



HOWNIKAN

Minkégises | August 2020

Top photo: A *mish amo* (bee) feeds on a *waskonédo* (flower) near the CPN Community Garden.

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More than 65 percent of CPN CARES Act distribution allotted for Tribal member programs

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 to 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.

TO APPLY FOR
CARES ACT PROGRAMS,
VISIT POTAWATOMI.ORG/CARES

CPN member Steve Weddle provides COVID-19 antibodies testing to employers

Steve Weddle spends his days setting up and breaking down mobile coronavirus antibodies testing sites across Oklahoma and north Texas. As a project manager for LabLik Management Group, LLC, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation member develops and modifies testing models on an almost daily basis. The Melot and Navarre family descendant has never been busier during his 11 years in laboratory services.

“What began slowly, mainly with early adopters and visionaries in leadership roles within key Oklahoma-based companies, has rapidly picked up pace due to the current spike,” Weddle said. “I receive up to five calls a day from company owners and HR partners from multiple industries, asking for more information about LabLik’s testing model.”

Coronavirus cases spiked at an all-time high in the U.S. at the beginning of July. During Congressional testimony on June 30, immunologist Dr. Anthony Fauci predicted an increase to 100,000 new cases a day in a few short months if the current pattern continues. Testing remains an important tool in diagnosing and preventing the spread of the virus.

“Knowledge is power, and the more accurate information that can be rapidly attained makes a safer workspace and home place,” Weddle said.

Different types of testing

Diagnostic testing for COVID-19 relies on polymerase chain reaction testing. Laboratory staff use the specimen collected from the back of the throat with a cotton swab to look for the presence of the antigen — the virus. A study done at John Hopkins Medicine revealed PCR testing accuracy peaks approximately three days after symptoms appear, roughly eight days after infection.



Weddle (far left) and the LabLik staff take blood samples from people across Oklahoma for antibodies testing for COVID-19. (Photo provided)

Weddle sees value in both the diagnostic and antibodies testing to slow the spread of the disease. LabLik focuses on collecting blood samples for antibodies testing, which shows the immune system’s response to the virus.

“Research has found that every infected individual tested begins to develop antibodies as early as five days from infection,” Weddle said. “Therefore, the antibody test provides an additional safeguard by detecting individuals who have become infected before they begin to have the virus in the nasal area.”

Antibodies testing depends on timing as well. The development of either immunoglobulin M or G antibodies provides insight into the approximate timetable of infection and bodily response, particularly for asymptomatic carriers. IgM antibodies indicate an initial reaction to the virus, present

for two to three weeks. IgG antibodies show a potential long-term immunity from an infection for a patient, allowing for cautious optimism.

“These people can have a degree of relief and less concern for infection, although they can physically carry the virus from one person to another by mechanical means — on the hands or even clothing or shoes,” Weddle said.

LabLik across Oklahoma

While no widespread antibodies testing exists in the U.S., Weddle believes in the potential of its usefulness. LabLik projects to provide more than 5,000 tests by the end of July. Their team travels to sometimes three or four cities a week, taking blood samples in warehouses, parking lots, cubicles, conference rooms, basements — wherever. Their mobility constitutes their effectiveness.

“More employers need to provide testing in the workplace,” Weddle said. “LabLik’s services are ideal for the workplace setting, and our small footprint will not disturb daily operations. Our professional team of lab techs and phlebotomist are very skilled and fast, and we can collect both specimens in about three minutes time per employee. We bring all materials needed for the collection and can set up and tear down in less than an hour.”

Their service remains unique, but Weddle enjoys providing peace of mind to individuals and a way to help keep businesses open. The test results assist human resources departments determine if an employee should quarantine as well as establish spread patterns and protocol for the future.

“I am helping Oklahoma industry and Oklahoma workers stay alive and well. I enjoy sharing information and test results with employees and hearing the relief in their voices when they learn that they can safely return to work, friends and family,” Weddle said.

He also provides relief in his personal relationships by using a combination of knowledge from his job and hope from his religious beliefs.

“My family and friends have educated ourselves, remained vigilant, prayerful and confident that we can come out stronger than before,” Weddle said. “Sure sometimes things sound scary, but I rely on scientific methodology, statistical data and good, old fashioned faith to get me through.”

For more information on LabLik Management Group, LLC, visit [facebook.com/lablikllc](https://www.facebook.com/lablikllc) or email Steve Weddle at Weddlsd@gmail.com.

The scoop on HUD 184 loans

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

I 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 a lower down payment requirement.

First National Bank & Trust Co. offers these loans to tribal citizens in any state (except New York) where the program is available. As a mortgage loan officer for FNB, I’m here to help the community learn about qualifying for a HUD 184

loan, what sort of benefits are included and why people should talk to FNB first.

HUD 184 loan benefits

There is a wealth of advantage to using HUD 184 loans. Benefits include:

- **A lower down payment requirement.** Down payments for HUD 184 loans are typically 2.25 percent on loans over \$50,000 and only 1.25 percent on loans under \$50,000.
- **No minimum credit score.** Many home loan programs require applicants to have a certain credit score — but not so with the HUD 184 program.
- **Manual underwriting.** Instead of using automated decision-making tools, the program utilizes a hands-on approach to underwriting. This means we can better evaluate loans on a case-by-case basis.
- **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.

HUD 184 loan qualifications

The main qualification for HUD 184 loans is being an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe. HUD rules state as long as there is at least one tribal member on the loan, then non-Natives can be included on the loan also.

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](https://www.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 people who are purchasing and refinancing, we are 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 [FNBokla.bank](https://www.FNBokla.bank) or calling 888-640-8934.

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 costs of business interruption caused by mandatory closures, limited reopening 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 parents 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

costs, lost wages, professional consulting, tutoring and technology expenses due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The program is structured to award \$400 tied to technology and \$750 tied to the remaining hardship categories. 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

Citizen Potawatomi Nation students who are enrolled full-time at any accredited college or vocational program for the 2020 summer or fall semester are eligible to apply for this program. Full-time will be considered as 12 or more credits for undergraduate students or nine or more for graduate students; students attending institutions that use other thresholds for full-time status must provide proof from their registrar. High school concurrent, incarcerated, and non-U.S. enrollees are not eligible for this program.

Benefit: \$1,150 per eligible Tribal member (\$400 technology; \$750 student support)

COVID-19 DISABILITY FOOD SECURITY

Program Summary

The COVID-19 Disability Food Security Program will provide eligible CPN tribal members with the opportunity to receive a \$200 monthly grocery allowance. Applicants may submit an application in order to receive a \$200 monthly grocery allowance for the month in which they apply and for every subsequent month thereafter for which they will require food assistance through December 2020.

Qualification Requirement

Applicants will be required to provide proof of enrollment in the Social Security Disability Insurance Program and attest that they have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency to receive this assistance.

Eligible Age: 18 to 64

Benefit: \$200 per eligible Tribal member per month through December 2020

COVID-19 ELDER FOOD SECURITY

Program Summary

The COVID-19 Elder Food Security Program will provide eligible Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members with the opportunity to receive a \$200 monthly grocery allowance. Applicants may submit an application in order to receive a \$200 monthly grocery

allowance for the month in which they apply and for every subsequent month thereafter for which they will require food assistance through December 2020. Applicants 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: 65+

Benefit: \$200 per eligible Tribal member per month through December 2020

COVID-19 ELDER HOUSING ASSISTANCE RELIEF PROGRAM

Program Summary

The COVID-19 Elder Housing Relief Program will provide eligible CPN tribal members, not living in CPN Tribal Housing, with monthly housing assistance payments of \$500 for three months.

All applicants must document a loss of income due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, unaddressed by other forms of assistance. For elders seeking rental assistance, applicants must provide documentation of their existing lease and contact information for their landlord. For elders seeking mortgage assistance, applicants must provide documentation of their mortgage, proof that they are presently behind, and contact information for their mortgage lender.

Allowances will be issued for the month following the application plus two additional months. For example, an application filed in September would result in assistance payments for October, November and December. This program is limited to one elder payment per household, per month in which one or more Tribal members eligible for this assistance reside. Payments will be made directly to the landlord or mortgage lender.

Qualification Requirement

To receive this assistance, Tribal members must document a loss of income due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, proof of a valid lease/outstanding mortgage, contact information for landlord/lender, and for those seeking mortgage assistance, proof that the applicant is presently behind in payments

Eligible Age: 65+

Benefit: \$500 per eligible Tribal member household per month for three months ♡

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, utility bills, 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, combined with 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 responding 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 systems, 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). ♡

Peltier descendant-owned J Bryan Plumbing hiring additional team members

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 customer 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



J Bryan Plumbing looks to change the plumbing atmosphere.

as little mess and inconvenience for the customers while working in their homes as possible. 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.

"An apprentice works under a plumber for three years, after which they can test to become a licensed journeyman."

The mentorship provided while employed at J Bryan plumbing through Jeremy's hands-on approach could assist someone with 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

sewer, 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 405-310-3143.

"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 *Hownikan*, she said the recent focus on the medical community "has had an effect on my interests."



Katelyn Harker's entry for the Frame My Future Scholarship contest. (Photo provided)

"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 that 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



Tribal member Katelyn Harker hopes to become a traveling nurse, caring for people around the world. (Photo provided)

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 artistic outlets span all forms of needlework from hand-tied shawls, hand-stitched ribbon work, aprons and other regalia to beaded applique 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 down 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."



Kinder's earrings utilize a modern, chic approach to highlight traditional Potawatomi imagery. (Photo provided)

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



Peggy Kinder balances her job as a legal administrative assistant and her love for crafting to create jewelry, regalia and more. (Photo provided)

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 velveteen 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 potawatomigifts.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 there are now apps addressing the public health concern that is domestic violence.

This epidemic effects 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men. In one year, this equates to more than 10 million individuals. Unfortunately, domestic violence cases are very hard to prove, largely because the evidence that is presented usually lacks information. These kinds of cases happen behind closed doors where there are no other witnesses, and the only people who know what really happened give different versions of the same event.

For victims of domestic violence, smartphone apps can increase the likelihood that their perpetrator is taken into custody and prosecuted. House of Hope highly recommends the new DocuSafe app created by the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

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 monitor these devices, either physically or remotely.

DocuSAFE

An app that can help you document & share evidence of abuse

App created by National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)

- ✔ Great way to document tech abuse, harassment, stalking & other types of crimes.
- ✔ Keeps everything in one central location for easy access to provide to law enforcement.
- ✔ Provides options for securely sharing content and requires a PIN to access each time app is opened.
- ✔ Great way to access the lethality of your relationship.
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visit us online at cpnhouseofhope.com. You can also follow us on social media @cpnhouseofhope to find helpful tips and resources.

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.

"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 that arm they can call, or we can find them assistance if it gets to a point 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 car.

"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,"



Citizen Potawatomi Nation's "curbside" orientation for new employees maintains social distance while filling essential positions.

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

Foster parents assume strong role in reuniting 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 aide 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 their 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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FireLake Discount Foods continues giving back to the community

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 anytime 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 90 percent of our food pantry comes from FireLake donations,” Connelly said.

Every month, FireLake employees spend a few hours preparing The



Nicole Sanchez teaches students in 2019 about healthy food and operating a grocery store.

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 \$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.

Fundraising

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

the same — to act as a source of support and stability for the Nation’s employees, even under difficult of circumstances.

“The one thing I expect from HR staff is when we talk to someone, put yourself in that person’s shoes on the other end of the line,” Brown said. “You need to visit with them the way you would want to be visited with and remember that nothing is personal toward you. This person’s looking for help. We’re here to help them, and we’re going to treat them with courtesy and kindness,” whether that is on the phone, in a parking lot meeting or on a Zoom call.

“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 Pottawatomie 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. ♡



Local youth sports teams — like those who play at FireLake Ball Fields — utilize the grocery store’s coupon book fundraiser program to offset their costs.

HR continued...

“We’re looking at all the ways that we can, as an employer, keep 2,300 staff safe and healthy. Not only do we have to worry about that 2,300 staff, but we’re worried about their families — the community as a whole. And so we’ve taken some measures through policy, basically, to ensure that we are doing everything we need to do to stay safe,” Brown said.

CPN leadership included human resources as soon as preparations began on how to manage and fight COVID-19. Brown

sat alongside experts from CPN Health Services during each planning stage. He enjoys taking advantage of their accessibility and knowledge to keep everyone safe.

“They keep us up to date with the various things that they’re getting at the national level, state level, local level. And together with all of those sources, we think we’re able to do what we need to do to stay healthy as far as our employees are concerned and to ease their mind,” Brown said.

While adjusting to many changes, the human resources department’s focus remains

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 here,” Brown said.

Visit firelakejobs.com to browse current job openings and apply for positions across all Tribal enterprises and offices. ♡

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 tested if it wasn't for our 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 forward thinking. 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 positive 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 way more active and 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 *New-Onset Diabetes in 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 educate herself further on holistic living.

Saving others

"To be as healthy as I was and for (the coronavirus) to affect me the way it



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

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 used them as part of a survey. Dykstra-Tibbs also tracked convalescent plasma donation development in the Oklahoma City metro. The treatment option includes injecting plasma with antibodies from a recovered patient into someone ill, potentially reducing recovery time and hospitalization.

"It's rather an old way 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' dealt 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.

"They were like, 'Your blood is perfect. We need you right now to save somebody,'" Dykstra-Tibbs said. "And it ended up being three people. So, it was kind of amazing."

A donor can contribute as many as three units of plasma in a session. At the beginning of July, more than 200 donors had provided enough for more than 800 treatments distributed to 50 hospitals.

"This is a new pandemic. So, we're doing everything we can to help patients who are suffering the most, and doing what we can to engage our donors in helping the effort to fight the pandemic because it's nothing we've ever experienced in our 40-plus year history," Browne said.

Dykstra-Tibbs also began giving blood to CPN Health Services to assist with the Tribe's antibodies testing that it now provides. Her levels provided a reference point for COVID-19 antibody duration and development.

"It's exciting to help and be a part of it," she said.

She continues to find other ways to help those diagnosed with COVID-19 through friends and family in the health care sector, and she takes her precautions by wearing a mask while out in public or with clients.

"It's just kind of crazy," Dykstra-Tibbs said. "The whole thing's been a learning experience, for sure."

Oklahoma Blood Institute is looking for more convalescent plasma and blood donors. Any adult who gives blood also receives an antibodies test. If found positive, they can also provide plasma in one week. OBI also set up a registry for potential convalescent donors at my.bio-linked.org.

Read more about CPN's response to the coronavirus at cpn.news/COVID19. ♡

Veterans report



Bozho
(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 "everyones" 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 who fought 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@odva.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.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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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 beating 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.

"Melanoma can often be found early, when it is most likely to be cured," Beutler said. "Some people have a higher risk of getting melanoma than others, but it's important to know that anyone can get melanoma."

"Knowing your own skin is important to finding skin cancer early. You should know the pattern of moles, blemishes, freckles and other marks on your skin so that you'll notice any new moles or changes in existing moles."

According to statistics published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Oklahoma had 964 new cases of melanoma in 2017, the most recent year for which data is available. That works out to 21.7 cases for every 100,000 residents, compared to the national rate of 22.7 for every 100,000 people. Nationwide, it is the sixth most common form of cancer, trailing breast, prostate, lung, colorectal and uterine.

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 enough Indigenous melanoma cases reported to generate a data set.

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S ABCDE RULE

The American Cancer Society's **ABCDE rule** is a guide to the typical signs of melanoma. Should any of these descriptions fit a mole or another growth, call a doctor.

- **A is for Asymmetry:** One half of a mole or birthmark does not match the other.
- **B is for Border:** The edges are irregular, ragged, notched or blurred.
- **C is for Color:** The color is not the same all over and may include different shades of brown or black, or sometimes with patches of pink, red, white or blue.
- **D is for Diameter:** The spot is larger than 6 millimeters across, or about the size of a pencil eraser. However, melanomas can sometimes be smaller than this.
- **E is for Evolving:** The mole is changing in size, shape or color.

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:

- Jiptebwen* – chair
- Jiptebe* – he/she sits
- Debween* – truth (the concept)
- Debwe* – he/she tells the truth
- Dopwen* – table
- Dopo* – put food on something he/she does
- Waskonenjegen* – lamp/light
- Waskone* – light it shines
- Gwabegen* – dipper or cup
- Gwabege* – to dip something out/scoop something out
- Gbejojgen* – curtain
- Gbe* – all the time
- Gojgen* – it hangs (verb)

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.

- Mskwa* – it is red
- Mskoze/ mskewwe* – he/she is red
- Msha* – it's big
- Mgegn* – he/she is big
- Gnaw* – it's long
- Gnoze* – he/she is long/tall

Then of these four types, there are also several modes or forms: independent, conjunct, prohibitive and command.

Binchege – he/she cleans

VAI verb

Independent

- Nbinchege* – I clean
- Gbinchege* – you clean
- Binchege* – he/she cleans
- Nbinchegemen* – we, you clean
- Gbinchegemen* – we all clean
- Gbinchegem* – you all clean
- Binchegek* – they clean

Skebgya – it is green

VII verb

Independent

- Skebgya* or *skebgyamget* – it is green
- Skebgyanon* or *skebgyamgeton* – they are green

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

Bindon – clean s.t. he/she does

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

Independent

- Nbindon* – I clean it
- Nbindonen* – I clean them
- Gbindon* – you clean it
- Gbindonen* – you clean them
- (w) *bindon* – he/she cleans it (w)
- Bindonen* – he/s cleans them
- Nbindomen* – we (you) clean it/them
- Gbindomen* – we all clean it/them
- Gbindom* – you all clean it/them

- Bindonawa* – they clean it
- Bindonawan* – they clean them

Bina – clean someone or something animate (living/spiritual)

VTA verbs have about 30 conjugations for independent and conjunct, which is too many for this article.

- Gbinen* – I clean you
- Nbina* – I clean him/her
- Gbinenem* – I clean you all ♠

Conjunct

- Binchegeyan*
- Binchegeyen*
- Bincheget*
- Binchegeyak*
- Binchegeygo*
- Binchegeyek*
- Binchegewater*

Conjunct (both it and them)

- Bindoyan*
- Bindoyen*
- Bindot*
- Bindoyak*
- Bindoygo*
- Bindoyek*
- Bindowat*

Command

- Binchegen* – clean (telling one person)
- Binchegek* – clean (telling more than one)

Prohibitive

- Gégo binchegekén* – don't clean (singular)
- Gégo binchegekék* – don't clean (plural)

Conjunct

- Skebgyak* – it/they are green

Command

- Binden* – clean it (singular)
- Bindek* – clean it (plural)

Prohibitive

- Gégo bindokén* – you don't clean it
- Gégo bindokék* – don't clean it (plural)

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

Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal 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 mother, Nancy; father, Paul; and two younger sisters, Liz and Kat, also picked up goods. Before they knew it, they had shipped more than 10 full boxes to CPN and the Navajo Nation from their homes in the greater St. Louis, Missouri, area in just two months.

“Once it gets there, our hope is that 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 beat 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



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

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 without 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, we do 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 rather 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, we 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.”

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’s 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 cpn.news/COVID19. ♡

CPN member oversees PPE at Colorado hospital

As the coronavirus pandemic took hold of the United States, Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Rebecca Gardom 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 fit 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 Tescier 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.



Tribal member Rebecca Gardom, her brother Jesse (center) and father Robert “Rocky” stand in front of a photo of the Tescier family at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center. (Photo provided)

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

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.

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 present day. Scarce medical records among Native Americans prior to Europeans' arrival make it difficult to know the severity of communicable illnesses before contact.

"Settlement patterns were dispersed enough that traveling between 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.

Throughout the next 20 years as more *coureur des bois* — French-Canadian fur traders — arrived around Green Bay, Potawatomi and other Indigenous groups established trading posts and larger communities, often up to 10,000 people. They created deeper relationships with Europeans, some of whom recorded a Ho-Chunk population in the area of only 500 people by the 1650s; smallpox caused the drastic decrease.

"The numbers recorded at Green Bay help to illustrate the relative mortality rate of 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 tradespeople 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.

"During this time, local Native populations affected by smallpox numbered in the tens of thousands," Norton said. "Some estimates reach as high as 100,000 people who were either infected or infected and died from the outbreak during Pontiac's War and the decade after."

Historians allege that British forces used smallpox as a biological weapon again during the Revolutionary War in the 1770s to weaken American forces. Within 10 years, it spread between traders and tribes along the upper Mississippi River, resulting in a potential 95 percent infection rate among Native Americans who visited posts in the area. During an interview with the *Hownikan*, Norton described the psychological effects from a Native warrior's perspective.

"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.

Dr. Mosteller added, "At the time we're talking about, not only (did) the Native communities think that this might be a spiritual power, but the Europeans thought that God was making the Natives sick and not them because he wanted them to take over. They were using the spiritual justification of 'providence', and it just emboldened them that much more."

Sustained trauma

In 1838, the Potawatomi Trail of Death killed more than 40 people during the two-month forced removal from Indiana to Kansas. The mortality rate climbed due to the lack of rest, water and proper nutrition, which all negatively influenced the refugees' immune systems. Children with cholera and typhoid comprised a significant portion of the deaths.

After arriving in Kansas, more and more people relocated to the area, such as missionaries, tradespeople and military. Another cholera outbreak killed dozens of Potawatomi during the first winter in their new home. Shortly thereafter, diseases began coming in waves and seasons.

"As more people moved in, settlement patterns changed. You started to have contact with people and there was a lot of interaction. You're moving between

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 *Mamogoshnan*, our



Citizen Potawatomi Nation and other tribes across the United States continue to manage the plights of infectious disease into the present day.

one village and the other regularly. 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.

Culture and COVID-19

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, require the community to come together and to be able to do ceremony for this (sick) person," Dr. Mosteller said. "Togetherness and the ability to practice traditional ceremonies or traditional

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.

healing practices that were outlawed for so long has been a real source of comfort and strength for modern Native peoples."

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. Find 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-thru 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 logged 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 workday began at 3 a.m. The database

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](https://www.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



The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Community Development Corporation helps small businesses thrive through financial education and access to capital.

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](https://www.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.

"The Grow with Google Small Business Fund and [Google.org](https://www.google.org) grants are some of the key investments that Google is making in the future of America's small business," said Ruth Porat, CFO of Google. "Our economy requires that small businesses prosper. The COVID crisis has created unprecedented challenges for many small businesses, and we are committed to assisting them. We're proud to have an outstanding partner in OFN to provide loans and grants to CDFIs who are on the front lines of the economic recovery effort."

Native American business owners can apply or learn more about how CPCDC is planting seeds for a brighter future for Native American business owners across the U.S. at [cpcdc.org](https://www.cpcdc.org).



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Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



Bozho nikan
(Hello, my friend),

Here at home at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, we continue to deal with the pandemic and surging COVID-19 cases throughout our state. It is time for each of us to take responsibility for our part in stopping this illness. There is too much politics and not enough good sense being shown. It is time to quit mincing words and tell it like it is.

Although Oklahoma businesses are fully open by State government edict, CPN enterprises are still re-opening in phases. Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt has tested positive for COVID-19, but he won't mandate masks! Is it because he is afraid of his “base”? Is he afraid of the misinformed MAGA-hatted bullies who refuse to wear one, keep social distance or take other precautions because he might lose their vote? These people are egged on by Trump Administration broadcast zealots and Internet trolls who care little about the health of our country, but care everything about reelection and furthering crackpot conspiracy theories. Wake up, Washington! People are dying at a faster rate!

If you recently heard a local state senate candidate say, “Not wearing a mask is a matter of our Constitutional rights,” know this: he is not telling the truth. He is fishing for votes while ignoring 1,714 new Oklahoma COVID-19 victims on July 21. Innocent people are his bait. The First Amendment to the Constitution protects free speech, but *not* when it harms others. Remember the Supreme Court ruling on free speech that prohibited “crying fire in a crowded building”? That's what is going on, my friends.

Since we began re-opening, we have had to close the FireLake Casino and Entertainment Center, CPN Tag Office and the Child Development Center due to rapid increases in COVID-19 exposure among our employees. FireLake Arena and the Grand Event Center remain closed. Here at the Tribal headquarters, we do everything we can to keep 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 as a Tribal Nation. But we need your help. We need your voice. Our employees are growing increasingly frightened by their exposure to coughing, snot-nosed, angry, unmasked people who spew their anger and the virus at them with indifference to the effect. Their President told them the virus was a hoax. They are angry. They want someone to blame.

Our employees are true heroes who are simply asking for a little compassion from their fellow man. If your fellow man (neighbor) is in a job where he or she must take this abuse, come to their defense. Speak up for them, please. No one has a Constitutional right to endanger another person and then blatantly blame it on the “Democrats” as a 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 dollars and cents! Big insurance companies were losing a lot of money on car wrecks because people weren't mandated to wear seat belts. Insurance companies don't lose money on the virus. It's all about the “dough ray me.” Calling COVID-19 a hoax and playing partisan politics by not protecting our fellow Americans is dangerous and irresponsible. Sadly, some folks are buying it “hook, line, and sinker” because of this false Constitutional claim.

After careful review of the national Center for Disease Control and

Prevention's recommendations, and those of our own COVID-19 Medical Emergency Management Team, I issued an Executive Order Monday, July 20, 2020, requiring our customers to wear masks inside of all of our enterprises until further notice, with handicap exceptions. We also continue to regularly clean and disinfect all our locations.

I did not take this step lightly. You will not find anyone more in favor of, or a champion of, our Constitutional rights than I am. As well, I have been fighting for Native rights for over 50 years — half of a century. There are *no* people more murdered, abused, robbed, cheated, kidnapped or sick than Indians. Unfortunately, I am in a job where my decisions mean people could live or die. To you out there who have cussed or berated me on social media for my decisions, get real. It is easy to spout conspiracy theories and claim COVID-19 is a hoax, but not so damn easy to be the one who has to console a bereaved, sobbing orphan child or throw the first handful of dirt on the casket of a friend who died of it. Fact of the matter is, you know and I know that her death might have been prevented, but the federal government is more concerned about a presidential election than the life or death of a poor Citizen Potawatomi Indian. Time will come, the “no-maskers” and the “anti-vaxers” will have to face COVID-19 tragedy as well. It's all fun and games until you lose someone you love. Then it is real. You folks I am talking to about abuse of your rights? You need to prove what you say.

We are heartbroken that our Tribal member's lives have been disrupted by COVID-19 in so many ways. In June, we rolled out Phase I of our COVID response programs. These programs are available to Tribal members and Tribal member-owned businesses who have lost income or revenue due to COVID-19. To date, we have more than 1,500 applications submitted. Phase II programs aids eligible parents, students, and elders. We have a full-time staff doing just applications to distribute these funds. The untruths on the Internet that our COVID-19 claims are not getting our Tribe's full effort to get money to our

people came from a member of the Tribal Legislature who is running against me for Tribal Chairman. She is the only member out of 12 Legislators who voted against the Tribal Resolution to distribute the money. Don't believe her. You can get verified, audited facts at the Tribal Office or from other members of the Tribal Legislature.

This money, some \$60,000,000+, is a result of the CARES Act, passed by Congress March 2020. There were a number of lawsuits filed about its use, and CPN did not receive its first distribution of funds until May 5, 2020! The United States Treasury released the funds with an overly strict set of guidelines on how it can be given out. We, and other responsible tribes, have done the best we can to determine maximum distribution of the money within these strict legal guidelines mandated by the Trump Administration's Treasury Department. As you may have heard, there are some tribes who have ignored these guidelines and distributed a form of per capita payments to all of their members. This comes despite explicit warning language directly from the federal agency itself. The most recent issued guidance at the time of writing can be found here cpn.news/faqjuly. Quoting from page 8 of that Treasury frequently asked questions document:

“Must a State, local, or tribal government require applications to be submitted by businesses or individuals before providing assistance using payments from the Fund?”

“Governments have discretion to determine how to tailor assistance programs they establish in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. *However, such a program should be structured in such a manner as will ensure that such assistance is determined to be necessary in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and otherwise satisfies the requirements of the CARES Act and other applicable law. For example, a per capita payment to residents of a particular jurisdiction without an assessment of individual need would not be an appropriate use of payments from the Fund.*”

Our partners at the National Congress of American Indians in Washington D.C. tell us these tribes

face the possibility of investigations from the Treasury Inspector General's office and *audits of individual tribal members* who receive the per capita funds by the IRS.

Sure, there are arguments for just sending money out the door and hoping 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 per capita pay this money. I will stake my 40 years in office on it, no matter that the reckless advice of this legislator who is politicking 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 governments and their people whenever the opportunity arises. This time will be no exception. There are some of us who remember when our grant programs were suspended by the federal government in the early 1980s for not tracking their accounting guideline changes. We saw how that story ended. As a responsible Tribal government, we will not take that risk with our reputation or our assets. We will not risk the financial foundation of so many programs such as Tribal health services, health aids, mail order pharmacy, college scholarships, and culture and language programs. Doing something foolish and illegal would hurt our bank as well. Banks are creatures of public reputation. If we handle money illegally at the Nation, it spills over on the bank. Prudent people won't bank with you, and that will put all the funds we have there that keep our Tribe's financial situation stable for you – our citizens – at risk. Now is the time for clear thinking. I thank the other 15 members of the Legislature for their wise decisions in following the law in the distribution of this money.

If you have access to the internet, you can view the available programs and apply online. Visit potawatomi.org/cares/ for more information.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

John “Rocky” Barrett
Keweage
(He Leads Them Home)
Tribal Chairman

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



Bozho
(Hello),

I have read that approximately 122 percent of public schools in the United States begin the fall semester after Labor Day. When I was a young student, it was the norm, particularly in the warm states. During the years when air

conditioning was not as prevalent, the first of September was quite appealing. It was still hot for many areas, but relief was in sight. I personally believe that is not such a bad choice even today, especially with the COVID pandemic. We would have a little more time to see how trends are going, and perhaps we would have less time until there is a vaccination for the coronavirus.

Regardless of when the schools are re-opening, I am excited for that to happen. I realize that parents are apprehensive about sending their young children back to school. I, too, would be anxious, but I certainly am uneasy about students not being in school. I agree with the teachers who say that they cannot adequately teach online. They cannot get the feel of what the student is learning without being face to face in the same room. They cannot see their eyes closely and capture their expressions while

online. This is true especially with the elementary students. It is so important to be in the classroom setting. America has made a ton of progress by teaching online, but I do not feel that it is the same as students being in the classroom.

Speaking of students, I believe the CPN Phase II of COVID funding programs started off with a bang in late July. I am so proud of the COVID team's initiative to begin such important programs for school-aged children, college students, elder food assistance, disability food security and elder housing assistance relief. These programs are so appropriate for this time of year and truly fitting for this trying time of the pandemic. The funding should get to our people in a timely manner because the application requires a limited amount of documentation. Our phone bank began taking phone calls and processing the

portal applications on Monday, July 27 at 10 a.m. That number is **833-481-0638**. The website is potawatomi.org/cares.

CPN continues to fight COVID-19 in order to protect our employees and any visitor to our Tribe. Dr. Adam Vascellaro and Dr. Kassi Roselius still head the initiative for tracing and tracking those who have tested positive and those who have been exposed. They work with CPN Human Resources to keep the numbers current and track the days for the employees to return to work. Presently, we have a high number of employees that are quarantined, approximately 150, but most will come back to work shortly. Relatively few of the numbers quarantined have tested positive; the majority have been exposed either at work or away from CPN. Please know that CPN is on top of this. I would put our tracking system up with any other workplace

in the country. We are still all wearing masks in the workplace and having our temperature taken as we enter the worksite. As of July 20, it is *mandatory* for our customers/vendors/visitors to wear masks also.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Vice-Chairman. It is an interesting and fulfilling job; one that I cherish.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

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 to register to



Eva's Three Sisters garden in Arlington, Virginia.

receive current updates on the CARES Act distribution program here: potawatomi.org/cares. Apply if you think 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 meeting 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



A Navajo student wearing one of the masks sewn by a supporter of The Kwek Society.

football team owner is expected to announce a change in team name and mascot. 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 at cpn.news/gover. 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 accept distributions 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 *kwek* (women) on our board: Linda Arredondo, Kathy Meacham Webb and Tesia Zientek, who so many of you know from her work as the CPN Education Director, and me. Linda and Tesia 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 child and adult-size masks, please let me know. We can identify a particular partner community to which you can send the masks, or you can mail them to me directly, and I can get them out to partners who need them. And we also know that we will continue to need funds to do the work. Please visit our website, kweksociety.org, or our Guidestar page, cpn.news/kwekstar, 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.

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District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

District 3 leaders

Prior to 2008, we had a number of CPN area directors serving Texas. In southern Texas, living in the Houston area, was Lu Ellis who served our Nation for many years and walked on several years ago. In the north Texas area during roughly the same time, we had

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 having 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 all notarized, 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 thief, 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 paid 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 for any application to change anything they have listed in your

name. It could be your home, vacant land or an automobile. 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. The alert 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 at the ballot and candidates. For example, for U.S. president, you are voting not for 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 who the vice-president really is and what their position(s)

is on areas of importance to you. Would you be willing to accept someone who could or might possibly eliminate or restrict various articles in the U.S. Constitution? Regardless of which political party you support, the current two most likely U.S. presidential candidates are in their 70s. So, please be sure you also really want their running mate to possibly be in charge for some or most of the next four years.

COVID-19

I was hoping to try and schedule one or two district meetings, but with the pandemic still running, of course, it is too early to try scheduling

anything. I am hopeful we can setup something in October. If you have any suggestions on what you would like us to do, please send me an email.

Houston

In the Houston area, there are over 70,000 Native Americans, which includes many members of CPN District 3. For the last four years when I was at the annual NCAI convention, I addressed members of Indian Health Services of the need for an IHS facility. In spite of my pleading as well as a group in the Houston area doing the same thing, IHS took no action. The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, with about a third

of its membership living in the area, opened the American Indian Center of Houston to help the underserved Native Americans. They are still just starting since their opening in February. Their address is 2000 S. Dairy Ashford, Suite 550, Houston, TX 77077. Ms. Nikki Barbre-McDonald is their new director. Her phone number is 346-374-8516 and email address is NMcdonald@tunica.org.

Facebook

Last month I advised that I would be creating a Facebook page for District 3. After looking at the current postings on Facebook, I concluded that many rumors, fake news

and misleading comments are posted. Moreover, in looking at Facebook more deeply, everything that is posted is subject ultimately to general public viewing. Our Nation is sovereign, and I believe we are 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 3 Facebook page.

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

Bama mine
(Later),

Bob Whistler
Bmashi (He Soars)
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District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho
(Hello),

Our Rossville nurses

I just finished reading a book titled *Send Me an Angel*, which told the story of the American women aviators' 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 there now. Without a doubt Tracy Kinderknecht, RN, and Sharron 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 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 any 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@potawatomi.org. This

is the only method available 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 is my brother, Lyman, who is in the CPN Community Center in Rossville.

Ground Penetrating Radar project at the Uniontown 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.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Jon Boursaw,
Wetase Mkoh (Brave Bear)
Representative, District 4
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Office hours:
9-11 a.m. Tuesdays
3-5 p.m. Thursdays
Other times: please call

District 5 – Gene Lambert



Bozho
(Hello),

It appears everything is a sizzle, especially in this awesome Arizona August. Hopefully you do not have to deal with the heat along with the isolation of this coronavirus hot spot.

We aren't alone as we have Florida and Texas as close relatives in this experience. It doesn't make me feel better, and I know we have a lot of like minds out there.

We've had the opportunity to say goodbye to a few that have 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 April 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 then showed me a shoe box 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 afternoon of learning.

Suddenly it occurred to me I was dancing a broken spirit, not a broken wing as I originally thought. It was my broken spirit. Philonise never said 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 for Grand Entry, experiencing every emotion you can think

of: honor, pride, joy, fright, excitement, apprehensiveness, 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 Hobdy, 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 collected until she said, "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 said, trying to justify my ignorance.

"Not in Citizen Potawatomi regalia," she insisted.

Marjorie had a way of letting you know she was there to help and save you the embarrassment of prancing out into the arena improperly attired. This was my beginning. "How am I doing so far?" I thought to myself.

Marjorie spent the next few days talking to me about Tribal expectations and my new roll within it. There was so much to take in, but she had a warm, consoling way with everyone she touched. Luckily, she decided I was worth teaching.

I wondered if the other directors decided I was welcome and a part of the group or determined the opposite. Do you ever walk away and wonder if you made a good impression or not? It didn't take long to make me aware I was a welcome participant.

While both Marjorie and Philonise have walked on, a day will come when I will join them. I will never forget what they stood for, contributed and shared with so many Tribal members. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation was

first and foremost in their thoughts and spirit. If I can go forward contributing half as much as they did, I will consider myself a success.

We have so many who contribute so much to the shared existence of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and now I have an opportunity to observe those wanting to learn with the next generation.

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 Gardom is one of the hellos we enjoy. She initially sent me

a letter explaining her work at the Veterans 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 how change is the only thing 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. Share the things you love doing. It will brighten your day.

Thinking of you,

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



Bozho nikanek
(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 Clinics. Due to privacy 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 — as 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 Saturday, Oct. 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 way more complex and well beyond police brutality of people of color. It is glaringly obvious we live in an age where everything, and I mean 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 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 Conquerors*, 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 were primitive savages lacking any structure of civility, engaging in voodoo 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 was 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 tomorrow's 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 memorial was built on 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.

Igwien (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

Bama pi
(Later),

Rande K. Payne
Mnedo Gabo
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FALL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

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Apply at portal.potawatomi.org

District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

I hope this finds you well. These are trying times for all people,

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 assist 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 should be available 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. While we will keep plans in accordance with public health best practices, we believe Representative Rande Payne’s Visalia, California, location with plenty of outdoor dining and spacing options may be a good place to gather safely. We will update information in the coming months’ *Hownikans*.

As fire season ramps up, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as District 7

representative. I may be busy in my 9-to-5 job as a firefighter, but never hesitate to email or call me for any questions you may have. I will get back to you. If you have not done so, please send me your contact information so I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and District.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Mark Johnson,
Wisk Mtek (Strong as a Tree)
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District 8 – Dave Carney



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

I hope this edition of the *Hownikan* finds all in District 8 healthy and doing OK. I am writing this month’s column

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 abnormal times, 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. On 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. This 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 out updated information through email. It’s been said many times, but if you would like to get

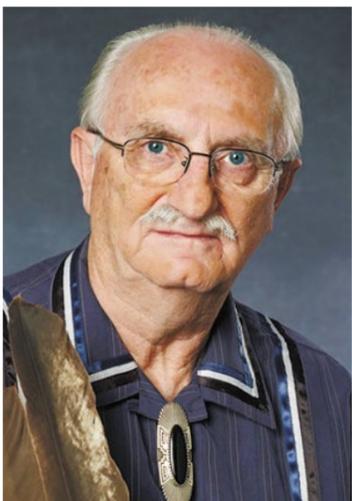
regular emails from me, email me at dcarney@potawatomi.org.

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
Kagasghi (Raven)
Representative, District 8
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District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



Bozho nikan
(Hello my friend),

Personal privilege

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 which 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 citizens.

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
Naganit (Leader)
Representative, District 9
pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org

THE Hownikan PODCAST

GREAT SEAL OF THE CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
PEOPLE OF THE PLACE OF THE FIRE
NISHNABE

SOUNDCLOUD

Apple Music

Spotify

District 10 – David Barrett



Bozho
(Hello),

We, representing the “silent” majority, need to be aware of the “cancel culture” and the problems it has caused and will continue to if we don’t slow down or put a stop to it. Instead of the majority agreement that something is inherently wrong, the more vocal group is the one dictating what is right and what is wrong.

Former President Barack Obama made a rare foray into the culture conversation in a speech in Chicago in October 2019 objecting to the prevalence of “call-out culture” and “wokeness” during an interview about youth activism at the Obama Foundation summit.

“This idea of purity and you are 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 are ambiguities. People who do really good stuff have flaws.”

How did we get to this place in time when a decade-old racist tweet or remark is uncovered from someone that has turned their life around and not made the same mistake since? Does this person deserve to be put to shame for the actions of their past when there is nothing that can be done about it? I’m not excusing this behavior, but isn’t America built on forgiveness and for that individual to learn from his past and to do and to build a better future for mankind?

Wrestling with these issues, I have come to my personal

opinion that as parents, you do the best to raise and set core values for your kids. During your time of educating them, they will do things that you say to yourself, possibly, “How are they going to turn out?” You don’t continually hold their mistakes over their heads while encouraging them to make right decisions for the future when they become productive citizens.

Allow me to bend off on the education side, of which 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, in my opinion, 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 country, trust is the thing that keeps us living in harmony and allows us to let other people live as they wish. In past columns, I’ve written on how to know what is factual or who is telling the truth. 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 Rosenfield wrote in *Tablet Magazine*, “That’s the insidious thing about a culture where trust is eroding: a majority of people don’t even have to support or participate in cancel culture for it to wreak havoc 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 arsonists, but Rosenfield stated, “The current dynamic is more evocative of an Agatha Christie-style dinner party where all the guests are being blackmailed or killed off one by one 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-man 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 coupled with conversations using critical thinking, we can find steps for solutions, not dissolutions. 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 equal 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 lost lives that were given, and when it approaches you, you must stand out of respect, whether or not you are an American citizen; if you don’t want to put your hand over your heart or 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 revere 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 pledge or have 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 would not 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 of agreeing in making changes 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.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

David Barrett
Mnedobe (Sits with Spirit)
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Hownikan

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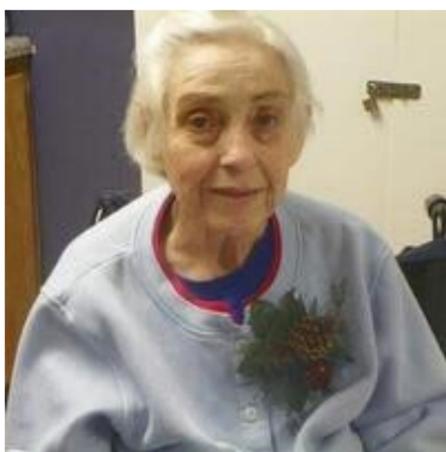
Joan F. Wardle



Joan F. Wardle, age 85, of Louisville, Kansas, passed away Thursday, April 9, 2020, in St. Joseph Care Center. She was born Oct. 14, 1934, in St. Marys, Kansas, to the late Clarence and Lucille (Rezac) Brunin. Joan retired from Timken Mercy Hospital where she worked as a nurse in the labor and delivery department for 44 years. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Benedict where she was active with the Rosary/Altar society, the choir, lady's prayer group and served as a Sunday school teacher. She was a member of the Osnaburg Historical Society, Foltz 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 (Kenith) 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



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 Walsh, Colorado, nursing home.

She is survived by her four children, Rick (Virginia) Doyle, Neil Doyle, Jeff Doyle and Theresa Millen; her sisters, Lela Acre, Nell Cottrell and Penny Bishop; grandchildren; Dana Doyle, Tonya (Keith) Chavira, Helen Betancourt, Chris Doyle, Ryan Kerr and Amanda Kerr; and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Grace is preceded in death by her husband, Chet Doyle; her parents, Ed and Helen Hey; her infant daughter,

Mary Catherine Doyle; sisters, Kay Konkel and Cecilia Hey; and her brothers, Tom and Pet Hey.

Grace attended school in Vilas, Colorado, where she met the love of her life, Chester Doyle. They eloped to Clayton, New Mexico, and were married on May 1, 1950. Soon thereafter Rick, Neil, Jeff and Theresa were born. They lost an infant daughter baby Mary in 1956. The family lived in Springfield, Colorado Springs and Leadville where Chet worked as a roofer, for Cross Hydraulics, and for the highway department. They then relocated to Lamar, Colorado, where Chet continued working for many years for the highway department. They built their home where they raised their family. Over the years, Grace worked at Traders Grocery Store in Springfield, delivered the U.S. mail, sold Tiara glass, was the Hallmark card lady, and was a mom and a homemaker.

Grace had a love for shopping. She couldn't pass up a bargain or an antique to add to her collection. She was notorious for writing in her journal and keeping track of each phone call and interaction she had. Grace had a collection of porcelain churches, which she proudly displayed around her home. She had quite the sense of humor. Over the last several months, she met a lot of new people, and many of them can attest to how much Grace made them laugh. Grace often referred to herself as "Amazing Grace."

Grace was so proud to be a Potawatomi Indian. She always made sure tell people she was Indian. Grace and Chet did a lot of traveling and attended many powwows across the country. She was also very proud to be from southeast Colorado and often talked about how much she loved the prairie and where she was from. She will be missed very much.

Marjorie Hobdy



Marjorie Fay Blair Hobdy, *Kikto* (She Speaks), 90, died from complications of old age and dementia on June 27, 2020, in Irving, Texas. A graveside burial service was held June 30 at Fulton Cemetery in Walnut Springs, Texas. She was born Nov. 24, 1929, in Borger, Texas, to Ruth Ann Raney and Kirk Lewis Blair (Kahdot family). After her father died in 1934, she and her siblings were raised by her mother in Arp and Sherman, Texas. Marjorie graduated from Sherman High School and attended Austin College. She married Ernest Eugene Hobdy, Sr. on May 7, 1964, and they assembled a blended family of seven children, ranging from an infant to a high schooler.

Marjorie — Marj to family and friends — worked as a secretary or executive secretary for state government, schools and several universities, including the University of Dallas, Mercantile Bank

and *The Dallas Times Herald*. Her last job was at University of Texas Southwestern's News and Publications Office, and after retirement, she often returned there as a temporary worker. She loved her work, coworkers and learning about each new industry when she changed jobs.

Mom was a devout Christian who took pride in her Native American heritage, serving as a regional representative for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Dallas-Fort Worth for 16 years. She attended many Tribal meetings and gatherings, taking great interest in the Tribe's history and governance. She was an expert seamstress and needlewoman who sewed much of her own clothing and taught those skills to her daughters. She enjoyed watching all our various school activities, believed we could accomplish anything and wanted us to get as much education as possible.

Marjorie is predeceased by her adult siblings, Kent Lewis Blair, Ruth Ann Blair Meredith, Robert Raney Blair, Maud Adele Blair Kreager, and her oldest son, Kirk Thomas Lewis. She is survived by her husband, Ernest Eugene Hobdy, Sr.; Blair descendants, including children, Kathrin A. Lewis, Susan L. Wesley, Kent B. Lewis (Audrey), and Jack Davis Hobdy (Ken); nieces, Karin Kreager Watkins (Rocky) and Rebecca (Becky) Meredith Moriak (Randy); nephew, Hayden M. Meredith Jr. (Pam); stepchildren, Carla H. Kelly (Andy) and Ernest E. (Gene) Hobdy, Jr.; and grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-nephews and great-nieces.

There will be a memorial service when conditions permit. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to your local animal rescue group. (Mom loved dogs.)

Martha Leveque



Martha Ann Bourassa Patterson Leveque was born Nov. 6, 1949, to Donald Eugene Bourassa and Phronia Mae Perry Bourassa in Roseburg, Oregon. She passed away on June 15, 2020, in Roseburg, Oregon, at the age of 70 from her 15-year battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Martha was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, a descendant of Theodore W. Bourassa.

She attended Tenmile Elementary School, Winston Junior High School and Douglas High School, graduated from Roseburg High School and obtained an associate degree in accounting from Umpqua Community College.

Martha loved animals, and because of that love, she trained, showed, groomed and boarded dogs. She was the co-founder of the Douglas County Obedience Club and was also involved in Camp Fire Girls as a leader. Her work history included manager/groomer for Wet Pets pet store in Roseburg, Oregon, plant manager assistant for UARCO in

Green, Oregon, and payroll manager for Murphy Plywood in Sutherlin, Oregon.

Martha met her second husband, George Leveque, while working at UARCO and married him on June 19, 1998. She loved spending time with him in Port Orford on the Oregon coast, camping, working in their beloved yard, writing stories and doing genealogy. She traced family members' lives back many generations and enjoyed each story she discovered.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband, George; first husband, David Patterson; daughters, Annie Patterson and Jennifer Leveque; grandson, William Prescott; sisters, Donna Legat and Doris O'Hara; and many nieces, nephews and special friends. Martha was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, sister and lovely aunt.

"Rest in peace, our angel. The fight is over now. Your battle has been won. Your courage inspired us. Your determination motivated us. We will cherish the memories. We will hold on to your strength. We will love you forever."

Linda Conley



Linda Newsom Houston Conley was born July 11, 1950, and died from health issues on June 12, 2020, in Adelaide, Australia.

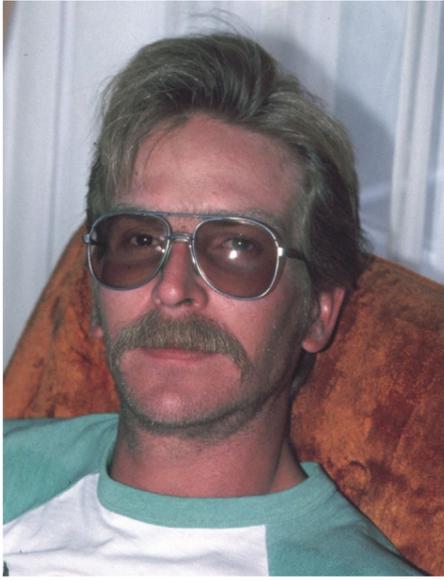
Linda was born in Greeley, Colorado, the daughter of Roy R. Newsom and Clerca M. Conley Newsom, and granddaughter of Ruth Louise Melott Newsom.

She graduated from High School in La Jolla, California, in 1968 and attended San Diego State University.

Linda married David Houston in La Jolla, California, June 21, 1969, and they moved to Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia, shortly after graduation for a job opportunity. She later married Peter McGorm in Adelaide, Australia. She later adopted the use of her mother's maiden name and was known as Linda Conley.

Linda enjoyed her own company and tried her hand at many things in life — painting, playing the guitar and keyboard, and writing short stories. She loved to read, listen to music, play card games and in later years, video games and online puzzles. She loved being out in nature, enjoying trees, flowers, mountains and the sound of a bubbling creek, a waterfall or the ocean.

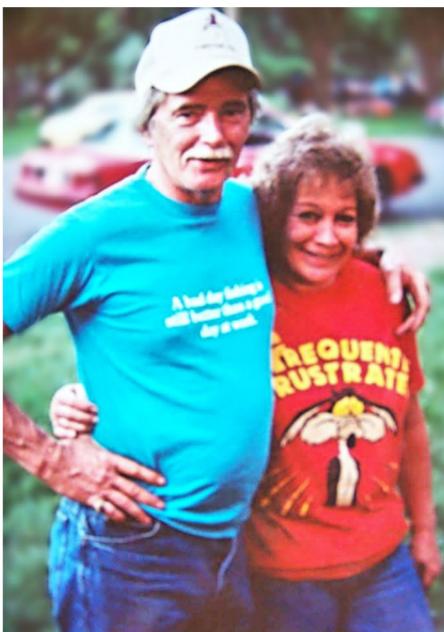
Linda is survived by son, Benjamin Houston in South Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia; sisters, Ruth L. Newsom Wallace of Chandler, Arizona, and Mary E. Newsom Clark of Santa Claus, Indiana; brother, Will R. Newsom of Oceanside, California; niece, Dee Anne Thomas; and nephews, Larry Mix, Roger Mix, Kent Headley and Bryan Scholl.

Douglas Feliciano

Douglas Wayne Feliciano walked on June 25, 2020. Douglas was born to Nancy Tarter 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 lather. On the job, he was a perfectionist. In his later years, he settled in Layton, Utah, to be near his mother and sisters. While there, he found sobriety.

He is survived by two sisters, Laura Green and Elizabeth Feliciano; 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 80 on June 3, 2020. She was born on Nov. 29, 1939, in Salina, Kansas, to the late Earl (Hank) and Stella (Sally) Hankinson. She was preceded in death by a sister, Ruth Hankinson, who passed

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 (Olathe, Kansas); Steven James and wife Elizabeth (Beebe, Arkansas); Aaron Bell and wife Breeley (Salina, Kansas); Christopher (CB) Bell (Salina, Kansas); 10 great-grandchildren, Rebecca Robinson, Joshua Tarvin, Ryder Reneau, Tyara Fritts, Chase Wachli, 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 (Hagar) 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 Baptist 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, Camren and Mellody Reis. 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 Camren and Mellody Reis; brother James Barrett (Carolyn); sisters-in-law, Kathy Barrett and Sherri Weathers; nephews and nieces, Bryan Barrett (Nephele), Kim Graybeal (Alan) and Kari Schoeman; and several grand 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. 10, 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 (Jackie), Kenneth, Daniel and Kimberly (Stefan); her 10 grandchildren, 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 Josetta 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.

Submitting obituaries

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

hownikan@potawatomi.org

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

For more information, please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email cclark@potawatomi.org.