



HOWNIIKAN

Mkogisos | February 2020

Top photo: The annual Flapjacks & Friends pancake feed will take place February 14 at FireLake Arena.

A LOOK INSIDE

Page 5

2020 Tribal election candidates certified

Page 8



Traditional craftwork provides connection to *Nishnabé* culture

Page 10



Regenerative agriculture techniques improve Tribal land for generations to come

Pages 14-18

Tribal Executive and Legislative updates

Pages 19-20

Walking on



Bourassa the reptile wrangler

While most avoid run-ins with rattlesnakes and other venomous reptiles, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Brandon Bourassa seeks out animals many are too scared to approach. He, along with his wife Gwyn, own and operate Bourassa Wildlife Consulting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The couple serves as animal consultants on TV and movie sets across the state, ensuring the well-being of cast, crew and animals alike. The business provides income while they complete their undergraduate degrees in geography and biochemistry at the University of New Mexico.

“New Mexico is home to many incredible filming locations, but those locations pose some important considerations for productions to consider,” Bourassa Wildlife Consulting’s website noted. “The most important consideration for any film project is the safety of the cast and crew. ... All venomous snakes are handled using the safest methods for both people and animals.”

Some of the major projects that Bourassa’s business contracted with include *The Kid* starring Chris Pratt, Paramount Network’s miniseries *Waco*, Netflix’s *Chambers* and more.

“I’ve always been a reptile nerd — that was from the beginning,” Bourassa said then laughed. He began handling wildlife in his youth and enjoyed opportunities to explore on his grandfather’s land in southern Pottawatomie County.

“My grandpa, he’s always been interested in rattlesnakes, too,” he said. “He’d take us out looking for rattlesnakes as a kid. He hunts them, which is a little different than what I do.”

Before he was old enough to work, Bourassa volunteered at the Bob Jenni Nature Center in Edmond, Oklahoma. He accepted his first job after high school at the Oklahoma City Zoo as a keeper in the children’s zoo. But for the past three years, he has traveled from set to set across New Mexico while juggling his undergraduate studies.

“In New Mexico, pretty much every production that’s shooting outside hires one of us because they’re shooting out there where there’s rattlesnakes, and most of those people are from (Los Angeles). And they’re very concerned about wildlife,” he explained.

Process

One of Bourassa Wildlife Consulting’s main goals includes ensuring that each film set is safe from potentially harmful animals.

“I usually look at the script and see where they’re going to be moving



Brandon Bourassa strives to protect both humans and wildlife through his work. (Photo provided)

for the next scene, and that’s where I’ll go check for snakes,” he said.

When he captures venomous snakes, he places them in a safe holding container to release back into the wild once production ends.

“Sometimes, if it’s a really impressive animal, I’ll keep it and use it for films,” he added. For example, Bourassa was able to provide a live rattlesnake for the recent filming of Netflix’s drama mystery *Rattlesnake*.

Bourassa also takes steps to protect nature from potential human threats. According to the Bourassa Wildlife Consulting website, “In addition to temporarily removing venomous snakes from a location, we will also take measures to protect other wildlife from potential threats like vehicle and foot traffic.”

Balance

His job also offers an opportunity to educate others on the important roles animals like snakes and other predators play in overall environmental health.

“You can talk to them about the importance of the ecology and why we’re protecting them and not just killing them on-sight,” Bourassa said. “I appreciate that about the film industry. Even though it can be pretty destructive in some situations and not so great for the environment, they at least hire us to protect some of these animals.”

Rattlesnakes help control small mammal populations like mice and rats.

“You don’t want to let rodents get out of control, especially where I am living in New Mexico, where we

have a lot of viruses — the bubonic plague — so you want to be careful with killing predators,” he explained.

Through his work, Bourassa hopes more people and communities will think about the ecological impact all animals of prey have.

“The problem really is exaggerated. You always hear stories — ‘They’re killing my cattle,’ but cattle are smart enough to walk away when they hear the rattles,” Bourassa said. “Maybe every now and then there’s an accident, but really, it is people that are dumb enough to mess with them.”

He noted some communities that once hosted rattlesnake roundups, which encourage the wholesale slaughter of rattlesnakes, have switched to celebrating the species.

“I think that’s the model for the future. You can still have your rattlesnake festivals and contribute to your economy, but just get the family together and enjoy the animals,” Bourassa said.

Future

The CPN tribal scholarship helps support Bourassa as he pursues a geography degree, which he plans to complete later this year.

“The scholarship has been extremely helpful,” Bourassa said. “I definitely wouldn’t be able to pay for college without it.”

He chose to study geography for the vast opportunities and fields of study under its umbrella.

“It’s anything from a spatial perspective,” he explained. “Lots of people go into urban geography or meteorology — those are all subfields of geography — but my interest is in wildlife conservation, and that’s definitely within the realm of geography and environmental studies also.”

After graduation, Bourassa hopes to continue working with animals, mainly crocodilians, and to have a more regular work schedule. However, his film industry interest may encourage Bourassa Wildlife Consulting to continue its operations.

“I got a lot of good stories out of it — getting to meet all these celebrities,” he said. “Which I’ve never really been super excited about celebrities, but it’s fun whenever you’re watching TV and you can say, ‘I worked with that guy!’”

Learn more about Bourassa Wildlife Consulting at bourassawildlife.com.

Language connections through the web

People from all Potawatomi tribes often use the Potawatomi Language (*Bodewadmimwen*) Facebook group as a space to ask questions about translations, references and lyrics. They also use it to discover and relearn their ancestors' Potawatomi names. Assimilation into Western culture caused many *Nishmabé* names to disappear and naming ceremonies have become less frequent. As Tribal members return to their Indigenous roots, more seek out these links to their family history.

Here are a few stories of Potawatomi citizens connecting with each other and filling in gaps using social media.

Fae Myers

Growing up on the East Coast, Fae Myers' connection to her Native heritage lacked the strength that comes with physical proximity. Toward the end of high school, she started to trace her DeGraff and Navarre family lineage back to Pierre Frenchette Navarre and Angelique Navarre, a French fur trader and his Potawatomi wife. Angelique's Potawatomi name was *Kishnawkwe* (Afternoon Woman).

"Learning the Potawatomi names of my family and ancestors as well as other history about my family allowed me to feel a lot more grounded in my roots," Myers said.

While naming skipped a few generations in her family, the last four women on her maternal side have names, including herself. Her great-grandmother, also named *Kishnawkwe* (Afternoon Woman); grandmother, *Nadmagekwe* (Helping Woman); her mother, *Msko-gishek* (Red Sky); and herself, *Gises* (Sun). She learned the names of a few other relatives through asking questions in the group.

"I got to see my great-gram a few times before she passed when I was 16, but between being 1,000 miles out and being a child when she was elderly, I never got a chance to truly know her," Myers said.

"Learning their Potawatomi names not only placed them solidly in a Potawatomi context, but I guess what feels like a much more meaningful name. These are names that I feel describe their personhood, rather than a set of names picked at birth by chance. In a sense, it almost feels like they're still here. Just

the change in name makes me feel ever so slightly more connected to them."

Victoria Tschohl

Victoria Tschohl began researching her father's side of the family, wanting to know more about the ancestors she never knew. She is a registered descendant of the Hannahville Indian Community in Michigan. Tschohl considers the Potawatomi language a large part of the culture, and online language resources provided a way to learn out of state. Living in Idaho, the Facebook group put her in touch with other Potawatomi with the same goals.

"As a physically disabled and chronically ill Potawatomi far from any physical tribal resources and people, I'm extremely appreciative for the online community and the help I was provided," she said. "It means the world to me to still have a way to communicate with fellow Potawatomi about our language and history."

Looking through public records and talking to family, she found the Potawatomi names of several of her relatives, beginning at her great-grandmother and continuing back. Tschohl asked the group about translating a few of the names. She wanted a more accurate spelling in particular, as the ones she already knew came directly from the census: *Pabahmesay*, *Wahsaygeshegoqua* and *Ogemahgoshegoqua*.

"It was great to get the translations and also see the bit of variation in them. And I will definitely return to those names and their translations as I learn more about our language, so I can learn how they break down," Tschohl said. "And I'll have a personal connection with which to affiliate the language, which is the best way to learn languages."

With the new translations, she learned her great-great-grandparents were known as *Pabamse* (He Walks Here and There) and *Wasegishgokwe* (First Rays of the Morning Sky Woman); and her great-grandmother's name was *Ogemagishgokwe* (Chief Sky Woman).

"It was exhilarating to finally understand the Native names I had found in the Indian census records, but I haven't gotten to do much beyond that since learning that information because life



Sandi Bolt Dailey uses the Potawatomi Language (*Bodewadmimwen*) Facebook group to learn about her ancestors, including her great-grandmother, Mary Ann Shopwetuck DeLonais (far right, dark dress).

got busy," Tschohl said. "It did make me feel more connected and inspired me to start reading some material from fellow Potawatomi authors, however."

Sandi Bolt Dailey

Sandi Bolt Dailey grew up in Hominy, Oklahoma. As a Bruno, Vieux, DeLonais and Rhodd family descendant, Dailey knew she was Potawatomi. Throughout her life, she worked for the Osage Nation and attended Native events.

Dailey started researching her lineage in depth along with younger relatives throughout the last decade. Her aunt Ethel Bruno Shopwetuck named several family members, including Dailey's mother, Florine Victoria DeLonais Bolt. Bolt knew Shopwetuck wrote their names down, and Bolt kept them and her other cultural knowledge to herself.

"I didn't have this for my kids, and I would have been more involved in it when they were growing up. ... Now, I'm trying to play catch-up," Dailey said.

Vetta Bruno named Dailey *Cae-a-no-Kwe*, Warm Wind Blowing Woman, during a family naming ceremony. Relatives she met while attending events and reconnecting told Dailey her mother's name was Black Snake Woman. They said her paternal great-grandmother's, Mary

Shopwetuck DeLonais, Potawatomi name was the same. However, Bolt never knew she was named after her grandmother.

"(My mom) was the oldest granddaughter, and I know that's why they named her that. And it just made me start crying," Dailey said. "It still makes me cry, and I know she didn't know that."

Dailey reached out on the *Bodewadmimwen* Facebook group to find a proper spelling of it in Potawatomi in August 2019. She learned "*Mk edemnedok we* (Black Snake Woman)" from Justin Neely, the group's administrator. She believes the name fit her mother.

"My mom (Bolt) was quiet and kind and never talked bad about anybody," Dailey said. Family members described Bolt's grandmother, Mary Vieux Bruno, as kind and quiet as well. However, Dailey described other Bruno women as outspoken.

Dailey uncovered truths about her mother that Bolt did not know about herself. The ability to translate her mother's name into Potawatomi warms Dailey's heart.

"It just really makes me feel so much more connected," she said.

Join the Potawatomi Language (*Bodewadmimwen*) Facebook group at [cpn.news/langfb](https://www.facebook.com/cpn.news/langfb). ♡

Quiz: How healthy is your relationship?

By Kayla Woody, Citizen Potawatomi Nation House of Hope Prevention Specialist

It's the month of love, but do you question if your partner is abusive? This quiz may help you determine if you are in a healthy relationship. Just read each question and answer honestly for yourself.

- Makes me feel nervous when we disagree
- Tries controlling a lot of the things I do
- Accuses me of flirting or cheating
- Texts and calls all the time
- I feel like I am always trying to find ways to please my partner

- Hits or throws things when they are angry
- Our relationship is moving pretty fast
- Always asks where I am or what I am doing
- It is always someone else's fault as to why they do things
- Asks me to change what I am wearing
- Puts me down a lot lately
- Doesn't like me spending time with others
- My friends don't like my partner at all

- Says I'm too involved in different activities
- I have no life outside of our relationship

The results with the most checkmarks:

Give yourself one point for each bubble you said "yes" for.

0 points: You got a score of zero? Don't worry. It's a good thing. It sounds like your relationship is very healthy!

1-2 points: You may be noticing a few things in your relationship that are unhealthy, but it doesn't mean they are warning signs. It is still a good thing to keep an eye out and check for unhealthy patterns.

3-4 points: It sounds like you may be seeing some warning signs of an abusive relationship. Do not ignore these signs. Many of these start out small, and gradually, the behavior becomes much worse.

5 points: If you have received this score, there is a very good chance that you are currently in an abusive relationship. Remember that the most important thing for you is safety.

Here at the House of Hope, we can help you put together a safety plan, and you do not have to deal with this alone. We are here to help. Contact one of our community advocates to find out options at 405-275-3176, visit us online at [facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope](https://www.facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope) or contact our 24/7 crisis line at 405-878-4673. ♡

Alex Kietzman's research aims to detect vision impairment through photos

CPN member Alex Kietzman joined Dr. Bryan Shaw's bioanalytical lab in 2018 as a sophomore at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. It matched his interest in the digital future of health care and allowed him to explore options for specializations in medical school. As an undergraduate researcher in the lab, Kietzman worked on the development of one of Shaw's biggest projects as an associate professor, the ComputeR Assisted Detector of LEukocoria – or CRADLE – algorithm used for the "white eye detector" smartphone application available in both Android and Apple app stores.

A descendant of the Higbee and Lorraine families, Kietzman double majors in biochemistry and philosophy with a minor in biology. His aspirations include medical school. As part of the team continuing to develop and improve CRADLE, he worked on scientific research that turned into his first published study. *Autonomous early detection of eye disease in childhood photographs* appeared in the October 2019 edition of the publication *Science Advances*, and at that time, more than 10,000 devices had downloaded the app.

"The vast majority of people who are conducting research and writing papers are graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, or people who are currently just working with their Ph.D.," Kietzman said. "It's really exciting to be introduced to this sort of published community at a younger age."

Kietzman also discussed the application and its updates in front of peers and professionals at the National Collegiate Research Conference at Harvard University in January 2019 — his first presentation of its kind. Despite his nervousness, he appreciated and learned from the eye-opening experience.

"People always consider Boston or Ivy League areas as a step up, intellectually. It's sort of humbling to recognize how similar a Texas education is in many ways," he said. "So, I get to Boston; I fly to Boston. I step off the plane, and I see more snow than I've ever seen in my life. I see a frozen river. Just things that I've

never seen before. On top of a distinct geography, I repeatedly came across some of the most intelligent minds in the country. For a weekend it was normal to have conversations with famous professors like Steven Pinker, Nobel Laureate Oliver Hart, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, or (former) Editor-in-Chief of *Cell*, a top biology journal, Emily Marcus."

CRADLE

As medical software, CRADLE helps detect leukocoria, or "white eye," which sometimes can be seen in photographs. Leukocoria is often a symptom of more pressing ocular issues, including cataracts, Coats' disease, and retinoblastoma, a type of eye cancer usually found in young children. The refraction of light off certain ocular surfaces created by these diseases results in the white pupil. Alleviating these issues depends on early detection and treatment.

"The goal of the app is to use casual photography that parents take of their kids on a daily basis and sort of sum it all together in some aggregate way as a single test to view the pupil and see if there are any abnormalities like leukocoria," Kietzman explained.

After downloading CRADLE White Eye Detector, the user grants it access to their device's photos. Then, it uses both facial recognition and a hue saturation value scale aligned with instances of leukocoria in photography to detect possible instances that may warrant further testing.

As part of Dr. Shaw's lab, Kietzman assisted with "the first large-scale, longitudinal testing of its accuracy, sensitivity and specificity" of the software. While the project previously focused on the iPhone, Kietzman's addition encouraged an expansion into Androids as the owner of a Google Pixel.

"I was over at (Dr. Shaw's) house with a friend of mine, who was also in the lab, working on the project, and I pull out my phone. He saw my phone, and he goes, 'What type of phone is that?' and then I start telling him about my phone and how at the time, it was



Kietzman rubs the John Harvard statue's toes for good luck at the National Collegiate Research Conference.

sort of at the top of the line of the Android market," Kietzman said.

In an attempt to make CRADLE universal, availability on every device seemed logical and necessary. Android functionality also increases its potential presence in developing nations as those makes and models become most popular in those markets.

"The goal is just to have as many people as possible download it and be using it whenever they need. ... It's the most important (there) because the density of doctors and pediatricians is far lower than that of the United States," Kietzman said. "And an awful disease like retinoblastoma, the cancer of the retina, is curable, if caught early enough."

Due in part to his contributions, the lab's team is currently assessing approximately 100,000 images to build its training set and improve its accuracy.

Virtual health care and the future

Kietzman finds CRADLE exciting as a part of telemedicine. He hopes to be

on the fringe of technology as medical appointments via video call and self-assessment with the help of digital applications become more common.

"I think telemedicine is a really, really important thing, and that's where I imagine very much of or maybe even the majority of medicine in the future going," he said. "And CRADLE is, I think, just another way, another example of how telemedicine is expanding in nature. ... It's just great to be a part of some movement to expand health care or medicine beyond the clinician's office."

Kietzman, a junior in his undergraduate program, keeps his career options open. His declared majors and minors incorporate varied schools of thought and subjects that overlap one another, particularly in this branch of health care.

"It's definitely something that even if it wasn't a trend, I think that I would still be drawn to approaching medicine that way, and it's clearly a beneficial thing to have those sort of cogs already moving in my mind," he said.

"It's humbling to be a part of something that's so much greater than myself."

The opportunities to shadow and gain perspective on different medical fields ranging from cardiology to primary care excite Kietzman as well. He calls those future decisions "up in the air, but in a good way."

Read the *Science Advances* publication of *Autonomous early detection of eye disease in childhood photographs* at cpn.news/cradle. CRADLE is available free on the Apple's app store and Google Play. It is also on Facebook @white.eye.detector and on Instagram @cradle_white_eye_detector.

Dr. Shaw's bioanalytical lab is currently requesting childhood photographs for analyzation to increase their work's accuracy. Email Shaw Research Labs at bryan_shaw@baylor.edu for further information on contributing. Visit the lab online at shawlaboratory.com.

4X5 ROUND BALES
SPRAYED AND FERTILIZED

FOR SALE



CONTACT TONYA IN AG OPERATIONS AT 405-395-0113 OR TONYA.KITCHEN@POTAWATOMI.ORG

Sengo Zibiwes Ngemojek find the rhythms of the past and future

Gathering for practice on a cold Friday afternoon in December, the *Sengo Zibiwes Ngemojek* (Squirrel Creek Singers) catch up on each other's lives around the drum and chuckle. They meet twice a week at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center, learning the traditions of drumming as well as lyrics in Potawatomi.

"What's nice about this group of guys is, I think we're comfortable enough with each other that we don't mind giving it a whirl, trying it out, trying to lead now and then because you don't want it always to be the one guy," said Justin Neely, *Sengo Zibiwes Ngemojek* organizer and CPN Language Department director.

Before they begin, they all lower their heads and say a prayer to Creator in Potawatomi over the drum. Jason Hawk, a new member and Cherokee Nation citizen, learned to give the instrument reverence during the last six months.

"It's a sacred item, in a way. We call it our grandfather. ... We treat it like our grandfather. So, we wouldn't disrespect it in any type of way," Hawk said, which includes making indecent jokes in front of the drum and laying things on top of it.

The group started meeting in 2008. They named themselves *Sengo Zibiwes Ngemojek*, or Squirrel Creek Singers, after the creek that runs on Tribal land through the Nation's FireLake complex.

"Squirrel Creek is a pretty prevalent one for kind of the center of our government right here. Every time you go to (Family Reunion) Festival, Squirrel Creek. We just thought it was a neat name back in the day to call it," Neely said.

However, many current members began attending practices within the last year. CPN Community Garden Assistant Kaya DeerInWater began drumming in the summer of 2019.



The Sengo Zibiwes Ngemojek open the Oklahoma Indian Education Conference with a performance at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort in December 2019.

Since then, practice became part of his routine as a Tribal citizen.

"The drum is the heartbeat of the Nation, and when that goes silent, our people will be silent; and so I feel like getting to know that better is very heartening," he said. "It means a lot, and I guess it's something that I feel like has allowed me to express myself in a way that I didn't feel comfortable doing."

Before this experience, DeerInWater had never focused on developing any musical skill. In fact, not many of the *Sengo Zibiwes Ngemojek* have. While a couple of them briefly picked up percussion, piano or saxophone in their youth, their time with the men's drum group remains their greatest effort toward mastering an instrument. For some of them, attending practice means gathering the courage to try something new.

"Being someone who wasn't raised in my Native community or around my Native community, that seemed kind of daunting and like there was a divide, but these guys have been so welcoming. And I've felt comfortable enough to

make horrible mistakes, but it's all a learning experience," DeerInWater said.

DeLonais family descendant and Language Aid Robert Collins spent the majority of 2019 learning Potawatomi. In less than a year, he went from knowing nothing about the language to writing songs as part of the drum group.

"It's just what we do, so it's feeling like coming to work every day kind of, almost," he said and laughed. "But it is really awesome to sit back and look at it like that. It's pretty cool. I wouldn't have seen myself doing this. If I would have said, 'I'm going to be doing that in a year's time,' that wouldn't have been one of the things I would have said."

Last summer, the *Sengo Zibiwes Ngemojek* played the drum for the handgames tournament during the Tribe's Family Reunion Festival. Several group members began practicing only a couple of months prior, and the event felt like the beginning of something bigger.

"It is something that is so pan-tribal. Most peoples these days have powwows or participate in powwows, so it's

something that can connect you to a whole bunch of other communities. And you can chitchat about or whatever," DeerInWater said. "That aspect of it is very cool to me, and then being with the guys here is also really cool because we're singing Potawatomi songs. We're using the language. We're drumming at traditional games."

Occasionally, some of the men's sons attend practice as well, giving them the opportunity to learn together. As part of the Language Department, Collins drums for the children at the CPN Child Development Center. He also sees it as an opportunity to pass on the customs to the pre-kindergartners, who like the *Seven Fires* song, inspired by the prophecy that outlines the origins and history of the *Nishnabé* people.

"Those kids love it. So, they've been wanting it," he said. "Every day I'll go down there, they're wanting it. And they're learning it. So, they'll sit there, and there are even videos of them on Facebook doing it."

The *Ngemojek's* songbook includes veterans, flag, honor, intertribal and round dance pieces, and their goals focus on keeping their repertoire growing. Neely hopes to eventually participate as the main drum during CPN's annual powwow as well as perform at other events.

"I feel real positive about it, myself. ... I really think it is something that would be nice if we could be the drum at some time for our own powwow, obviously, our own Festival. I mean, I'd like to see us even try maybe some smaller powwows at some point, kind of get in the mix," he said.

The *Sengo Zibiwes Ngemojek* welcome new members on Wednesdays and Fridays at 4 p.m. at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center (cpn.news/heritage). For more information on the Family Reunion Festival, visit cpn.news/festival. ♪

Shkodedeajek reaches anniversary of founding

By Kaya DeerInWater,
Shkodedeajek chapter president

Citizen Potawatomi Nation is one of two tribal nations with its own chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. In February 2019, CPN and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians started the first two tribal chapters of AISES, which provide opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Members promote and support each other in their own communities. AISES was founded in Oklahoma in 1977 and has 4,600 individual members in 189 chartered college and university chapters as well as 15 professional chapters and 158 affiliated K-12 schools.

CPN's AISES chapter is named *Shkodedeajek* (the People with the Fire in Their Hearts). Pronounced *shk-oh-duh-deh-ah-juhk*, it is a reference to the greater Potawatomi Nation as



CPN AISES chapter president Kaya DeerInWater leads a tea making workshop at the 2019 Family Reunion Festival.

the Keepers of the Fire. Our Tribal chapter includes more than 75 members

organized into four central committees that focus on supporting different

aspects of our local and national STEM community. The chapter also hosted an event during the 2019 Family Reunion Festival where participants got a chance to work with computer coding or medicinal plants. One portion focused on a tutorial in robotics coding with Bluetooth-enabled SPHERO robots, and the other centered on using native Oklahoma plants as healing teas.

In 2020, *Shkodedeajek* plans to host more events with local schools, send a delegation of leaders to the annual AISES Leadership Summit and National Conference, and start a mentorship program for students. This chapter is open to any Citizen Potawatomi, regardless of geographic location, as well as any Native person who resides within CPN's jurisdiction that spans over five counties. If you are interested in joining, please email me at k.deerinwater@potawatomi.org or visit aises.org/membership. ♪

Speaking your child's love language

By Darian Young, Family Preservation Coordinator

Miscommunications often lend themselves to the creation of rifts and barriers within families. For example, if every member of a family spoke a completely different language at home, imagine the conflicts, hurt feelings, confusion and more that would arise. The truth is, many families *are* speaking different languages — love languages, that is.

In Dr. Gary Chapman's book *The Five Love Languages of Children*, Chapman wrote, "Every child has a primary language of love, a way in which he or she understands a parent's love best." There are five primary love languages that Chapman refers to: words of affirmation, acts of service, gifts, quality time and physical touch. When you speak your child's love language accurately, you fill their "love tank" and increase their feelings of being both accepted and loved. Ideally, this removes the need for children to seek love and acceptance from places that could prove harmful.

Words of affirmation

Most understand the power that words hold, but to children with words of affirmation as a primary love language, words are even more significant. Praise, guidance, encouragement and words of affection all send a direct signal that the child is loved. "Even though such words are quickly said, they are not soon forgotten. A child reaps the benefits of affirming words for a lifetime," Chapman wrote. The same holds true with negative, harsh and overly critical words, too. A loved one's harshness or excessive negativity deeply wound children who hold words dear to their heart.

How to speak this language to your child: write a short note inside their lunchbox, send a daily positive text to your child or cheer for them at sporting events. One suggestion with significant impact is allowing your child to overhear you saying something positive about them to someone else. Dr. Harvey Karp, author of *The Happiest Toddler on the Block*, explained that we tend to believe things even more if we overhear them versus being directly told.

Acts of service

The role of a parent is most often a service-oriented job. According to Chapman, children's primary love language is service and "Your acts



of service will communicate most deeply that you love [them]."

It is important to understand that a child who thrives on acts of service does not get a free pass or get every request immediately granted. What it does mean, though, is parents should respond to requests sensitively and "recognize that your response will either help fill the child's love tank or else puncture the tank," according to Chapman.

How to speak this language to your child: lovingly repair a broken toy, pack a lunch, prepare a favorite meal or help create flash cards for an upcoming test. These can speak volumes and fill your child's love tank.

Gifts

"The giving and receiving of gifts can be a powerful expression of love, at the time they are given and often extending into later years," Chapman said. Giving gifts does not have to be an elaborate, expensive or grand gesture. Children who relate most to this love language connect presents with deep meaning, memories and overall love. A child whose primary love language is gifts will most likely remember what presents are from whom and when or why the gift was given to them. The gifts are worth more in their young eyes than the monetary value or the popularity of the gift.

How to speak this language to your child: creating unique "coupons" that fit your child's interests (such as "extra time before bed" or "free ice cream cone"), placing surprise small gifts such as a Hershey's kiss or handmade card hidden in your child's lunchbox or bedroom, or other personalized

gifts can more than satisfy a child whose primary love language is gifts.

Quality time

Complete undivided attention in today's hectic world will speak volumes to a child whose primary love language is quality time. All children crave attention, but children motivated by quality time continuously and intentionally seek out parents to play with them and act out when periods come and go without one-on-one time. It is imperative to choose moments and activities important to your child. Pay attention to their likes and hobbies, and create moments where you choose to join in with them.

Carve out one hour each week for individual time with your child or children by reading, playing a game, going on a walk, making a meal together or having an uninterrupted conversation.

Physical touch

It has been widely studied and proven that babies who are held and loved on more as infants fare better over time than babies who are neglected of physical touch. If we understand the significance of touch with newborns, it is vital we do not forget the power touch has on toddlers, adolescents and even adults. "A tender hug communicates love to any child, but it shouts love to these children," Chapman said. As with words of affirmation, the reverse is also true with negative or harmful touch. To a child whose primary love language is physical touch, a spanking or an inappropriate touch can become a devastating emotional wound. All children need to be taught the importance of physical boundaries and should be allowed to decide their own.

How to speak this language to your child: frequent and sincere hugs, kisses, pats on the back, high fives, fist bumps, holding hands, dancing together, cuddling while reading a book or watching television, special handshakes, play wrestling or any other positive touch gives the visible sign to a child that they are noticed and loved.

Discovering your child's love language

While most children will have one primary love language, it is critical not to drop the ball entirely when it comes to the other four love languages. All are necessary for children to thrive, but one will speak the loudest and clearest to your child.

A simple way to discover your child's love language is to ask the question, "How do you know mommy/daddy loves you?" Their answer will provide you direct insight to what speaks the loudest and fills their tank the fullest. Answers might sound something like, "I know you love me because you always tell me so every morning and every night," (words of affirmation); "You always make me yummy dinner and help me whenever a toy breaks, and that always makes me feel really happy," (acts of service); "I can look at all my clothes, my cellphone and even the random cards mom makes me and see how much y'all love me," (gifts); "You always make time for me, no matter how busy you are with work or how difficult I'm being, and that means a lot to me," (quality time); or "Mommy, you always give me kisses and cuddles, and it makes me feel warm and cozy!" (physical touch).

Additionally, there are free online quizzes you can take in order to better understand what your child's love language may be. The quizzes can be accessed at cpn.news/5lovelang.

"When we as parents learn to speak our children's love language, even though it differs from our own, we are showing them the way of unselfishness, the way of serving others. We are guiding them into an important part of becoming an adult — giving and caring for others," Chapman said.

If you are interested in learning more parenting tips, reach out to FireLodge Children & Family Services and inquire about the parenting classes that are offered free of charge. Visit [facebook.com/cpnfirelodge](https://www.facebook.com/cpnfirelodge) or call 405-878-4831. ♡

2020 Tribal election candidates certified

Each year, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation holds elections for positions in the Tribal government. This year's ballot includes two legislative seats in addition to the annual Tribal budget.

The legislative race to represent Oklahoma District 9 will be contested by one incumbent and one challenger. Current District 9 Legislator Paul Wesselhöft will face challenger Jay Laughlin.

District 12 incumbent, Paul Schmidkofer, was the lone candidate filing for his seat and will run unopposed.

Only Oklahoma voters can cast ballots for these two legislative seats.

Election Day is June 27, 2020, the Saturday of the CPN Family Reunion Festival.

Candidate profiles and Q&As will be in upcoming editions of the *Hownikan* before the election.

In addition to the legislative seats, Tribal voters will cast their ballots on the Nation's annual budget. It outlines the expenditure of the CPN trust fund's earnings. No principal from the fund is spent. The budget pays for national

service projects and the executive branch of the Tribal government.

In-person voting takes place at Tribal headquarters near Shawnee, Oklahoma, on June 27, 2020. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. Tribal citizens must show their CPN ID to receive a ballot.

Absentee ballot request forms will be mailed to CPN members' last known address on March 1, 2020. Absentee ballots will be mailed to members' last known address on May 1, 2020. The CPN Election Committee must receive absentee ballots by 10 a.m. on June 27, 2020, in order to be accepted. Absentee

ballot requests may be made in writing by sending the voter's name, address, Tribal ID number and legal signature to the CPN Election Committee, P.O. Box 310, Tecumseh, OK, 74873. Absentee ballot request forms must be postmarked by June 6, 2020.

Citizen Potawatomi are encouraged to contact Tribal Rolls to ensure their address information is up to date at 800-880-9880. ♡

Anishinabe Design Inc. revitalizes and constructs tribal spaces across Oklahoma

Branded as “architecture, planning and interior design for the Native American community,” Anishinabe Design Inc. is one of two architectural firms owned by CPN member Cheryl Lockstone and her husband, Barrett Williamson. Their office sits at Asp Ave and Boyd Street on the University of Oklahoma’s Campus Corner in Norman.

“My husband calls it the ‘Center of the Universe’ because we have the premier balcony on the corner above Starbucks,” she said. “So, we get to have wonderful game days. We’re big OU fans.”

Previously a full-time painter, the Bruno family descendant spent seven years in the early 2000s exhibiting and selling her work in juried art shows from Arizona to Michigan. She now serves as the chair of the Norman Public Arts Board; however, her work with the firm has required most of her artistic abilities in recent years.

“Architecture, of course, is a creative business. ... When we first started the firm, I was interested in combining art and architecture in some way,” she said.

The beginning

Lockstone and Williamson founded the business in 2008 following a satisfying relationship rehabilitating the Pawnee Nation College dining hall in Pawnee, Oklahoma.

“I finally said, ‘OK, I’m going to do this, but I want to make sure that all of the Native projects that we do ... that the culture of that tribe is put in the building,’” she said.

“They’re each distinct in their own way. And they each have their own culture; they each have their own identity, and their language and customs and things that are important to them.”

Plans for the dining hall combined Pawnee customs and art with a star map painted on the ceiling in the main space of the building. Lockstone gathered inspiration for the design after visiting the Field Museum in Chicago and standing underneath a replica of a Pawnee earth lodge. They consulted Pawnee Business



Barrett Williamson and Cheryl Lockstone own two architectural design firms located out of Norman, Oklahoma. (Photo by Shevaun Williams)

Council member and elder Charles “Buddy” Lone Chief to identify important constellations and their proper placement. Then, the staff painted it by hand.

“Everyone from the office went on a Saturday, and we spent the night. We spent two days painting the ceiling of the Pawnee Nation Dining Hall, and it reflected their star chart. ... Every project that we’ve had since then, we’ve tried to work closely with elders of the tribe and get their input.” Lockstone said.

Restorations

Anishinabe Design focuses on restoring and rehabilitating tribally owned or culturally significant structures. Lockstone said the goal of creating a new purpose from a space that already exists aligns with Native customs and traditions.

“Anything that’s going to save a historic building instead of tearing it down is important to us because we believe that you should reuse and recycle instead of knocking down and rebuilding,” she explained. “And the original building is maybe a better-built building with better materials.”

As an architect, her husband enjoys those kinds of challenges and builds his reputation around them. Besides the Pawnee Nation College dining hall, their firm repurposed the Casa Blanca Building

on the OU campus into the Chickasaw Nation Student Services Center. Originally a sorority house built in 1925, the tribe reimagined it as a home away from home for its students with a living room, dining rooms, computer lab, laundry room, library, game room and much more.

“We have spaces there that they can have classes so that they can learn beadwork or anything about their heritage — any type of programming that the Chickasaw Nation wants to do to bring their students closer to their heritage,” Lockstone said.

Work began in 2018, and they preserved the original fabric of the building, including refinishing and reusing the original wood windows.

“I’ve always loved that building, and people in Norman especially have a strong sense of that building and a lot of ownership towards it,” Lockstone said. “Everyone was excited to finally see the Chickasaw Nation come in and restore that building.”

Tribal community connection through spacial utilization

Lockstone and Williamson also submit their qualifications for consideration for tribal projects funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Indian Community Development Block Grant program. Applications for

ICDBGs outline what services the structure provides to the tribal community. Anishinabe Design has designed cultural heritage centers, cultural learning labs, food distribution centers, law enforcement centers and roundhouse rehabilitations.

“It’s the tribe helping their people, and they help them in a way that doesn’t make them feel like they’re being helped or put down,” Lockstone said. “It’s like lifting people up, and so most of the tribal projects that we do, I feel like we are lifting people up.”

Currently, they are working on an expansion of an Indian Health Services clinic near El Reno, Oklahoma, with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. With primary construction set for completion in fall 2021, the new facility expands provider services and offers radiology, pharmacy, dentistry and more in 16,000 square feet — significantly larger than the one destroyed by a tornado in spring 2013.

“It’s just going to be a much better facility. So, whenever you look that we’re able to help the U.S. government fulfill treaties with tribal governments in place to make sure Native populations have access to health care, it’s very gratifying to me that we are able to give back in that sort of way by building really nice facilities,” Lockstone said.

Anishinabe Design also conceptualized single-family homes for the CPN Housing Department’s new lease purchase home ownership program. Participants sign a three-year lease agreement with the possibility of homeownership by meeting a series of criteria. For more information, visit cpn.news/homeowners or cpn.news/housing.

Throughout the last decade, working with tribes across Oklahoma and learning their customs taught Lockstone how to engage uniquely with them and made her more appreciative of her own.

“I just encourage everyone that is a tribal member or whatever tribe you belong to just be a part of your cultural heritage,” she said.

Visit Anishinabe Design on the web at anishinabedesign.com. ♠

One Time Grant program open for housing opportunities

By Sherry Byers, CPN Housing Department Program Manager

The One Time Grant has now been in operation for more than 21 years and has evolved and improved throughout this time. It has assisted hundreds of Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members with funds for their down payment or closing costs associated with the purchase, building or refinancing of a home.

In addition to assisting individual Tribal members with this program, we would also like to see the CPN’s First National Bank & Trust Co. benefit by originating the mortgage loans. FNB is able to offer most loan programs offered by other lending institutions, except loan types affiliated with predatory lenders.

It is interesting to know that there are still many uninformed CPN members out there when it comes to information

regarding this program and the Tribal bank. Our office receives calls daily from citizens that never knew of this grant or that the Tribe owns its own bank.

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

Program criteria:

- The grant cannot be used for any type of mobile home
- Convicted felons or other household member felons are ineligible
- The home being purchased must be their primary residence
- The Tribal member’s name must be on the loan

The application must be completed thoroughly with the following submitted:

- 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 three to four 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

The application and support information is required in our office at least three weeks prior to the closing date. This gives our office enough time to get the paperwork

processed and the check mailed back to the Tribal member by the specified date.

To request the application and/or general information regarding the One Time Grant, please contact Sherry Byers, homeownership manager at 405-273-2833 or at sbyers@potawatomi.org.

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

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

Knowing the signs of carbon monoxide poisoning can save lives

By Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton

Keeping warm or maintaining a lawn does not need to be fatal.

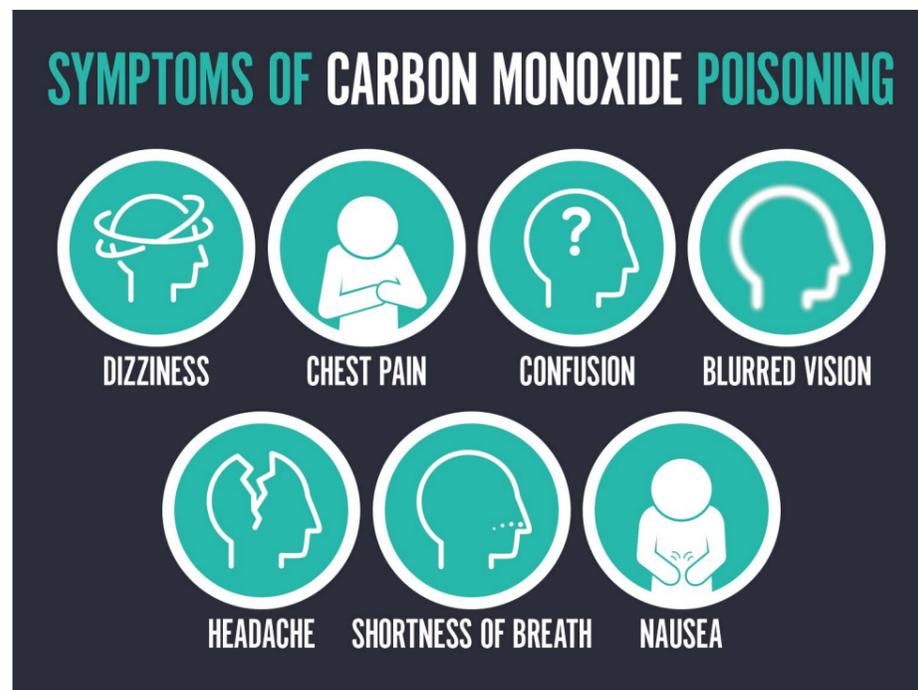
Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is emitted in fumes from burning fuel, including gasoline, kerosene, charcoal and wood. If allowed to build up in the body, it can be fatal to both people and animals.

According to data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 400 Americans die annually from carbon monoxide poisoning, with an additional 4,000 hospitalized from it.

Often described as flu-like, carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms include dizziness, confusion, a dull headache, blurred vision, chest pain, shortness of breath and nausea. It can also lead to a loss of consciousness, making it possible for people to die from carbon monoxide poisoning before showing any noticeable symptoms.

The exact timetable for symptoms to start appearing hinges on several factors, including a person's size and activity level as well as the concentration levels of carbon monoxide in an area.

For example, an average healthy adult would not experience any symptoms after eight hours of exposure to carbon



monoxide levels at 50 parts per million. That same adult would start developing a mild headache after two or three hours in a room with carbon monoxide levels at 200 parts per million. After an hour or two in a room with carbon monoxide levels at 400 parts per million, that adult would most likely start getting nauseous.

Infants, elders and people with heart disease, anemia or chronic breathing

problems are generally more susceptible to getting sick from extended exposure to carbon monoxide.

Stephanie Harris is the director of the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic's public health department.

Although carbon monoxide poisoning is a more common occurrence indoors, particularly in poorly ventilated

areas, Harris pointed out that it is still possible to occur while outside.

"You don't think about it with a generator going outside, but it is recommended to have gas powered machines going at least 20 feet away from the building to help prevent carbon monoxide buildup," she said.

In addition to installing and regularly maintaining a carbon monoxide detector, carbon monoxide poisoning can be avoided through several basic proactive measures.

For example, chimneys, heating systems and coal burning appliances need to be inspected yearly and cleaned as needed. Never leave a car or truck engine running in an enclosed garage, particularly if that garage is attached to the house. Gasoline powered tools, such as leaf blowers and chainsaws, must be used in a well-ventilated area.

Additionally, in the event of a power outage, do not use a gas oven, gas range or camp stove as a heat source or sleep in a room with an unvented kerosene space heater.

"When you're cold and just trying to get warm, sometimes you forget common sense," Harris said. ♠

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Adult Protective Services looks out for elders

When considering programs such as Indian Child Welfare and family services, one group often left out of the conversation is elders. Adult protective service programs do not always receive adequate funding and are far from universal throughout the country.

However, the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime recently awarded Citizen Potawatomi Nation a grant to fund the Tribe's new Adult Protective Services Department for the next three years. With more than a quarter of a million dollars available beginning in January 2020, the Tribe laid the groundwork for a growing staff and set of resources specifically devoted to the investigation of elder abuse and welfare. The CPN program is amongst the first of its kind for a tribe in the U.S.

APS Department Director Janet Draper oversaw CPN's Indian Child Welfare Department prior to her new position. During that time, she accepted cases of elder abuse and performed welfare checks.

"I just felt over the years that something more needed to be done," she said.

"With this new program, we are going to be able to go to each of those Tribal members and/or their spouses and/or any other Natives that are living in ... housing that the Tribe has to offer for

elders and be able to focus on them and check on them and be another set of eyes."

APS Case Manager Brian Moore began working for the Tribe in September 2019 to assist with the beginning of the department and help with the cases he and Draper have already started. He worked for the State of Oklahoma in the same field. During his short time with CPN, he already appreciates the streamlined nature of its services and resources as well as the ability to focus on individuals.

"With the State of Oklahoma, you're really just stuck working with neglect, exploitation and abuse. Here, we're able to provide all sorts of assistance to our elders, not just investigating those particular crimes, but we can also just provide assistance to them when they're just needed," Moore said. "It's just a phenomenal program that we have here."

The grant covers staff and procedural costs for 50 cases a year, each one averaging more than 80 work hours to close. Their complex nature stems from the addition of several factors not present in child welfare, including property, debt, Social Security and medication theft by family members.

"It's embarrassing for them to say, 'Hey, I've been swindled out of thousands of



CPN Adult Protective Services Department Director Janet Draper and Case Manager Brian Moore.

dollars,' or 'My grandchild has taken my money. I don't have money now for food or medication.' And it's sad, and it goes on every day," Draper said. "And unfortunately, it happens within the Citizen Potawatomi Nation community. And I want our elders to know that there is someone they can call that they can trust to help them solve this problem."

The grant will allow a portion of the allocated funds to purchase a van compliant with Americans with

Disabilities Act guidelines dedicated to the elders. Draper said it returns a sense of independence through transportation.

"We're going to be able to transport them to doctor's appointments or to visit someone or to go shopping. And although the Potawatomi have a transit department, sometimes they're booked. We want to be able to provide that service to the ones that can just pick up the phone and say, 'I want to go to Walmart,'" she said.

Already, CPN APS has nearly 15 cases as the new year begins. Although the program is in its infancy, talks remain focused on teamwork and possibilities. As the only tribe in Oklahoma with an APS staff, Draper and Moore hope to set an example for their colleagues as they grow into uncharted territory.

"It shows that the Potawatomi Nation is concerned for all of its citizens and the realization that this problem exists in our own backyard," Draper said. "But the Potawatomi Nation is going to step up as always and take care of the problems within their community so that everybody is proud and excited for these type of programs to start."

For more community services from Citizen Potawatomi Nation, visit cpn.news/services. ♠

Get the *Hownikan* via email!

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

Traditional craftwork provides connection to *Nishnabé* culture

Growing up in Oklahoma, Kristy Phillips has held close ties to her *Nishnabé* roots since youth. Today she serves as a secondary educator at the Hannahville Indian School — *Nah Tah Wahsh* (Soaring Eagle). There she teaches *Neshnabémwen* (Potawatomi language) and Indigenous *kenomagewen* (science), incorporating tribal traditions and lifeways into her lessons. Outside of work, Phillips creates beautiful pieces of artwork, jewelry and more using traditional materials and methods through *Neshnabkwewek* run by her and her sister Kateri Phillips, who currently serves as the 2019 Miss Potawatomi. A limited number of *Neshnabkwewek* creations are on sale now at Potawatomi Gifts.

“The gift we have as *Nishnabé* people is to create, and I think that anybody is capable of doing, especially *Nishnabé* people. It’s just practice,” Phillips said.

Phillips’ interest in Potawatomi art forms began at an early age. She learned a variety of skills and methods while making powwow regalia with her grandmother. This experience inspired her to create a beading business for a high school project, helping spur her entrepreneurial spirit.

“My business was beaded keychains, and my group made a lot of money that year because my grandma donated beads,” she said. “I just got some dowel rods. I beaded so many keychains. When that was a success, my sister and I put our heads together, and we were like, ‘Man, we should really see if we can sell these to the gift shop.’ So, I have had things in the gift shop since I was a younger child.”



Neshnabkwewek birch bark baskets feature the American Indian Science and Engineering Society's logo. (photo provided)

Returning home

Before obtaining her degree in cellular and molecular biology, Phillips studied and taught Potawatomi under the CPN Language Department as a language aid. Then in 2011, Hannahville Indian Community extended a job opportunity to her.

Phillips’ move to Michigan connects her and her children to Potawatomi ancestral homelands, fulfilling a lifelong dream.

“I kind of made up my mind at a young age that if I was ever given the opportunity to move back north and be back home where we were before the Trail of Death, I would take that opportunity and try to bring back a lot of knowledge to my people in Oklahoma and Kansas,” she said.

As a teacher, she has an opportunity to integrate the Potawatomi language and traditions into the classroom. One

way she does this is through world language inquiry by giving students Potawatomi language to investigate and incorporate into assignments.

“It’s basically them researching and inquiring about their language and how to take what they’re given and put into these projects,” she said.

Her hand-crafted items, like winnowing baskets and wild rice knockers, also supplement lessons.

“One of the things I wanted to do was to help them understand that, you know, we are living on this land of the Great Lakes and how much traditional ecological knowledge is built into our language,” she said.

Techniques

Phillips entwines mindfulness into every step of her creative process, including her favorite part: hand-harvesting supplies.

“Beadwork is fun, but you go to the store and you buy a lot of that stuff,” she explained. “Then, it’s like a whole other level when you can actually go out and harvest that by hand and put those things together. And they’re all things you found out there.”

To learn the proper ways to collect natural materials, she relies on other’s guidance.

“I never go out unless I know specifically what I’m doing and how I ought to do it.

Continued on page 12

Ways to support foster parents

By Kendra Lowden, Foster Care/Adoption Manager

Caring for children involved in the child welfare system can be challenging due to the trauma they have faced. There are ample support options available for foster children, but not as many for the foster parents who are caring and advocating for some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. Being a foster parent is much more than loving children. Often, the day-to-day hardships and complexities of working with multiple agencies are the biggest challenges. Although not everyone is able to foster, most people offer a kind gesture. Here are some simple ways you can help:

Communicate

Reach out via phone, email or social media. Offering words of encouragement is helpful for everyone, especially for a foster parent who is juggling all the responsibilities that come with caring for children involved in the complex child welfare system. Even one kind word makes a difference.

Run errands

Save a foster parent a trip to the store by picking up groceries. You can also order items for delivery through websites like FireLake Discount Foods, Walmart or Amazon. Committing to helping a foster family with simple actions like this can make such a difference when someone is struggling and can help them find the balance they need to be their best selves for their family.

Donate

Children in care are not always able to bring all of their belongings into foster homes. Sharing new or gently used items for children is very helpful. You can donate clothing, toys, sports equipment, diapers, bottles and anything children in your own life would need to feel safe and comfortable.

Remember all children in the home

Biological and adopted children in the foster home still need the same love and attention as foster children. Offer to take them out for a movie night or to an activity. Do not worry about being “fair.” We can trust foster parents to navigate that topic with each child. It is okay to show children attention at separate times.

Reserve judgment

Hold back negative comments about biological parents. Do not assume every child who has been abused or neglected is damaged, unloved or needs to be adopted. Avoid asking questions about any trauma the children may have experienced or about the situation with their biological parents. That is private information. Remember that all behavior has meaning, and a struggling child may be expressing their emotions in the only way they know how to at that moment. There are no “bad” children, only bad experiences.

For more information, contact FireLodge Children & Family Services at 405-878-4831. ♡

WE LOVE OUR CUSTOMERS



At First National Bank & Trust Co., we appreciate the little things in life - like smiling faces, solid handshakes and friendly neighbors. There’s nothing sweeter than serving our community each and every day.

TALK TO US. **FIRST.**

FNB First National Bank & Trust Co.

405.275.8830
FNBOKLA.BANK

Educator and Tribal member improves social studies lessons with grant

Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Nathalie Lee's classroom looked a little different as the school year began in August 2019. Maps of Oklahoma outlining cultural markers and history paired nicely with new games depicting frontier life and books about Native Americans' time on the land that became the 46th state.

As a third grade teacher at Union Public Schools district in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Lee focuses on social studies, in particular, Oklahoma history. Earlier in 2019, the Bertrand and Higbee family descendant received a Fund for Teachers grant from the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. She used it to strengthen curriculum and obtain accompanying classroom resources.

"I've always been really proud to be an Oklahoman and really proud to be a Tribal member," Lee said. "And I've always been interested in learning about Oklahoma history, which is why my teaching partner and I decided to write this grant and why it really, really affected me deeply."

The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence's mission "is to recognize and encourage academic excellence in Oklahoma's public schools." Through a partnership with the national nonprofit Fund for Teachers, the Tulsa Community Foundation and the Oklahoma Tribal Alliance, the organization receives bridge funding to administer the type of professional development Lee experienced to educators across the state.

"All the more we give that opportunity to teachers, the better job they can do," said OFE Executive Director Emily Stratton. "They are encouraging student academic achievement — academic excellence. So we feel like it's a perfect fit."

Last year, OFE sought to expand its reach and built relationships with tribes in Oklahoma. CPN donated \$10,000, and OFE awarded between 25 and 30 grants in total. The organization encouraged Indigenous educators to apply, and Communications and Program Outreach Specialist Sara Wilson also saw the partnership as an opportunity to increase its rural presence.

"This is a statewide opportunity," she said. "It's not just for central Oklahoma or the Tulsa area, and we're trying to find ways to reach other parts of the state and let them know that this is available to all Oklahoma teachers."

Lee studies Oklahoma

Many of the grants awarded outline trips to Africa, Australia or Taiwan as a way of looking at their curriculum in a broader context.



Lee (left) and her Fund for Teachers partner Janet DeMarco pick up necessities for selenite crystal digging at Great Salt Plains State Park in northwest Oklahoma.

"It's an experience. It's a learning odyssey," OFE's Wilson said. "So whatever they create, it has to be with the mindset that the whole time they're gone, they're working hard. They're making connections. They're learning. They're researching."

However, Lee and her teaching partner Janet DeMarco's goals kept them in Oklahoma.

"We're in the unique position of being third grade teachers, and we have state standards that focus on Oklahoma history, which of course, includes Native America and the land allotments and the land runs and the culture and the beliefs of these people," Lee said.

They applied three times before receiving a grant. When Lee and DeMarco began outlining their materials the first time, they knew they wanted to learn more about where they live and work. Lee believes their improvements and unconventional focus brought them to the forefront for selection.

"We realized the beauty and the history that is right under our feet here in Oklahoma. And we have a rich history, just like other places in the world," she said. "And we wanted to stay here and focus on our homeland and our ancestors and our history and our heritage. We wanted to be able to honor that in our classrooms and make sure that our history and

our heritage here with the Oklahoma children in our classrooms is valued."

Lee and DeMarco traveled for 12 days last summer and spent the following weeks writing lesson plans and laying out their classrooms. Some of their favorite destinations included the Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City, Great Salt Plains State Park in northwestern Oklahoma and Woolaroc Museum and Wildlife Preserve in Bartlesville.

"We wanted to go visit landmarks and places in Oklahoma museums. We wanted to talk to people and educate ourselves and find artifacts to bring back into the classrooms so that our students could have hands-on experiences while learning about the history of our state," Lee said.

Books, toys, maps, games, arrows, videos and photos were only a few of those artifacts. They focused on picking things made by Native Americans or people from Oklahoma as opposed to mass-produced items in the hopes of adding authenticity to the classroom.

"Our kids can utilize (them) to see what kind of games children played at the beginning of the state of Oklahoma and how it's different from how they play games today. ... they had marbles and rag dolls and bonnets and just a completely different aspect of child play," DeMarco said.

The "ripple effect"

As a major component of a proposal, applicants often think about how their professional development will turn into what Wilson calls a "broader ripple effect to the community." One way Lee aims to have a lasting impact on her students' thought process is including Native Americans more prominently in social studies lessons.

During their travels, "I feel like I learned a lot that I wish I would have retained when I was a public school child in Oklahoma," she said.

They visited the Cherokee Heritage Center near Tahlequah and considered ways to improve inclusion and representation of Native Americans in their coursework.

"We tried to balance out Native Americans, which we found easy to research and find a lot of information about, with the cowboy life and pioneer life. We also learned how Native Americans played a part in the government roles of building Oklahoma," Lee said.

Their students will learn to use a Cherokee language syllabary and put together full presentations on different Oklahoma tribes using the resources Lee and DeMarco gathered. Lee also feels the "ripple effect" when what she learned sparks ideas for geography, literature or mathematics lessons.

"It's changed my worldview. ... It's amazing when I'm teaching other things how it will come back around to something that I learned this summer about our home state and about the people of our state. It ties in seamlessly with a lot of the things that we do," she said.

Talking with grant recipients before and after their experiences, Wilson believes keeping educators inspired is one of the most important and tangible outcomes of Fund for Teachers.

"It's very empowering to them to be able to go out and learn what they need to do, and then they experience more than they ever anticipated," she said. "And it just renews a passion for them, and once you see a passionate teacher, it's so much easier for a student to engage and learn and believe that teacher and trust that teacher."

For more information about Fund for Teachers, visit fundforteachers.org.



SPRING SCHOLARSHIP
DEADLINE

FEB 15 AT 5 PM CT

Apply at portal.potawatomi.org

Regenerative agriculture techniques improve Tribal land for generations to come

Just like a building needs a strong, stable foundation to last, soil also requires a solid base to grow the plants necessary to feed and clothe the world's population. Indigenous agriculture techniques have understood this principal since time immemorial, but now modern agriculture is catching up.

"We as Potawatomi people, our traditional beliefs and our teachings — original teachings and original instructions — are as people to take care of all of our relatives. And that's not just human relatives," said Citizen Potawatomi Nation Community Garden Assistant Kaya DeerInWater. "We knew that growing monocultures perpetually was not going to work out long term. Our ancestors knew that, and that's why we came up with a polyculture, multi-cropping system. We figured that out long, long before corn even got to us in the Great Lakes."

Employing regenerative agriculture methods improves land quality by encouraging plant and organism diversification while decreasing land disturbance and increasing biodiversity and organic material. Planting cover crops offers producers an opportunity to incorporate those approaches. Because of this, CPN co-hosted a Cool Season Cover Crop Field Day on Dec. 6 at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center to educate farmers from across the region on restorative methods that sequester carbon and rebuild the soil.

"As soon as we went down, saw what could happen, and saw the differences (cover crops) can make in your soil, and all the good that it can do, it immediately became something that CPN was interested in," said Tonya Kitchens, CPN Real Estate Services Agriculture Program manager. As a CPN tribal member and employee, Kitchens believes in the importance of mindful land management.

"It's forward-thinking. It is working now for something that our children and great-grandchildren will benefit from," she explained during the workshop. "If we don't take care of the future of agriculture, no one else is going to."

According to the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, five basic principles help maintain and improve soil health. These include ensuring year-round ground coverage and plant growth, no-tillage practices, and diversified production including implementing rotations and sowing cover crops during non-cash crop growing seasons.

"It's a big focus, especially with the legacy of the Dust Bowl that sadly Oklahoma is still trying to recover from," DeerInWater explained. During the 1920s and '30s, approximately 350 million tons of soil blew away from Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma and other portions of the Great Plains because of agricultural practices like sod busting that removed native plants and root systems. Cover crops serve as an opportunity to reverse the Dust Bowl's impact across the region.

Tribal land management

The Nation currently has several agricultural endeavors including a



Greg Scott, soil scientist for Oklahoma Conservation Commission, examines soil health on a plot of land owned by Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

community garden, 2,000 acres of land set aside for row crops, 1,100 acres for hay production, 154 acres for sod and 3,200 acres in land leases. Lance Coker of Circle C Farms in Pottawatomie County, leases 132 acres of land from CPN.

"I've always been reading about these cover crops, and in the past, I've just always done traditional agricultural practices. And I mean, I made money at it, but I knew there was a better way," Coker said. "I've read about this stuff and I thought, 'Man, I don't want to use up all my water for my crops.'"

During a hunting trip to southwest Oklahoma, Coker learned about remediation techniques Russ Jackson uses on his family farm. After meeting Jackson, he began looking for ways to utilize the same production methods.

On 45 acres of CPN land near state Highway 177, Coker recently began incorporating no-till practices and in fall 2019, planted a blend of cool-season cover crops including wheat, rye, vetch, Austrian winter peas, alfalfa, and brassicas like daikon radishes and turnips.

As Coker has experienced firsthand, sowing cover crops can result in greater yields. For example, according to Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program's 2017 Cover Crop Survey, corn farmers were able to harvest 2.3 additional bushels per acre.

"On one of my corn crops, I cut my nitrogen back a third and made 20 more bushels an acre than what I did on my conventional till," Coker said.

Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the "Big Three" primary macronutrients producers use to fertilize. Regenerative agriculture techniques seek opportunities to naturally restore key nutrient levels, decreasing the need to add synthetic chemicals to achieve adequate growing conditions.

"A lot of soil health can be like a car," said Shawn Fleming, NRCS resource conservationist, during the Dec. 6 workshop. "The main thing is, just don't keep it parked in the garage."

The concept is relatively simple: reduce the input. Rather than going to the local co-op or seed store to purchase

inorganic nitrogen, regenerative agriculture seeks opportunities to use and increase the overall levels of organic nitrogen. This method also increases the number of living organisms under the earth by creating an environment that is more conducive to their needs.

According to a NRCS fact sheet, "An incredible diversity of bacteria, protozoa, arthropods, nematodes, fungi and earthworms create a hidden food web in the soil that affects how crops grow, how soil nutrients are cycled and whether rainfall is quickly absorbed into the soil and stays where crop roots can access that moisture."

Since DeerInWater began overseeing *Bodewadmi Widoktadwen Gtegan* (CPN Community Garden) in 2018, he has incorporated techniques to improve soil quality and influence overall garden health.

"When you use regenerative agricultural practices, the land is more resilient. It's basically just mimicking nature in a way," DeerInWater explained. "It's using principals, but it's not exactly like nature."

Like most gardens, *Bodewadmi Widoktadwen Gtegan* produces during the warm season. To ensure year-round ground cover, staff and volunteers have planted a mixture of cool season cover crops the past two years.

"We wanted to keep live plants in the soil to keep the beneficial soil biota happy and active," DeerInWater said.

Drought and flood management

Conventional agriculture utilizes tillage, which removes underground root systems and decreases the ground's ability to absorb water.

"One of the big things that I've been trying to do on my farm was maximize rainfall capture," said Russ Jackson, farmer from Mountain View, Oklahoma, during the Dec. 6 workshop.

"When you're doing a tillage system like we've done for 130 years, it's always too wet or it's always too dry," Jackson said.

Jackson farms in southwest and western Oklahoma, and the region tends to be one of the driest in the state with only an average of 32 inches of rain per year

compared to Pottawatomie County's average of 41. Western Oklahoma's precipitation often falls in large amounts over a very short period of time, and it is not uncommon to go more than 100 days with less than a quarter inch of rain.

Cover crops and regenerative agriculture techniques keep the root systems intact, loosening the soil, which results in greater water retention. Planting mixtures mimics the natural and diverse plants that once grew.

"You increase the soil health, you increase the water holding capacity, which decreases runoff and erosion. With the water holding capacity, if you ever had a drought, your lands — using those practices — are more able to withstand dry periods for longer because of that healthy soil structure and because of the healthy plant community," DeerInWater said.

Plant variety ensures the earth has root systems at different levels and offers the microbial organisms living below ground more opportunities to thrive. By incorporating these techniques, the Jacksons increased absorption rate on one plot of land from 6/10 an inch of rain per hour to 2.7 inches. The Nation hopes to have similar results.



Local contractor Lance Coker educates fellow producers during the cover crop field day on Dec. 6, 2019.

"Using those practices that take care of the land and take care of the soil and take care of the animals and the birds and the pollinators is culturally congruent with our teachings," DeerInWater said. "With all of our success, we are able to have the luxury to rethink about the way that we're doing things and to regain our cultural practices so that our values as a Nation are aligned with our management practices."

Learn more about CPN's garden programming and workshops at potawatomi.org/events. ♡

Woodworker uncovers beauty in nature's defects

Kevin Roberts — *Kakingeshi* (Grizzly Bear) — breathes new life into timber that others may only see useful as firewood, not as end tables, benches or art. But Roberts looks at wood through a different lens for his furniture and décor company, *Migwetch Mtek Designs*.

"I've always had an admiration and a really sincere appreciation for nature," Roberts said.

Hunting, fishing and exploring the spring-fed creeks and rivers in Missouri were his favorite youth pastimes. However, Roberts's career and other obligations made it difficult to spend time enjoying the outdoors as an adult. Now retired, *Migwetch Mtek* offers him the opportunity to reconnect with Mother Nature through creating one-of-a-kind pieces of art.

"I'm saving and using the wood for a useful purpose, and I feel like I am bringing nature's natural beauty and serenity indoors," Roberts said. "And people can use it and enjoy it in whatever capacity they want to use it as opposed to the wood just being turned into mulch, firewood or letting it be destroyed otherwise."

Uncovering new branches

Roberts is a Bertrand family descendant, and although his mother did not know much about their Potawatomi heritage, she made it a priority to inform her children from an early age about their ancestry.

"When we were little, and (mom) would put us to bed, she'd always make a peace sign gesture with her hand. And she'd say, 'That's what the Potawatomi would say.' We'd always chuckle, but she'd go, 'Well, that's all I know. You're part Potawatomi.' And it was something I always thought about — why didn't she know any more about our Potawatomi heritage?" he asked.

While living in Kansas, Roberts stopped by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation to learn more about the history of Potawatomi in the area and for potential clues to his heritage. During that trip, he became aware of his family's association and enrollment with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

"That's really what started my excitement about my heritage and hunger to learn more. I started researching



Organic, natural features inspire Kevin Roberts's creations through Migwetch Mtek. Check out the limited supply of charcuterie boards now on sale at potawatomigifts.com.

my grandparents, then of course, the family ancestry," he said.

Roberts met another CPN member residing in Kansas, Gladys Moeller, who had done extensive research on many Potawatomi families, including the Bertrands, which helped him create a detailed family tree.

"She had numerous filing cabinets in her house full of research on various families and information she had compiled over the years, all tied to the Potawatomi," Roberts explained.

"She helped me find pictures of relatives that my mom hadn't even seen."

Although his mother was not able to share much about their Potawatomi roots, Roberts now ensures future generations of his family know their heritage and incorporates traditions into family gatherings.

"I have three adult children, and I keep encouraging them to find time in their busy schedules to read the information I share with them and access the CPN online resources" Roberts said. "I summarize information from the lessons and insights that Justin (Neely) publishes. And with the online dictionary and all the resources we have now on the CPN's website, it's really helpful and exciting to learn about our people, culture, and our language."

Beginnings

Roberts's desire to learn more about his Potawatomi culture and the language inspired the name of his design company: *Migwetch Mtek* (Thank You Tree).

"In one lesson, the word tree — *mtek* — was included, and I thought, 'That's what I am going to use.' I added *Migwetch*, the word for 'thank you,' and it seemed like the perfect fit for what I do in my work. I routed it around to my children and said, 'What about this?' and it stuck," he said.

While his children were in college, his youngest daughter asked him about using extra logs from the neighbor's tree they had to cut down to create end tables for her apartment.

"It just caught on where friends of theirs would say, 'Can you make me some of those?' And then the parents would see them when the kids would come home. I didn't have enough wood," he said and laughed. "I had to go out and find it."

Process

Word of mouth continues to help business. Roberts made connections with farmers and companies across the Midwest to obtain material he reclaims into benches, charcuterie boards, end tables and more. Although he lives in Illinois, he drives as far as Colorado and frequents the area where

he grew up in central Missouri to search through sawmill scrap piles.

"They've been there probably 100 years because when I was a little boy, that's where my parents would take us to pick up firewood," he said. "But I'll go and spend a day or so, digging through their wood pile to find these imperfections in discarded wood scraps that I turn into decorative art."

He often hears customers comment on how he highlights the wood's beauty through nature's flaws. After finding the perfect pieces of reclaimed timber, he sands and polishes each piece before using oil or a wax sealer as the finishing touch.

"Nature makes it. There's no man-made element of creating or crafting the natural beauty of my products," he explained. "It's nature's defects and imperfections I am leveraging. It's normal decay, weathering and exposure — an exposed burl or some natural imperfection that makes my decorative art pieces unique."

When out marketing his creations, Roberts takes every opportunity to share our Potawatomi culture with others.

"I enjoy and am able to engage in dialog around the Potawatomi, sharing information about our heritage and culture. Of course, you get the proverbial, 'What's a Potawatomi?' Because some people have heard about our people and some haven't," he said. "I usually respond initially with, 'Well, you are looking at one.'"

Roberts's organic approach to his business reflects traditional, fundamental worldviews of the Potawatomi people and humanity's role in protecting *segmekwé* (Mother Earth) for generations to come.

"I have a better appreciation for life and purpose," he said. "I feel like I am connected to nature and really kind of being a good steward and taking care of what's afforded to us as a people — a people entrusted to care for it as opposed to destroying it."

Potawatomi Gifts currently has a small, limited number of *Migwetch Mtek* charcuterie boards for sale. Check them out at potawatomigifts.com and follow *Migwetch Mtek* on Facebook at [facebook.com/migwetchmtek](https://www.facebook.com/migwetchmtek) and Instagram at [instagram.com/migwetchmtek](https://www.instagram.com/migwetchmtek). 🔥

WINTER STORYTELLING

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 26 | 6-8PM

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER
1899 S. GORDON COOPER DRIVE

COME HEAR TRADITIONAL POTAWATOMI STORIES THAT
ARE ONLY TOLD DURING THIS CERTAIN TIME OF YEAR!

RSVP TO [JNEELY@POTAWATOMI.ORG](mailto:jneely@potawatomi.org)

Tribal citizenship and participation in CPN democracy

By Marisa Mohi

Many Tribal members know about the services the Citizen Potawatomi Nation offers. From the tag agency to health care to scholarships to housing to career services, the Tribe truly serves its members. But these services don't simply exist as a prerogative of the Tribe. Elected Tribal members serve in the CPN government in order to ensure members have access to these services. Currently, there are two legislative seats up for election on June 27, 2020, at the Family Reunion Festival: the District 9 seat, currently held by Paul Wesselhöft, and the District 12 seat, currently held by Paul Schmidlkofer. Both seats represent districts in the state of Oklahoma and can be voted on by CPN members in the state.

In addition to the election, all Tribal members will also have the opportunity to vote on the budget that manages the Nation's trust earnings.

For a few months now, I have been writing about building a connection with my heritage and learning what it means to be a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. While I can't say that I've come to any major conclusions, I have learned a lot about the history of the Tribe and the history of my not-too-distant ancestors. There is so much more to know and to experience, and



Marisa Mohi working on a beaded necklace.

it's something that I feel called to do because now I have the freedom to do so.

We aren't very far removed from a time when speaking Potawatomi or practicing Tribal customs wasn't allowed. The Native American Languages Act, a law that stated Native American tribes were entitled to speak their own languages, wasn't even passed until 1990.

As someone who has used the Tribal services in the past and plans to

continue to use them in the future, I know it's my duty participate in the decisions that shape those services.

Admittedly, I haven't always been interested in Tribal government, and I had no idea how any of it worked. Even though CPN is very transparent and most questions I have about how something with the Tribe works are answered by perusing the website, I felt like the Tribal government was something that was above me, in more ways than one.

I struggle with feeling like my voice matters. Am I relevant member of the Tribe? Does my limited knowledge of Tribal history and how the Citizen Potawatomi Nation government works qualify me to vote? In my mind, there is a perfect Tribal member. They attend every event, and they regularly call their Tribal legislators. They can speak Potawatomi without looking at a pronunciation guide they made themselves, and they know each of the Seven Fires prophecies.

While this perfect Tribal member may or may not exist, I do know this. My disconnection with the past is a function of many things but mostly a function of time. Traditions, culture, customs — we typically use those words when we discuss the past. But the Citizen Potawatomi Nation isn't a thing of the past. It's thriving and something I am connected to today.

The Tribe itself doesn't look the way it did 100 years ago, so it doesn't make sense for anyone to judge their connection to the Tribe by past standards. And though I haven't voted in the past, it's something I will be doing this year. It's one small way I can participate actively as a member of the Tribe. So, while I can't go back in time and experience what the Citizen Potawatomi Nation was like in the past, I can actively shape the future. ♠

Traditional craftwork continued...

That's always kind of a drawback because it's challenging sometimes to find people who are willing to teach us. But if you really want to know, then you'll find that person," she said. "Put your tobacco down, and ask that person to come to you."

When learning, she watches others, then tries herself and asks for constructive criticism. Although one instructor may teach a certain method, she remains open to other approaches as well.

"We can't assume that when somebody tells us something different that they're wrong. It's probably a larger piece of the puzzle that we didn't see," she explained. "I always say to be open minded about it when you're learning from people, and take what you can and keep adding on to it and just be really respectful of the plants and their purpose."

In the past few years, Phillips has learned various techniques to create art and jewelry through peeling birch bark, including PopSocket-style holders that fit

on the back of cellphones and medallion necklaces. Regardless of what project she works on, she strives to conserve and utilize every part of the supplies.

"What we recently learned is like the edge shavings, after we peel and make pictures with the birch, the stuff that we're edging off, we can actually put that into our tea as medicine," she said. "We've been using them because our people are really susceptible to diabetes, different things, and that's supposed to help with that."

Generational connections

Learning about these benefits, Phillips' younger sister Kateri and co-operator of *Neshnabkwewek*, realized that *Nishnabé* ancestors may have created this art form as a way to harvest the medicinal benefits of birch.

"My sister was like, 'It's really interesting that we knew that this was a difficult medicine to get. So to put a picture in this and get the medicine is way better than just doing it to do it.' We're learning that everything we do has a purpose and a reason," Phillips explained. "It

kind of goes full circle, so it's pretty interesting as we keep progressing."

Symptoms of colonization such as development, environmental stress and invasive species have negatively impacted traditional ecological knowledge as well as animal populations that the Potawatomi and other Great Lakes tribes have relied on for thousands of years. Understanding this decline, Phillips employs conservative efforts to help ensure future generations also have access to culturally-relevant plants and animals.

"Our trees are really susceptible right now to so many different things that we can't really take as much as we probably used to as *Nishnabé* people," she said. "I know people want to use everything as capital, right, because we're capitalists, but I don't think this stuff was ever meant to help us become millionaires. This stuff was just supposed to help us."

After mindful harvesting, she enjoys using the supplies to create cohesive pieces as well as the chance to introduce the next generation to traditions.

"I've got them etching winnowing baskets right now, and they don't see it; they don't see the pieces yet. They're like, 'Oh, it's just a piece of wood.' So, I am excited to see them when they put it all together because it's just going to blow their minds," she said.

Overall, she is thankful that her work connects herself and others to Mother Earth.

"I think that's what the joy is for me is that there are more people showing that we have traditional ecological knowledge, and we are wearing to show and prove that we know exactly where this comes from," she said. "And we're not trying to form it and change it into something that's disconnected from the earth."

Learn more about *Neshnabkwewek* by following on Facebook at [cpn.news/nbk](https://www.facebook.com/cpn.news/nbk) or Instagram @neshnabkwe. Shop *Neshnabkwewek* in-store at Potawatomi Gifts located inside the CPN Cultural Heritage Center or online at [potawatomigifts.com](https://www.potawatomigifts.com). ♠

2020 POTAWATOMI GATHERING BUS TRIP

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation will provide free bus travel to the annual Potawatomi Gathering for Tribal members and their immediate families. A chartered bus will leave the Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquarters, 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive in Shawnee, at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, and the bus will leave to return home on Sunday, August 2, 2020. The bus will arrive back in Shawnee on Monday, August 3, 2020.

A \$50 per passenger refundable deposit is required. Tribal members who attend the Gathering will be responsible for obtaining their own food, lodging and incidental expenses.

To reserve a seat on the bus and obtain more information about the hotel room blocks, please call Brandy Oswald at 405-275-3121 or 800-880-9880. You may also send an email to travel@potawatomi.org.

There is limited seating available. The deadline for reservations is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

Hannahville Indian Community at Wilson, MI will be hosting the Gathering this year.

WATCH FOR UPDATES | [HANNAHVILLE.NET](https://www.hannahville.net)

Veterans report



Bozho
(Hello),

Did you know that you can request copies of your military records, replace lost medals and awards, research military records, and browse WWII photos? Visit the Online Veterans and Military Documents section of the National Archives website at cpn.news/vetarchives.

Most of their holdings are not online; however, varieties of military records, from photos to documents to searchable databases, are available. Here are some online collections of special interest to veterans, their families and researchers:

Current Era and General Military Records:

- Pictures of U.S. Navy Ships (1775 – 1941)

Casualty Records for the Vietnam Conflict:

- State-level Lists of Casualties
- Casualty Statistics
- Records on Military Personnel Who Died, Were Missing in Action or Prisoners of War
- Records of Medals, Awards and Decorations
- Records of Combat Operations

Casualty Records for the Korean War:

- State-level Lists of Casualties
- Records of Military Personnel Who Died and were Wounded

- Records of American Prisoners of War
- Records of Repatriated Korean War Prisoners of War

Casualty Records for World War II:

- Honor List of Dead and Missing Military Personnel
- Casualty List for Military Personnel
- Records List of Prisoners of War
- Enlistment and Draft Records
- Photos
- Research and Selected Finding Aids

There are also research records for World War I, the Spanish-American War era, the Civil War era and the American Revolutionary War era. Additional online records may be found by searching the National Archives Catalog and Access to Archival Databases “AAD” systems.

You are welcome.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Daryl Talbot, Commander
talbotok@sbcglobal.net
405-275-1054

CPN VA Representative:
Andrew Whitham

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

918-397-2566 ♡

College leadership program applications open Feb. 1

By Tesia Zientek, Department of Education Director

The 2020 Potawatomi Leadership Program application opens on Feb. 1 at 8 a.m. CST and closes on April 1 at 5 p.m. CST. Every summer, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation brings 8-10 Tribal members ages 18-20 years old to learn about the Tribe's government, economic development and culture as part of the PLP.

In 2003, the program began to address a need to prepare future Citizen Potawatomi leaders. Tribal leaders understood that a critical aspect of leadership involves understanding the inner workings of CPN. They invited students to spend six weeks in Shawnee, Oklahoma, to participate in cultural events, meet directors of government programs and commercial enterprises, and take an active part in their Nation's government processes. Since then, over 100 students from all over the world have participated in this Harvard Honoring Nations Award-winning program.

Now in its 18th year, the experience has been life-changing for many participants. For most, the relationships

and information learned have been invaluable. Liam Wrixon from Spokane, Washington, stated, “In PLP, we have visited almost every major aspect of the Tribe. From the courts, police, self-governance, casinos and more, we were kept extremely busy and learned so much. One of my main takeaways is that the Tribe is doing an amazing amount of work to help its people and community.”

Maria Hrenchir, a 2019 PLP class member from Atchison, Kansas, expressed that her newfound knowledge built confidence in her identity. She shared, “After this program, I feel much more comfortable saying I am Potawatomi because I know so much more.”

This year's program will take place from Friday, June 12, through Saturday, July 25. To be eligible for the PLP, students must have at least a 3.0 GPA, be 18-20 years old by the program's start date, and not have completed more than one year of college. Travel expenses, housing, food and a weekly payment are all provided. Students can learn more and apply online at plp.potawatomi.org. For any questions, please contact the CPN Department of Education at college@potawatomi.org or 405-695-6028. ♡

Calling all 2020 graduates

Graduating from high school, college, a technical institution or any other program is an outstanding accomplishment, and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation wants to celebrate that achievement during the Graduation Celebration Banquet starting at noon on April 25 at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The second-annual Graduation Celebration Banquet, hosted by the CPN Department of Education, is free for any enrolled Citizen Potawatomi graduate and one guest. Graduates must provide

proof that they have graduated or will graduate in the 2019-2020 academic year to be eligible. This academic year includes summer 2019, fall 2019 and spring 2020 graduates. Additional guests will need to purchase a ticket at the door for \$10. We will serve lunch, present a gift to each student and have a short presentation.

To attend this event, you must RSVP. Please go to portal.potawatomi.org and register under “celebration.” We have a limited number of spaces for this event, so make sure to register and submit your proof of graduation to save your spot. ♡



*Citizen Potawatomi Nation
Graduation Celebration Banquet*

April 25th at noon

Cultural Heritage Center | 1899 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK

*Business casual attire | Lunch is provided
Student and guest eat free, other guests will be charged \$10 at the door*

EMAIL TOTAL RSVP NUMBERS, PROOF OF GRADUATION DATE AND DEGREE EARNED TO CHANNING.SEIKEL@POTAWATOMI.ORG

What is the PLP?

The six-week Potawatomi Leadership Program brings a group of 8-10 promising young Tribal members from around the world to Shawnee, Oklahoma, to learn about the government, culture and economic development of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Where else can you get a crash course on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation? After your time in the PLP, you'll leave empowered with the knowledge and tools to be an engaged leader of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Application Dates

**OPENS ON FEBRUARY 1
CLOSES ON APRIL 1**

NOTIFIED ON APRIL 15

PLP.POTAWATOMI.ORG



**POTAWATOMI
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



Bozho nikan
(Hello, my friend),

On New Year's Eve 2019, the Chickasaw Nation, Cherokee Nation and Choctaw Nation filed a federal lawsuit against Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt. The lawsuit specifically asks the court to interpret the “shall

automatically renew” clause of the tribal gaming compact.

After careful consideration, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has asked to join the lawsuit. Gov. Stitt has attempted to cast uncertainty of our Tribal gaming operations, calling gaming illegal and stating that the “casino industry” doesn't pay its fair share to Oklahoma. Our gaming operations are critical to our government, the services we provide to our Tribal members, and to the State of Oklahoma.

The lawsuit does not address gaming fees or any other part of the gaming compact, but Gov. Stitt has said that he believes that the fees should be more than quadrupled. The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act prohibits such taxes. I've included the language here for you to read:

“Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as conferring upon a State or any of its political subdivisions authority to impose any tax, fee, charge, or other assessment upon an Indian tribe or upon any other person or entity authorized by an Indian tribe to engage in a class III activity. No State may refuse to enter into the negotiations described in paragraph (3)(A) based upon the lack of authority in such State, or its political subdivisions, to impose such a tax, fee, charge, or other assessment.”

The current “exclusivity fees,” were presented to us as part of a take-it-or-leave-it offer. We were not given the opportunity to negotiate. Nevertheless, we took the deal, and we have kept our promise. I don't see why the Governor doesn't want to do the same.

We are committed to remaining a strong partner with the State of Oklahoma. We do that through our Tribal enterprises, which create an economic impact of more than \$530 million, and through programs and initiatives that provide health care, address infrastructure needs and fund education.

We employ nearly 2,400 Oklahomans, making us the largest employer in Pottawatomie County. The Nation also operates emergency 911 services for free to most of Pottawatomie County, allowing local first responders to update equipment and add to their workforce. In 2019, CPN contributed to \$1.7 million in scholarships to students in Oklahoma universities and gave another \$2 million to local charities.

To say that the tribes aren't paying their fair share is a misrepresentation of all that we do for Oklahoma. We contribute 100 percent of our Tribal revenue to Oklahomans through infrastructure, education, economic development and more. The positive impact that CPN has on our community is many times more beneficial than a few more dollars in gaming taxes to the state.

It is an honor to serve as your Tribal Chairman.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



Bozho
(Hello),

As in other parts of the United States, Oklahoma has had its share of flu-related hospitalizations this flu season, which began in September 2019. The *Shawnee News-Star* reported the week of Dec. 27 that there were 68 new flu-related hospitalizations in the state. Pottawatomie County had remained relatively untouched at that time with only three total hospitalizations since the flu season commenced.

The week of Jan. 3, one new flu-related death was reported in Oklahoma, bringing the total to six so far for the season. During that week, there were 286 Oklahomans hospitalized from the flu. The numbers increase rather rapidly as the flu season progresses. As I write this article, there are 431 flu-related hospitalizations noted in the state.

Pottawatomie County did not see flu-related hospitalizations until December, but that figure has jumped from three to nine. In addition, there are now eight flu-related deaths in Oklahoma. According to the Oklahoma State Department of Health's OK Flu-View, the eight Oklahomans who died of flu-related causes were spread out across the state. Over half of the victims were reported to be older than 65 years of age.

Outside of the flu being a concern for many people across the country, there is a rhyme to my reason for writing about this topic. This is my opportunity to applaud the CPN Health Services



In recent years, CPN Health Services' Flu Shot drives have been widely used by county residents.

for “stepping up to the plate” in trying to contain the spread of the flu throughout the CPN work force and Pottawatomie County. Saturday, Oct. 26, from 8 a.m. to noon, our health services sponsored a drive-thru free flu shot campaign. Keep in mind, the free means no cost to the participant, but CPN Health Services paid the approximately \$17 per flu shot cost.

Cars were lined up in the hour before the drive officially opened. My deep appreciation

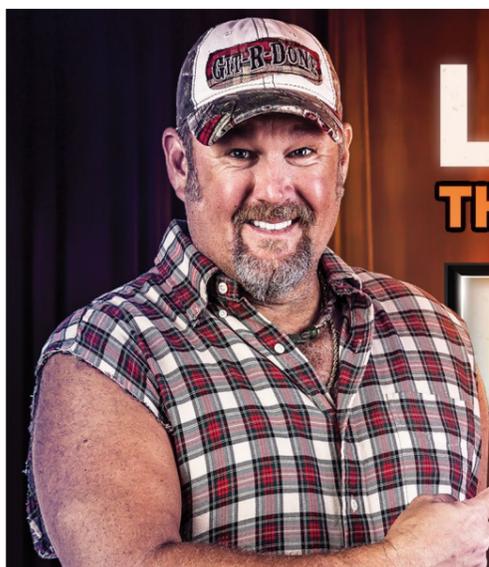
goes to the nurses and other workers from our health services that gave of their time to administer the vaccines that day. At the end of the allotted time, there were 900 flu shots given to both Natives and non-Natives. Before that date and even after the date, there was a widespread drive for CPN employees to obtain free flu shots. Between the drive-thru effort, shots given to employees, and shots given by our Public Health Department, approximately 5,000 vaccines were given.

Please don't misunderstand; there were other efforts throughout the community to administer flu shots, but I don't think any were as gallant as that of the CPN Health Services. Hopefully, because of the community efforts to contain the flu, the low occurrences of flu-related hospitalized patients in Pottawatomie County is a positive result.

Thanks goes out to Dr. Vascelaro, Dr. Roselius and Chris Skillings for their guidance and direction in this huge undertaking. I appreciate you reading my heart-felt views on the importance of CPN in the community.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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



LARRY
THE CABLE GUY

REMAIN SEATED

APRIL 4TH



123
SESAME STREET

Live!

LET'S
PARTY!

TICKETS ON SALE SOON!

FIRELAKE ARENA

[BUY YOUR TICKETS AT FIRELAKEARENA.COM]

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikan
(Hello friends),

Tenth annual District 2 New Year contest – “A CPN ID is an acceptable form of ID to fly within the US – tell us about a time you used yours.” In celebration of the 10th year of District 2 annual contests, we are returning to the theme of the first annual contest. That year, folks were asked to submit stories about their use of CPN ID cards. Dear elder Stella Malone, then living in Florida and now happy in Tennessee, won my heart with her story about showing her ID card whenever she donates blood.

We’re returning to that theme since this is the year of the Real ID. As you probably know, beginning Oct. 1, 2020, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a Real ID-compliant driver’s license, state-issued enhanced driver’s license or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the United States.

And while the “mantra” is “check for the star,” and Transportation

Security Administration’s website (cpn.news/real) states, “REAL ID-compliant cards are marked with a star at the top of the card,” that same page links to another TSA site (cpn.news/tsascreen) that expressly states that “federally recognized, tribal-issued photo IDs” are acceptable to fly within the United States. I plan to continue using my CPN ID card when travelling by air within the United States – I’ll save my passport for international travel, since our IDs are not accepted in lieu of passports, passport cards or Department of Homeland Security’s Trusted Traveler Program cards. I also plan to have TSA’s website page uploaded on my phone and available for TSA agents’ review. I’m sure that there will be questions and delays along the way, but if we don’t use our IDs and educate TSA agents (and their supervisors who regularly are called in to scrutinize tribal IDs), I think we’re missing an opportunity to let the world at large know that we Potawatomi are still here!

Please send me an account of your (successful) presentation of your ID card – extra credit for funny or oddball stories. I still enjoy telling the story that I used my CPN ID in 2009 to get into the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong in the middle of Tiananmen Square to see Chairman Mao’s embalmed body. I’ve attached a photo of the imposing mausoleum.

There will be a drawing from all CPN District 2 entries for a special prize, selected at random from all District



Mausoleum of Mao Zedong, Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China (By Yongxing, CC BY-SA 3.0, cpn.news/zedong)

2 entries. You don’t have to live in District 2 to enter, but to win the special prize, you do need to be in District 2.

The contest deadline is April 15. I will announce the winner and print the prize-winning entry and some of my favorites in future columns. If you are not sure about which 13 states make up District 2, log onto my website, evamariecarney.com, and click on “Our District” – the states outlined in red are District 2 states. You can send your entry by email attachment or in the regular U.S. mail.

I’m also announcing the contest under “Events” on my Facebook page, so you can visit that page to refresh yourself on the details. I’d be pleased to have many more Potawatomi Facebook friends, so please friend me today (and put CPN in your friend request message). Also, if you are in District 2, we have a private Facebook page for discussions/postings among District 2 members – there’s close to 200 of us subscribed

to that private page. Please send me a note if you are on Facebook and would like to join that private group.

Thanks in advance for contributing to our CPN community by participating in the contest.

Upcoming Florida meeting

Dennis Johnson and his family, who live near Clearwater, Florida, have found us a great venue for a meeting. I’ll host a family meeting and lunch at Moccasin Lake Environmental Education Center in Clearwater on Saturday, March 28, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Moccasin Lake is a 51-acre nature preserve with trails and boardwalks under a canopy of mature oaks and across ponds and creeks, with an array of wildlife including gopher turtles, raccoons and many birds. It is home to several injured birds of prey, including two eagles. Come early or stay late to explore the park, visit with the wildlife and play on the

playground. The park is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No pets permitted inside the park with the exception of guide or service dogs. More information and an extensive maps are available at cpn.news/clearwater. Dennis reports that the center is located in a residential area adjacent to other parks and is accessible from the north, south and east. All details are provided in the invitation that is mailed to CPN families within driving distance of Clearwater. I look forward to seeing many of you there, and please note that you don’t need to have received a postcard invitation or to be in District 2 to attend – you just have to RSVP by Friday, March 20 via email or phone (see end of my column for that information).

Keeping in touch

I appreciate that many of you will not have the opportunity to travel to district meetings. If you have questions, comments or ideas to share with me, I hope you will do so through email, phone or letter. Please don’t be put off by the distance between us. Building our CPN community in District 2 continues to be my top priority as your legislator.

Kindest regards,

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

District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

Let me begin with another mention of the upcoming 2020 U.S. Census. I wrote about this a couple of months ago on how important it is for you to be registered correctly. In that article, I emphasized that you need to be sure to list yourself as a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The reason being to ensure our population is listed at the proper level, which will help us in grant applications for the next 10 years.

There is another factor that has favorable as well as unfavorable

consequences for specific states. Let me start with what has been happening over the last 10 years with interstate migration. For example, California lost 203,000 of their population between 2018 and 2019. Over the last 10 years, California as well as Alabama, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and West Virginia have had a large number of their citizens leave and relocate to Arizona, Colorado and/or Texas. As a result, after the U.S. Census is tallied, each of these states is expected to lose one federal representative in the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

The following states because of now increased populations are expected to each gain one additional representative in the U.S. House of Representatives: Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Carolina and Oregon. At the same time, Florida is expected to gain two more representatives, and Texas is expected to gain three more representatives in the House of Representatives. This means that

there will be some redistricting in each state impacted by the change in their elected officials in the U.S. House of Representatives. In some cases, a state district may be eliminated or new ones created.

In order for all of this to take place, it is very important that you get yourself counted by the U.S. Census. In some cases where there is only a seat difference in parties in the U.S. House of Representatives, the loss of a seat in one state whose political party is now in the majority could result in the other party now having the majority due to the new seat gaining a new representative in the other political party.

In some ways, the U.S. Census may indirectly impact how votes turn out by our representatives on the federal level in the future. This change will also impact the makeup of the federal Electoral College by giving some of the smaller states a slightly larger role and taking some power from one or more larger states in the federal elections for president. Any change here



Leonard Almero

however, will not take place until after the 2020 election.

The Electoral College was designed by our forefathers to ensure that a very high concentration of population in a few states — that could be large enough to include over 50 percent of the population — were prevented from having complete control of the outcome of our federal elections for U.S. president. As a point of information, about 20 years ago, I had a small business

interest in both Argentina and Chile. Argentina at the time had a government similar to ours. They had an Electoral College, and the voters allowed it to be voted out. Their future elections became based solely on the popular vote.

Shortly thereafter, Argentina went through a devaluation of the peso. At that time, I cancelled my business interest since the peso and dollar were no longer equal. Since then, the elected representatives basically passed laws that do more for the very populated areas, mainly Buenos Aires, and there is little left for the rural communities. Moreover, taxes have become so high that a number of firms have gone out of business or moved to other countries. When Argentina had the Electoral College, the laws passed were generally in the interest of all areas and taxes were less. Basically, the Electoral College ensures the smaller states are not left out and lose their importance, and in reality, ensure representation for their interests by those they elect.

In summary, please be sure you get registered with the U.S. Cen-

sus. As you can see from what I have outlined, there are some side issues or impacts that will result based upon the numbers for each state. With Texas set to potentially gain three more of the 10 seats that may change in the House of Representatives, I urge you to get counted!

As you may know, I am in complete support in getting an education and how important it is, not only to you but for our Citizen Potawatomi Nation as well. Our Nation offers a very

good scholarship program. I was overjoyed to say the least that one of my nephews has taken advantage of our scholarship program along with securing some others while attending the University of California San Diego. Leonard Almero, a member of the Bourassa family, is a senior studying cell biology and biochemistry and its impact on cardiovascular disease — a leading cause of death in our Native American population. He has participated in the UC, San Diego STARS program and

is active in the California Native American Research Center for Health. Leonard was awarded the Sycuan Medical Scholars Award from the UC, San Diego School of Medicine Office of Diversity and Community Partnerships and Association of Native American Medical Students. In November, he was invited to the Arizona Department of Health Services to make a presentation on doing research in Indigenous communities. Leonard has the long-term goal of becoming

an MD/Ph.D. He is currently working on a website to tutor Native American college students in science, math and writing. In addition, he plans to project that into a tutoring site for K-12 students. For more information on Leonard's work, please go to cpn.news/UCSD. I have included a photo of Leonard in his cardiology lab.

In closing, I am honored to be the District 3 Representative and proud to represent you. Please contact me if I can

assist you with any questions about the benefits we offer.

Bama pi
(Later),

Bob Whistler
Bmashi (He Soars)
Representative, District 3
112 Bedford Road, Suite 116
Bedford, TX 76022
817-282-0868 office
817-229-6271 cell
817-545-1507 home
rwhistler@potawatomi.org
cpn3legislator@yahoo.com

District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho
(Hello),

Upcoming events:

Rossville District 4 meeting at the CPN Community Center will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2020, with a catered lunch at noon. The meeting agenda will be posted in the March *Hownikan*.

Wichita District 4 meeting at the Mid-America All-Indian Center, 650 N. Seneca St. in Wichita. The meeting will start with a catered lunch at 1 p.m., Sunday, March 29, 2020. The meeting agenda will be posted in the March *Hownikan*.

2020 CPN Family Reunion Festival will be held in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on June 26-28. This year's honored families included the Bruno, Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Lewis, Nadeau, Slavin and Smith.

2020 Potawatomi Gathering will be hosted by the Hannahville Indian Community of Potawatomi

located in the south-central section of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Tentative dates are Wednesday, July 29, to Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020.

The February Elders Potluck

at the CPN Community Center in Rossville is scheduled for noon on Friday, Feb. 14. (For those of your husbands in the need of a reminder, this is Valentine's Day.) The menu will be chicken pot pie. Come join us, and bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Tracy or Sharon at 785-584-6171 if you plan to attend.

The March Elders Potluck will be held on Friday, March 13.

Kansas historical research material

I was recently given a tremendous amount of material dealing with the history of Kansas, including the following:

- A bound set of Kansas Historical Quarterlies covering the period from 1931 to 1977
- Several books pertaining to events, places and life in early Kansas
- Numerous early Kansas maps and other miscellaneous items

This material is available to be viewed and researched only in the CPN Community Center in Rossville. We are discussing how to possibly make this material available on a checkout basis. Feel free to stop by and scan this material. I venture

to say you won't leave without learning something new. Tell the students in your family about it, as it would be a great resource for preparing a history report or making a presentation.

CPN member is new president of the Shawnee County Historical Society Board of Trustees

Tim Hrenchir, a descendant of the Juneau family, was recently elected president of the 15-member SCHS Board of Trustees. The Society has slightly more than 200 organizational members. Tim has been a staff reporter/writer for the *Topeka Capital Journal* since 1980. However, for the past few years, he has been better known as "The History Guy" as each week he produces a short video and article about a historical, sometimes forgotten, person or event associated with Topeka or Shawnee County history. Joining Tim in the accompanying photo is his wife, Catheryn.

2020 U.S. Census

If you haven't, I highly recommend you read the section in Bob Whistler's column in the January *Hownikan* along with this his piece in this very edition on the need to properly report your tribal affiliation on the census form during the upcoming U.S. Census this spring. It is vital that you properly identify yourself as a Native American and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. If you do not have the January *Hownikan*, you



Catheryn and Tim Hrenchir.

can go online at cpn.news/hownikan0120. If you still have difficulty, email me, and I will send you a copy of that portion of Bob's article.

Burnett's Mound exhibit

The Shawnee County Parks & Recreation Department and I have made Friday, March 27, the tentative date for opening the exhibit. The county folks still need to pour some concrete pads before the exhibit can be installed, and Kansas winter weather is not the most ideal time to be pouring concrete. We would like to see a great turnout of Tribal members at this event.

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
Office hours:
9-11 a.m. Tuesdays
3-5 p.m. Thursdays
Other times: please call

Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

CPN Executive Committee

Tribal Chairman: John "Rocky" Barrett

Vice-Chairman: Linda Capps

Secretary/Treasurer: D. Wayne Trousdale

Editorial staff

Writer/editor: Jennifer Bell

Writer/editor: John VanPool

Writer: Mary Belle Zook

Writer: Paige Willett

Page/graphic designer: Trey DeLonais

Graphic designer: Emily Guleserian

Photographer: Garrett Fisbeck

Editor: Mindee Duffell

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

All correspondence should be directed to *Hownikan*,

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

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

Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

District 5 – Gene Lambert



Greetings to everyone!

I hope the new year has treated each and every one of you well so far. My prediction is that 2020 will be the best year ever. Let's put everything in its place and make it so. It all starts with us.

So what if you stumble? Just keep on "walkin'." It's ok!

The month of February is all about love. This can be the love you have for your children, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins or just good friends.

We have the unconditional love we enjoy every day from our pets.

Maybe it is about the love you share with your Native people and our ways (Citizen Potawatomi Nation). Let's not forget about the love you have for yourself as it is important to know and love you before you can love others.

In mythology, Cupid is responsible for shooting arrows to make people fall in love

and want to marry. This is an important one too. Best if you don't forget! I believe this is the love St. Valentine addressed centuries ago.

We call this Valentine's Day. The idea was established knowing it is the beginning and end of all things. It was getting lost in the hurry-up world we live in today. In all actuality, this day acknowledging love in its many forms should be practiced on a daily basis. We assume they know we love them! Don't! We all need to hear it from time to time.

By the way, call if you are too far away to visit and talk to your special people. Please don't send a text or email, which would be acceptable only as a follow up.

That just says, "I am really too busy for you."

We have the love our Creator gave us unconditionally.

The Greatest Commandment

The First Commandment; Matthew 22:34 to 40 and Mark 12:31; taken from the King James Version and American Standard Version.

"Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?'

'Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and

greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Now I don't know about you, but I have been working on the second commandment as I truly do love the Lord, and I know the same spirit lives in us all if we are here on earth today.

If God decides your neighbor has the right to be here, then I have to accept that and learn to get along. Right? Right! So as a child here, we go as we continue to learn, even if it is a neighbor.

We all have different priorities along with varying mental and emotional capabilities.

If you have not reached a place in your world to love your neighbor, perhaps just learning to be kind would be an excellent start. Maybe your neighbor needs your love and understanding more than anyone. (I think they may be working on me right now.)

The short "Good mornings," when you cross each other's paths or "How are you today?" can take you far. If they do not respond or are perhaps a little stubborn, just keep on as they will have to break down eventually.

You never know the cross each person bears or the overwhelmed existence they live in.

Maybe you are the one overwhelmed and just don't have a place for them in your thoughts.

Regardless of the "who is responsible," someone has to take the lead to break the ice so you can begin to communicate.

Find the smallest of things to agree on and go from there. They are undoubtedly just as uncomfortable with the elephant in the room as are you. You don't do this for them, rather for yourself. They will benefit, but the true benefit is yours.

I have had people say after the fact how much they appreciated the little compliment (sincere compliment) or how it brightened their day to have acknowledged them when they were feeling lost.

We never know when we say hello with a smile to a passing stranger how it will affect their day. Caring about these things and acknowledging the spirit that lives in your neighbor (which is the same as yours) is the beginning of learning how to love your neighbor.

I am sure you have had similar days when a kind word lifted your spirits and helped you through a depressing day or work project. Acceptance and acknowledgement is important to everyone. No one wants to be where they are not wanted or appreciated. The lack of either would be devastating.

Respect is another form of love and caring. Some consider this a lost art. I have heard people say, "They have to earn my respect." No! They are here in front of you; therefore, you owe them respect as another human

being. While their concerns may differ from yours, that doesn't mean they are wrong and you are right. It simply means we are all different.

Without respect, there can be no love, and without love, there is no point on the human or spiritual level. Leave that judgment to the Creator.

God is love, love is God, and God is good!

Everything said here is something you know well. A gentle reminder in today's world of change and upheaval can help us keep our focus on issues of importance.

The heart!

Practice and enjoy February, the month of all kinds of love.

So, I end with saying love others as you would want them to love you. Be there for them, as you would seek their assistance in life. No one makes it all alone. Thank you all for being there for me. Hopefully I can be there for you. I love you!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Your legislator,

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

District 6 – Rande K. Payne



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

When we think of birthdays and Christmas, we usually associate gift-giving with those events. But how often do we thoughtfully give of ourselves or monetarily to provide someone else joy?

I am the first to admit; I am a lousy gift giver at any occasion. I think it is most likely that I just haven't been wired that way. Maybe it's just human nature as I watch my 2 and

3-year-old grandchildren fuss and fight over just about every toy in the toy box.

I'm not sure why, but this has been on my mind lately. Chief Tabobondung from Wasauksing First Nation recently assisted me in obtaining my long form Canadian birth certificate. Thinking about an appropriate gift for him, I think, is what sparked the desire to better understand the Potawatomi concept of gift-giving.

A Potawatomi elder once told me that true gift-giving is an act of love. It is not an occasion. That would be tradition. It would not be because someone first did something for you or gave you something. That would be repayment. He said it's about relationship. Taking the time to observe and understand another person is the secret, he said. Developing awareness of need and what brings happiness to another person takes time and effort. Once you have done this, and if your heart is right, the

Spirit will lead you in how to gift that person, he concluded.

With all that said, I have taken steps to try to slow things down a little and devote more time to talk and listen to people around me. But it is a little bit of a struggle, as I'm usually focused on getting things done, and fighting that urge to keep moving instead of being present and engaged is difficult. However, I would much rather be remembered as someone who cared about his fellow man than someone who got things done.

Potawatomi Leadership Program

For those college students who might be interested, or if you know a college student who might be interested, it's time to start thinking about the six-week Potawatomi Leadership Program for this summer. The PLP is designed to immerse high-achieving Potawatomi college students in our culture, government and economic development with the goal of culti-

vating future leaders in the Tribe. For more information and to apply, visit plp.potawatomi.org.

District 6 Gathering

Please join me at the next District 6 Gathering from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, at the Ronald H. Roberts Public Library in Temecula, California. The meeting will be informative, interactive and a great opportunity to get to know other Potawatomi. Invitations will be going out soon, the registration page is at cpn.news/D62004.

Benefits and services

Because of the high cost of housing and the dream of owning a home in California is more elusive than ever, and because so many people are choosing to move out of California, I thought it might make sense for some to consider the new CPN Housing Department program if they are considering moving

to Oklahoma. For more information in case you missed it, refer to page 3 of last month's *Hownikan*, or read online at cpn.news/leasepurchase.

Potawatomi Word of the Month: *Nibwaakawin* – Wisdom

Words of Wisdom: "The white man knows how to make everything, but he does not know how to distribute it." — Sitting Bull

Wisdom from the Word: "Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

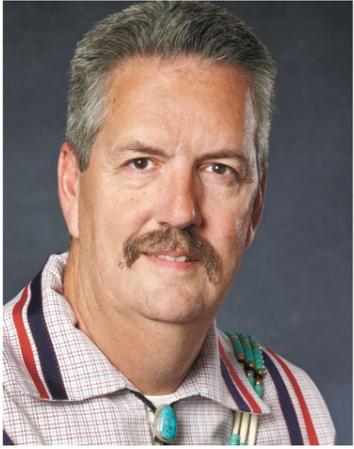
Migwetch! Bama pi
(Thanks! See you later),

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

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

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

District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

It's funny how the more things change, the more they just stay the same. Oklahoma's former governor, Mary Fallin, spent a good portion of her time in office fighting with Indian nations across Oklahoma in an attempt to gain more revenues for the state.

Once she left office and was replaced by Gov. Kevin Stitt, Indian nations were hopeful that the relationship with the state would get back on a fresh footing and level playing field. Unfortunately, that hasn't been the case. Gov. Stitt is taking the position that the gaming compacts between the Indian nations and the state have expired. The Indian nations interpret the gaming compact correctly as does most everybody else in the state of Oklahoma: that the agreement automatically extended itself after Jan. 1, 2020, because the required conditions were met and in place on that date.

The governor has told the tribes that the 4 to 10 percent of revenues currently paid to the state are not enough and that Indian nations in Oklahoma are getting off too easy. He said that other states' compacts require

that Indian nations pay up to 50 percent — this is ridiculous. No Indian nation would survive in the gaming business if they paid 50 percent to the state that they had a compact with. The governor has also made the hollow threat to allow commercial gaming companies into Oklahoma to set up business. In a state of less than 4 million people and 140 current casinos, no commercial company would waste the enormous amount of money to set up in the state of Oklahoma to compete with the Indian nations.

This is a fight that none of the Indian nations wanted, but one that we must all band together and fight, and we have. All of our nations depend on gaming revenues to support our people. It is critically important that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation maintain its gaming revenues; those are what

pay for the health services, the scholarships for our students and many other programs that our members use on a daily basis. Unfortunately for the governor, virtually no one in Oklahoma stands on his side, including those who wrote the compacts. The Indian nations are in a strong position, and hopefully one of these days, the State of Oklahoma will become a good partner instead of looking at Indian nations as just one more way to boost revenues. Maybe they should focus on taking the resources they have and making the best use out of them.

Attending the Family Reunion Festival is a great way to reconnect with your history. If you haven't been before or it has been awhile, start planning now and join us June 26-28 in Shawnee. I am always available to talk and love visiting with our members at the Festival. There is no better way to spend your summer vacation.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

District 8 – Dave Carney



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

During the holidays, we had lots of festivities with family and friends, and amidst the Christmas activities, we took time to celebrate our Potawatomi heritage with a backyard naming ceremony.

For my sister, Laura Carney, this had been a long journey. Laura has always had a great deal of interest in genealogy and all things related to family history. She, more than anyone I've known,

cherishes a family anecdote, a long-lost document (marriage or baptism certificate, especially) or best of all — an old black and white photo of an ancestor.

Laura has two children, Susanna and Adam, who both participated in the Potawatomi Leadership Program in Oklahoma after their respective senior years in high school. During those summer experiences, both children received their Potawatomi names. So, it seemed natural that Laura would give her tobacco, asking her daughter to name her when the two of them spent Christmas vacation in Washington State with me.

Susanna is a gentle soul and an impressive young lady. She is several years into an MD-Ph.D. program at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. During her time in the Potawatomi Leadership Program, she had the pleasure of interacting with Margaret Zientek, who — among other things — manages the living situation of participants. She commissioned Margaret to



Left to right, Dave Carney, wife, Nicole, Luke Carney, Sophia Carney, Laura Carney, Susanna Bassappa and Nick Carney.

design and sew Laura's regalia, which is very beautiful and well made! Our sister, Eva Marie Carney, was not present; however, she contributed the eagle feather used in the naming and provided to Laura with her name.

A fire was made, cedar was spread and a prayer circle was created under an outdoor gazebo built for the Pacific Northwest rain. Family members were smudged using an

eagle fan adorned with portraits of Solomon and Josette Juneau — some of our earliest ancestors affiliated with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. After sharing Potawatomi history and Potawatomi stories, Sussanna named Laura. Her name is *Kyenmewat Yatsokan* (The one who holds stories for others). Laura was flanked by Luke and Sophia, her nephew and niece who were her sponsors.

After the ceremony, we shared a feast of east Indian butter chicken and Native American squash cooked by Laura and served on colorful Christmas linen since it was the day after the holiday.

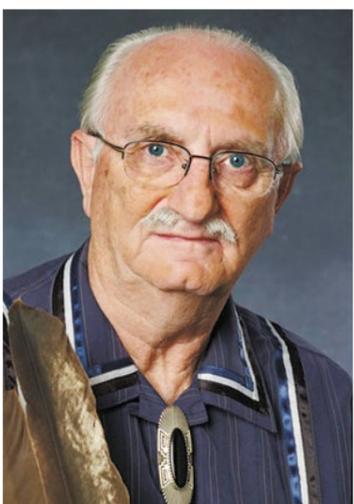
If you have received your Potawatomi name and would like to name family members, I'd be happy to assist any way I can. All names are vetted and checked through CPN's Language Department and Director, Justin Neely who is gracious and generous with his knowledge.

As always, it is my pleasure to represent you. Please feel free to contact me at dcarney@potawatomi.org.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



A task force has been formed to develop a strategy across government agencies for dealing with the high rate of missing and murdered Native American women and girls.

President Trump said in signing an executive order, "My administration has heard the ongoing and serious concerns of tribal governments regarding missing and murdered members of American Indian and Alaska Native communities, particularly women and girls."

The Department of Justice is hiring missing and murdered Indigenous persons coordinators in Oklahoma and 10 other states. It is a good sign that the federal government is taking Indigenous issues seriously. It behooves all tribes to encourage and support Native American candidates to run for local and national offices. It is important to increase our representation across all levels of state and national government.

An article by Grace Segers of CBS News provided more context to the concrete actions being taken.

"The order created an interagency task force which will be led by the Department of Justice and Department of the Interior.

"(Attorney General William) Barr announced the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Initiative during a visit with tribal leaders and law enforcement officials on the Flathead Reservation in Montana. The initiative will invest \$1.5 million in hiring specialized coordinators in the offices of 11 U.S. attorneys who will be responsible for coming up with protocols for a more coordinated response to violence against indigenous people.

"The plan also allows tribal or local law enforcement to seek help from the FBI, and the Justice Department is committing to conducting an in-depth review of federal databases to determine best practices for collecting data on missing indigenous persons."

Violence against Native American women is not just a problem for our neighbors on reservations. According to the article, "A November report by the Urban Indian Health Institute found that there have been 506 cases of missing and murdered Native American women and girls in 71 cities across the U.S. since 2010. However, this data is almost certainly an undercount — UIHI identified 153 cases that did not exist in law enforcement records.

According to the National Institute of Justice, 97 percent of Native American women who have experienced violence were victimized by non-Native American perpetrators."

There is some work in Congress along bi-partisan lines to craft a law that would require the Justice Department to create specific guidelines in responding to such cases. The legislation — called Savanna's Act — is on the Senate calendar for the year and should be voted on.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Marjorie Jean (Nadeau) Holzmeister



Memorial Mass for Marjorie Jean (Nadeau) Holzmeister, 80, of Lawrence, Kansas, was held July 23, 2019, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Lawrence. Inurnment is at the Corpus Christi Columbarium & Prayer Garden. Jean passed away July 16, 2019, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital after a long battle with cancer.

Jean was born May 8, 1939, in Silver Lake, Kansas, the daughter of Paul Edward and Roxie Marjorie (Mitchell) Nadeau. She was enrolled as a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, where she was aptly named *Wishkose* (Walking Strong), a name that exemplified her strong-willed personality throughout her life and her strength in battling her illness. She attended Rossville High School and Washburn University where she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. She married Richard James Holzmeister on Oct. 8, 1960, in Topeka, Kansas. He survives of the home.

Jean was a homemaker, a faithful and loving wife, and a proud mother and grandmother whose devotion to her family was unmatched. She showed her support for her loved ones whenever the opportunity arose, attending countless sporting events, celebrations and other life milestones for all 15 of her grandchildren. She never missed a high school or college graduation ceremony.

She was an active member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church and a volunteer for various Catholic charities. A true Kansas sports fan, she was a Kansas City Royals supporter and devoted follower of Kansas University basketball. Jean was an active racquetball and later pickleball player, enjoying the fellowship as much as the games. She was also a talented seamstress who lovingly crafted quilts, clothes, pajamas and detailed Halloween costumes for her grandchildren.

A warm-hearted matriarch, she fostered a supportive and close-knit family environment filled with love, laughter, and card games. She regularly gathered family members from near and far around her home for holidays and special occasions. Jean especially loved the Christmas season, which always included her annual

Christmas Eve family gathering, with grandkids looking forward to a new set of her hand-sewn pajamas and a unique tree ornament she had selected especially for each of them.

In addition to the love and adoration she shared with her family, Jean exemplified the meaning of unconditional love and respect throughout her 59 years of blissful marriage to her husband, Dick. During the many happy years they shared together, she set a wonderful and important example of a true partnership and a loving relationship for her children and grandchildren to aspire to. This environment of warmth and love she created and lived by will be carried on by her loved ones for generations to come. Jean will be greatly missed.

Other survivors include her daughter Jill (Steve) Patton, Lawrence; three sons, Jeffery (Lea Ann) Holzmeister, Tempe, Arizona, Scott (Deborah) Holzmeister, Gilbert, Arizona, and Jon (Michelle) Holzmeister, Overland Park, Kansas; 15 grandchildren; three sisters, Jeanette Lister, Edmond, Oklahoma, Sally Carnevale, San Mateo, California, and Susan Nadeau, Shawnee, Kansas; and three brothers Michael Nadeau, Silver Lake, Kansas, David Nadeau, Rossville, Kansas, and Dennis Nadeau, Rossville.

Memorial contributions may be made in her name to Corpus Christi Catholic School and may be sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary, 120 W. 13th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Pauline Houser Weingard



Pauline Houser Weingard, *Mno Keeno Magwe* (She Who Writes Upon the Ground) — named because of her profession as family and marriage counselor — walked on at her home in Tionesta, Pennsylvania, on Dec. 17, 2019.

She was the sixth generation descendant of the French citizen, Françoise LaFramboise, who married her Indian ancestor, *Shaw-we-no-quah*, around 1758. Pauline's grandfather was George Bostick, and her mother was Mildred Bostick Houser.

Pauline married Lewis Weingard of Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1951. They had two daughters and a son, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She was very proud of her Indian ancestors and regretted living so far from Shawnee, Oklahoma, since it prevented her from more participation in the Nation's activities. Pauline lived 65 happy years with her husband who passed away July 4, 2016. He had worked internationally with IBM many years, and she and the family accompanied him. It was possible for her to work as an English-speaking counselor in Hong Kong; Singapore; Jakarta, Indonesia; and Bangkok, Thailand.

Upon her husband's retirement, they moved to his 150-year-old ancestral home in Tionesta. They were both active in community and church affairs, and found time for a yearlong car/trailer trip through Mexico, Central America and South America. She wrote a book about the trip: *A Snail's Journey*. She also wrote a second book, *Down the Rivers of Time*, about a boat trip made to experience the yearly travels of her husband's ancestors in the early 1800s by packet boat down the Allegheny, Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

Pauline Weingard is buried next to her husband in the Mt. Zion Lutheran Church cemetery on German Hill in Tionesta, Pennsylvania. A summer memorial to celebrate Pauline's life is being planned.

Robert "Pete" Pittman



Robert "Pete" Pittman was born Aug. 15, 1945, in DeQueen, Arkansas, to Robert "Cotton" Pittman and Patsy Petifer Pittman. Pete passed away on April 7, 2019, from complications from a stroke he suffered in July 2016. Being a Navy brat, Pete moved often as a child; from Arkansas to Newport, Rhode Island; Pensacola, Florida; Norfolk, Virginia; and Bladensburg, Maryland. As a teenager, he decided there was nowhere he wanted to be more than Murfreesboro, Arkansas, so he went to live with his grandparents, Pat and Viola Petifer. After graduating high school in 1963, he worked for a time, then enlisted in the U.S. Navy in May 1964. He served as an aviation boatswain's mate on the U.S.S. Saratoga (CVN 60). After his tour of duty was complete in June 1968, he returned to Arkansas and settled in El Dorado where he was employed by Teris and later Clean Harbors for 30-plus years until his retirement.

Pete was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (Petifer descendant). He spent

his last years living in Shawnee, Oklahoma, working part-time for the CPN at the FireLake Mini-Putt. Known for his good nature and generous spirit, Pete was loved by everyone. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Pat and Viola Petifer; paternal grandmother, Versey Wheat; his father, Robert Pittman; and sisters, Priscilla "Penny" Weaver and Paula Rose. His is survived by his mother, Patsy Vawter, of San Diego, California; his sisters, Phyllis Hurlock (Jim) and Peggy Hurlock (Gary) of Richardsville, Virginia, and Jane Hoyle (David) of Accrington, Lancashire, England; nieces, Sassy Cooke, Cheree Hogan, Penelope Kocsis, Lindsay Hurlock, Cheyenne Hurlock and Paris Simmons; and nephews, Jeremy Pittman, JJ Vogltanz, Gary Hurlock and Joshua Hurlock.

William Robert Pierson



William Robert Pierson went to heaven to be with Jesus and his beloved Margie on Nov. 30, 2019. He was known by some as "Bill" and others as "Bob." He was born in Bakersfield (Oildale), California, on Oct. 1, 1925, where he lived until moving to Arroyo Grande in 1955. His parents were P.F. (Frank) and Laura Pierson.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1946. He married Marjorie Kurth on Valentine's Day 1946. He retired from Pacific Telephone Company after 35 years of service in Bakersfield, San Luis Obispo, San Francisco, and Teheran, Iran (1976 and 1977 with American Bell International).

He was an active member of the Arroyo Grande Lions Club for as long as his health allowed. He was Past Master of Arroyo Masonic Lodge No. 274 F&AM. He was also a faithful member of the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church. He attended Standard Elementary School in Oildale, Kern County Union High School (now known as Bakersfield High School) in Bakersfield, Princeton University and College of Pacific. He is survived by three daughters; Lynn (George) Stewart of Arroyo Grande, Barbara (Thomas) Ralph of Arroyo Grande, and Rebecca (Roy) Gibson of Littleton, Colorado; seven grandchildren, Ken Hunstad (Summer), Amy Williams, Jason Stewart (Jennifer), Sandra Bourbon, Jeanine Woodman

(Bob), Robert Gibson (Carly), and Gretchen Aragon (Chris); 14 great-grandchildren, Joseph Williams, Cassie Davis (Jonny), Jessica Williams, Madison Hunstad, Makenzie Stewart, Lily Stewart, Drake Bourbon, Ronan Gibson, Rhys Gibson, Lorelei Gibson, Georgette Woodman, Josephine Woodman, Vince Aragon and Jake Aragon; four great-great-grandchildren, Matthew Williams, Arianna Davis, Liam Davis and Mason Baybayan; an assortment of nieces and nephews; and two sisters-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Norma Thompson; brother, Dr. James Pierson; wife, Marjorie; and grandson, Matthew Stewart.

A funeral service was held Dec. 12, at the First United Methodist Church in Arroyo Grande.

Travis Michael Coulter



Travis Michael Coulter, 41, of Little Rock, Arkansas, passed away Dec. 15, 2017. He was the son of Wayman Coulter, deceased, and is survived by his mother, Tracy Schroeffer; his uncles, Terry (Connie) and Ted Schroeffer (Teresa); his cousins, Matt, Chris, Tim, Tiffany and Tori; and many loving friends.

Travis was a gifted young man, both professionally and personally. He was the proud owner of his own successful business, Tailor Made Promotions. He loved the hands-on work the business required as well as the interactions with his customers and workers. Travis was very intelligent and sought to absorb as much information about anything and everything. He loved technology, music, documentaries, trying new foods and traveling. Most importantly, though, Travis was generous, kind, caring and loyal to those he loved. He was gifted at building and maintaining relationships, as evidenced by the many lifelong friendships he had. He always looked out for others, particularly when he knew they were struggling. Travis loved his mother deeply, and that love was returned a hundred fold. For the many, many people who loved him, the world will be a sadder place.

A memorial service was held Dec. 26, 2019 at the Little Rock Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

Mary Darlene Cossey Dayton



Mary Darlene Cossey Dayton, 78, passed away, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, in Shawnee, Oklahoma. She was born Nov. 7, 1941, in Shawnee, daughter of Roy "Tommy" and Helen Camp Cossey. Although she was an only child, she was very close to extended family and friends she met throughout her life.

She attended St Benedict's Catholic School and Shawnee High School until her senior year, which she spent in Fresno, California. Darlene moved back to Oklahoma and worked as a nurse's aide at Shawnee Hospital following graduation. She soon attended nursing school at Mission Hill Hospital in Shawnee, and obtained her LPN in 1969. Darlene said one of her proudest moments and accomplishments was receiving her nurse's cap.

Darlene married Jerry Dayton from McLoud, Oklahoma, that same year. They celebrated 50 years together on Nov. 10, 2019.

Darlene, Jerry and their son, Phill, moved to Arizona in 1973. They resided there for 31 years, and Darlene worked as a nurse in nursing homes for 25 years during that time. She was also a very successful Avon consultant and held various jobs in the Tucson and Phoenix areas. She retired, and they returned to Oklahoma in 2003.

Darlene had many artistic talents and enjoyed using them to make people feel special. She painted with different mediums and made beautiful, unique cards for loved ones' birthdays and Christmas. She also made wreaths for every season and holiday. Getting a wreath and card from her was a forever keepsake.

Darlene absolutely loved watching movies, especially from the mid-1900s, and her favorites

starred Rita Hayworth. She loved her family in a special way. If she had not seen you, Darlene would tell you how much she missed you. She was a fun-loving, straight-shooting person whose friends adored her. She contacted them regularly despite leaving Arizona and living in Oklahoma for the past 16 years.

Darlene was preceded in death by her father, Roy, and her mother, Helen. She is survived by her husband, Jerry of McLoud; her son, Phill of Chandler, Arizona; and her cousins, Troy Graham and Robert Saunders of Shawnee, and Ann Willett of Yukon.

Darlene was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and very grateful for all of the Tribe's support.

Maureen T. (Pearl) Harris



Maureen T. (Pearl) Harris, 90, walked on to her creator on Monday, Dec. 23, 2019, at Aldersgate Village in Topeka, Kansas.

She was born Dec. 28, 1928, on a farm in the Sandy Hook community of Rossville, Kansas, the daughter of Thomas M. and Florence G. (Doyle) Pearl. Maureen graduated from high school in St. Marys, Kansas, and in 1950, attained a nursing degree from the College of St. Teresa, School of Nursing in Kansas City, Missouri.

After graduation, Maureen worked as an RN in St. Louis, Missouri, where she met Richard J. Howes. They were married, and she relocated to his family's area near Boston, Massachusetts, where they raised four children.

Her home there had hollyhocks and a large pear tree, reminding her of her home growing up in Kansas. She lived in Boston for 23 years, where she loved and enjoyed her family. Richard preceded her in death in 1986.

Maureen moved back to Kansas and worked as an RN and as a private duty nurse until retirement. In retirement, she enjoyed seniors' programs, gardening, her friends and family. Her church community was very much a part of her life. She was a member of the Daughters of Isabella Little Flower Circle and the Holy Name Catholic Church in Topeka, Kansas.

Maureen was proud to be a member of the Slavin family and of her Potawatomi name, heritage and culture.

In 1999, she married Charles W. Harris at Council Grove, Kansas. Maureen and Charlie spent time attending veterans' programs, travelling and playing bingo. She loved planting and attending to the flowers around their home each year. Charles preceded her in death in 2009. Maureen was also preceded in death by her parents; a brother, James B. (JB) Pearl; a sister, Marjorie Guerich; and sons, Kevin and Michael Howes.

John C. Benak, Jr.



John was born on Dec. 30, 1967, to John Sr. and Shirley (Bruno). He graduated from Buchanan High School and continued his education and love of learning with several years of college. After growing up in Buchanan, John eventually moved to Texas where he spent most of his life and worked as a computer engineer. His last couple of years were spent in Virginia. John enjoyed technology, photography and different forms of art. His passion for art was intertwined with his love and appreciation of nature and being outdoors. John was also an avid Texas Longhorns fan. Most of all, John cherished his family.

John is survived by his mother, Shirley Stiles; siblings, Nancy Benak, Lucille Marie Benak

and William (Sarah) Benak; many nieces and nephews; and beloved dogs, Max and Angus. He was preceded in death by his father, John Benak, Sr.

Dennis Eugene Gibson



Dennis Gibson, 62, of Topeka, Kansas, passed peacefully at his home on Dec. 10, 2019. He was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, to Betty Martin Gibson and William Gibson.

In 1983, he met the love of his life, Cheryl Baker, and married in 1997. Dennis built the house that the couple farmed on and lived in, which continues to be a gathering place for family and friends.

He attended Topeka High School before receiving his vocational training. Dennis was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Carpenters Local 1445, where he received his journeyman certificate. He was a descendant of the Navarre family and grandson of Edith Burns Martin.

Dennis excelled at every task he took on and could repair anything. He was a master carpenter, painter, handyman, gardener and cook in addition to an excellent guitar and harmonica player. Above all, Dennis devoted his life to those he loved. He was one of the very few who gave more to family and friends than he ever took.

He thrived in the outdoors and took numerous hunting and fishing trips throughout the country. On these adventures, Dennis always managed to bring his cooking gear to ensure no one went hungry or had to prepare any food. He enjoyed smoking varieties of meat for family gatherings at his home, and his talents were on full display at various barbecue competitions along with his uncle Jim and cousin Doug Burris. Dennis loved to prepare homemade meals and watch cooking shows. He always made

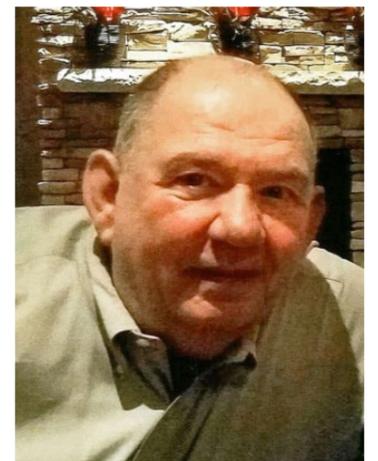
sure no one left his home without trying his delicious cooking.

Throughout his illness, he possessed a strong and courageous attitude. His bravery and spirit were a testament to all. Even in his final days, Dennis inspired those around him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Betty Gibson and William Gibson. Dennis is survived by his wife, Cheryl Gibson; three brothers, Gary Gibson (Livermore, California), Randy Gibson (Aurora, California) and Charles Gibson (San Diego, California); and three sisters, Debra Sepulveda (Castro Valley, California), Judy Kohler and Denise Counts, both of Topeka; numerous nephews and nieces, many family members, and countless friends.

Reciting of the rosary will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020, at Mater Dei Parish-Assumption Catholic Church at 204 SW 8th in Topeka, Kansas. A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, April 25, 2020, at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Community Center at 806 Nishnabe Trail in Rossville, Kansas, at 1 p.m. A barbecue will follow, and side dishes would be appreciated. Memorial donations may be made to KDWP's Habitat Improvement & Restoration Fund at cpn.news/kswild.

Raymond Gene Lambotte



Raymond Gene Lambotte, age 78, of Chicago, Illinois, was born on May 6, 1941, and passed away on Dec. 26, 2019. Raymond was a husband of over 53 years to Pamela Lambotte, nee Hutchinson; a beloved father to Jennifer (Peter) Negoski and Marc Lambotte; and a cherished grandfather to Ryan (fiancée, Bethany), Alexander, Noah and Joshua.

Submitting obituaries

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

hownikan@potawatomi.org

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

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