Keeping it ultra-cold: CPNHS rolls out COVID-19 vaccines

One arm at a time.
One shot at a time.

Within days of emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services began receiving and administering vaccines to combat the coronavirus in central Oklahoma.

Along with the other self-governance tribes across Oklahoma, CPNHS opted to get its primary vaccine doses through the Indian Health Service rather than through the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

CPNHS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Adam Vascellaro said the decision to go through IHS was deliberate. This move increases the chances of both the Tribe and its pandemic vaccination partner, the Portawatomie County Health Department, having dual access to the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine for the populations they serve.

“There’s twice the chance we’d get the vaccine out in our rural locations versus us all relying on the same supply chain.”

“Plus, with both ourselves and the state health department using the same Pfizer ultra-cold vaccine, if someone got their first dose here and we ran out, they could get their second dose from the state’s lot or vice versa. Our stocks are complementary.”

For the initial phase, IHS received 46,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine and 22,400 doses of the Pfizer vaccine nationwide. Originally, IHS was not slated to receive additional funds to cover costs associated with administering them. However, as part of a $900 billion CARES Act bill signed into law in late December, IHS and other entities will share $8 billion specifically earmarked for vaccine distribution expenses. An exact money allocation breakdown was not available on deadline.

The IHS Oklahoma City Service Area, which along with all of Oklahoma includes Kansas and part of Texas, received 5,850 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 8,900 doses of the Moderna vaccine.

Combined, Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s East and West clinics received about 460 doses of the Oklahoma City Service Area’s first allocation of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. As of Jan. 29, CPNHS alone has administered approximately 3,000 first and second doses.

With IHS relying on a wheel and spoke model for distribution, CPN’s clinics are also serving a distribution hub for several other Oklahoma tribes and some in Kansas and Texas. The two clinics began receiving the vaccine in mid-December, with an initial 2,000 doses passing through on their way to other tribal facilities.

Although both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines require two doses, they are not interchangeable. Someone who receives an initial dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has to receive a second dose of the same medication in order for it to be as effective as advertised.

First to receive Food and Drug Administration approval, Pfizer-BioNTech’s vaccine presents an additional logistical challenge. To remain potent, it requires storage at around -70 degrees below 0 Fahrenheit or lower and should not be thawed and kept in a refrigerator for more than five days before administering. Doses are not given at sub-freezing temperatures, but they can only stay reconstituted at room temperature for six hours before having to be wasted.

However, for health care providers, that means either procuring plenty of dry ice or expensive ultra-cold freezers in order to keep the vaccine sufficiently chilled until it is time to administer the doses.

The Tribe used some of its CARES Act money to invest in three full-sized and one portable ultra-cold freezers in order to be among the first in the state to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Combined, the four freezers have enough space for about 400,000 doses — more than enough to meet the needs of CPNHS but also act as a hub for OCA IHS and the Portawatomie County Health Department with storage capacity.

Captain Brian Wren is the pharmacy and lab contact for OCA IHS. He said his agency’s partnership with CPNHS has been a key component in IHS’ vaccine rollout efforts.

“The robust capacity within this health system for ultra-cold vaccine storage allows us to have greater flexibility among our sites,” said Brian Wren, Doctor of pharmacy, CHC Area Pharmacy & Lab consultant/AVPOC, OCA IHS. “It allows us to move vaccine to our other sites from the central hub. So essentially this collaboration has allowed us to be more efficient with our distribution processes and reach more individuals with vaccine much more quickly.”

Health care providers and Tribal elders were among the first to receive vaccinations from the doses allocated to CPNHS. Senior housing residents and long-term care and senior housing residents also obtained priority consideration for vaccine access.

Additionally, the Nation spread early doses across multiple essential departments within the Tribe in order to maintain operations in the event of a worsening outbreak or natural disaster. Among the departments with a handful of employees getting vaccinated early on include information technology, electrical, emergency management, law enforcement, first responders and Potawatomie County Rural Water District No. 3, which the Tribe owns and operates.

“Our clinics are in rural Oklahoma,” Dr. Vascellaro said. “Occasionally the power goes out. Occasionally the water goes out. Occasionally the heat goes out. Occasionally the air conditioning goes out. Occasionally the internet goes out. On top of our augmented workflow but still significant normal clinic functions, I’ve got hard working, dedicated medical providers, nurses, lab techs and others working outside in the COVID-19 tents!ичен.
**Growth through the ashes of disaster**

By Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation

There is something awe-inspiring about 'triumph over tragedy' successes. We all love a gripping story, with spellbinding turns and twists. Give me a plot that starts well, almost ends in disaster and suddenly triumphs overall. This sounds like a fairy tale, and we all know that fairy tales aren’t real. Or are they? Native business owners Dwight and Darcee Yancey with Shawnee Cleaners & Linen have such a story. A tale so dark and soot-filled that it seemed for a moment they might not recover — a tale that grows through the ashes of disaster into a remarkable business success.

It all began over 30 years ago in the quaint little city of Shawnee, Oklahoma, with the purchase of three laundromats. Dwight previously worked in the soft drink industry when the opportunity came to purchase a dry cleaner/laundromat business. He jumped at the chance, changed careers and started his life as an entrepreneur. Things were pretty well until about 10 years ago when his business caught fire, destroying his hard work and shutting down his laundromat. He found himself on a Sunday afternoon contemplating what to do when he called the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation and requested for a special meeting that very day. When asked by our staff, “Why on a Sunday?” Dwight replied, “Well if you turn me down on a Sunday, I don’t feel as bad as if you turned me down on Monday.”

He explained all the things that were happening at the time with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation expanding its hotel services in that process. One thing led to another, and soon he found himself in a meeting with lenders and those in positions to help him rebuild his business. Dwight purchased a former nursery and remodeled it to fit the needs of a dry-cleaner and linen plant. As Dwight told his story, he talked of his children who help in the day-to-day operations, how he depends on his employees and how important his business is to him.

“It’s family-owned,” he said. “We’ve been doing it a long time. We started with three employees across the street. We’re now up to 18. It’s good for the community. It’s something it needs, I like it, and with the help of the Citizen Potawatomi CDC, we’ve expanded pretty handily in the last four to five years. And it makes the process so much easier to expand because (the CPCDC) listen to some crazy ideas, which sometimes work out.”

It took around six to eight months for Shawnee Cleaners & Linen to reopen their doors after the disastrous event. Throughout the last few years, things have begun looking up for the Yancey family, and in December of 2019, they opened two new locations, expanding to two across three cities. Since starting over, Shawnee Cleaners & Linen has reestablished its place in the community in a big way. Seeing those faces come again and again, it makes you feel good — you feel like you’re part of them,” Dwight said. “I’m proud to be in this community. We’re trying to keep everybody here locally instead of going to Oklahoma City. We have a nice facility, centrally located, and we’ve updated equipment over the last five or six years. I’d put our plant with any plant in Oklahoma City. We do a great job, and we have a very experienced staff.”

The CPCDC is honored to be a part of this success story. We have been delighted to watch Dwight and Darcee’s business expand through the years. “With the CPCDC, they listen to you and make sense out of my wild ideas, and they don’t mind if things don’t make sense,” he said. “They’ll listen to some wild ideas as long as it makes sense in the long term. A regular bank, they would probably throw you out. So (the CPCDC) are willing to sit down and listen and guide you through the procedure and get it to make sense, where the numbers all make sense. … They make the procedure really easy.”

As the interview came to a close, we asked how things might have been different without the CPCDC to help out. Dwight said, “I don’t think I’d ever left that building over there because banks just will not take the chance on a startup business. … I just don’t think it ever would’ve happened because it was not a cookie-cutter deal to hand to a bank and going, ‘Sure, it’s a gold mine.’ It was really an unusual procedure, so we had to basically gut the building and made it a cleaners. So other than that, it took a long time. You had to think outside the box to make this a cleaners.”

Stop by and visit Shawnee Cleaners & Linen at any of their locations to experience excellence-dry-cleaning service:

**Shawnee North**
1049 Vision Blvd.
Shawnee, OK 74804
405-585-2392

**Shawnee South**
704 E Independence Street
Shawnee, OK 74804
405-878-8641

**Tecumseh Cleaners**
701 N Broadway
Tecumseh, OK 74873
405-878-8641

The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation finances tribal enterprises and Native American-owned businesses like Shawnee Cleaners & Linen across Oklahoma and the U.S. The CPCDC is here to help plant seeds for a brighter future. To find out more about how we can assist your Native-owned business, call us today 405-878-8649, or visit us at cpcdc.org.

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**40 Under 40 award recipient continues to expand industry during pandemic**

Some college friends taking a wine tasting class eventually led to a Citizen Potawatomi woman earning national recognition for her work in the hospitality industry.

The Connect Association, which recognizes event and meeting planners nationwide, recently named CPN member and Anderson family descendant Kristen Venc as one of its 40 Under 40 for 2020.

Thanks to the pandemic, the Connect Association postponed its awards ceremony scheduled to be held in Orlando, Florida, and instead moved the event online. However, that did not diminish the importance of the accolade to Venc.

“Receiving the award was an honor just based on the amount of time, relationship building I’ve done since being in the industry,” she said. “This whole hospitality business is all about people. When you can’t see or meet with people, it makes it more challenging. It’s been an interesting year to be in the hospitality industry, and I think that’s made everyone get more creative and think of other ways to make those personal connections.”

In her role as the national sales manager for the Tulsa Convention and Visitors Bureau, Venc helped figure out ways to show professional organizations and associations from all over the world why they should bring their events to northeastern Oklahoma once the pandemic is over and mass gatherings are safe again.

With in-person meals, trips to Tulsa landmarks and other pre-coronavirus promotional standards not safe or feasible for most of 2020, Venc turned to the web instead. Working in conjunction with local hotel managers and restaurateurs, she put together virtual tours and condensed the process so much easier to expand because (the CPCDC) listen to some crazy ideas, which sometimes work out.

“In the 15 years since completing her degree, Venc has worked across Oklahoma, including stops in the Enid and Tulsa areas, building connections throughout the hospitality industry and working with professional organizations looking for convention sites. She credits those relationships with making it easier not only to move among markets but to stay in it during tough times like those brought on by the pandemic. “It’s been such a fun group to be with,” she said. The Connect Association, which recognizes event and meeting planners nationwide, recently named CPN member and Anderson family descendant Kristen Venc as one of its 40 Under 40 for 2020. Thanks to the pandemic, the Connect Association postponed its awards ceremony scheduled to be held in Orlando, Florida, and instead moved the event online. However, that did not diminish the importance of the accolade to Venc.

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“Obviously, they don’t get the full aspect of getting to see, smell, taste the food … but they get an idea,” Venc said. “When it’s safe, they can come experience it and might have a better idea of what they want to go and do.

“It (virtual tours) has given us the chance to get in front of some planners who wouldn’t normally consider Tulsa or Oklahoma, for that matter. We might have some opportunities in the future that we might not have had before.”

Venc fell in love with the hospitality industry while an undergraduate at Oklahoma State University. Initially an accounting major, she did not know hotel and restaurant management was a degree option until some friends mentioned they were taking a wine tasting class.

“I like people too much to be behind a desk,” she said with a chuckle. “When some friends said they were taking a wine tasting class, I was intrigued.”

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Shop with a Cop brings together community, law enforcement

In early December, kids, guardians and law enforcement gathered at the Shawnee, Oklahoma, Walmart for Christmas cheer at the end of a very long and challenging year. The annual Shop with a Cop event gives children in need the chance to pick out gifts with a member of area police forces, including Citizen Potawatomi Nation officers. The event’s organizer, Kenny Williams, looks forward to it every year.

“I think it’s a great environment for the kids to get to see the police in person, and get to realize that, ‘Hey, they really are our friends; they’re here to help us.’ And gives them that opportunity to build that bond as well as provide them a Christmas that most of those kids probably would not get anything had it not been for the community of Shawnee pitching in like they do,” he said.

In 2020, Shop with a Cop raised more than $31,500 with the help of 16 organizations, including Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Junior Service League of Shawnee, Shawnee Community Foundation and many local businesses and entrepreneurs. The generous donations provided enough to give more than 140 participants from various local community organizations a $100 Walmart gift card to spend as they wished.

“We’re grateful for what (CPN) did,” Williams said. “They helped a lot of kids. … They were one of the very biggest contributors, so we appreciate that greatly.”

The event collected more money than ever before, which allowed it to help a record number of families since Shop with a Cop began in the area more than 10 years ago.

“I thought it was going to be just the opposite — there’d be more kids in need, and I’d have less funds available. And it was just the opposite this year. We were able to raise even more funds. … I know a lot of people have gone without,” Williams said.

Officers in a new light

Two Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Police Department officers attended, along with 26 others across seven local departments. Officer Orrin Beckham joined the Tribe’s force in January 2020. He and his family previously lived in Texas, and his sons received the vaccine before, which allowed it to help a record number of families since Shop with a Cop began in the area more than 10 years ago.

“Just to get out and help families do some shopping for Christmas, helping the younger generations is always enjoyable for me.”

Many officers immediately thanked Williams for hosting Shop with a Cop as they picked out toys or went to the register. He also woke up to emails of gratitude the next day.

“Our department offers individualized support and training for foster families. Our team includes experienced child welfare advocates focused on providing excellent customer service and emotional support to the families we serve. FireLodge also provides foster families essential items needed to care for children including cribs, beds and car seats. What qualities are needed in a foster parent? Successful foster parents are generally patient and understanding to the unique needs of children placed into foster care. They are willing to be flexible, tolerant and dependable while working closely with child welfare staff.

What is the difference between private adoption and adoption through foster care?

Private adoption occurs when birth parents voluntarily place their child for adoption with a family of their choice. Children available for adoption through foster care are placed into care involuntarily. The goal in foster care cases is normally to reunify children with their families. When this cannot happen, typically the relative or non-related foster family will adopt the children when it becomes legal to do so.

Can I adopt a Potawatomi foster child?

The goal of our department is to reunite families. Foster parents may be able to adopt their foster children if they cannot be returned home or placed with a relative. Many families successfully adopt their foster children.

What assistance is available to adoptive families?

Adoption assistance exists to remove the financial and other barriers that may prevent a family from adopting from foster care. Services available for adopted children may include daycare assistance, medical assistance, monthly maintenance payments and adoption attorney fees.

Although each and every situation is unique in child welfare, this is some basic information you can use to guide you through the process of deciding to open your home to children in need. For more information, contact FireLodge Children & Family Services at 405-878-4831 or on Facebook @CPNFireLodge.

Contact Kenny Williams at kwilliams@yaffeco.net for more information about Shop with a Cop. Visit the CPN Police Department online at cpn.news/police.
New, virtual technology removes court system’s barriers

While many court systems pushed back cases indefinitely or shut down during the coronavirus pandemic, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Court and other departments welcomed changes and additional responsibilities. CPN’s District Court maintained operations throughout 2020 with no major lapses. CPN Court Clerks Andrea Gabel and Toni Sears learned that “each day can be challenging and to be flexible and work through the best that can be done.”

CPN Child Prosecutor Lisa Herbert worked in many different courts throughout Oklahoma. She recognizes the clerks’ hard work and efficiency to maintain organization in the midst of implementing new rules. “It’s really a lot more than just filing things in and setting court dates for people," Herbert said. “They really have to deal with people who are in crisis, and they do such a beautiful job of that. ... I don’t think people really realize how difficult their job is.”

Like many other businesses and offices, the court has increased its use of video calls and teleconferencing. It adds another step in the already hectic process of running a proficient court. However, it provides convenience for witnesses and lawyers while prioritizing social distancing practices. “It’s just as if the person is there. Those are some new skills that are really having to come into the courtroom practice, and our girls have been up to it. ... They’ve been wonderful about trying to accommodate some of the changes and some of the things we’re doing in our courtroom just to try to make things safe,” Herbert said.

The court has incorporated a smartboard for Zoom and video calls. While this adds extra processes when preparing for hearings and sending out our information, Gabel believes it has worked well. “In order for the court to hear a case by virtual appearance and appearances by phone, attorneys must be granted the accommodations in advance,” she said.

“If (information technology department) has truly been an asset in setting up our smartboard and our other equipment. They also assist in running it for us court so we can focus on the hearing and/or trial.”

Practical application

FireLodge Children & Family Services Foster Care/Adoption Manager Kendra Lowden frequently appears in court for foster care and adoption cases. She appreciates the ability to maintain services to her clients and knows time is of the essence when moving children between homes. “If court hearings are delayed, that means sometimes permanency is delayed for children, whether that be reunification to their families or adoption to another family. If the court system doesn’t continue to operate and function during a pandemic, then things are stalled for children, and that’s not necessarily a good thing for them,” Lowden said.

The new technology also created options never before available to her clients. With a restricted number of individuals allowed in the building to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, using Zoom allowed more people to witness an adoption case last May. “The adoptive families’ relatives were able to attend by just logging onto the Zoom, and they could hear and see everything going on. So they didn’t have to miss out on that special day for this family and that child,” Lowden said.

Haaland’s Interior nomination heralds change in cabinet appointments

The National Congress of American Indians typically passes resolutions intended to shape policy for the millions of Indigenous people and more than 500 tribal governments in the United States. At this year’s NCAI Gathering, held just days after the U.S. presidential election, NCAI passed a resolution calling on President-elect Joe Biden to name the “first American Indian or Alaska Native in our nation’s history to serve as the Secretary of the Interior.”

The administration’s choice of Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-NM) was historic in terms of nominating an enrolled tribal citizen to a full cabinet position. If confirmed by the Senate, the Laguna Pueblo citizen would be the first Native American to lead the U.S. Department of the Interior. As head of Interior, Haaland will manage a wide portfolio over numerous agencies. The approximately 70,000 staff under the DOI oversee one-fifth of all the land in the United States. This includes managing national parks, wildlife refuges and natural resources such as gas, oil and water in addition to 574 federally-recognized tribal nations across 55 states.

Haaland would be the highest-ranking federal official with tribal citizenship since Charles Curtis. Vice president under Herbert Hoover, Curtis was a citizen of the Kaw Nation, originally from Kansas.

While the Trump Administration focused on rolling back restrictions on energy development on public and tribal lands, the incoming Democratic administration is charting a distinctly different course. One of President Joe Biden’s first executive actions halted the Keystone Pipeline Project, which was the site of major Indigenous rights and environmental protests from 2016-17. Haaland has identified the restoration of public lands protections for Bear Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah that the Trump administration removed to support energy projects. Several tribes in southern Utah view the sites as sacred and claim the previous administration ignored tribal consultation procedures before trimming back protections. In addition to the nomination, President Biden pledged to reinstate the White House Tribal Nations Conference — a convening of tribal and federal leaders begun during the Obama Administration. It was not held the previous four years.

Haaland was overwhelmingly endorsed by Oklahoma’s Indian Country leadership. In mid-January, 25 tribal leaders, including CPN Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett, signed a letter to senators James Lankford (R-OK) and Jim Inhofe (R-OK) supporting her nomination.

The letter stated, “As senators for a state with 39 federally recognized Tribal nations and one of the highest Native populations in the United States, you fully recognize the importance of including Native representation at the highest levels of government. Native voices bring unique perspectives to vital discussions, and more often than not

Continued on page 9
Nationwide surge in housing market creates opportunity for buyers, sellers

Among the big surprises of 2020 was a nationwide surge in housing sales. It seemed to be both a buyer and seller’s market with low interest rates pushing those looking to snap up available properties at a breakneck speed. This mostly affected metropolitan areas, and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department noticed the change across the country.

“When the pandemic hit us, I kind of expected everything to just kind of go flat. When the unemployment rates were rising, we didn’t expect people to venture out there and do a lot of home buying,” said Housing Department Director Scott George.

U.S. Census Bureau data showed new home sales increased 43 percent in August 2020 compared to the same month in 2019. According to the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index, national sales-adjusted inventory decreased to its lowest level since at least 1963 at the end of the summer.

“I guess you could attribute that to people that maintain their jobs throughout this pandemic, and usually white collar workers that had some sort of stability in their (jobs) and were able to work from home — things of that nature,” George said. “That’s the only thing I could think it was, and they took advantage of their (jobs) and were able to work from home or during odd office hours because we have laptops at home just to try to keep up,” Byers said.

While many Tribal members in Oklahoma applied for the grant in 2020, others from across the country took advantage of it more. George explained this reflects the housing market in rural Oklahoma, and in particular, Pottawatomie County.

“We don’t really see a lot of people buying in this area right now,” he said. “We’ve got some, but not as much as there has been on either coast and various other places. So I don’t know if it will trend like everything else does and eventually fall back to the middle of the country and we’ll wind up doing a lot here or not.”

Applying for the Housing and Urban Development and CPN-funded one-time grant requires effort from several departments, both within the housing office and the Tribe as a whole, including accounting, environmental and Tribal rolls.

“We have so many people that have lost their Tribal cards, or they say they never got a Tribal card. So, I’m in constant contact with Tribal Rolls. Accounting has been wonderful with their treasury accountant on helping in requesting the checks and everything from FNBI. It’s a mixture of departments to get all of this done, but it originates here,” Byers said.

She and George encourage Tribal members across the United States to contact the housing department when purchasing a home to discuss their options, especially the one-time grant, regardless of the market.

“There’s so many people just even in this immediate area that did not seem to know about the program. And when I say, ‘Well, we’ve had it for almost 22 years,’ they’re just flabbergasted,” Byers said.

The 2021 fiscal year was off to a busy start on Oct. 1, 2020, with plenty of requests continuing to pour in by the end of December. She and George look forward to watching the housing market in 2021 and helping Tribal members everywhere.

Find out more about the down payment and closing cost assistance grant program at cpn.news/onetimegrant and cpn.news/housing.

Complete the application and send us the following:

- Copy of borrower’s CPN membership card
- Copy of Social Security cards for household member without Tribal cards
- Copy of the “Loan Estimate” from lender
- Income verification for all household members (last 3 to 4 pay stubs or 1 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

Buying a home?

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

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

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

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

For more regarding loan products and lending requirements at First National Bank & Trust, please contact Jeff Scroggins, mortgage loan officer at 405-275-8830 or at 1-800-227-8362.
Golfers label FireLake “a hidden gem”

According to the National Golf Foundation, more people played rounds of golf in 2020 than the year before, despite the coronavirus pandemic and the initial decrease it caused in the spring. FireLake Golf Course saw its numbers increase and celebrated its best year ever since opening in 1983.

“It all started whenever the Oklahoma City courses closed, unfortunately, due to COVID-19. ... And we got a lot of new customers because we were one of the few facilities close to Oklahoma City that was still open because we never closed,” after consulting with Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services and implementing best practices to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, said Director Chris Chesser.

Compared to 2019, FireLake saw an increase of 4,000 rounds in fiscal year 2020. Golf carts became a hot commodity on the weekends, with patrons utilizing all of the course’s offerings Thursdays through Sundays. The clientele also diversified. More women visited than ever before, and the senior men’s league continued every Thursday from April to September.

“WELL, it’s been a crazy year with COVID, of course,” Chesser said. “We have handled it actually pretty good, in my opinion, as busy as we’ve been.”

After a renovation in 2016, the course reopened in summer 2017. Many returning customers commented on the changes and called it a “hidden gem,” located 45-minutes from the Oklahoma City metro.

“They hadn’t been here in 10 or 15 years, and they had no idea we had renovated, and they just fell in love with the place, and we’re continuing to get play from Oklahoma City — more than we ever have,” Chesser said. The course boasts water hazards on 13 of 18 holes, more than 6,300 yardage of greens, fairways and roughage throughout the course as well as trimmed cart paths, pushing the experience to the next level. Course superintendent Derron Day and the rest of the staff practice meticulous upkeep.

“Our greens are really good,” Chesser said. “We have Champion Bermuda greens, and they’re very fast. They’re very slick. Golfers like putting surfaces that are fast, and ... Derron and his guys really maintain the golf course. They really are detailed at their work.”

Many new patrons have added FireLake to their list of favorite courses for the value and location near the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort, FireLake Entertainment Center, convenience stores and more. After months of implementing the safety measures, including a mask mandate in the clubhouse and other indoor facilities, the requirements currently remain in effect with customers complying. FireLake offers masks to players that do not have one. However, most quickly head for the course.

“They don’t really hang out in the building like they used to,” Chesser said. “They may come in and get a sandwich or something, but they pay for their stuff, and they get out the door, and they get in the fresh air and go play golf.”

With plenty of to-go options such as hot dogs, hamburgers and daily lunch specials, patrons can grab a bite to eat at the clubhouse grill before hitting the back nine. The kitchen also hosted several carryout-only dinners for two throughout 2020, serving Italian, German, comfort food and other cuisines, which will continue throughout 2021.

The golf course’s website offers the daily weather, contact information to book a tee time, a downloadable course map, digital course tour, grill menu, and directions.

Visit FireLake Golf Course online at firelakegolf.com and on Facebook @firelakegolf.
The Veteran Memorial serves to honor and exhibit the sacrifices our Wèdàsàjek (warriors) have made by telling the story of what it meant to be a Potawatomi warrior. It is a living monument to our proud Citizen Potawatomi Nation veterans and active duty members. Currently, the memorial commemorates more than a thousand veterans and warriors and is continually growing. We invite all veterans, active duty and their families to submit to the memorial.

If you are a veteran and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and would like your place on the Veterans Wall of Honor at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center, please contact us at 405-878-5830 and ask for KeAnne Langford or Blake Norton or email keanne.langford@potawatomi.org or bntonini@potawatomi.org.

Many of the veteran records we preserve at the Cultural Heritage Center do not have an accompanying military portrait for display. Please see the list below of those veterans we have records for but need portraits of:

Michelle Abiri
Benjamin T. Acre Jr.
Hubert L. Adams
James T. Anderson
Ronald Anderson
Cecil Baird
Walter L. Baker
Robert W. Barrett
Bruce I. Bachaw
Ingram H. Bazhaw
Ralph H. Bazhaw/Bergeron
John T. Bergeron
Thomas M. Bess
William B. Bivens Jr.
Charles D. Blair
Robert G. Bogle
Douglas E. Bourassa
Freeman Bourassa
Jerry D. Bourassa
John A. Bourbonnais
Joshua J. Bourbonnais
Edmund F. Bawles
Andrew E. Bradford
Emery A. Bradford
Charles R. Bromley
James F. Bromley
Carolyn S. Brown
Andrea L. Brooks
Everett D. Brunt
David A. Burnett
Leo Burnett Jr.
Stephen R. Burnett
Joseph H. Burns
Tilden J. Byler
Michael D. Cavender
Mary-Ellen Clinton (Vieux)
Eugene Albert Coder
Adam B. Cee
Michael E. Conner Jr.
Larry O. Cook
Wayne E. Cook
Roy L. Coon
Thomas E. Cooper
Albert W. Copeland
Michael S. Cory
Daniel Cumbera
David A. Coyar
Harvey J.L. Curtis
Dan Darsenbourg
George Dansenbourg
Lloyd B. Denton
Lloyd C. Denton
Marvin Derryberry
Forrest J. Desmit
Charles E. Dewitt
Gary E. Dewitt
J.B. Dewitt
Travis G. Dick
Jimmie R. Dike
Richard G. Dike
Dennis D. Dockery
Beverly L. Dodd
Lawrence A. Dodd
Willie O. Dodson
Thomas N. Doyle
John W. Edwards
Charles M. Ellis
John E. Feliciano
Sharold N. Ferris
James B. Fisher
Jerry L. Fitzgerald
Mary J. Foster (Spaulding)
Michael D. Fox
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Murray S. Frapp
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Horace D. Gillespie
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Rolan J. Goyer
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Marion L. Haas
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John Hall Jr.
Larry E. Hammad
Richard L. Hammad
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Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,
February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and bringing the issues that often remain in the dark into the light provides the opportunity to stop cycles of harm. Citizen Potawatomi Nation House of Hope Prevention Specialist Kayla Woody believes education is the best tool.

“We as a society have normalized it,” she said. “We have got to get the information out there to our communities. We’ve got to get it out to our parents, to our teens, our teachers, youth pastors and community leaders so they can start showing our children what healthy relationships look like.”

Woody teaches and reminds people, including youth, that not all abuse is physical.

“We see a lot of physical violence in teen dating relationships, but we also see emotional violence,” she said. “We see a lot of manipulation. As far as financial violence, (perpetrators are) telling (the victims) what they can do, what they can buy, where they can go eat at, who they can hang out with. There is such a wide variety when it comes to abuse, even with teens.”

The cycle

According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1.5 million high school students nationwide reported physical violence in their relationship in the past 12 months. Women ages 16 to 24 have the highest rate of intimate partner violence in the United States, according to Woody.

“Those are really those crucial ages where it’s beginning to start, around 16 years old, so we really want to try to focus on the teens, teaching them about healthy relationships, showing them those red flags. Showing them those green flags as well,” she said.

Providing examples of healthy relationships and having educational conversations about dating at an early age prepares youths for a partner and to spot problematic behavior.

“They don’t really know what to expect if they are not sat down with a trusted adult, like a parent or guardian, who is explaining that to them,” Woody said. “They’re just kind of having to figure it out on their own. So, when they get into a heavy relationship, and they have a partner telling them, ‘Oh, it’s OK to do this, it’s OK to do that,’ and they don’t know any better.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 11 female and 1 in 15 male high school students reported experiencing physical dating violence in the last year, possibly leading to depression, anxiety and other unhealthy behaviors. Without education, physical and emotional abuse can span generations.

“It continues because young people are brought up in these abusive homes. They tend to see this abuse as normalized. So when they start dating at a young age, they tend to think that physical violence, emotional violence, sexual violence, is what is normal,” she said.

CPN’s House of Hope domestic violence program works to start a new cycle of healthy relationships and positivity for teens by holding events with the Community Renewal of Pottawatomie County. The programs focus on how to spot warning signs and good traits, successfully and safely end a relationship as well as approach a friend or loved one who is in a bad relationship.

“It’s hard to leave that relationship when it started off so well, and it went so well for so long, and then it just slowly turned bad,” Woody said. “I kind of look at it as a frog in hot water. If you turn the heat on slowly, the frog will stay there.”

Some of the “red flags” the HOH focuses on are controlling, manipulation, physical harm, cheating, a short temper and constant contact to the point of stalking. “Green flags” include open dialogue about feelings, respect, autonomy and opinions, trust and equality.

“We want to catch those kids when they’re young, teach them those skills, those signs so that the cycle really stops with them,” Woody said.

LoveIsRespect.org is a project of the National Domestic Violence Hotline aimed at ages 13 to 26. It offers a safety hotline and online chat platform to talk with advocates. StrongHearts Native Helpline is a confidential, easy-to-use resource on the web at strongheartsline.org and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @strongheartsdv.

Find House of Hope and its resources at cphpotawatomienationhouseofhope.org and on Facebook at Citizen Potawatomi House of Hope.

Language update

By Justin Neely, Language Department Director

Beboja jayék (Hello everyone).

It’s been an active time in the language department. If you haven’t already checked out our two YouTube channels — one for kids and one geared toward adults — check them out. Also, we share a lot of content on our Potawatomi language Facebook page, cphn.news/langfb.

Kids channel: cphn.news/langfbkids

Adults geared channel: cphn.news/langfblang

We just wrapped up another Popeye cartoon that is about 20 minutes long. We also are wrapping up a number of video books that have been really popular. Our staff is working hard on a new project to develop a series of books for Level 1 and Level 2 readers. We also now have some of our 7 Grandfathers posters available in the Potawatomi Gifts: Wídaewen, Bravery; Edéewen, Humility; Debaanwe, Love; Wídaanwe, Respect; and we just finished Geweewawote, Honesty. Order them online at cphn.news/posters.

We also just wrapped up our first semester of high school classes. This year, we are offering the language in Maas, Winette, Shavonwe and Tecanweh. We hope to partner with more districts in the coming months. We are able to offer the language anywhere in Oklahoma, and it counts toward a student’s high school graduation credit for language.

We are still going to be doing our annual winter storytelling event on Friday, Feb. 26. The stories will be pre-recorded and available on that date. We will put them on our YouTube channel and include links in our Facebook group as well as the Tribe’s website. We are planning on each staff member telling two stories and plan to have 10-12 stories. We will remove the stories once winter has passed. Traditionally, we only tell certain stories in the wintertime, preferably when there is snow on the ground. We believe that in the wintertime the spirits and the earth are asleep. The snow covering the earth is like a blanket.

Make sure to check out our many resources available. We have a video that describes some of the many tools available for learning the language such as our online dictionary, online self-paced classes, Quizlet, and Memrise program. Check out our video to see what’s available. cphn.news/langpromo.

We are going to be adding to and updating our 9,500-word online dictionary in the coming months. We will be adding additional videos and audio files. Our IT department, which created our dictionary, is going to be adding some cool features such as a game that will quiz you on various words, adding a fun element to the dictionary.

The IT department along with Tribal archives is finishing adding audio to the language kiosks on the Cultural Heritage Center’s filter, so now visitors will be able to hear the words and it counts toward a student’s high school graduation credit for language.
Remembering the 1887 Dawes Act’s impact

Feb. 8, 2021, marks 134 years since the United States Congress passed the Dawes General Allotment Act. This policy divided tribal land into individual holdings, and it included provisions for opening the leftover plots to non-Native settlement. As a result, tribes across the United States lost 62 percent of their land, or nearly 96 million acres, which included large swaths of the Citizen Potawatomi reservation in present-day Oklahoma.

“It served the larger purpose because the larger purpose was twofold: to make us more like white people or destroy us and get large amounts of land out of Native control and into the hands of individual, non-Native citizens,” said Dr. Kelli Mosteller, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center director.

While the Dawes Act did not impact every tribe in the United States, it affected a tremendous number of Native Nations within the central Plains region, including most that call Oklahoma home. Settlers wished to hold property and establish farming and ranching enterprises on the fertile lands between the Rocky and Appalachian Mountain ranges. The Dawes Act provided the groundwork needed to meet these requests and encouraged agricultural development.

Through the act, Citizen Potawatomi received allotments based upon age and family standing: 160 acres for heads of households, 80 for unwed adults and 40 for those under 18. The Potawatomi reservation included portions of present-day Potawatomi, Cleveland and Oklahoma counties, and many Tribal members chose plots in the southern and northern-most portions of the 900-square-mile reservation.

Not the first “rodeo”
The Dawes Act was not the Nation’s initial experience with the allotment process. The Treaty of 1861 served as one of the federal government’s earliest experiments with providing Native Americans individual plots of land to then open the remaining acres for non-Native settlement. However, within a few short years after signing the treaty, a great number of Tribal members soon found themselves landless due to the federal government’s refusal to fulfill agreements.

Through the Treaty of 1867, many Citizen Potawatomi members that still possessed their properties sold them to purchase a new reservation in present-day Oklahoma. In 1872, the Tribe went through another round of allotments on the new reservation. Although some Citizen Potawatomi received plots of land in 1872, the Nation owned the surplus acres.

“By 1887, this was our third allotment for the Citizen Potawatomi,” Dr. Mosteller explained. “We had done this. We knew what we were getting into, but with the Dawes Act, there was nothing we could do.”

The 1861 and 1872 allotment processes provided opportunities for the Citizen Potawatomi to voice their concerns to the federal government, but the Dawes Act did not. Approximately 1,600 Citizen Potawatomi received plots of land through the 1887 legislation.

“It was not a panacea — a cure-all — for the ‘Indian problems’ that the federal government touted it to be, and they absolutely knew that,” Dr. Mosteller said. “They argued that this would make life better for Native people, but they knew that was very likely not going to be the case.”

Oklahoma statehood
Although originally touted as Indian Territory — lands set aside for only Native Nations for as long as the grass grew and the water flowed — the Dawes Act laid the groundwork for Oklahoma to become an official state.

“Opening up land in Oklahoma for non-Native settlement and the Dawes Act were happening in tandem. The Organic Act of 1890 opened up ‘Unassigned Lands’ and established boundaries for the formation of Oklahoma Territory, which included almost all of present-day Lincoln, Payne, Logan, Oklahoma, Canadian, Cleveland, Kingfisher and Potawatomi counties. It also opened up the panhandle — known as the Public Land Strip or No Man’s Land — and the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache, Cheyenne-Arapaho, Osage, Otoe, Kaw, Ponca, Pawnee and Wichita-Atabasca reservations.

Hasland continued...

Haaland’s nomination financial dealings did not indicate a background humber than many of her contemporaries in Washington D.C.’s halls of power. According to Politico, while cabinet officials are often among the richest 1 percent of Americans, Haaland is a mold breaker in that she does not have the luxury of a checking account with more than $5,000 and carries between $15,001 and $50,000 in student loan debt. She also has no income beyond her $174,000 congressional salary and $175 in annual payments from her tribe.

In an interview with Roll Call in 2019, Haaland recalled struggling to afford housing and holiday meals as a single mother. Her difficulties qualify ing for a ‘pioneer spirit,’ but I think more accurately, it’s a spirit of people who understand that they don’t know what tomorrow brings and to make the most of today,” Dr. Mosteller said.

Learn more about The Dawes Act and its impact on the CPN by visiting the Cultural Heritage Center’s gallery Indian Territory. A Place to Call Our Own or online at potawatomiheritage.com.
Melott descendant’s Legal Aid Society training teaches the intricacies of ICWA

In February 1996, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Omar Rana set out to make a change. He crafted an educational presentation on ICWA in fall 2020 that eventually became an official continuing education program for his fellow colleagues at the Legal Aid Society of New York City.

As a staff attorney at the organization, Rana represents children in the court systems. After taking the job, he realized the nonprofit had limited knowledge available for its workforce regarding Native American children and ICWA. He believes the protections provided through ICWA “is important to the survival of so many Indigenous communities.”

According to the U.S. Office of Indian Services, “The purpose of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is, to protect the best interest of Indian Children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families by the establishment of minimum Federal standards for the removal of Indian children and placement of such children in homes which will reflect the unique values of Indian culture.”

Before 1978, removing Native children from their families and placing them within non-Native homes was commonplace and served as a form of forced assimilation. ICWA sets standards for states to work with tribes when Native American children become involved in child abuse, neglect and adoption cases. It also encourages placement of these children within tribal foster homes.

“ICWA is so important in the fact that it’s helping preserve our culture and its helping (overturn) centuries of degradation and centuries of trying to break our culture,” Rana said. “Our culture is very alive and very well, and this is something that is protecting it for future generations.

“It’s a safeguard for not only children to be connected to their culture and be proud of who they are but also for tribal sovereignty legitimacy of the tribal system.”

When an ICWA-indicated case came across Rana’s desk, he researched resources within his organization to provide guidance. After utilizing all internal materials tied at ICWA, he began looking externally to learn as much as possible, and he compiled his findings to pass onto to his colleagues.

“I wanted to start by doing a presentation, but then my supervisors were like, ‘You should actually do this as a training and develop it more,’” he said.

Rana served as the keynote for Legal Aid’s meeting during November as a part of Native American Heritage month, and has since led three separate continuing education courses. Due to the coronavirus, the virtual sessions have provided an opportunity for more people to attend than might have otherwise.

“It’s gotten really positive feedback, and I’m glad. I feel like I’ve helped fix an issue that we’ve had because I think it was a really big problem that we didn’t have a training for ICWA,” Rana said.

**Inspiration**

Rana grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and has both Pakistani and Potawatomi heritage. He felt studying law could help lend a voice and uplift fellow South Asians and Native Americans as well as other minorities.

“I always had an interest in politics, and … this is something I could have talents in but also something I could be achieving the goal of helping other marginalized people,” he said.

Before attending Rutgers University’s law program, Rana studied at Kansas University and participated in the institution’s partnership with Haskell Indian Nations University. Through this experience, he became more acquainted with his Native American heritage. Living in the New York metropolitan area, Rana has a sense of connection to his South Asian background, but he felt like it has become harder to remain associated with his Potawatomi roots. The training assists with building a bridge between his Indigenous and career as a lawyer.

“This is a way — and has been a really positive experience for me — to be able to show this part of my heritage and show that I’m really proud of it,” he said.

**Future**

The U.S. court system has the ability to over-turn ICWA, but Rana said everyone can make a difference by voting for elected officials and judges that support the federal law. Additionally, he wants lawyers and others working in child welfare to utilize the resources provided through ICWA to ensure that the best contacts for each tribe.

Find the database at cpn.news/biaicwa.

“One thing I try to impress upon in my training is when you say call the office of the chief of the Cherokee Nation about an ICWA-indicated case … it would be like if you called the governor of Alaska and you were asking about this one person who could be a citizen of that tribe,” Rana said.

When a Native American child enters the welfare system, ICWA requires reaching out to the Native Nation from which they belong. Utilizing the BIA’s database saves precious time by increasing the likelihood of reaching the correct individual(s) within tribes.

Although ICWA establishes a foundation for protecting Native American children from forced assimilation through the child welfare system, Rana said “we’re still trying to cut out the tremendous amount of work lies ahead given the over-representation of Native American children in foster care. Rana hopes by educating others, he’s helping provide solutions that will continue to move efforts forward.

Find more information on The Legal Aid Society – New York City, visit legalaidnyc.org.

HOWNIKAN

CPN celebrates 25th anniversary of name change

In February 1996, Citizen Potawatomi from across the United States cast their votes during a special secretarial election to reflect the Tribe’s sovereignty as a tribal nation by officially changing its name from the Citizen Band of Potawatomi Tribe of Oklahoma to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior authorized the special election, which differed from the Nation’s annual election because members voted to revise the Tribal constitution with two separate amendments. First included the name change.

CPN Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett wrote in his January 1996 Hownikan column, “The first issue is very basic: correct the name given our Tribe by the War Department in 1867 when we split from the Prairie Potawatomi and came to Oklahoma. White groups of Indian officials from the main group and have no organized government, the U.S. Government calls them a ‘band.’ The word used to mean ‘renegade’ in common usage.”

Chairman Barrett noted that the Citizen Potawatomi were and never will be a group of unorganized deserters.

“We are a tribal Nation that signs treaties and agreements as a sovereign with the United States government. To be called a ‘band’ is an insult to the hard work and dedication of the many people over the last 130 years who have put a part of their lives into making us a tribal Nation… We must retain the legitimacy of our history in our name ‘Citizen Potawatomi’ as the first Tribe to take U.S. citizenship. That we are natives there is no doubt.”

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines nation as “a tribe of Native Americans or a group of Native American tribes that share the same history, traditions or language.”

Chairman Barrett’s column continued, “That describes us exactly: That is why we are asking you to vote for this change.”

The second constitutional amendment of the secretarial election decided whether all members could apply for Tribal scholarships, regardless of age. According to an article published in the February 1996 Hownikan, “While there aren’t enough funds to award all eligible applicants money, the Business Committee said at their November meeting that they are particularly concerned about middle-class students who aren’t eligible for Pell Grants.” Changing the constitution would allow more students to receive educational assistance.

Out of the 13,969 mailing notices sent to members, approximately 4,000 Potawatomi returned their registration forms to become eligible to vote in the special election.

A three-person election board made up of Shawnee Area Bureau of Indian Affairs Supervisor Robert W. Jones, Joe LaReau and Tribal Vice-Chairman Linda McCurdy announced the ballots, and the local BIA agency posted the results before forwarding to officials at Washington D.C. for final approval.

More than 1,500 were in favor of the name change, and 1,813 approved removing age restrictions on scholarship funds.

CPN’s seal prior to 1996 featured a black circle and included the words “Great Seal of the Citizen Band of Potawatomi Indians of Oklahoma.” After the renaming, a new seal was created with colored pencil, then and ink by hand. Designers crafted a digital version, which became the official symbol of CPN in 2003 and is still in use today. It serves to visually represent the Nation’s sovereignty and strong, rich history and culture that will continue for generations to come.

Learn more about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and read previous versions of the Hownikan at potawatomi.org.
Cultural Heritage Center develops traditional Potawatomi games into online experiences

Since time immemorial, Potawatomi have come together to build community through traditional games such as zhshke'nayabo (snow snake), guzege'wun (bowl and dice) and namkezke'tenue (moccasin). The Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center plans to release these games spring 2021 on a free, online format.

“The goal was to provide our members and visitors with a realistic virtual and cultural experience that creates a personal link from past to present. The various elements presented in this updated platform, from cultural lessons and gameplay to interacting with a period appropriate landscape, all enhance the educational value of the new program,” said Blake Norton, CHC curator.

CPN Information Technology Department staff member Nathan Hawkins, CHC Studio Manager Shawn Barfield and Norton began developing digital concepts for zhshke’nayabo (snow snake), guzege’wun (bowl and dice) and namkezke’tenue (moccasin) in 2017. They worked together to create an interactive display for visitors to learn about traditional games within the CHC’s gallery, Gite Neshnabek Zhechgéwn. Wanting to expand access and finesses the graphic experience, they plan to release them to the online gaming platform STEAM and within the gallery itself.

“We feel that they were a success but didn't provide a true virtual experience for our members,” Norton said. “Understanding our technical limitations at that time, we knew we wanted to redress our original goals for the games at a future date and exceed them with a 2.0 version. That is what we have done.”

Creation process

Barfield headed the project, working with two Oklahoma-based industry experts, Dano Scarbrough and Dan Moyer. They took the initial games developed for the CHC and crafted the highest quality graphic experience possible.

“The original one was just a drawing,” Barfield explained. “So it serves the function, but this is now a full, 3D game that you might see on your phone or on a home console.”

Launching the updates required overcoming many obstacles, including a small team and the coronavirus pandemic.

“I just think not being able to get to hands-on with the developers during COVID has probably the biggest challenge,” Barfield said. “It’s so easy to forget steps during calls versus sitting down and working through it and actually solving the problem right then and there.”

Moyer helped develop the character models, and Barfield focused on overall design and other 3D models while Scarbrough programmed. Rather than meeting in-person, the trio brainstormed and worked over the phone and video chat platforms.

“Video games are like films in which you basically hire an army to take care of all the little rabbits required to create a world,” Barfield said. “So with just three of us … I’m pretty proud of what we’ve accomplished visually.”

The Potawatomi homelands of the Great Lakes region often have long, bitter cold winters. Several of the competitions featured are traditionally played during this season as a way to remain connected.

“We had to make this decision: OK, this is a big game that can take hours if you want it to, so how do we make it a two-minute experience? It’s a weird mix to try and retain that community feel in a timely manner,” he explained.

Gameplay

Zhshke'nayabo includes throwing a stick down a snow-packed passageway to see who can launch it the furthest. Once exclusive to men, namkezke’tenue usually involves gambling and is similar to the shell game with a lid and seeker. Two teams sit opposite each other and hide bullets under moccasins. The object is to distract and deceive the other side from guessing the correct moccasin. Only women played guzege’wun at one time, using a wood bowl and eight dice. Six are painted, thin discs, and two are small, carved animals that represents the game owner's ‘dodem’ (clan). Players use the bowl to flip the dice, earning points based upon how the pieces land.

To help preserve some of the games’ intricacies, Barfield interwove deception that is common while playing in their traditional format.

“If you move over a certain moccasin to find the bullet or the ball underneath, the character’s face will change. They might look sad or they might look happy, and that’s kind of a tell. You don’t know for sure if that tell is fake or a real showing, so there is some psychology involved,” he said.

Incorporating layered elements also helped provide the most authentic user experience possible.

“Music has always been a big part of gaming and emotionally convincing the enemy that you’re strong, so that was an interesting thing for me to think about — that music can play a big part in deceiving the opponent or encouraging the opponent,” Barfield said.

This project furthers the Cultural Heritage Center’s mission to connect the Citizen Potawatomi to their history and culture through fun, educational platforms.

“These games allow the user(s) to step back in time and really feel what it is like to engage in these important social gatherings,” Norton said.

The Cultural Heritage Center plans to release the games online as well as within its gallery Gite Neshnabek Zhechgéwn spring 2021. For more information on the CHC and its educational programming, visit potawatomihertiage.com. ☟

A rising tide lifts all boats

By John “Rocky” Barrett, Tribal Chairman

In recent years, tribal governments across this state have developed sophisticated operations from once-modest organizations. Whether it’s employing tens of thousands of Oklahomans, providing law enforcement in rural communities, or bringing in federal funds to pay for road paving, Oklahoma’s tribal nations contribute greatly to our shared communities.

The value of tribes grew even more evident in 2020. Native nations across the state voluntarily adhered to the spring shutdown of non-essential businesses, focusing on keeping our food distribution and public safety operations open. Many tribes kept furloughed workers on the payroll, even as revenues dried up. In fact, job numbers grew for some tribal employers. Many unemployed Oklahomans outside the major metropolitan areas found jobs and health insurance thanks to their new status as tribal employees.

The 38 federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma received funding as part of the federal CARES Act. Tribes used that money to support tribal citizens as well as government operations and businesses. If you look to any part of rural Oklahoma within a tribal nation’s jurisdiction, you will find countless stories about how these governments used their resources to keep Oklahomans afloat and healthy during this challenging year.

At Citizen Potawatomi Nation, we distributed more than 65 percent of our CARES Act funds directly to our members for a myriad of uses, including online education, eviction prevention and income loss.

The public health work of Indian nations will help propel our state toward the end of this pandemic. Tribal providers are rolling out concurrent vaccination efforts that county public health departments are implementing in rural parts of the state.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services administered 3,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine in less than one month. This isn’t as simple as just sticking a person with an injection. It takes months of planning and millions of dollars that wouldn’t be in the state without the presence of tribes.

In Pottawatomie County, CPN used CARES Act funds to purchase the ultra-cold storage equipment necessary to house the Pfizer vaccines. We are housing these cold storage units for our own Tribal health services but also for our partners at the county health department and Indian Health Service.

Too often in Oklahoma’s halls of power, tribal governments are portrayed as casino operations and little else. That couldn’t be further from the truth. Almost all members are dual citizens of Oklahoma and our Indian nations. They are people who look out for rural Oklahomans because that is where their homes and businesses are. Our employees, relatives and friends may not all be tribal members, but what unites us is our belief that a rising tide lifts all boats, whether in the public health or economic realm. ☟
Darling family history

Each month leading up to June, the Hownikan will feature the history and background of each scheduled honored family selected for the 2021 Family Reunion Festival, including the Bruno, Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Lewis, Nadeau, Slavin and Smith families. The second in this series is the Darling family.

Ouilmette-Darling connections

The Darling family’s Potawatomi ties began with the marriage of Elizabeth Ouilmette and Lucius (Louis) Ripley Darling.

Darling was of Scottish and Irish descent and operated a ferry. He married Elizabeth on July 15, 1836. She was the daughter of Antoine, known as one of the first residents of Chicago, and Archange Chevalier Ouilmette. Archange’s mother, Chopa, was the daughter of Potawatomi warrior and headman named Naanwogen from the Calumet River. Chopa is related to other famous Potawatomi leaders through marriage including Naawatoneg (Mad Sturgeon), Wekhtineau (White Sturgeon) and Main Po. Chopa married Francois Chevalier, and the Chevalier family held a reputation as one of the main French-Canadian fur trading families in St. Joseph, Michigan, in the 1790s.

Antoine built a home near the Chicago River, and because of Archange’s Potawatomi heritage, they did not flee during the Battle of Fort Dearborn in 1812. They protected William Wells’ daughter Margaret Helm as the conflict ensued by hiding her under a feather bed. Wells and approximately 30 Miami warriors traveled from Ft. Wayne, Indiana, to present-day Chicago to assist Ft. Dearborn residents as they left the garrison. One year later, the Ouilmettes had a girl, Elizabeth Ouilmette and Lucius Ripley Darling was of Scottish and Irish descent and operated a ferry. He married Elizabeth on July 21, 1836, “In this Town on Friday morning last by rev. S. W. Beardsley, Mr. Lucius R. Darling, of Racine, to Miss Elizabeth Ouilmette of this place.”

He removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, with Elizabeth in 1837 and joined Waubannee Potawatomi band, serving as a trader. Their son William was baptized there on June 9, 1838. They had three children total: William, Francis L., Eliza, Lucius, Louis, Oliver, Charles Nathan, and the remaining children died while infants.

Arrival in Kansas

The Treaty of 1846 required all the Potawatomi removed west to relocate on one reservation in Kansas, and the Darling family made their way there in 1847. Their children attended the Baptists Mission School for a year before a Catholic school opened nearby in St. Marys, Kansas.

On July 10, 1850, Lucius established a contract to begin operating the Potawatomi Nation Ferry 1.5 miles from Uniontown for $650 a year. Due to pressure from incoming settlers and business, the Potawatomi signed a treaty in 1861 that offered an opportunity to become U.S. citizens and receive land allotments. Although Elizabeth passed away before the process was finalized, Lucius and their children chose to receive individual plots of land and became members of the Citizen Potawatomi.

Lucius then married Theresa Hardin and had one child who passed away at a young age. With his third wife, Esther Hartwell, he had three children.

The Treaty of 1861 was not successful for many Citizen Potawatomi. The government refused to uphold all the provision’s agreements, and numerous members lost their lands. The Tribe decided to sign another treaty in 1867 with the federal government that allowed Citizen Potawatomi to sell land in Kansas to purchase a new reservation in present-day Oklahoma.

Indian Territory

In 1872, an initial set of families made their way to the new reservation. Later that same year, a second group of families traveled from Kansas to present-day Oklahoma. The T’ribe decided to sign another treaty in 1867 with the federal government that allowed Citizen Potawatomi to sell land in Kansas to purchase a new reservation in present-day Oklahoma.

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Greemore descendant studies arctic sea ice as global warming intensifies

By Darian Young, Family Preservation Coordinator

Appropriate boundaries promote healthy development in children and are a necessity, alongside love and support. They allow children and adults to feel safe, have clear expectations and know what is acceptable. Some boundaries are easier than others to develop and enforce, while others will need updated over the course of time as children grow and mature. These invisible lines and zones mark the direct point when something turns from comfortable to uncomfortable, from allowable to unallowable and from healthy to unhealthy. Visualize a property line or a sports field/court. Typically, people know these borders and the consequences that follow crossing or breaking them.

As with physical boundaries in the world, our personal ones are likewise important. Healthy boundaries should exist in several forms within our homes. When it comes to safety, we teach things like: we cannot play in the street because of traffic, and we don't use our hands to hurt others when we are angry. When it comes to children's bodies, healthy physical boundaries can manifest in teaching children that their body is their own, and if they are not comfortable giving an individual a hug or kiss, then they do not have to do so. Simultaneously, it is teaching children that same level of physical respect and consent for our bodies should be shown to others. We follow routines such as bedtime and bath time each day, which are examples that provide children security and can lessen the fear or anxiety that comes from the unknown or unexpected. Boundaries in our homes can be important to ensure when parents consistently enforce healthy consequences when rules are broken or not respected. For example, if a child is told not to do something such as throw a toy or a sibling, if the behavior repeats, the guardian implements consequence such as putting the child or toy in time out instead of only threatening and then ignoring the negative act. Emotional boundaries are similarly vital and can begin by prioritizing communication. Encouraging communication within a home makes children more aware of trusted individuals to talk to when strong feelings such as stress, anxiety, fear, sadness or anger bubble below the surface, or if something happens and they need help. Additionally, teaching children to stand up for themselves when others attempt to disrespect or take advantage of them can strengthen a child's emotional boundaries.

Strong and healthy boundaries present throughout an individual's childhood typically will lead to an adult with secure ones as well. That is not to say one cannot develop healthy boundaries on their own if they were absent during childhood, but it will make it more difficult to establish them after one's self-identity is forged in adolescence.

Where to start if boundaries do not already exist within your family:

- Create simple routines for your children and family to follow each day. If routines are also a new concept to your family, start small, and choose one area or routine to work on first such as a set bedtime or curfew, or limited screen time.
- Announce the new routine or boundary through conversations with children, and consider posting the new expectation visibly as well. Be clear and exact when explaining it, and ensure you are committed to enforcing the boundary. Then, slowly begin implementing it one day at a time, working toward the new expectation. Model the boundary yourself as well, or model a similar boundary to show that as a family everyone can work towards the improvement.

Strengthening your family's communication skills will simultaneously assist you in creating healthy boundaries. Carve out 10 minutes a day to intentionally talk to each child about their day, any issues they may be having, something that has made them happy recently, something they're looking forward to, something you as a parent could do better for your child, etc. Strengthening communication can strengthen bonds and increase empathy, making both creating and implementing steady boundaries much easier.

If you or someone you know are involved with the child welfare system or are interested in the services FireLodge Children & Family Services Family Preservation Program can provide, give us a call at 405-878-4851 or visit us on Facebook @CPNFireLodge.
I want to express my heartfelt condolences to Bob Whistler from Texas for the passing of his beloved wife, Linda. We will miss her and our prayers go out to him and her in their time of sorrow.

I hope all of you are well and taking every precaution with the coronavirus pandemic. Our medical staff is doing a great job in working to provide vaccinations for all of our fellow Citizen Potawatomi and their spouses. Because of the effort and expertise of our clinic management and our investment in ultra-cold storage equipment, we have become a leading distribution point for the Pfizer vaccine. As a matter of urgency, our frontline health workers and most vulnerable elder populations are given priority. I urge all of you to seek this life-saving vaccination by contacting the CPN clinics.

The 2021 Tribal legislative election has exhibited some surprises and has ended up in CPN District Court already. This may seem a little complicated, but not so hard to do if one follows the law, which we have done and will continue to do. If you are being told differently on the internet or Facebook, check the facts. Call the Tribal office, and seek the truth. I will be glad to talk to you or refer you to a resource.

Here are the facts on the District 11 legislative seat election, up to today:

Normally, the District 11 seat would not be up for election for more two years. In order to follow the Tribal Code and the Constitution (Article 12, Section 4), Lisa Kraft is required to resign her seat as a Legislator to run for Tribal Chairman. She did this by letter dated Jan. 5, which I received on the 6th. The deadline for filing for election was Jan. 13.

Since the Hownikan for January was already going in the mail and was out to the printer, the Election Committee was only able to put notice of her seat being vacant on the Tribal website and publically post it at the Tribal offices. One of our Tribal members, Andy Walters, noticed the vacancy on the Tribal website and contacted Representative Bob Whistler, his friend, about the vacancy on Jan. 8. Since five days remained in the filing period, Mr. Walters filed for election for the remaining term of office. The Tribal Code does not establish that either the Tribal Chairman or the independent Election Committee has the legal ability to extend or change the filing deadline. The Legislature can change the filing dates by statute, but only before the deadline, not after the fact.

After the deadline expired, Mr. Jay Laughlin filed a protest with the Election Committee that the seat was not advertised as being open and he couldn’t run. Of course, with Lisa Kraft waiting until just a few days before the deadline to resign, as required by law, knowing the Hownikan was out, the best that the Election Committee could do for notice was the website and a public posting. The Jan. 13 filing deadline had been posted in the Hownikan many times, for months.

The Election Committee rejected Mr. Laughlin’s protest, and he appealed it to Tribal Court. The outcome of that appeal is pending at the time of this writing in late January. Lisa Kraft and her supporters have accused me of “packing the legislature.” This is baffling. There is absolutely nothing I could have legally done differently. I wish both Mr. Laughlin, who has run for office before, and Mr. Walters, who was a great help to the Tribe during his career as a police chief in Texas before he moved to Oklahoma, the very best. When the court rules, I will follow the judge’s orders, as I must. As for the accusations, I have been through 10 elections with my Tribe, I expect some political maneuvering. But if you read something that someone says I did was against the law, please let me know. I welcome a trip to the Tribal Court to see justice done and have them repeat it under oath. I’m not old or tired, and as most of you know, it won’t be my first rodeo.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

John ‘Rocky’ Barrett
(He Leads Them Home)

Tribal Chairman

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps

Beato
(Hello),

America has had a tough year in 2020. To make it worse, 2021 is not starting out any better, even though we still have unemployment and lost opportunity. Regardless of the setbacks, our Tribe has many blessings for which to be thankful. God is ultimately in control, just like all the previous years, which is why we have grown this great Nation to what it is today. We have many tasks before us, including economic development, infrastructure improvements, acquisition expansion and continued quality enhancement of all our programs and enterprises. We must stay busy, even though we still have employees quarantined. We are in hopes that the well-known phrase “This too shall pass” is appropriate for CPN’s employment situation.

We also have an election to look forward to on June 26, 2021. It is a very important one, just like all CPN elections of the past, present and future. There will definitely be a walk-in election on that last Saturday of June, even if we do not have the Family Reunion Festival. Tribal members 18 years of age and older will get to cast their vote, whether it is by absentee vote or by walk in vote. This is an exciting time for first-time voters. I had three grandsons who turned 18 before our last election, and they were elated to finally get to vote.

I would like to encourage all Tribal members who have never participated in a CPN election to cast your vote this year. I feel certain there are many CARES funding recipients that have not had the opportunity to vote in the past. I am pleading with those who received funding to please vote in this upcoming election. This is one way to truly feel connected to your Tribe. Of course, all Tribal members should vote, but it is always a special occasion for those who have not voted in the past.

I want to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to those who have shown appreciation for the CARES funding by sending notes through the mail, email, by calling — some even texted. I am sure that most of the recipients are thankful for the funding. It was a true blessing for those in need to receive such a wonderful gift during a frightening pandemic.

Many of you have contacted the Tribe to inquire about additional funding. CPN has had the honor of working with Jennifer Bell and her Assistant Director John VanPool to get the message out to our people as quickly as possible if we should receive more funding from Congress.

It is my utmost pleasure to work with you, and for you, all these years as your Tribal Vice Chairman.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Linda Capps

Vice-Chairman

405-275-3121

lcapps@potawatomi.org

Virtual Potawatomi Leadership Program

The virtual six-week Potawatomi Leadership Program educates a group of promising Tribal students from around the world about the government, culture and economic development of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Where else can you get a crash course on CPN? After your time in the PLP, you’ll be empowered with the knowledge and tools to be an engaged leader of the Tribe. Must be a CPN member, 18 to 21-years-old and have a 3.0 GPA.

TO LEARN MORE OR APPLY, VISIT PLP.POTAWATOMI.ORG

Application Dates

OPEN ON FEBRUARY 8 CLOSES ON MARCH 10

14 FEBRUARY 2021

HOWNIKAN
I've been getting notes and photos from family, Tribal members and friends reporting that they have received the first of their COVID-19 vaccinations. I've also been hearing from some folks who aren't so sure about the vaccines. In addition to the Centers for Disease Prevention and Prevention website (ckh. gov), another comprehensive source of reliable information is the Urban Indian Health Institute website at uihi.org. There, you can find fact sheets on the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines that provide important information on how and when whom the vaccines were tested. Please, for everyone's protection and to help end this scourge, get vaccinated and continue to conduct yourselves safely, consistent with the sound recommendations of nonprofit organizations such as the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health, which created this helpful graphic featured in this column.

COVID-19 vaccine and personal and public safety information

I've been learning that as of early May 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was forecasting that between 70 and 85 percent of the population will need to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity. This has led to a number of public health campaigns to combat vaccine hesitancy. For example, some community leaders are offering to use their own homes as impromptu vaccination sites, while others are offering to stay at home for a couple of days after receiving their shots to watch for any adverse reactions. Others are using social media to help spread the word about the importance of getting vaccinated and following public health guidelines. And some are organizing community-based vaccination events, where people can get vaccinated while enjoying food and music and other cultural activities. As more people get vaccinated, there is a sense of hope and optimism that life will begin to return to normal.

Lyle Simmons' pucker toe mukisiniin

Long ago, when the world was young, there were only two Turtles. They didn't have any shells or houses on their backs as we know them today. They were all soft. In the woods, the strong animals hunted the weaker animals, and Otter planned on eating Turtle. One day, Turtle wanted to go on land to take a walk, but he couldn't run very fast, so he asked around to see if any of the other animals were there. As he looked around, he saw Otter coming. So, Turtle turned around, crawled under a piece of bark and drew his head, legs and tail in, and Otter didn't see him. When Otter was gone, Turtle went back to the pond where he lived. But he didn't know that Wenebojo was watching him and saw how bad he had treated himself from Otter.

One morning Wenebojo was out fishing, and he asked Turtle where there were lots of fish. He said, “If you tell me, I’ll give you a sturdy house that you can carry on your back.” As soon as the Turtle heard this, he dived down to look for fish and found a lot, and then he came back and told Wenebojo where they were. Wenebojo thanked him, and got out of his canoe and asked Turtle to come up on land with him. There, Wenebojo found a piece of bark and put it on Turtle’s back, and got another piece and put it on his stomach. Then, they watched for Otter to come. When they saw him coming, Turtle went out on the path and pretended that he didn’t see Otter coming. When Otter saw Turtle, he jumped on him so he could eat him, but Turtle drew his head, legs, and tail into the new shell and was safe. After Otter went away, Wenebojo told Turtle that, “From this day forth, every Turtle shall carry his shell, or house, along wherever he goes.”

Regalia making

I recently pulled out some leather pieces to make a pair of traditional mukisiniin (moccasins) for a Dine’ elder friend. Cathy. Cathy has been working diligently for her community during the pandemic, securing PPE and cleaning supplies, and coordinating distributions to individual elders and chapter houses within the Navajo Nation. She recently lost her daughter to COVID-19. She’s put off knee surgery to care for others, so I am hopeful she will get that soon. Until then, I hope she can find a bit of comfort with her feet in some soft mukisiniin. I’ll be using the patterns and instructions put together by CPN District 2 citizen Lyle Simmons available at cpn.news/mocguide and watching the mukisiniin-making video featuring citizen Cathy Lakota Piichellei created by our Cultural Heritage Center as a refresh at cpn.news/mocg. Both of these instructional tools are also available to you anytime by visiting the “Heritage” portion of my website. I am cautiously optimistic that I’ll be able to see many of you with your mukisiniin in Grand Entry during either the last Sunday in June (Friday, June 25 to Sunday, June 27) for the CPN Family Festival or the last week in July (Monday, July 26 to Saturday, Aug. 7) when the Hahnschieff Indian Community hosts Potawatomi Gathering.

D2 family meeting March 13

I will be hosting another Zoom meeting on Saturday, March 13 at 11 a.m. ET. Among the guests will be CPN Family History Specialist Cratcher Thompson, who will join us to discuss researching our Potawatomi lineage. I hope many of you can join. The Zoom link is cpn.news/d2meeting. If prompted, the meeting ID is 813 1043 6316 and password: 951681. I will send out the Zoom link by email to all in District 2 for whom I have email addresses.

My best to you and your families for the new year, and miigwetch for the honor of representing you.

Kind regards and bama pi (until later),
Eva Marie Carney
Ojibwetakw (Blue Bird Woman) Representative, District 2
5877 Washington Boulevard
PO Box 5591
Arlington, VA 22205
866-561-6988 toll-free
evamariecarney@potawatomi.org
evanmariecarney.com
A reminder, under the Affordable Care Act, as Native Americans we are not obligated to purchase medical insurance if we have medical benefits service either provided by our tribe or from another service that is funded by either Indian Health Services or another Native American tribe.

For those of you that will soon be eligible for Medicare, I suggest you look into some type of supplemental to Medicare. You can start looking into Medicare 90 days before you turn 65. Unfortunately, if you carry the basic Medicare plan, you may have a spouse waiting list. In 2021, if you are willing to accept you as a new patient. The reason being that medical coverage, and you will find a weakness that they have that really bothers them. They may regret and tell them this story. It may help them as adults when they get to them for part of the cost they have covering most of the cost of prescription drugs at no additional premium. This is much better than the Medicare plan where you pay 20 percent.

In 2020 due to my wife's cancer treatments for infusion and radiation, the total annual medical cost was right at $300,000. Our out of pocket for all of that expense was just under $4,500, plus the $660 for the annual insurance premium. Yes, we had co-pay and some other fees that came to around another $2,000. Had we not been using Care N’ Care and but instead used basic Medicare, our medical expense liability would have been around $30,000. Care N’ Care is not available throughout the country or all of Texas, but if you live in north Texas, you may want to contact them to see if you are eligible for their program. Their phone number is 844-469-4220, or you can go online at cpncareplan.com. To find general information about Medicare, go to medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE. By the way, if you are not eligible for Medicare and do not have an insurance plan at work, but had to get your own medical insurance, Care N’ Care may be an option worth considering.

And finally, I recently spoke to the insurance broker who alerted us to Care N’ Care. He advised there are three new plans available for everyone in Texas over the age of 65. His contact information is Tai W. Chin. Phone numbers 888-778-9870 or 817-704-3480. I hope this information helps some of you.

Namings

On Dec. 19, I had the honor of naming one of our veterans and then assisted him in naming his daughter. Retired Lt. Col. James Spillman lives in the Dallas area and unfortunately is very sick. I was contacted by his daughter, Dr. Monique Spillman, inquiring about him receiving a Potawatomi name. She worked with her father and got the completed paperwork to me in record time. Lt. Col. Spillman was a jet fighter pilot who served three tours of duty in the Vietnam War. His flying call sign in the air was Sista (meaning “sleep” or “taking a nap” in Spanish). He received many awards during his service, including the Distinguished Flying Cross. While in his home, I was able to see a photo of him getting into his jet fighter aircraft, plus his bright yellow helmet and a display of his medals. I named him Mika Ogechi or Sleeping Warrior. After naming Lt. Col. Spillman, I read the script for him to give a Potawatomi name to his daughter, Dr. Monique Spillman. She is one of roughly 1,000 female doctors in the U.S. certified in gynecologic oncology. She is double board certified in obstetrics and gynecology. She serves as a Clinical Associate Professor at several medical schools, including Texas A&M and Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. In addition to being Citizen Potawatomi, Dr. Spillman is of Scotch ancestry and a member of the Gahtote clan whose motto is “Sto Pro Veritate,” meaning “I stand for truth.” She exemplifies that motto to whom she currently chairs the American Medical Association Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs. We named her Mshkeki-wubwe or Medicine Woman.

Avoid hurting others

When I was dating my wife, I told her of a story I wanted us to live by if we married, and it began as follows:

At about age 5 or 6, I recall that my brother and I were arguing and calling each other names. No cursing, but I wore glasses. The scene was on a quiet street, and in my mind, I am running and call one another names or throw things at each other, they will tell you no there was no fighting or that kind of anger in our home. Sometimes maybe a loud voice but nothing more. I give you this story because it worked well for me, and it is a primary reason my marriage lasted so long. If you have small children, when they start to argue, take them outside with a hammer and nails. Have them hammer the nails into a fence, then remove them and tell them this story. It may help them as adults when they get to them for part of the cost they have.
District 4 – Jon Boursaw

The following update regarding Haley Brown, Duk nee jay no kwe, was received from her parents, Toby and Kourtney Brown. Haley is in her final semester at Missouri Western State University graduate program pursuing a Master of Applied Science in sports and fitness management. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA, with one course left to complete. Haley is currently assigned to volleyball and softball, however, due to COVID-19 and the recent departure of their head athletic trainer, the staff will likely be spread across 14 to 16 sports since MWSU is considering playing all sports in the spring, including football. If she does get the opportunity to work with baseball team, she will be the team’s first female graduate assistant athletic trainer. Kourtney said she is hoping ‘The Griffin News’ will write an article about it, as this is a great accomplishment for other women who are trying to break into male-dominated areas. At this time, Haley is not 100 percent sure what her plans are after graduation. There are a few jobs she is thinking about applying for; however, she is also considering continuing her education to get her Ph.D. Well done, Haley.

FYI: Missouri Western State is a member of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association conference along with Fort Hays State University, Emporia State University, and Washburn University. For those you who may not know, Toby and Kourtney own the Brown Chevrolet/Buick dealership in Wamego. Remember to support CPN member-owned businesses.

CPN member selected to Kansas All-State Football Team

In last month’s column, I wrote about Torrey Horak leading the Roswell High School football team to a 13-0 season and the Class 2 State Championship. Just a week after submitting my article, it was announced that Torrey was named to the Topkea Capital Journal’s 2020 All State Football Team. This team is comprised of the Top 11 most outstanding players in the state, regardless of which position they played. Torrey is one of four quarterbacks selected and is one of four juniors on the team. For the season, he had 3,070 yards of total offense and 55 touchdowns. Torrey is the son of Wendi and Terry Horak. Well done, Torrey.

Keeping addresses updated

Obviously if you are reading this article in the Hownikan, your mailing address with tribal rolls in Shawnee is correct. I have recently learned that not all CPN members have notified tribal rolls of address changes. This type of communication lets the tribal know that they are on hold. Stay safe, stay well and we will get through this together.

Another CPN youth recognition

The intention is to connect to all the commonality that exists within the experiences we share.

Potawatomi online resources

Our language department has done a fabulous job of creating a lot of information about our heritage, traditions and stories for children. I reference it often. If you haven’t been on that page, please take a look as there is so much more. Find more information at potawatomi-language.org/language.

We also have websites, podcasts, Google, YouTube and television division boosting the market with knowledge.

This is not a social media promotion, rather an acknowledgement of our sources.

You could spend hours, if not days, just skipping from tribe to tribe, learning their stories, information and history.

The Cirtner Potawatomi Nation is there and greatly represented throughout most mediums. You can even find our museum on YouTube and a tour of what has been captured. They have done a beautiful job preserving our heritage. It would be an opportunity to see for yourself if you haven’t had the chance to visit personally. Check it out at cnp-news/YTpipe.

CPN legislators Bob Whistler and Dave Carney have also done a fabulous job of creating online resources or the selection of gathering that needed information and entertainment.

If we do nothing else in 2021, let’s have gratitude for who we are, what we have, and appreciate the fact we are here for another year.

Take the time to tell someone you love how important they are to you. It wouldn’t hurt to tell them why they are important to you either.

As we have seen issues, situations and experiences happen continually and expediouously — relish in the moment.

Create memories you can look back at next year with pleasure. Do things you have never done before just for the heck of it.

Contribute in some way to another we need. Think what the world would be like if we all did that? You too have something to share, so don’t be afraid and think it is unimportant. Sometimes we help others without even knowing we are.

Let’s get back to the small kindesses that are an expression of love.

Sending you love.

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

District 5 – Gene Lambert

FEBRUARY 2021

We have all been through a lot in the last 12 months, and it doesn’t look much better for several months to come. It is usually about this time of year when we are planning district meetings and scheduling naming ceremonies to be held in the spring. Unfortunately, all that is still on hold. Stay safe, stay well and we will get through this together.

Bezho (Hello)

February is often thought of as Love truly is what makes the world go around.

See there, and you thought it was your bank account? Money really does make you feel better temporarily. That doesn’t last the way it does when you love someone or when someone loves you. Just knowing they are there for you through the good, bad and the ugly gives you a home in the heart. We don’t want to test it by getting too ugly, by the way.

I would really like to take this time to share the love, acknowledging our heritage and all Native people.

If there are others, please let me know as I don’t want to offend anyone through a lack of acknowledgement.

Then we have Eva Marie Carney with her nonprofit The Kwek Society serving tribal women in this country. You may want to take a look and see if there is a way you could contribute. She too is a CPN legislator representing District 2.

Paul Wesselhöft is a legislator and a published author who writes about his life experiences growing up on the Nation. His books include The Redfeather Pentology and Enc: Pentoluate Live. I believe he has won awards.

Native podcasts

You would be amazed at how many Native people serve in multifaceted ways to contribute to the growth and betterment of our people.

The Red Nation Podcast is a good resource that covers energy, spirit and youth.

Search online for an article titled How Osmosis Can Bridge The Digital Divide Affecting Rural Tribal Lands. Their focus appears to be on informing you of the less-than-average lifestyle that exists today on U.S. tribal lands.

Check out this article about nine Native women with podcasts at cnp-news/podcasts. Each one allows them to tell their stories and educate the public on Native issues, customs and more.

Continue with Player FM app, and use it to follow along with indigenous cultural programs, social gatherings and powwows.

Native American Calling is another podcast you can participate with via calling and responding to various subject matters.

It is all so interesting and really helps you to see the successes CPN has accomplished by comparison. I think it would be a bit like going to other countries and seeing how they live to become appreciative of what we have here in America regardless of our shortcomings.

You will find unbelievable participation and activities, far too many to name. Each podcast has their own areas of focus, so you can choose things most important to you.

YouTube and looking ahead for 2021

YouTube is absolutely amazing on Native subjects, and I know once you start, you will be there for hours.

Then we have all the Native music available on YouTube as well.

If you have been isolated, checking out all the resources CPN would provide you is a project and an interesting way to spend worthwhile time.

In my opinion, this would be better than Facebook given “I cannot be trusted to keep quiet.” Since my last article, I really have been trying, but it is going to take a little more time. You can’t get by age without a few strong opinions.

Obviously, there are others out there with opinions a strong or stronger. Just a side note:

please remember that is exactly what it is — an opinion.

Think of how many generations have not had the opportunity or the selection of gathering that needed information and entertainment.

If we do nothing else in 2021, let’s have gratitude for who we are, what we have, and appreciate the fact we are here for another year.

Take the time to tell someone you love how important they are to you. It wouldn’t hurt to tell them why they are important to you either.

As we have seen issues, situations and experiences happen continually and expediouously — relish in the moment.

Create memories you can look back at next year with pleasure. Do things you have never done before just for the heck of it.

Contribute in some way to another we need. Think what the world would be like if we all did that? You too have something to share, so don’t be afraid and think it is unimportant. Sometimes we help others without even knowing we are.

Let’s get back to the small kindesses that are an expression of love.

Sending you love.

Your legislator,
Eunice Imogene Lambert
Representative, District 5
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San Tan Valley, AZ 85143
480-228-6569
euniceimogabert@gmail.com
District 8 – Dave Carney

Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Just as it seems things may be getting a bit more "normal," they just get stranger and stranger. COVID-19 cases (and deaths) continue to take their toll as well as what seems like general craziness around the world. Sometimes, news events hit close to home. On Dec. 2, there were devastating landslides as a result of heavy rains and flooding in Haines, Alaska, a small town of less than 2,500. One of our CPN District 8 members is still missing and presumed to have walked on, Janae Larson. Janae is an amazing young woman who had just started teaching kindergarten at Haines Elementary School. By all accounts, she is respected and thought highly of by students and staff alike. Our hearts go out to her mother Kim and her family. I learned recently that Beverly Holly, a second cousin to me, and her husband, Robert, were recently diagnosed with the coronavirus. Then, very tragically, I was told that she walked on in her home in Topeka, Kansas, on Dec. 20. Thankfully, her husband is making a recovery, I am told. Beverly was a hugger with a huge heart. She loved all things concerning her Native heritage. In fact, I only got to know her from interaction at the CPN Family Festivals over the years. Her husband, Robert, was always super supportive and right there, enjoying activities and tours, like the Nation’s eagle aviary. Beverly was a member of the Juneau founding family. Whenever possible, I am staying in touch with District 8 members, but I can only do this if I have your contact information — especially email. The Nation does not provide this information to legislators, as many members assume. I would especially like to hear from members in Minnesota and Iowa, as I have very few connections in these states. Please email me at dcarney@potawatomi.org. The status of the Family Festival has not been determined; however, there will be elections at the end of June. The candidates are not announced (as of the time I am writing this); however, I do know that Chairman Barrett is running for re-election. I have a great deal of respect for the Chairman and the synergy between him and Vice-Chairman Capps that have gotten us the amazing success we have enjoyed and the stability that is lacking in so many other tribal governments.

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

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

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft

Bebo nikan
(Hello friend),

I saw something the other day online, and it got me to thinking. Even in Oklahoma, there are a lot of people who misunderstand what a Native American is. In hopes of showing some of the strange responses I’ve received over the years when I’ve told people of my Potawatomi heritage, I wanted to share revised versions that highlight the inappropriateness of these statements and questions.

Six things Native Americans should say to white people:
1. How much white are you?
2. I’m part white myself, you know?
3. My great-great-grandmother was a full-blooded white American princess.
4. Funny — you don’t look white.
5. Do you live in a covered wagon?
6. Hey, can I take a picture of you?

Migwetch
(Thank you),
Paul Wesselhöft
Naganit (Leader)
Representative, District 9
naganit@potawatomi.org

Paul Wesselhöft
Naganit (Leader)
Representative, District 9
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THE Hownikan PODCAST

ENDS FEB 15 AT 5 PM CT
Apply at portal.potawatomi.org
Bev was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on June 22, 1925, but by age 1, she was in Topeka, Kansas, and lived there the rest of her life. She was the third child born to Melvin Andrew Goodson and Lilian Eileen Schwartz Goodson. Bev is survived by her husband of 35 years, Robert Kenneth Holly; 3 and three siblings: brothers, Mark Edward Goodson and his wife Susan of Longview, Texas, and David Andrew Goodson and his wife Connie of Oswakie, Kansas; and sister, Amy Rose Herrick and her husband, Randyl of Christainsted, S. Croix, Virgin Islands. Beverly is also survived by her large “bonus” family. To Bev, they were never stepchildren.

Beverly was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Her Native American name was Walsenfe, which means Sun Rise Woman. She was a direct descendant of three Potawatomi honored families through Solo-mon Juneau and Joesette Vieux Juneau; and their son, Narcisse Juneau and her wife Madeline Yott Juneau. She loved everything about her Native American heritage. She was ultimately the driver behind her immediate and extended family learning to love their CPN heritage and participating in the CPN’s annual festival and powwow and Potawatomi Gathering.

Beverly’s complete obituary and a video tribute are available on the Davidson Funeral Home website at davidsonfuneralhome.obituaries. We will always love you Bev, and we will see you in heaven someday. Bama pi (Until later).

David Oliver Holloway

David Oliver Holloway of Safford passed away on Dec. 13, 2020, at his home with his family at his side. He was born on April 10, 1927, in Ada, Oklahoma, to Grover C. Holloway and Ophelia Lambert Holloway with siblings Opal, Leonid, Corlous, Carter, Hubbard, Beck, Jim and Bill.

David joined the U.S. Army on June 6, 1945, in Oklahoma City and served during World War II. He was honorably discharged in 1946 in Houston, Texas, after having served in Germany. On Oct. 30, 1944, David married Hazel Emma Muck in Aoka, Oklahoma, and the couple was blessed with four children; Roy, Danny, Chris and Joan.

He was an upholder of trade but enjoyed fishing, hunting, playing pinicello, attending grandkids’ ball games, birthday parties and his Potawatomi reunion powwows. He truly enjoyed being with family and friends.

David is survived by his wife of 76 years, Hazel Holloway; his children, Roy (ReNae) Holloway, Danny Holloway; Chris (Terry) Bowman, and Joan (Jim) Pent; 11 grandchildren; 33 great-grand-children; and his pet, Sammie.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Grover and Ophelia Holloway; his siblings, Opal Holloway; Leonard Holloway; Corlous Holloway, Carter Holloway, Bubb Spurlock, Beck Cowgiong, Jim Holloway and Hazel Holloway; and his daughter-in-law, Pam Holloway.

Arrangements are under the direction of McDougall’s Caldwell Funeral Chapel & Gila Valley Crematory. Online condolences may be extended at caldwellfuneralchapel.com.

Imogene Huffman

It’s with great sadness we announce the passing of our dear mother, Imogene Huffman. Imogene was born Dec. 1, 1922, in the Township of Bales, Portawatomi County (McLoud), Oklahoma, to Samuel J. and Ruby L. Bryant. Imogene was 97 years old when she died from a stroke in Bakerfield, California, on Nov. 1, 2020.

Imogene’s father, Samuel, was born on Oct. 14, 1896, in what was later known as Shawnee, Portawatomi County, Oklahoma. Samuel’s mother, Hannah E. Cummings, was born in Alma Township within Widawski (Portawatomi for ‘Dawn of the Day’) County, Kansas, on Aug. 22, 1860.

Imogene was preceded by her parents, Samuel and Ruby Brant; and her sisters, Lavonne Whitemeck, Helen Butte, Jesse Taylor and Genevieve Minshew.

She is survived by her sister, Mary Alice Johnson; her children, Gary Alley (Satie) of Fresno, California, Barbara Jones of Bakersfield and Avery Huffman of Canoga Park, California; as well as her grandchildren, Tiffany Jones (Joe) and Brian Jones (Lisa); and great-grandchildren Juniper, Lily, Ivy, Sierra and Uka. Imogene also leaves behind cousins, nephews and nieces that dearly loved her.

Imogene was a loving, kind woman and mother who enjoyed sewing and reading her Bible. Her favorite religious song was Amazing Grace. Imogene won three blankets at various Potawatomi powwows for being the eldest attendee.

Imogene will be greatly missed by friends and family alike.

A burial for Imogene was held Nov. 11, 2020, at Hillcrest Memorial Park and Mortuary in Bakersfield.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at hillerentrualm.com for the Huffman/Jones families.

Mary E. Prickett


Mary was born on April 28, 1925, and grew up on land that was later known as Parker county Grandmother, Mary Margaret (Bourbonnais) Dike, chose at her Potawatomi tribal allotment just after the Civil War.

She graduated from Kansas State University and soon after married David Prickett, an architecture student who served as a medic in some of the fiercest battles of WWII. David Prickett saw Mary Pedicord across the floor at a dance in college, and that was it. She was the one, though he had to work to convince her of that fact.

Mary and David began their life together in Westminster, Kansas, living above a dry cleaning shop. The Thier daughter, Mary Sue, arrived in 1952. Work took them to Topeka, where David designed several notable public buildings. Over the next 40 years, David also designed eight homes for the family that they built themselves. Each one was a testament to teamwork. David was the dreamer, and Mary made sure the job got done.

David retired early; and they hit the road in a succession of smaller and smaller RVs, a traveling all over the United States, including several trips to Alaska. In the 1980s, they landed in Washinton, Oregon, where they built two houses for themselves and one for their daughter. At 60-something, Mary was climbing on rafts, out-working most of the crew.

Mary was a champion for those in need. She was brave and strong and elegant without overcoming it. She was practical but always had room for art.

Mary has lived for the last several years at the Potawatomi Village in Rossville. She is survived by her daughter, Mary Sue Prickett, and her grandson, David Bowman Ross.
Michael James Dockry, son of the late Dr. Patrick Francis Dockry and Genevieve (Doyle) Dockry, passed on Dec. 16, 2020, surrounded by his wife of 51 years, Eleanor Dockry, and his two sons, Michael John Dockry and William Patrick Dockry. He deeply loved his late sister, Mary Ann Harry, and brothers, Patrick Dockry and Dennis Dockry, their families, and his cousins and relatives. Mike was a devoted spouse, brother, father and grandfather. He was proud of his heritage, both as an Irishman and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Mike was descended from the Slavin family, and his Potawatomi name was Nan Zhe Jeven (Reflective Water), given to him by his cousin, Sr. Ginger Pearl, CSJ.

Mike enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and achieved the rank of sergeant in the early 1960s. Mike obtained his broker’s license and began Dockry Commercial Real Estate. Business for Mike was comfortable and welcomed. He longed for a deeper and meaningful faith. He lived his younger years in Shawnee and spent a lot of time with his grandparents at the Bourbonnais Cabin, which is now part of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center. He later moved to California where he graduated from South Gate Senior High School and attended Long Beach State College.

He had a successful career in IT for 25 years in system analysis, programming computers. He was a naturalist and loved all the cosmos. He purchased a wall tile memorial to Iva Lou Lazzelle, his grandmother, and himself at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.

In his later years, Raymond truly embraced his Potawatomi heritage and donated his regalia, which was mostly handmade by him, to the CHC. His wishes were to have a memorial feast at a later date.

**WALKING ON**

**John Ross Greenwalt**

Born Sept. 7, 1963, Scott Charles Arnett, age 57, cellular engineer for Verizon Wireless, passed away Dec. 9, 2020. There was no visitation, and funeral services were held on Dec. 14, at Smith Mortuary, in Derby, Kansas. Scott was preceded in death by his parents, George and Pat Arnett. Survivors include his wife, Laura; sons, Josh Arnett (Rachel), of Derby, and Ross Arnett, of Wichita; daughter, Amy Sacket (Dylan), of Wichita; brother, Jason Arnett (Tamnie), of Grand Island, Nebraska; sister, Amy Hensten (Dag), of Doniphan, Nebraska; grandchildren, Cayden and Logan; niece and nephew who called Scott “Uncle Dad,” Ashley Smith (Josh) and Derek Jones (Rebecca).

A memorial has been established with the Kansas Humane Society, 3313 N. Hillside, Wichita, Kansas 67219.

**Randy Glenn Goodman**

Raymond Glenn Goodman was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on Sept. 4, 1941, to Thomas Samuel (Buster) Goodman and Hazel Lorene Weathers Goodman. He passed away on Dec. 18, 2020, from complications of COVID-19 in Midwest City, Oklahoma.

He is survived by two sisters, Darla Wells and Shirley Goodman. He is also survived by brother, Thomas Goodman. He lived his younger years in Shawnee and spent a lot of time with his grandparents at the Bourbonnais Cabin, which is now part of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center. He later moved to California where he graduated from South Gate Senior High School and attended Long Beach State College.

He had a successful career in IT for 25 years in system analysis, programming computers.

The $2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

### 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.

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**Jane Kreeger**

Jane Kreeger was graduated from Seminole High School in 1975 and completed an associate degree at Seminole State College in 1976. She married Dan Kreeger, her high school sweetheart, on July 26, 1975. At a lifelong resident of Seminole, Jane worked as an accountant for various area businesses and in the oil industry. Jane's children remember her as a kind and devoted mother who worked hard to provide opportunities for her family and encouraged them to pursue their dreams and goals.

Jane loved spending time at the lake, caring for her many plants and small dogs, and celebrating every holiday with lots of decorations and fanfare. She was a generous person and a loyal friend. She spent most of her life as a member of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Seminole where she enjoyed volunteering and helping with vacation bible school. Jane helped her husband Dan run the local little league football program for several years.

The family plans to hold a celebration of life service at a later date in safer times.

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**A Funeral Prayer**

_Ebby yak shote gnom We have come here today_ (Reflective Water)

_Ewi nesh mye yak odo wdenwena To lay our brother to rest_ (Green Grass)

_Ngom she epaam sêt ode Today he walks_ (Brown Grass)

_Ga wët jëyë wat gi gambëjëk Among those who have passed on_ (Teal Grass)

_I yë i ebgedanoy ak ode ngemwn_ That is why we offer this song

_Emmo shkëtët wa jëyët ëmb shpërmëseg_ That his journey will go well where he goes above

_Iw enaj moyan That's all I have to say_ (Reed Grass)

A Potawatomi prayer for a specific loved one who has walked on.

By Don Perrot

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_CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls_