



# HOWNIIKAN

Minkégises | August 2022

A hot air balloon takes flight as the sun sets over the North Canadian River near Citizen Potawatomi Nation grounds near Shawnee, Oklahoma.

## A LOOK INSIDE

### Page 2



Physician visits Mt. Everest, leaves a piece of CPN history behind

### Page 5

Potawatomi Leadership Program Class of 2022

### Page 12



Potawatomi Fire honored after successful inaugural season

### Pages 14-19

Tribal Executive and Legislative updates

### Page 20

Walking on



## FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival earns top award at tourism event

The FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival received the Outstanding Event award during the 2022 RedBud Awards, hosted by the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association. For the past 25 years, the RedBud Awards have recognized Oklahoma's top tourism attractions, events, programs and organizations for their outstanding efforts to serve and promote Oklahoma's tourism industry, according to the OTIA website.

"(The RedBud Award) really gives a lot of credibility to the award winners because they had some stiff competition. They had to be very good at what they do to be recognized," said Debra Bailey, president and chief executive officer of the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association.

The call for contest entries is sent to the entire tourism industry in Oklahoma, she said. A panel of impartial judges with tourism expertise reviews each entry and evaluates it based on several factors.

"What the judges look for is the impact financially the event may have on their community. They review budgets, and they look at the promo of the event and how many people were in attendance," Bailey said. "Judges usually go on (event) websites and verify information, but it's up to the person doing the entry to basically identify what made their events, their attraction, their publication special and make that information available to the judges."

This year, 93 organizations applied for awards. There were 37 awards presented in 17 different categories.

Held annually in August in Shawnee, the FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival is free to the community. The event hosts two days of balloon rides, food, crafts, music, fireworks and more at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's powwow grounds. The nightly balloon glow draws visitors from across Oklahoma, the region and even the U.S. Last year, nearly 30,000 people attended over two days.

In 2017 the inaugural event drew an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 visitors. It was the vision of CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, who wanted to provide an affordable day of family entertainment for the community and bring people to visit the Tribal enterprises that comprise the FireLake area.

That year, balloonmeister Pat Harwell contacted other balloon pilots to participate. Pilot Bill Bussey brought his balloon, Blue Diamond, to the festival. Bussey holds 15 world records and 30 national records for flight distance and duration. Other world record holders were quick to sign on.



The FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival Committee wins a Redbud Award from the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association for recognition as the state's top event in 2021.

"I was so surprised to hear we won the award," said Dennette Summerlin, CPN administrative assistant. "As Ms. Capps had hoped, this event has put CPN on the map. (Public Information Director) Jennifer Bell always said that it was hard to compete with events like the State Fair of Oklahoma, but this award gets us one step closer to that dream."

Beginning in January, a committee comprised of 35 CPN employees begins planning the event. They divide tasks depending on each employee's area of expertise. Summerlin believes that expertise is what makes for a successful event.

"This event would not be possible if it were not for the committee as a whole," she said. "We have a great group that understands the enormity of hosting such a large-scale event."

In addition to the event planning leading up to the weekend of the festival, preparation begins several months in advance for CPN's Public Information staff. Graphic Designer Emily Guleserian designs promotional materials for the festival. Her work appears on everything from banners to beach towels and is widely shared on social media.

Music fans will be pleased to learn the 2022 Balloon Fest includes several live music performances. The Grand Casino's *Play It Loud* series features Levi Parham at 5 p.m. Friday and Dustin Pittsley at

7 p.m. on Friday. *Play It Loud* presents Mike Hosty at 5 p.m. on Saturday night. Tyler Maxwell and the Outsiders appear Saturday at 6:15 p.m. and Cam Allen will play 7:30 p.m. Saturday night. Saturday closes with a 9:30 p.m. set by Bryan White and Andrea Pearson.

The City of Shawnee's tourism department, Visit Shawnee, took top honors as the Tourism Department of the Year. Visit Shawnee has been an important partner with the Balloon Festival. Stacy Cramer Moore, Visit Shawnee Director of Tourism, noted that Shawnee has been working toward a broad base of resources to increase tourism and foster community pride. OTIA CEO Debra Bailey said the association has noticed an increase in partnerships throughout the state.

"It's smart for communities to be engaged and to reach out to the tribes or for the tribes to reach out to them. We can only leverage everyone's power when they're working together," she said. "Kudos to those tribal nations that do work within their communities in their surrounding counties because I can't help but think that it makes everyone stronger as a result."

The 2022 FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival will take place Aug. 12-13 in Shawnee. To learn more, visit [firelakeballoonfest.com](http://firelakeballoonfest.com).

Find the RedBud Awards online at [otia.info](http://otia.info).

## Physician visits Mt. Everest, leaves a piece of CPN history behind

While visiting the world's tallest peak halfway across the globe, a Potawatomi physician felt his connection to his ancestors grow even stronger.

Dr. Thomas Lewis and his wife, Dr. Stephanie Lewis, recently climbed to the Mt. Everest base camp in Nepal, which is at 5,364 meters, or 17,598 feet, above sea level.

Lewis is the medical director of Emergency Medical Services for Mercy Health System in Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas. He is board certified in emergency medicine.

The Burnett family descendant also studies altitude medicine with the Wilderness Medical Society. WMS was founded in 1983 in California to encourage research that improves scientific knowledge about human health activities in a wilderness environment.

He and Stephanie, who is also an emergency medicine physician, made extensive preparations to face the high altitude and other challenges. As Missouri residents, they live only about 1,000 feet above sea level. For six months prior to their trip, they committed to working out every day and used the stair climber machine in the gym.

Since climbers carry a nearly 40-pound backpack, Lewis said they are forced to make tough decisions. They must carry supplies such as water purification systems and cold weather gear. The water quality does not affect Nepalese people since their digestive systems are used to it. Western travelers, however, often become sick without purification. The weather on Mt. Everest is known for changing quickly, from rain to wind to snow. Each hiker must be prepared for extreme swings in weather conditions. Therefore, some "comfort" items have to be left behind.

Their WMS group was not part of the "extreme" climbing expeditions that attempt to reach the 29,032-foot summit of Mt. Everest. Extreme climbers often pay around \$70,000 each to summit. They face risks such as blizzard-like conditions, avalanches, crevasse falls and altitude sickness. Since 1922, more than 300 people have died during their attempt to summit. At



Dr. Thomas Lewis and his wife, Dr. Stephanie Lewis, at the Mt. Everest base camp in Nepal. (Photo courtesy Dr. Thomas Lewis)

base camp, Lewis and his wife were able to meet some of the extreme climbers and learn more about their sport.

"It was pretty exciting," he said. "When you're in that environment, it's overwhelming at first, just to get to that level. But you quickly realize that those (climbers) are risking it all."

Of their 21-person WMS party, 18 people experienced some level of altitude sickness. The reasons why some people experience altitude sickness and others do not remain a mystery. Some health researchers believe it could involve a genetic component. Dr. Lewis and his WMS colleagues hope to learn more about altitude sickness through expeditions like the Mt. Everest trip and apply their real-world experience to treat patients in a wilderness setting.

According to the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the symptoms of altitude sickness can include pounding headaches, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, fatigue, excessive coughing and more. If left untreated, altitude sickness can lead to potentially fatal conditions such as pulmonary edema (fluid in the lungs) or cerebral edema (brain swelling).

The casual hiker might be surprised at the amount of time it takes to make the climb to Everest base camp.

"To reach base camp takes about 12 to 14 days for most people. If you go much faster than that, everybody gets altitude sickness. You have to acclimatize," Lewis said. "So, you climb a couple of thousand feet every day at that altitude and stay the night and then do another 2,000 or 3,000 feet in multiple days through those two weeks. You have to stop and stay two nights at the same altitude just so that your body can start to adjust to that thin air."

### Cultural connection

Lewis also met some of the legendary Sherpa, one of the Tibetan ethnic groups who are indigenous to the mountain regions of eastern Nepal. They are renowned for their superior

climbing skills and endurance. Because they have lived in high altitudes for generations, they often work as climbing guides to tourists visiting the area.

"Everything goes up (the mountain) on the back of a Sherpa, whether it's metal, roofing, insulation, concrete bags — all of those kinds of things are carried up the mountain," he said.

Seeing how relentlessly the Sherpas work in such tough conditions made him think of his own ancestors.

"It really made me feel a little bit more connected to my heritage; the really difficult life and how strong our people must have been to survive 100 years ago," Lewis said. "They had to work really hard to make a life for their family. It was so interesting to see how hard (Sherpas) worked for little things that we take for granted. I felt more connected to our people and how they must have lived 200 years ago."

Lewis was amazed by the physical capabilities of the Sherpa.

"They are just genetically gifted people," he said. "Many of the Sherpas lived at 6,000 feet and climbed to 20,000 feet. They were carrying 200 pounds on their backs. Guys my size, walking right by me like I was standing still. They're just super strong people."

He said their mental strength was striking as well. Despite the ever-present dangers of climbing Everest, the physical challenges and stress on their bodies, the Sherpas maintain a positive and happy culture.

### A new perspective

Climbing Everest filled Lewis with a variety of emotions. It also changed his outlook on life.

"It just made us realize that some of the trials and tribulations in daily life are just so inconsequential," he said. "We are here as long as our Creator allows us to be in this place. I feel like we came back with a much healthier perspective on our world."

He was grateful for the strengthened bond he now feels with his Potawatomi ancestors.

"It was so powerful and interesting that being halfway around the world connected me more to our Nation and having more interest in how they lived before us," Lewis said. "It was not what I expected. I didn't expect to feel so connected like I did."

### Memories for a lifetime

In a trip loaded with memories, a few stand out for Lewis.

"I'll never forget. It was early in the morning, and we were getting ready to climb. And seeing the sun rise over Everest, it was just a sight that will be impossible to forget," he said. "And spending 21 days with the Sherpa, getting to know them, their struggles. Those relationships will be hard to forget."

Lewis even left a bit of CPN history at the world's tallest peak.

"There is a settlement that is known as the highest settlement in the world, called Gorakshap. It's the last true settlement before you get to Everest base camp," he said. "There are lots of nations' flags from groups that have been to Everest. This is where we placed the CPN flag on the ceiling. It was the only Native American flag to be placed among the countries of the world."

Another CPN flag flies at the base camp site, alongside the Nepalese and Tibetan prayer flags. These flags are said to carry prayers through the wind for those on Everest and in the Khumbu region, Lewis added.

He hopes to return one day and possibly include his children. The Lewis family has always enjoyed the outdoors and spending time in national parks. They take part in mountain climbing, hiking, swimming and other activities.

"We'll look for other trips like this now that we've been there," he said. "We feel extremely lucky that we had this opportunity. We're excited about trying to find another adventure." ♠



The CPN flag is placed among other nations' flags near Mt. Everest base camp. (Photo courtesy Dr. Thomas Lewis)

## CPN, Dunbar Heights celebrate historic community partnership

On June 17, 2022, Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the Dunbar Heights Community of Shawnee, Oklahoma, held a VIP reception in honor of Juneteenth. Celebrations continued throughout the day on Saturday, June 18 that included a parade, prayer gathering and step dance performances, and culminated in an evening program of speakers and live music on CPN Festival grounds.

Juneteenth is the oldest celebration of the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. A combination of the words “June nineteenth,” the holiday marks the anniversary of Union General Gordon Granger’s arrival in Galveston, Texas, in 1865. He brought with him the first news of the Emancipation Proclamation — signed by President Lincoln a full two years earlier — to enslaved people in some of the deepest parts of the former confederacy.

Though General Gordon Granger’s message of freedom is widely understood as the event that emancipated the last of those enslaved in the U.S., slaves held by Native nations in present-day Oklahoma were not freed until 1866. Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s partnership with the Dunbar Heights Community works to acknowledge this lesser-known history, repair the historical divides between Native American and Black communities, and pave the way toward a more just and equitable future.

### Shared community

Dunbar Heights is a historically Black neighborhood in southern Shawnee, Oklahoma, just north of Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

The 2022 festival marked the second Juneteenth celebration jointly hosted by the Nation and the Dunbar Heights Community. Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett read a proclamation acknowledging the two communities’ commitment to ongoing partnership towards mutual benefit, economic development and social progress.

Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps have established deep ties to the community through partnership on several efforts, including working with the City of Shawnee to add streetlights to the neighborhood and an upcoming tree-planting project.

“We had to gain trust of the community, that we weren’t trying to take over their beliefs, their culture, but that we wanted to be a helping hand, be



Shirley Nero of Clearview, Oklahoma, presents the history of the state’s all-Black towns during the 2022 Juneteenth VIP Reception.

a good neighbor,” CPN Human Resources Director Richard Brown told the *Hownikan* in a recent interview.

“After building some of those relationships and trust, what we see is a predominantly Black neighborhood and a tribal nation showing that we can work together and thrive,” he said.

### Slavery in Indian Territory

Clarence Prevost, pastor of Community Baptist Church in Wewoka, Oklahoma, and event committee member for the 2022 celebration, moved to Oklahoma from southeast Texas. In his youth, he saw Juneteenth widely celebrated, with festivities often filling cities for an entire week.

He was curious to find so little recognition of Juneteenth in Oklahoma and even more curious when his keenness for history drove him to uncover the depth of Black history in the state.

When he moved to the Shawnee area, Prevost learned of the extensive historical connection between Native Americans and African Americans in what was then Indian Territory.

The U.S. government forced many Black and Tribal people to present-day Oklahoma.

Slavery was not universally or uniformly practiced within the Five Tribes, or even within individual tribes. Nevertheless, the minority of slave-holding tribal members wielded sufficient political and economic power to substantially shape life within Indian Territory between the 1830s and

1920s, writes Annie Abel in *The American Indian as Slaveholder and Secessionist*.

Abel estimates that in the wake of removal, southern Native Nations enslaved more than 4,000 people west of the Mississippi; Claudio Saunt places that number at “perhaps as many as ten thousand” in “The Paradox of Freedom: Tribal Sovereignty and Emancipation during the Reconstruction of Indian Territory” from *The Journal of Southern History*.

Saunt traces how tribal sovereignty impacted both slavery and emancipation in Indian Territory. U.S. courts were divided as to whether the Emancipation Proclamation or 13th Amendment applied to Native nations, and the terms of emancipation were formalized through later Reconstruction treaties between the tribes and the federal government. While some tribes, or parts of tribes, had freed their slaves in 1863, full emancipation for slaves in Indian Territory would not come until August 1866.

### All-Black towns

In addition to terms of emancipation, one of the pillars in the Reconstruction treaties was the cessation of tribal lands to the federal government for the settlement of other Native peoples.

“Pressured by U.S. government officials, the Seminoles turned over their entire domain, over two million acres, in exchange for lands in the Creek Nation. The Creeks themselves ceded over three million acres with only modest compensation,” writes Saunt. Parts of

these lands would be assigned to the Citizen Potawatomi the following year.

As tribes and the federal government negotiated emancipation, incorporation of emancipated peoples into the tribes and allotment of lands, formerly enslaved people often chose land near one another and developed rich agricultural communities with their own schools, business, churches and eventually towns.

“From 1865 to 1920, African Americans created more than fifty identifiable towns and settlements” in Oklahoma, reports the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Though many of these all-Black towns were devastated during the Depression years, 13 of the original all-Black towns in Oklahoma remain: Boley, Brooksville, Clearview, Grayson, Langston, Lima, Red Bird, Rentiesville, Summit, Taft, Tatum, Tullahassee and Vernon. A 14th town, IXL, was incorporated in 2001.

Many of the same processes that shaped Indian Territory leading up to and following the Civil War shaped the history of all-Black towns in Oklahoma. The two histories are deeply intertwined, and even though the Citizen Potawatomi had not yet been removed to Indian Territory in the earliest parts of this history, the practice of fee-simple allotment established by the federal government through dealings with the Potawatomi beginning with the Treaty of 1861 was a major factor in the development of these all-Black towns.

### Talking about history

For Tribal leadership, Dunbar Heights representatives and community members, Juneteenth is not only a time for celebration but an occasion for acknowledgement of history, how it impacts the present and a need for collaboration to create a better future.

“I strongly feel if you don’t talk about things that happened in the past, you remain in the past,” said Brown. “We need to talk about those things, to overcome those things that caused where we were, what we did to get to where we are today, and what we can do to make things better for the people that follow us.”

The Dunbar Heights and Citizen Potawatomi Nation Juneteenth events this year were structured around a scaffolding of storytelling for precisely this reason.

*Continued on page 6*



**“THANK YOU**  
for choosing me to serve another four years as your Tribal Vice-Chairman. It is an honor to have your trust and support.”

**VICE-CHAIRMAN LINDA CAPPS**

Ad space provided by the Hownikan

# Legislator finds retirement fun in Oklahoma film industry

Earlier this year, Citizen Potawatomi Nation District 12 Legislator Paul Schmidlkofer spent several weeks working on the set of the Peabody Awards-winning show *Reservation Dogs* as they filmed season two. The comedy-drama created by Seminole Nation citizen Sterlin Harjo tells the story of four Indigenous teenagers growing up in rural Oklahoma and their efforts to determine their futures.

Harjo spent his youth in the same setting, as did Schmidlkofer, who graduated from Tecumseh High School not far from CPN headquarters. He found the material easy to connect with as he read the scripts and prepared to act in the background or as a stand-in for one of the show's biggest stars.

"I've talked to a lot of people on the show, and a lot of them are like me," Schmidlkofer said. "They grew up here in Indian Country, just grew up down the road. And I remember growing up, and a lot of the things they're portraying in the show, it was the same back then as it is now. You have to struggle to get out of where you're at. And it's been interesting to watch that and be a part of that. It's pretty special because we really just haven't had much of that in media."

He enjoys the show's portrayal of Native Americans' humorous side and its realistic view of their problems. Schmidlkofer also described the upcoming season as "a little edgy sometimes."

"It's not for everybody, but there's a lot of humor in it, and it's pretty realistic for the most part. The stories may wander around. The reality of it is it's pretty realistic to being an Indian in Oklahoma and growing up around here," he said.

## Season two

Schmidlkofer had seen notices from the show looking for background actors and other on-set jobs, and he ignored them while others traveled to northeast Oklahoma hoping to work with the show's creators. One day, he received an email inviting him to apply as a background actor for season two. He agreed, and during his first day on set, the assistant of background casting got a hold of him.

"I just happened to be in line. He's hollering, 'Paul Schmidlkofer, Paul Schmidlkofer.' And I said, 'That's me.' I'm thinking, 'I've already screwed it up. I'm gone.' I really thought I did something and offended somebody, and they're going to kick me out," he said.



CPN legislator Paul Schmidlkofer (left) performs with actor Zahn McClarnon (right) and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes member Brandon Nowlin on the set of *Reservation Dogs*.

They quickly offered him the opportunity to serve as a stand-in for acclaimed actor Gary Farmer, who plays Uncle Brownie on *Reservation Dogs* and is known for his roles in *Smoke Signals* (1998) and *Dead Man* (1995).

"They said, 'You'll have to really pay attention and get involved, and for the most part, act like however the star does it.' In my mind, I'm thinking, 'I can do that today, and they'll probably fire me after today. But that would be fun.' So I said, 'Sure, I'll do that,'" Schmidlkofer recounted.

He spent the next several weeks as Farmer's stand-in, working with the lighting and prop crews as they prepared the scenes.

"You're literally right there with everybody that matters every day. ... The stars are right there. The director is right there. Everybody is right there. You get to watch the camera people, discussing how they're going to make shots, the lighting people, the props, the wardrobe, all those people working around you," Schmidlkofer said.

"I thought, 'No wonder movies cost so much.'"

He then applied for a background character role on another episode in the second season, and the casting department picked him. Schmidlkofer got to play a Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse Police Department officer and dressed the part as they spent several days filming some physically demanding scenes.

"It was very wet and muddy. It's a wonder I didn't fall and break a hip. ... But the whole thing's been fun. If they called me up tomorrow and said, 'Can you make it up here in two hours?' I'll be up there in two hours. I enjoyed it that much," he said.

Schmidlkofer met Gary Farmer, Wes Studi, Zahn McClarnon and Lane Factor, one of the show's young stars, throughout the two and a half months of filming. He described the overall atmosphere as loving, accepting and inclusive.

"That's why I like going up there. I'm going to have a good time. We're going to cut up, and we're going to do some funny stuff. They're going to feed us good. It's not going to cost me

any money to have a good time. Why wouldn't I go?" Schmidlkofer said.

## Filmed in Oklahoma

He believes Oklahoma's film and production tax incentives made shows like *Reservation Dogs* possible, especially the ability to film a storyline about Native Americans on location.

"Sterlin (Harjo) had to sell that concept to somebody. The tax credit made it a whole lot easier for him to sell the concept of a show about Indians and it being funny. Because most people's opinions were tainted by old school Hollywood — just the stoic, noble Indian," Schmidlkofer said.

He retired from education a few years ago and decided to spend his time taking advantage of rare opportunities, like working on *Reservation Dogs*. The experience gave him a look into an extensive film and television production he had never had before, and he appreciated the staff much more.

"Those people work really hard. They're flying in, working and flying to another job, some of them. I don't see me working that hard ever again. ... I honestly don't see me doing much acting, I see this as a chapter in my life where I've had a good time, and I've enjoyed myself," he said.

Schmidlkofer encourages others looking for opportunities in film and media to hunt for jobs in the growing Oklahoma production scene. He believes right now presents a "golden opportunity."

"I don't think there's been a better time. There are list servers out there that produce all the shows that are looking for help. There's tons of work out there," Schmidlkofer said.

Since filming *Reservation Dogs*, he has worked on *Tulsa King* starring Sylvester Stallone, partially filmed in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, as well as several smaller productions. While his future in media remains unclear, Schmidlkofer analyzes opportunities as they come.

"I think the Creator opens doors for us. Sometimes the trickster opens doors for us. You have to be careful which door you walk through. And I'm having fun, and that's what retirement is supposed to be about," he said.

Season two of *Reservation Dogs* begins August 3 on Hulu. *Tulsa King* premieres exclusively on Paramount+ on Nov. 13, 2022. ♠



Ad space provided by the Hownikan

## Thank you District 5 for another four years!

It has been a blessing beyond measure. Let me know how I can be of service to you.

Love you all for the opportunity.

Gene Lambert (Eunice Imogene Lambert)

## Potawatomi Leadership Program Class of 2022

The 2022 Potawatomi Leadership Program class traveled from across the country to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation this summer to live on property owned by the Tribe for six weeks and learn about CPN, its culture, government and services. This year's class consists of 10 members as the program returns to an in-person experience following a virtual program in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The *Hownikan* asked participants some introductory questions. Meet them now:

**Anna Korzeniewski**  
**Hometown: Clarksburg, Maryland**

Anna Korzeniewski is a sophomore at Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania, studying history education with plans to become a history teacher. As a Lewis family descendant, she enjoyed learning about Potawatomi history and wants to “make sure that my students, Indigenous or not, have multiple historical perspectives.” This summer, she liked learning the language, meeting elders and taking up crafts.

Korzeniewski names perseverance, flexibility and positivity as defining leadership qualities. She practiced with her high school's field hockey team despite being unable to join her freshman year. By the end of her sophomore year, she was on the varsity team and selected for the sportsmanship award “because I made a point to encourage my teammates to work hard” and “focused on pointing out things we did well.” She defines herself as loyal and a good friend who values ownership, accountability, commitment, reconciliation and the new chance that comes with each day.

**Catherine Charnoky**  
**Hometown: Ithaca, New York**

Catherine Charnoky studies environmental science as a sophomore at Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts. The Melot family descendant has a warm personality and describes herself as down to earth with an emphasis on dedication, loyalty and perseverance and a knack for conflict mediation.

Charnoky believes a caring person who communicates clearly, shows initiative and thinks of the bigger picture makes a good leader. She sings as part of an acapella group and works as a teaching assistant. She showed her skills as a freshman orientation leader at her university.

“I created space for students to bring their unique experiences and identities



2022 Potawatomi Leadership class

to the space, ground themselves, connect with each other, and set the tone for the rest of their college experience. I believe being a leader is an essential part of being in a community,” Charnoky said.

Living far away from Oklahoma, she enjoyed the opportunity for an immersive experience and learning about Tribal history, language and culture — crafting, in particular.

**Chloe Williams**  
**Hometown: Mansfield, Texas**

Chloe Williams hopes to one day teach theater arts using her education degree from Texas State University. The Ogee family descendant begins her higher education journey this fall. When working as a leader on a theater production or choir, she makes a point of listening to everyone's ideas and input. She describes herself as largely optimistic and enjoys sharing her personality through performance.

“(A good leader) offers a solution that considers the members' opinions that makes everyone feel included. I also think that a good leader is easy to talk to. These qualities help create an environment that makes people feel safe to share and participate in group activities,” Williams said.

She applied to participate in the PLP to learn more about her ancestry and Potawatomi culture, and she feels it is important to pass it along to the next generation. Williams also enjoys cooking and baking and looked forward to learning about *Nishanbé* foods on top of music, stories, arts and history.

**David Harty**  
**Hometown: Salinas, California**

David Harty studies arts and humanities as a sophomore at Monterey Peninsula College near his hometown of Salinas, California. He applied for the PLP at the encouragement of his parents to learn more about their heritage. The Slavin family descendant describes himself as a “hands-on learner,” and the program provided the perfect way to experience it all in person.

“It's vital to understand your past to better prepare for your future and live wholly as who you are in your present,” Harty said.

For most of his life, he has taken part in community theater. He finished his 26th production in March 2022, and Harty's experiences have improved his interpersonal and leadership skills, most importantly a team-oriented mindset.

He also writes fiction and enjoys volunteering at his church as well as learning about Tribal history.

**Jaden Tarter**  
**Hometown: Berkeley, California**

Jaden Tarter joined the PLP this year from Berkeley, California. The Bruno family descendant studies biotechnology at Berkeley City College, and he begins his sophomore year this fall. He applied for the program with CPN to hone his leadership skills and learn about Potawatomi culture, particularly history, language and agriculture. In his free time, Tarter enjoys being outside.

“I have a deep love for the outdoors, and physical exercise, hiking, backpacking

and camping have always been some of my favorite pastimes,” he said, noting their ability to relieve stress and therapeutic properties.

Tarter has worked in construction and learned how to resolve disputes on job sites. He describes himself as efficient and productive. His idea of a leader includes “someone who works with their team instead of their team working for them.”

**Liberty Wolfe**  
**Hometown: Edmond, Oklahoma**

Liberty Wolfe attends the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond as a sophomore, hoping to become a successful businessperson in her career and put many of her creative ideas out into the world. The Curley family descendant feels empathy and cultural awareness set apart people who are simply qualified for a position from someone who can thrive.

“In a world with so many aspiring leaders, there needs to be a desire to learn about people and to care for people. This is what makes a leader,” Wolfe said.

She applied for the PLP to learn about her heritage but also to open career and leadership opportunities in the future and meet new Tribal members. She enjoyed learning about the Tribe's various governmental departments as well as Potawatomi stories and customs. In her free time, Wolfe likes to swim, do yoga, hike, walk her dog and check out classic cars.

**Melody Glover**  
**Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona**

As a sophomore at Arizona State University in Tempe, Melody Glover studies fine art and studio art. They decided to apply for the PLP to take advantage of a unique opportunity and the chance to experience “learning about art not in a classroom.”

Some of Glover's favorite activities throughout the program included learning to bead, making drums, sewing and making moccasins. It matches the LeClaire family descendant's recent interest in creating clothes, learning to stitch and modifying store-bought pieces to accommodate their style.

Glover believes a wide variety of traits make up a good leader, but the two most important are communication and sympathy/empathy, or the ability to relate with others.

*Continued on page 11*

*I am grateful and honored for the privilege of serving another term as your District 6 Representative. Chi-migwetch!*

*CPN is on the move, and I look forward to the future of our great Nation with much excitement and enthusiasm. Bama mine.*

**Rande K. Payne**



Ad space provided by the Hownikan

## Technology, online platforms spread knowledge of *Bodéwadmimwen*

Although the Potawatomi language, *Bodéwadmimwen*, continues to flourish and spread to new segments of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation population, the number of first language speakers continues to decrease.

The CPN Language Department uses many online platforms to teach students of all ages how to speak *Bodéwadmimwen*, including YouTube, Zoom, Tovuti, Facebook, an online dictionary and more. These web-based tools have helped department employees approach public schools surrounding Tribal land to offer a course approved for world language credit in Oklahoma. They continue to expand with introductory courses for middle schools as well as collegiate material.

Google Arts & Culture approached the department and its director Justin Neely about participating in a new platform, Woolaroo. It allows users to take a picture of common plants, animals, items and more and hear the Potawatomi word for it played back to them. It features more than 900 Potawatomi words and phrases.

“It was very humbling even being approached by Google,” Neely said. “When one of the main project coordinators said she had heard about our language program, I was like, ‘Wow, that’s awesome.’ I knew this was an amazing opportunity.”

He feels Woolaroo suits children in particular, allowing them to combine technology with their heritage. Potawatomi culture is rooted in language and oral traditions of storytelling and exchanging knowledge. Lessons, thoughts and ideas, ceremonies, agricultural practices and more were passed along by word of mouth, with no written language.

The words, phrases and verb conjugations all show and explain how the Potawatomi saw and continue to see the world with an emphasis on a connection to the earth, a high regard for mother nature and living beings, and a communal lifestyle. The language also expresses the values that take precedent for making decisions, both large and small: honesty, wisdom, love, humility, truth, bravery and respect.

Neely and many other CPN tribal members feel language remains the thread that ties all *Nishnabé* culture together.

Much of *Bodéwadmimwen* reveals what Potawatomi people prioritize. The *déwégen*, or drum, comes from the words *dé* (heart), *wé* (a sound) and *gen* (a thing) — or “the sound of a heartbeat.” Used in the most sacred ceremonies and biggest social occasions that bring Potawatomi together, the *Nishnabé* describe the drum as “the heartbeat of the Nation.”

“(Google) really understood if we didn’t have words for certain concepts. They

originally gave me a list of the 1,300 most Googled terms. ... There were also a number of words which had to be created, which if not for the project might have been missed and are now part of our online dictionary,” Neely said.

The Potawatomi people survived displacement several times in the mid to late-1800s. Originally from the Great Lakes region, the Potawatomi were forcibly removed from their homelands by the U.S. government to a reservation in present-day Kansas in the late 1830s. Named the Trail of Death, the devastating passage resulted in more than 40 Potawatomi losing their lives, mostly women and children.

After two more treaties with the federal government in the 1860s, the Potawatomi then took allotments in Indian Territory, or present-day Oklahoma. The language and culture persisted despite generations of Potawatomi being taught by missionaries and attending Indian boarding schools far away from their families.

These forced removals and the era of Federal policy aimed at terminating tribal governments were a severe detriment to Potawatomi language and culture. The Nation has been adding resources to preserve the language and culture through online and in-person activities. The Tribe hosts the

annual Family Reunion Festival each June. The weekend’s events culminate with the powwow, when the Nation honors ancestors and traditions through dancing, regalia and competitions.

After the century-long diaspora experienced by the Potawatomi, the Nation’s members are spread out across the country. Many travel to Oklahoma each summer for the festival and powwow; however, CPN and its members have been using technology more to connect and learn — including to teach the language.

During competitive dances, Tribal members often participate to honor someone else and consider their movement and the music a deep connection with the Creator and earth.

The patterns, colors and shapes on regalia often represent that dancer’s family, clan or some other longstanding tradition passed from generation to generation. There might be certain animals or plants that hold special meaning, including many Eastern Woodlands floral designs as well as some foods or medicines.

Woolaroo from Google Arts & Culture adds another innovative piece of interactive technology that Tribal members can use to learn *Bodéwadmimwen* and expose the rest of the world to an Indigenous peoples’ lifeways. Find Woolaroo online at [cpn.news/woolaroo](https://cpn.news/woolaroo). ♪

### Juneteenth continued...

Shirley Nero of Clearview, Oklahoma, addressed the crowd at the reception and recounted the histories of Oklahoma’s all-Black towns.

Nero also spoke about the Jim Crow laws passed by the Oklahoma legislature immediately following statehood, breaking down the “promised land” that Oklahoma had become for many Black people both within and outside of the territory. Racism did not end with the Civil War, and through discriminatory banking, loaning and renting practices as well as other instances of state-sanctioned social, economic and political violence, white settlers in the state worked to ensure Black communities and all-Black towns could not support themselves.

These injustices and their effects impact the material realities of Black communities in Oklahoma and across the country today; the fight for freedom continues on many fronts.

“Many people aren’t aware of Article 2 of the 13th Amendment,” Dunbar Heights Community Group President Timmy Young noted. “If you get a felony, you

become a slave. ... The people who wrote that knew what they were doing.”

Young spoke with the *Hownikan* about negative stereotypes perpetuated by media about Black people and how those misconceptions affect the daily lives of Black communities, as well as the derogatory language long used to describe the Dunbar Heights district of Shawnee. He addressed how Dunbar High School, the Black high school in Shawnee prior to integration in the 1950s, was eventually demolished and students were required to attend the white schools in town — one example of a widespread pattern of loss and destruction. He also spoke of the grossly disproportionate number of Black Americans killed by police each year.

“We have equality in many areas, but it’s not always represented in all the institutions across America,” Young said. “Black history is not taught. Native American history is not taught, even in Oklahoma. ... Let’s be for real. Let’s talk about what’s really going on in the world.”

### Unity for future

Young hopes above all for unity in the community and for a revitalization of the

Dunbar Heights neighborhood. Long term, he would like to see development of transportation infrastructure and improved access to fresh produce and vital services for community members.

“That’s my heart, for us to come together,” Young said. “It’s my heart that we communicate. It’s my heart that we love each other. It’s my heart that we take the time to break the bread, that we take the challenge to step across the line. That we take the challenge to come to the table, and let’s have conversation.”

The partnership between CPN and Dunbar Heights breaks new ground as it reckons with the past and works together towards a more just, free and equitable future. Community leaders in the Shawnee area and beyond hope to see it become a model for other communities across the state and across the country.

“I just thought that what CPN did was very unique out of tribes, to introduce, or to initiate the contact for the Juneteenth program,” Pastor Prevost said. “To me, that shows that there’s a divide that was breached in history. It was a historical divide that has been closed between the African American community and the

Tribe. ... That’s why Shawnee is taking the lead. That’s why CPN is taking the lead, Dunbar Heights is taking the lead.”

CPN and Dunbar Heights’ partnership has even captured the attention of Opal Lee, the “grandmother of Juneteenth.” Lee has walked countless miles throughout the country to gain recognition for Juneteenth as a federal holiday, and President Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act in 2021. She is currently in the process of building a national Juneteenth museum in Fort Worth, Texas, set to open in 2024.

Lee plans to visit Shawnee to meet with community and Tribal leaders, Brown announced during this year’s Juneteenth reception. She is keen to tell history of slavery and emancipation in Indian Territory in her museum, bringing the salient but oft-overlooked history to public attention in new and expanding ways.

Pastor Prevost hopes that everyone who comes to Shawnee will see what Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the Dunbar Heights Community are building together, return to their homes, and say, “We can do that here.” ♪

*Migwetch!*  
*It's my honor to serve you!*

**DAVE CARNEY**



AD SPACE PROVIDED BY THE HOWNIKAN

## Combs descendant wins Oklahoma public school art award

In March 2022, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member and Piedmont High School junior Shelby Grove opened a letter from Oklahoma State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister. It congratulated her on winning a 2022 State Superintendent Awards for Arts Excellence in Visual Arts, collaborating with the Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education and the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma.

“I was like, ‘Oh, my gosh, there’s no way this is real,’” Grove said.

The Combs family descendant applied for it with encouragement from her art teacher, who saw her talent in class and began suggesting contests for her to enter. Grove anticipated stiff competition.

“I just thought it’d be really cool to have my hard work, my art, be recognized for something, to have somebody else be like, ‘Wow, this is really great.’ Just to get the recognition for something that I made,” she said.

“I thought there was no way that I was going to get in because there were so many talented people who submitted artwork. ... Even the people who also won with me, theirs were so amazing. And just hearing that I won was unbelievable.”

Grove received a medal at an awards ceremony in April 2022 at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Masonic Temple in Guthrie, Oklahoma, along with other high schoolers from across the state in recognition of their abilities in drama and theatre, dance, visual art, and instrumental and vocal music. In addition to her love of art, Grove is a member of the National Honor Society at Piedmont High School.

### Creativity

Grove always enjoyed art in elementary and middle school and participated in classes as much as possible. However,



*CPN tribal member Shelby Grove accepts her award for her piece Tools with her art teacher, Frances Williams. (Photo provided)*

when she reached high school and the coronavirus pandemic forced students into virtual learning, she decided to take more academically advanced courses. Grove looked forward to returning to the regular classroom full-time her junior year and took the opportunity to return to the art she missed.

“It’s always been a way for me to take my mind off things and be able to just relax and focus on something that I really enjoy and doesn’t take too hard of thought to come up with. ... But getting back into it really helps me calm my thoughts and put things into art, put my feelings into artwork,” she said.

Grove started drawing more, and it felt like she was thriving with her focus on pencil sketches. She rarely branched out to work with other mediums, but the piece she picked to enter the contest was a drawing using black charcoal and white colored pencils.

“It was fun,” Grove said. “It was really messy because charcoal gets everywhere, but it was really fun.”

She said it was hard to choose only one piece she had made this year for the judges. The one she picked, titled *Tools*, is more realistic than the blended, seamless style of her other work; Grove created it for an assignment to improve her highlighting and shading abilities.

“I did a bunch of scattered tools and shaded them in really dark to make them look realistic. And it was also working on our collage abilities by taking like newspapers and gluing them to the back. So, it looked like these tools were scattered across a bunch of newspapers,” Grove said.

She uses her art to express her feelings during the moment of creation. For *Tools*, Grove wanted to show how the radical changes throughout the last few years of the pandemic affected her.

“Kind of a lot was going on at the time, and so I just felt like it should be chaotic, and I wanted it to be super dark, dark colors and super light, light contrasts,” she said. “And I wanted the words everywhere. And I just wanted it to be chaotic and different.”

### Ceremony

Grove attended the awards ceremony with her mother, father, grandmother, sisters and art teacher. Recipients in the performing arts showed off their skills, and those in visual arts had their work displayed in the lobby. Hofmeister presented medals to everyone, one by one.

“Then you could go up and talk to Joy afterward whenever we were all dismissed and finished and get pictures with her. And that was so cool,” Grove said.

“She was so nice. She was so sweet. Just telling everyone, ‘Congratulations. Good job.’”

The medal now hangs in a special place at home, and it helped Grove believe in her art and see its potential.

“Before you’re just like, ‘Oh, yeah, I doodle every now and then.’ But then whenever you actually win something, it’s like, ‘Wow. Obviously, my art is improving, and it’s becoming good enough to be accepted into winning an award.’ It made me feel really good about my artwork,” she said.

While she is not eligible for this award again, Grove hopes to enter more contests her senior year and keep creating. She wants to expand her style and include more colors and mediums to improve her skill set. That desire comes from the support of those around her.

“I just want everyone to know how grateful I am,” Grove said. “Like my art teacher for encouraging me, and all the friends and family who wrote recommendations for me to (enter the contest). And my family for always supporting my art. I just want to say how grateful I am to everyone.”

Read more about the 2022 State Superintendent’s Awards for Arts Excellence at [cpn.news/SSAAE](https://cpn.news/SSAAE). 🔥



# JOIN THE LARGEST & BEST EMPLOYER

## IN POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

# APPLY ONLINE

[FIRELAKEJOBS.COM](https://firelakejobs.com)

# Housing Director part of Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon*

In May 2022, the much-anticipated film adaptation of *Killers of the Flower Moon* shot one final scene at the Osage Nation campus in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. This scene, involving only Osage cast, crew and extras, aims to close out the film with a depiction the Osage people today — still here and still thriving.

CPN Housing Director and Osage Nation tribal member Scott George composed one of the songs used in the shoot.

## History in pop culture

*Killers of the Flower Moon* brings to the screen David Grann's 2017 book by the same title, which tells of a series of murders that white settlers systematically carried out against the Osage people in the 1920s for their land, oil and wealth.

The murders caught the attention of some federal investigators, whose involvement in the case laid the foundation for the Federal Bureau of Investigation as it exists today. Versions of this history that have made their way into popular media (such as *The FBI Story*, 1959) routinely erase Osage points of view, noted George in a recent interview with the *Hownikan*.

With countless instances of similar systematic violence perpetrated across Indian Territory and against people of many Native nations receiving even less attention in the public eye, George believes it is important to tell the whole story and “talk about all of it.”

George hopes that the film sparks conversation and increases awareness in Oklahoma and around the world.

“I’m hoping that there will be an interest in the movie ... and that people will come to understand how we were treated during that period of time,” he said. “I do think it’s important that you take the stance not to ever see it happen that way again, that you treat people better.”

## A composer's dilemma

George began singing when he was just 16 years old and has sung for Osage ceremonial dances since 1983. He has held the position of head singer for the Grey Horse War Dance Committee for the past decade.

“There’s probably not a day that goes by that some tune doesn’t come into my head,” he said.

Nevertheless, composing new songs generally goes against George’s philosophy, which is rooted in the Osage people’s history and experiences with removal and assimilation strategies by the U.S. government.

“When we moved from Kansas, we put away a lot of our traditions and ways,” he said. “The elders at that time were telling the younger people, ‘You’re going to have to learn how to be in this world which is being created around us.’ So, they put a lot of that away.”

The Ponca and Kaw tribes, George said, “knowing that we’d put all of that away,” brought their drums and songs and dances to the Osage to try to help them remain connected. As a result, many of the Osages’ dances and songs used today come from Ponca and Kaw traditions instead of drawing on Osage history and heroes.

As powwows grew in popularity and scale, some Oklahoma Native American singers began making new songs to fit in the categories of competitions, George said. He recounts how his mentor during this time said, “I don’t know why you’d want to make songs. We’ve got 400 of them here that we’ll never sing all of them. We’ve probably lost more songs than we’ll be able to sing in a lifetime.”

Today, discussion is ongoing within the Osage Nation about ways to recover histories, traditions and songs, whether through the restoration of old songs or through the composition of new songs to tell those stories. George remains hesitant to make new songs, at least when it comes to ceremonial songs.

## Writing for film

The circumstances of composing for the *Killers of the Flower Moon* film proved complex and unique, however, and the composition of new songs offered the Osage and the film alike the most advantageous solutions to those circumstances.

The film production team brought concerns about copyright infringement before the Osage Nation, and the Osages

themselves considered many factors when it came to using Osage songs in the film.

“We had several discussions in regard to our music — how to use our songs and what’s appropriate to use and what isn’t appropriate to use,” George said. “If you look at our music, which some of it dates back 300 or 400 years, there are individuals named in those songs. We became concerned, and so did the movie company, that descendants of those individuals would have an issue with that song being used.”

George worked with his good friend and Osage Language Department director Vann Bighorse to compose songs that would bring all of the considerations of the Nation, Osage history and the film together into an effective storytelling vehicle. Each composed one song and presented it to the film team. Both songs were sung and filmed at the shoot in May 2022, though only one is anticipated to make the final cut of the film.

George’s song focused on the message of the scene, which he said is “trying to show the public that we still exist, we’re still thriving and holding on to our culture.”

“The words that I put in that song refer to that. I’m asking our people to stand up and get up and dance,” he said.

## The importance of dancing

Advocating for the continuance and celebration of Osage culture runs deep in George’s family. They come from the Grey Horse area, where many of the events of *Killers of the Flower Moon* took place.

George’s great-grandfather was a World War I veteran and represented Native American veterans in the original Delegation for the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Paris.

“He was also instrumental in the one word that is in Haskell Indian Nations College,” George said. “He wrote a letter to Congress asking for permission to have a dance to celebrate that archway and the return of Native American soldiers.”

At the time, ceremonial dances, among other ceremonial and religious traditions,

were restricted by U.S. federal law in an attempt to enforce assimilation of Natives into white and, often, Christian culture. The freedom to practice these sacred traditions would not be restored by U.S. law until 1978 and the passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. However, ignorance and discrimination continued and does to this day.

“From what I was told, the dance was huge,” George said. “Tribal people from all over the United States came and camped there. That was the first time they’d been allowed to dance in public during that time.”

## Still here

Above all, George hopes that the forthcoming film will be effective in conveying the message that despite centuries of violence enacted against them, and despite the whitewashed histories that continue to erase them, the Osage — and Native nations across Turtle Island — are still here.

“Because that’s all we really want is for people to understand that we’re still here. We’re not impoverished, not diminished in any capacity,” George said. “Some of those families (who lost loved ones in the murders of the Reign of Terror) are still intact even with the difficult times that they had to go through.”

Looking ahead, George hopes to see drum, song and dance tell histories lost and suppressed, and build futures of Indigenous thriving.

He joked that “singing’s kind of a young man’s game” but took the opportunity to express his hopes for future generations of singers. George now mentors younger singers himself and seeks to instill in them the importance of their role in the continuing and reclaiming of their traditions and culture, something he learned from the generations of relatives and mentors that came before him.

“We try to get them to understand not only the words in a song, but when to use them, how to use them, and how to put together a dance that moves our people in the right way,” he said. ♡

# Quarterly Legislative Meeting minutes

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

**Absent:** Representatives Eva Marie Carney and Bobbi Bowden.

**Guests:** Tesia Zientek, Melody Glover, Chloe Williams, Braden Bruehl, Jaden Tarter, Tessa Arenz, Sophia Carney, Anna Korzeniewski, Liberty Wolfe, Catherine Charnoky, Tristan Stites, David Hardy, Greg Quinlan, Jennifer Bell and Jamie Moucka.

**Call to order:** Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. followed by the invocation.

**First item of business:** Minutes from the previous legislative meeting held May 26, 2022. Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Representative Boursaw and seconded by Representative Dave Carney. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

**Second item of business:** Minutes from the previous electronic legislative meeting held May 27 through June 7, 2022. Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Representative Boursaw and seconded by Representative Whistler. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

**Third item of business:** Resolution 12-01-HHS: A resolution authorizing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s proposed application for funding through the United States Department of Health & Human Services’ Substance Abuse and

Mental Health Services Administration fy 2022 Tribal Opioid Response Grant program. Motion to approve Resolution #23-01-HHS was made by Representative Barrett and seconded by Representative Wesselhöft. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

**Fourth item of business:** Resolution 23-02-TC&A: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s application for funding under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fy 2022 Tribal Wildlife Program. Motion to approve Resolution #23-02-TC&A was made by Representative Boursaw and seconded by Representative Payne. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining

**Fifth item of business:** Resolution 23-03-LCoE: A resolution enrolling 53 applicants into the membership of the

Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Motion to approve Resolution #23-03-LCoE was made by Representative Barrett and seconded by Representative Lambert. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

**Sixth item of business:** Discussion with the PLP students regarding the resolution language and procedures for voting on them.

11:25 a.m. Recess (Executive Session)  
12:20 p.m. Reconvene

**Seventh item of business:** Adjournment: There being no further business before the Tribal Legislature, motion to adjourn was made by Representative Schmidtkofer and seconded by Representative Johnson. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining. The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. ♡

## Parenting classes

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

As we all know, parenting can be incredibly challenging and difficult to master. We live in a demanding society with many distractions, and our tasks are never ending. Parents want what is best for their children, but knowing how to provide that sometimes can be tough. Here at the House of Hope, we offer parenting classes at no charge to those in the community who either need or desire such classes.

Deciding to take a parenting class does not mean you are a bad parent. It shows you care about your family and the future of your children. On top of all that, parenting classes also give you an opportunity to connect with other parents who are most likely going through a lot of the same experiences as you.

The class is an eight-week course, and at the end of the last session, the participant will receive a certificate of completion with no test requirements.

Since these classes do last several weeks, the participant has the time to actually put into practice what is being taught. All classes are held at the House of Hope's main location at 1310 S. Gordon Cooper Drive in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The class goes over many different topics and can be helpful for parents or guardians with children at all stages of adolescence. The topics that are covered include child development stages, family communication, sensible discipline, self-care for parents and problem solving. Each class also will cover skills like positive encouragement, active listening, time management and setting limits.

As a domestic violence program, our main focus is to help those who find themselves in an unhealthy or abusive relationship. In these types of situations, the ones affected by the abuse the most are the children. We incorporate information and skills into these classes to help parents or guardians who struggle with these types of situations. It is important that we



ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH YOUR PARENTING AND TIRED OF FEELING ANGRY, FRUSTRATED AND MAYBE EVEN GUILTY?

LET US GIVE YOU SOME SUPPORT AND TECHNIQUES TO RELIEVE THE STRESS. CONTACT US NOW TO SET UP YOUR FREE PARENTING CLASSES!

405-275-3176  
1310 S Gordon Cooper Dr. Shawnee, OK  
familyviolenceprogram@potawatomi.org

break the cycle of domestic violence at a young age. With these tips for effective parenting, and many more, you will be sure to make parenting decisions with confidence when confronted with difficult situations at home.

If you are interested in taking the class and have more questions, please feel free

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

## Veterans report



Bozho (Hello),

I hope all of you Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans survived the heat of July. It sure put the steam in our summer activities. Our Citizen Potawatomi Veterans Organization has seen a boost in our active membership. We had several CPN Veterans join our group and commit to joining us in our Color Guard and Honor Guard

events. We will now have enough members to carry more of our flags to better represent the Citizen Potawatomi Veterans and the Tribe at school events and other functions. We are getting more schools requesting the demonstration and explanation of the folding of our United States flag. It means a lot to us for the schools and the public to show interest and respect for our Nation's flag, which represents all people of our United States of America and our Veterans who sacrificed so much for our freedoms. *Migwetch.*

Remember, our monthly meeting of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization is the 4th Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise notified due to weather or conflicting events)



at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the CPN Powwow Grounds. All CPN Veterans and their spouses and families are welcome. Membership in the Veterans organization is not required; come and visit us and enjoy our socializing. For more information, you can contact Daryl Talbot.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Daryl Talbot, Commander  
[daryl.talbot75@outlook.com](mailto:daryl.talbot75@outlook.com)  
405-275-1054

# FALL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

## SEPT. 15 AT 5 PM CT

Apply at [portal.potawatomi.org](https://portal.potawatomi.org)

## Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

### CPN Executive Committee

Tribal Chairman: John "Rocky" Barrett

Vice-Chairman: Linda Capps

Secretary/Treasurer: D. Wayne Trousdale

### Editorial staff

Editor: Jennifer Bell

Writer: Paige Willett

Writer: Mary Leaver

Writer: Rachel Vishanoff

Page/graphic designer: Trey DeLonais

Graphic designer: Emily Guleserian

Photographer: Garrett Fisbeck

Submissions coordinator: Brittany Oswald

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

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

Questions: [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org) or 800-880-9880

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

## Colorado Realtor® brings Indigenous perspective to industry

In the fast-paced world of real estate, Crissy Rumford has made her mark. But she is now embracing a new chance to increase the visibility of Native Americans in the industry and become a resource for Tribal members entering the field.

Last year, Rumford became the branch broker for Slifer Smith & Frampton Real Estate of Vail, Colorado. She hopes to bring an Indigenous perspective to this important position within the company and also to her appointment on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee for the National Association of Realtors®.

Rumford worked for many years as a ski instructor in the resort town, but when she decided to start a family, she wanted a job with more flexibility. Real estate wound up being a great fit for a busy mother with a young daughter.

"In real estate, we don't work all day every day, but we do work every day of our lives," Rumford said. "We are at the beck and call of our clients, but the industry is more flexible. It's not a 9-to-5 job."

While she built a successful business, she noticed that she did not meet that many Indigenous Realtors®. She saw an opportunity to help change that and jumped at the chance.

"Last year, I applied for an appointment to the National Association of Realtors® Diversity Committee and was selected, which is an enormous honor out of our 1.55 million members across the United States," Rumford said. "Certainly, in our industry, I haven't met many Native American Realtors®, not in my (Vail) area. I've been traveling for my local, state and national association for the past 10 years, going to conventions where there are 10,000 people. So, I just wanted to be a part of that presentation."

She is excited to have the chance to possibly shape the industry by encouraging more Native American visibility.

"I do think it's important, and it does change the conversation in the room, especially for Native Americans," she said. "I didn't sign up to be the poster child for diversity. It wasn't my goal, but as I started giving more of my time and being more involved, I thought, 'Wow, there's an opportunity here that I don't think I have considered.' It seems like (the Indigenous perspective is) never a part of the conversation, so I started saying, 'I think this might be an opportunity that I need to embrace.' And it's been great, and it's been very well received."

### Mentoring new Realtors®

She would love the chance to mentor other Native Americans who are thinking about a career in real estate and has some advice for those starting out in the business. Building a career on integrity is a necessity, Rumford said.

"I think the most important thing is to find a mentor. ... Someone who has a great reputation in the industry, who is respected in the community and is known for giving back. I was fortunate enough to be embraced by someone like that and worked directly with him and under his wing for five years at the beginning of my career," Rumford said.

"It helped me know what type of Realtor® I wanted to be and probably set the tone for what I wanted to do."

She knows there are particular traits that help people succeed in real estate. She believes most clients respond to a personal touch, which helps build a lasting connection between agents and clients.

"You have to love people. You have to be willing to open yourself up and be vulnerable. Sometimes you have to be interpreter of actions, more than words. You have to be able to read your clients," Rumford said.

"You should have a genuine care and concern for your clients. You want to build a customer base by forming friendships that are meaningful and trusting so you can be both a friend and trusted advisor, not for just one transaction but all their transactions."

Rumford said people are surprised to learn that they do not need a business degree to build a real estate career.

"To be honest with you, it's about relationships," she said. "There are so many things that you can learn in school, like you can learn how to refine your business or how to prospect for new leads. But if you don't have the inherent people skills and that care and concern for your clients, the learning won't help you."

Rumford believes the industry is less about sales and more about helping people find exactly what they are looking for.

"You can talk someone into buying a gym membership or buying a car," she said. "You can't talk someone into buying a house because it's too big of a purchase. They are either all in, or they're not. I call myself a matchmaker between homes and people. If the



Crissy Rumford (Photo provided)

match is there, it works. If not, we move on to the next potential match."

### Industry requires perseverance

While there may be some initial hurdles for people who want to become an agent, Rumford hopes they will persevere and ultimately find a rewarding career. With the industry being 100 percent commission-based when it comes to compensation, Rumford thinks that aspect can be discouraging to people who are just starting out.

"When you first start out, you're putting 100 percent of your efforts into building your business. It's not like a business where on day one you start making money. It can be a tough industry to get into unless you plan for it," she said.

Rumford loves meeting diverse people in different stages of their lives, from new homeowners just starting out to senior citizens ready to simplify their life and focus on travel or other interests. More than anything, she relishes the chance to play a part in helping people achieve what can be their lifelong dream — owning a home.

"This is going to sound so corny, but it's the truth: I help dreams come true," she said. "I help people find their forever home or their dream home. Or I help them sell a home that maybe wasn't their dream home but allowed them to build enough equity to move on to the next stage of their lives. Or I can help an elderly client who has lived there 30 or 40 years sell their home and pass that equity along to ensure their heir's success. That's the part that feels good."

She is equally passionate about helping everyone feel rooted in their community. Recently, she helped the Vail Board of

Realtors® Foundation award a \$8,340 grant to a local trailer park. Rumford serves on the board and knows that the residents of the trailer park were trying to purchase the land where their trailers sit.

"Over 420 people live there; they've been renting this land for 45 years," she said. "Generations have grown up in the park. They wanted to buy it but needed to do an engineering study because many of the utilities had extreme deferred maintenance. An initiative like that makes me go to bed with a smile on my face. I just love being involved with things like that."

### Pride in culture, home

Rumford and her husband, Fred, have been married for 26 years. They have a 22-year-old daughter, Lilly, who works in the cosmetics industry in Los Angeles, California. Rumford speaks with pride as she mentions her daughter wearing her CPN stole during her recent college graduation from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

Rumford is the granddaughter of famed Potawatomi artists Woody and Lillian Crumbo. She is the daughter of artist and filmmaker Minisa Crumbo Halsey and a descendant of the Ouillmette/Wilmette family.

She displays her family's artwork in her home and office and enjoys discussing each piece with visitors. She hopes it sparks a further interest in Potawatomi culture.

"We are surrounded by my grandfather's art, my grandmother's and my mother's," Rumford said. "It is fun when people come into my office or home, and they see our family art. It always is a really nice way to open the conversation."

Her family pride is evident in her own home, where a map of the 1887 Potawatomi allotments reminds her how far her family has come. She is keenly aware of the link between her ancestors working hard to establish a home in Oklahoma and how her work today helps people achieve that same dream.

"One of the things I took home from Family Reunion (Festival) one year was a big map from 1887 where they've highlighted your family's allotments," she said. "I have that map hanging in my home. When I see it, it speaks to everything that I do every day. We're talking about land, where we plant our feet, rest our heads and grow our families. That (allotment) was where that started."

For more information about Rumford, visit [VailCrissy.com](http://VailCrissy.com) or contact her at [CRumford@slifer.net](mailto:CRumford@slifer.net). ♡



**MICHAEL JOHN KENNEDY  
SCHOLARSHIP**

**CLOSES SEPTEMBER 15**  
**APPLY ONLINE AT [PORTAL.POTAWATOMI.ORG](http://PORTAL.POTAWATOMI.ORG)**

## Potawatomi student helps lead state agriculture group

Agricultural education offers much more than just hands-on experience raising show animals. The National FFA Organization is the premier youth organization preparing members for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. FFA helps participants set their course for success beyond the classroom and the show ring.

Navarre family descendant Carson Capps just completed his term as a state officer with the Oklahoma FFA. As one of eight state officers, he represented the interests of more than 28,000 FFA members across the state while attending Byng High School in Byng, Oklahoma.

He's grateful for the chance to have connected with Oklahoma chapter members, honed his networking skills and shared ideas with others who are passionate about agriculture. The Oklahoma State University freshman said he continually meets friends from FFA while attending OSU.

"Going from Byng High School to Oklahoma State, a huge campus, it could be a little intimidating, but just having that group of friends coming in that I knew, really helped that transition," he said.

### Sharing leadership skills

State officers stay busy year-round with events, training and education. Newly elected officers receive their training in May. During the summer, FFA Alumni Leadership Camp consists of four sessions, each four days long and with about 400 campers attending. Every morning, the officers perform a flag-raising ceremony and educate campers about the flag in American history. The groups break into smaller sessions of about 10-15 members, and a state FFA officer leads the discussion.

As school starts, state officers prepare for the Chapter Officer Leadership Training. State officers help train the individual chapter officers and prepare them to lead their local chapters. They also assist in the creation of an educational program for each of the five Oklahoma regions.

"This year, our theme for that was 'leading up,' meaning that no matter

what position you're in, you can still have a leadership role," Capps said.

In October, the national FFA convention got underway in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was Capps' first opportunity to attend the national convention.

"As an official FFA delegate to the National FFA Organization for Oklahoma, we have 14 delegates. So that was a great experience, and being on a committee for the national office and seeing some of the behind-the-scenes activity. I'd never been to the national convention, and it was my first experience serving as a delegate."

Fall also brings the State Fair of Oklahoma and the Tulsa State Fair. These are among the organization's most publicly visible roles, helping manage the activities at each fair's livestock shows.

As spring begins, state officers plan what's known as a goodwill tour, a final chance to meet with members across the state before the school year ends.

"The officers split off into two groups of four, and we travel to different parts of the state, visiting about 30 or 40 chapters," Capps said. "We prepare a 15-to-20 minute leadership program for them, talking about career goals and ways that they can achieve them. It's about an hour-long stop and then we're on to the next stop. There are six or seven stops for three or four days. It's a lot of fun."

Finally, the year winds to a close at the state convention again when new state officers are elected. About 10,000 to 12,000 Oklahoma FFA members attend.

All of this activity takes place while students are carrying a full academic course-load from their respective high schools, and in addition to other extracurricular activities such as athletics, music or art.

### Exploring career paths

As he looks ahead toward his future, Capps said there are all types of opportunities for FFA members to explore many different career possibilities.

"That's something really unique about the FFA organization. There are so many opportunities," he said.

resiliency and integrity," which she used as the Associated Student Body Treasurer in high school. During the pandemic, she organized their annual food drive virtually and held it to the same standard while meeting goals.

She enjoys photography, puzzles, music and visual design and participated on her school's yearbook staff.

### Tessa Arenz Hometown: Woodridge, Illinois

Tessa Arenz begins her freshman year at Viterbo University in Wisconsin this fall with hopes of becoming a nurse. The Hardin family descendant has already worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant and volunteered with immigrant children to welcome them into the country and provide aid.

She applied to the PLP to learn more about her heritage and culture but also to observe the Tribe's extensive health care system and meet health care professionals.

Arenz was a drum major in her school's marching band, which helped her develop



Carson Capps (Photo provided)

Capps is majoring in Agribusiness: Pre-Law. When he attends law school in the future, he plans to specialize in Indigenous peoples' law.

"I could advocate on behalf of the agricultural industry and also the Native American community," he said. "It's my dream job to find a way to work for or with the tribes and the agriculture industry to benefit both."

### Growing the future

He's proud of how the organization looks to the future, growing its own leaders and providing opportunities in an ever-changing environment. He anticipates that a background in science, technology, engineering and math will become important in agriculture.

"There's so many different areas you can get involved in," Capps said. "I see STEM being a big thing, and a lot of school systems have done a really good job of investing in STEM. I can see how (STEM) relates back into agriculture."

Capps said as the world's population continues to grow, the agricultural demands of the population may exceed

what can be grown. It may be necessary to develop scientific methods to grow more food on smaller areas of land.

"No matter what you're interested in, (through FFA) you're always going to find a way to give back to agriculture and feel like you're making a difference while having a fulfilling job and enjoying it," he said.

### Personal growth, support

Capps' experience with FFA has helped him grow on a personal level as well.

"I think the biggest thing that I've taken from my experience as an FFA member is learning how to get out of my comfort zone. When I was an eighth grader, I was probably scared to talk to a brick wall, let alone another person. And just having that confidence walking into a room, no matter who it is and not feeling timid to go up there and introduce myself and meet them," Capps said.

"Another big thing that I've learned is to not being afraid to just try something new. Don't be afraid because it's something you don't know a whole lot about. There's going to be someone there to help you out. That's something that is so great about the FFA. If you want to learn something, you might not know someone, but someone you know will probably know someone, and they're going to help you out the best they can. They'll get you where you need to be."

In a year with so many good memories and chances to grow, Capps said he embraces the supportive relationships and the community he has built.

"It's really been the friendships that I made," he said. "If I have something on my mind, any of those people I can go to, I just talk to them, and I know they're there for me. That's something pretty unique. And finding those people that you can call any time, day or night, you know they're going to be there for you. It really makes a huge difference."

Find the Oklahoma FFA Association online at [okffa.org](http://okffa.org). Learn more about the National FFA Organization at [ffa.org](http://ffa.org). ♡

### PLP continued...

"I think if you can't relate to others then you can't have meaningful relationships. That's probably more of a 'human nature' thing than 'leadership,' but there's not really a way to separate human nature from everything else we do," Glover said.

### Sophia Carney Hometown: Olympia, Washington

Sophia Carney attends the University of Washington, Seattle, beginning her freshman year this fall. She is currently considering architecture and accounting as majors. As the daughter of CPN District 8 Legislator Dave Carney, Sophia is a Juneau family descendant. She applied to the PLP to learn more about the Tribe's history and its day-to-day operations as well as culture, including the language.

"Making quill earrings and moccasins with my mom and aunt is always one of my favorite parts about the Family (Reunion) Festival," she said.

Carney believes the "most prominent qualities of a leader are responsibility,

her leadership skills. She describes a leader as determined, compassionate and hardworking while demonstrating their determination and passion. They provide clarity to those around them through good communication.

"A leader is not only someone who is passionate and strong willed, but approachable and willing to help anyone," Arenz said. "Natural leaders do not need a title or position; they will demonstrate these qualities in any group to benefit the whole."

### Tristin Stites Hometown: Newbern, Tennessee

Tristin Stites begins his sophomore year at the University of Memphis, Martin, with plans to become a lawyer and study Indian law. The Greemore family descendant enjoys history, archeology, sports and mountain climbing.

He wanted to apply to the PLP for the opportunity to explore his Potawatomi identity and learn the Tribe's history. Stites feels the desire "to know who I am and who my Tribe is. I can say every day

of the week that I am a member of the Potawatomi Nation, but until I learn, I cannot know." He enjoyed sessions on language, tribal law, community development and business the most.

Stites defines a leader as compassionate, determined and able to lead with unwavering conviction.

"As a leader, sacrifice is the most significant test of one's power and should be done only in service of those you lead, not for yourself; the greatest sacrifice is of oneself for the betterment of those around you," he said.

Find out more about the program at [plp.potawatomi.org](http://plp.potawatomi.org) and visit the CPN Department of Education at [cpn.news/education](http://cpn.news/education). ♡

# Potawatomi Fire honored after successful inaugural season

The Basketball League honored the Potawatomi Fire with two awards at the conclusion of their successful 2022 inaugural season.

The Fire received the Jim Koch Award for Team Market of the Year. The Fire Dance Team, under the direction of Aonisty Parks, also received the Dance Team of the Year Award from TBL.

Team Market of the Year is named for businessman Jim Koch, an early TBL supporter, who grew his family cabinet business into the largest employer in northeast Kansas.

“The Koch Award says a lot for a first-year team,” said FireLake Arena Director David Qualls. “We came into a league with 44 teams, and in our first year, were awarded the best run business. It’s a huge honor.”

The Fire’s Deshawn Munson was named TBL’s Most Valuable Player. Munson was also named All-TBL first team. The East St. Louis, Illinois, native had 12 triple doubles during the season and nearly averaged a triple double for the season with 25.8 points, 10.6 rebounds and 9.4 assists.

The Potawatomi Fire’s season ended on June 12 with a 120-110 loss to the Shreveport Mavericks in the semifinals of the TBL playoffs. Overall, the Fire went 18-6 in the regular season, earning the third seed in the Central Conference of the playoffs.

## Support from departments, services

The Fire organization’s success off the court was possible because of the collaborative efforts of dozens of people at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, said Qualls.

After the September 2021 announcement that CPN would field a professional basketball team, the Arena’s staff quickly got to work planning for the upcoming season. Fortunately, Qualls had ordered an NBA regulation-sized basketball court in 2019, with the plan for FireLake Arena to be able to host little league, high school and small college tournaments.

In December 2021, staff from CPN’s mechanical, electrical and construction departments began working on converting existing areas to locker rooms and other team facilities.

The pandemic impacted preparation at the Arena, and Qualls credits his team’s perseverance during the challenges that came. Their staff of five banded together, doing whatever was necessary to make it work. Qualls himself even took on driving the team bus for a while when hiring a bus driver became difficult due to the pandemic.

Qualls said he is especially grateful for the way other CPN departments stepped up to help. From Health Services, Public Information, Accounting, Information Technology, Legal, Purchasing to Housekeeping, everyone jumped at the chance to support the Fire.

Emergency Management Director Tim Zientek made sure the facility had all the necessary and up-to-date safety equipment to handle any medical emergencies. Qualls smiled as he recounted that Zientek even loaned orange traffic cones to Qualls and the team’s bus driver to help them practice for the commercial bus driving test.

Since the Fire had the expertise of athletic trainer Taylor Williams through

a partnership with Saints Health, CPN Health’s Chris Skillings helped find the athletic trainer’s supplies and get them quickly shipped to the Arena.

The Workforce Development and Social Services Department and Department of Education participated by helping engage community members, offering their clients tickets. Qualls said he did not even have to ask; the departments came up with the plans on their own in support of the team.

“They just said, ‘Let’s see, how can we participate? How can we be a part of that?’ And that’s been great,” he said.

## Support from enterprises

The support was not limited to CPN Tribal Administration. All CPN enterprises, from FireLake Discount Foods to the Grand Casino, wanted to be part of the process.

“When I started selling sponsorships, Richard Driskell and Jason Boyce (from FireLake Discount Foods) stepped in and helped me set up some good meetings with people in the community,” Qualls said. “Richard and Jason are involved out in the community with various groups like the Lions Club and Shawnee Forward.”

The Grand Casino’s J.T. Summerlin and Joe Garcia helped bring in their vendors to get the Arena the best prices on its new large video screens. One of the Grand Casino’s shuttle buses, not in use during the pandemic, was even put into service to help the Fire players get to some road games.

FireLake Casino’s Linda Hinojosa and Mike Petray assisted with player lunches and fan support. They sponsored T-shirts for fans, casino employees and others.

First National Bank & Co. was a partner sponsor and supplied branded novelty items for Fire fans. They also helped provide a celebratory lunch for the players, marking the end of a successful season.

KGFF’s Chris Cox, who usually handles the radio station’s sports play-by-play, seamlessly made the jump to the Fire’s video streaming broadcast.

“It felt good knowing that you could log into our live stream, or you could tune your radio to 1450, close your eyes and totally picture the game because Chris had every little detail,” Qualls said. “They created a lot of excitement, and their production was very good.”

From installing extra cables to support online streaming, to managing payroll for the Fire players, to an unusual purchasing request for 40 basketballs, Qualls appreciates everyone’s support.

“I’m grateful because they were so busy, and everybody was shorthanded (due to the pandemic). Even though (the deadlines were) such a time constraint, everybody just jumped in and gave us priority or worked us into their schedules where they could. We met all our deadlines. We couldn’t even have got started if it hadn’t been for all these other departments,” Qualls said.

“And nobody had to be encouraged that we need to get this done. Everybody just thought this was great. I couldn’t have asked for more. Everybody bought into the idea.”

## Creating community excitement

As he began putting together a sponsorship program, Qualls knew he had to offer packages at all levels to attract sponsors.

“You don’t want to exclude anyone,” he said. “Because of everything that we had to offer at the Arena, we were able to have sponsorship packages from literally \$300 to \$25,000, and we sold packages at all those levels, which was very fortunate because at the time, all we had was a logo and a story.”

For the community to buy in based on just a vision, Qualls credits CPN.

“For that, I credit the character and the integrity of the Tribe. Everybody around here knows that when CPN does something, they do it right or they don’t do it at all. And CPN has been a good community partner,” he said.

Qualls is grateful for the way the local community embraced the team. He thinks the announcement of its creation was perfectly timed, coming on the heels of the historic cooperative agreement signed by CPN and the City of Shawnee.

“It’s almost like this was planned, but it wasn’t. It was just organic. With CPN, everything we do is going right back into this community one way or the other,” Qualls said.

“I think it’s because CPN is the first one to the table — whether it’s bringing one of our trucks out to help

haul sand in a snowstorm or hook a generator up because a big power failure has happened. Or helping the area schools. The Fire basketball program has been rewarded because of that.”

Qualls enjoyed getting feedback from the community.

“It’s amazing how many people came up to me at the games and said, ‘Thank you for doing this. This is so much fun,’” he said.

Now having added additional Arena staff as the pandemic eased, Qualls is proud that the team of only seven people were able to take on such a huge task. As he reflects on the season and the community, and looks toward the 2023 season, he’s grateful for the people around him.

“All these people stepped in and said, ‘Here, let me help you make this better.’ And that’s how CPN works. It took the whole Tribe to make this as successful as it was,” he said.

The Potawatomi Fire are the first professional basketball team owned by a Native American tribe. The Fire kicked off its first season in March 2022. Visit the Potawatomi Fire’s website at [potawatomifire.com](http://potawatomifire.com) and follow the team @PotawatomiFire on Facebook and Instagram.

The Basketball League is a men’s professional basketball league with 44 teams in more than 20 different states. Find TBL online at [thebasketballleague.net](http://thebasketballleague.net). ♡

## 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 the 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](mailto: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 Rachel Vallandingham, mortgage loan officer at 405-275-8830 or at 1-800-227-8362.

## Language update

**By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director**

*Bozho Jayek*  
(Hello everyone),

We had a great Festival weekend. It was *kyetnam gshatemget* (really hot). We had new signs made for the different events and locations with QR codes that people could use to listen to the words.

We had a tremendous turnout for our two rounds of Potawatomi Bingo. We had over 125 people for each game on Friday and Saturday. It was great to listen to folks call the words back. It was also nice to hear the kids using the language.

We also had a nice turnout for our children's class and beginner class. I would like to say *Igwien* to my staff for doing an awesome job. We had about 15 folks participate in our scavenger hunt, and we will be sending out prizes soon. I will post the translation of the scavenger hunt below.

We had our first four children's books in the Festival bags. A few bags did not receive all four books, so if you didn't get all four, be sure to sign up and register for our next round of books. Let us know, and we will include the previous books in your mailout. The live registration started July 1. Please be patient with us as we prepare a mailing list and get the books out to you. To get on the list, go to the portal at [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org) then click on "Register for books."

This Festival is the first ever that a Citizen Potawatomi drum set up for dance. We have been doing hand games for a number of years, but this year, thanks to a dedicated group of men, we were

ready for the dance as well. *Migwetch* to all the singers on *Sengo Zibiwes*. It was an honor and privilege to sing with each of you. I am particularly proud of the young men who sang with us.

Recently we partnered with Google on a project called Woolaroo. This allows a person to choose a language such as Potawatomi and then use their camera to take a picture of an object. Then the phone identifies what type of object it is looking at. Sometimes there will be multiple things it picks up. Once you choose what to use, it will play audio for you. Potawatomi was one of the only Indigenous languages in North America chosen for this initial project. In order to do this, I had to translate the 2,500 or so most Googled terms in Potawatomi and then record an audio file for each. I am very pleased with how it turned out. Hopefully, each of you will try and use Woolaroo.

We have three interns with us this summer. They are a very talented group of folks. We also have one fellowship who was an intern last year but is a traveling scholar this year. While interning in the Language Department, they have the opportunity to learn the language and also assist us in a variety of tasks. Everything from working with our online dictionary adding images, example sentences and audio to sending out books and even writing music in the language. It's a very exciting time in the Language Department. We are currently preparing for the upcoming Potawatomi Gathering/Language Conference. This will be the first such gathering since the onset of COVID. We are all looking forward to getting together with our relatives from across *mshike mnise*, Turtle Island.

### Scavenger hunt translation

1. *Zhyan Yatsogewgemek. Wegni je ga yowat ga zhegewat ode wigwam.* (Go to the Museum. What did they use to build the wigwam?) Answer: *Kishki* (Cedar) or *Wigwas* (Birch bark)
2. *Bidek Bodewadmi moshkek, weni je zhabwenat jayek?* (Inside the Potawatomi flood, who saves everyone?) Answer: *Zheshko* (Muskrat)
3. *Wegni je nebyegemgek I yazhdéyakw'egen beshoch* camping area? (What is written on the sign close to the camping area?) Answer: *Eje kkezok* (Camping)
4. *Zhyan ibe Yatokewgemek. Wegni je nyew mshkekiwnen?* (Go to the museum. What are the 4 medicines?) Answer: Tobacco, cedar, sage and sweetgrass
5. *Zhyan Yatsokewgemek. Ni jet so pitnegwet I menomen bidek mkek?* (Go to the museum. How much rice is in the container?) Answer: 300 pounds
6. *Zhyan Wab numawgemgok. Wech mokek Gordon Cooper Drive. Wech nawkwek yatsokewgemek. Gda-mkan I sen beshoch. Wegni je nebyegemgek?* (Go to the white church east of Gordon Cooper Drive. South of the museum. You should find a rock close by. What is written on it? Answer: The last Tribal annuity payment.
7. *Ni pi je edawat gi bodewadmik bwamshe mskwa kik?* (Where did the Potawatomi live before Oklahoma?) Answer: Michigan, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.
8. *Weni je ga dawat ibe mtek wigwam beshoch yatsogewgemek?* (Who lived over in the log cabin near the museum?) Answer: Bourbonnais family.
9. *Zhyan ibe "Mdemoze ngwagen." Azhgen Wegni je ga nebyegewat ode yazhdéyakw'egen?* (Go to "rainbow" bridge. What is written on the sign?) Answer: built 1916/1917
10. *Zhyan ibe Mdodowgemek. Mdodowgemek wech nawkwek Sengo Zibiwes mine wech ksenyak golf course. Wegni je nebyegewat I yazhdéyakw'egen.* (Go over to the sweatlodge. The sweat is south of Squirrel Creek and north of the golf course. What is written on the sign?) Answer: Be careful if you have a health conditions.
11. *Wegni je wje igwan bidgeyak I madmowen wawyeyawen anake nimeidiwen wawyeyawen?* (What direction do we enter the prayer circle and dance ring?) Answer: East.
12. *Zhyan "Shkode mbes" Shkweyak shkode mbes dawewgemek. Ni je ezh ne kaswat gi gigoyek bidek I mbes? Nekshe I yazhdéyakw'egen.* (Go to "Fire Lake" behind FireLake store. What are the fish called in the lake? Look for the sign.) Answer: bass, carp, catfish, sunfish
13. *Ni je ezhnekadek I myew beshoch mbish mkek?* (What is the name of the road close to the water tower?) Answer: *Mbish Drive*
14. *Ni je kedyen "Stop" Bodéwadmimwen.* (How do you say stop in Potawatomi?) Answer: *Gashnen*.

*Iw*  
(End) ♠



## CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION CARE

### BENEFIT

Visit a doctor or counselor online at your convenience. NO COST, copays, deductibles or per-call charges.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

**Member must have completed enrollment by Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Rolls to be eligible for the benefit.**

Member may enroll themselves and any dependents under the age of 18. All members over the age of 18 must enroll individually.

Applicant Name (as listed on your CDIB card)

Applicant Tribal ID Number

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Email Address

Phone Number

Gender (M/F/X)

DOB (MM/DD/YYYY)

Please complete this document and return to:

**Lauren Thomason**  
Lauren.thomason@alliant.com  
3000 W. Memorial Road, Suite 212  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

### ACTIVATE YOUR ACCOUNT TODAY!

**1**

**Activate Your Account**  
**Online:** activate.allyhealth.net  
**Phone:** 888-565-3303 ext. 2

**2**

**Complete Your Medical History**  
Simply complete your medical history during registration (by phone or online)

**3**

**Request a Consultation**  
**Online:** member.allyhealth.net  
**Phone:** 888-565-3303 ext. 1

FOR MORE INFORMATION: ☎ 888-565-3303

✉ support@allyhealth.net

🌐 allyhealth.net

You may also enroll online at [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org). Please do not complete this application if you have already enrolled.

## Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello friend),

I am writing this column as we conclude a lot of our summer events and prepare for the annual Gathering and our Balloon Festival. We welcomed about 3,500

Potawatomi and their families to our headquarters at the end of June and we hosted our first in-person Potawatomi Leadership Program since 2019.

The PLP began under the direction of Vice-Chairman Capps almost 20 years ago. Since then, we've had almost 200 young Potawatomi participate. We believe that this program is of vital importance to our future as a Nation. While hiring is getting harder, we can typically find the people we need to manage the day-to-day at the Nation; we cannot hire just anyone to run the government. I believe that we need Potawatomi from all over to be engaged with the Tribe, one of the many reasons I helped push our constitutional reform to

allow for our current legislative setup. Regardless of where you live, you have a representative to reach out to. I encourage you to get to know them and attend meetings in your area.

We have also begun the budget process. Our budget runs on a fiscal year from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. Each year, the directors are asked to submit budgets for review. Once the directors have submitted those, the budget committee meets to evaluate the needs and goals of the Nation. Our budget committee was established by Rhonda Butcher/ Office of Self-Governance in 1999. Its purpose was to provide an effective and responsible process for budgeting all Citizen Potawatomi Nation special revenue funds in a manner that

responds to the needs of the Potawatomi people through establishment of Tribal goals and priorities, and establishing a mechanism to control the use and expenditure of such funds. Sometimes directors are expected to come to budget meetings if further explanation is needed.

Once the budget committee reviews the budgets, the comprehensive budget is prepared for the Tribal Legislature to review and approve. Our budget, and therefore our impact, has grown tremendously since I took office. This year our economic impact exceeded \$700 million.

I believe it is important to have these procedures in place — and created specifically

for our Tribal government. We are only as sovereign as we act, which means having our own constitution, elected government and a thorough budgeting process. All these things, and your participation in the Tribe by attending meetings, voting in elections and learning your history and culture, help to protect our Tribal sovereignty and prepare our Tribe for future generations.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Tribal Chairman.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

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

## Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

### Festival

I want to thank our Tribal members who braved the 100-degree weather and endured the expense of the outrageous cost of fuel (on land or in the air) to travel to Shawnee for our Annual Family Festival of 2022. Despite the heat and the expense, we still had an outstanding attendance of over 3,350 Tribal members and their families in attendance. It was so good to see everyone.

I commend CPN employees for the work they did during this

year's Family Festival. I think of their work as preparing, performing and cleaning up, which involves tremendous effort on their part. They exhibited that same expertise in conducting this year's Festival, as they have in the past. CPN tribal members and their families, along with CPN employees, are responsible for the magical environment that is created during the weekend. The Balloon Festival is right around the corner, August 12 and 13. Once again, our employees will work hard to host another great event; only, this time there will be thousands of people from all over Oklahoma and other states, as well. I applaud the astonishing efforts of our employees. Please don't forget that many of our employees are also CPN members.

### First National Bank

First National Bank & Trust of Shawnee is the largest tribally owned national bank in the United States. In July 2021, FNB completed an acquisition of the First State Bank of Oklahoma City. The

bank now has over 10 locations throughout Oklahoma. The progress that the bank has made since the acquisition is

amazing. The loans that are made each month (and sometimes each week) are impressive. As we are making the many new loans, it is a reminder to the those of us that are on the board of directors that this acquisition was, indeed, the right decision to make. We have grown from a \$14 million bank in 1989 to over a \$700 million bank today. I have no doubt that we will be a billion-dollar bank in a few short months. We owe a good deal of our success to the FNB President Bryan Cain, the tremendous leadership of Chairman John Barrett, and to the financial expertise of Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale. It is exciting to see the growth of FNB, and we can be sure that impressive developments are in store for the bank and CPN as the owner.

### Community Development Corporation

Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation

(CPCDC) is valuable to CPN in many ways.

The program makes business loans to CPN and other tribal members. They can participate in loans with FNB when needed, and they provide greatly appreciated service to CPN employees. Since the employee loan program began, CPCDC has made \$9.7 million in loans and provided 37,878 financial education and business development technical assistance hours (audited financials for 2021). Their leadership is superb with Cindy Logsdon serving as CEO and Bob Crothers serving as Chief Operating Officer & Chief Loan Officer. Cindy also has several Tribal members working for her that do an outstanding job. Felecia Freeman is the CPN member with the longest tenure for CPCDC.

### Future

Why do I mention the above financial entities? It is because both help CPN to grow. Each financial institution can help our employees obtain financial goals. Both have programs for our employees and programs for

the Tribe itself. The Tribe and the bank can work together to increase the assets of CPN and the bank. The leadership of both the bank and the CPCDC makes the Tribe proud. They are leaders that win awards and are active in their area of expertise. Plus, they are leaders that can be depended upon to make the right decisions for their entity. Both entities have helped many of our Tribal members.

I want to bring this message to you, not only to give you information about the two programs, but also inform you on what great assets the Tribe has with their financial leadership.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Vice-Chairman. You will find an ad in this edition of the *Hownikan* thanking you for your support.

My best,

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

# WZHITAWEN

(WISH-EH-TAH-WIN)

(HE OR SHE PREPARES)

NATIVE AMERICAN  
COLLEGE  
AND CAREER

FAIR  
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

FIRELAKE ARENA | SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

## District 1 – Alan Melot



Bozho jayek  
(Hello everyone),

It was so good to see so many of you at Festival. It was a blessing to get together again now that the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be behind us.

*Migwetch* (thanks) to each of you who took the time to introduce yourself, to talk to me, to share stories, to show me your regalia, to talk about language, to share your heartbreaks and your joys. Perhaps my biggest disappointment was that District 2 Legislator Eva Marie Carney was not able to attend. Eva has such a positive reputation in our community, and I was looking forward to visiting with her in person. I was also looking forward to bidding on her hand games team! Instead, I had a blast sitting in for her in the hand games with old and new friends as we promptly lost to the Potawatomi Leadership Program (PLP) team. It was

a delightful experience, and I look forward to playing next year with a District 1 team. We're coming for you, Eva!

The Potawatomi Trail of Death Association (PTODA) had a nice presence at the Cultural Heritage Center with President George Godfrey, Secretary Kevin Roberts and Board Member Janet Pearl visiting with many of you. The PTODA has done nice work bringing light to dark parts of our history, and I look forward to the PTODA becoming more supported by District 1 citizens since the Trail cuts through the middle of our district. If you have interest in the PTODA, get in touch with George at [puginthetwoods@gmail.com](mailto:puginthetwoods@gmail.com) or with Kevin at [kevin.roberts@comcast.net](mailto:kevin.roberts@comcast.net).

I'm planning to co-host a meeting in the Kansas City, Kansas, area with District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw in October. Stay tuned for details. On that note, I have been tentatively planning to have a meeting in the New England area on Saturday, October 15. I am flexible on the location, but I can't do this one on my own. I need someone to help with planning a lunch event, which includes finding a venue and arranging for food. If you are up to this, please get in touch via email, phone or Facebook!

Finally, I'd like to throw out an idea that's been calling my name but that I can't quite get fleshed out. I'd like for District 1 to have a council of women who can help guide me and others

in the district with wisdom rooted in Potawatomi culture. If you are a CPN D1 woman and would like to help create something that's both new and traditional, please reach out to me. I know that we have many gifted women in D1 and want to hear from you, as I know you have lots to offer.

It has been an honor to serve as your Legislator over this past year. Please keep me in your prayers as I keep you in mine.

Alan Melot  
Legislator, District 1  
608 S. Sergeant  
Joplin, MO 64801  
417-312-3307  
[alan.melot@potawatomi.org](mailto:alan.melot@potawatomi.org)

## District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek  
(Hello friends),

### Family Festival follow up and thank you

I missed the Family Reunion Festival. The week of the Festival I tested positive for COVID, so I unpacked my suitcase and stored my regalia. So disappointing! I had particularly looked forward to meeting several folks in person who I have corresponded with by email and phone only. I also was eager to visit with the latest class of Potawatomi Leadership Program students, including our niece Sophia Carney (Washington State — District 8, daughter of Legislator Dave Carney) and family friend Anna Korzeniewski (Maryland — District 2). I wrote letters supporting Sophia's and Anna's selection for the PLP program because both are accomplished and thoughtful young women who I can see leading our Nation in the future. It's been lovely to hear that the two already have become friends. I've included their photo taken by Sophia's mother, Nicole.

I am grateful to District 2's Lyle Simmons for stepping up to organize and lead this year's District 2 Hand Games team. It seems that there weren't many District 2 folks at the Roundhouse Friday night, so many of the team members were not from District 2 (District 1 Legislator Alan Melot, for

example), but Lyle worked it out. The District 2 team did not advance to a second round, but that is because it lost to the PLP team, which won the tournament. *Migwetch*, Lyle, for keeping District 2 in the game! I plan to attend the 2023 Festival and outfit a team once again in District 2 team hats. As Lyle put it, "District 2 team will be back for revenge (maybe with actual D2 folks) next year!"

### Upcoming events

As I write this, my to-do list includes finalizing an agenda for the July 9 District 2 family meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. I've got some more District 2 Hand Games Team 2022 hats, and I'll give those out as part of a traditional Hand Games demonstration we'll hold during the meeting. I will report about the meeting in my September column. In the meantime, if you are interested in how to play the game, or want a refresher, the *Hownikan* published the rules at [cpn.news/handgames](http://cpn.news/handgames).

Next will be our annual Fall Feast, scheduled for Saturday, November 12. We will celebrate fall with crafting and a potluck feast, location TBD. I will provide craft supplies and instruction, two main courses (one vegan) and drinks. Children are



Sophia Carney and Anna Korzeniewski during hand games competition.



Festival 2022 District 2 hand games team

welcome. The craft is appropriate for children 8 and up with one-to-one adult supervision. Please save the date — it is never too early to RSVP. And please check our District 2 calendar at [evamariocarney.com](http://evamariocarney.com) for location details and event updates. As long as it is safe to do so, I expect to host more meetings in 2023 outside the D.C. area and will share plans as they develop.

### Supreme Court decision on states' ability to prosecute crimes committed against Native people on Native land

As I've written before, I am no expert in Indian law. I do try to follow and understand the "big" court decisions. Last week's Supreme Court decision, *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta*, No. 21-429 (S. Ct. June 29, 2022) is noteworthy, with uncertain ramifications. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) report ([cpn.news/NARFCH](http://cpn.news/NARFCH)) that the decision "held that the Federal Government and the State have concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute crimes committed by non-Indians against Indians in Indian Country." Stanford Law School professors Gregory Ablavsky and Elizabeth

Hidalgo Reese summarized the holding and rationale in a recent *Washington Post* opinion piece ([cpn.news/CastroHuerta](http://cpn.news/CastroHuerta)):

*The court held ... that all states have, as a matter of state sovereignty, the power to prosecute non-Indian crimes within Native lands. And in a bold claim that departs from centuries of federal Indian law precedent, Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh wrote for the majority, "Indian country is part of the State, not separate from the State."*

*To put it bluntly, this decision is an act of conquest. And it could signal a sea change in federal Indian law, ushering in a new era governed by selective ignorance of history and deference to state power.*

NCAI and NARF are convening a virtual tribal leaders' roundtable entitled "The Castro-Huerta Decision: Understanding the Case and Discussing Next Steps." The roundtable will provide an overview of the Supreme Court decision and include comments from tribal leaders and legal experts about how the outcome will impact Tribal Nations and what steps can be taken to strengthen tribal sovereignty. I plan to attend the roundtable and will write about *Castro-Huerta* in a future column.

### Bringing attention to the missing and murdered

According to the Department of Justice's April 2021

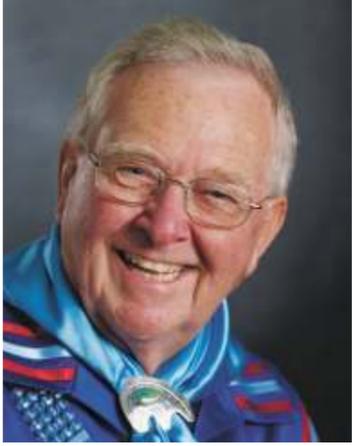
announcement that it was forming a new Missing & Murdered Unit (MMU) within the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services (BIA-OJS), approximately 1,500 American Indian and Alaska Native missing persons have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) throughout the U.S., and approximately 2,700 cases of murder and nonnegligent homicide offenses have been reported to the Federal Government's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. In June 2022, Seraphine Warren, a member of the Navajo Nation, began walking from her home in Sweetwater, Arizona, to Washington, D.C., to raise national attention for her missing aunt, 63-year-old Ella Mae Begay, and for the many *Diné* people who are missing or have been murdered and are lost to family and community. Ella Mae Begay was reported missing June 15, 2021, from Sweetwater; her details are included in the MMU's database ([cpn.news/EMMB](http://cpn.news/EMMB)). You can learn more about these women at [cpn.news/MMUwalk](http://cpn.news/MMUwalk), follow Seraphine Warren as she crosses the country, and keep updated on law enforcement and government authorities' responses by searching for Trailing Ellamae on Facebook.

### Please keep in touch

I look forward to hearing from you! *Migwetch* (thank you) for the honor of representing you.

Eva Marie Carney  
*Ojindiskwe* (Blue Bird Woman) she/her/hers  
Legislator, District 2  
5877 Washington Boulevard  
PO Box 5591  
Arlington, VA 22205  
888-849-1484 toll-free  
[ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org)  
[evamariocarney.com](http://evamariocarney.com)

## District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho Ginwa  
(Hello everyone),

I hope everyone was able to attend this year's Family Reunion Festival June 24-26. We had a very good turnout, and I watched many enjoying the various crafts and programs presented.

### Oklahoma Indian Legal Services

One group that I found very interesting was the Oklahoma Indian Legal Services organization. Oklahoma has been in the news lately, and various changes are being made that could change a tribe's authority to enforce laws on tribal land. OILS can provide legal services to tribal members living in Oklahoma. It may be a tribal member's legal item involving Indian law if the tribal member meets federal low-income guidelines. Their attorneys may also be able to provide information on issues that do not involve tribal law either. So, for those of you living in Oklahoma that have any legal issues and need help, OILS may be of assistance. Their phone contact is 1-800-658-1497.

## CPN CARE

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is thrilled to announce the launch of CPN Care - a new telehealth benefit offering for you and your family. Starting this month, CPN members gain 24/7 access to doctors, counselors and more via phone, video or our new mobile app - at NO cost to you!

This three-pronged service offers members general telemedicine, life assistance and pharmacy discount services for a whole-body care system:

- General Telemedicine - for doctors who can diagnose acute conditions and prescribe medication, successfully resolving over 90 percent of calls,
- Life Assistance - for on-demand access to specialists, counselors and social workers for help navigating life's challenges.
- Pharmacy Discount Services - 25-75 percent discounts for needed medications

You MUST activate this benefit to get started.

Visit [potawatomi.org/cpn-care](https://potawatomi.org/cpn-care) or scan the QR code to activate today!

### American Indian Heritage Day of Texas

On Saturday, September 24, there will be a River of the Canoes powwow to celebrate the 10th anniversary of American Indian Heritage Day on the Trinity River in Dallas. There will be a water healing ceremony at this event along with other programs. The event will last from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. I will put the location and any new information in my September *Hownikan* article.

### Resolution 23-02-TC&A

In April, District 3 citizen Eliza Berger forwarded a *New York Times* article about the H5N1 strain of avian influenza that is spreading among many raptors and wild birds, including the national bird. This virus has infected and led to the death of thousands of chickens in

the commercial industry and eagles throughout the U.S. To my knowledge, our aviary has been fortunate, and because our birds are in a private enclosure, none have been infected. With the H5N1 virus on chickens, I would not be surprised to see the price of chicken increase if this virus persists. At the legislative meeting on Monday, June 27 after Family Reunion Festival, we passed resolution 23-02-TC&A which will provide up to \$200,000 in funds to our aviary staff to assist with their veterinary costs. Having been made aware of this potential threat to our aviary bird group, I was extremely pleased that staff had identified and applied for this grant from the federal government.

### CPN Care

Take a moment and envision yourself or a child, if you have

one, and either of you have pink eye, nasal congestion, or an upper respiratory infection where you really need an antiviral or antibiotic medication. It is Saturday evening, December 24 at 8 p.m. You believe you need to talk to a doctor or go to the hospital emergency room. Where I live, the cost at the hospital will be something like \$150 for the hospital and another \$200 for the doctor that treats you. You now have the option to get the medical advice you need for free. Yes, FREE!! Our Nation has a program where you are able to reach a doctor for a verbal consultation 24/7, and CPN is paying for you to have this benefit for you and your family. All you need to do is register. Many times, we have a medical situation, and we cannot see our own doctor because it is after their

business hours. So, CPN came up with the program. You need to activate this plan for your family today. Visit [cpn.news/CPNCare](https://cpn.news/CPNCare) for more information or call 888-565-3303 and tell them you need to register for CPN Care!

I thank you for the honor of serving the citizens of District 3 and do so proudly. I am your voice, so please contact me if you have an area in question on benefits and services.

Nagech  
(Later),

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

## District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho  
(Hello),

### 2022 CPN Honored Veteran

This year at the 2022 CPN Family Reunion Festival, in the center of the Pow-Wow arena, I had the pleasure of presenting a U.S. flag to my brother, Lyman, in recognition of him being this year's CPN Honored Veteran. Lyman was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1956 and served two years at Ft. Bliss, Texas. After going through Basic Training and Tech School at Ft. Bliss, he

remained there as an instructor on the Sky-Sweeper, a rapid-fire, anti-aircraft gun. Following the recognition as the Honored Veteran, Lyman participated in the Grand Entry as part of the CPN Color Guard, where he carried the Eagle staff. This was the 20th Grand Entry in which he has carried the Eagle staff.

### Dr. Kelli Mosteller's departure

I believe it was 15 years ago while I was the Director of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center (CHC) that I first met Kelli. At that time, she was a young graduate student at the University of Texas, working on a program that eventually led to her doctorate degree. During that first conversation in my office, there was no doubt in my mind that this young lady was going to go on to have a great career. Shortly after I returned to Topeka, I had another opportunity to connect with her as she was here to do research in the Kansas State Archives as part of her doctoral studies. During



Lyman Boursaw — 2022 CPN Honored Veteran

the time Kelli was the Director of CHC, we had numerous conversations and discussions on a variety of subjects, but more importantly, we worked together on two significant projects relating to the Tribe's history in Kansas. Those are the exhibit on Burnett's Mound and the ongoing research project at the historic Uniontown Cemetery, which includes the extensive Ground Penetrating Radar Survey being conducted

by the Kansas Geological Service (KGS). Kelli will be truly missed as the CHC Director, but I know that she will go on to represent her Tribe and all Native Americans favorably as the Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program.

### Upcoming CPN Elders' potlucks

The dates for the next two Elder Potlucks held in

CPN Community Center in Rossville at noon are:

August 12th: BBQ sliders and macaroni salad (RSVP by the 9th)

September 9th: Roast Beef and mashed potatoes (RSVP by the 6th)

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

### The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Funeral Assistance for COVID-19 Deaths

Have you covered, or are you covering, the cost of a COVID-19 funeral? If so, FEMA may be able to assist you. You may qualify for up to \$9,000 per funeral for expenses, if:

- You are a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified non-citizen

- The death was attributed to COVID-19, and
- You are responsible for the eligible funeral expenses incurred on or after Jan. 20, 2020

What is covered? FEMA may approve COVID-19 Funeral Assistance for expenses such as:

- Funeral Services
- Cremation
- Interment
- Transfer of remains
- Casket or Urn
- Burial Plot
- Marker or Headstone
- Clergy
- Funeral Ceremony
- Funeral Home Equipment or Staff
- Costs associated with producing Death Certificates
- Costs due to local or state government laws or ordinances

- Transportation for up to two people to identify the person who died

For more information on how to apply, call 844-684-6333 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday-Friday.

### Update on renovation of the Kansas State Museum of History

As I mentioned in last month's *Hownikan*, the Kansas State Museum of History will be closed for approximately 18 months effective Sept. 4, 2022, for a complete renovation of the exhibit area. Prior to the closure, you can enjoy free admission to the museum from Aug. 17 to Sept. 3, 2022. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. The Museum Store has already closed, but the Capitol Store and Museum Store Online continues to be open. Construction will be underway in July around the entrance. Please



*Pictured here are Kelli and Dr. Blair Schneider of the KGS discussing the progress of the survey. (Anyone care to guess the combined IQ of these two young ladies?)*

watch for signs to direct you from the parking lot into the building. I have been in discussions regarding relocating some of the exhibits to the Potawatomi Baptist Mission during the construction phase. I will keep you updated as we move closer to the projected reopening in late 2023 or early 2024.

### Honored to serve you

It is an honor to serve you as your district representative. 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](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org)  
Office hours:  
9-11 a.m. Tuesdays  
3-5 p.m. Thursdays  
Other times: please call

## District 5 – Gene Lambert



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

It is so good to be back and moving with our people again.

The last article was written before the Festival and voting had occurred the last week of June.

It is difficult to share the excitement when you haven't experienced it as of this year. You count on the fact that it is always a blessing to see and experience.

Hopefully, you are pleased with the voting outcome and perhaps you even attended the Festival 2022 this year. It was the first in three years to attend live.

First, let me say thank you to all of you as I was sworn in and confirmed in the last election, which means another wonderful four years representing District 5.

Being able to serve you has been an enormous growing experience for me, and with God's intervention, helpful to you, I would hope.

When I do not have the answers, we can always discover them as we travel that road.

Just decide you are going to attend next year for 2023. You would need to make your plans now as rooms and spaces are swallowed up early.

You will have the opportunity to meet relatives you didn't know you had and see all the beautiful regalia and dancing. Meals are even served every day, and they are delicious.

No matter what your interests, there is something there for you. The museum, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center, alone is worth the attendance. Impressive!

Be a part of the General Council and hear firsthand what is going on in our Nation. Ask questions!

There is a waterpark for the kids and crafts so that they can learn the ways of our ancestors. They love it.

Try making your own moccasins, finish your own drum, shawl appliqué, fringing class, archery contests, art contests, horseshoes, visit the Eagle Aviary and much, much more. You have no idea of the surprises in store for you, but you have to get there.



I have never walked away disappointed.

Some members have shared with me they would feel out of place. How can you be out of place when you are home? You will discover that right away.

In order to be a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, your ancestor had to

walk the Trail of Death. In addition, you cannot enroll if the chain or connection has been broken. It is a part of you.

The first time I attended Festival or powwow and I heard the drums, I could not keep the tears from my eyes. It was an immediate feeling of peace and that I belonged. So do you!

We are fortunate in today's world we have leadership that cares about you and how we can support the Potawatomi people.

We can forever be grateful the department heads are genuine and willing to help in any way possible.

You can go to the website and take a look at all the services available to members in or out of jurisdiction. Amazing! If you have not been on the website in some time, they are continually updating and new services being offered. Take the time! It is to your advantage.

I am looking forward to the District 5 meetings, and we have already met in Arizona and Festival has successfully concluded for this year.

Keep an eye out for times and dates.

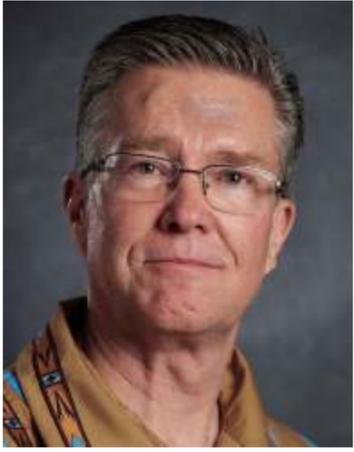
This is exciting to see everyone in person as it has been so long, so be sure to attend.

If you have moved or changed phone numbers, please let us know so we can stay in touch.

Love and miss you all,

Eunice Imogene Lambert  
Butterfly Woman  
Legislator, District 5  
270 E Hunt Highway, Ste 229  
San Tan Valley, AZ 85143  
480-228-6569  
[euniceilambert@gmail.com](mailto:euniceilambert@gmail.com)

## District 6 – Rande K. Payne



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

Let me begin by saying that I'm very thankful for the opportunity to serve as the District 6 Legislator for another term. I would also like to congratulate all who were part of this year's election cycle. I am especially pleased that Vice-Chairman Linda Capps will serve another term. It is an honor to work with her, and as I tell her often, "You are a blessing to so many." Our executive team remains strong with Secretary/Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale serving another term as well. I also look forward to working with Representatives Gene Lambert of District 5, Mark Johnson of District 7 and Dave Carney of District 8 for another term. Congratulations to Supreme Court Chief Justice Angela Riley, Supreme Court Associate Justice Robert Tim Coulter and

Chief District Judge Phillip J. Lujan on their re-appointments.

While all but District 7 Representative Mark Johnson ran unopposed for elected positions, I would like to thank the voters of District 7 for participating in the election. Elections have consequences, and every vote counts. No truer words have ever been spoken. While Representative Johnson and I may not agree completely on every single Tribal matter, I believe District 7 will be well represented for the next four years. Representative Johnson is not only a valued colleague and asset to our Nation, but I am also honored to call him friend.

I'm amazed at how well Family Reunion Festival went this year. After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, it was great to have an in-person gathering. All the folks involved in the planning and execution of this year's event have good reason to be proud of how smooth everything ran. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this year's Festival one of the best ever.

It was nice to have a brief but very enjoyable visit with District 6 Tribal member and Supreme Court Chief Justice Angela Riley. I had not talked to her since she attended the District 6 and District 7 gathering in Visalia several years ago. I remember Chairman Barrett naming Angela and her two daughters at that event.

It was refreshing to be able to meet this year's group of PLP students face to face. Their enthusiasm was infectious and brought a smile to my face. There is no doubt that these future leaders have a bright future ahead of them. I know this because they own the distinction of being the first PLP students to win the hand games competition. Congratulations!

Grand Entry was a little different this year as the focus was on remembering the Potawatomi tribal members who walked on due to COVID. Many suffered and were lost to this dreadful disease. Any of us who were not directly impacted by COVID should consider ourselves lucky as many of our Potawatomi families were unable to escape the awful effects of COVID.

On a brighter note, Grand Entry continues to get bigger and better every year. I'm amazed at how well dressed we were compared to just a few years ago. Participation is up as well, but the regalia is a sight to see. Hopefully, our competitive dancers will continue to grow in the years ahead as well. With the assistance of Representative Johnson, I had the pleasure of announcing the dance competition winners. That I can do, just don't ask me to be a judge. Everyone did so well this year that it would have

been difficult to determine the winners! Congratulations to all!

As happy as I am for her, it was hard to see Dr. Kelli Mosteller for the last time as the Director of the Cultural Heritage Center. Seeing the lives she has touched and their emotions of sadness and joy were indicative of how fondly and respectfully she is thought of. Dr. "Most Steller," as I like to think of her, is nothing short of amazing. Her work and accomplishments during her time at CPN will benefit us for years to come. I have enjoyed working with her and fully appreciate her passion for making sure our story is told and heritage is preserved. I'm confident she will represent us and all Native Americans well on her new journey at Harvard University. I wish her all the best and hope to see her down that red road again someday. *Bama mine*, Kelli.

In closing, I would like to share with you that my daughter Rochelle, her husband Tim and their four children recently moved from California to Tennessee. On their way through Oklahoma, they stopped in Shawnee for a quick rest and visit to Tribal headquarters. I would like to publicly thank Ms. Capps for taking the time to visit with them and give them a personal tour of the Cultural Heritage Center. Rochelle and her family felt very welcomed and

thoroughly enjoyed the time they spent in Shawnee. Ms. Capps represents the best of who we are as Potawatomi people.

I just want to add one more thing. Thank you to those who traveled from the District for the Festival. It isn't cheap to travel these days, so thanks again for attending. Hopefully, you enjoyed it as much as I did.

**Potawatomi Word of the Month:** *dbande*  
— love each other

**Words of Wisdom:** "The knowledge of God's will, the interpretation of God's word, and the loyal ties to institutions along with the tenets of our traditions combine to create intensity in our beliefs and opinions which affect our relation with others." — Fred Smith

**Wisdom from the Word:** "I give you a new commandment — to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." (John 13:34)

*Migwetch! Bama pi*  
(Thank you! Later),

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

## District 7 – Mark Johnson



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you

for the faith and trust that you have bestowed upon me. I am truly humbled to have been re-elected for a fourth term to serve you as your District 7 Legislator, and I think it speaks clearly that our members believe in the direction our great Tribal Nation is moving.

During the election, I spoke about the need for the members in District 7 to participate in your Tribe by voting. I was disappointed when the vote totals were read at the General Council meeting to learn that only 136 votes were cast from District 7; there were 49 additional absentee ballots that were requested and not returned or arrived too late to

be counted. That represents less than a 7 percent voter turnout in District 7. Think about the fact that well over 95 percent of Tribal members applied for and received the \$1,400 American Rescue Plan Act money from the Tribe and less than 7 percent voted. I need your help to turn this trend around. It really takes very little time to pay attention to the issues that the Tribe faces and then vote every four years for the candidate that best represents your values.

As always, I will continue to work with our members in the district to address your needs and to help you access all benefits that are available to you. I will also work with the other

legislators and executive staff on the needs and challenges that face our great Nation going into the future. As the membership of our Tribe has now increased past 38,000, it will be increasingly important that we remain vigilant in ensuring that those same benefits that you enjoy today remain available to our membership into the future, while insuring the economic, cultural and spiritual health of our Tribe.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 Legislator. As always, give me a call, and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have or provide you

with additional information you may need to access Tribal benefits that are available to you. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and District.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

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

## District 8 – Dave Carney



*Bohzo nikan*  
(Hello friend),

At the end of June, I was fortunate to return to the Nation for the CPN Family Reunion Festival, which is always held the last full weekend in June each year, except for the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021. It was a little subdued in comparison to pre-pandemic years. I believe the attendance was below 4,000 citizens and their family members. In the past, we have celebrated with

5,000+. I believe this number will grow as we put COVID in our rear view mirror.

For those that have not attended, it is a full weekend (Friday through Sunday) of cultural classes, competitions, tours of enterprises and historic sites, tournaments, voting and the General Council meeting, and religious/spiritual gatherings. While I have attended many of these weekends, this was one of my favorite times — largely because I was able to see and

visit with my daughter, Sophia, who is participating in the Potawatomi Leadership Program.

The PLP is a six-week internship for young adults, generally either recent high school graduates or students who have just completed their freshman year of college. Approximately 10 students are selected through an application process from around the world. The students write an essay, turn in their academic transcripts and submit letters of recommendation.

These young adults are housed at the Sharp House (formerly owned by a wealthy doctor) with house mother Margaret Zientek and a prior PLP camp counselor keeping a watchful eye on the participants. Tesia Zientek, the head of the Department of Education, coordinates the program. In their off time, they shop together, cook together and recreate together. During working hours, they visit various departments that make the Nation run, tour and rotate through the enterprises and

participate in many cultural activities including language classes, regalia making and sweats.

One of the very entertaining events of the Family Reunion Festival is hand games. Always fun and a little crazy, teams of eight citizens and/or their guests are formed and auctioned off by Chairman Barrett in Calcutta fashion. The money collected from the winning bidder gets amassed in a large pot and the winning team and the buyer of said team split the winnings.

The rules of hand games are simple — very much like the child's game, button, button. One member of team A has a pointer and faces two members of team B. Team B members each have

one shell that they switch from closed fist to closed fist to the beating of a powwow drum. Sometimes dancing or making distracting gestures, the team A member must use the pointer to signal if they believe the other team has the shells in their left hands, right hands or one right and one left. If they point correctly, a point is scored and a bone or elongated bead is awarded to keep score. The first team to get eight bones wins the match.

There are eight teams facing each other in teams of two over and over again until an ultimate winner takes it all. This year, the Potawatomi Leadership Program fielded a team that included my daughter, Sophia, with seven of her fellow PLPs. My wife, Nicole,



*The 2022 Potawatomi Leadership Program class celebrates their win at hand games during Friday night of Family Reunion Festival.*

purchased the team during the auction. It was very fun to see

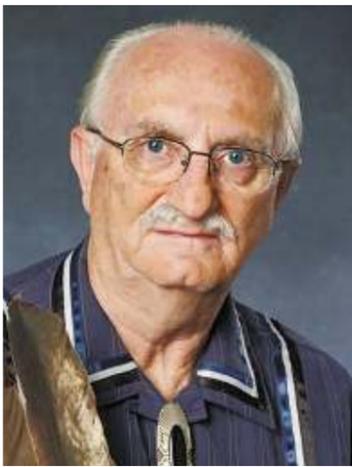
the excitement of these young folks as they won the entire

hand game competition. In fact, their victory is the very first time that the PLP took the top place. At the end, the team owner and the players split the pool of money. Each winner tips the powwow drum singers from their winnings.

It is my pleasure to serve you as your legislator, and I am grateful for your confidence. I was sworn in at the General Council meeting by Judge Angela Riley.

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

## District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello friend),

**I once knew a great man.**

When I write the adjective “great,” I mean he accomplished many things some consider great. He was born into

a wealthy aristocratic family. He was named after a famous and prominent U.S. Senator. He attended private academies and graduated from America's greatest university. His father and family were pillars of society. His niece was a very famous actress, and his nephew was a governor of a prominent state.

As an officer, he was a WWII war hero serving in the military's most elite combat unit led by a famous historical officer. Coming from old money, he married into old money. As a businessman, he amassed millions of dollars. In late life, he set a few world records in the sport he loved.

In his mansion next to the ocean, famous people would dine, including ambassadors, governors, U.S. senators and

even a Vice Presidential nominee. He contributed millions of dollars to institutions and politicians of his political party.

For nearly two years, I was the caretaker of his mansion and property by the sea. I was his faithful servant. I worked for him and his wife but took all duties and instruction from her — none from him. He gave none.

Numerous times I tried to engage this man in conversation but to no avail. He didn't care to engage me in chit chat or in serious conversation. He had no interest in my life, my background, education or my goals in life. I have never felt so insignificant and small in a person's presence. If I had not talked to him, he would have ignored me all together. He cared nothing of me.

As a young man starting out in life, this man could have influenced me. If he would have taken me just a little under his wings, he might have had a major impact on my life. That was not to be. He was mentor material but never materialized it.

In contrast to his life, I have not accomplished the great things as he did. However, if you are reading this, I want to know who you are? Why? I consider you and everyone a creature created by God, and I want to know why God created you. You interest me. I want to know your background, your family, your education, your vocation and your goals. Your life has meaning to me. I want to know what you are made of, your character. I want to know what makes you tick.

The great man I write of wanted to know none of those things about me. So why am I writing about this experience in my young life? I'm not really sure but to say that a great attribute to have, I believe, is to care about people. I hope you, like me, consider me a creature created by God and you want to know why God created me. I want to know why God created you.

Yes, I once knew a great man, but then again, I didn't.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft  
Naganit (Leader)  
Legislator, District 9  
[reppaul@gmail.com](mailto:reppaul@gmail.com)  
[pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org](http://pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org)

## District 11 – Andrew Walters



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

I went out the other evening to help Cora with her garden. Now, I'm 6' tall, 235 lbs., cuss too much and have been known to drink cheap whiskey. Hardly the poster boy for *Better Homes and Gardens*. In fact, I've even managed to murder cactus. But I figured, “What harm could come if I just watered the plants?” So, I put the hose together, put the sprayer on mist-ify and went about dousing the flowers. The heat in Oklahoma that evening was oppressive. The humidity was higher than a cat's back. The flowers drooped and looked lifeless. It was apparent they were just flat beat down by the heat.

As I stood there, showering the plants with cool water, making sure each one got a good soaking, I started to see a remarkable revival happen. The plants began to stand up straighter and the flower bowls turned upward. The leaves even appeared to get greener. I marveled at that, and of course, began to think. That's the problem with us “front porch philosophers.”

I was, as a youth, told that man has “dominion” over all other living things in this world. Over the plants and oceans, the fish and the fowl, the walking and crawling things. I don't really know where that belief came from. I know that, in Genesis, Chapter 1 verse 28, it says about the first man and woman: “*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*”

But then in Genesis, Chapter 2, Verse 15 it says: “*And the Lord took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*”

So, standing there in my front yard, in the sweltering heat, I had

an epiphany. Now, I'm not deeply religious, but I am a deeply spiritual person. I hope God isn't Episcopalian, Catholic, Baptist, Buddhist, Muslim, Shinto, Methodist or any other faith that man has devised. I was once told that religion is man's attempt to reach God, and that Jesus was God's attempt to reach man. So many times, religious doctrine and dogma divides us rather than joining us. God watches over all of us. I believe the Creator sometimes lets us stumble and fall so that we learn the right path to walk. My God is loving and caring. So, if it's true that God made us in his image, then I think we were put here not to exercise dominion and control over all things, but rather to be keepers, tenders and caretakers of this earth.

We Potawatomi are called the “Keepers of the Fire.” There's been some stories about that. One is that we are the Keepers of the Council Fire. Another is that the brother Tribes, the Chippewa (Ojibwa), the Ottawa (Odawa) and the Potawatomi, were collectively known as “The People of the Three Fires.” The Chippewa were given the responsibility of “Keepers of the Faith.” The Ottawa were the “Keepers of the Trade.” And the

Potawatomi became responsible for keeping the “Sacred Fire.” But what does the phrase “Sacred Fire” mean? To me, one of the most compelling definitions is simply, life. Life and that connection between generations and ancestors. The natural cycle of all living and material things. Like seeds, passed from generation to generation to be planted, grow and die but producing more seeds for the next crop, the next generation. So as the “Keepers of Life,” tending to this world is our responsibility, passed down from generation to generation through the cycle of life. The idea that we are masters over this Earth is wrong. We are simply a part of the larger circle of life, put here by *Mamogosnan* to tend to and love this earth — and each other, just like First Man and First Woman. We are all equal, none better, none worse. Life travels that circle eternally.

With that thought, I realized that, over the years, a weed has grown among the Tribe. Animosities that were rooted in events years past have grown into the bitter tree of resentment. And resentments are hard, if not impossible, to overcome. Resentments ignore all attempts at reconciliation. Resentment,

like life, seems to recycle, easing its way into future generations. Resentment bears the fruit of scorn, and scorn, once planted, begins the cycle again. Somehow, someday, soon we must come together as a Tribe and shed the antipathy and odium that has choked out our garden and kept us from flourishing.

We are the Keepers of the Fire... The Keepers of Life. We should embrace that concept in our daily lives and spread that fire throughout our Tribal community. We should immerse our children in the meaning of life, in the joys of being *Bodewadmic* and not in the bitterness of age-old resentments. We should tend our Tribal garden, gently watering our Tribal brothers and sisters with compassion, cooperation, praise and understanding. Then, like the flowers in Cora's garden, maybe there will be a strengthening and revitalization in our people, our Tribe, our beliefs and ways of life.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Andrew Walters  
Legislator, District 11  
[andrew.walters@potawatomi.org](mailto:andrew.walters@potawatomi.org)  
[nibwemko@gmail.com](mailto:nibwemko@gmail.com)

### Clayton Lewis Lewis Family



Beloved son, father, brother and friend. Clayton P. Lewis was born Aug. 23, 1984, and walked on July 5, 2022. Clayton is survived by his daughter, Emilia G. Lewis; his mother, Sherry M. Pullen; his father, Gilbert G. P. Lewis; and his four siblings, Brandon G. Lewis, Ashton C. Lewis, Sierra N. Roosevelt and Gabriel O. A. Lewis. "Live each day with a smile."

### Catherine Leigh Fiedler Levier Family



Catherine Leigh "Cathy" Fiedler, 47, of Moundridge, Kansas, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021. She was born on Feb. 15, 1974, in Moundridge, the daughter of Ken and Judy (Levier) Stucky.

Cathy graduated from Moundridge High School with the class of 1992. She attended Hesston College and graduated in 2001 with a degree in nursing.

Cathy operated a cleaning service in the McPherson, Kansas, area, helping elderly clients and real estate agents with cleaning homes. In previous years, Cathy worked as a registered nurse at area retirement homes, including Pine Village in Moundridge.

She was a member of Eden Mennonite Church.

Cathy married Randy Fiedler. They later divorced.

Cathy is survived by her three children, Wyatt Fiedler of Parker, Colorado, Whitney Fiedler and Emily Fiedler, both of Moundridge; father, Ken Stucky of Moundridge; mother, Judy Sebo of Topeka, Kansas; and her sister, Suzette (Michael) DeBoard of Fountain Hills, Arizona.

Cathy was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Herbert and Edna Stucky; and her maternal grandparents, Joseph Levier and Nova Faye Cundiff.

Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, at Eden Mennonite Church. Burial followed at the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions may be made to Eden Mennonite Church or Pine Village in care of Moundridge Funeral Home, PO Box 410, Moundridge, Kansas 67107.

### Billy Joe Bressman Darling Family



Billy Joe Bressman, 92, of Apache, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 2, 2022, with his wife and family by his side. Billy was a loving son, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

He was born in Hinton, Oklahoma, on Feb. 21, 1930, to D.O. and Jimmie Lou Bressman. He married Joann Graves on Sept. 6, 1958, in Medicine Park, Oklahoma. They had three children: Lou Ann Carlstrom of Apache, Oklahoma; Billy L. Bressman of Fort Mohave, Arizona; and Ronda Wheeler of Weatherford, Oklahoma. He loved fishing and camping at Fort Cobb with all of his family, watching his kids and grandkids play sports, tinkering with lawnmowers or anything that needed fixing, and visiting with his brothers and sister.

Billy is survived by his wife, Joann Bressman; son, Billy L. and wife Jan Bressman; two

daughters, Lou Ann Carlstrom, Ronda Wheeler and husband Steve; his six grandchildren Tara, Sara, Nikki, Kaden, Tanner and Korey; and eight great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Bobby Lee Bressman and wife Clara. Billy is preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Kody Bressman; brothers, Lewis, Lawrence and Daniel Bressman; and one sister, Doris McIntosh.

Billy was laid to rest at Fort Hill National Cemetery in Elgin, Oklahoma, on July 6, 2022.

He was loved by many and will be missed by many.

### Frances Louise Howell Bourassa Family



Frances Louise Howell was born on Jan. 19, 1932, to Nellie Ruby Bourassa and Ewing W.P. Bourassa in Wanette, Oklahoma. Frances spent the first 10 years of her life in Asher, Oklahoma, until her mother and father divorced and she moved to Henryetta, Oklahoma, with her mother. There, she met and married Omer Gene Smithson. They married in 1947 and had three sons — Omer Gene Jr., Larry Eugene, and Jackie Ray (Jack). They divorced in 1961, and Frances moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma, with the boys.

In Muskogee, Frances went to work at P&H Plumbing Supply until she married J.B. Pipkin (Pip) in 1964 and moved to Oklahoma City. Frances went to work for the V.A. Hospital in Oklahoma City, and in 1971, transferred to Walla Walla, Washington, V.A. Hospital. She and Pip divorced, and she married Francis Walker (Dewey). Frances accepted a transfer to Tucson, Arizona, and she and Dewey divorced. After a while in Tucson, she accepted a transfer to the V.A. in Tacoma, Washington. A couple of years later, she accepted a transfer to Big Spring, Texas, where she met and married Bobby Howell. She separated from the V.A. for a couple of years and moved back to Asher where she

opened the corner convenience store. The store closed after a few months, and she went to Oklahoma City where she and Bobby worked for her son Jack at his wrecker service. After a few months, Frances and Bobby returned to Texas where she went back to work for the V.A. at Temple. Her final transfer with the V.A. was back to Big Spring, Texas, where she retired.

Upon the death of her husband, Frances moved to Tahlequah, Oklahoma, to be close to her son Jack. Frances was blessed with four grandchildren and one great-grandson. She left this earth on May 18, 2022, in Burleson, Texas, where she had been staying with her granddaughter, Tammy Smithson, who had been taking care of her for the last few months. Frances is preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Howell; her parents, Nellie Ruby Adams and Ewing W.P. Bourassa; her sister, Ruby Wallace; her brother, Leo Bourassa; and sons, Omer Gene Smithson, Jr. and Larry Eugene Smithson.

Frances is survived by her son, Jackie Ray (Jack) Smithson; three grandsons, Craig Eugene Smithson, Michael Eugene Smithson and Jackie Ray Smithson, Jr.; one granddaughter, Tammy Sue Smithson; and one great-grandson, Brayden Eugene Smithson.

Funeral Services were on May 24, 2022, at Integrity Chapel with Wesley VanMeter, officiating. Services were under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

### Jordan Alejandro Martinez Johnson Family



Jordan Alejandro Martinez passed away at his home on June 14, 2022, at the age of 12, following a 9-year battle with leukemia.

Jordan was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 27, 2010,

to parents Felecia and Rene Martinez. Jordan was a very smart, loving and caring child, always wanting to make people smile. Jordan always had a smile on his face no matter what he was going through. Jordan loved to entertain people by being the DJ at get-togethers, singing and dancing. He proudly stated that he wanted to be a music producer when he grew up. Jordan enjoyed playing video games and creating YouTube and TikTok videos. Jordan loved life and lived the time that God gave him to his fullest.

Jordan was laid to rest on June 17, 2022, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at Rolling Oaks Memorial Garden.

Jordan leaves to cherish his loving parents, Felecia and Rene Martinez; his grandparents, Cindy Thompson, Maria De los Angeles Martinez and Jesus Martinez; his great-grandmother Ella Castillo; his aunts and uncles, Latasha Thompson, Jessica Smith, Dustin Thompson, Nathaniel Thompson, Brandon Thompson, Nico Castillo, Gavan Thompson, Marcelo Martinez, Alfredo Martinez, Araceli Martinez, Imelda Martinez and Oscar Martinez; and many cousins. He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Jose Felix Castillo and Sandra Spradlin; his grandfather, Joe Don Isaac Thompson; and his uncles, Joe Don Thompson Jr. and Noe Martinez.

## 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 [tribalrolls@potawatomi.org](mailto:tribalrolls@potawatomi.org).