-quarantined. But nothing compares to the time, effort and energy they have given to the weekly CPN Commodities Distribution Program offered in Tsi in Rossville. Bottom line, this program would not have happened if not for the time and effort they have willingly given to this program. For the past two months, each week over 240 individual families received a distribution of produce and dairy products. When you have the opportunity, let them know how much they are appreciated. Without hesitation, I think you will agree when I say that we have been blessed in having “two angels.”

Email addresses

To distribute the information on the CPN COVID-19 Relief Assistance Program, I have recently sent out several emails to those CPN members for which I have email addresses. If you are not receiving my emails, either I do not have your email address or what I have entered on my list is incorrect or has been changed. If you would like to be added to my email list, simply send me an email at jon.boursaw@potawatomii.org. This is the only method provided to me to obtain your email address.

Tribal enrollment

Yes, you have read this before, but it continues to happen. Again, I have recently had conversations with CPN members who have failed to get their college-aged students enrolled. I am still amazed at the number of times I have encountered this situation. Remember, students are only eligible for the CPN scholarship if they are enrolled members of the tribe. I am available to assist you in the application process as my brother, Lyman, who is in the CPN Community Center in Rossville.

Ground Penetrating Radar project at the Unionecktum Cemetery

I recently heard from Dr. Blair Schneider with the University of Kansas, informing me that she has finally been allowed access back to her office following the closure of the campus because of COVID-19. She told me she plans to resume the GPR survey project this month. For more information on this project, please see my article in the April Hownikan. As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your legislative representative.

District 5 – Gene Lambert

We’ve had the opportunity to say goodbye to a woman that had moved from District 5 to new and exciting places, while many others are coming in to say hello. Isn’t that the way life works?

I dislike the goodbyes but get excited with the hellos of new stories, people, places and things. Of course, we can always stay in touch with today’s technology for those that are not physically here anymore and remember those who have come, contributed and walked on.

There were such ladies in my life who were here and walked on. I want to tell you about them and who they were to me personally.

First, there was Philonise Williams who was the regional director here in District 5 and welcomed me into the position back in 1998. She was so wise about Tribal issues and ceremonies of which I was in the learning stages.

When I went to my first gathering as the regional director, Philonise gave me my first walking stick, multicolored belt and multicolored walking stick with a broken bird’s wing. “Will you dance this broken wing for me?” she warmly requested. “It must be the first dance.” “Absolutely,” was my response. I thanked her, and with a big hug, got into my car and drove away.

Driving for a few minutes, I came to the first stop sign and sat while the lights changed their color, leaving a minute or two to ponder my next course of learning.

Suddenly it occurred to me that I was dancing a broken spirit, not a broken wing as I originally thought. It was my broken spirit. Philonise knew what that, but the awareness just came over me. Of course I had to call and ask if I was correct. She just laughed, acknowledging her intentions to free my spirit for my new path.

Next, I was heading to Shawnee with my new title, my first regalia (that I made myself) and the gifts received. Grand Entry, experiencing every emotion you can think of: honor, pride, joy, fright, excited, and on and on with happiness just to name a few.

The next place I find myself is standing in line for Grand Entry. This is when I met Marjorie Fay Blair Hobbins, the regional director for Texas. Marjorie held that position for several years before I came along.

What a wonderful welcoming person Marjorie was. Immediately I felt calm, cool and connected to her. “Oh, my goodness, Gene. You have your regalia on backwards.”

“What do you mean?” I responded.

“The slit on your top belongs in the front, not the back. Here; let me help you because your shawl is not folded properly either.”

“Well, every zipper or button always goes in the back, I thought.”

I am canceling my plan for a Tribal gathering as the regional director here in District 5. For the last week I have been looking at the current presentations on Facebook, I concluded that many rumors, fake news and misleading comments are being shared in our region. When looking at Facebook more deeply, everything that is posted is subject ultimately to general public viewing. But not all data is transparent to our Tribal members. We hold quarterly legislative meetings where any Tribal member may attend. Those meetings are recorded and available for viewing by CPN members at their convenience. Our Tribal information, relative to government actions, etc., is no one’s business but our Tribal members and their families. Therefore, I am canceling my plan for a District 5 Facebook page.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and am here to give you direction or information on benefits and services that may be available. Please contact me if you feel I can be of help on Tribal matters.

Bama mine (Later),
Bob Whistler
Bmashii (He Sees) Representative, District 3 112 Bedford Road, Suite 116 Bedford, TX 76022 817-282-0868 office 817-229-6271 cell 817-545-1507 home bwhistler@potawatomii.org cpncouncillor@yahoo.com
A new lady to District 5 has just come to my attention, and she is from Colorado. I know she will grow into a leadership role somewhere in time as she has the compassion, willingness and humility along with capability to serve. Surely you will be hearing a lot about her too. Rebecca Gardner is one of the helpers we enjoy. She initially sent me a letter explaining her work at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Colorado. It was so informative, I sent it along to the newspaper. You can read about her on page 10.

We have talked many times about what you can count on for sure. How you see that is the real key. You’ve heard the saying, “Life is a canvas, and you hold the paint brush.” Right now, I think I am running short of paint. These are difficult times. We need to take a look around and find the joy and gratitude of what the negative offers. If nothing else, we learn what not to do next time or what to continue doing as it brings a smile to your face and a warm heart.

This isn’t rocket science, folks. It is about the love you do. It will brighten your day.

Thinking of you,

Eunice Imogene Lambert
Butterfly Woman
Representative, District 5
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San Tan Valley, AZ 85143
480-228-6569
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Becho nikmaek (Hello, friends),

I hope this finds you well.

There are many things happening at the moment across the world and country, but to begin, I want to start out at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. As you read in this edition of the newspaper, on June 29, our Tribal legislature held our most recent meeting. There we heard a presentation for and voted to expanded programs to assist CPN members who have been impacted by COVID-19.

For those with school-aged children, there will be programs that can provide direct financial assistance toward their education and distance learning. However, they must be enrolled Tribal citizens to access these funds. Being the child of an enrolled Tribal citizen will not apply, according to the guidance handed down as requirements for these funds by the federal government.

Parents, if you’ve been putting off enrolling the young ones, now is the time to prioritize that. The enrollment form can be found at cpn.news/enroll.

As the Tribal Administration rolls out those programs, one key aspect all Citizen Potawatomi need to address is ensuring that their contact information is up to date with CPN Tribal Rolls. This is not a recent problem but rather an ongoing one. The Tribal newspaper that reaches your door has an entirely different mailing address than the one at the CPN Mail Order Pharmacy or those at the CPN Health Clinic. For this reason, many laws, those lists of contact information cannot be shared.

If you have moved in the last few years or haven’t received a mailed Tribal newspaper or event invitation from me — I use the mailing list from Tribal Rolls when sending out event notices — you should contact Tribal rolls to ensure your information is correct and in their database. You can call them direct at 800-880-9880 or through email, tribalrolls@potawatomi.org.

More information is available at cpn.news/tribalrolls.

Speaking of area events, even though our District 6 gathering in Temecula in April was re-scheduled for July and ultimately canceled due to public health concerns, Representative Mark Johnson and I are tentatively planning on September 24 for our annual Heritage Festival in Visalia. Obviously more details will come as the situation develops, but we believe the weather and our outdoor dining and gathering options will allow for this to happen. Stay tuned!

To wrap things up, I would like to share my thoughts on the removal (in some cases destruction) of national monuments, statues, buildings and such. A good friend once told me, “There are three sides to every story; theirs, ours and somewhere in the middle you’ll find truth.”

While that may not be found in the book of Proverbs, I do believe there is some wisdom in it. The murder of George Floyd triggered social unrest that has mushroomed into something more way complex and well beyond political brutality of people of color. It is glaringly obvious we live in an era where everyone and everything, is politically charged and divisive, including whether we should be wearing face masks. It seems we may be digging ourselves into a hole we may never be able to climb out of if reason and common sense do not come back to the American people, no matter what color you may be. We expect the government to fight for this or that, and political leaders in turn use it for their own political gain rather than real solutions and unification of the people.

Nearly every campaign ad implies that we the people are the victims of some wrongdoing, and if elected, the candidate will “fight” for us. You would expect this approach from ambulance chaser attorneys fighting to get you the money you deserve! But from our politicians… really? Where are leaders who are looking to advocate for the common good, strengthen our country’s ability to admit to the mistakes of our past, and chart a course forward and cultivate unity rather than sow division?

We all have a story. We have all been bad; we have all been good. We have all had failures; we have all had success. We have all been right; we have all been wrong. We have all had to deal with adversity, pain and loss. That is the story of America. That is what this life is. Removing a statue or renaming a sports team isn’t going to change that!

In his book, In the Courts of the Conqueror, Native American Attorney Walter Echo-Hawk (Pawnee) talks about how the colonization of North America came to be is primarily told by the “conquerors.” Early in the recorded history of America, Columbus is depicted as “discovering” America, as if there wasn’t any civilization here prior to him or that the inhabitants weren’t savages lacking any structure of civilization, engaging in voxel and witchcraft. We know better than that; however, right or wrong, that is the Euro-American version of the story. Like my brother Bobby says, “When it it Indians that were slaughtered, it was a conflict. When it was whites that were slaughtered, it was a massacre.”

I think we live in an age where we are free to tell our story. I believe that rather than trying to erase or change the Euro-American story, we should focus on telling ours and adding it to the American story. America is a Nation of many stories, and weaving all our stories into the fabric of our Nation will make us stronger, promote healing and unite us rather than divide us.

Maybe knocking down a few statues has gotten the attention of leaders that can help. But I’m fearful that corporate America is really just looking to appease the noise makers in hopes of protecting profits, and things will blow over and get back to business as usual. Likewise, I think politicians are using noise makers for their own political gain. Whatever the case may be, I just hope our story is finally given equal space in the history books for tomorrows students.

I will leave you with a visual. Mount Rushmore is a prime example of a one-sided story. If you visit the National Park Services Mount Rushmore National Memorial website, the caption reads, “American History, Alive in Stone...” It goes on to say, “From the history of the first inhabitants to the diversity of America today, Mount Rushmore brings visitors face to face with the rich heritage we all share.” But there are no faces of the true original inhabitants.

The map tool was created by Lakota Sioux sacred ground known as The Six Grandfathers. I get how demeaning it must be to have the faces of the men who took your land and changed your way of life forever carved into something sacred to you must be. However, instead of blowing up the memorial, maybe a better approach would be to petition the federal government to carve Red Cloud, Crazy Horse, Black Elk and other Sioux leaders into the granite to help complete the story.

I could go on, but I am out of space for this month. As challenging as recent months have been for me personally, I have much to be thankful for. Paramount is the opportunity to serve as your representative. I am grateful and consider it my honor and privilege.

Igwe (heartfelt thank you)
Wisdom from the Word: “Therefore, Lord, we know you will protect the oppressed, preserving them forever from this lying generation.” Psalm 12:7

Rama pi
(Later),
Rande K. Payne
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HOWNIKAN

District 6 – Rande K. Payne

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16 AUGUST 2020
District 7 – Mark Johnson

and I know how challenging they can be for those concerned for their health, their family and their employment. Amidst all this, our daily lives and all those normal concerns continue. Because there is no playbook for this, I urge you to find ways to exercise kindness for those who you just have a hard time understanding.

On June 29, the CPN Legislature met for our annual “post-Festival” legislative meeting. Unfortunately, we all met from remote locations, save for a few who socially distanced in the Tribal legislative chamber in Shawnee. Tribal attorney George Wright presented what will be Phase II of the CPN CARES Act funds for members around the country. The legislature voted in favor of this. Like any program that must implement requirements from the federal government, this is far from a perfect solution. But the programs that will come from this should financially assure those of you in District 7 who are dealing with the economic fallout from COVID-19 or trying to deal with the health concerns that accompany this pandemic.

The programs and requirements included in this edition of the paper, and I remain here to support you in your questions and needs in securing the benefits available to you as Tribal members.

In upcoming events news, we will tentatively schedule Saturday, Oct. 24, for our District 6-7 Heritage Festival. Unfortunately, this should financially assist those who re-elected me for members around the country.

As fire season ramps up, I would like to extend special thanks to our local fire crews and_ <br>

District 8 – Dave Carney

on a laptop from a campsite at Grayland State Park in Grayland, Washington. I’ve heard it said, and I believe, that doing “normal” things in abnormally, such as summer camping trips, is a mentally and spiritually healthy thing to do.

As anyone who camps in the Pacific Northwest knows, a summer camping trip can often be a wet experience. This three-night excursion, we were blessed with sun two-thirds of the time. While we are in a pull-behind trailer, one of our teenage sons tent camped with his buddies in another campsite and pulled out the infamous blue tarps for draping over the “waterproof tent.”

For those of you who haven’t explored this part of coastal Washington, there is a hidden Native treasure here. The Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe in Tokeland — just a few miles away in Pacific County. The tribe has a total membership of about 375 members, of which a quarter only live on a 1-square-mile reservation. The tribe has a wonderful little casino, community center, and most significantly, a large stand-alone clinic, the Shoalwater Bay Wellness Center that they developed in 2005 because the nearest health care facility is 70 miles away. That facility would be an option for CPN members living in Pacific or Grays Harbor County, as they are a recognized Indian Healthcare Services provider and take private insurance.

I have been disseminating information as soon as it has become available about how our Tribe is seeking to meet our members’ unmet financial needs while following guidelines attached to the funds from the U.S. Treasury. Currently, I am awaiting details on “Phase II” COVID funding, which will be easier for members to be approved for and assist the elders and disabled primarily. I will continue to send our updated information through email. It’s been said many times, but if you would like to get regular emails from me, email me at dcarney@potawatomi.org.

Please save the date; I am looking forward to being able to meet in person with District 8 members. The date has been set for Oct. 24, and it will be held at the Great Spirit Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon. It will be a mid-day meal and gathering.

It is my honor to serve as your legislator,

Dave Carney
Representative, District 8
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Olympia, WA 98506
360-259-4027
dcarney@potawatomi.org

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft

Please allow me a few words of personal privilege. I wish to thank those who re-elected me representative for Oklahoma’s at-large seat in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s unique national legislature. I placed my left hand on the Bible and raised my right hand to take an oath to faithfully serve the constitution of our Tribal nation, which I have done and will continue to do to the best of my abilities.

To that oath, I would add that I pledge to serve the interests of not only Oklahoma Potawatomi for whom I was elected but also all of our citizens throughout America and the world. Representatives of Oklahoma are given the added responsibility of representing our international communities.

Serving in our legislature is a unique privilege for numerous reasons but especially because we are the only true national tribal legislature. Other tribal governing bodies elect or select their representatives within their state, reservation or geographical jurisdiction.

CPN elects their representatives throughout America, ensuring all states and areas of the nation are represented, and their elected officials are given legislative responsibilities. Our legislature convenes several times throughout the year, and in developing situations, we meet via email or telephonically. Our legislature and constitution stands as a great model for all tribes to emulate. If you have questions, views or concerns about our government, please contact your representative and establish a relationship with him or her. They are there to serve you.

My adult life has been dedicated to public service. It’s who I am. Serving our Tribe and nation is not only a great honor but also a solemn duty I take very seriously. Again, I thank you for your trust in me and your continued support.

Paul Wesselhöft<br>Representative, District 9
presselh@otapotawomi.org
This idea of purity and "wokeness" during an interview with Bozho America built on forgiveness and really good stuff have flaws. How did we get to this place in the problems it has caused that quickly," President Obama never compromised and you are always politically 'woke' and all that stuff, you should get over that quickly," President Obama said. "The world is messy; there is factual or who is telling the truth. Look at who is saying it to draw conclusions when we are going to have to become more involved throughout our kids, school and college years in order to maintain what they should be taught. You need to have conversations with their teachers, know what the school curriculums are and inform your kids on the importance of both sides of history, if it's not taught. Have even, challenging debate on what they are learning. Higher institutions of learning, especially any opinions from my early years through our current times have been silencing opposing opinion if it doesn't fit into their agenda. For instance, when I took a course titled Family at Oklahoma University as an elective, we had to write a term paper for our final grade. Having to list your source documents, I asked the professor if the Bible would be credited as a good source, and he said, "Is that the only source you can come up with?" Nowadays I feel that opposing opinions will be highly scrutinized, and you fear you will receive a lesser grade if you're not in lockstep with most of the professors. This is happening in the workplace also.

Where are we today with trust? In our diverse, multicultural country, this is the thing that keeps us living in harmony and allows us to let other people live as they wish. In past columns, I have written on how to know what is factual or who is telling the truth. You look at who is saying it and what they have to gain. The proliferation of fake news, along with political polarization, make it difficult even to establish an agreed upon set of facts from which to draw conclusions when we talk about this trust problem. We aren't sure what is real or true; we don't know who's wrong. But increasingly, we suspect that everyone is.

Kat Rosenfeld wrote in Tablet Magazine, "That's the insidious thing about a culture where trust is eroding; a majority of people don't even want to support or participate in cancel culture for it to work. Harass on society at large."

In a recent New York Times article about political polarization, psychologist Jonathan Haidt explained how small pockets of concentrated outrage can produce immense destructive force. "You can tell me that 70 percent of Americans don't participate in the culture war, but it doesn't really matter," he wrote. "Events today are driven by small numbers that can shame and intimidate large numbers. Social media has changed the dynamic."

Haidt compared this scolding minority to anonymity. Rosenfeld stated, "The current dynamic is more evocative of an Agatha Christie-style dinner party where all the guests are being blackmailed or killed off by one person as punishment for their sins. Once the terrifying truth is acknowledged, the only safe strategy is to trust no one. It doesn't matter that most people are willing to live and let live; it only takes one busy, tunneling mole to weaken our social structures to the point of collapse."

History has shown that through collective effort, even before we had the Declaration of Independence, people, or delegates, appointed a five-member committee, including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York, to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain. That document would become known as the Declaration of Independence. While the body of the document outlined a list of grievances against the British crown, the preamble includes its most famous passage: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Our system may not be perfect, but with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and our American values, we can find steps for solutions, not positions. Our nation is only 244 years old, and look at what we have done; abolished slavery, stood up for civil rights, and passed laws that resulted in high success in full equality and a nation where you can seek opportunities. We definitely need to increase our efforts on human trafficking, mental health, suicides, drug smuggling and many more issues to improve and protect human life.

As a Vietnam veteran, I am very proud to have served this United States of America. I am also honored to still be serving as a legislator for the great Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The American flag means a lot to me and to all the patriotic members of our society that acknowledge that life and blood was sacrificed to ensure our freedoms. When I see the American flag, I see all the lives that were given and when it approaches you, you must stand out of respect, whether or nor you are an American citizen; if you don't want to put your hand over your heart or your salute, that's your choice. When you kneel with the American flag is when you are presenting this folded flag to a bereaved veteran widow or relative. Native Americans have honored our veterans and still continue to reverse our American flag and their tribal flags along with their tribal eagle staffs during powwows and veterans ceremonies. At the beginning of every veterans meeting, we will always say the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and a prayer to start each meeting. Our General Council this year was not a normal council due to COVID-19, but I was disappointed that due to the virus, they did not bring the colors in; they had them already positioned behind the podium. They did not have a place for the National Anthem played, but we did have a prayer. I wonder if the cancel culture group would like to give the "silent" majority Alzheimer's or dementia in order that they can take down, change, destroy and shame us since we wouldn't remember what things are important to our country. I'm not making fun of those serious illnesses either. All that I'm trying to sort out is there have been proper ways on making change and understanding each other in the past; let's not collapse our good work in America by erasing our past. COVID-19 is tearing our country apart. Let's not tear it down from within with "cancel culture." It goes without saying, thank you for allowing me to represent you and our great Nation.
The family would like to thank the staff and Alumni. Joan enjoyed participating in Alumni activities, the choir, lady's prayer group and served as a Sunday school teacher. She was a member of the Osnaburg Historical Society, Folz Community Center, Mapleton Gun Club and St. Francis Nurses Alumni. Joan enjoyed participating in numerous bowling leagues and card clubs.

She is preceded in death by one brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Bonnie Brunin; and one sister, Mary Brunin. She is survived by her husband, Dale L. Wardle, to whom she was married 62 years; five children, James Wardle, Robert (Jiny) Wardle, Michael (Linda) Wardle, Kathryn (Vincent) Davala and Mark (Marcy) Wardle; eight grandchildren who were the joy of her life, Nicholas (fiancé, Sara) Wardle, Lindsay Wardle (Ken) Hamric, Brandon, Madelyn, Mallory, Michael and Matthew Wardle, and Emily Davala; and sister-in-law, Patricia Wardle. The family would like to thank the staff at St. Joseph Care Center and Crossroads Hospice for their wonderful care.

Grace Catherine Doyle was born on Sept. 3, 1932, in a two-room dugout in Stonington, Colorado, to Ed and Helen Hey and passed away on May 28, 2020, at the Walh, Colorado, nursing home. She is survived by her four children, Rick (Virginia) Doyle, Neil Doyle, Jeff Doyle and Theresa Millen; her sisters, Lela Acre, Ruth Ann Raney and Kirk Lewis Blair, and two siblings, including children, Kathrin (Vincent) Davala and Mark (Marcy) Wardle; eight grandchildren who were the joy of her life, Nicholas (fiancé, Sara) Wardle, Lindsay Wardle (Ken) Hamric, Brandon, Madelyn, Mallory, Michael and Matthew Wardle, and Emily Davala; and sister-in-law, Patricia Wardle. The family would like to thank the staff at St. Joseph Care Center and Crossroads Hospice for their wonderful care.
Douglas Feliciano

Douglas Wayne Feliciano walked on June 25, 2020. Douglas was born to Nancy Tarrter and Don Fowles on Nov. 20, 1956, in San Jose, California. It seems Douglas’ life was hard from the very beginning. He had little opportunity to learn life-coping skills. As a consequence, he fell into addiction at an early age. Douglas was a true nomad. He lived in many western states throughout the years, yet always found work as a construction labor. On the job, he was a perfectionist. He is survived by two sisters, Laura and Melissa; two children, Linda and Nehemiah; and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and elder brother, John. May his soul find rest.

Ethel Marie Porter

Ethel Marie Porter walked on at the age of two, five years before Ethel’s birth. Ethel was a longtime resident of Edwardsville, Kansas. Ethel had wonderful and infectious laughter. Family gatherings were filled with tasty meals, lots of laughs and lasting memories. Ethel loved to collect and read recipe books. She delighted in a new and successful recipe she could add to her collection. She was a master crochet artist and created many beautiful items. She also had a considerable talent for playing the piano. Ethel devoted her life to what was most important to her, her family and friends.

At the time of her passing, she was survived by her husband of 34 years, Jim Porter. Jim joined her in walking on only a short 18 days after Ethel left her earthly body. We can only imagine the joy that was shared between them in their eternal reunion.

Ethel is also survived by her son, Chris Bell (McPherson, Kansas); daughter, Rita James and husband Dan (Bald Knob, Arkansas); two granddaughters, Jenny Tarvin and husband Tyler (Judsonia, Arkansas); Denise Pate and husband Jesse (Pangburn, Arkansas); four grandsons, Ryan Bell and wife Brianne (Olathie, Kansas); Steven James and wife Elizabeth (Beebe, Arkansas); Aaron Bell and wife Bredeley (Salina, Kansas); Christopher (CB) Bell (Salina, Kansas); 10 great-grandchildren, Rebecca Robinson, Joshua Tarvin, Ryder Reneau, Tyira Fritts, Chase Wachi, Bryson James, Olivia Bell, Oaklen Mai, Ava Bell and Onalie Bell; and one great-great-grandson, Tucker Robinson. She will be remembered fondly and deeply missed by many.

Glenn Scott Barrett

Glenn Scott Barrett was born in Martinez, California, on March 3, 1954, and passed away in Visalia, California, on April 10, 2020. Glenn was preceded in death by his mother and father, Bonnie (Flayat) and James Thomas Barrett, and his brother, Dewain Barrett. He was a proud Potawatomi, member of the Bourassa family, grandson of Minnie Haas, great-grandson of Margaret Bourassa and Rueben P. Haas.

Glenn lived in Visalia most of his life, except for the time he served in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1978. He was stationed in Ft. Ord, California; Ft. Belvoir, Virginia; and Germany. On July 23, 1977, Glenn married Teresa Allen, and they were married for 42 years. Glenn spent most of his time working, spending years with the U.S. Dept. of Weights and Measures as a quality control officer for cotton.

Glenn was very active in the Visalia Free Will Baptists Church for over 25 years. He served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, treasurer and many other roles for the church. His other greatest joy in life was his family and especially his grandchildren, Camden and Melody Reiss. Glenn was always smiling and loved to make others laugh.

Glenn is survived by his wife, Teresa; children, Michael Barrett and Rebekah (Jason) Reis; grandchildren Camden and Melody Reiss; brother James Barrett (Carolyn); sisters-in-law, Kathy Barrett and Sherri Weather; nieces and nephews, Bryan Barrett (Nephelie), Kim Graybeal (Alan) and Kari Schoeman; and several great nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be planned for the fall.

Virginia Alice McKown

On July 4, 2020, Virginia Alice McKown, loving wife and mother of five children, passed away at the age of 80.

Virginia was born on Dec. 29, 1939. She grew up on a small dairy farm and graduated from Adrian Catholic Central in 1958. Her first job was gliding around on roller skates, delivering A&W root beers. On Oct. 30, 1959, she married David McKown, and together they raised two daughters, Victoria and Kimberly, and three sons, Larry, Kenneth and Daniel. She lived in Clayton, Michigan, and there helped manage the family farm, later working at Community Mental Health in Adrian. She was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Virginia loved big gatherings with family and friends. She also loved long Sunday drives with her husband and relished the chance to eat out at a restaurant as a respite from cooking for her large family. She volunteered as a 4-H leader and also enjoyed being active with square dancing. In later years, she loved hosting slumber parties for her grandkids and having sleep overs herself at her children’s homes.

Virginia was preceded in death by her father and mother, Norbert and Celia; her siblings, Lawrence, Margorie, Phil and Frank; and her husband, David. She is survived by her sisters, Caroline and Elaine; her five children, Victoria (Matthew), Larry (Jacksie), Kenneth, Daniel and Kimberly (Stefan); her 10 grand-children, and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service for immediate family was held on July 9, 2020. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Hospice of Lenawee.

Marvin Lee Holeman

Marvin Lee Holeman, 86, San Benito, Texas, passed Aug. 29, 2019. He was born on May 3, 1933, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Henry Holeman and Josephine Stephens. Lee was a renowned steel guitar player in southern Texas where he played for more than 30 years. Lee served in the U.S. Navy and was a retired pilot. Lee leaves behind his wife of 12 years, Yoli, as well as his son, Rick Holeman, daughter, Melody Olson and 12 grandchildren. He will be missed terribly by his family and all who knew and loved him, but he will be in our hearts forever. May he rest in peace with his daughter Kimberly under the care of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Submit 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 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.