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Minkégises | August 2021

Top photo: Flooding after a storm near Tribal headquarters.

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Walking on



FireLake Foods celebrates 20 years

FireLake Discount Foods has remained a community staple since opening its doors in 2001, offering fresh, quality produce, meats and grocery options to the public. With additional locations in McLoud and Tecumseh, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation enterprise currently stands as the largest tribally-owned grocery store in the United States.

“We wouldn’t have been able to grow and do everything that we’ve done — with three grocery stores, two convenience stores — we wouldn’t be able to do that without excellent staff that are dedicated, hardworking and passionate about seeing those stores be successful,” said FireLake Foods Director Richard Driskell. “I can’t say enough about the employees that work for us.”

Driskell has seen FireLake Foods develop from the ground up. He began working for the Nation in 2000 as a buyer, preparing the first store with all the items and equipment needed to open. Three years later, he became FireLake Foods director. His previous work as a bagger, manager and buyer at several Pratts Foods locations helps him successfully lead the enterprise and its nearly 400 employees.

“I, a lot of times, get the glory when the stores are doing well, but the truth is, it’s the people that are on the frontlines doing it day in and day out,” he said. “They’re the true heroes and are the ones that make it happen. I am just lucky to steer the ship.”

Overcoming barriers

Opening the first FireLake Foods location on the corner of Hardesty Road and Gordon Cooper Drive presented numerous obstacles, ranging from finding a wholesaler to helping the public understand the store serves everyone, not just Native Americans or CPN tribal members.

“It took two to three years to really get past all of that,” Driskell explained.

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic created new, unforeseen hurdles.



FireLake Foods employees uphold the vision of “being passionately committed to retail excellence, one customer at a time.”

“I have never seen anything like this in my whole time working — the strain that it can put on employees, that it can put on the food chain. ... We really have some of the most resilient employees that I’ve ever worked with,” he said.

When products, like toilet paper, became unavailable, staff pivoted.

“We started thinking outside the box for other channels that we could get some things to sell,” Driskell said. “And that’s what I mean we I say our employees are resilient and resourceful. We were able to get those things and change really quickly, and I think that’s why we’ve been so successful.”

When the pandemic caused numerous CPN-owned enterprises to close, FireLake Foods provided an opportunity for personnel from across the Nation to continue working.

“We had staff come and help us stock groceries. One of our Tribal attorneys was out on the floor stocking dairy products because he wanted to help. That’s a culture in itself that’s really hard to create,” Driskell said.

Before 2020, FireLake Foods averaged 30 to 40 online orders per day. In spring of 2020, that increased to 200.

“It far exceeded what we were capable of,” Driskell said. “Having other Tribal employees come fill the on-the-go orders made it happen.”

FireLake Foods’ dedication to cleanliness and service during the pandemic helped attract and retain customers from across Oklahoma.

“I can’t tell you how many people reached out and said, ‘I just wanted to tell you that your stores are doing an amazing job,’” Driskell said. “They would come in and see how clean the store was and how well we had it stocked versus other stores, and they knew that it took a lot of effort, time, dedication and long hours to make that happen.”

Economic growth

FireLake Foods diversifies CPN’s investments outside of gaming and entertainment, and has provided strong, solid returns for the past two decades.

“Every year, with the exception of two, this store has had a growth in sales and a growth in overall profitability, which is attributable to our staff,” Driskell said.

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ARPA FUNDS UPDATE

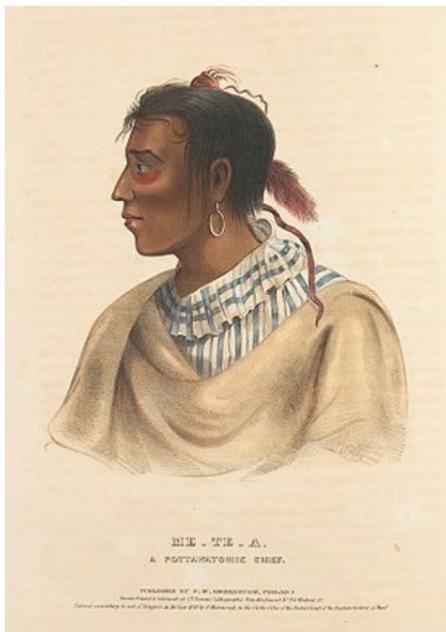
Application on page 9 in this *Hownikan*

1821 Treaty of Chicago's bicentennial

Aug. 29 marks the 1821 Treaty of Chicago's 200th anniversary. The agreement between the United States, Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi included the cessation of almost 4 million acres of Native land and forever impacted the tribes' hold in the Great Lakes region.

Reservation treaties, like the 1821 Treaty of Chicago, strove to separate Natives from non-Natives to make certain areas more enticing to settlers. Federal, state and territorial officials consolidated and obtained tribal properties for non-Natives moving into the Great Lakes region.

"The federal government started to talk about the 'Indian problem' during this period, and the 'Indian problem' is essentially, 'What do we do with Native Americans who have been living on lands that we want to occupy?'" said Citizen



Chief Metea

Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center's Director, Dr. Kelli Mosteller.

Negotiations

In mid-August 1821, approximately 3,000 Potawatomi, Ottawa and Chippewa gathered in Chicago to discuss land ownership with U.S. officials, including commissioners Lewis Cass and Solomon Sibley.

While the Potawatomi agreed to land cessations in the past, the amount debated in the 1821 Treaty of Chicago concerned many Tribal members. Discussions lasted two weeks, and during that time, Cass attempted to sway opinions with threats and withholding whiskey until Tribal leaders signed the agreement.

According to *The Potawatomi: Keepers of the Fire* by David Edmunds, "Cass would not accept the Potawatomi refusal and warned the Saint Joseph tribesmen that the remainder of the trade goods would be distributed only to the other Potawatomi if the Saint Joseph leaders continued in the recalcitrance."

With a reputation as a warrior, spiritualist and orator, Potawatomi Chief Metea served as a spokesman for the Tribe on many occasions. He made one of his most famous speeches during the negotiations.

Chief Metea said, in part, "Our country was given to us by the Great Spirit, who gave it to us to hunt upon, to make our cornfields upon, to live upon, and to make down our beds upon when we die. And he would never forgive us, should we bargain it away. When you first spoke to us for lands at St. Mary's, we said we



The Cultural Heritage Center highlights important leaders and documents in its gallery, *Treaties: Words & Leaders That Shaped Our Nation*.

had a little, and agreed to sell you a piece of it; but we told you we could spare no more. Now you ask us again. You are never satisfied! We have sold you a great tract of land already; but it is not enough! We sold it to you for the benefit of your children, to farm and to live upon. We have now but little left. We shall want it all for ourselves. We know not how long we may live, and we wish to have some lands for our children to hunt upon. You are gradually taking away our hunting-grounds. Your children are driving us before them. We are growing uneasy. What lands you have, you may retain forever; but we shall sell no more."

However, Metea's address did not provide the results he had hoped. Growing internal pressures and large promises

made by the U.S. officials caused the Potawatomi to eventually accept the offer.

The agreement resulted in the Potawatomi relinquishing control of lands in southwestern Michigan up to the Grand River and a swath of land across northern Indiana from South Bend to the Ohio-state line. It established small reservational boundaries in return for annuities and resources and set aside acres for each of the Tribal signatories. Eventually, a second Treaty of Chicago in 1833 provided the groundwork for the Tribe's removal westward.

Learn more about the 1821 Treaty of Chicago by touring the Cultural Heritage Center's gallery *Words & Leaders That Shaped Our Nation* in person or online at potawatomiheritage.com. 🔥

CPCDC an insured performance lender

The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development Division of Capital Investment named the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation an Interior Insured Performance Lender.

A division of the U.S. Department of Interior, the OIEE recognized the CPCDC as the only Native community development financial institution with the title in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

"Being a performance lender really sets high expectations for the CPCDC," said CEO Cindy Logsdon. "It shows that we're active in Indian Country and in lending, which sets us apart as being one of the largest non-Native, non-bank Native CDFIs in the nation. So it means that we perform at a high level, and that's quite an honor."

The distinction comes as a "recognition of their commitment" to the Indian Loan Guarantee and Insurance Program, designed to help institutions such as the CPCDC provide low-interest rates.

"We utilize this program when a borrower is a little bit weak in one area. It could be their collateral or it could be their past credit performance. Just whenever there is a time that a borrower needs a little bit of a credit enhancement," Logsdon said.

The CPCDC began using the program in 2008; however, the OIEE named it an Insured Performance Lender for the first time last fall. The Tribe's CDFI believes



The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation adds to their list of achievements with the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development's Interior Insured Performance Lender.

in the program's purpose as it expands its ability to provide funds to Native entrepreneurs and small businesses.

"It's very underutilized throughout the Nation, and there's many more dollars set aside for this insurance product than that gets utilized. And because we are able to utilize it annually, I think that's why the (Bureau of Indian Affairs) wanted to recognize us as an insured performance lender," she said.

The program also helps the CPCDC keep their delinquency rates under 1 percent.

"We are in the business of taking a little more risk than a bank typically would," Logsdon said. "And even whenever collateral is shy, or maybe experience or having skin to put in the game, we're able to place insurance and have that 90 percent guarantee. So, you know, we're able to do a deal when we otherwise probably wouldn't touch it."

The CPCDC closes more loans annually than most Native CDFIs in the U.S. with the help of the Indian Loan Guarantee and Insurance Program, and Logsdon enjoys leading a financial institution that puts capital into Indigenous businesses.

"I'm very proud of the fact that, like last year, we closed about \$12 million in loans. That's during a pandemic. That is something to be said that we were serving Native Americans at a time that was so uncertain. And it's an honor and a privilege to be recognized on a national level," she said.

The CPCDC discusses it as one of many options with clients to help them achieve their goals and dreams.

"We utilize this program in the sense that whenever you get to the point that those weaknesses are kind of filled in, we can add this as an added accompaniment. And it may be a process, but ... our doors are open. Give us a call. You just want to talk about a deal? We're here as a resource," Logsdon said.

"We're just going to keep on forging ahead. It's about helping our brother. It's about helping our community. They're the reason we're successful as well. We have awesome borrowers."

Find the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation online at cpcdc.org or on Facebook at [@CPNCDFI](https://www.facebook.com/CPNCDFI). 🔥

Like father, like son

Veteran and Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Brian Walker completed a potential Texas first when his father Judge Scott Walker swore him in as a Justice on the Court of Appeals for the Second District of Texas during the January 2021 investiture.

“It was somewhat historic,” Walker said.

“Having my dad do the honors was definitely one of the greatest experiences of my life, and it’s something I will remember for the rest of my life.”

Inspiration

Walker’s father, and fellow CPN member, worked almost two decades as an attorney before becoming a judge on the supreme criminal court in Texas, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Seeing his father’s impact on his clients’ lives during his time as a practicing attorney encouraged Walker to pursue a career in the legal field.

“I went to law school and kind of followed in his footsteps,” Walker said.

Since receiving a degree from the University of Houston Law School in 2003, Walker served in the Air Force Reserves for nine years and has operated his own firm in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex with a focus on assisting fellow veterans.

“Then I had seen what my father had done working as an appellate judge — and I had an appellate practice — and I thought, ‘I would actually really enjoy doing that work,’” he said.

Wanting to expand his commitment to public service, Walker decided to vie for a position on the Second Court of Appeals in 2020.

Election

Running for office amidst a global pandemic revealed new, unexpected challenges, but Walker persisted. He fell back on the skills he received from running for the Texas House of Representatives in 2008 and serving as his father’s campaign manager in 2016 to gain the public’s support.

“I argued to the voters that appellate experience for an appellate court is more important than being a trial judge,” Walker said. “I had voter after voter tell me that’s why they wanted me for this position. They voted for me because they believed I was more qualified because of my vast amount of appellate experience.”

Appellate courts do not involve a jury, hear new evidence or witnesses, nor

retry cases like trial courts. Instead, appellate courts review trials to ensure the proceedings were fair and honest. Before running for office in 2020, Walker had authored more than 100 state and federal appeals and tried over 75 criminal and civil jury trials.

He received nearly 48 percent of the votes during the Republican primary held in March 2020, advancing him to a runoff against the runner-up Elizabeth Beach.

“Our runoff was initially set in the latter part of May, but COVID had not only shut down all the typical campaigns

of Appeals handles appeals from hundreds of trial courts in 12 counties in North Texas.

Day-to-day

Every morning, Walker takes time for a Bible study and prayer to help jumpstart his day before heading to the courthouse in Fort Worth.

“Unlike trial courts, we’re not in court often,” he said. “Most of what I do is reading, research, writing and voting on cases.”



(Above, photo provided) Brian Walker poses with Jay and Amy Novacek’s service dog Hank. (Below, photo provided) Hetzall family descendant Captain Brian Walker leads Air Force training at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama.

events, political party meetings, things like that, the governor also extended the runoff by two months,” Walker explained.

When it finally took place in July 2020, he received 64 percent of the votes.

“I am very passionate about my faith in Jesus Christ, and my campaign ended up basically for those four months being nothing more than a prayer because that’s all I could do,” he said.

With no Democratic opponent, Walker officially won the general election on Nov. 3, 2020, and began his six-year term on Jan. 1, 2021. As one of 14 intermediate state appellate courts in Texas, the Second Court

He works on authoring opinions for assigned cases, which can vary in length from two to more than 1,000 pages. His staff attorney and legal assistant evaluate each one before sending them to the central staff for review. Once finished with the thorough editing process, Walker sends the opinion to the other justices for voting.

“It helps make sure that (the opinions) make sense, there are no typographical errors. And if we are creating law, which we try not to do — we just try to interpret the law. ... We want to make sure that we do it right,” Walker said.

Breaking barriers

Walker believes his military experience provides a strong, solid foundation for his newly elected position.

“I had a unique Air Force career,” Walker said. “I was in a total of nine years and had two jobs.”

He became the first Judge Advocate in the history of the U.S. Air Force to serve as a flight commander/instructor — officer equivalent of a drill instructor — at the U.S. Air Force Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama.

“I never, unfortunately, got to jump in an F-16 and fly off into the sunset, then engage in hand-to-hand combat in the same day, and then put on my suit and show up to argue a case in the courtroom.

But, you might argue that I’m closer to the TV show than any other JAG in the Air Force,” he said and laughed.

Serving in the Air Force’s legal wing provided first-hand understanding of what working in a large, full-scale judicial office entails.

“That component really prepared me for being on a fast-moving court with a decent amount of bureaucracy and employees,” Walker explained.

His military career also instilled important skills that he carries with him today.

“The knowledge and experience that I gained through being the first drill instructor who happened to be a JAG ... helped me become the leader I am today, which I believe in turn, is helping me to be a better judge,” Walker said.

As for the future, he plans to follow the Almighty’s guidance.

“I’m very content with what I’m doing right now,” he said. “I’ve had some people ask me if I’m going to run for Texas Supreme Court, and I’ve said, ‘No, I haven’t felt like God said I needed to do that at this point for sure, but you never know what He may call me to do later down the road.’” ♠



Partnership provides opportunity to teach a more inclusive history regarding Kansas boarding school

When Citizen Potawatomi Nation District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw receives a request to share Potawatomi history with others, he rises to the occasion. The Kansas Historical Society's Director of Museum and Education Division, Mary Madden, recently reached out to Boursaw for consultation and to discuss updating the museum and nearby Baptist Mission. He agreed to help educate others on Citizen Potawatomi Nation's history tied to the building and surrounding area in a new video exhibit.

"I take pride in letting people know that we were and are here," Boursaw said. "We're part of history."

Pottawatomie Baptist Manual Labor Training School

Built in the mid-1800s and established through the Treaty of 1846, the Pottawatomie Baptist Manual Labor Training School — known today as the Baptist Mission — was a boarding school for Potawatomi, Chippewa and Ottawa children for 13 years. Baptist missionary Isaac McCoy's niece Elizabeth served as the school's main instructor. Many Tribal members studied under Isaac in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and at the Carey Mission near Niles, Michigan, before being forcibly removed to Kansas. He became one of the first to suggest emigrating Native Americans west of the Mississippi and spent time lobbying for a removal act.

"I believe some missionaries that came here that were followers of Isaac McCoy felt that the only way to save the Potawatomi were to isolate them," Madden explained.

According to the Kansas Historical Society's *Kansapedia*, "A child's early days



The Baptist Mission remains as a physical connection to the Potawatomi people's past. (Photo provided by the Kansas Historical Society)

at the mission was traumatic. Native dress was taken away and replaced with 'white' clothing, and Potawatomi names were replaced with Christian ones. Family visits were discouraged because they exposed children to the very way of life the missions were trying to eliminate."

Pupils learned reading, writing, arithmetic, religious curriculum, animal husbandry, blacksmithing, cooking, sewing and more, but a cholera outbreak and interruptions in funding caused the mission to pause operations multiple times.

"It was a very disruptive education," Madden said. The limited records available do not include the children's perspectives, which can overlook the true hardships they faced.

The Civil War, non-payments from the Baptist church and the Treaty of 1861

caused the school's eventual closure, according to the *Kansas Historical Quarterly*. The building became a barn for horses and other livestock for more than a century. The Kansas Historical Society acquired the land and the mission in the 1970s and began initial excavation and restoration efforts.

"About half of (the building) was taken down, the stones numbered, and put back up. It was restored as it looked originally," Madden said.

Unfortunately, the Kansas Historical Society found very few artifacts during its excavation efforts, but the graffiti uncovered along several interior walls helps visitors connect with the structure's past.

"On the second floor in what was the boy's classroom, you have a red ochre

cross — you have the ABCs written on the plaster and some poetry," which the public can still view today, Madden said.

Education through cooperation

Boursaw has served as the Kansas Historical Foundation's treasurer for the past three years, as the foundation raised \$7 million toward modernizing the Kansas Museum of History. These funds will help update the main museum and establish an interim exhibit area within the Baptist Mission, including a historical video presentation introduced by Boursaw that details the Potawatomi forced removal on the Trail of Death, ties to the Baptist Mission and northeast Kansas, and more.

"The reopening is another great opportunity to tell our story as part of Shawnee County and Kansas history," Boursaw wrote in a January 2021 *Hownikan* column.

While the building's renovations provide multi-use space for community events and more, maintaining a connection to the Baptist Mission's origins remains important.

"It's an ugly piece of American history and I think ... the only way we're going to get better is if we learn," Madden said.

The Kansas Historical Society plans to unveil the video in the fall of 2021. Find information, including hours of operations, admission and more, at cpn.news/kshs. ♡

Toupin descendant receives recognition as one of Oklahoma's 40 under 40

Oklahoma Magazine recently named Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services Director of Clinical Operations, Lauren Bristow, as one of the top 40 young professionals in Oklahoma. The publication recognizes 40 individuals annually who "reach beyond the expected" and make a positive impact in their communities and state as a whole.

"I was so surprised and humbled that I would even be considered," Bristow said.

Since joining CPN's workforce fall 2019, she has served on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic. She worked closely with fellow CPNHS leadership to organize COVID-19 testing and vaccination drives while also helping the Tribe's clinics maintain operation.

"It's certainly a change from day-to-day health care operations, which constantly evolves anyway," Bristow said. "It has been a challenge, but I couldn't ask for a better team. We have an absolutely wonderful team."



Lauren Bristow finds the opportunity to serve fellow Tribal members every day rewarding.

When the COVID-19 vaccines first became available, finding opportunities to receive an inoculation proved difficult for some people. The chance her career provides to help the Nation

serve its fellow citizens and the community at large is gratifying for the Pottawatomie County native.

"It's been incredibly touching," Bristow said. "We've had seniors who struggled to be able to find a vaccine just completely breakdown, and that's heartbreaking to see that. ... But, we've been able to help them."

"There have also been Tribal members who have come from Texas, Mississippi and Colorado who were very thankful to the Tribe to be able to have access."

Bristow delivers key management and oversight that keeps CPN's two clinics, imaging center, chiropractic care facility and more operating smoothly.

"It's important to understand how each position impacts the bigger picture. It's important to know what your front desk does, what your business office, your medical team does — all of those pieces are necessary to make a clinic run," she explained.

Reducing Native Americans' health disparities, supporting philanthropic efforts and ensuring her children carry on Potawatomi culture are some of Bristow's main passions.

"I was brought up to honor my heritage and understand my heritage, and so it's important to me that (my children) are able to see that. ... I feel like I am honoring my family by doing that," she said.

Bristow enjoys learning beadwork techniques with her daughter and hopes both her children continue the Toupin family's tradition of reciprocity.

"I feel very honored to be able to give back to my Tribe," she said. "My grandparents were very involved, and so I feel very honored to be able to impact my Tribal community and the community I grew up in, even Shawnee as a whole."

View all of this year's 40 under 40 nominees at cpn.news/u40, and learn more about CPNHS at cpn.news/clinics. ♡

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

ABUSE in a digital age

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

As social creatures, we seek out every opportunity to connect with people around us. Technology is one of the most important forms of communication for couples all over the globe, and it has changed how we experience love, intimacy and connection. Without technology, most couples would have never had the chance to meet one another. Constant digital communication is becoming a necessity for partners, but is this simply convenience or control?

In a healthy relationship, all communication is respectful, whether in person or through technology. However, with unhealthy relationships, communication can be extremely dangerous, and technology can act as gasoline on the fire.

There are many forms of abuse in unhealthy relationships, but digital abuse is becoming increasingly common, especially with teens and young adults. It can also contribute to the escalation of other types of abuse. Digital abuse is the use of technology, such as texting and social networking, to bully, harass, stalk, or intimidate a partner. It can also be used as a form of emotional and verbal abuse that is committed online. This, like other forms, does not discriminate.

According to Data & Society Research Institute, "Men and women experience intimate partner digital abuse at equal rates, and 38 percent of individuals that identify as LGB have experienced

digital abuse, compared with 10 percent of heterosexual individuals."

Knowing what digital abuse looks like can encourage victims to set boundaries, end the relationship and even seek resources for assistance. Awareness of the situation is the first step to ending the violence. Here are some signs to look for:

- Your partner sends or posts negative, insulting or threatening messages directed toward you.
- Your partner tries to control who you interact with online.
- Your partner tries to get you to post content that you are uncomfortable with.
- Your partner uses tracking apps to keep tabs on your location.
- Your partner sends you unwanted sexual pictures, sends pictures of you without your permission or insists you send them pictures.
- Your partner steals or demands to be given your password.
- Your partner constantly uses social media to keep an eye on what you are doing.
- Your partner repetitively calls, texts and messages you.

Of these behaviors, intrusive monitoring is the most common of perpetrators. A University of Florida poll conducted in 2013 revealed that 20 percent of young people in relationships stated they had experienced monitoring by a partner.



These types of behaviors are never appropriate. Being in a romantic relationship does not require any individual to share passwords, provide current locations or send anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. It may seem romantic if one partner is intensely interested in communicating or seeing the other partner, but these types of behaviors can quickly turn into coercive control and harassment.

Fortunately, there are steps to take to keep yourself safe. It is never too late to establish boundaries. Here are some safety planning tips to help get you started:

- Save or document any threatening messages, photos, videos or voicemails you have received as evidence.
- Be careful with sending pictures or messages you do not want others to see. Once you share a post or message, it is no longer in your control. Be mindful that an abusive partner may save or forward anything you share.

- Know and understand privacy settings. Social media often has customizable privacy settings that allow you to control who tags you in photos, who can send you messages or friend requests, and allows you to block other users on the site.
- Be mindful when checking in online, either by sharing your location in a post or posting a photo with a distinguishable background. Ask friends to get your consent before posting a photo or tagging your location online.
- Avoid contact with the person who is abusing or harassing you in the ways you can. Consider changing your phone number or your name on social media if the harassment doesn't stop.
- Use alternative methods to access supportive resources. You can visit your local library or community center to access online websites like the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which offers a chat service.

Dealing with an unhealthy relationship can be extremely discouraging and seem impossible most of the time. However, the House of Hope is always here to assist any individual and provide support to help ensure your safety on and offline.

If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault and would like more information, please contact the House of Hope at 405-275-3176 or visit us online at [facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope](https://www.facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope).

FDF continued...

To expand on the success and serve more customers, CPN opened FireLake Express Grocery stores in Tecumseh in 2005 and McLoud in 2016.

"It's the only store in Tecumseh that has a full-fledged meat and produce department, and it has done exceptionally well for a smaller-sized store," he said.

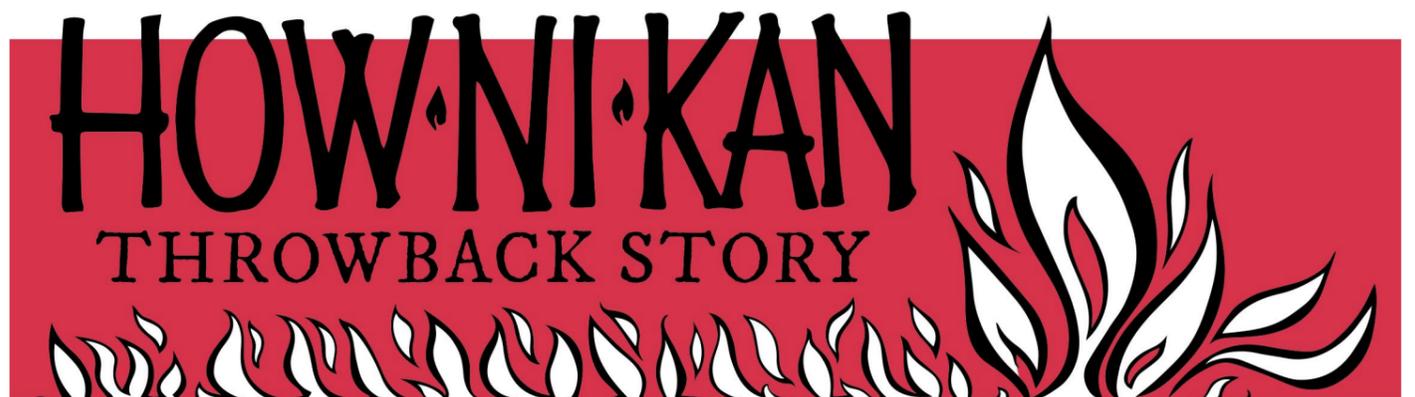
Located just north of Interstate 40, FireLake Express Grocery in McLoud provides key resources, like food, gas and fresh, healthy options, in a rural area.

"Convenience is the name of the game because if it's not convenient, people rarely want to go out of their way, even if it's going to be healthier for them. ... I think having places in food deserts with fresh fruits, vegetables, some good quality meats, are the keys to helping overcome some of those barriers where people get addicted to chips and fatty foods," Driskell said.

The next 20 years look bright for FireLake Foods. CPN hopes to continue building on the achievements its grocery enterprise has experienced since 2001 by reaching more communities and customers across its jurisdiction.

"I think what we're doing, and the model that we've created, there will be more FireLake stores," he said. "I think that it will be good for the Tribe, that it will be good for the communities where we go into, and that it will be good for Tribal members as well."

Make online grocery orders and learn more about FireLake Foods at [firelakefoods.com](https://www.firelakefoods.com).



Special opening events planned at grocery store

As progress is made at the FireLake Discount Foods construction site, passersby become more eager for its opening. The long anticipated opening is scheduled for the middle part of March. "If the weather will cooperate with us, there will be no problem opening in March," said Terry O'Rorke, director of FireLake Discount Foods. From the outside, it looks as though construction has been at a stand still since before Christmas, but on the inside, workers are scurrying around getting shelving set and preparing the walls for paint. "The inside of the store will be complete long before the outside, at this rate," O'Rorke commented.

Activities for the grand opening are being planned and will be finalized within the next few weeks. There will be a grand opening ceremony for tribal members prior to the actual opening of the store. "It is our desire to have a grand opening for tribal members that will give them the opportunity to tour their store, prior to that of any other group," said O'Rorke. If you are interested in making



FireLake Discount Foods takes shape in this late January 2001 photo.

a trip to attend the grand opening, mark your calendars for the middle to late part of March. As the time nears, there will be more information regarding the grand opening.

FireLake Discount Foods will offer online shopping and a Customer Loyalty Program. The online shopping will be offered seven days a week with deliveries set for twice a week. Delivery service will be available for a nominal fee and within a certain radius of the

store. The Customer Loyalty Program, previously called the frequent buyer program, has changed how customers can use their accumulated points. The accumulated points can only be used at FireLake Discount Foods or the Convenience Store. The points cannot be redeemed for tobacco or alcohol products, but can be used for groceries and gas. "At this time, we are not equipped at our other tribal enterprises to allow the use of the customer loyalty card," said O'Rorke.

2021 marks 43 years since the passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act

Since first contact with Europeans, colonizers and the United States government have obstructed the religious rights of Indigenous populations across North America. Following decades of protests against unfair treatment, President Jimmy Carter signed the American Indian Religious Freedom Act into law on Aug. 11, 1978.

“AIRFA was a law that was passed after quite a bit of pressure from tribal communities. And there was a lot of debate in Congress about whether it was necessary, why it was necessary, to have a law specific for Native Americans,” said Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., director of Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center.

CPN Re-entry and Diversionary Lead Counselor Burt Patadal attended protests organized by the American Indian Movement, a collection of tribal leaders and members that advocated for Native rights in the 1960s and 70s. A citizen of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, he felt the law was necessary to allow Indigenous people to connect with their culture, honor elders and their practices.

“I have to remember (our elders) that way, and I have to remember the freedom act in 1978,” he said. “It’s about Indians, not about anybody else. It’s about what we need to do and what we had to do and what the American government helped us do to get going again because they had shut us off for so many years.”

More than four decades later, the language of AIRFA still applies as Native and Indigenous communities continue to establish sovereignty and land rights.

Passage

Many Native traditional practices became illegal under federal or state law throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, largely by The Code of Indian Offenses of 1883. The continued practice of restricted activities, such as the Ghost Dance by the Northern Paiute and Lakota people, often resulted in political rebellion and loss of life. The Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890 stands as an example, resulting in the American

infantry killing more than 250 Lakota women, children and men.

“But those (laws) had been repealed in the mid-1930s,” Dr. Mosteller said. “Technically, there wasn’t a lot of legislation on the books that outwardly said, ‘These certain practices are illegal.’ Now, in practice, what was happening was that we did not have access to a lot of the sacred items and the sacred spaces that we needed to carry out our religious practices.”

Indigenous peoples took steps to expand their rights throughout the 1960s as civil rights dominated the public consciousness. In 1973, 200 Oglala Lakota and members of AIM staged the Wounded Knee Occupation in protest of unfulfilled treaty obligations and unfair treatment of Natives.

“We had to something at that time because (AIRFA) was only five years after Wounded Knee. ... And the American government had — they didn’t have to — but they knew that wasn’t right. That that was our religion,” Patadal said.

The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 and AIRFA passed with support from the National Congress of the American Indian and AIM. President Carter recognized that the U.S. overlooked Indigenous peoples’ religious practices and cited the law’s accordance with the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to support his signing it.

In a statement after signing AIRFA, he wrote, “This act is in no way intended to alter that guarantee or override existing laws, but is designed to prevent Government actions that would violate these constitutional protections.”

Definitions

The necessity of federal law regarding Indigenous religious practices comes from a fundamental misunderstanding or refusal to acknowledge the differences between Western and Native cultures.

“For those who were fighting against it, their argument was, ‘But it’s not illegal for them to do these things.’ And the counterargument was, ‘But you are making it impossible for us to gain access to the spaces and the objects that we need to fully carry out our religious traditions,’” Dr. Mosteller said.

Patadal remembers law enforcement pressuring him and other Kiowa to skip their practices.

“They didn’t want us to do sweat lodge, peyote meetings or other religious ceremonies, but we did them, and they would watch us across the river,” he said.

Many Native cultures mark natural spaces or landscapes as sacred places, as opposed to man-made churches or cathedrals.

“It’s spaces where our origin stories say we originated as a people,” Dr. Mosteller said. “It may be a space where a certain plant grows. And so, while it is a sacred space for us, it is a resource to others,” or space for recreation.

Native Nations and environmentalists often use AIRFA to argue against mining, construction of pipelines and more. The law also deals with sacred objects — for example, eagle feathers and peyote — that multiple tribes use in religious ceremonies. Its broad language attempts to accommodate many Indigenous beliefs.

“I think that’s the most frustrating element of it for federal legislators is they want a clear definition, and ‘This is included, this is excluded,’ and you’re dealing with more than 500 nations who have their own definition of what is necessary for their religious practice,” Dr. Mosteller explained. “And it’s not always black and white, and it needs a little bit of flexibility because each nation needs to be able to use this as a tool to apply to their own circumstances.”

CPN use

Since 2000, Native Nations have used AIRFA in combination with the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 to make

legal arguments for exceptions on religious grounds. Citizen Potawatomi Nation used them to establish the Tribe’s Eagle Aviary in 2012, which would have been illegal before the passage of AIRFA in 1978.

“And then now, here we are, operating our eagle aviary, taking care of our relatives under a permit that is Native religious use permit,” Dr. Mosteller said. “And again, we are fighting that fight, saying, ‘We define what our religious practices mean. We define what our religion is.’ So it’s just an extension of our faith that this permit that we operate under even exists.”

The aviary houses eagles without the ability to survive in the wild, often injured by human interaction with their natural environment. AIRFA also allows for the procurement and use of eagle feathers and their distribution to Tribal members for religious purposes.

Next steps

Although arguments regarding Indigenous religious freedoms focus on land development and resource production, the potential for a shift to environmental justice increases as climate change worsens.

“I truly think that the next few decades is going to be a fight to say that the lack of legislation and the lack of policy to address climate change is truly beginning to impede our ability to practice our religious practices and sacred traditions,” Dr. Mosteller said.

Examples include the flooding of sacred spaces due to rising sea levels, global warming eliminating natural infrastructure such as ice roads, and the loss of environmental conditions needed by certain medicines and plants. However, Dr. Mosteller believes it still comes down to differing viewpoints on natural resources and land ownership.

“Those are places that are obvious and natural fits for having a sacred space, a connection to the Creator, a place where you want to come and have these very special private gatherings, but they also mean that they look like really great resources,” she said. “So that’s something that AIRFA gives us the tools to fight against it, but it does not stop the constant barrage of questioning whether or not these truly should be protected because it’s seen as getting in the way of ‘progress.’”

Throughout his life, Patadal witnessed the changing relationships between the U.S. and Native Nations. He believes maintaining Native traditions and religious practices stabilizes Indigenous societies in multiple ways.

“I think our (tribal) governments have really come alive because it’s about taking care of our elders, taking care of education, doing our ceremonies, doing our dances,” he said.

Patadal encourages members and citizens from every tribe to practice their Native traditions every day, even in a small way.

Visit the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center online, and learn more about the CPN Eagle Aviary at potawatomiheritage.com. ♠



Tribal artist animates scene for new Higher Ground Productions children's show

Stop-motion animator Nicole Emmons hit a career milestone in March when Netflix released a new children's show with a scene she filmed. *Waffles and Mochi* features the titular characters who travel the world learning about the history and uses of different foods.

"I've gotten to work as an animator on a lot of other people's productions, but to have something that I had such a creative hand in, like as a creative person, that was just really, really thrilling and just kind of made me realize what the possibilities are. And I think it just makes me aim higher," she said.

The show is full of color and imagination with puppets, fun songs, recipes, and celebrity guest appearances.

Waffles and Mochi

Michelle Obama's Higher Ground Productions created the show in partnership with Netflix. The former First Lady makes an appearance in each episode and teaches children how to cook using healthy, flavorful ingredients while celebrating dishes from different cultures.

"I always love it when the projects I work on are in line with my values, and ... it's not just the puppets and the animation, but the idea of making healthy food fun for kids is really great," Emmons said.

She animated a song as part of the episode titled *Rice*. The character Mochi discovers he is made of ice cream and a traditional Japanese rice cake. The musical number shows the fun of preparing a meal, regardless of making a mess, and highlights rice dishes worldwide.

"It's not a very long piece, but there's just a lot that goes into it. And especially on something this big, you want to make sure that you've got everything right," Emmons said.

Comedian and musician Reggie Watts contributed to the scene as well.

"He did vocal and added his own part to that song. So he had a lot to do with it, and I'm a big fan of his. So it was really exciting to get to work on something with his vocal," she said.

Animating and connecting

Emmons worked with Higher Ground in March and April 2020 to secure her idea and turned in a final cut at the end of June. She spent a couple of months animating it at her home in Oklahoma City.



Nicole Emmons' career spans more than two decades with stop-motion animation credits for *Community*, *Robot Chicken* and *Little Bill*.

"You feel like a magician. I mean, in reality, you're here at 6 a.m. in your garage, on the ground, you know, and it's actually really hard to make it look realistic. But when you see the final piece, it always just looks fun and magic," she said.

To come up with the imagery, Emmons thought through a child's lens and tried to match how they see and understand the world. She bought more than 10 different kinds of rice at a local grocery store and placed them in jars for a few shots in the piece.

"I was thinking about the idea of like how you kind of get lost in these things as a kid, and you don't really know what they are. And just kind of the concept of them being lost in grandma's food jars on the counter and how that would be if you were really tiny and you were kind of navigating through that," Emmons said.

Mochi's small stature helped show children's perspective as well. For feedback from the target audience, Emmons watched the scene with her 6-year-old niece.

"She said, 'Thank you for making that. Thank you for making that.' I was like, 'Oh, my God!' That's such a cool comment. I was like, 'You're welcome, honey,'" Emmons said.

Food and heritage

In the episode, guest star and musician Common shows Mochi his "family tree" that includes ice cream and rice. Emmons connected with Mochi's quest to understand his heritage. The Melott, Vieux, Navarre and Lawton family descendant researches her ancestry and Potawatomi culture too.

"And then also thinking about how important rice has been to our people and how important rice has been to people all over the globe. Just realizing that that's like something that really ties us together as humans on planet Earth," she said.

Mnomen (wild rice) is a staple in Potawatomi cuisine, and *Nishnabé* people across the Great Lakes region continue to harvest the traditional crop in the late summer and early fall.

"It's really delicious, and it's really hardy. And so I've been getting a lot more into that. I think this show made me start cooking more as well. So, it's kind of funny. I think it will have an effect on adults that way because they make it so fun that it's definitely something that can get different audiences of different ages kind of connected and engaged," Emmons said.

Besides expanding her knowledge of other cuisines and her desire to explore her culture, the opportunity to animate for *Waffles and Mochi* brought her art to the biggest audience of her career.

"Just having ... normal people thinking my work is funny or getting my jokes and stuff, that was just like really, really satisfying and really thrilling and gave me a lot of hope, like, 'OK, I don't have to just make little weird things on my own. I can totally be a part of the bigger picture,'" she said.

Emmons took her first stop-motion animation class in 1993 after a childhood love for Rankin/Bass Christmas specials such as *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* pushed her to study it and puppetry at the California Institute of the Arts. Her most recent work with Higher Ground Productions and Netflix reaffirmed her choices and passion.

"I don't think I want to change careers or anything," Emmons said. "I love it. I just want to keep going. I keep learning more about it every production."

Watch *Waffles and Mochi* on Netflix. Find Nicole Emmons on Instagram @nicole_emmons_animation. ♡

Veterans report



Bozho
(Hello),

The CPN Veterans Organization will begin having our monthly meetings again on Tuesday, Sept. 21, in the North Reunion Hall at 6 p.m., or as soon as you can get there. Pizza will be served. Remember, all CPN veterans and spouses with their family are welcome.

The CPN Veterans Organization's Color Guard has begun presenting the colors at events. We have lost several of our active members. Some have moved away, and others have walked on. All will be greatly missed. We also have parades scheduled for this year. The parades and presenting the colors at events are our way of representing the

Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Veterans, please join us in honoring our veterans and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Open mind, eclectic taste mark budding CPN artist's style

Oklahoma City-based artist and Melot family descendant Laurel Wilson tries anything and everything in her work. She spent her time as an undergraduate at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, exploring.

"I learned everything from printmaking, screen printing. I took some graphic design courses. They just weren't my thing. (I) did a lot of figure drawing, oil pastels, oil paints, watercolors, charcoal, the works, all of that," she said.

Wilson showed artistic talent as a child. As a sixth-grader, she entered the Oklahoma Student Art Exhibition of the 2009 Oklahoma State Fair after taking her first art classes. Her pen and ink landscape won first place, best in show and grand champion in her division.

"That was my first time I entered it, and I was like, 'I'm doing great,'" Wilson said and laughed.

She continued to enter pieces and win prizes in the same show throughout her adolescence. Now with her bachelor's in fine arts, she focuses on studio art and creating gallery shows. Wilson joined Art Group OKC in 2020, a collective of young artists who collaborate and provide a community for one another. However, the pandemic hindered its momentum.

"We haven't really gotten to work together a whole lot, which is really unfortunate," she said. "But hopefully, later this year, I'll be able to actually create more things to showcase."

Wilson's passion for art remains high, and she still enjoys connecting with others through showing her inner self.

"As someone who's had depression and all of that, art was my form of getting it out and also being able to hope that people would be able to see my art and be like, 'I'm not alone in this, and I can understand that you



Laurel Wilson turns a childhood artistic talent into a career as an artist.

understand how I'm feeling,' and that was huge for me," she said.

Uniqueness

Artists define themselves by their style, and Wilson found it difficult to develop hers during college.

"That is such a huge thing that (professors) ingrain in you, and I couldn't grasp it because I wanted to try everything. And, I feel like I don't really have a niche like that," she said.

Wilson's friends and other artists helped her realize symbolism is at the forefront of her work. Some of her pieces discuss and display her thoughts on feminism and mental health.

"I can't just sit there and paint pretty things, which is great if people can. But I don't get ... enjoyment from just like painting a landscape scene, which I've done before, but it just doesn't resonate," Wilson said.

In one series, she correlated emotions with specific colors to release her

pent-up feelings. Family members and friends volunteered to sit for portraits, and Wilson painted their faces with matching backgrounds.

"I wanted to showcase what emotions ... would look like if they were represented outwardly compared to like our facial expressions, which are easy to tell," she said. "But I wanted to show what it would look like if it had a color, I guess. And that's what it felt like for me."

Wilson eventually expanded the series into an immersive show with various textures and artistic styles, which she always enjoys combining in new ways.

"It feels like you would just be stagnant if you're not constantly moving forward, which I would assume would be keeping my mind open, at least for me personally. So I definitely think that's a very crucial part of my artwork and how I grow," Wilson said.

Inspiration

Movies, music and even cosplay provide inspiration and motivation to branch out.

"If I feel more whimsical or romantic, *Pride and Prejudice* is always going to be on. ... And *Mamma Mia* also is a great one, the original one, because it's superior. The colors in that film are just gorgeous and raw and natural, and I absolutely love it," she said.

Wilson also makes musical playlists to direct her thinking and spike her creativity. She often listens to Taylor Swift, A Fine Frenzy and Fleurie, depending on her mood.

"I like a few of (Fleurie's) songs because they're very whimsical," Wilson said. "That's the best way I can describe it, where it just feels like you're flowing. So that makes me feel like I want to flow with my art."

Making cosplay outfits — real-life replicas of clothes and make-up of TV, movie and comic book characters — has become another passion. Wilson used much of the pandemic to reassess her artistic desires. For one of her main projects, she handmade a head-to-toe Wonder Woman costume.

"I learned so much doing that," she said. "And then being able to create more art and just doing whatever I felt like instead of doing things because I was commissioned to do it, which is great. I love that. But that was really a good break time for me to be like, 'I'm going to do what I want to do right now.'"

Wilson encourages everyone to support their local artists, especially throughout the pandemic when many art studios floundered, and freelance workers struggled.

"I feel like art tends to stick around and changes a lot of our world," she said. "And art is everywhere you look."

Find Laurel Wilson online at laurelmaisie.art and on Instagram [@laurelmaisie.art](https://www.instagram.com/laurelmaisie.art). ♡

Summer language update

By Justin Neely,
CPN Language Director

It's been a very busy summer in the language department. We have started doing live beginner classes in the Potawatomi Language Facebook group Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays around 9 a.m. CST. We have also been doing weekly intermediate classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Staff are working on a series of children's books we hope to have available at the beginning of 2022.

If you haven't checked out the online dictionary recently, please do. We are constantly adding content, including audio files, videos, cultural information and example sentences. This is an ongoing project, but folks really seem to be enjoying it. By the time this newspaper arrives in August, we will be a couple of classes into our beginner on-site class. We are pleased to be able to once again offer in-person classes at the Cultural Heritage Center. The weekly class is on Wednesday from 6 to 7 p.m. We will be live streaming the classes. If you are just getting this, you should be able to jump on with us still.

Email me at jneely@potawatomi.org if you are interested.

Our men's drum group has been drumming on Thursday afternoons at 3 p.m., so if this is something you are interested in, come join us at the CHC. Also make sure to check out our two YouTube channels at [cpn.news/langyt](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpNnews/langyt) and [cpn.news/childreneyt](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpNnews/childreneyt). One is more geared toward youth and the other for adults. We are constantly making and uploading new video content.

We just finished up a couple of different public domain cartoons and providing two versions: one with Potawatomi subtitles and one with English subtitles. The most recent one we finished was a *Superman vs. Artic Giant* from the 1940s. We also have done two *Popeye the Sailor* cartoons, a *Woody the Woodpecker*, *Robin Hood*, *Guilliver's Travels* as well as many others. If you search "Justin Neely" and "Potawatomi language" you should find the two channels.

Bodéwadmimwen kenomagewen

Wégni je I? - What is that?

Dopwen yawen. - It's a table.

Dopwen yawnon. - Those are tables.

Table zhenkade. - It's called a table.

Wé ni je o? - Who is that?

Wé ni je o kwe? - Who is that woman?

Wé ni je o nene? - Who is that man?

Wé ni je o gigyago? - Who is that girl?

Wé ni je o gigabe? - Who is that boy?

Ni je ezhnekasot? - What is his/her name?

Cindy zhenkazo. - Her name is Cindy.

Ni jetso pongesyen? - How old are you? (Literally how many snows old are you)

Nishwabtek shech nish nponges. - I am 22 years old.

Ni jetso pongezet o penojes? - How old is that baby?

Nyew gisesgeze. - Four months old.

Mteno nyanen gongeze. - Only five days old.

Ngot: 1

Nish: 2

Nswé: 3

Neyew: 4

Nyanen: 5

Ngot watso: 6

Noék: 7

Shwatso: 8

Shak: 9

Mdatso: 10

Mdatso shech ngot: 11

Mdatso shech nish: 12

Mdatso shech nyanen: 15

Nishwabtek: 20

Nswabtek: 30

Nyewwabtek: 40

Nyanomtene: 50

Ngotwatsomtene: 60

Shaksomtene shech ngot: 71

Ngot wak: 100 ♡



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION ARPA INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Legislature approved a \$1,400 direct payment to all Tribal members who were enrolled prior to Feb. 1, 2021.

BENEFIT

\$1,400 per enrolled tribal member

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Must have completed enrollment by Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Rolls by U.S. Treasury deadline of 2/1/2021 to be eligible for assistance.

Applicant Name _____ Applicant Tribal ID Number _____

Name of Person Completing Application _____ Relationship to Applicant _____

**If applying on behalf of a minor child younger than 18 years old.*

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

CERTIFICATION

I certify that I am a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and have been negatively economically impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. I certify that the above information is true and correct. I understand that providing incorrect information could subject me to recoupment of funds and other lawful penalties.

Signature _____ Date _____

If you are applying on behalf of CPN tribal member who is younger than 18 years old:

I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the above applicant who is a minor child. I certify that I am authorized by law to apply on the minor child's behalf. I certify that the applicant child is a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and has been negatively economically impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. I certify that the above information is true and correct. I understand that providing incorrect information could subject me to recoupment of funds and other lawful penalties.

Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION AND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO
 Attention: COVID-19 Relief Team
 Citizen Potawatomi Nation, 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801
For more information, please call 1-833-481-0638

Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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All correspondence should be directed to *Hownikan*,
 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

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

Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,
 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Bourbonnais family history

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives. To highlight some of these holdings, the *Hownikan* is featuring photographs and family history of every founding Citizen Potawatomi family. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830.

Potawatomi connections

The Bourbonnais and Potawatomi link begins with Catherine — Catish — Chevalier, a French-Potawatomi woman, and French-Canadian Francis Bourbonnais Sr.

The Bourbonnais family lived near La Pointe, Illinois, where they established a successful fur trade business in a settlement called Bourbonnais Grove on the upper Bourbonnais Creek.

Francis Sr. worked as a fur trader with famous, successful businessman John Kinzie and the American Fur Company. Francis Sr. married Catish in 1814, and they had five children together: Washington, Peter, Antoine, Rozette (Ozette) and Catherine.

Westward expansion during this time brought many newcomers into the region, and land tensions between Native Americans and settlers increased. Due to this, in 1836, Bourbonnais family members joined other Potawatomi removing west to the Platte Country in present-day Missouri, as outlined in the 1833 Treaty of Chicago. They were then relocated to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where church records note many of the family members.

Through the Treaty of 1846, all Potawatomi removed west moved to a new reservation in northeast Kansas. However, negative federal policy, development and continued settlement from outsiders made success more difficult for the Potawatomi people.

The federal government approached the Tribe in 1861 about the opportunity to take allotments and potentially become U.S. citizens. Some saw this as a way to ensure the lands remained Potawatomi without outside encroachment, including members of the Bourbonnais family. However, federal government failed to meet its obligations, like allowing the two-year grace period on taxes and providing resources outlined in the treaty. As a result, many lost their allotments from a failure to pay taxes and lack of farm production. Due to a clause in the treaty, the Citizen Potawatomi signed a new treaty in 1867 that allowed them to sell property in Kansas to purchase a reservation in present-day Oklahoma.

Indian Territory

Antoine and Mary Ann (Anderson) Bourbonnais were among the first Potawatomi to move to the new reservation in 1872, settling along the South Canadian River.

According to their daughter Ozetta Bourbonnais Jenks, Mary wrote in her diary, "April 1872, we four families numbering 28 loaded our processions and families in wagons and removed from Kansas to Indian Territory. ... My immediate family consists of Husband and 4 small boys and Baby girl and myself. The seven of us had two covered wagons."



As one of the oldest buildings in Pottawatomie County, the Bourbonnais Cabin still stands, providing a physical connection to the Tribe's past.

Due to suspected paralysis, Antoine used crutches, which he made himself. That did not stop him from overseeing the family's wagon and directing the animals in his stead on the journey to the new reservation.

"He can harness the teams — he makes all the axe, shovel and spruce handles with which we work the roads," Mary wrote.

"We have to work our way each day — high water detaining us too. Almost every day we have broken wagons."

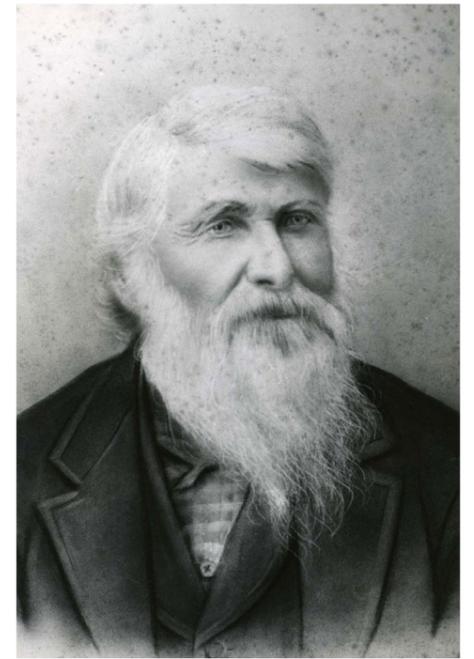
They, along with numerous other Potawatomi families, established the community of Pleasant Prairie, 5 miles west of present-day Asher.

Mary's diary continued, "June 1872 — We have settled a little neighborhood near the South Canadian River. When we came ... we found a small herd of Shawnee Indians living here. The Society of Friends had established a small mission school among them. They became known as the Absentee Shawnee, having drifted away from their tribe. They were somewhat hostile towards the

Pottawatomes causing the Pottawatomie to settle in the south part of the county."

As a cattle rancher, the quicksand nearby became problematic for his stock, and Antoine and family had to leave Pleasant Prairie and relocate farther north.

He helped build the Shawnee Mission, a Quaker church located south of the present-day location of the Cultural Heritage Center, reportedly supplying lumber, windows and the church's bell, which still remains today. Antoine and Mary moved into a cabin outside of Shawneetown — present-day Shawnee — built by Louis Tyner in 1881, referred to today as the Bourbonnais



Antoine Bourbonnais

when approached to become a Sunday school superintendent, she did not feel fit for the challenge.

"Those present insisted on it, I don't know why unless they knew when I undertook anything, good or bad, I carried it through," she wrote.

Mary went on to serve as the Sunday school superintendent until 1900.

According to a *Shawnee News-Star* article published in July 1992, Mary and

Antoine had six children: Benjamin H, who passed away while young, Aaron F, John A. "Jingo", Anthony "Tono", Ozetta and Aurelia.

Aaron F. had five children with his wife Calista (Crabber) Bourbonnais: Arthur Levi, Isabelle, Mary Ozetta, Lola and Aurelia.

Aurelia married Napoleon Hudson but sadly passed away during childbirth at age 20. Ozetta wed William Frederick Jenks, and they had one son, Carl Frederick. Anthony "Tono" married Catherine Peltier and had four children: Jethro, Edna, Lorene and Carrol. John A. and his wife Leona had no children.

The Bourbonnais family established roots across Oklahoma, Texas, California and beyond, with numerous descendants upholding the family tradition of service to community and the Tribe as active members and volunteers.

If interested in helping preserve Citizen Potawatomi history and culture by providing copies of family photographs, documents and more, contact the Cultural Heritage Center at 405-878-5830. ♡



FALL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

Opens July 15 at 8 a.m. CT

SEPT 15 AT 5 PM CT

Apply at portal.potawatomi.org

Former police officer, world traveler serves District 11

Bourbonnais family descendant Andrew Walters took office as Citizen Potawatomi Nation's District 11 legislator in February 2021. Since then, he has attended all legislative meetings and voted on funding resolutions and citizenship applications. Walters also submits columns to the *Hownikan* each month, which often tell life stories of his career and travels.

Family

Walters' father served in the Army, and the family moved many times throughout his youth. While he was born in Texas, he spent three years in Japan as an infant.

During a recent *Hownikan* interview, Walters described his mother as "the epitome of Potawatomi."

"She taught us customs and ways but in a very subtle way. ... It wasn't divided up between this way and that way. It was just our way. That's how our family was. So I've always been able to keep those memories and keep those lessons and photographs and talking to other family members," he said.

Walters' great-great-grandmother Mary Anderson Bourbonnais helped establish the Tribe in what is today known as Oklahoma. The Bourbonnais were one of the first four Potawatomi families who moved from Kansas to Indian Territory in 1872. Mary and husband Antoine later bought the Bourbonnais Cabin. It still stands near the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center, and Walters enjoys the front porch as a place of respite.

He makes it a point to vote in CPN elections and attend Tribal events, including Family Reunion Festival, whenever possible.

Walters' wife, Cora, has felt a connection with Potawatomi culture throughout their relationship. CPN District Judge Phillip Lujan married them on Tribal land 15 years ago. Walters tries to keep his nine children and 14 grandchildren interested and engaged in Tribal customs as well, despite living across the country from each other.

After he and his wife retired, they decided to move to Shawnee, Oklahoma, to live closer to the Nation.

"I wanted to do something (for the Tribe) that I felt I had experience in and something that I could contribute for," he said. "And being a legislator is what we moved up here for. And so when I got to do it, I jumped on it with both feet."

Career

Walters began his 47-year career in law enforcement as a dispatcher and spent most of his time with the City of Oak Ridge North Police Department in Texas. Since 1988, he held the titles of officer, investigator and lieutenant. He retired in 2019 with two decades as the chief of police.

"One of the things I would always tell my officers was that you treat people — doesn't matter who they are, complete strangers — like they're your own brother and sister until



District 11 Legislator Andrew Walters enjoy exploring every corner of the earth, from hiking in Red Rock Canyon in Utah to sailing in the Virgin Islands. (Photo provided)

they prove that they don't deserve that degree of respect," Walters said.

He describes himself as thick-skinned and tenacious, with the ability to understand multiple sides of a situation. He organized emergency management during historic hurricanes and investigated a full range of crimes, from petty theft to homicides and cases of corruption by city officials throughout his career. However, Walters sees his time in law enforcement as thousands of individual instances he made an effort to help those around him.

"I believe in the mission of law enforcement, and I believe in doing the right thing. And I think that's something I'm bringing to the legislature with me. I'm always going to do the right, legal and ethical thing," he said.

Walters studied psychology at the University of Texas at El Paso and philosophy at the University of Houston. He attended the Federal Law Enforcement Academy in Glynco, Georgia, the FBI Command College, Sam Houston State University Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas and the police academy at Texas A&M University.

"I think the management end of it, the last 20 years of my career, probably did more to prepare me for (being a legislator) than anything else did. Not saying the other duties didn't because it humbles you to be a police officer at times," Walters said.

Passions

The Bahamas, Scotland, Mexico, the Caribbean, London, Ecuador, Peru and Spain are only a few places Walter and his wife have lived and vacationed. Their love for traveling falls alongside their desire to learn about other cultures and appreciation for Mother Earth. They pack up their camper and move throughout the country a couple of times a month, and Walters lists Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Montana among his favorite places in the U.S.

"Every place has its beauty," he said. "You just have to be open-minded enough to really see it and to appreciate it. I always think that's why God made more than one flavor of ice cream. You may have a favorite, but you taste the other ones just to make sure that one's still your favorite."

The beach, mountains and desert all hold their appeal, but for Walters, the fewer the people, the better.

"Just in the last 12 months we've been from the farthest northwest you could go in the United States to the farthest southeast you could go. We've just crisscrossed the U.S.," he said.

The two also sail, mostly navigating through the Florida Keys, and the British and American Virgin Islands. Walters took lessons in Houston more than two decades ago and earned his certification.

"There is something deeply spiritual about a sailboat. When you get the sails up and you turn across the wind, the sail pops over, and you feel that little lurch, it's like you've given it birth. Like, it's a living entity. It shakes, it shivers, if you listen, it even speaks to you. My favorite quote is, 'A ship in harbor is safe, but that's not what ships were made for,'" Walters said.

He often brings his guitar with him on their travels, and playing music remains one of his favorite means of self-expression. His instrument collection includes guitars, a banjo, keyboards, an accordion, flutes, an autoharp and more. Walters enjoys Celtic music in particular and even took bagpipe lessons.

"It's just a good release. I think everybody should try to sing or play an instrument or do something to kind of bring that inner self out," he said.

Since Walters assumed office in February, his position as a CPN legislator now sits at the top of his list of passions.

"To me, a person's worth is shown from their heart and not from their head. ... It's in your actions. So that, as a legislator, is what I hope people will hear my words and what I say about myself. And that they see my actions and know that my heart's in trying to help the Tribe and trying to help them," Walters said.

He encourages Tribal members to contact him with ideas and comments and participate as much as possible.

"It's what's inside your heart that makes you Native American. And it doesn't have to be some overt celebratory act with a big sign over your head that says, 'I'm Native American.' It has to be how you act, what's in your heart. What do you care about?"

Email District 11 Legislator Andrew Walters at andrew.walters@potawatomi.org. Read more about him at cpn.news/walters. ♡



Ragan Marsee's Vegetable Fritters

Ingredients

1 yellow onion
2 large eggs
1/2 cup water
1.5 tbsp. soy sauce
1 tbsp. sesame oil
3/4 cup flour
4/5 cups shredded cabbage
1 small carrot
4 green onions
2 tbsp. olive oil
2 cloves of garlic
Sriracha sauce
Mayonnaise

Directions

Thinly slice the yellow onion, cabbage, carrot, two green onions and garlic. The cheese grater can help with this process.

Put to the side. In the second bowl, mix together the eggs, water, soy sauce, sesame oil and flour.

While preparing the batter, heat the olive oil in a skillet on medium heat.

Ragan's quick tip: you can tell the temperature is correct if you hear the batter sizzle when it hits the pan.

Mix your vegetables and batter until well combined. Pour small amounts of the batter into the pan to make thin pancakes and cook on both sides until golden brown.

While the fritters are cooking, chop the two leftover green onions. Mix the Sriracha sauce and mayonnaise together for a sauce to drizzle at the end. Depending on personal heat preferences, use as much or as little Sriracha sauce to mayonnaise ratio to create a delicious kick.

Once finished cooking, top with a drizzle of the Sriracha mayo and green onions as garnish.

Tools Required

Frying pan
Large mixing bowl
Small mixing bowl
Spatula
Cheese grater
Rubber spatula
Plate
Fork



Potawatomi Leadership Program Class of 2021

The 2021 Potawatomi Leadership Program participants spent the summer learning about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation virtually due to the pandemic. The 2021 class consisted of 23 members, and the *Hownikan* asked every participant some introductory questions. Meet 12 of them now:



Alden Davison | Hometown: Puyallup, Washington

Alden Davison is a junior at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, studying computer science. He founded a computer programming club at ASU and served as a teaching assistant. He enjoys swimming, singing and learning languages. He knows German and is a pinball master.

Davison believes leadership comes from confident decision making and that “few structures exist where one can lead by passively dedicating the amount of effort requested.”

The Kennedy/Weld/Ogee descendant applied for the PLP to learn more about the Tribe’s culture and government as well as meet other CPN members. Making moccasins was one of his favorite activities as well as learning about Native agriculture’s cultural connection to the land.



Alexis Ladner | Hometown: Shawnee, Kansas

Alexis “Lexie” Ladner attends Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. She hopes to become a radiology technician after completing her degree. The Bourbonnais family descendant’s genealogy traces back to Antoine Bourbonnais, namesake of the Bourbonnais Cabin that still stands next to CPN’s Cultural Heritage Center. Ladner enjoys the outdoors, including horseback riding, hunting and skeet shooting.

She believes responsibility and dependability define leadership. “I think a leader puts people first and are empathetic and they try to connect with people,” she said. “They have to be open minded and creative along with being flexible.”

Ladner learned about her ancestors and their history, culture, diet and more while being a part of the PLP. She hopes to pass the knowledge along to the next generations.



Anna Stites | Hometown: Newbern, Tennessee

Greemore family descendant Anna Stites applied to the PLP in an effort to learn more about her Tribe. She begins her junior year at Murray State University in Kentucky in fall 2021, studying chemistry with hopes to attend medical school after her bachelor’s and become a physician.

“As a female physician starting out at a young age, it may be more difficult to gain trust within communities,” Stites said. “I plan to overcome this barrier by being hardworking and trustworthy. Once trust is gained, many of my barriers will be overcome.”

She also finds loyalty an admirable leadership quality and describes herself as caring and compassionate. Stites enjoys reading, swimming and snowboarding.



Autumn Johnson | Hometown: Quitman, Arkansas

Autumn Johnson recently discovered her matriarchal line of Potawatomi ancestry and enrolled as a Tribal member. As a part of the PLP, she looked forward to learning more about CPN and passing on the history and culture to others. She hoped to learn about traditional foods, in particular. Johnson returns to the University of Central Arkansas in Conway this fall as a junior studying nursing.

Johnson began playing sports at 3 years old. She participated in softball throughout high school and learned how to lead the team.

“I never missed a practice, hoping to lead as an example for the younger girls on my team. ... I constantly worked hard to prove to the others on the team that hard work would get us back in the finals,” Johnson said.

She believes a good leader knows how to communicate.



Bailey Pendley | Hometown: Pryor, Oklahoma

Bailey Pendley felt compelled to apply for the PLP after discussing family lineage with a friend and realizing she needed more knowledge. She keeps a busy schedule as a student at the University of Oklahoma in Norman and returns this fall as a senior studying microbiology. Pendley hopes to continue and finish medical school to serve rural and tribal communities.

The LeClaire family descendant attempts to set herself aside as a leader at her part-time jobs, in class and at home.

“Work ethic, communication and perseverance are all qualities that come to mind when I think about a leader,” she said.

Pendley enjoys exercising, gardening, reading, traveling and cooking.



Braden Bruehl | Hometown: Norman, Oklahoma

Braden Bruehl hoped to learn more about his Potawatomi heritage and culture throughout the PLP as well as develop his leadership skills. Throughout his experience as a youth leader at his church, he “learned that being a leader is not at all about the personal gain or pride, but the giving back to the community so that you can continue to make a difference in the lives of others,” Bruehl said.

He admires Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett for his accomplishments as CPN’s leader and hopes to give back to the Tribe after completing medical school. The Pambogo family descendant began his freshman year this month at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, studying chemistry as a pre-med student. He enjoys traveling, hiking and playing soccer in his free time.



Brenna Kishkikwé (Cedar Woman) Kelly | Hometown: Missouri City, Texas

Brenna Kelly followed her sister’s footsteps and applied for the PLP after hearing about her experience and the different connections it created. Kelly looked forward to learning about traditions, language and business the most. As a sophomore at the University of Dallas in Texas, she studies business and marketing.

The Melott and Bergeron family descendant has played softball as a catcher and carries leadership lessons from the field into her everyday life.

“Being a leader is active, not passive, and it requires you to work just as hard as those around you,” she said.

Kelly hopes to participate in future activities with the Tribe and bring the fierceness and bravery of her aunt and grandmother who have walked on.



Caelin Fillingim | Hometown: Port Orchard, Washington

Caelin Fillingim started learning about CPN at 18 years old and saw the PLP as an opportunity to expand her knowledge and get involved. The Copough family descendant looked forward to beading classes and learning more about traditional ecological knowledge. As a visual communication design major at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Fillingim enjoys Potawatomi floral patterns in particular.

She believes leadership includes a balance of service and self-care.

“It is important that a leader views themselves as a servant to the people who placed them in leadership, rather than getting caught up in their own agenda,” Fillingim said.

She hopes to pass along all she learns to her future children while continuing to serve the Tribe.



CeAirra Bowman | Hometown: Safford, Arizona

As a biology and behavioral health major at Arizona Christian University in Phoenix, CeAirra Bowman plans to become as a physician's assistant or physician. She begins her senior year of college as a Certified Nursing Assistant and phlebotomist with her CPR certification. The Milot family descendant works at a local nursing home.

Bowman considers herself a leader at work and on ACU's volleyball team.

"Being a leader means being an inspirational character in the community you live in, someone who possesses the qualities to bring out the best in others, and loves God and others above all," she said.

Bowman fills her free time with traveling, hiking and caring for animals on her family's farm.



Daniel Adams | Hometown: Port Washington, Ohio

Daniel Adams decided to apply for the PLP to connect with Tribal culture and learn CPN history but also to use the information he learns later in his career. As an integrated social studies major at Malone University in Canton, Ohio, he plans to become a history teacher or professor. Adams wants to highlight Native history in a new way for future students.

The Toupin family descendant uses his leadership skills as a resident advisor at Malone, including adaptability and level-headedness.

"We have all failed before, but what makes us grow from that failure is one being able to hold themselves accountable for their mistake or failure," Adams said.

When not completing classwork or managing the dorms, he enjoys restoring tractors, bowling and bonfires.



Eli McKown | Hometown: Clayton, Michigan

Eli McKown attends Michigan State University in East Lansing. He enjoys writing and sports, which makes sports journalism his ideal major. He begins his junior year this fall and will continue covering university athletics for *The State News*, MSU's student newspaper. McKown ran cross-country in high school and enjoys playing basketball. He grew up on a farm in Clayton, Michigan, raising cattle and planting crops.

He describes himself as consistent, yet versatile, and believes leaders should be selfless in their work.

"They have to be able to understand when a moment is bigger than them and make the right decisions or do the thing that others won't to help move forward," McKown said.

He applied for the PLP to better connect with his heritage and learn about Potawatomi cuisine.



Grace Laughton | Hometown: Mission, Kansas

Grace Laughton describes herself as friendly, talkative and outgoing. As a theatre and film major at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas, she enjoys collaborating with and directing crews for stage productions.

"A good leader should have integrity, be able to communicate with their team effectively, bring people together in times of hardship, motivate others, and, most importantly, inspire greatness and transformation among the people they lead," Laughton said.

She applied for the PLP to learn more about Potawatomi culture and her heritage. Her favorite activities included beading classes and making moccasins, and Laughton hopes to pass the skills along to other Tribal members.

Read the next edition of the *Hownikan* to meet the rest of this year's Potawatomi Leadership Program class. Check out their final projects and portfolios at cpn.news/2021portfolio. Find out more about the program at plp.potawatomi.org and visit the CPN Department of Education at cpn.news/education. ♡

Virtual Family Reunion Festival 2021 Art Contest results

Professional

- 1st Place, Peggy Kinder
- 2nd Place, Charles Clark
- 3rd Place Tie, Ron Striegel and Sharon Catlege

As voted on via survey by CPN tribal members.

Adult Amateur – Painting and Drawing

- 1st Place, Mariah Seedorf, *Enlightenment*
- 2nd Place, Spencer Wright, *Wiske, Nanabozho, and the Pais in watercolor*
- 3rd Place, Jacob Buckmaster, *Wolf Drawing Submission*

Adult Amateur – Other

- 1st Place, Emily Korzeniewski, *Striped Flying Geese Quilt*
- 2nd Place, Cathy Stephens, *Shells*
- 3rd Place, Kim Pratt, *The Circle of Life*

Youth 5 & Under

- 1st Place, Audrey Webb
- 2nd Place, MaKennah Marie Paige Peavey, *Under the Sea*
- 3rd Place, Audrey Webb, *Flower Pond*

Youth 6 to 9

- 1st, MaRaeyah Cleveland, *Sun String Art*
- 2nd, Tyson Moore, *Bear Paw String Art*
- 3rd, Kennedy Webb, *Lovely*

Youth 10 to 12

- 1st, Brent Korzeniewski, *Model Potawatomi Village*
- 2nd, Zaidyn Cleveland, *My Bison Picture*
- 3rd, Brent Korzeniewski, *Self Portrait in the Year 2020*

Youth 13 to 15

- 1st, Tyler Smith, *Medallion Art*
- 2nd, Walker T. Buckmaster, *Moonlight Cactus*
- 3rd, Ryne Buckmaster, *Teepee*

View the submissions and winners at cpn.news/festart.

Get in on the “action”

Dubbed by many as “golf with a shotgun,” the offerings at Quail Ridge Sporting Clays provide a fun way to pass time with its tree-lined trails and meadows and indoor and outdoor event space. The state-of-the-art facility, nestled off of McLoud Road north of the FireLake Express McLoud, boasts 36 clay pigeon shooting stations and a Wobble Trap. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s collaboration with Quail Ridge Sporting Clay highlights the Tribe’s dedication to economic growth across its jurisdiction.

“In my eyes, we work together really well,” Quail Ridge Shooting Sports owner Brian Hughes said of his partnership with CPN. Quail Ridge sits on Tribally-owned land near Interstate 40. The prime location provides easy access for travelers, and its vast offerings make it one of the most sought-after facilities of its kind in Oklahoma.

“It’s like a shooter’s paradise,” Hughes said. “You load your gun, call pull and here it comes. You can shoot all you want. There’s all the fun without the labor.”

Amenities

Clay shooting evolved from using live pigeons to manmade, bright orange targets that a machine discharges into the air to simulate bird hunting. Participants aim to break the targets with shotguns, and Quail Ridge updates its courses up to several times per month to keep patrons engaged.

“Just like golf has a different background and different difficulty level, our machines are on trailer, and we move them around frequently,” Hughes said.

The Wobble Trap mimics quail hunting and is great for warmups and beginners. The facility’s north and south courses feature numerous stations along the two trails that mirror bird hunting in the field and require varying degrees of skill to master.



Brian Hughes strives to create a safe, fun atmosphere for shooting sports enthusiasts.

While patrons can walk, golf cart rentals deliver a fun, fast way to travel from station to station.

The facility welcomes group events of all sizes. Whether a fundraiser, corporate get-together, bachelor party or more, Quail Ridge provides customization for the best experience. An indoor meeting space and outdoor entertainment area can accommodate a variety of needs, and staff are ready to help coordinate catering and other event-planning aspects.

Safety

“All you see is a bunch of violence and stuff anymore. It’s part of our job to show you that violence is not related to the guns, it’s related to the holder,” Hughes said.

For those not familiar or comfortable with shooting sports, one-on-one training from professionals, including former Olympians, is available. Instructors can also help seasoned individuals hone their craft.

“We do classes that are a little more personal, a little smaller and more individual, one-to-one,” he said. “We also do clinics for any of the teams that are interested.”

To help keep all patrons safe, Quail Ridge instructs customers to treat every gun as if it is always loaded and requires all participants to keep their actions open when not actively shooting to prevent misuse.

“The firearm is rendered unusable and can’t fire with the action open,” Hughes said.

Quail Ridge also has other requirements and restrictions. Find a full list of safety steps at cpn.news/rules.

Hughes encourages families, corporations, church groups, nonprofits and more to checkout all his business has to offer.

“Most of our customers end up being friends when it’s all said and done,” he said. “When they come out, they’re out here to have a good time and shoot.”

Patrons must have a gun, ammo, safety glasses and ear protection. Staff also recommend bringing a range bag, shell bags and shot guns sleeves. For pricing and more information, visit quailridgeclays.com. Schedule an event by calling 405-964-5550. ♠

Cornerstone Specialty Hospitals Shawnee names Whitehead family descendant Employee of the Year

With nearly four decades of experience as a registered nurse, Mary Elizabeth Zientek dedicates herself to caring for sick and injured patients. Her bedside manner, optimism and appreciation for a challenge show her passion. Zientek’s employer, Cornerstone Specialty Hospitals Shawnee, recognized those characteristics by naming her the 2020 Employee of the Year.

In a press release, CEO Kris Karns said, “Mary’s love and compassion for patients and their families remind us all why we make a difference. She’s always there to share a kind word, lend a helping hand, or share knowledge with patients, families, and our team.”

Position and duties

Zientek joined Cornerstone in 2014 as an RN and now serves as a house supervisor. After working most of her career in acute care and oncology, she enjoys working with long-term care patients and appreciates the opportunity to build strong connections with them and their families.

“The reason I think I like the acute care so much is it really challenges my brain. I have to make a lot of decisions during my shift that affects patient care, and I’ve been very well prepared to do that,” Zientek said.

The long list of duties assigned to the house supervisor includes providing care as well as leadership and taking accountability for the staff. She also ensures everyone adheres to schedules and medication distribution, while providing access to resources and handling unforeseen problems during each shift.

“I problem solve, help the other nurses problem solve. ... If they have a question about whether they should do this or do that — if there’s any immediate needs, I help them get the tools that they need to take care of the patient, whether that’s equipment, certain medications, whatever it is,” Zientek said.

Excellence and optimism

Amanda Kidd, chief nursing officer at Cornerstone, described Zientek as “the



Registered nurse Mary Zientek uses 30 years of health care experience while leading the staff at a Shawnee, Oklahoma, hospital.

epitome of excellence.” Zientek holds herself to a high standard, and while her work can be taxing in many ways, she finds peace in her family and faith.

“From my Native American culture, I am very grounded in the earth with an understanding of the natural flow of life, and that helps me to support a lot of those that are near the end of life. I really deeply believe in from the earth to the earth,” she said.

Zientek chose a career in health care because she wanted to make a difference. She worked as a hospital clerk in her early 20s, and after watching the nurses, decided to become an RN. More than 30 years later, her original intentions remain intact.

“The absolute bottom line in keeping me an optimist is that I know I make a difference,” Zientek said. “Every day that I am there, I make a difference. I affect someone positively and impact their lives in some way every day.”

Continued on next page

Chickasaw couple begins family by fostering with FireLodge Children & Family Services

Before they even started dating, Reide and Robert Johnson each knew they wanted to become foster parents. When they met as students at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, they found their shared desire stemmed from their tribal heritage. As citizens of the Chickasaw Nation, they felt the need to serve Native children and became an approved foster home with Citizen Potawatomi Nation's FireLodge Children & Family Service in September 2020.

"If our home could be that safe haven for anybody, particularly children, we wanted to provide that," Reide said. "It's just something that was, I think, individually put on our hearts. We're a Christian household, so ultimately, by God, and let into it prior to meeting each other. And then it kind of just grew as we grew in our relationship."

FireLodge accepts foster home applications from households of any tribe. Robert's position as an employee for the Chickasaw Nation Indian Child Welfare department prevents him from fostering through their tribe. FireLodge and CPN became the next logical choice, given the staff's reputation for unending support and knowledge. The Johnsons discovered the little things matter, like getting care packages and Christmas toys for the kids from FireLodge.

"I know not all tribes do stuff like that, and certainly (the Department of Human Services) doesn't always do stuff like that either. So it's nice having that extra support with stuff like that," Robert said.

"The structure that they have is really nice. And just the communication's always there. So those are some big things, I think, when telling people,



Reide and Robert Johnson enjoy the support and new experiences of fostering through FireLodge Children & Family Services. (Photo provided)

"Hey, you should foster," those are big key points for me is the support and communication," Reide said.

Starting a family

Despite the pandemic, the timing to begin their journey as foster parents felt right. The couple recently purchased a house, and Reide finished medical school to become an audiologist in May.

"We just knew that we were really ready to start our family, and ultimately, we didn't really care how that meant to start a family and that we both have the desire to foster. So we decided to start it that way," she said.

Since September, FireLodge has placed three children with them. While their

experience has not been perfect, Robert describes it as "really positive" and said that jumping into parenthood has been exciting, especially as a young couple.

"Absolutely, it's got its challenges, but it's just cool," he said. "We've seen the kids that we have now grow so much. And I know you see that with biological children, but it's a different type of growth, for sure. And ... then even just a short amount of time, you see them coming out of their shell."

The children they have cared for range in age from 11 months to 7 years. Their ages require different skill sets, from changing diapers to helping with homework.

"I didn't know how to even get a kid enrolled in school, and so that's been fun getting through that process and just learning and then working with this teacher," Robert said. "So, yeah, just different needs, but it's definitely been fun. I've really enjoyed having the older kids in the home."

They primarily focus on creating a safe and nurturing environment, and the children's growth inspires them.

"You get this child who is timid and scared, and things are fearful a lot of the times, or at least in our case. And then you find this kid who wasn't speaking kindly to even himself, who then says, 'I'm smart. I'm happy,'" Reide said.

Robert described family time as "a blast" and said they spend much more time at the park and off the couch. The two have experienced personal growth as well while caring for the children.

"People are oftentimes scared to become attached, but that's a part

of it, and that's honestly one of the best parts of it," Reide said. "It's also the hardest part of it. But it just means that you're doing what you're supposed to be doing ... in my mind."

Continuing a tradition

Both Robert and Reide grew up with different levels of connection with their Indigenous heritage; however, the circumstances pushed them to the same conclusion. They wanted to foster Native children and help keep their tribe's customs and traditions alive.

Reide grew up in eastern Oklahoma in what she calls a "very Native-focused area," where she interacted with many different tribes.

"For me, it was much of a 'These are my people, no matter whether my tribe or not.' We obviously can't foster through our tribe. To me, it was just very important to take tribal and continue to raise that tribal culture up," she said.

Robert grew up in Houston and moved to Oklahoma as a teenager. He knew little about Chickasaw culture. After fostering with FireLodge, he learned that Citizen Potawatomi live throughout the United States, and it encouraged him to help his foster children learn.

"They're Native, and that's special, and they need to know what that looks like," Robert said. "So just crossing those different tribes, for me, it wasn't a big deal."

Find out more about fostering with FireLodge Children & Family Services at cpn.news/firelodge or on Facebook @CPNFireLodge. ♡

Zientek continued...

Cornerstone awarded her the title in part for her optimism; however, Zientek believes her co-workers achieve the same level of care with their patients. Winning Employee of the Year surprised her.

"I work with so many people that are very good at what they do," she said. "They're outstanding individuals that are involved within their community and taking care of the patients day in, day out, that I was actually surprised. And there's just so many people that are, I think, as deserving or more deserving than me. So, I'm humbled."

Family and community

Zientek's compassion and propensity for service started as a child growing up on a farm. She and her family cared for their animals and each other, and she believes her career is an extension of those experiences. Toward the end of her life, Zientek's great-grandmother revealed she took nursing classes while attending school in Shawnee Mission, Kansas, in the late 1800s.

"She never told me that. She would tell me about getting on a train and going across the prairie, traveling from Oklahoma to Kansas, and about all of her trips in the wagons and so forth, but she never told me

about her nursing. But I can't even begin to imagine what nursing in the 1800s was like," Zientek said.

"I felt proud of her because that was a huge step, and women in nursing were not respected then, at all."

Zientek took her own big step in 2020, caring for patients on ventilators during a global pandemic, and was named Employee of the Year for her tenacity. She worked through one of the most challenging years in American history for health care professionals, but Zientek believes it comes with the territory.

"If we have to throw on a gown, mask, gloves and all the gear to do it, we put on our battle uniform," she said. "We go in there, and we fight that battle. We come out, we dust ourselves off, we wash our hands, put a smile on our face, and we go to the next room. And that's what you have to do. But at the end of the day, you know you have made a difference, and you can take that home with you."

Zientek's diligence inspires those around her and makes her team better.

"You want to do your best every day. And if you do that, you can't fail," she said.

Find out more about Cornerstone Healthcare Group at chghospitals.com. ♡

First National Bank & Trust Co. welcomes Shawn Childress as internal auditor

By Payton Moody

Shawn Childress has recently joined the First National Bank & Trust Co. as an internal auditor. Graduating from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, with a degree in accounting, Childress has years of experience in banking. He has worked in public accounting in Norman for a small certified public accountant firm doing tax and audit and an internal auditor of a small to mid-sized privately-owned bank as well as internal audit manager and assistant vice-president of internal audit of a publicly traded mid-size bank.

Childress' level of experience and knowledge regarding the functions of banking and accounting makes him well-suited for his role as an internal auditor, which he accepted in May 2021.

"I've always enjoyed numbers and working on complex issues with suggestions for improvements," Childress said. "As an internal auditor, I get the opportunity to work with staff in all positions and departments of the bank."

Outside of the office, Childress enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors with his family and friends. Though he has not worked for First



Shawn Childress

National long, Childress had nothing but good things to say about his new co-workers and workplace.

"I enjoy the friendly and team-oriented atmosphere at First National Bank," Childress said.

First National Bank & Trust Co. of Shawnee and its employees welcome Shawn Childress and know he will do an excellent job as an internal auditor. Find FNB online at fnbokla.bank. ♡

2021 brings new state, federal action from Oklahoma legislators

Below is a brief roundup of legislative activity at the federal and state level relevant to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Senator Lankford co-sponsors tribal-relevant legislation, votes against Haaland for DOI

Oklahoma's junior senator is co-sponsoring a bill called the *Respect Act* that will eliminate 11 unenforced federal laws from the United States legal code.

"Some of the statutes that are still on federal books are things like you cannot pay a Native American if they're under the influence of intoxicating liquor, that you can actually force people that are Native Americans into forced labor, that their children could be taken from them without parental consent and put into boarding schools," Lankford said at a Senate Indian Affairs committee meeting in March 2021. "I'm embarrassed that we as a nation ever had these laws on the books. I'm really embarrassed that they are still on the books."

The bill passed the Senate and was received by the U.S. House of Representatives at the end of May.

The senator is also a cosponsor on the Urban Indian Health Providers Facilities Improvement Act. The legislation aims to increase investment for renovations and new construction for Urban Indian Health facilities. Oklahoma City and Tulsa's Urban Indian Clinics are massive health service providers for Oklahoma, the state with the second largest urban Indian patient population. Both clinics are a part of the federal Indian Health System, which serves more than 70 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives who live



A select committee of Oklahoma state legislators will have a \$10 million fund dedicated to funding "McGirt-related" legal costs borne by the state.

in urban centers across the country. IHS estimates more than 80 percent of these facilities require upgrades.

In February, Lankford and Oklahoma's Senior Senator Jim Inhofe both voted against the nomination of Deb Haaland as the head of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Both cited her stance on diversifying the nation's energy sector as unrealistic for the head of a department overseeing energy extraction on federal lands. The Senate confirmed Haaland, a former Congresswoman from New Mexico.

State legislature creates \$10M legal fund for tribal sovereignty lawsuits

One significant bill filed in the final two weeks of the state legislative session

for tribal governments was HB 2951, which creates a State-Tribal Litigation Revolving Fund for outside legal counsel. The fund was established to help the state address McGirt-related legal disputes, but the language appears to allow for wider use. The fund totals

\$10 million and can pay for outside legal services for the state. It is also outside of the State Attorney General's use. If the dollars go unused, they can revert back to the state general fund.

Legislative leaders outlined strict parameters for its use. The bill allows the legislature to retain a hand on the funds being spent, requiring approval through the Joint-Committee on State-Tribal Relations. The speaker and pro tempore appoint the committee members, and the executive branch has no control over it. All actions of the committee regarding funding require a majority to approve. Committee members are:

- Sen. Mark Allen (Chair)
- Sen. Kim David
- Sen. Chris Kidd
- Sen. Greg McCortney
- Sen. Lonnie Paxton
- Rep. Jon Echols
- Rep. Avery Frix
- Rep. Mike Osburn
- Rep. Ajay Pittman
- Rep. Kevin Wallace ♡

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Minutes Special Legislative Meeting June 28, 2021

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

Absent: Representative Dave Carney.

Guests: Jennifer Bell, Greg Quinlan, John Vanpool, George Wright and Jamie Moucka.

Call to order: Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. followed by the invocation.

First item of business: Minutes from the previous legislative meeting held on May 27, 2021. Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Representative Payne and seconded by Representative Whistler. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Second item of business: Resolution 22-01-LCoE: A resolution enrolling 116 applicants into the membership of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Motion to approve Resolution #22-01-LCoE was made by Representative Walters and seconded by Representative Whistler. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining

9:40 a.m. recess (Executive Session)

11:48 a.m. reconvene

Third item of business: Resolution 22-02-CorW: A resolution approving certain disbursements to tribal members from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding. Motion to approve Resolution #22-02-CorW was made by Representative Lambert and seconded by Representative Payne. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fourth item of business: Adjournment: There being no further business before the Tribal Legislature, motion to adjourn was made by Representative Wesselhöft and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining. The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m. ♡

Buying a home?

All Citizen Potawatomi tribal members are eligible for this grant one time only. The maximum amount is \$2,125 and does not have to be repaid. The grant cannot be used for any type of mobile home, and the home being purchased must be their primary residence. The Tribal member's name must be on the loan. Convicted felons or other household member felons are ineligible.

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

Complete the application and send us the following:

- 🏠 Copy of borrower's CPN membership card
- 🏠 Copy of Social Security cards for household member without Tribal cards
- 🏠 Copy of the "Loan Estimate" from lender
- 🏠 Income verification for all household members (last 3 to 4 pay stubs or if same employer for years, the last two years of tax returns, first page and signature page only)
- 🏠 Name of the closing entity (Title Co., Escrow Co., Attorney, etc.)
- 🏠 Completed W-9 form
- 🏠 Copy of appraisal



Please contact Sherry Byers, homeownership manager at 405-273-2833 or at sbyers@potawatomi.org.

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

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

Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



Bozho nikan
(Hello, my friend),

For many younger people — and I mean those born after WWII — the threat of contagious diseases means something quite different for those from different generations. When I was a child, someone I knew and went to school with died each year of what is now a preventable disease.

Here in the United States, we are so lucky to have medical facilities and scientific advancement to defeat many of these once-

lethal maladies. Most of these disease-prevention agents are free. You used to die from being poor. However, it now appears that with respite and relief from deadly disease comes a new and frustrating challenge: disbelief. These diseases have been gone so long and were eradicated so successfully that people are now denying their existence! Polio is back in Africa and Asia. People are actually listening to fools on the internet or television that have turned public health into political gamesmanship — and the deadliest game of all is allowing these preventable diseases to proliferate again.

I vividly remember the days when the threat of polio was almost visceral. At Shawnee High School, I was amongst several students tasked by our school administrators to help our cerebral palsy and polio-crippled classmates ascend and descend the old school building's steps. Many in my classes had parents, siblings and friends who suffered from the disease or other sicknesses that

are found only in third world countries today. Having seen and talked to someone in an iron lung as a youth, I can tell you that trusting our science and medical communities seems far less risky than chancing it with a disease that fells millions around the globe.

Today, the internet allows us to think we are “experts” in fields we have no expertise in, while hearing only the worst stories fed to us by algorithms and demagogues that play on our most base fears. On cable news television and online media, the common wisdom of “if it bleeds, it leads” puts only the most sensational information up front. This results in confusion and anecdotal evidence being portrayed as common occurrence. This has become such a prominent facet of life that this year the U.S. Surgeon General labeled health misinformation a serious threat to public health.

I was inoculated against polio, smallpox, measles, whooping cough and a number of other

diseases because my elders trusted the doctors who'd helped care for my family over the years. Public inoculation campaigns like the one led by the King of Rock, Elvis Presley, helped get the word out. Ultimately though, it was the trusted advice of our hometown doctor that assured my family that we could trust the shots. There was none of this “just do your own research” stuff. We trusted the experts we always trusted to provide sound advice on our sickest days. In less than a generation, we virtually eliminated epidemic sicknesses that long plagued mankind.

As we seem now to be in the midst of a pandemic of the unvaccinated, I urge you to trust the doctor you always go to, the one who will be there for you when you're sick. Don't take the advice of a talking head on cable news or a Facebook post by your old high school classmate's brother-in-law.

We need as many people as possible to become fully vaccinated. It is not just vital

for our families and fellow Potawatomi; it is vital for our businesses' survival and, consequently, good for our Tribal health programs that are funded by our businesses. At CPN, we have offered our employees an incentive to get the vaccination. We believe this is one of the ways to protect our Tribal members who come to Nation for health services and more. Vaccination is the only way for us to stop the spread of this virus and return to life as we knew it pre-pandemic. It is time we started caring about each other.

If you are interested in getting a vaccine, I urge you to contact CPN Health Services or a pharmacy in your neighborhood as soon as possible. Let's move past this time of pandemic, once and for all.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



Bozho
(Hello),

During the months of June and July, Citizen Potawatomi Nation directors and managers prepare for the yearly budget. Presently, development is in progress for the fiscal year 2022 (FY22) budget. CPN's fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. I want to applaud CPN directors, managers, our chief financial officer and accounting staff, plus the CPN Office of Self Governance. These are the leaders within our employment that are on the

front lines in working with the Tribe's yearly budget. What a superb job they accomplish!

As reference, the budget is a collection of expenses and revenues across CPN, which is captured and organized by proposals.

The proposals are made up of worksheets, along with the expenses and revenues for each department. Sometimes there are many worksheets, which are a collection of relevant revenue or expense line items within a proposal.

The base budget is the current operating budget from which the new fiscal year budget is created. Once approved during the annual process, the base budget also serves as the annual fiscal year data used as the starting point for the new budget. Three years of prior fiscal year actuals along with the current year's budget are used as reference for the new one that starts in October each year.

Getting started: June 1 – Budgets are ready for directors in OpenGov

Every user receives an email for the proposals shared with them. The users (those inputting components for the budget) will access software to build their budget called OpenGov Budget Builder. Operating budgets and capital budgets (if capital purchases are requested) are entered into the user's proposals. When they finish their input, they notify the department director to review their entries. It is the director's responsibility to submit each proposal to accounting or the Office of Self Governance. For budget purposes, accounting generally oversees the enterprises and internal services for the budget, and OSG oversees the government programs. In addition, there is a lot of collaboration between accounting and OSG.

- June 2 and 24: Accounting/OSG work with directors as necessary
- June 25: Due date for receipt of budgets from directors
- June 26 – July 26: Review of submitted budgets and additional work with directors

- July 27 – 29: Meetings for budget overview with CPN Executive Branch and the budget committee
- July 29 – Aug. 15: Necessary budget revisions; prepare budget book for legislators
- Aug. 16: Budget book sent to legislators
- Aug. 17 – Sept. 13: Legislative review
- Sept. 13 – 17: Legislative budget approval
- Sept. 18 – 30: Accounting uploads annual budgets
- Oct. 1, 2021: FY 2022 begins

I write of the budget process because I want each Tribal member to know that CPN is diligent, on-task and highly cognizant of how important this process is to our Nation. As you can see, there is a huge amount of time in processing the budget. Please understand that our Nation has excellent employees working for the good of the Tribe. This budget may be one of the most important that we have ever established due to our social and economic environment. We must be

prepared to face uncertainty with health issues, economic stability, social issues and more. At the same time, it is binding on CPN government that we continue to work with our cultural heritage, education, health services, amenities for youths and elders, food security and general wellness. Funding for these areas is, indeed, included in our annual budget. I am thankful for all our people — employees and Tribal members (and those that are both) for helping to make this Tribe a great Nation.

Once more, I cherish my position as your Vice-Chairman, and I appreciate the opportunity to serve our great Nation.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Fireflight Balloon Fest 2021

August 13 & 14
Shawnee, OK

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES!

FIRELAKEBALLOON visit firelakeballoonfest.com for more!

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends)!

Migwetch (thank you) to our hard-working CPN personnel

CPN personnel went way above and beyond, to my mind, this June, in planning and executing the Virtual Family Reunion Festival. While I was at headquarters toward the end of June, there was a lot of hustle and bustle among the staff, all directed at making sure we CPN citizens were able to partake in cultural and language teachings, Potawatomi history and other teachings, games and contests, and more. And these folks had been planning and preparing for weeks. Most of the programming was recorded, which thankfully will make the information even more widely available. I will be sharing links to various recordings via social media and on my website, evamariecarney.com.

Migwetch (thank you) to CPN personnel for all their efforts.

District 2 library

I have added a couple books to our library this month. The first is *Mikwéndewnen: Memories* by Jim Thunder, Sr. These are stories told by *Bodwéwadmimwen* first language speaker Jim Thunder, a member of the Forest County Potawatomi community. The book was made possible by *Bodwéwadmimwen Éthě ték*, Inc., a Wisconsin based 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The mission of *Bodwéwadmimwen Éthě ték* is to preserve and facilitate the use of the Potawatomi language. *Bodwéwadmimwen Éthě ték* translates to “the Center for the Potawatomi Language.” You can purchase the book here: bodwe.org/shop. The group is working on its next book with Jim Thunder, which should be released in the fall.

The second new addition is Gerald L. Findley’s *Fingerweaving Basics*, which I bought at our Cultural Heritage Center gift shop. My husband Alan and I will be meeting up with Karen and Bob Richey next weekend to discuss plans for our Fall Feast – we are thinking of including an introduction to fingerweaving craft as part of the Fall Feast activities. (Fall Feast details will be announced soon.)

Books in the District 2 Library are available for loan on request.



Brent Korzeniewski — 1st place, Youth 10-12, Model Potawatomi Village

I will ship a book to you if you agree to return it timely, at your cost, and in the condition you receive it. I have enjoyed operating the library and adding to the collection over time and hope you will take advantage of the opportunity. It has been fun to see which books are requested.

De’wegen Kwek meet up

During my time in Oklahoma, I was able to participate in a practice session of our women’s drumming group, *De’wegen Kwek*, and to visit with the lovely women involved in the group. We shared a delicious meal and had the joy of taking turns holding Mary Belle Zook’s infant daughter. Czarina Thompson provided me a thumb drive of some of the songs the group has learned; my hope is to introduce some of these at upcoming District 2 events.

Art Contest winners

The portfolio of entries in the Virtual Family Reunion Festival Online Art Contest was very impressive. I was excited to see quite a few District 2 entrants and several District 2 prize awardees. You can view the portfolios and the list of awarded entrants here: cpn.news/artshow2021. (Click on each category title to see all the entries in the category.) Two of the winning entries in the youth (ages 10 to 12) category are pictured here. Brent Korzeniewski, the artist, described his 1st place entry as follows: “I made (*Model Potawatomi Village*) for a school project in October 2018. The wigwam was made of papier-mâché. The trees were twisted paper bags and tissue paper. I included a canoe and wild rice growing in the water. The fire was made of tissue paper and stones. There is a hanging animal skin made of fabric and baskets of wild rice near the fire. I presented this at the District



Brent Korzeniewski — 3rd place, Youth 10-12, Self-Portrait in the Year 2020

is great. I administer the page. I am having to decline folks who do not answer the two “gating” questions for admission — 1. Are you a CPN citizen? and 2. Do you live in District 2? I welcome CPN living in our district (the 13 mid-Atlantic and Southern states and the District of Columbia) and do not want to turn folks down, so please answer those questions. I hope that if you are interested in the Facebook community, you likewise want to join our District 2 email list and receive my periodic emails. I have been asking new Facebook group joiners for their email and mail addresses as well, so expect follow up from me! I don’t send many emails, but, hopefully, folks read and find helpful those I send – e.g., I send a link to the *Hownikan* shortly after it is posted online; I provide a preview copy of my upcoming newsletter column; I highlight District 2 news and events; and I offer updates on legislative actions – e.g., our recent decision to award \$1,400, on application, to each CPN citizen over the age of 18, enrolled as of Feb. 1, 2021 (highlighted elsewhere in this paper)— that I know folks want to be briefed on.

Keep in touch, please

I took the oath of office on June 26 and was sworn in as the District 2 legislator through 2025. I am going to keep working for you. Please contact me if I can be helpful. It’s my responsibility and privilege to represent you.

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



Kim Pratt — 3rd place, Adult Amateur, Circle of Life

2 Potawatomi Thanksgiving celebration.” It was great to see the diorama again! Brent also was awarded for his *Self Portrait in the Year 2020*. Among the other awardees were District 2’s Kim Pratt and Emily Korzeniewski (both Amateur Adult entrants). I have included photos of their winning entries, too. *Migwetch* (thank you) to all for sharing your creativity with us.

Mezodanek/Family History Research program

Several CPN citizens and employees have mentioned *Mezodanek* to me; everyone is excited about its possibilities and eager for CPN citizens to explore the program. I have now explored it a bit and hope you will do the same! Translated as “Family,” *Mezodanek* is a digital research program focused on the family history of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. It provides citizens the opportunity to engage in genealogical research, build family trees and connect with Potawatomi relatives from around the globe. Users can also communicate directly with Cultural Heritage Center staff to assist with family research and/or donate to the family history collection. You can access *Mezodanek* through the CPN portal here: portal.potawatomi.org.

Growing our District 2 community

There has been a heightened interest in joining our District 2 private Facebook page, which



Emily Korzeniewski — 1st place, Adult Amateur, Striped Flying Geese Quilt

THE *Hownikan* PODCAST

District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Open carry

Our Texas representatives and senators passed an open carry law that Governor Abbott signed and will go into effect in August. Oklahoma recently passed a similar law, and while there last month, I didn't see anyone openly carrying a sidearm in a waist holster. However, that is not to say that we may not have some Texas citizens decide that it is a right and open carry a weapon.

I am not a real fan of the open carry for a very basic reason: some who decide to open carry may have never received training in several areas. They may be new to firearms and need to go to a gun range to learn how to fire the weapon. Secondly, once they learn how to shoot, there is no practice to keep up the skill. Do you have any idea how many times a police officer trains just pulling their weapon from the holster? One of my readings stated that while in the academy, they draw the weapon from the holster over 1,000 times just to be sure it is done correctly.

The next most important thing of concern is that with open carry, if the individual has not been to a concealed carry class, they have not been taught when to draw your weapon and when

not to draw your weapon. The normal concealed carry training stresses that when you draw your weapon, you are going to shoot. If you are not going to pull the trigger, do not draw the weapon. The weapon is not meant to intimidate. It is meant to shoot, and that is it!

You must know how to act if you have shot someone and the police arrive. You also need to know how to advise an officer when stopped for a traffic infraction that you are armed. In either of these two situations, you may cause yourself to be shot in error by the officer.

As a final note, if you either open carry or concealed carry, you better have legal protection in place. Even if you shoot someone trespassing in your home and your life was threatened, you may contend that you had to defend yourself in fear of your life. I recommend that you take the same step here that you do with your home or your auto. You need insurance protection. One firm in Texas that offers insurance in the area of firearms and shooting to protect you, your family, and/or property is Texas Law Shield. Their phone number is 1-877-448-6839. Yes, there is a fee, and I pay about \$160 each year. However, considering if someone is breaking into your home and you shoot and kill them, the police are going to come and most likely take your weapon. If there are any circumstances where they feel you were not totally justified in shooting the person, you will be arrested. Expenses can mount to much more than you would have for an auto accident, and you will need to get an attorney involved. With this firm, all those expenses are taken care of. You have basically paid your deductible. In summary, if you either open or concealed carry, you should have an on-going target practice at a shooting range program

and carry insurance in the event you need to use the weapon.

American Rescue Plan Act

As most of you know, our Nation is receiving \$170 million in ARPA money from the federal government. The funds we are receiving were based upon the number of officially enrolled CPN citizens on Feb. 1, 2021. The federal government is providing these funds to cover CPN government services, public safety and justice, social services, child welfare assistance, tribal housing, provide and deliver potable water, and other related expenses. The funds must be spent by the end of calendar year 2024.

While all of the guidelines have not been received from the Treasury at the time I am writing this article, at our June 28 Legislative meeting, it was decided that \$1,400 will be available for application by each CPN member who was enrolled by Feb. 1, 2021. A form is being created by staff to apply for the individual \$1,400. Information on this form will be available in an upcoming edition of the *Hownikan*. Do not call the Tribe asking about it, as our staff are still setting up the applications and programs for this massive undertaking.

There have already been comments received that the Absentee Shawnee Tribe has decided to give their citizens \$3,000. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe closed their roles many years ago and currently has 4,488 tribal members. Our Nation has a population right at 37,000 members. There have been instances where members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe who also had a parent that was registered as a Citizen Potawatomi resigned their membership to join our Nation, the reason being that their

children and future generations could be registered and receive the benefits we provide.

Each tribe in the U.S. may have individual rules for membership as well as what benefits they offer. Our decision on the number for the individual fund for each Tribal member and who would be eligible was based upon several factors. First, since the amount to be received is based upon our Feb. 1, 2021, Tribal membership, we decided that if the government questioned who we provided funds for, we could show that it was only to those who were on our rolls for the date we provided. Second, since we are providing money to everyone, we believe that the federal government won't challenge what they gave in their first allotment of \$1,400 in CARES money last year if matched by CPN.

Caution when dealing with the IRS needs to be taken. I just learned that one of our Tribal members received an extra-large refund from the IRS last year from their 2019 federal taxes. The IRS had made a mistake and over-paid the individual. The individual notified the IRS and included a check for the difference. The IRS, in spite of having made the mistake, demanded the individual pay them interest on those funds for the time that individual had the money. We must follow the rules they lay out for use of the ARPA money. Even if we spend the money that they deem is misused, it must be returned, and no doubt, with interest. So, taking that into account, we believe we are safe in allowing you to apply for the \$1,400. Do bear with staff, as it will take time to create the needed application. Applications should be available before the last quarter of this year.

Election

The runoff election for the District 1 representative is this month. Runoff elections tend to have fewer voters than in the original election. So, if you have a Tribal member living in District 1, please urge them to vote.

In the recent June election, out of roughly 1,900 eligible voters in District 3, only 187 citizens voted. This election was to determine who is to be our leader for the next four years. Over 90 percent of our members in District 3 let 10 percent of their number decide who would lead the Nation and would be in control of what may be offered and provided in the future.

I know that for many of you, at this time, you may not be partaking of any specific benefit due to no need or eligibility. However, in the future, you may find that you are eligible for the mail order drug program, you may have a child in need of a scholarship, or you need some other benefit. So, in future elections, take the time to cast your vote for the person you are sure you need and want to ensure your future needs may be available and taken care of.

As my website says, I am your voice. So, if you need help and believe I can assist, please contact me. I thank you for allowing me to serve and represent you with pride.

Bama mine
(later),

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

District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho
(Hello),

2021 Election

I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to those members in District 4 who supported me in the recent election. I look forward to serving everyone to the best of my capabilities during the

next four years. I am confident that we will see a tremendous growth in the Nation's economic developments efforts in the coming years. This is essential to ensure continued growth in our Tribal revenue, which will be necessary to support the continuation of our services and benefits into the future years.

My recent drive through the Flint Hills

I have made countless trips between Topeka and Shawnee, Oklahoma, over the past 20 years, but I've never experienced the magnificent scenic beauty that I did on my recent return trip home following the General Council meeting in late June. After driving in some extremely heavy storms in northern Oklahoma, it started to brighten up by the time I entered the Flint Hills near El Dorado. The broken skies,

intervals of sunshine and lush, green grass made for a glorious mixture of beautiful colors. It stayed that way until I was well north of Emporia. I felt like I was driving through a massive mural. Absolutely breathtaking.

Put it on your calendar – District meetings are back

I am scheduling three district meetings for this fall. They are:

Rossville: CPN Community Center in Rossville on Saturday, Oct. 23 at 10 a.m. Lunch at noon.

James Ralston, Ph.D., has accepted an invitation to speak on his research on the Ogee House, the historical stone house just east of Silver Lake on US-24 where Lewis and Sophia (Beaubien) Ogee raised their family. Please RSVP by 5 p.m. on Oct. 19 by calling me at

785-608-1982 or emailing me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. You can also call Lyman Boursaw at 785-584-6401. Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

Wichita: All-Indian Center located at 650 N. Seneca St. on Sunday, Oct. 3. Lunch at 1 p.m.

We will begin with a meal. Donald Blakeslee, Ph.D., has agreed to give a presentation on his discovery of Etzanao, the long-lost city near Arkansas City, believed to be the second-biggest settlement of Native Americans found in the United States. Please RSVP by 5 p.m. on Sept. 28 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or email me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

Hays: The Venue in Thrifty's Bar and Grill located at

2704 Vine St. in Hays on Sunday, Oct. 31 at 12:30 p.m. Buffet lunch at 1 p.m.

First time in Hays. After lunch, I plan to hold a discussion on the CPN services and benefits available to those of us in District 4, followed by my CPN history presentation. Please RSVP by 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 25 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or email me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend. Also let me know your lunch preference of beef or chicken.

Annual Flu shots

Tracy Kinderknecht, the CPN Senior Support Services RN in Rossville, is still accepting names of those Tribal members and their spouses, ages 55 or older, who would like to receive their annual flu shot in Rossville or in

my Topeka office. She expects the shots to be available in mid-September. If you would like to add your name to the list, please contact Tracy at 785-584-6171, or you can email her at tkinderknecht@potawatomi.org.

September Elders Potluck

The September Elders Potluck will be held on Friday, Sept. 10 at noon in the CPN

Community Center in Rossville. Tracy and Brenda have labelled this potluck as “End of Summer.” The main course will be a steak and ribs with homemade bread. They have asked that you RSVP by Tuesday, Sept. 7 if you plan on attending. Their number is 785-584-6171. You are asked to bring a salad dish or dessert.

Honored to serve you

It is an honor to serve you as your district legislator. I appreciate hearing from CPN members in Kansas, whether in the form of a letter, email, phone call or in the office. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to you. If you are not receiving emails from me, it is because I do not have your current email address or what I have is incorrect. All

you need to do is send me your email address, and I will enter you into my District 4 information file. My contact information is listed below.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Jon Boursaw,
Wetase Mkoh (Brave Bear)
Representative, District 4
2007 SW Gage Blvd.

Topeka, KS 66604
785-861-7272 office
785-608-1982 cell
jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
Office hours:
9-11 a.m. Tuesdays
3-5 p.m. Thursdays
Other times: please call

District 5 – Gene Lambert



Bozho
(Hello),

Greetings and a great big hello to all for this awesome August 2021. I sure do miss everyone. Hopefully it won't be long before we can get together again. While Zoom, phone, emails, texts, messenger and Facebook are better than nothing, it does not take the place of a face-to-face visit.

In the meantime, I want you to know the Native American communities are alive and well, including the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, as you will see after reading this article.

All you have to do is look around at the growth, strength and monuments erected in our honor. There are amazing opportunities to see the greatness of Indigenous people and what we stand for. Our contributions continue to be recognized in many ways.

Right now, we would be out of water in Arizona if the Colorado tribes had not sacrificed and contributed to the water table. Gila River came along additionally, and it shows how willing we are as a people in understanding the word “share.” We stand together for the survival of all. This is a concept that has been in hiding for some time now. It is exciting to hear and see people working together for the greater good.

I wish we could do that in the political arena.

Water

California and Arizona have gone, or are going into,

controlled water usage in several areas. The rivers, lakes and streams are lower than they have been since the 1930s. Resources have fallen below 40 percent, and we aren't even through the expected hot summer. So buckle up!

When you talk with people on the street, they seem to either not care, are not aware, and/or figure there is nothing they can do about it. They may well not even believe it.

It is like the global warming isn't happening either, when you talk to some. I can tell you from personal experience that since the 1970s, we have advanced a minimum of 10 degrees in Arizona. Arizona may not admit that, as it would be bad for business. But as a resident, you remember. “It's a dry heat,” they say. Nonetheless, I love this state. I grew up with it.

We would already be in disaster mode if it were not for the variances from the local Native people.

Thank you to Gila River, the Navajo Nation, Hopi, Chemehuevi and Mohave people for their willingness to work together with Arizona and connecting states.

This is not to say they have not been compensated, but you cannot eat or drink the dollar, which the Natives know all too well.

Photograph

Moving on, I would like to talk about a photo that went viral last year around July 4th.

The City of Detroit privately took down the 110-year-old statue of Christopher Columbus. I do not recall hearing anything about that, but evidently, someone did.

The picture shows four Native American women in jingle dress regalia, depicting an explanation of the healing that needs to occur. This is better described below in an article published by the *Metro Times*:

Rose María “Zamarrón, who is from Southwest Detroit, tells *Metro Times* she took the



Dignity stands tall along the waters of the Missouri River, and thousands from around the world visit every year to experience her beauty first hand. (Published with Travel South Dakota's permission)

photo a few days earlier. The women in the photograph have Chippewa, Anishinaabe, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and Cherokee ancestry.

“She says the photo was taken as part of a ‘Waawiiyaatanong Resurgence’ ceremony on July 1, ‘which creates a political and social paradigm shift that will divert power away from the colonial patriarchy, and into an indigenous matriarchy headed by women and two-spirited people.’

“Frontline Detroit, is a group fighting for social justice, and was meant to draw attention to the Waawiiyaatanong Resurgence, a series of events in Detroit dedicated to uplifting and supporting Indigenous culture. ‘Waawiiyaatanong is the original name of the Detroit region in Anishinaabemowin,’ says Joyner.”

This story and photo has gone viral on Facebook, Instagram and other social mediums. It is quite interesting, and there is more to learn about online at cpn.news/zamarron should you want to learn more.

The reason I followed the photo and talked with Rosa was the intention of making

people aware of the missing women and children that outnumber those from other backgrounds. It is her intent to continue working toward that goal of awareness for all.

As you may remember, CPN is a matriarchal society in that we recognize that all things come from a mother, as our Chairman John Barrett explains. Because of this, we celebrate the healing ceremonies pictured in this column.

They stated that we Native Americans today are the answer to our ancestors' prayers. I like that.

CPN's future

CPN reelected Tribal Chairman John Barrett, and his plans for future continue.

We are in the process of expanding our bank to better serve our people and create additional income.

There was a legislative meeting a few days ago to discuss the additional funds and the allocations through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that I am certain you have been hearing about.

Portions of the money CPN received will be distributed directly to the Tribal members as soon as we can identify the legalities from the Treasury and the federal government. An application will be put together to fill out so we have accurate contact information and will be available online soon. That will take some time to cover all 37,000 members, so be patient.

I have said many times how there were no hotels, casinos, grocery stores, banks, businesses in the 1990s, and we owe it all to the visions of our leadership.

The only way for CPN is *up!*

South Dakota

I would like to recognize another statue in South Dakota I have wanted to write about for some time. I find it fascinating.

Just this morning, I received permission from South Dakota Department of Tourism to use the pictures they have for their brochures.

Dignity, as pictured in this column, is a 50-foot-tall steel statue of a Native American woman in Chamberlain, South Dakota. I am awed by

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her magnificence. She rests along the Missouri River and has a star quilted shawl that was designed by Dale Lamphere for South Dakota.

AP published in 2016, “My intent for this is to have the sculpture stand as an enduring symbol of our shared belief that we are in a sacred place and that we are all sacred,” Lamphere said. “I’m humbled and so grateful to have this chance to contribute to the future landscape of South Dakota and the Great Plains.”

The steel sculpture, *Dignity* is a symbol of earth and sky. It appears that she is looking out over the water, and at night, her star-studded regalia sparkles a gentle hue.

She initially cost over \$1 million, which was donated by Norm and Eunabel Mckiie.

It is said that she was sculpted to move and allow any flow of the wind and endure South Dakota’s unique weather.

The words best describing her presence are peace, dignity,

honor, history, femininity and grace. Those would be my words to describe her.

When designing the sculpture, models varying from 14 to 55 were used so she would remain ageless and represent all Native American women.

“*Dignity* represents the courage, perseverance and wisdom,” Lamphere said. “My hope is that the sculpture might serve as a symbol of respect and promise for the future.”

Dignity carries a quilt with 128 stainless steel blue diamond shapes, and her dress is based off of an 1850s design.

She has brought visitors from around the world since her installation in 2016.

As I said earlier, there is so much going on around the world referencing the impact of the Native American communities on the people.

Be proud and stand tall with what we have accomplished.

I want to repeat what was said earlier too: *we are the answered prayers of our ancestors.*

Take care of each other, and contribute what you can with whatever your talent happens to be. We all have a gift. Share it.

Love and prayers,

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

District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

I hope that you are well and that our Tribal children are getting ready to head back to school or already there. I am hopeful that our future is

getting brighter every day. I am sure that most of you are aware of the news that the Tribal elections are over and that Chairman Barrett has been reelected. In my humble opinion, this is very great news for our Nation. It is never an easy position to be the leader of such a diverse and large Tribe, but I firmly believe that in such uncertain times that we have experienced over the last two years, that we need to stay the course and build for the future and take care of our elders and children, as they are the future. Unfortunately, this election cycle turned very negative with a lot of accusations hurled at our leadership. Creating uncertainty among the voters has been a tactic in United States elections for some time. I was sad to see it

make its way into Tribal politics. Everyone who holds elected office in our Nation works for our collective future, our history and our culture. Period.

The American Rescue Plan Act from the U.S. Treasury is providing the Tribe approximately \$170 million. As of the time of writing, we are still waiting for the full details and guidance from the Treasury Department, but at our June Legislative meeting, we voted to provide a \$1,400 payment to each member enrolled by Feb. 1, 2021. This date was agreed upon because that was the date the Tribe reported our membership numbers to the government for the ARPA allocation. There will be an online application for the funds that you will need to fill out, basically so that we can

confirm your address because so many members relocate and never update with the Tribe. If you choose not to apply, the funds will be put into other areas of the Tribe for the long-term benefit of everyone. Please watch for additional information through the Tribal website at potawatomi.org or by following the information available in the *Hownikan*. I also want to recognize our hardworking staff in Shawnee. They are the ones who do the work behind the scenes to get these programs out to our members, and many times, deal with those who are upset that things are not the way they want them. They are the unsung heroes in this and do an outstanding job working for you.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to

serve you as your District 7 representative. As always, give me a call, and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have or provide you with additional information you may need to access Tribal benefits. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and district.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Mark Johnson
Wisk Mtek (Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611
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mark.johnson@potawatomi.org

District 8 – Dave Carney



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

It has been a busy summer already. Last week I had the adventure of taking my son on a 27-hour trek from our home in Olympia, Washington, to Lubbock, Texas, where he will attend Texas Tech for graduate studies. It was a classic road trip right out of a 1960s childhood

memory. His older truck traveled up mountain passes often slower than the posted speed. We left the air conditioner off in 115-degree heat through eastern Washington and Oregon to not stress the vehicle and played lots of classic country music along the way. We pounded lots of bottled water. Along the way, we passed through several reservations.

We all know some basic facts about the relocation of our Tribe from our ancestral land at gunpoint on the Trail of Death. This forced march was an indescribable horror with many perishing along the way. Once our ancestors arrived in Kansas, there was none of the promised infrastructure — no shelters, no clean drinking water and extraordinarily little food. Those planning the removal and relocation had the Mission Band (modern day Citizen Potawatomi)

eventually collocate with the Prairie Band Potawatomi. These two groups had quite different cultural and spiritual beliefs, which created conflict and added stress to amazingly poor living conditions.

While on my road trip across the seven states, I visited a site that shares much with the Potawatomi and is a dark reminder of the mistreatment of Native Americans — the Bosque Redondo Memorial site in New Mexico. From 1863 to 1868, the U.S. government, through the Federal Troop buildup during the American Civil War, created a hellish, million-acre reservation around Fort Sumner near the Pecos River. These troops forcibly removed Navajo and the Mescalero Apache from their traditional homeland. The Navajo version of our Trail of Death is called The Long Walk, and it covered 300 miles with many casualties. The Mescalero Apache were gathered up and removed from their migratory patterns and detained on this reservation to be turned into farmers. Both groups were forcibly prevented from practicing ceremonies, singing or praying in their own language — truly cultural genocide. Starvation and disease killed off almost 2,000.

Both tribes eventually resettled to small reservations on the



Fort Sumner sits near the Pecos River and remains a reminder of a negative era in U.S. history.

homelands after agreeing to very unfavorable terms, the Navajo in 1868 and the Mescalero Apache in 1873. What stands on the primary site today is a museum and monument that documents this tragedy. Navajo architect David Sloan designed the space, and there are history and educational programs available. The Navajo people have several prayer circles around the facility.

This stop on a modern-day road trip was a sobering reminder

of the shared experience that our ancestors had with other Native peoples. We owe them a debt of gratitude and respect that can never really be paid.

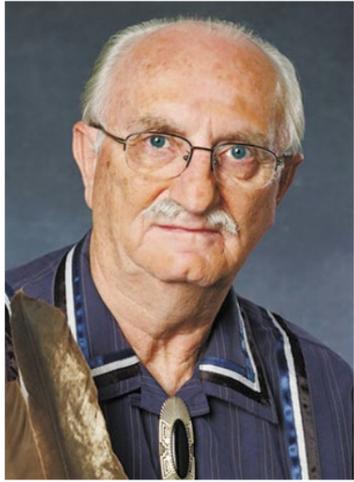
As always, it is my honor to serve as your legislator.

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



Dave and son enjoy a road trip from Washington state to Texas.

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Sacred Heart

I recently visited five important graves at Sacred Heart Cemetery.

First, allow this raconteur tell you how I got there on country back roads. I have a new Harley-Davidson Street Glide Special, 100 HP, loud dual chrome pipes that only a hog can deliver. It is billiard ball red in color. I wanted to break the bike in, so off I ventured from my home in Moore, Oklahoma, traveling east on 104th Street past Sunnyslane Road and Sooner to Lake Stanley Draper.

Road across the dam, I did. The water was virtually without a ripple. With a mixture of sunlight and cloud shadows striking the surface, it appeared pristine, which is a deception because the lake, like most in the state, is poured over a red clay bottom.

Draper is a notorious dumping ground for dead bodies, but none were seen today. I did see a couple of fish pop up halfway out of the water, gobbling a bug. That's one less bug hitting my windshield spreading its yellow stain. I took a short turn onto Westminster coming to 149th.

I cruised, literally with cruise control, east on 149th for many miles up and down the hills at 45 miles per hour. Slow enough to take in God and nature but too fast for barking dogs to catch me. Occasionally, tall oak and elm trees cast shadows across the road. I dodged a long, slithering black serpent and three opossums — dead, really dead, not acting dead — on the road. I lost count of the number of crushed armadillos on the half shell that I weaved by. Hawks circled the sky waiting for me to glide by.

I rode by a farmer's field scattered with small, squared bales of hay, signifying a lost era from the one with the giant disks of grass for sale. The smell of freshly cut hay is a good scent. There were a few horses to observe. The smell of horse manure and cow chips never

bothered me. I saw several cows. As a kid growing up in the big city, the first time I saw a cow was on television.

Sorrowfully, there were no bison to revere with their huge, kinky curly-haired heads, dual short sharp horns and high-humped shoulders. Another lost era. They live in my imagination.

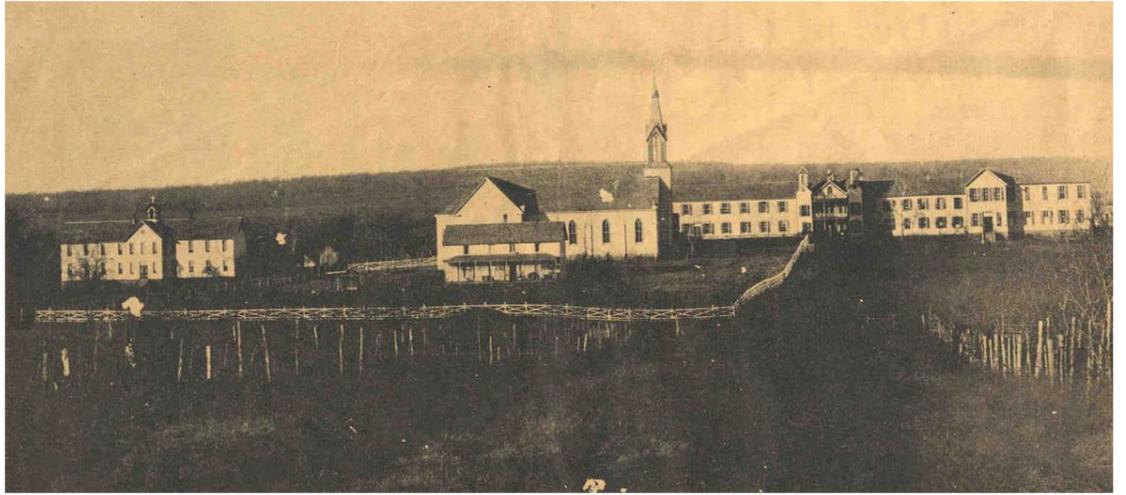
I biked by a massage parlor — yes, a massage parlor — in the middle of nowhere. I almost ran off the road. “Folks, come and enjoy a down home country massage!” Didn't stop for sundry reasons.

With Cleveland County behind me, I passed Pottawatomie County Road and came to Fish Market Road. I don't have any idea where the fish come from. I turned south and came to Hardesty Road and went east again until I arrived at Route 177, or what locals call State Highway 3. In front of me, I waved at the farmer ever-present selling over-priced produce on the side of the road. To the east, I could see and smell the fields of corn as “high as an elephant's eye” and gaze at the Potawatomi Indian profile proudly painted on the distant water tower of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. This is my second home.

I turned south on 177 passing Tecumseh, Chesney, Romulus, Pearson and came to Asher on Highway 39. I turned east and road nine miles, passing the ghost town of Jessie Chisholm. Chisholm was born in Oklahoma of Cherokee blood. After the Civil War, he developed the famous Chisholm Trail, which was used to drive thousands of cattle from “deep in the heart of Texas” through the rolling hills of Oklahoma to the flat plains of Kansas. These cowboy cattle runs are the stuff of which movies were made. To this day, the best beefsteaks are slowly cooked in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas over Mesquite wood and hot-smoked charcoals. I prefer the prime rib, medium rare.

I came to Sacred Heart Road and turned north for a mile arriving at Sacred Heart Church and Cemetery. The church is large, substantially constructed, in cream-white stone with a bright-red tile roof. The tall structure stands on top of Bald Hill, the highest point in elevation in Pottawatomie County. The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on Sept. 15, 1983.

The church, built in restrained Gothic style, stands like a monument to God and his creation. It's simply beautiful and well-kept, unlike the cemetery, which needs new fencing. Many of the old gray gravestones need repair.



Pre-1901 Sacred Heart Mission, the start of what would become the CPN-St. Gregory's partnership in Pottawatomie County

Too many of these graves have had no one to care or tear for them in decades.

Father Isidore Robot, a French Benedictine monk, established the church in 1879. The school there, which my grandmother Lilly May Enoch (later Wesselhoft) attended as a child, eventually became Mt. Saint Mary's High School in Oklahoma City. The mission in its day was a thriving community.

In 1901, a fire destroyed one of the mission buildings, and some websites claim many Indian children died. There is no historical evidence to prove that any child died in or by the fire. Unfortunate and sad, some consider the mission site to be haunted and have written it up that way. They believe the “children's spirits still hunt the mission.” The only ghost that I believe in is the Holy Ghost. Such death claims, rumors and accusations ought to be dispelled. It's heartbreaking that on Halloween some degenerates have vandalized the cemetery and stolen or kicked over grave headstones.

Sacred Heart mission, monastery and seminary eventually became St. Gregory's University in Shawnee. Unfortunately, the university, the first institution of higher learning in Oklahoma, no longer exists. It is now a campus of Oklahoma Baptist University.

The church, the cemetery, the surrounding green wood and brown pastures were quiet and peaceful. No one was there except the birds in the tree and me. I desired to pray in the church, but the door was locked. Church doors should never be locked, but we no longer live in the world I was born into.

As I walked through the cemetery, I was struck by how many Zoeller graves there were — 30 of them. There were also 25 Lehman, 18 Negahnquet, 17 Rhodd, 11 Vieux, 10 O'Connor and 9 Bruno graves as well.

I stood by the grave of Emma Anderson Burnett, my great-

great-grandmother and the first wife of Joseph W. Burnett. She was also the daughter-in-law of Potawatomi Chief Abraham Burnett. She was born in 1856, died in 1885.

The earliest person born who is buried in the main cemetery is Mary M. Knofloch Burnett, 3-25-1825 to 6-9-1895. She was the second wife of Abraham Burnett, my great-great-great-grandmother. Also buried there is Isabell (McDole) Burnett, born in 1869, died Nov. 3, 1902. She was the second wife of Joseph W. Burnett.

I came 65 rural miles especially to see the final resting place of my great-grandmother, Mary Burnett Wesselhoft. She was the daughter of Joseph W. Burnett and the wife of George Wesselhoft. I knew her as a 12-year-old child. She was a sweet lady and cared for me. She was born in Topeka, Kansas, on Aug. 11, 1870, and died June 5, 1959, in Oklahoma. She was 89.

Mary wrote in her 1951 biography, “I was born in the house of my grandfather, Abraham Burnett, whose Indian name was *Wabanca*. He took the name of Burnett when an engineer on a steamboat in Northern County, Michigan, persuaded his mother, *Cone-Zo-Qua*, to let him go to school.” Abraham's mother was my great-great-great-great-grandmother.

Mary wrote, “Abraham was a leader in the Potawatomi tribe so he made frequent trips across country on official business. While on his way to Washington, D.C. with a band of Indians to make a treaty for some land, they camped by a spring, and here he met my grandmother, Marie (Mary) Knoflock, when she came to the spring for water. They made arrangements to take her with them on their return trip from Washington. A horse and a saddle was obtained for her, and she met them before daylight. When her absence was discovered, a group of white men followed on horseback for a while but gave up and turned back when they found a message

left on the trail warning them that they had come far enough. Mary Nuflock was German. She sent my father, Joseph, and his sisters to St. Mary's school, in Topeka, Kansas.”

Mary wrote, “After Grandfather Abraham died, Papa Joseph lived with Grandma Marie. He met my mother in Topeka, Kansas, Emma Anderson, an orphan going to school at St. Mary's.”

She continued, “After Grandmother Marie married again, a white man named Busby and my baby uncle, Abe Burnett, came to live with Papa Joseph. When I was just about 1 year old, in 1872, something like 30 families formed a wagon train and came to what is known as Sacred Heart, then Indian Territory... I can remember going with Papa to Sacred Heart where they were digging wells for the Sisters and the Fathers.”

Pioneers were not just white frontiersmen and cowboys; many Indians forced by law were pioneers in Indian Territory as well.

The last grave at Sacred Heart Cemetery that I stood at was Charlotte Vieux Thorpe (1863 to 11-17-1901) the wife of Hiram P. Thorpe and the mother of Jim Thorpe. Jim Thorpe was the greatest athlete in the world and a Potawatomi and a Sac and Fox Indian. He was my childhood hero, still is. I picked wild flowers and on the five graves I came to honor that day, they lay. I walked away slowly, head bowed, lowly.

I came to my motorcycle, my spirit lifted. I swung my right leg over the seat, pulled the bike upright, started the engine, and kicked the gear into low. I rode off with Sacred Heart in my rearview mirror and Sacred Heart in my soul.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

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

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

District 11 – Andrew Walters



Bozho
(Hello),

A song from years ago came to mind after the election. It's called *The Merry Minuet*. Sheldon Harnick wrote it in the 1950s. The lyrics are:

"They're starving in Africa.
They're rioting in Spain.
There's hurricanes in Florida,
And Texas needs rain.
The whole world is festering
With unhappy souls.
The French hate the Germans.
The Germans hate the Poles.
Italians hate Yugoslavs.
South Africans hate the Dutch,
And I don't like
anybody very much!"

It would seem some things just don't change. During the last few months, I've come to see that's true with the Tribe. We still have the same old issues that

we had 60-80 years ago. The same curmudgeons still spew the same old venomous accusations about the same stuff. Some folks just want "money for nothing" at the expense of everything. It seems like that movie *Groundhog Day* at times. Kind of makes you wonder why we can't change and progress. Why can't we take the next steps toward a positive future and prosper? At first, I thought that maybe the Tribal leadership was to blame. That's what a lot of people were saying during the election. "That dadgum Rocky Barrett!"

But that wasn't it. The Tribe as a whole is financially better off than it was years ago. Well run, as voting showed, by that "dadgum Rocky Barrett." The Tribe owns more assets. We're worth more money. We have good, honest people doing their jobs in a remarkable way. Truth is, the government is representative of the people it serves.

It was then a thought struck me: mankind rode horses for thousands of years. That may seem disjointed and silly, but follow me a bit longer. You see, folks back then were happy riding horses. There was no need for any other type transportation. Horses worked, and we became content. It wasn't until the world developed around us that we found change was demanded. In "we," I mean "us," the people. — not the

leadership, "the establishment," but the common, everyday folks. Cities grew and the problems accompanying that growth were catalyst for change. Automobiles were developed for cleaner, more efficient transportation of people and commerce. Soon the horse became a pet, not an essential tool. That change from hoof to horsepower was embraced by the people. Now cars are commonplace. A change that occurred out of necessity.

The same is true of our Tribe. We, as a group, have become bogged down. For the most part, some of us are just happy with the way things go. We don't participate; we don't contribute. That is until some issue threatens or there's money involved. And then, those groups we label as the "far-left," "far-right," "nut jobs," "conservatives," "radicals," or whatever take a lead and try to steer the majority, most time announcing simple "change" as the solution. Change of leadership, of government, of constitution, but never a change of the common peoples' ideals, philosophies or paradigms. Like sheep, some follow. But, seldom does the majority lean toward immediate, radical change without a change in their hearts.

I heard one of the candidates in this last election talk about how they thought the Tribal government should work, how everything must go before the

General Council for votes. Truth is, we have a Constitution — a present Constitution. Not one from 1985 or some other year. That Constitution acts as the framework for our government. It would become pretty laborious to always have to vote on every little thing that happens. That's why we have legislators that are elected by the majority to act and to represent the people. We have a Chairman to act as executive officer to supervise and guide the daily activities. We elect those folks that we assume will represent our best interest. If they don't, then we vote them out. That's how the system is supposed to work. Problem is, we don't let our legislators know our thoughts. We just sit, pontificate, cuss and complain, looking back on olden days remembering things in the light of the then, not in the reality of now. Why? It's simple — because we're happy riding that same old horse.

We have the opportunity to do great things. We are a family that can accomplish so much, but we still let the old anger, pains and ugly words tear us apart. We let the same divisive, derisive voices drive us back to the same topics that have been debated ad nauseum for decades. We let unknowing people sway us with their unknowing words. During the coming years, I hope we can join together and work toward a common goal. We have an opportunity to make future

Tribal members' lives better, smarter and healthier. We need to look away from self-serving interests, bartering and promising our future to other Tribes and other governments. We need to stop letting liars filled with hate and anger influence us. We need to stop always wanting to get but never wanting to give.

I remember the days when we spoke about getting "my Indian money," the treaty settlements that occasionally were paid. I remember the stories of strife, antipathy and anger in the Tribe. But those days are long gone. Like the horse, they should be remembered from the past and not kept as benchmarks for the future. The world has changed, and we, the people, need to adapt with it.

Oh, and the last words of that old song:

"They're starving in Africa.
There's strife in Iran.
What nature doesn't do to us
Will be done by
our fellow man!"

If we don't change in our hearts, our Tribe will die. We'll do it to ourselves, and there will be no one left to care.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Andrew Walters
andrew.walters@potawatomi.org
nibwemko@gmail.com

IF YOU THINK YOU OR A DECEASED LOVED ONE WAS HARMED BY OPIOIDS LIKE HYDROCODONE, OXYCODONE, CODEINE OR ROXICODONE, OR IF YOU CARE FOR A CHILD EXPOSED TO THESE OPIOIDS IN THE WOMB, YOU CAN VOTE ON THE MALLINCKRODT BANKRUPTCY PLAN.



VOTING IS IMPORTANT. IT HELPS DETERMINE HOW OPIOID CLAIMS ARE TREATED. VOTE BY SEPTEMBER 3, 2021. SPECIFIC DETAILS ABOUT VOTING ARE SET FORTH BELOW IN THIS NOTICE AND AT MNKVOTE.COM.

VISIT MNKVOTE.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ **WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?**

Mallinckrodt is a manufacturer of opioid pain medication that filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy in October 2020. On June 17, 2021, Mallinckrodt plc and its affiliates (the "Debtors") filed their Plan of Reorganization (the "Plan") in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware and their related Disclosure Statement. You may have the right to vote on the Plan of Reorganization.

■ **WHAT DOES THE PLAN PROVIDE?**

Mallinckrodt's Plan channels claims based on harm or injury related to the Debtors' manufacturing of opioids and related activities to one or more opioid trusts. These opioid trusts will be established for the purpose of distributing money to individuals and corporate entities holding Opioid Claims and for abatement of the opioid crisis. If the Plan is approved by the Bankruptcy Court and you have an Opioid Claim, you will be entitled to assert your claim directly against the applicable opioid trust at a later time. **There is nothing you need to do right now to assert your Opioid Claim. Information regarding how to assert your Opioid Claim against an opioid trust will be made available at a later date.** The Plan, if approved, will forever prohibit any opioid claimants from asserting any Opioid Claim or seeking any money on account of any Opioid Claim against the Debtors, their officers and directors, or certain other parties specified in the Plan as the "Protected Parties."

■ **WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLAN?**

Copies of the Plan and related documents, including the Disclosure Statement and a letter from the Official Committee of Opioid Related Claimants (a representative of Opioid Claimants in the Debtors' bankruptcy cases appointed by the Office of the United States Trustee) setting forth its position regarding the Plan can be obtained free of charge at MNKVOTE.COM.

■ **WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?**

Vote on the Plan:

If you are eligible to submit a vote, your vote must be submitted so it is received on or before September 3, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. Detailed instructions on how to vote are available at MNKVOTE.COM or by calling **877.467.1570 (Toll-Free)** or **347.817.4093 (International)**. If you do not follow the detailed instructions, your vote may be disqualified.

Object to the Plan:

If you disagree with the Plan, you can object to it in writing so it is received on or before September 3, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. Objections not filed and served properly may not be considered by the Bankruptcy Court. Detailed instructions on how to file an objection are available at MNKVOTE.COM or by calling **877.467.1570 (Toll-Free)** or **347.817.4093 (International)**.

If the Plan is confirmed, everyone with a Claim against or Interest in Mallinckrodt plc and its affiliates will be bound by the terms of the Plan regardless of whether or not they vote on the Plan or file a claim against the opioid trust.

■ **WHEN IS THE HEARING?**

The Bankruptcy Court has scheduled the hearing to consider confirmation of the Plan to be held on **September 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time** (the "Confirmation Hearing"). The Confirmation Hearing will take place before the Honorable John T. Dorsey, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in the Bankruptcy Court, located at 824 Market Street, 5th Floor, Courtroom 5, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE MALLINCKRODT PLAN OF REORGANIZATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Call: 877.467.1570 (Toll-Free)
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Dell Rosa Chalk Shopwetuck Family



On May 27, 2021, Dell Rosa Chalk, age 66, was called home by her Heavenly Father. She is survived by her husband, Brad Chalk; mother, Rosamary Young; siblings, Ray Young, Bert Young and Lyn Cook; and mother-in-law, Audrey Chalk. She was preceded in death by her father, Delmar Young, and father-in-law, Joseph Chalk.

Dell was passionate about life and especially her faith in Christ. Throughout years of health challenges and suffering, her faith always remained strong. She always prayed for God's will, even if it meant He was calling her home sooner than she might have wanted.

As a Potawatomi, Dell was very proud of her Native American heritage and carried the name *Migwekwe* (She Gives Things Away). She descended from Catherine *To-Wah-Nee*, her third great grandmother, and was an active member of her District 2 CPN community. She also served as a homeowner association board member and volunteer county elections officer.

In 2002, Dell formed the Isaac Foundation to raise funds to support Christian ministries in Thailand that cared for orphaned children. She led mission teams to Thailand for many years, including three trips in 2005 to help families devastated by the 2004 tsunami. She also supported the formation of a nonprofit charity that rebuilt a girls' school in Kabul, Afghanistan, that had been severely damaged by decades of conflict.

Dell's greatest love was for her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Being raised by strong Christian parents, she knew her Bible and never missed an opportunity to

share her faith with others. She knew her salvation was secure, not because she was a kind and loving person, but simply because she had accepted God's free gift of salvation. Dell would want everyone who loved her to take comfort in knowing she is pain free and rejoicing in heaven.

Lula Joanne Prickett Hoogstraten Welch Family



Jo Hoogstraten began her next journey on May 23, 2021. Born March 18, 1931, to Max and Marguerite Welch Prickett in Belvue, Kansas, on the Potawatomi allotment farm of her great-grandmother, Mary Elizabeth (Ducharme) Welch, she was also a descendent of Joseph Welch, son of Elizabeth Ouilmette. She attended the Welch grammar school, a one-room schoolhouse on the Welch property (still standing — sort of), graduated from Wamego High, and, in 1951, St. Francis School of Nursing in Topeka. Every year, St. Francis School endeavored to send one graduate to the armed services, and according to a feature in the *Topeka Capital Journal*, Jo was the designated volunteer, serving in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict. She married Army Sargent William Hoogstraten, who passed away in 2003. They were married for 50 years and are survived by their three children, Sharon Hoogstraten (Robert Gray), Shelley Hoogstraten (Lawrence Miller) and Steven Hoogstraten (Lurinda); four grandchildren, Alexander and Dillon Gray (Hailey Willis), Ryley and Cameron Hoogstraten; and great-grandson Sylvan Gray.

Jo worked as a nurse in Kalamazoo, Michigan, as a homemaker and as a director of nursing. In retirement, she volunteered at West Michigan Cancer Center

and Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery and traveled with Bill on numerous RV adventures including Alaska, Ontario and Route 66. Jo and her daughter Sharon traveled with the 2013 Potawatomi Commemorative Trail of Death Caravan, a six-day observance of the forced removal of the Potawatomi to Kansas. Her trip concluded with a fitting reunion in St. Marys, Kansas, with her surviving sister, Phyllis Riat, and a visit to the childhood Belvue farm, which is still in the family today.

Following a Celebration of Life with family and friends, Jo Hoogstraten was laid to rest at Fort Custer National Cemetery with military honors.

Sharon Matsumoto Dimbler Family



Sharon Matsumoto was a loving mother of three children, two boys and one girl, who passed away before she did.

She was born March 28, 1942, and went to Heaven on Jan. 13, 2021.

She left behind two grandsons and a husband of 40 years.

She was an ordained minister, registered in California and Hawaii.

She was a very loving person who cared for people and animals. She gave aid to people as well as animals. She gave them fund, food and shelter when they were available.

She created an animal refuge registered with the federal government and the state of Hawaii.

She was a very loving person who built shelters to protect them against inhumanity in the early 2000s. Sharon and her husband built shelters on their 12-acre property. They fed and cared for them. They had to close it in 2010 because

prices rose so high they could no longer afford it on their social security and his pension.

Due to the pandemic, the family will hold a service at a later date. Bless her and bless all.

She was a Caucasian and a Potawatomi, but now she is an angel.

Delores Jean Holliday Bergeron Family



Delores Jean Holliday, age 88, formerly of Sumter, South Carolina, passed away Friday, March 26, 2021, in Hernando where she lived with her daughter and son-in-law.

Delores was born Dec. 3, 1932, in Cement, Oklahoma. She attended Cement High School where she was a member of the Cement basketball team. Delores was a registered Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member. Her Potawatomi name was *Nanokshikwe* and was given to her by her brother, Ralph Bazhaw, before he passed.

Delores married William "Billy" Holliday on June 4, 1976. They were married for 30 years until his death on March 15, 2006. Delores was a member of Graham Baptist Church in Sumter. There she was very active teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir and participating in missions. She was the Mission Director for a period of time at Graham Baptist Church. She also worked with Mission Friends, GA's and ACT Teens groups.

Delores is survived by two sisters, Bert Collins and Shirley Kinne; a daughter, Debra Gillion (Mark); three grandchildren (two granddaughters and one grandson); and five great-grandchildren (four great-granddaughters and one great-grandson); Jodi Parker (Ben) and their children, Presleigh

(10), Olivia (7) and Reese (4); Kelli Kelly (Jared) and their children, Levi (11) and June (7); Matthew Pitts; and several nieces and nephews.

Delores was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Billy Holliday; daughter, Karen; brothers, Elbert, Little Robert, Charles, IH, James and Ralph; and sisters, Mary, Beatrice and Lee.

Shirley Bruno Bruno Family



Shirley A. Bruno, 79, of Buchanan, Michigan, passed away peacefully, on May 27, 2021, at Goshen Hospital.

Shirley was born on Dec. 29, 1941, to Louie, Sr., and Lucille Bruno in Niles, Michigan. She loved nature, Lake Michigan and all animals. Shirley was very spirited, funny and sassy. People loved being around her. Most of all, she cherished time spent with her family.

Shirley is survived by her children, Nancy Benak, Lucille "Lucy" Benak and William (Sarah) Benak; many grandchildren and one great-grandson. She is reunited with her son, John Benak, Jr.; brother, Louie Bruno, Jr.; and many beloved pets.

A celebration of life drum and pipe ceremony was held June 4, 2021, at Swem Chapel in Buchanan. A burial at Oak Ridge Cemetery and graveside service followed. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Those wishing to send condolences may do so at swemchapel.com.

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.