



Mkogisos | February 2022

Top photo: A cardinal sits among snow-covered branches outside Tribal headquarters.

## A LOOK INSIDE

### Page 6

Aspiring costume designer begins career in Oklahoma film industry

### Page 9



Fire head coach looks toward history-making inaugural season

### Page 11



CPN Health Services well-prepared for state Medicaid expansion

### Pages 13-18

Tribal Executive and Legislative updates

### Pages 19-20

Walking on



# Kraft found guilty of willfully violating election code

Lisa Kraft, a candidate in the 2021 election for Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairman, was found guilty on Jan. 12, 2022, of willful violation of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Election Code. The complaint was brought on behalf of the CPN Election Committee by prosecuting attorney Kelley Harris rather than any individual candidate.

Citing Section 4-1-132 of the Election Ordinance, the complaint states that the required political contributions statement for any candidate for Tribal office is due four weeks after the election. Candidate Lisa Kraft's statement was more than 100 days past due at the time of the court filing. Prior to the enforcement action being filed, Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale and Election Board Chairman Gary Bourbonnais both requested multiple times that Kraft submit the report. Kraft pleaded no contest to the charge.

The court assessed \$775 in fines: \$500 fine for failing to file the report and \$275 in court costs. The court also ordered Kraft to file the required public disclosure. The complaint was heard by Judge Philip Lujan, CPN Chief District Judge.

Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Court Judges are selected for six-year terms by the Tribal Legislature and confirmed by Citizen Potawatomi Nation voters. Judge Lujan has been Chief District Judge since 1985. The Legislature confirmed Judge Lujan as a nominee most recently in February 2016 with Resolution 16-38J&PS. Both Kraft, then a Tribal legislator, and Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett voted in favor of the nomination. Voters re-affirmed Judge Lujan in the June 2016 election.

One of the pillars of the Kraft campaign was increased transparency for the Tribal government. The *Hownikan* offered Kraft the opportunity to address what appeared to be a conflict of one of her main campaign platforms and to explain why she failed to submit the mandatory report by the deadline. Her attorney, A.J. Ferate, responded stating, "Ms. Kraft's disclosure report has been released and speaks for itself."

Although the Tribe has seen competitive elections for Tribal Chairman in the past, the 2021 election saw a very different kind of race. Historically, candidates have not raised contributions or purchased advertising beyond what was in the *Hownikan*. During this election, voters saw numerous billboards, magazine advertisements, radio advertisements and more. A significant amount of money was raised and spent in the election campaigns for the Nation's highest office.



Ronald Cunningham is listed in public records as the registered agent for Lazy Daze Investment Group. The company was formed in April 2021 and contributed \$5,000 to the Kraft campaign. Records list this location in a strip mall along MacArthur Street in Shawnee as the address. Cunningham is also listed as the registered agent for Green Remediation Solutions and Beyond the Pines, which are also located in the strip mall.

Kraft reported raising \$21,550 from 12 donors. A redacted document showed an additional \$192 in donations of less than \$50. Barrett reported \$2,000 in contributions from seven donors. The third candidate, Steve Castaneda, reported no donations.

Disclosed donations for Kraft included four contributions of \$5,000 each from Charlotte and Gary Barnett, Lazy Daze Investment Group, Dave Landin and Mario Max Fairchild. Heather Dolan donated \$50; David Beerley, Bruce Kime, Dorn Weaver and Michael Riddle donated \$100 each. JD Colbert and Rand Elliot contributed \$250 each, and Kay Wheeler donated \$600.

The Kraft campaign was asked to provide additional details about who was behind Lazy Daze Investment Group but did not provide any information. A search of the Oklahoma Secretary of State database shows that Lazy Daze Investment Group LLC was formed in April 2021 with Ronald Scott Cunningham listed as the registered agent. Records indicate that Cunningham is also the registered agent for Lazy Daze Construction LLC, Green Remediation Solutions and Beyond the Pines marijuana dispensary. Most donors to the Kraft campaign are not enrolled Citizen Potawatomi.

Barrett's donors were all Citizen Potawatomi, most of them elected Tribal officials. Contributions to Barrett were all ads placed in the *Hownikan* endorsing him for re-election. Advertising costs to endorse Barrett were \$750 from Linda Capps, \$500 from Andy Walters, \$300 from Robert Whistler, \$150 from Stella LaClair Hackler Malone and Gene Lambert, and \$75 each from Mark Johnson and Rande Payne.

When asked about candidates receiving donations from corporations and non-Citizen Potawatomi, Barrett stated that he believes "CPN members should be concerned when large sums of money from non-Potawatomi companies enter our elections. At a minimum, a candidate should be certain that there is no quid-pro-quo involved in the contributions."

Kraft was asked why she thought people were interested in donating such a significant amount to her campaign. In an emailed response from Kraft's lawyer, A.J. Ferate, he said, "Ms. Kraft was blessed to meet with tribal members young and old, near and far. Some of those members, her family, and friends heard her message of bringing a new day to the Potawatomi people and responded by investing in her vision."

The Kraft campaign purchased numerous billboards and advertisements throughout Oklahoma and in local media. Billboards along Interstate 40, where Kraft had multiple posted, have rates of \$400-\$800 each per four-week period. Barrett had two billboards along the same stretch of highway. Both candidates also ran ads in the *Shawnee Outlook* magazine for March-June. A half-page ad in the publication costs \$600.

Candidates are not required to disclose their own campaign expenses. Both candidates were asked how much of their own money they contributed to their campaign. Kraft did not provide that information. Barrett estimated he spent approximately \$5,000 of his own funds.

Voters re-elected Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett in 2021 with 1,867 votes, 869 for Kraft, and 67 for Steve Castaneda. ♡

# Photographer shows Indigenous subjects through new lens

After moving to New York City in 2017, professional photographer and artist Bo Apitz achieved a milestone. A shop in Manhattan displayed his work in October 2021, a first for Apitz. He used several photos of Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members he took while he was a CPN employee between 2014 and 2017. The portraits show them wearing their regalia or dancing by a fire. Apitz remembers the photos as some of his best work.

“The people that I know are my best photos, so that made (choosing) easier. But it was a little random. I guess I have images that I’ve posted (on social media) before and that I know are good and that are kind of etched into my brain,” he said.

The series featured lenticular prints, which use two photos and flip between pictures as the viewer’s angle changes. Apitz’s subjects seem to dance or blink.

Baseball cards of the late 80s and early 90s with this style inspired Apitz, in particular the Sportsfics series with three photos on each card. Apitz’s father, who passed on in 2021, collected baseball cards and bought Apitz his first film camera when he started studying photography in college.

“I tell people that I feel like he gave me the idea, essentially,” Apitz said.



*Photographer Bo Apitz enjoys reusing his previous work in new projects, such as these lenticular prints. (Photo provided)*

After feeling underwhelmed by photography in galleries and art shows around New York City, he strove to develop an interactive idea that engaged the viewers. The lenticular printing proved a unique challenge that fulfilled his wish.

“You don’t just look at an image; you kind of move with it,” Apitz said. “And I’m going to take that even further the next set of prints I have because this isn’t like the first and only time I’m going to do something

like this. But I will say that all of the photos I create, I won’t create again.”

#### Repurpose

During his time working for the Tribe, Apitz learned more about Indigenous culture and art than ever before. Displaying some of his favorite photos of CPN members felt like announcing his arrival to the NYC art scene.

“When you live in Oklahoma, and you’re surrounded by Native culture and Native people, you think you know a lot about the culture. But then, when you work, or you really start to learn, you find out that you don’t know much of anything, really. ... And I worked long enough for the Tribe to understand that for me, I feel almost like it’s a part of



*Bo Apitz (Photo provided)*

me now to share what I have learned so that will spark someone else to learn and understand the Native culture that they’re surrounded by,” Apitz said.

His photos with lenticular images show intricate beadwork, applique stitching and regalia. In recent years, increased representation in popular media has shined a light on Indigenous fashion, which Apitz combined with a nod to the baseball cards of his childhood.

While he used many of the photos in his recent display in other projects, he tries to give them new life with every idea. He feels many photographers and artists leave their previous work behind and miss opportunities to revisit it.

“I’m really big into reduce, reuse, recycle, and ... it’s just like my way of recycling old photos that I took,” Apitz said. “I feel like up until my final days, I’ll be able to take photos that I’ve taken years ago and be able to reuse them in a different way from my original intention.”

The lenticular prints called for long periods of trial and error, and in the end, the process inspired Apitz to keep making art.

“I have several other things in the works that I want to create similar to this project. ... It’s definitely not the last of it. And some of the stuff that I have in mind is kind of even a play on what I’ve done with this so far,” Apitz said.

Find Bo Apitz’s photography on Instagram [@benjaminoscar](#) and online at [benjaminoscar.com](#). ♡



*Apitz enjoys photographing people he knows and feels it makes his work more personal. (Photo provided)*

## 2022 ELECTION UPDATE

### AFTER MARCH 1, 2022

A letter and absentee ballot request form will be mailed to all Citizen Potawatomi Nation voters. The letter will contain information on what the voter will see on their ballot. If the voter plans to vote absentee, then the ballot request form must be mailed back to Citizen Potawatomi Nation and postmarked no later than June 5, 2022.

### MAY 1, 2022

Ballots for the 2022 election will be mailed after May 1, 2022. Ballots must be returned as instructed by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Election Committee. Ballots must be received by 10 a.m. on June 25, 2022.



## Bank of America's Native American support tops \$17 million since 2020

Funding addresses needs related to health, jobs, affordable housing and small business

By Bank of America

Bank of America announced in November 2021 that it has directed more than \$17 million to support Native American communities since the onset of the pandemic. Funding includes capital investments and philanthropic grants to nonprofits and institutions providing services to Indigenous communities as part of the bank's effort to advance racial equality and economic opportunity through its \$1.25 billion, five-year commitment.

"Through investments in Native American communities, we are working to connect Indigenous people to opportunities that will help them build stability and a more successful future," said Andrew Plepler, global head of Environmental, Social and Governance, Bank of America. "We recognize that more needs to be done, and we continue to explore partnerships and expand our commitment to invest in Native American-owned small businesses, jobs development, and critical needs."

Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation received a \$100,000 grant investment from the funds to capitalize its housing loan pool.

"Anywhere, any Native business owner or Native community is struggling to grow or prosper due to lack of access to financial resources, we want to be at the table looking for solutions," said CPCDC CEO Cindy Logsdon. "This Bank of America award gets us closer to realizing this goal. We are grateful to Bank of America for their investment in our CDFI and their continued commitment to Indian Country."



In 2020, Bank of America recognized the disproportionate impact of the health crisis and directed more than \$13 million to Native American communities across the U.S., including \$10 million in capital to Native American Bank, a community development financial institution providing funding for small businesses, affordable housing, community facilities and consumer lending needs. The company also donated personal protection equipment including over 1 million masks, 222,000 gloves and hand sanitizer to Native American communities.

In observance of Native American Heritage Month in November, the company announced an additional \$4.7 million in funding to support nonprofit partners working to address critical needs in Native American communities. This includes philanthropic grants to 39 nonprofits and institutions providing critical services to Indigenous communities.

Investments entail \$3.3 million in grants to national and local nonprofits focused on meeting health, hunger, workforce development, small business and entrepreneurship needs in Native American communities. Many of Bank of America's long-standing partners that address needs related to housing and community revitalization have also received funding, including First Nations Development Institute, the National Congress of American Indians, the National American Indian Housing Council, and First Nations Oweesta.

Bank of America is also expanding its partnership with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and education company EAB to support student success, financial sustainability, and ongoing institutional transformation at 37 tribal colleges and universities. Lastly, the company is launching a \$1 million, four-year partnership with Water First in Canada

to support access to clean drinking water in Indigenous communities, which includes training young Indigenous adults for a career in water science.

Additional organizations receiving 2021 grant funding include American Indian College Fund; Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma; Community Outreach & Patient Empowerment; Native American Connections; New Mexico Foundation; Our Native America Business Entrepreneurship Network; Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma; United National Indian Tribal Youth Inc.; and others.

Bank of America has provided critical financial services to Native American governments and territories for more than 60 years and is equally committed to supporting its Native American employees. Founded in 2003, Bank of America's Native American Professional Network aids in the recruitment, retention and career development of Native Americans, Alaskan Natives and Hawaiian Natives at Bank of America, growing membership more than 80 percent in the past five years. Members actively promote financial education in Native American territories and communities, help raise awareness of Native business opportunities and cultural issues, and support Bank of America's business strategy of enlarging its profile in Native American communities.

Connect with Bank of America on Twitter @BofA\_News. Find the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation online at [cpcdc.org](http://cpcdc.org) and on Facebook @CPNCDFI.

## CPCDC helps Native families, businesses

By Cindy Logsdon, Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation CEO

Most Oklahomans know Native American tribes provide massive economic benefits to our state.

Our tourism and recreation attractions provide unlimited opportunities for residents and bring in visitors from across the world, and our enterprises create jobs and lasting industries in a wide variety of fields.

However, you may not be aware of the direct financial assistance we provide to citizens who want to own a home or start or expand their businesses.

It is my job as the CEO of the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation to finance, promote, educate, and inspire the entrepreneurial growth, economic opportunity and financial well-being of underserved Native populations. My team works to

help people move forward in life, which benefits all Oklahomans by creating strong families and communities.

We provide a wide variety of financing assistance, from \$5,000 to \$8 million loans, and we are funded by private gifts — such as recent large gifts from the Bank of America — as well as Tribal contributions.

We also focus on housing. We have participated in financing for multi-family developments in Choctaw and Mustang, Oklahoma, even though they do not border the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Why? Increasing the supply of housing in the Oklahoma City metro area helps create more inventory, which means more homes are available for everyone, whether they belong to a tribe or not.

For Tribal members, we also offer programs to assist young families as they purchase their first home and start building wealth. Crucially, we can offer more flexibility than other lenders,



Cindy Logsdon

sometimes enabling down payments as low as 1.5% and credit enhancements.

Besides the financial assistance, we help families take control of their

financial future by providing feedback and guiding them through big plans.

For businesses, we also offer mentorship about how to get started and develop a successful strategy. We sponsor Small Business Administration trainings, and our loans have helped entrepreneurs launch and grow apartment complexes, embroidery shops, coffee shops and car dealerships.

While our focus remains on helping Native Americans, we are not tied to projects on reservations. We serve a broad portion of the state, providing economic and lifestyle benefits for all our friends and neighbors.

In short, the CPCDC is just one of the many ways the Tribe benefits everyone in Oklahoma.

Cindy Logsdon is the CEO of the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation (CPCDC). Learn more at [CPCDC.org](http://CPCDC.org).

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## 155th anniversary of Treaty of 1867

February 2022 is the 155th anniversary of the Treaty of 1867, the last of several treaties that the Citizen Potawatomi signed with the U.S. federal government. This treaty was the final push for the first Citizen Potawatomi families to move from Kansas to Indian Territory. The U.S. Government officially ended treaty negotiations with Native American tribes in 1871.

Conditions were tumultuous in Kansas in the 1860s. Lying at the geographic center of the U.S., people began flooding west in the late 1840s during the California Gold Rush, which built up the California and Oregon Trails across the Kansas River. Residents experienced violent confrontations in the 1850s such as Bleeding Kansas that propelled the country towards the Civil War, which lasted from 1861 to 1865.

### Before 1867

In 1861, the Potawatomi signed a treaty that effectively split up those already living in Kansas. One group continued to live on a communal portion of land and later became the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Approximately two-thirds signed the Treaty of 1861 and opted for allotments in Kansas and U.S. citizenship. Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Director Dr.

Kelli Mosteller said those who took allotments and started the foundation for CPN anticipated a shift toward individual land ownership as the official “Indian Policy” of the federal government. The railroads, oil companies and the federal government all wanted the land promised to the Potawatomi in 1861, as well as settlers and squatters.

“One of the great complaints about when we took our allotments on the Kansas reservation was that we were taking the best plots of land by the river with the greatest timber,” Dr. Mosteller said. “And of course, all of the quote/unquote surplus land was supposed to be going to the railroads. And so the railroads desperately wanted the timber. And they were getting very upset that we were choosing these best parcels. And as you just sit here and think, ‘Well, of course we did.’”

While some Potawatomi had found fortune and business opportunities from those stopping as they headed west, overall, conditions wore on Citizen Potawatomi in unforgiving ways. The federal government broke promises of the Treaty of 1861, not providing seed or equipment to farm the land and collecting taxes on the allotments almost immediately. It took advantage of the resulting poverty and land loss by

implementing what Dr. Mosteller called an “escape clause” of the 1861 treaty.

“It was written in, and it was worded in a way, basically saying if any parties in this arrangement find that they are not thriving and doing well in Kansas, they have the option to engage in yet another treaty with the federal government to create a reservation somewhere outside of Kansas,” she said.

### The last treaty

The resulting Treaty of 1867 outlined the Citizen Potawatomi’s move to Indian Territory and promised more than 575,000 acres, stretching from the north fork of the Canadian River to the south fork, which encompasses what is now Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma. However, the families moving had to fund the journey on their own, and it took five years for them to begin to move.

“They had to settle their business in Kansas, and traveling in groups was safer. They also had to wait for the right time of year because there was not a road really. There was a trail that they followed. There are a lot of logistics that go into that kind of move. They had to make sure that they arrived at a certain time of the year so that their wagons didn’t get stuck, so that they weren’t coming right

at the beginning of winter and when they would not have time to build any kind of lodging,” Dr. Mosteller said.

The Anderson, Bourbonnais, Melot, Clardy, Pettifer, Bergeron and Toupin families were some of the first to arrive in Indian Territory with 14 wagons filled with supplies — only 28 people. They mostly stuck together, at least during the first few months after moving, knowing survival came with strength in numbers.

Dr. Mosteller called the Treaty of 1867 “one of convenience” for the federal government because it ultimately gave them access to profitable resources and land in Kansas. The pressures of assimilation and acculturation, including through legal formalities, forced the Potawatomi to relinquish their rights to land granted via treaty with the U.S. several times.

“They were signing these treaties because they knew what it meant to resist,” she said. “They knew ultimately the federal government had the power to force you to bend to their will. So we’re going to move into this new era, agree to these new terms, but we’re going to try to do so as much as possible on our own terms. We’re going to try to do the best we can

*Continued on page 6*

## ADVERTISED LEASE SALE 38

### NOTICE OF SALE OF DRY LAND FARMING AND/OR GRAZING LEASES TO BE HELD MAY 27, 2022 AT THE CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE SERVICES FOR THE SALE OF FARMING AND GRAZING LEASES ON TRUST RESTRICTED INDIAN LAND TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 25, CFR 162.

**SEALED BIDS**, for farming and grazing leases on the following described tracts of land will be received at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) Department of Real Estate Services until 2:30 P.M. Friday, May 27, 2022. **AN ORAL AUCTION WILL BE CONDUCTED IF THERE ARE MULTIPLE BIDS ON SAME TRACTS.** All bids received up to the hour of the sale will be opened at that time and leases awarded to qualified bidders offering the highest annual cash consideration, if such bids are deemed adequate and acceptable. On a tract receiving only one bid, the bidder will be given one opportunity to improve the bid. All bids opened at the time of the sale will be taken into consideration and reviewed by Real Estate Services staff with successful bidders to be notified of the lease award by mail. All bids must be enclosed in separate envelopes addressed to CPN Department of Real Estate Services, 130 E. MacArthur, Suite 204, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804, and marked plainly “SEALED BID FOR DRY LAND FARMING AND/OR GRAZING LEASE SALE TO BE OPENED AT 2:30 P.M. MAY 27, 2022.”

#### ALLOTMENTS WITH LEASES STARTING 1/1/2023

ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	1	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	2
821 50 Thomas Nona	40	SE/4 NW/4 & SW/4 NE/4 of Section 19, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma		821 62E Josette Bennett	30	E/2 NE/4 NW/4 & E/2 W/2 NE/4 NW/4 of Section 17, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	3	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	4
821 84 Joseph Epeteska	80	E/2 NW/4 Section 24, Township 6 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma		821 97 Clarrissa Mars	80	E/2 NW/4 of Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	5	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	6
821 S 116 John Baptiste Vasseur	80	E/2 SW/4 Section 18, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma		821 395-C Pean-ish or Peter Curley	40	SE/4 NW/4 of Section 4, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	7	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	8
821 S 510 Rozette Trombla	80	NE/4 SW/4 & NW/4 SE/4 of Section 25, Township 8 North, Range 1 East of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma		821-748 Joseph Lewis Acton	40	N/2 N/2 SW/4 of Section 31, Township 9 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian in Pottawatomie County, OK	
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	9	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	10
821 S 945 Joseph Welch	320	E/2 NE/4 of Section 20 Township 6 North, Range 3 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma		821 1325-D Harriet Pratt	10	SW/4 SW/4 NW/4 of Section 13, Township 8 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	

#### ALLOTMENTS WITH LEASES STARTING 1/1/2024

ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	11	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	12
821 87 Ellen Yott	80	NE/4 SE/4 and SE/4 NE/4 of Section 4, Township 5 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma		821 100 Joseph Haas	80	NW/4 SW/4 and SW/4 NW/4 of Section 3, Township 5 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma	
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	13				
821 326 Myrah Na-hk-sa	80	NW/4 NW/4 of Section 3, Township 5 North, Range 4 East and NE/4 NW/4 of Section 4, Township 5 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma					

For more information or to acquire a bid packet, please contact **Nicole Smith, Realty Specialist**, at **405-395-0113**, or at [nicole.smith@potawatomi.org](mailto:nicole.smith@potawatomi.org).

## Tribal member's dedication to Indian Country honored by AARP

Each year, AARP awards Native American elders for their contributions to the improvement of their tribes and communities. Citizen Potawatomi Nation member and Emergency Management Department Director Tim Zientek was chosen in 2021 as one of 47 elders recognized for his "achievements, community service and impact," according to the organization.

Zientek reached his 21st year as emergency management director in September. In a nomination letter, CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps called him "one of the Tribe's most vital employees," overseeing 25 staff members who all contribute to public safety, emergency management, housekeeping and more.

"Zientek's impact on the communities in and around the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's tribal jurisdiction can only be understated," Capps wrote.

While he joked about winning "an award for being old," Zientek also felt honored to receive recognition for his work at the Nation spanning more than two decades.

"After reading the letter that came, I was pretty humbled and very honored. And very honored that (Vice-Chairman Capps) would nominate me for it. It means a lot. And it reinforces what I'm doing and to continue what I'm doing to better all of Indian Country and CPN," he said.

Zientek has tirelessly built relationships from the local to the national level to advocate for tribal emergency department funding throughout his career. He serves as a member of the Regional Advisory Council for FEMA Region 6, an instructor for the Emergency Management Institute and



Tim Zientek

chairman of the Oklahoma Intertribal Emergency Management Coalition, which he helped found in 2004.

"It's a heavy lift but one worth fighting for, trying to increase the funding, because a lot of the tribes don't even have an emergency management program. And it's because they can't afford it," Zientek said.

He has spoken with more than 300 federally recognized tribes throughout the years, listening to their stories and needs. He has also built bridges with Congressional partners and federal agencies to educate and remind them

of the federal government's obligations to Indigenous nations.

"They're failing in a lot of areas. And if they don't know or don't see it, the only way for them to see it is to tell them, show them," Zientek said. "And I think that the pandemic has really brought it to light, the inequities of the amount of funding that's being provided to tribes to build their capabilities and capacities."

In 2010, Zientek and his department constructed an infectious disease mitigation plan following the 2009 H1N1 swine

flu pandemic. It provided an initial structure for the Tribe's response to the coronavirus in 2020, and Capps recognized his contribution to CPN Health Services' mass vaccination drives.

"His coordination with Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services, Pottawatomie County and FEMA oversaw the mass injection drives that vaccinated more than 6,000 community members in the first three months of 2021 alone," she said.

On a day-to-day basis, Zientek and his staff also help with disaster relief, sanitation, Tribal grounds

maintenance, event organization and much more. Helping those in need provides him with a sense of purpose.

"I guess the favorite part of my job would be the expression on somebody's face when we show up to help," he said. "You see the almost a relief on a lot of their faces that they've received some type of assistance when they need it the most," particularly in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

Zientek recognizes that his work for Indian Country and CPN translates into improved resources for tribal members across the state and their surrounding communities.

"It's helping everybody, and that's important. ... It's a priority for me, and I'm thankful that the Nation allows me to go out and assist those communities when they need it as much as we can," he said.

He believes trust sits at the core of building relationships, and at 61 years old, Zientek feels more work awaits him.

"I'm just doing my best to make it better for all of Indian Country and for CPN, especially for CPN, because it's just right," he said.

Previous Citizen Potawatomi Nation AARP Oklahoma Indian Elders Honors recipients includes Zientek's sister, CPN Workforce Development & Social Services Director Margaret Zientek.

Read more and watch a video of the 2021 honorees at [cpn.news/aarp2021](https://cpn.news/aarp2021). ♡

## Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

*Bozho jayek*  
(Hello everyone),

As we head into *shke bbon*, I thought I would write a little in Potawatomi and some in *Chemokmanmowen*. Then have a word list at the bottom. We have many projects we are working on. We are starting our second semester of language courses with our high school classes and also our Shawnee Middle School course. We also are still working on our *penojeyek mzenegnen*, which we hope to be out by *niben*. Also, we have scheduled our *bbon yatsokagewen* class. *Nmebne gises nswe* is when it will be. *Anet yatsokagnen* we can't tell in the summer. Certain *yatsokagnen* we are supposed to *mteno* tell in the *bbon*. *Kyetnam shena* I like to write in our language. *Kwetan* next time *nwi-nebyege* only in Potawatomi. *Megwa gme gishbek*, we teach in our Child Development Center. We will also be starting up a *shke* beginner class *kwetan* in *Nmebne gises*. We also are always making new videos and online content for our two YouTube channels *mine gé she* Facebook group.

### Word List

*Shke* (shkuh) – new/fresh

*Chemokmanmowen* – English language.

*Penoje* (peno jay) – child, *penojeyek* (penojay yuck) – children

*Mzenegen* (muhzinuh gin) – book, *mzenegnen* (muh zinuh gin in) – books

*Niben* (neebin) – summer, literally "a time of plenty"

*Bbon* (buh bone) – winter/year

*Yatsokagewen* (yaht so kagay win) – storytelling

*Nmebne gises* (nuhmubnay geesus) – March, literally "when the sucker fish run"

*Nswe* (nSway, the n is almost silent) – 3 or third

*Anet* (an it) – some

*Yatsokagnen* (yaht so kahg nin) – stories, traditional stories

*Mteno* (muh tin o) – only

*Kyetnam* (key yetnam) – really

*Shena* (shinah) – emphatic

*Kwetan* (kwat than) – perhaps

*Nwi-nebyége* (nuh wee nay byah gae) – I will write

*Megwa* (meg wah) – still/more

*Gme gishbek* (guhmay geesh uk) – every day

*Mine* (mean uh) – and/again

*Gé* – also ♡



## Picture this...

A mortgage process that is fast and easy. Our experienced lenders know exactly how to guide you through a new mortgage or re-finance. Whether it's your first home or your forever home—we put you first!

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## Aspiring costume designer begins career in Oklahoma film industry

Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Amy Higdon followed her passion for costume design and attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, graduating with a bachelor's degree in theater. After holding several jobs on film and television productions, she is now pursuing her master's in costume design at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"I did not get into costume design because I loved clothes, ironically enough," Higdon said. "I got into it because I really loved movies, and I love stories. So I guess my process when I'm designing something, it really begins and ends with character and story. And story is everything."

### Climbing the ladder

A significant portion of success in the film industry depends on networking. After designing theatrical productions throughout college, the Mueller family descendant branched out and began looking for positions on movies and television shows.

"If you're an actor, you kind of hope to get discovered one day and have a breakout role or something like that. But a designer, it's very much like chipping away at the stone and climbing the ladder. ... So it'll take a little while, but I'm getting closer every day," she said.

Higdon has worked as an intern, a production assistant, set costumer and more. A friend told Higdon about the first film job she accepted. An Osage Nation member directed the piece, and Higdon's friend thought she might be interested in the project.

"I was like, 'Oh my gosh, great; this is awesome.' And got there, and I was the entire costume department, so it was truly trial by fire. I showed up, and they were like, 'OK, here's the script. The actors are coming on this day. You need to email them and tell them what to bring in their suitcases,' because there was no budget. We worked from their closets," Higdon said.

In a recent *Hownikan* interview, she called working on set an "unglamorous job" but noted that passionate people and the finished product keep everyone on task.

"It can be very work-intensive, long hours — 16-hour days sometimes," Higdon said. "And a lot of carting around heavy clothes. People wouldn't expect clothes to weigh as much as they do."

After several years, Higdon met the requirements to join the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. She then worked on the critically acclaimed 2021 drama *Minari* followed by *Stillwater* and *Killers of the Flower Moon*, which filmed primarily in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, on the Osage Reservation.

### Fashion as storytelling

"I feel like I'm a cog in the machine that tells the story, and costumes are a huge part of that, but I'm not looking to push a certain esthetic or anything when I design. It's just a matter of being as authentic to the story and the characters as I can be," Higdon said.

Early in her career, she served mainly as a background costumer. She brought authenticity to the *Stillwater* and *Killers of the Flower Moon* sets by dressing the actors in non-speaking roles.

"You're figuring it out as (the actors) pull things out of their suitcase. ... Background costuming is a really fun way to kind of hone your decision-making skills and your resourcefulness when you want to be a designer," Higdon said.

Reflecting on her experience selecting minute details of a character's look, Higdon points out that the intention guides everything. Each actor's costume influences the feel of the finished product.

"Take your favorite movie you've ever seen and try to imagine the characters wearing something completely different than what they're wearing," Higdon said. "There's a reason why that costume is the one that made it on screen."



Tribal member Amy Higdon's work as a costume designer contributes to increasing Indigenous representation in television and film. (Photo provided)

She grew up watching adventure films such as *The Mummy* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and some of her directorial influences include Taika Waititi (*Thor: Ragnarok*), Tim Burton (*Edward Scissorhands*), and Guillermo del Toro (*Pan's Labyrinth*).

"I love directors like Guillermo del Toro because he's someone invested in the crafts and the creative departments of his films, and I feel like he gives those departments room to experiment and create and come up with really unique looks for things," Higdon said.

### Working close to home

Indigenous representation in movies and television grew in 2020 with the arrival of sitcoms such as Hulu's *Reservation Dogs*. Films such as *Killers of the Flower Moon*, which tells the story of a long series of murders of wealthy Osage landowners in the 1920s, and *Stillwater*, starring Matt Damon, shone a light on Oklahoma as a thriving area for the industry. Higdon worked on all three productions.

"*Reservation Dogs* and *Killers of the Flower Moon* were shooting simultaneously in Oklahoma, literally an hour down the road from each other. And there

was a lot of crossover in background artists that I dressed," she said.

While she mainly worked in the office for Seminole Nation citizen and director Sterlin Harjo's sitcom, Higdon enjoyed her time with *Reservation Dogs* and felt the show's Indigenous fashion reached many viewers in particular.

"All the costumes were from Native brands ... and it's like, 'Oh! The characters are wearing them because that's what we wear.' It's really cool," she said.

After working in the Oklahoma film industry since 2014, Higdon hopes it continues to grow and allows her the opportunity to work closer to home as opposed to on the East or West Coast.

"It's a really exciting prospect to think that I can live close to my people or in a region of the country that excites me — that has a lot of things going on that I'm interested in. And not have to pack up and be 1,400 miles away from home. ... And I think it just informs the storytelling," she said.

In summer 2021, Higdon saw *Stillwater* in theaters in her hometown, making it only the second film she saw on the big screen with her name attached.

"It was just bizarre. I was like, 'This is a movie that I helped make,' and in whatever small way. ... I'm very much just a member of the team. I'm an army ant, for sure, but it is incredibly rewarding and very surreal," she said.

Higdon encourages Native youth and artists to follow their passions as Indigenous peoples' representation and success in the film industry increases.

"I think it's one of the core pillars of our culture is storytelling and arts and crafts and skills that need to be passed on to the next generation, and there's nothing that's off the table," she said.

Find Amy Higdon's website at [amyhigdondesign.com](http://amyhigdondesign.com) and IMDB page at [cpn.news/higdonIMDB](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10454448/). ♡

### Treaty of 1867 continued...

to make this government work with us and for us, not just bend us to their will."

Although the Citizen Potawatomi and federal government signed no more treaties after 1867, those same pressures continued in old and new ways. Promises continued to be broken. They found the government had sold them lands that the Absentee Shawnee had inhabited for four decades, and the Oklahoma Land Runs began less than 20 years later. Dr. Mosteller often reminds Tribal members of the Citizen Potawatomi's resilience.

"When people ask us about cultural loss today, this is where I point out that we should be thankful for what our ancestors were able to hold onto. The language, the ceremonies, all of these teachings, they held onto these teachings and values against very great pressures that you and I today do not fully understand," she said.

The CHC works tirelessly to preserve and share the culture of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and its history. Learn more at the Cultural Heritage Center's website at [potawatomiheritage.com](http://potawatomiheritage.com). Follow the CHC on Facebook at [@cpnculturalheritage](https://www.facebook.com/cpnculturalheritage). ♡

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## Language Department offers in person and online resources

In 2021, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Language Department once again began offering in-person classes after more than a year of virtual learning due to the pandemic. Since many Tribal members live across the country, they continue to use online platforms during every session. Department Director Justin Neely teaches each class virtually over Zoom and uploads them to YouTube afterward.

Tribal member Lorrie Underwood has been tuning in from Colorado to as many classes online as possible the past two years. She appreciates the language department's effort to offer it via the internet.

"It's my only connection," she said. "And that coupled with things being cancelled, (Potawatomi) Gathering being cancelled, things like that — it's my only connection. So, it's very valuable to me."

Another Tribal member, Marilyn Annanders, has been attending in-person classes on and off for nine years at CPN's Cultural Heritage Center. She passes on her knowledge to family members, cherishing the importance of *Bodéwadmimwen*.

"My oldest uncle, he said that he had heard there was a language, but he never got to hear it. And he would have loved to hear it. And whenever I started learning, he would ask me all kinds of questions, and I did my best to answer. And it broke my heart he never got to learn," she said.

Annanders feels positive in her progress since returning to in-person classes this fall.

"I can understand what he's saying a lot more than what I can speak, but today I was actually speaking some of it, and it was kind of impressive. Woah! That came out of my mouth correctly," she said and laughed.

Neely tells students their success in the language depends upon self-patience and setting realistic goals and expectations.

"Don't be too hard on yourself," he said. "You're not going to walk out



*The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Language Department works to preserve and teach the Potawatomi language through in-person classes and a number of online resources.*

of your first class, your third class, saying everything perfectly. Not going to happen. Wouldn't happen with French, German, Potawatomi, anything. And that's okay. The more you use it, the more comfortable you get with it. The better your accent becomes, and you get better with it."

Neely feels children pick up the language very quickly, saying they may not be as outwardly motivated as adults but have less hesitancy.

"Kids don't care. Kids will say stuff messed up, and they'll repeat it. And they don't really care if they sound goofy or whatever, and they'll say it. A lot of times for adults, that's a little bit of a hang-up for them. They're kind of concerned with what their peers might think," he said.

Both Annanders and Underwood teach their granddaughters *Bodéwadmimwen* as they learn, and they both have surprised their *nokemes*, or grandmother. Underwood's granddaughter underwent her second open-heart surgery at just two years old. When asked how she was feeling after surgery, she responded in Potawatomi, "*Gawa*" or "Barely."

"Like I'm feeling barely. Like not very well," Underwood said. "So here's my

little granddaughter in the hospital. My husband walks in and asks her, 'How are you doing?' She looks him right in the eye — she's two years old at this point — and she says *gawa*, papa."

Annanders' granddaughter has had a long journey with language and the ability to vocalize her thoughts and feelings. Now in kindergarten, she enjoys telling her teacher, "*Bama pi!*" or "Until later!" as she leaves the classroom.

"And the first time she did it, the teacher was kind of confused," Annanders said. "But we explained what she was saying, and she was really proud of her for keeping up. Because she was non-verbal until after she was 4 years old. So she's learning both at the same time. Slowly."

Neely thinks hosting classes online and providing a myriad of internet resources not only reaches Tribal members across the country, but also meets the next generation of younger speakers where they are.

"You're trying to reach your audience, and the reality is our children, our grandchildren are very tech savvy — even much more tech savvy than myself. We have to make the language available in a medium accessible to them," he said.

Neely started a Potawatomi language Facebook group a few years ago. It grew in popularity and now has over 5,000 members from Potawatomi tribes across the country. He welcomes all of them to the online classes.

"You never know who's going to jump in to the classes when we post them and have them available," Neely said. "Sometimes we'll get folks that are Citizen Potawatomi, Prairie Band, Gun Lake. And it kind of creates that larger Potawatomi language community that exists out there."

Underwood noticed a craving to learn about culture and language while talking to other Citizen Potawatomi when she began taking classes. She sees them as a pathway to something more.

"There is a lot of language, and honestly, it will open doors to other stuff," she said. "You will meet other people, and you will start to slowly make those connections and get that culture fix that you think you're missing."

Neely agrees that language is the foundation. During his lessons, he often teaches short stories, history lessons and cultural traditions along with vocabulary and grammar.

"Like I always like to say, it's our stories, it's our history, it's our recipes, our ceremonies, our dances — all that stuff, that common blood that makes us Potawatomi. But really it's our language that's that thread that kind of ties it all together," he said.

After taking classes for two years, Underwood sees it as her responsibility to learn and teach the next generations of her family.

"Nobody can take the language away from you. If you can speak your language, that's not something you wear. ... You live the language," she said.

Find the CPN Language Department's online resources by clicking the "Language" tab at [potawatomiheritage.com](http://potawatomiheritage.com). 📌

# Potawatomi Leadership Program

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

While we plan to host the program in-person, we reserve the right to shift to a virtual offering should the pandemic severity require it.

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*Application* CLOSING ON APRIL 1



**POTAWATOMI**  
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

# High school sophomore scouted for college lacrosse teams

Popular in the Mid-Atlantic in the latter half of the 20th century as both a recreational and professional sport, lacrosse continued to spread across the United States throughout the last 20 years. However, many tribes across Turtle Island have played a version of lacrosse — or stickball — for centuries.

Most popular with Indigenous communities east of the Mississippi River, stickball — or *pegnegewen* in Potawatomi — was sometimes played on fields up to a mile long. Games lasted a few hours to an entire day, and players scored points on the ability to hit the goal post with the ball or cross the goal line. Modern lacrosse techniques mimic the many variations of the game from different tribes.

In November, the Warrior Diamond National Showcase All-Star team selected Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Chase Peltier to participate in a weekend-long tournament in Baltimore, Maryland, to exhibit his skills for college recruiters from across the country. The 16-year-old Peltier descendant recently spoke with the *Hownikan* about his experience with the game and time in Baltimore.

## How long have you been playing lacrosse?

"I started playing lacrosse when I was 5 years old with my older brother in the yard and wherever we could find a field. I joined a rec team in second grade and have been playing ever since."

## Why did you choose to play lacrosse?

"My brother and I played baseball, flag football and basketball and became interested in lacrosse because it looked fun and was more of a contact sport. Our Grandpa Kenneth didn't want us to play tackle football either. We learned that lacrosse was a Native sport played by Potawatomi people, which made me want to play even more."



*Peltier (right) carries on the Potawatomi tradition of playing pegnegewen at a tournament in Chicago, Illinois. (Photo by Brian York)*

## How are players selected for the Warrior Diamond National Showcase All-Star team?

"Hundreds of high school players from around the country submit their highlight video and player stats to be selected for the showcase. If you're invited, then you get to go to Baltimore to play in a few showcase games with the other players selected on a team coached by college coaches. After the games, the college coaches select an All-Star team for the showcase."

## How did you find out about making the team?

"I got an email from the Warrior Diamond Showcase Director congratulating me and letting me know I was officially selected. I was really excited when I saw the invitation."

## Was making the team a goal for you?

"I always play my best and give my best effort no matter where I'm

playing, but it's cool to be noticed and recognized sometimes."

## Who else was on the all-star team?

"There were 20 All-Star players selected. I was the only player that wasn't from the East Coast. I was one of only four sophomores selected to the team; the other 16 players were juniors."

## Is there any connection between lacrosse and your Potawatomi heritage for you?

"Definitely. The Native stickball roots of lacrosse goes back hundreds of years (for several) Tribes, including Potawatomi. It's an exciting sport with a lot of meaning to me."

## What team do you play on at home in Oklahoma?

"In the spring, I play with Capital City United in OKC. In the summer and fall, I play with Impulse Lacrosse, which is coached by professional lacrosse players Callum Crawford and Ryan Fournier."



*Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Chase Peltier visits Baltimore, Maryland, to showcase his talents on an all-star lacrosse exhibition team. (Photo provided)*

## What comes next for you and your lacrosse career?

"It's an honor for me to say that I made the Warrior Diamond National All-Star team. I'll add it to my resume, and hopefully, it will get the attention of some college coaches. My goal is to be a student-athlete in college playing lacrosse."

Read more about the history of lacrosse at [cpn.news/lacrosse](https://cpn.news/lacrosse).

# Start the conversation around teen dating violence

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

February is a month often known for everything love. It is not just for Valentine's Day gifts and sweethearts, though. February is also National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, nearly 1.5 million high school students in the United States report being physically abused by a dating partner every year and almost half of young college women experienced violent abusive behaviors from their partner.

The CPN House of Hope wants to encourage everyone to bring acknowledgment to dating violence and consider the health of your own relationships during February.

There are many ways to observe the importance of this month. The best way to start is with conversations. For parents, the best thing you can do to protect your children from relationship abuse is to talk with them about red flags. In an online survey published by the Journal of Adolescent Health, only half of the parents that participated

discussed dating violence with their children. It is vital that parents discuss important topics like dating abuse and teach children that love is respect.

Teachers and youth leaders can also play a vital role in educating young people about dating violence. Classroom discussions centered around prevention can give teens the tools they need when abuse is encountered.

There are also many resources for teens and young adults who may be experiencing dating violence. Organizations like Love is Respect, Futures Without Violence, and One Love Foundation focus on assisting teens. Understanding what resources are available and being able to provide them quickly to teens who are struggling can save a life.

For more ways to highlight this month, visit our website at [cpnhouseofhope.com](https://cpnhouseofhope.com).

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

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

**72 %**  
middle schoolers are dating

**1 IN 3 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**  
EXPERIENCE EITHER PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY SOMEONE THEY ARE DATING.

**2 OUT OF 3 TEENS**  
IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP NEVER TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT.

## Fire head coach looks toward history-making inaugural season

Experienced hands will guide the team when the Potawatomi Fire takes the floor for its inaugural season with The Basketball League.

Roaming the sidelines as the Fire's head coach will be Derrick Rowland, a Brookhaven, New York, native who most recently coached for TBL's Albany Patroons.

The 6-foot-5 shooting guard averaged 18.7 points and 8.8 rebounds per game for the State University of New York at Potsdam. While there, he led the team to the NCAA Div. III championship during the 1980-81 season. Rowland entered the 1981 NBA draft and was selected by the Denver Nuggets, but ultimately found his home with the Albany (New York) Patroons. He played in Albany for seven years. The team hired him as an assistant coach and later as head coach. Albany fans called Rowland "Mr. Patroon."

In September 2021, CPN introduced him as the head coach of one of TBL's newest expansion teams, the Potawatomi Fire. After many years strongly identifying with Albany, Rowland welcomed the prospect of change without fear of intimidation.



Potawatomi Fire head coach Derrick Rowland poses with the Fire's mascot, Mo. Mo is short for mo'ewé, the Potawatomi word for wolf.

"Yes, it's a change. But change is good sometimes," he said. "And I think this is one of those times, for me, after I've had a lot of success in New York, winning and developing young players. And to come here now with this opportunity, I can't be happier because I know the impact that the team will have on the community, in the city of Shawnee. So it's a very exciting time for me."

He expects TBL to be a perfect fit for Shawnee with the league's focus on community.

"Well, I think that is the greatness of this league is it's community based," Rowland said. "For the kids here and young people here, it is still something that they probably never would experience because, even if you can get to a Thunder game, you won't have the interaction with the players on the floor, as we all do here in schools or in the community."

He's looking forward to meeting and inspiring young people in the community.

"The reason I coach is the impact that I have on others. I like to win, of course. But I also like to put smiles on their faces, and get people happy and excited, which in turn makes me happy," Rowland said.

He has talked to thousands of young people, giving advice on everything from basketball skills, to self-confidence, to making the right decisions. Potawatomi Fire players will be visible in Shawnee.

"We'll be in the schools at least three days a week, at different schools with different players, trying to meet some of the needs and help the educators and everyone else that's trying to do right by the community. That's what makes this a league that suits Shawnee perfectly well," Rowland said.

Along with helping the next generation of players develop both personally and professionally, Rowland is excited about the chance to represent something even bigger: pride in

Indigenous identity. The Fire are the first professional sports team to be owned by a tribal nation in Oklahoma. Rowland has enjoyed getting to know CPN employees and Tribal members.

"I am totally impressed and amazed, to be honest with you," he said. "Just working here with the staff, meeting people in other departments, I'm amazed at what they do and what they've been able to accomplish. I'm impressed and to become a part of that... I couldn't ask for a better opportunity in my life at this time."

TBL added a total of 14 teams across the country for the 2022 season, bringing the league's total number of teams to 43. Rowland has been tasked with putting together a roster from scratch, something he relishes.

"We have been doing very well as far as finding players so far. I've made history in the league, so my black book is pretty extensive when it comes to finding talent. With my experience and coming here to this city and this opportunity to work with the Tribe, it just gives me so much more to offer the players. As you know, we're playing for history. I tell the guys, 'This is the first team. Everything we do is historical. And I'm sure it'll be documented in some kind of a way. To play for history is something special.' So, they understand that's happening as well," Rowland said.

The Potawatomi Fire joins the Enid Outlaws as one of two TBL teams in Oklahoma. Enid was 30-3 last season and won the TBL championship. Rowland is eager to take on the Outlaws as they defend their title.

"Well, it's going to be, hopefully, a great rivalry," he said. "I congratulate them on their championship last year. The year before that, I was the champion in New York. That's great for the sport, for everybody to have this championship

team right up the street. We'll have a chance to play them three times. It's going to be an amazing event, and I like the challenge. So, we'll be ready. Since we're an expansion team, we have some ground to cover. But hopefully we can cover that ground quickly and get where we need to go."

Rowland has played for some of the biggest coaching names in professional basketball, experience that influences how he coaches today.

"I played for Phil Jackson, who's the winningest coach in the history of the NBA; he won 11 championships. George Karl, he coached in the NBA for 15 years. Bill Musselman, who was just a pioneer," Rowland said. "I take a little bit from all the coaches so I just understand what it takes to win. I understand the formula because I played for the greatest, and you just have to get the players to fit the philosophy. It allows me to succeed as a leader."

Joining Rowland will be Assistant Coach Brad Walck. He is well known to Oklahoma hoops fans, having coached the Seminole State College Belles from 1991 to 1999. Under his tenure, the Belles won six Bi-State Conference titles and averaged 24 wins per season. His 1993 team ranked #1 in the National Junior College Athletic Association and finished the season as the nation's third-ranked team in the final regular-season poll. Walck's 1997 squad won 26 games and earned an NJCAA National Tournament bid.

He retired from Seminole State College in 2013, and the Seminole Board of Regents honored him as Vice-President Emeritus. Rowland looks forward to working with Walck.

"He has lot of basketball knowledge. He is a great guy. A lot of history behind him. He has a good basketball mind, so it's very helpful to me. He knows

his way around, so that's very helpful to what we're trying to accomplish here with the team," he said.

Rowland will rely on 7-foot-1 center Anthony Allen as the team's number five. Originally from Kingston, Jamaica, he played college hoops at Oklahoma State University from 2014-16. He played professionally in Europe and in the Thai Basketball League before joining the Patroons in 2020.

Rowland's youngest son, Derrick Jr., plans to play for his father in Oklahoma after completing his final year at the University of New Haven in Connecticut.

"I'm looking forward to that. I think he can be an asset to this team, for sure. He's my son, so I coached him as a kid. He's doing very well. He's a great student. I think he'll be an asset to the Potawatomi Fire," Rowland said.

The Fire is not the region's only expansion team. The Beaumont Panthers and Rockwall 7ers in Texas will also join the league and the Central Conference this season.

The Potawatomi Fire play their first game on the road March 4 in Rockwall as the Fire takes on the 7ers. The Fire's first home game will be March 19 against the Little Rock Lightning. Two back-to-back home games follow on March 25 vs. the Outlaws and March 26 against the Lightning.

The league will be split between four conferences: East, Midwest, Central and West. The Central conference includes the Outlaws, Dallas Skyline, Little Rock Lightning, Shreveport Mavericks and Waco Royals.

Find out more about the Potawatomi Fire, including the full season schedule, tickets, merch and more, at [potawatomifire.com](http://potawatomifire.com). Follow the team on Instagram @potawatomifire. ♠



**FOLLOW THE FIRE ONLINE!**



# Behavioral health department plans for 2022 expansion

More health care providers should begin to focus on behavioral health treatment for their patients, according to a 2021 report from the American Psychological Association. The *Monitor on Psychology* report said Americans have been profoundly impacted by the ongoing pandemic, political conflict, economic downturn and other factors, which could yield serious health and social consequences for years to come.

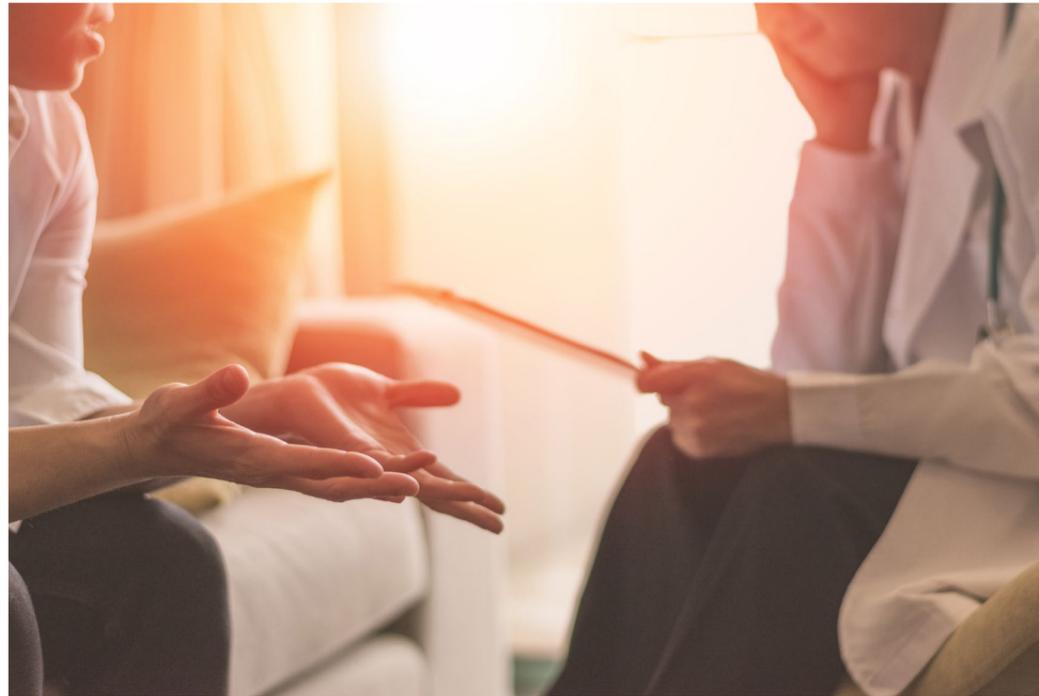
Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services seeks to extend its offerings as well. As behavioral health becomes a bigger part of whole patient care, CPNHS patients will soon benefit from the construction of a new facility.

The U.S. Indian Health Service awarded \$2 million to the CPN behavioral health department to build a 6,700 square foot clinic. The federal grant program is intended to help tribal nations construct, expand or modernize facilities.

“CPNHS has been very blessed,” said Dr. Adam Vascellaro, CPNHS director. “This award from IHS is the first one of its kind we’ve ever received. It says that we’ve matured enough as a health service to be able to qualify. We have 20,000 users and 10,000 active patients. There has been a lot of demand for behavioral health due to COVID, lockdowns, ill family members and personal illness. It’s been challenging.”

“Most behavioral health and substance use disorder programs I’ve visited around Oklahoma and the U.S. are housed in old or outdated buildings, often not designed with the unique needs of our patients in mind,” said Dr. Ryan Adams, CPNHS behavioral health coordinator and staff psychiatrist. “While our current building has served us well for many years, CPNHS patients will be excited to see that CPN values and is prioritizing behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment by constructing a brand new building designed from the ground up to serve the needs of our patients.”

The current clinic is 4,300 square feet with care provided by eight professional



staff, including one psychiatrist, three psychologists and five counselors. The new building is expected to house more providers, therapy rooms, a larger space for group therapy and a planned observation deck.

“Our staff will have the space and resources necessary to affect their assessments and treatment modalities to the fullest degree since the building is being designed with those services in mind,” Adams said. “After growing in our current building to the point we had to repurpose so many areas, we are planning to once again have a dedicated conference room where we can come together to collaborate on cases, team build and help each other grow through educational events.”

Adams said while they haven’t finalized the specific treatment services that will be offered in the new building, the potential to add new services is great and will likely include bringing in additional providers and staff.

The Nation is one of the few behavioral health providers in Pottawatomie County, with more than half of the patients

residing in the Shawnee and Tecumseh areas. The current waiting period to be seen by a provider averages two months. A larger facility will help the Nation provide quicker access to care, long-term patient monitoring and increased engagement for existing patients.

In a state hit hard by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and other challenges, Adams said he believes access to behavioral health services will continue to be necessary. Current CPN patients have been adversely impacted by financial or employment-related challenges; healthcare or illness; and many other stressors.

“Demand for behavioral health and substance use disorder services will continue to grow in the coming years,” Adams said. “As long as there is stress in the world, there will be a need for good, caring providers who can help people manage them.”

Recruiting providers to rural Oklahoma can be difficult for health care systems, Vascellaro said. Something as simple as offering new or updated facilities can help.

“Tribal health care facilities face challenges trying to recruit and retain providers, the turnover rate can be high. If we can deliver more comfortable care, so many little things matter,” Vascellaro said.

CPN applied for the federal funds in 2020. In fiscal year 2020, IHS awarded a total of \$25 million to qualified applicants. The Nation received the maximum award amount of \$2 million.

Applicants had to demonstrate their need for the project, capacity to deliver services and construction capability as well as its own financial contribution. On Nov. 12, 2020, the Nation’s

legislature approved a contribution of \$275,000 toward the project, bringing the total estimated project value to more than \$2.2 million.

Once construction begins, it is scheduled to be completed within 24 months. The land for the facility sits only a half mile from the CPN East Clinic.

CPN integrates behavioral health into a patient’s primary care in order to support physical, emotional and mental well-being. Primary care providers often refer their patients to behavioral health, while many other patients are self-referred. The Nation’s behavioral health department offers patient-centered and cultural-based assessments and evaluations; evidence-based therapeutic services to individuals, couples and families; group therapy; medication evaluation and management; and crisis interventions to Indigenous people living in the area.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Behavioral Health Department is accredited through the Association for Ambulatory Health Care. Read more at [cpn.news/CPNBH](http://cpn.news/CPNBH).

## CPN CARE

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

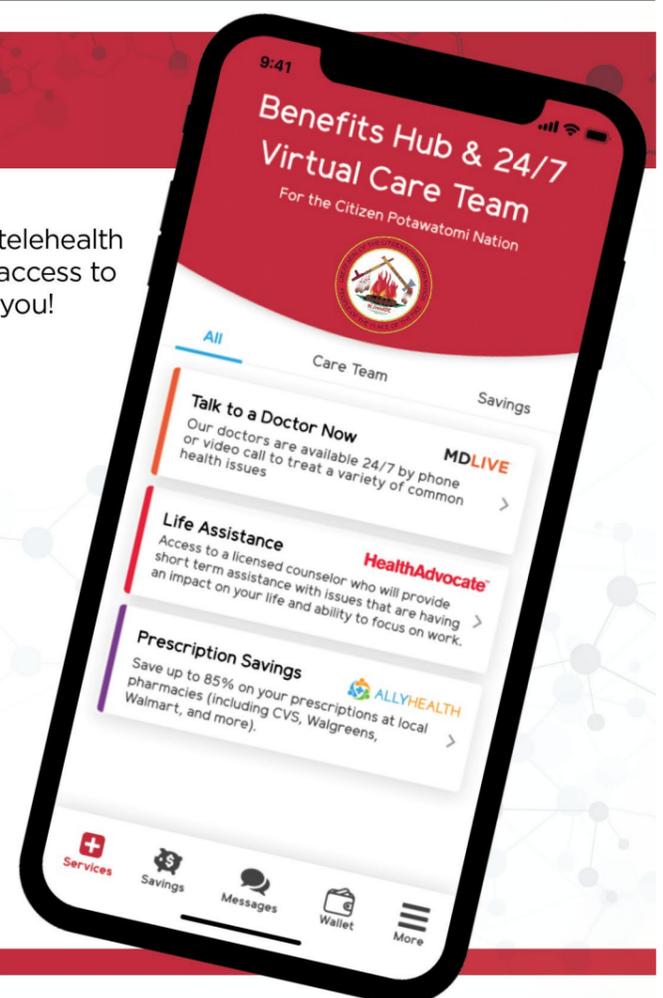
This three-pronged service offers members general telemedicine, life assistance and pharmacy discount services for a whole-body care system:

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



You MUST activate this benefit to get started.

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



## CPN Health Services well-prepared for state Medicaid expansion

Oklahoma voters narrowly approved the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in June 2020, helping thousands of previously uninsured residents qualify for health coverage through the Affordable Care Act.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services officials are ready to ensure new patients efficiently receive services and CPNHS can cost-effectively administer care.

There were 24,950 individuals enrolled in Medicaid in Pottawatomie County as of October 2021, according to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority. Of those individuals, 12,489 are children. To date, about 33,000 Native Americans in Oklahoma have enrolled, the OHCA report said.

Yvonne Myers, ACA/Medicaid Consultant for CPN Health Services, said the newly formed insurance and benefits department is creating infrastructure so Tribal members can be assessed for alternative benefits such as Medicaid, Medicare or income savings programs.

Currently, more than 1,000 CPN patients are enrolled in Medicaid, which is more than double the average number enrolled before expansion. CPN expects this number will climb significantly in the future, Myers said.

The state ballot measure passed by only about 6,000 votes in 2020, something Myers attributes to people having little understanding of how beneficial expansion would be, and the opposition's efforts to equate expansion with the possibility of increased taxes.

"What voters didn't realize is this was health care for our most vulnerable population that had not had access to care," Myers said. "The state saw it in a negative light, rather than taking a look at what Medicaid expansion could mean for our state and saying for 10 cents on the dollar, we can cover the uninsured population of Oklahoma that meet the criteria and hopefully



get them in a better health status and truly make Oklahoma a top 10 state."

The American Rescue Plan included a financial bonus for states that expanded their programs and Oklahoma was the first to qualify, according to an Associated Press report. States received a two-year, 5 percentage point bump in federal matching funds for their regular Medicaid programs. This is in addition to a 90 percent federal match for the costs of covering the newly insured through the expansion. The bonus could add up to \$786 million for Oklahoma, and potentially expand even further the number of Oklahomans who will receive coverage, the AP reported.

These changes have allowed CPN to partner with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to share costs. The federal government covers 100 percent of cost for services provided through hospitals and clinics under the direction of the U.S. Indian Health Services, Tribal and urban Indian clinics.

Myers said she's talked to Tribal members who are relieved their entire family can be covered through Medicaid. Some families have struggled to navigate both tribal and non-Native health care systems, each with its own regulations.

"If you're a Tribal member, you can at least come access services through Tribal clinics and IHS clinics that you have

available," she said. "But depending on what service area you're living in, if you need outside referrals, they may not be approved because of limited funding so many service areas only approved life and limb issues. And then you have families that are a mixture of Native and non-Native members. And so, your Native members had an opportunity to come to the clinic, but the non-Natives did not."

In addition to preventive care or treatment for chronic health conditions, patients who qualify for Medicaid could also receive dental benefits. Previously, dental benefits may only have covered emergency extractions. Medicaid could also include behavioral health help for those struggling with opioid or other forms of substance abuse.

Myers hopes more patients will contact CPNHS about qualifying for coverage under Medicaid expansion. Statewide promotional and educational efforts may have been hampered while Oklahoma officials wrestled with how to implement its planned managed care model.

Oklahoma officials were reluctant to perform state-wide promotion and outreach because they wanted to save those efforts for a managed care model, she added.

"We were still successful in enrolling patients in spite of that, but we would have liked to have had more outreach and

education to the entire state population to make them aware and understand what they now qualified for," Myers said.

With so much of Oklahoma's population in rural areas, providing services to CPN patients spread across a large area can be a challenge, but Myers said Medicaid expansion has helped CPNHS reach out.

"If you are Native, you might not live in an area where there are Tribal facilities readily available; if you enroll in Medicaid, you can go see a local non-Tribal provider and not have to travel as far. So access to care has been enhanced through a broader provider network. Patients are still, of course, welcome to visit any of our IHS or Tribal facilities, but it just enhanced access to care for our patients," she said.

Myers has talked to patients who shared that Medicaid expansion has already had a positive impact on their lives.

"I've had people on the phone in tears with me that talked about, 'My husband's never been able to afford to be seen. He needs a shoulder surgery and we didn't have insurance. And now he can go in and actually be seen?' And it's like, 'Yes, you can.' And so that's happening all over the state of Oklahoma, as well as for the V.A.," she said.

Myers also acts as the liaison to the OHCA, which administers Medicaid on the state level. She said CPNHS and OHCA have a long history of working cooperatively on policy, which made the Medicaid expansion easier.

Apply for Medicaid at [mysooner.org](http://mysooner.org) or by phone at 800-987-7767. Benefits specialists at the CPN clinics are also available to assist with enrollment. If an applicant's income is too high for eligibility under Medicaid expansion, they can also complete an application for a marketplace plan at [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov).

For additional information on marketplace plans, contact CPN Insurance & Benefits at 405-964-4123. ♡



## CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION TRIBAL ROLLS

The Tribal Rolls Department is responsible for determining eligibility for Tribal enrollment, burial insurance, and Tribal ID cards, and assists with genealogical and historical research. The department is also responsible for maintaining and updating the computer membership list, utilizing Tribal membership information for various types of census data, and creating the voter eligibility lists in the direction of the Secretary-Treasurer for the CPN Election Commission's Secretary-Treasurer.

**TO ENROLL OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION**

Visit [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org)

# Passion for leadership

After watching several businesses start and fail during his two decades in information technology, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Randy Haas realized their success depended much more on communication and leadership than skills and strategy. He began an Oklahoma City-based information technology company in 2018, Sharpstone Group, LLC. Haas then added Stonecutters Leadership as a communication branch that focuses on leadership training and team management.

“That’s where I personally have a lot of passion right now is with the Stonecutters Leadership,” Haas said.

The Bourassa family descendant and his wife, Melissa, also have accounting experience and offer those services to clients.

“Our goal will be to bring in other people as we grow whose passion is some of the smaller core pieces that are very specialized where we can be ... there for all parts of an organization in transition,” Haas said.

“Ultimately, we want to be a resource for Native American business owners.”

## Values-based capitalism

Haas calls himself a “values-based capitalist,” teaching the tenet that leadership corresponds with influence. He believes that an organization’s biggest asset is its employees, and showing them compassion, understanding and trust creates long-term success. Stonecutters Leadership uses the John Maxwell principles of leadership with clients. Maxwell wrote nearly two dozen books focusing on the subject throughout the past two decades.

“When you come to (leadership) from a position of influence, it’s all about building relationships, and it’s all about adding value to people and caring about people,” Haas said. “And one of the things that (Maxwell) says that we echo is that people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care about them.”

Haas’ experience as an employee with several companies showed him



Tribal member Randy Haas and his wife Melissa use a myriad of skills while helping businesses improve their leadership, information technology platforms and finances.

the necessity of leadership training before becoming a boss or manager.

“You’re already exerting influence everywhere you go. So when you learn to be a better leader, you’re helping yourself, you’re helping your family, you’re helping the organization to kind of grow those same principles. We’re all about building relationships,” he said.

Value and profit generation remain the core of owning a business; however, Haas believes leadership makes or breaks both from the beginning. What he calls “values-based capitalism” focuses on the long term by taking care of the organization’s community as a whole.

“If you take care of your people, you take care of your team, you take care of your community — your community and your team will take care of you long term. That’s what’s best for the shareholders. That’s what’s best for the organization. That’s what’s best for the country. It’s what’s best for the community,” Haas said.

He pointed out during a recent *Hownikan* interview that a company’s sustainability depends on resource availability and ability to produce value for the foreseeable future.

“The point of highest optimization in a team is well before your resources

are exhausted. ... We’re just burning people out, tossing them out and moving forward. And that’s not long term. That’s not a value-generating proposition,” Haas said.

“Everybody wants to contribute something. Everybody wants to feel like they’re providing something significant.”

## Community-based outlook

Haas’ grandfather, George Haas, lived in Shawnee, Oklahoma, as well as the rest of their family. His grandfather and father were both proud of their Indigenous heritage, and they told Haas about their family history throughout his life. He also shares his cousin Billy’s interest in Potawatomi history and genealogy. Now in his 40s, Haas also began learning *Bodéwadmimwen* several years ago. He views it as a bedrock of Potawatomi culture and lifeways.

“The different thought process behind (going from) English speaking to Potawatomi is incredible. And it’s something that I think everybody needs to go through that process to learn it,” he said.

Modern accessibility to online classes and digital resources from the CPN Language Department offers Haas the opportunity to connect with the Language Department Director Justin

Neely and language aid Robert Collins as well as other students. *Bodéwadmimwen* shows its speakers root themselves in a communal way of living with their focus on the group’s betterment.

“That’s literally the bottom line of leadership is influence,” Haas said. “And how do you build influence? You can build it by caring about people and by helping take care of people. And that is one of the things where the language is organized around community and the thought process is organized around community.”

The company also became a member of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma, and Haas joined the 2019 Leadership Native Oklahoma class to make connections and learn about the issues and trends in Native business in the state. It provided a way for his business and other interests to come together and serve a bigger purpose.

“I felt like that was a great first step in that process and becoming a part of something that I had not been as deep a part of as I wish I could have been,” Haas said. “And then especially learning the language and things like that has been one of those things where it’s like, ‘OK, I feel more connected now than what I ever have in the past.’”

With the pandemic separating companies and pausing in-person conferences and training, Haas and his wife spent the last two years taking on various projects underneath their vast skill sets. They ran IT for virtual seminars, taught online leadership classes, helped clients with accounting, and more. Haas even took up crafting and created Grindstone Forge. He began making pens and using his 3D printer and laser etcher to make custom orders of almost anything.

He also hopes to complete his doctorate of business administration accounting program.

Find Grindstone Forge on Facebook and Instagram @the grindstoneforge

Learn more about the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma at [aiccok.org](http://aiccok.org).

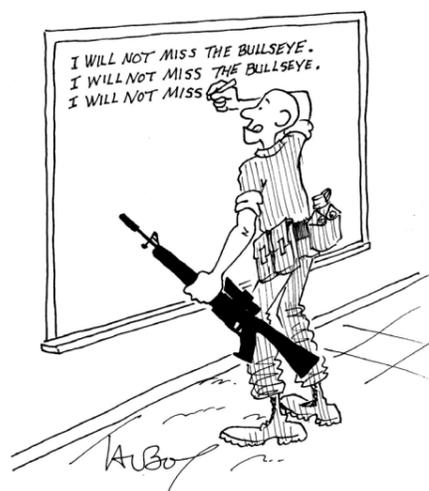
# Veterans report



Bozho  
(Hello),

Well, by now we have gotten a taste of our new year, 2022. Let us hope we see some improvements over 2021. I thought for this month’s Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans’ monthly report that I would list the dates of our meetings for the year so you can plan to attend.

Each of these scheduled meetings will be held in the North Reunion Hall at the CPN powwow grounds at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can



get there). All CPN Veterans and spouses and families are welcome.

February 22, the 4th Tuesday of the month

March 22, the 4th Tuesday



April 26, the 4th Tuesday

May 24, the 4th Tuesday

June will be the CPN Family Reunion Festival, and our meeting time and place will be announced.

July 26, the 4th Tuesday

August 23, the 4th Tuesday

September 27, the 4th Tuesday

October 18, an exception date on the 3rd Tuesday

In November we have no meeting, instead, we have our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner on December 6th, the first Tuesday of the month.

We encourage all CPN Veterans to join us to socialize and meet old and new veteran friends. We hope to see all of you there.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

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

## Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello, my friend),

In this issue of the *Hownikan*, there is an article about the recent Tribal Court decision against 2021 election candidate Lisa Kraft. She was found guilty and fined for violating the Tribal Election Ordinance by refusing to file the mandatory report of who gave her political contributions as well as how much money. This Tribal

Election Ordinance has been in effect for well over 20 years.

Until last year's election for Tribal Chairman, the mandatory report of political contributions was not an issue. Very little money was spent each year beyond a few ads in the *Hownikan*. This year, however, some very ominous behavior surfaced in large contributions by non-Potawatomi business owners. Several of the contributors to Lisa Kraft's campaign are either customers of tribal businesses or vendors of products regularly purchased by the Nation from other vendors. No evidence has been shown or requested that demonstrates a conflict of interest or quid pro quo with regard to these donations to Lisa Kraft's campaign. Nevertheless, the fact that at least \$20,000 was given by outside interests to influence our elections is, I believe, great cause for alarm.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has an annual operating budget of \$668,000,000. That's right: Six Hundred Sixty-Eight Million Dollars! We own and operate a national bank with assets over \$700,000,000. We employ over 1,900 people. We serve over 37,500 Tribal members. This is not some small operation. Our Tribe is very big and prosperous. Unfortunately, less than 2,900 of our citizens chose to vote in our election this year for the office of Tribal Chairman. That is less than 8 percent of our people!

I have been Tribal Chairman for 37 years. Our annual operating budget has grown from \$355,000 to the present \$668 million during that period. Under our Tribal Constitution, all tribal money is spent under the authority of the Tribal Chairman, in accordance with a budget approved by the Tribal Legislature. We have never had an exception in our

professional CPA audits in my tenure in office. It takes the close involvement of the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary/Treasurer to maintain a close watch. This is no place for outside interests to contribute 90 percent of a candidate's campaign money. Too much is at stake. We cannot allow our government to be influenced by outside money like the federal and state governments are now, with the federal law allowing anonymous "dark money" contributors to PACS (political action committees) and corporate contributions from government contractors. It will end us.

The attorney for Lisa Kraft is affiliated with the controlling Oklahoma political party. The state senator who serves our area in the Oklahoma Legislature is a terminated former employee of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. We have been in litigation with

the Oklahoma Governor's office for many years, as have most of the tribes in Oklahoma. I do not know if there is a connection, but it worries me to see "hired guns" come at our Tribe, to use an old west analogy.

I will be bringing several new laws for consideration by the Tribal Legislature to lower this risk to our sovereignty. We have to get more of our people involved and aware of their government. Please help your own people. Vote. Ask questions. Get involved.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

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

## Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

The term "modern history" refers to the history of the world since the advent of the Age of Reason and the Age of Enlightenment of the 17th and 18th centuries. It includes the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. That is not the meaning of my list of modern history for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. I keep a running list of events beginning in the 1970s and running through the present day. The

list is comprised of a date and a one-line definition. The dates are important occurrences at the Tribe that make a difference to the day-to-day operations and/or are of importance to our people. The dates include economic endeavors that led to the advancement of our Nation. From this day forward, so I will not offend historians, I will change the name to "recent history" of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

I keep the list at my fingertips so I know important things like when Justin Neely came to CPN as the language department director, which would be June of 2005. Anyone can find that information by a Google search or by searching the *Hownikan* online, but I like to keep it handy on my desk, in my vehicle and at home. There have been numerous times that I quoted the date that Justin came to CPN at events where both of us were present or when we both were in a Zoom or live presentation. It means a lot to me, and I think Justin

appreciates it too. The beginning of the instruction of the Potawatomi language at CPN was a very important happening.

As I look at the "recent history" of CPN, it brings back memories of great events. I like to analyze the importance from time to time and reflect on how each event impacted our Tribe and enhanced future growth. It is mind boggling to weigh the importance of these events. A good example is the 1984 establishment of the Citizen Band of Potawatomi Tax Commission (our name had not yet changed). You can be sure that Chairman Barrett played a role in this event, even though he was not the Chairman at that time. He was instrumental as an administrator when the planning began. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tax Commission is the regulatory authority for collecting sales tax from Tribal enterprises and vendors doing business on Tribal grounds. It is of monumental importance to the advancement of the

Citizen Potawatomi Nation that we know today.

There are other dates that echo growth for CPN. In 1975 on January 4, the Indian Self-Determination Act was passed. In 1998, the CPN Office of Self-Governance (OSG) compacted with the Indian Health Service (IHS), and in 1999, OSG compacted with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This too, was monumental for the Tribe. The OSG enables a consolidated block grant to tribal governments that allows for greater flexibility and responsibility of handling funds to meet the social, economic and cultural needs of tribal people. CPN is empowered through OSG to handle the compacted funds, which benefits the Tribe as a whole.

My recent history list includes the date for construction of enterprises from 1982 through the present. It is very enjoyable to see the dates of the first construction at CPN — things like our first convenience store

and smoke shop (January 1984), high stakes bingo building (1982) and FireLake Bingo (1985). Dozens of projects and added programs... all on a list. It has been fun to compose and fun to reflect, but there is more work to do on the list. It should change monthly, but sometimes I fail to add dates. I need to play catch-up because during the recent COVID crisis, I digressed from adding regular updates.

When my list looks perfect, I will be happy to share it with our Tribal members. It was a fun list to comprise. Perhaps you have a list of happenings in your own business or family. If you don't have a list, it is never too late to start working on one.

My best,

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

# ARPA FUNDS

To apply for assistance, visit [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org)

This is a one-time payment. Do not reapply.

## District 1 – Alan Melot



*Bozho jayék*  
(Hello everyone),

We're halfway through winter, and I'm excited about plans to meet D1 folks in St. Louis next month! I hope to see you there on March 19th and 20th. As health and weather permits, Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps are planning to join us. I chose St. Louis because it is central to the western part of D1, and I hope that it will be an accessible place for many. Our plans are as follows: meet for a walking tour at Cahokia Mounds at 2 p.m. on March 19th (weather permitting), travel to downtown St. Louis for our meeting at 5 p.m. with a meal provided at

6 p.m. For those who choose to stay the night, breakfast is available at the hotel. We can hang out at the hotel and visit until we head our separate ways. We are meeting at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch. It is within walking distance of The Gateway Arch, which is a fascinating monument that I hope folks can enjoy.

I know that overnight travel can present some difficulties for folks. Children complicate travel when we are younger, health complicates travel when we are older, and somehow there's never quite enough money at any age. If you'd like to attend and have complications that I may be able to help with, please get in touch and let me know. I'll help if I can.

You must RSVP to me by March 1 if you want to attend. If I do not know you are coming by March 1, you will not be able to attend. This is due to the requirements of the Hyatt Regency. Please email me at [alan.melot@potawatomi.org](mailto:alan.melot@potawatomi.org) if you are planning to attend, call me at 417-312-3307, or talk to me in person. I plan to create an event in our D1 Facebook group, so if you are in that



group you can find information there as well. Even if you respond on Facebook that you are attending, I still need to hear from you via email or phone.

I have drafted a resolution to make *Bodwéwadmimwen* (Potawatomi language) the official language of our Nation. I am presenting this to the other legislators on the Tribal Culture and Arts Committee for their review and input, and I hope they will approve it. If they do, we will ask Chairman Barrett to add it to our legislative agenda, and the entire legislature will vote on it during our next legislative session. I believe giving our

language additional recognition will be a positive move for us as a people, and in doing so, we will join other leading Indian Nations such as the Cherokee, Muscogee, Choctaw and Osage.

Finally, a word from me as a clinical psychologist. There are only a handful of skills that are needed to be mentally well. I usually compare this to going to the moon: the idea of it is easy, but the doing of it is hard. One of the primary skills to good mental health is simply to be present. Being present involves three basic qualities: time, place and mind. To be fully present is to be physically present, at the current time, and with your

mind also at that time and place. I often use simple meditation practices to help people learn to be present; meditation centers around focused attention, and it is easiest to begin by focusing on the breath. I use [headspace.com](https://www.headspace.com) or the Headspace phone app in my practice to help folks get acquainted with this skill and would encourage you to do so as well. It doesn't come easily for most and requires practice and time. It's worthwhile, though, and produces benefits far beyond what you invest. Give it a shot. I think you will be pleased with the results.

Learning to be your legislator has been a pleasure and a challenge. It's an honor, and I hope I'm holding up my end of the bargain. Please keep me in your prayers. I look forward to meeting some of you in St. Louis soon!

*Bama pi*  
(Until later),

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

## District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends)!

## Online games

We now can officially welcome *Bbon*/winter and the opportunity it provides for traditional learning and time for study, reflection and indoor games. You may not know that some of our traditional games are now available in whichever app store you use, but that's the case! Digital versions of our traditional games *zhoshké'nayabo* (snow snake), *gwzege'wen* (bowl and dice), and *mamkeznéwen* (moccasin) can be downloaded thanks to the work of our CPN Cultural Heritage Center and IT staff. In *zhoshké'nayabo*, you play as one of two characters, choose between multiple colorful "snakes," and compete to throw the furthest. In *gwzege'wen*, you try to get the highest score by throwing tokens and totems in a bowl. It seems like a game of chance at first, but a skilled player can get their totem to stand on its edge, winning the game

in one throw. *Mamkeznéwen* is a lot like the modern shell game, only you aren't following a ball in a cup. Your opponent hides a small ball under a moccasin, and it's your job to determine which moccasin it is hidden under. Remember to keep an eye on your opponent! They might accidentally give something away. Download these games on the Apple App Store or on Google Play — just search "Potawatomi Games."

## Storytelling

*Bbon* also is our time for traditional storytelling. In mid-December, I participated in a traditional storytelling event hosted through non-traditional Zoom by Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Browning Neddeau. It was an honor to tell a few stories alongside fellow CPN Legislator Paul Schmidlkofer and CPN Language Director Justin Neely. (The event wasn't recorded, keeping with the tradition that winter stories are not to be recorded as they should be told only during months when snow is on the ground.) I told the following story I learned from my CPN storytelling friend, the late Ralph Bazhaw. Ralph's son Ron Bazhaw participated in the event, so sharing the story in Ron's presence was particularly meaningful for me.

## The Douglas Fir

*In the Northwest part of our country grows the tree known as the Douglas fir. If you were to stand before a forest of these*



*Memorial in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Alan Karchmer for the NMAI)*

*trees, you would be awed by their majesty and their beauty. They grow straight up to the sky, 250 feet high. If you walked through a forest of these trees, it would seem that each tree is the same. Armed with what you know and what you see, you would say that this is good, this is as it should be.*

*But somewhere deep in the forest, you would come across a little tree that perhaps as a seedling had some disease. It is twisted, it is gnarled, it is ugly. And there's a hole in the sky for the little tree to grow.*

*All across the forest floor, there is nothing but needles except where the little tree grows. Because there is a hole in the sky where the little tree grows, the rain and the sunshine can come in. And the weeds and the grass and the flowers grow there too.*

*Let me look beyond what I know and what I see, and let me allow you to be who you*

*are and nothing more. And in return, I ask that you allow me to be who I am and nothing less.*

You can find this, and other stories, at [cpn.news/winterstories2015](https://cpn.news/winterstories2015) and on my website, under the "Heritage" tab. (Message me if you don't remember the password.)

## Soups and stews

When it comes to warming Potawatomi soup and stew recipes, Priscilla Mullin Sherard's cookbook, *Indian Recipes*, dating from 1975, features many traditional recipes. Find it at [cpn.news/sherard](https://cpn.news/sherard). I've put together several other cookbooks that offer more and less traditional recipes from CPN families — you can find all these cookbooks under the "Heritage" tab at [evamariecarney.com](https://evamariecarney.com). The 2013 cookbook includes this chicken and corn soup recipe

by CPN citizen Nina White, from the Pettifer family:

## Chicken and corn soup

## Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon margarine
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 4 boneless chicken breast halves, cut into 1/4 inch pieces
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups milk
- 2 (15 oz.) cans cream-style corn
- 1 (4.5 oz.) can chopped green chiles
- 1 (2 oz.) jar chopped pimientos
- Salt and pepper to taste

## Instructions

Melt margarine in Dutch oven or large pot over medium heat. Add onion; cook and stir 2 minutes. Add chicken; cook and stir 3 minutes. Cover; cook 5 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink and onion is tender. Stir in flour until well blended. Gradually add milk, cooking and stirring over medium-high heat until thickened and bubbly. Add all remaining ingredients; cook until thoroughly heated.

## Upcoming Washington, D.C. event: Memorial dedication and veteran procession

The National Native American Veterans Memorial, which honors the military service of Native Americans and is situated on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., will be dedicated on November 11, 2022. I hope that I can meet up with many of you at

the event. Here's what NMAI has posted about the event:

*Join the museum in honoring the exceptional military service of Native Americans in a formal dedication of the National Native American Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The dedication and procession will honor American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian veterans and their families.*

You can check [cpn.news/NNAVM](http://cpn.news/NNAVM) for updates about

this event and sign up to receive email updates at [cpn.news/NNAVMupdate](http://cpn.news/NNAVMupdate).

### Birthday wishes

Agnes Wood Barron (*Demen*), my loving aunt living in Florida, and Jim Higbee, who served as a CPN Regional Representative when he lived in the Northwest, and now lives in Alabama, recently celebrated 80 years plus birthdays. *Mno dbeshkan* (happy birthday) – wishing you good health and good cheer!

### Keeping up with fellow Potawatomi

To keep informed about District 2 and CPN-wide events, please send me your email address so I can send you email updates! Also, if you are in District 2 and are a Facebook user, please request to be added to our private District 2 Facebook group; we now have about 250 members – slow but steady growth. District 2 folks, please also contact me if you want to receive a (not so)

New Year's mailing and small gift, if you haven't already; I will need you to confirm your current mailing address (to avoid costly USPS returns of misdirected mail). Please send me an email or leave a voicemail message with your current mailing address for this purpose. Lastly, don't forget to check the calendar section of my website for the most up to date information on local District 2 and certain CPN-wide events. I've posted, e.g., the dates for the 2022

Family Reunion Festival (and list of 2022 Honored Families) and the Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations.

Eva Marie Carney *Ojindiskwe* (Blue Bird Woman) Legislator, District 2  
5877 Washington Boulevard  
PO Box 5591  
Arlington, VA 22205  
866-961-6988 toll-free  
[ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org)  
[evamariocarney.com](http://evamariocarney.com)

## District 3 – Bob Whistler



*Bozho ginwa*  
(Hello everyone),

### District 3 Veterans auxiliary

Our Veterans Commander in Shawnee, Daryl Talbot, suggested a couple of months ago that each district set up an auxiliary branch of our veterans' organization. District 3 Naval veteran Sharold Ferris has offered to run this district's detachment. His cell phone number and email address are 817-999-5068 and [indmade49@yahoo.com](mailto:indmade49@yahoo.com). I am asking Daryl Talbot to contact Sharold to brief him on what the local unit can do to support both the main group and the individual District 3 veterans. For those veterans interested in participating in this group, please contact Sharold Ferris.

### Corpus Christi

The December 11 district meeting had 29 participants sign up, but a few had to change their plans at the last minute. Considering that the initial meeting planned in December of 2019 had to be canceled, I was very happy to see the interest in this meeting. The meeting began with my giving a pictorial review of how to make a doll from dried corn husks. A copy of that presentation was emailed to each attendee. That was followed by going online to [potawatomi.org](http://potawatomi.org) and showing them the various videos that have been created by the language department on learning our language. Thereafter, I broke out the kits to make chokers. Some were the three-band model and some the four-band model. Each came with a set of instructions. One of the things that I brought to make the stringing easier was beeswax to wax the thread so it was stiff and would go through the various parts more easily. About halfway through, it was time for lunch, and we had the choice of three different meal items, one being a salad. During this break, we recognized the eldest, youngest, and who had traveled the furthest. Our



*Bob Whistler and eldest, Linda Teal.*

eldest in attendance was Linda Teal, a local in the immediate area. She advised me after the event that she sat next to a set of cousins that she didn't know who lived fairly close to her, and a friendship was established for future contact. The youngest in attendance was Christian Scism. He was brought there by his grandmother Tammy Scism, who resides in the San Antonia area, and it was noted that Tammy Scism had traveled the furthest with about two and a half hours of driving to attend the meeting. In addition to the chokers that were made, I also brought sets of postcards that were used as gifts at our last Potawatomi Gathering in Canada. They consisted of a series of postcards of eagles in various positions, including flight. Photos of the eldest and furthest traveled were submitted for posting with this article.

### Namings

At the Corpus Christi meeting, as well as from some recent emails, we have Tribal members who would like to have a Potawatomi name. The members who attended the meeting in Corpus Christi asked for the information needed to receive a Native name. Copies of that

information were sent to them. Given the fact that a name may take months of thinking, praying and contemplating over the creation of a proper Potawatomi name, now is the time to make a request for any naming to take place at the 2022 Family Reunion Festival in June. So, if you have a desire for this and plan to attend Festival, now would be a great time to ask for the information. I would be happy to send you all of the information. Just drop me a note on [cpndistrict3.com](http://cpndistrict3.com) regardless of which district you reside in. You may then contact your district legislator or a relative who is able to give you the name.

### Nursery rhymes

My youngest daughter reminded me of a nursery rhyme she had memorized as a child because her grandmother, my wife's mother, had created a needlepoint and had it posted on a wall. Her grandmother had added, "My daughter and granddaughters, all Sunday girls" near the bottom of the needlepoint. The rhyme was first published in 1838 and used to teach children the days of the week. My daughter Kim recalls a version that goes like this:

*Monday's child is fair of face,  
Tuesday's child is full of grace,  
Wednesday's child is full of woe,  
Thursday's child has far to go,  
Friday's child is loving and giving,  
Saturday's child must work  
for a living,  
Sunday's child is fair and  
wise and good and gay*

For any of you that have a child who is beginning to learn items in proper sequence, you might find this rhyme useful in teaching them the days of the week. Just out of the curiosity it created, I decided to check the calendar in the month and year I was born to see which weekday related to me. I was a bit surprised and happy to see which day applied to me. You might want to do the same.

### February 5, 2022

On Saturday, February 5, 2022, at 10 a.m. CST/9 a.m. MST a joint Zoom meeting will be held by Districts 3 and 5 on genealogy and language. You may go online and register at [cpn.news/D35Feb2022](http://cpn.news/D35Feb2022). We hope you can Zoom in.

It is an honor to serve as your District 3 legislator, and I am here as your voice. So, contact me on my cell phone at 817-229-6271 if you have something that you need help with from our Nation. You may also contact me on my website [cpndistrict3.com](http://cpndistrict3.com) and leave a message.

*Bama mine*  
(Later),

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



*Bob Whistler and furthest travelled, Tammy Scism.*



**THE**  
*Hownikan*  
**PODCAST**








## District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho  
(Hello),

Once again, we have all experienced a lot of turbulence over the past several months, and just as things were starting to turn for the better, we are experiencing the onset of the omicron variant. It is usually about this time of year when we start looking forward to planning a trip to the CPN Family Reunion Festival and scheduling naming ceremonies to be held in the spring. As of now, we are still expecting such activities to be held, but obviously they are subject to change or cancellation. Stay safe, stay well, and we will get through this together.

#### DD form 214: Certificate of release or discharge from active duty

Attention all veterans: do you know where your DD-214 is? Does your spouse or next of kin know? I just learned that all county registers of deeds in Kansas will record your DD-214 for free. Once the form is

on file in their office, veterans can receive a certified copy whenever the need arises, such as for benefits or job application. I recently purchased a new car, and the dealer offered a military discount, but I had to produce a copy of my DD-214. Fortunately, I have mine in a safety deposit box at my bank, but I had to go through the process of retrieving it and then making a copy of it. But I'm now going to record it with my county register of deeds and let her make any future copies. Certified copies are as good as the original and will be permanently available if the original is lost or destroyed. These forms are not open to the public and will be kept safe by the register of deeds. By the way, my wife had no idea where I had stored my DD-214. She now knows where it is and how to get a copy if needed in the future. Your recorded DD-214 will continue to be available after your death to individuals who have a legitimate purpose and proper identification.

#### Do you need to obtain a replacement DD-214?

You can request a free copy of your DD-214 simply by visiting the official U.S. Government site at [cpn.news/DD214](http://cpn.news/DD214) and filling out an online form.

#### Opportunity to view CPN veterans telling their story – Sunday, February 20

As I stated in last month's *Hownikan*, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural

Heritage Center has recently initiated a campaign to ensure all CPN veterans have the opportunity to tell their stories about their experiences in the military. I truly support this valuable effort that began 20 years ago. Many of our veterans who were interviewed early in the program have walked on, particularly those who served in WWII. Back when I was working in Shawnee, I had the opportunity to view dozens of these videos and sit through a few interviews as they were being recorded. You would be amazed at some of the stories that were told. I plan to make several of these videos available at a viewing in the CPN Community Center in Rossville, Kansas, on Sunday, February 20, at 2 p.m. This is a week after the Super Bowl so you shouldn't have a conflict. I plan to show a collection of videos that will include a few local CPN veterans as well as several other classic stories.

#### Native American village at Old Prairie Town in Topeka

Last spring, I mentioned in my article that I had been invited to meet with a few members of the board of directors for Old Prairie Town in Topeka to discuss the addition of a Native American village to their current display of various buildings depicting an early Kansas town. Old Prairie Town consists of a small-frame church, one-room school, general store, early drug store and blacksmith shop. A small-town train station is also located on the grounds of the historic Ward-Meade House,

one of the earliest homes in Topeka. After several monthly meetings, it was decided that the Native American village would consist of a wigwam, prayer circle and medicine wheel. I was fortunate to be able to solicit support from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and two of their members have joined me in the meetings with the Old Prairie Town board. In early December, the first phase of the wigwam was completed, which consisted of tying maple saplings to form the basic structure. This work needed to be accomplished while the freshly-cut saplings were still pliable. Also, bundles of various tall grasses were cut and tied. These bundles, which will be stored for the winter, will later be used to line the interior of the wigwam. Next, we plan to prepare the site for the medicine wheel that will be formed with naturally colored rocks — white, yellow, red and black — and contain the four sacred gifts from the Creator — sweetgrass, tobacco, cedar and sage. Plans are to have the village open to visitors by late spring.

#### Upcoming CPN Elders Potlucks

The dates for the next two potlucks held in CPN Community Center in Rossville are:

**February 12**  
Chicken pot pie and shepherd's pie  
RSVP by the 9th

**March 12**  
Corned beef and cabbage

RSVP by the 9th

Come join us and bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Tracy or Brenda at 785-584-6171 if you plan on attending. Masks are not required but are highly recommended.

#### Honored to serve you

It is an honor to serve you as your district representative. I appreciate hearing from CPN members in Kansas, whether in the form of a letter, email, phone call or in the office. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to you. If you are not receiving emails from me, it is because I do not have your current email address or what I have is incorrect. All you need to do is send me your email address, and I will enter you into my District 4 information file. My contact information is listed below.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Jon Boursaw,  
*Wetase Mkoh* (Brave Bear)  
Legislator, District 4  
2007 SW Gage Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66604  
785-861-7272 office  
785-608-1982 cell  
[jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org)  
Office hours:  
9-11 a.m. Tuesdays  
3-5 p.m. Thursdays  
Other times: please call

## District 5 – Gene Lambert



Bozho  
(Hello),

#### Happy Valentine's Day!

The month of February is the month reminding us how important it is to tell family and friends how much we love them. We are all getting older as the months and years speed by.

The last couple of years have shown us how vulnerable we all are.

We are spending too much time angry about our differences instead of celebrating those

things we have in common. Anger drains, and love feeds.

I talk to people all the time about how short life really is. Of course, when you are 25 years old or younger, it seems a distant future to 75 or 80.

This conversation often gives them some perspective: "Take a look at the last 25 years of your life. How fast did that go?" I ask. "Well, as I look back, it went pretty fast," they say. "Now take that same 25 years and put it ahead of you," is my next comment. "Now how old are you?"

The look on their faces lets me know they get it!

Next week, next month or next year isn't good enough anymore. Do it TODAY if at all possible.

There was a movie a few years ago about a "bucket list." Everyone should have one. If you consider a lifetime, what would you like to experience or accomplish?

I made a list I wanted to experience in my lifetime. I have

made it through most. The one thing I have always wanted to experience was a hot air balloon ride. I even had someone give me that as a gift. I still chickened out. So it sits in my mind like a roadblock. Then they gave me a balloon ride with champagne so I could calm myself. I still didn't make it. It is a result of fear, and I am determined to get there one day to overcome that fear.

It is that same fear that keeps us closed and unable to communicate deep, honest, heartfelt emotions. The fear of rejection or lack of acceptance keeps us in a box.

"Think outside the box," you hear people say. That box of comfort is the single thing holding us back from new experiences or letting someone in to share our lives.

The love you have to share is the single most important commodity you have. It won't go away or become less because you say it or share it with people. Matter of fact, the more you give, the more you have to give.

Love is the only thing I am aware of that grows as you give it away.

Love has been known to cure diseases, heal broken hearts and awaken that part of you that feels dead inside. I once heard a voice that said, "You aren't dead. You are just dormant." Unfortunately, that speaks to many of us.

There are all kinds of love. We have love for our spouses, children, family, friends and even our country.

Our Native people understand love and respect more than any other culture. The love and respect for the Creator, Mother Earth and all it provided.

Know that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is a place you can call home and know we love and appreciate each and every one of you. You are the Nation!

With all that said, I want you all to know how much I have missed everyone and our meetings. We will be getting together this year and be able

to catch up on the family happenings since we last spoke.

We have a Zoom meeting for District 5 and District 3 on Saturday, February 5, 2022, at 9 a.m. MST/10 a.m. CST. You can register online at [cpn.news/D35Feb2022](http://cpn.news/D35Feb2022).

This does not take the place of our regular meeting, which will probably be held the first week of April.

Confirmation on all should arrive in your mail soon.

For the month of February and Valentine's Day, I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sending love,

Eunice Imogene Lambert  
Butterfly Woman  
Legislator, District 5  
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480-228-6569  
[euniceilambert@gmail.com](mailto:euniceilambert@gmail.com)

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

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

## District 8 – Dave Carney



*Bobzo nikan*  
(Hello friend),

The snow is coming down as I write this column in late December of 2021. The “experts” say that this will

be a fairly severe winter for the Northwest. Where I live (Olympia, Washington), winter always seems most harsh in February, and then it’s a long, slow drizzle to mid-May when the weather turns beautiful. Having lived in Montana for a few years, I know that much of District 8 has a two-season light switch — winter and summer.

The COVID crisis turns 2 years old. Depending on where you live, the COVID response varies widely. From state to state, mandates are different and their enforcement varies from county to county. Federal agencies and entities doing business with the federal government or receiving large sums of federal money are subject to certain

coronavirus guidelines. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation enterprises, healthcare facilities and administration all require masks and social distancing whenever possible. Staff at CPN are required to be vaccinated or their employment will be terminated. This was a decision made by the Chairman in mid-November and mirrors other tribes like the Cherokee Nation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. Whatever your personal opinion on this decision, leadership is doing what they feel is right for the safety of our people and those we interact with in the community.

As we make plans for the 2022 Family Reunion Festival, keep

in mind that plans may change due to the pandemic. It’s my sincere hope that we have a full-on, full schedule weekend June 24-26, 2022. Honored families will be Bruno, Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Lewis, Nadeau, Slavin and Smith. Highlights of the weekend are traditional hand games, craft and regalia classes, language classes, sports and games competitions, voting, General Council and dancing/Grand Entry.

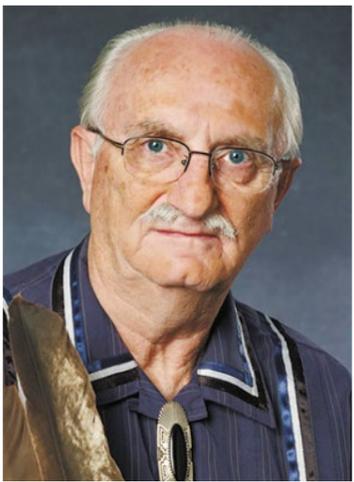
As for planning District 8 events, we will have to plan with an eye to what is going on with COVID. With two successful Zoom meetings in 2021, we know we have alternate ways to stay connected. If you are in District 8 and on Facebook, I

would also encourage you to join the District 8 Potawatomi group. This group is ONLY for members residing in District 8, so, unfortunately, members living outside the boundaries of the district won’t be admitted. On this page, members share events, crafts or opinions regarding CPN or general Native issues.

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

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

## District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello friend),

### Our future

I believe dark skin Native Americans are some of the most attractive people on the planet. I wish there were more of them. It’s a good

thing when phenotypically dark complexion Indians take pride in their heritage and skin tone. Sometimes they tell us that they are half Indian or some other mixture.

As a young man, I believed that Italian women were some of the most beautiful women in the world. I wish my own skin were darker. I’m not “tall, dark and handsome.” I’m short, white and plain.

However, it seems logical that as future decades and centuries pass, most Native Americans will be born of lighter skin; and most will not be distinguishable from the general white population.

The reason for this change should be obvious — intermarriage and generational propagation. Intermarriage is a good thing, not something to

be shunned. Also, our ancestors lived most of their days outside, and persistent sunrays darken the skin. Today, we live most of our days indoors.

The change from dark to light skin will be slower in parts of the country with large populations of Native Americans like California, Arizona and New Mexico where Indians frequently marry Latinos and African Americans. However, it seems that the dominant change for Native Americans will be lighter and whiter.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is one of the lightest skin tone tribes in America. Intermarriage was a common feature in our early history and currently. There is nothing wrong with that. When I visit other Native tribes, I’m usually the whitest person in the room.

My relative asked me, “How much Indian are you?” I asked him if he would ask an African American, “How much Black are you?” Then I proceeded to inform him that the federal government invented blood quantum as a means to rid the country of Indians. Tribes that use blood quantum will find one day that they virtually don’t exist. I told him our Tribe enrolls members according to one’s ancestors on the Dawes Rolls.

We should be appreciative of all people no matter their color of skin. Despite the inevitable phenotypical change, there will always be pockets of dark skin Indians as a visual reminder of our early heritage.

My earliest lesson of life came in Sunday school where I learned a song: “Jesus loves the children of the world, red and yellow,

black and white. They are precious in his sight. Jesus loves all the children of the world.”

My poem reads:

*Red Blood*  
*On the outside,*  
*Though my skin be so pale*  
*The midday sun,*  
*It burns and pains;*  
*On the inside,*  
*Indian blood churns*  
*And flows through my veins.*

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft  
*Naganit* (Leader)  
Legislator, District 9  
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[pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org](mailto:pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org)

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## District 11 – Andrew Walters



Bozho  
(Hello),

A couple of years back, Cora and I were faced with a decision. It's one each of us has to face at some point in life, in our careers and business. That decision concerns retirement. In my case, I had 47 years of service as a police officer and figured I had given enough at the office, so I wanted to do something else, somewhere else. To make a long story a bit shorter, we decided to come to Shawnee, Oklahoma. Yeah... I know. I had the same reaction when Cora asked me if I wanted to move here. She knew the Tribe meant a lot to me and that I wanted to get closer to it, to experience it, to participate in it. And we knew that a certain amount of culture shock would

be involved. We had lived in the Houston area for years and years, so the thought of moving to what we thought was a "sleepy little town" had its appeal. We looked at the demographics and housing market. We researched this and that. Looked at the city government to see how they ran the place. Stared at a couple of maps and made the plunge — we moved. We bought a house and hauled up the furniture. We got Oklahoma driver's licenses, Potawatomi license plates and registered to vote. Magically, we became Oklahomans. I have to tell you... we've never looked back.

The longer we've been here, the more we love the place. It's quirky and fun. Not the flat farm land with tornadoes that folks imagine. The people up here are nice... just as friendly as a new puppy. You can't stand in a line at Walmart (come on... we know you go to Walmart) and not start talking to the folks around you. People actually talk to you on the street for no reason other than to be friendly. You can't sit and eat at a cafe without talking to everybody at the other tables. After a couple of visits to local stores, you become a favored customer. It's amazing. Reminds me of West Texas before all those folks from... you know... moved there.

There are some down sides. We have a state income tax here. Have to make sure the governor gets his cut. And we have seasons. It gets over 100 a couple of days a year, and it's colder than a well digger's tail end for a bit in the winter. We have a couple of snows a year, but it's measured in inches not feet. But cost of living is lower here, nice housing is affordable, gasoline is cheaper, and we have the most beautiful sunsets you've ever seen. I swear there are more colors in an Oklahoma sunset than in one of those big boxes of crayons we always wanted as kids.

The "cultural" centers for Oklahoma are Oklahoma City and Tulsa. OKC is kinda more conservative, but Tulsa is a yuppie's dream. A mythical land filled with linear parks, bike paths, food trucks, trendy bars and live music. OKC has theatre, opera, music venues, parks, art galleries. All those things that add a little to life. But that's not all. Oklahoma in general is an amazing place. There are little gems all over the state. In the southeastern part of the state are mountains. Not Rocky Mountain-size, but mountains nonetheless. Lakes for fishing, parks for camping, trails for hiking, beautiful ancient forests, and landscapes that are memorable.

Each city has its own flavor. Take Hugo, Oklahoma, for example... they have a circus cemetery and a circus elephant rescue. Look it up and see, can't make this stuff up. You have Stringtown, where Clyde Barrow shot the place up. You have Muskogee, where the famous U.S. Marshall Bass Reeves is buried at the Agency Cemetery. He was the man the story *The Lone Ranger* is based on. In Pauls Valley, there is *The Toy and Action Figure Museum*. In Edmond, there is Gandini's Circus, an old circus camp. Catoosa, Oklahoma, is famous for its Blue Whale. In Arcadia, the Round Barn. The Wheeler Ferris Wheel, the one from the Santa Monica Pier, is in OKC. Guthrie has the cutest old downtown. Mickey Mantle's hometown is Commerce, Oklahoma. In Barnsdall, there's an oil well pumping right in the middle of the street. The Dalton Gang robbed banks and trains here. Bonnie of Bonnie and Clyde lived in Commerce. I can go on and on about spirit rocks in lakes and Robber's Cave. If you're into history and cute little out-of-the-way places, Oklahoma might be your place. Oh... and I can't forget Pawhuska, home of The Pioneer Woman.

Add to that being Potawatomi. Health care at our Tribal clinic. I've never had better health care.

The folks really care about you and treat you like you mean something. Non-Native spouses can use the clinic also with insurance. The Tribe has grocery stores that are immaculate and well-stocked, parks, and programs for retirees to socialize and be a part of Tribal life. We even have a golf course, of course. Vehicle registration with the Tribe is quick and inexpensive. The Tribe actually produces a title on your vehicle... we are a sovereign nation after all.

So, my point is that if you're thinking about retirement and want to come to a place where the cost of living isn't "higher than a cats back," the people are genuine, and the children actually have manners, you might think about Oklahoma... maybe even Shawnee. We're only about 30 miles from OKC, an hour or so from Tulsa, three hours to Dallas, five hours to Branson, and 10 hours driving to Denver. We're just kinda sorta in the middle of it all.

Migwetch  
(Thank you),

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

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## Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

## Marsha Evelyn Queen Toupin Family

Marsha Evelyn Queen of Rock Cave, West Virginia, born Evelyn Mae Peck on Dec. 21, 1934, in Geary, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully on Dec. 24, 2021. Marsha was 87 years old.

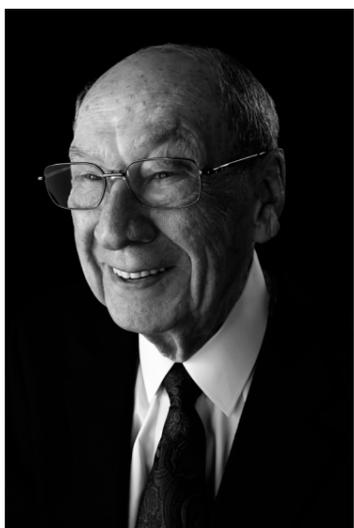
In addition to her husband, Howard James Queen, Marsha is survived by her two sons, Howard Jr. and Eric; her grandchildren, Nick, Tara, Kristina, Terrance, Dustin, Devon, Keesha and Emily; her four great-grandchildren; her sisters, Phyllis and Wilma; her sister-in-law, Dreama; and niece, Anita, along with many other nieces and nephews.

Marsha was preceded in death by her parents, Bernice and Juanita Peck; her children, Kenneth, Rodger, Hazel, Cindy and Marlene; as well as her siblings, James Peck, John Peck and Bonnie Howler.

Marsha was passionate about her Tribal heritage and was active in Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She enjoyed reading, learning and teaching. Two of her hobbies were gardening and cooking, both of which she mastered. Marsha and Howard loved dancing. Marsha spent the last day of her life with her husband celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They will one day dance again.

Marsha lived fearlessly and with pride. She was loved by many and will be missed by all. Rest in peace, Granny. Online condolences may be made to the family at [polingstclair.com](http://polingstclair.com).

## James Alvy Spillman Bourassa Family



Lieutenant Colonel James Alvy Spillman, USAF-Ret., age 89, of Santa Anna, Texas, died Jan. 3, 2022, at the home of his daughter, Monique, in Dallas.

“Uncle Jim” was born on Jan. 29, 1932, in Topeka, Kansas, and raised by Alvy and Delta Spillman. He graduated from Topeka High School in 1949 and Washburn University in 1954 with a bachelor’s of business administration. He was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force, where he trained as a tactical fighter pilot. While in the Air Force, Jim was stationed

in Spain, France, Korea and Vietnam during the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Jim married the love of his life, Alice Anna Guthrie, on June 22, 1957. He retired from the Air Force on March 1, 1976, as a lieutenant colonel. Jim and Alice Anna moved to Santa Anna, Texas, where they lived until Alice died in 2015.

Jim was employed as an accountant with Herman Bennet Accounting and Brownwood Woolen Mill, and was a financial aid officer with Central Texas Commercial College until his retirement. Jim was an active member of Santa Anna Presbyterian Church, where he served as a ruling elder and clerk of the session. Spillman was a long-time member and past president of the Santa Anna Lions’ Club. He was appointed as city councilman in 1987 and faithfully served 20 years. He volunteered at the Santa Anna Library for many years alongside his wife Alice Anna.

Jim is a descendent of the Bourassa family and traces his lineage to the 1887 and 1937 Tribal rolls. In 2021, in a ceremony by Tribal elder Bob Whistler, Jim was given the Potawatomi name “Sleeping Warrior.” He is survived by his daughter, Dr. Monique Spillman of Dallas, Texas, and several nieces and nephews.

## Steven Lynn Cavender Curley Family



Steven Lynn Cavender, a lifelong resident of Durant, Oklahoma, left this life and joined his parents in Heaven on Oct. 29, 2021, at the age of 61. He was born in Durant on Dec. 19, 1959, to Howard Lee Cavender and Carolyn Jean (White) Cavender. Steven was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Steven grew up in Durant and attended Durant High School. He was a long-haul truck driver just like his dad, learning the trade by trucking with him in his younger years. Steven had a fascination with engines, tinkering with motorcycles, trucks, and hotrods, and his family and friends considered him a free spirit who played loud rock and roll music. He enjoyed

being outside, especially when his grandchildren were around. He loved the holidays and gathering because it was a time for everyone he loved to be together.

Steven is survived by his children, Spencer Cavender of Durant, and Tracy Cavender and fiancé Darrell Meadors of Durant; grandchildren, Madyson Ingram, Grace Meadors, Brandon Meadors and Harper Meadors; brother, Michael Cavender and wife Sandra of Mead, Oklahoma; his dog Little Man; nieces; great-nephew and nieces; a great-great-nephew; and numerous wonderful aunts, uncles and cousins.

Steven was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Carolyn Cavender, and his great-nephew, Kevin.

A celebration of his life was held in the Holmes-Coffey-Murray Chapel on Wednesday, Nov. 3 with Brother Randy Lewis officiating. His final resting place is the Highland Cemetery in Durant, Oklahoma. Kenny Cavender, James Ingram, Nathaniel Stillwell, David Delagarza, Nathan Delagarza and John Holcomb served as pallbearers. The honorary pallbearer was Zachery Murfin on behalf of Spencer.

## Juanita M. Haynes DeGraff Family



Juanita M. Haynes, age 68, of Meriden, Kansas, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021, at the Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka, Kansas. Juanita was born Nov. 2, 1953, in Topeka, the daughter of Jack and Patricia (Fleer) DeGraff.

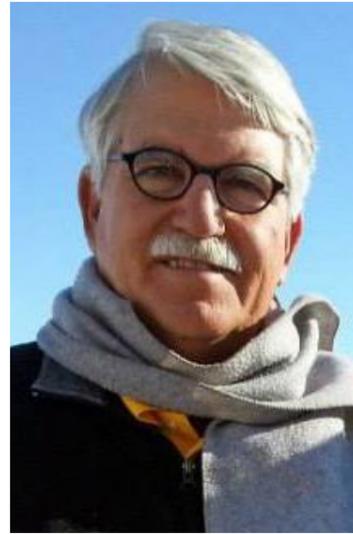
She graduated from Highland Park High School. She married William “Chris” Haynes on May 26, 1972, in Topeka. Juanita worked for the State of Kansas for more than 17 years. She was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Juanita is survived by her husband of over 49 years, Chris Haynes; four sons, Buddy Haynes of Topeka, Adam (Lori) Haynes of Meriden, Timothy Haynes of Topeka, and Anthony Haynes of Meriden; two brothers, Terry Fleer and Jackie Fleer, both of Topeka; two sisters, Cheryl Sanders of Meriden and Marcia Cope of California; and six grandchildren. She

was preceded in death by a sister, Cindy Hickman.

Juanita enjoyed crocheting, ceramics, traveling in recent years, and fishing. She loved working with her flowers in the yard and shopping with her grandkids. She is also survived by her dog, Rosebud.

## William Howard Trousdale Toupin/Trousdale Family



William Howard “Bill” Trousdale, 70, of North Little Rock, Arkansas, died Dec. 2, 2021, from complications of pancreatic cancer. He was born March 27, 1951, in Beaumont, Texas, to Ralph William Trousdale and Emogene Joyce (Martin) Trousdale and was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

As a military brat, Bill and his family moved many times during his childhood while his father served in the United States Air Force. During high

school in Spokane, Washington, Bill attended Gonzaga Prep before transferring to the all-boys Mater Cleri Seminary preparatory high school. There he studied theology through the Gonzaga University system, and his experiences under the instruction of the Jesuit priests, teachers and professors had a great impact on his life and faith. Ultimately, he graduated in 1969 from Medical Lake High School outside Fairchild Air Force Base. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force like his father and brother, Bill served from 1974 to 1978.

He was a passionate ambassador for the sport of disc golf, which he began playing in 1980. Bill was president of Arkansas Disc People and Course Pro at Burns Park Disc Golf Course for several years in the mid-1980s. As a liaison between disc golfers and North Little Rock Parks and Recreation, he was instrumental in the installation of the red and blue courses at Burns Park. Bill helped with the design and installation of multiple disc golf courses in central Arkansas and directed countless tournaments.

He is survived and lovingly remembered by his wife of nearly 47 years, Lesa, and their daughter and son-in-law, Ashley and Jonathan Boothe of Fort Collins, Colorado; sister, Linda Curtis of Tiburon, California; brother and sister-in-law, Bennet and Diane Trousdale of Haughton, Louisiana; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, William Spencer Trousdale, in 2005.



*Hau ndenwémagnek*  
Ho my relatives

*Ébyé yak shote gnom*  
We have come here today

*Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma*  
To lay our brother to rest

*Ngom she éпам sét ode*  
Today he walks

*Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek*  
Among those who have passed on

*I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngemwen*  
That is why we offer this song

*Émno shketot wa je zhyat ibe shpemsegok*  
That his journey will go well where he goes above

*Iw énaj moyan*  
That’s all I have to say

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

By Don Perrot

**Timothy J. Pettus  
Rhodd Family**

Timothy J. Pettus, 65, of Shawnee, Oklahoma, passed away on Oct. 28, 2021.

He was preceded in death by both parents, Joe Pettus and Bobbie LeClaire. Surviving family members include his sister, Janet Pettus; niece, Naomi Champagne; and nephew, Tyler Key. Services were held for Timothy at the Fairview Pavilion in December.

**Chad Michael Erikson  
Navarre Family**

Chad Michael Erikson, 23, of Belvue, Kansas, passed away at home surrounded by family on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021.

He was born April 14, 1998, in Topeka, Kansas, the son of Willie and Linda (Foresman) Erikson. He graduated from St. Mary's High School in 2019.

He was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

He was preceded in death by two aunts, Marvalie and Pamela Foresman; uncle, Bob Foresman; grandfathers, Walter E. Foresman and Wilfred Erikson; and grandparents, Marsha and Leighton Lytle. Survivors include his parents, Willie and

Linda Erikson of Kaw Township, Kansas; sister, Shelby (Ethan Ohmer) Erikson of Belvue, Kansas; his niece, Amia Ohmer; his nephews, Logan, Michael and Sam Ohmer; other grandparents; and other aunts and uncles.

Chad loved being around family, lights, NASCAR racing and country music. He had a hundred-dollar giggle and a million-dollar smile.

Chad was cremated. A celebration of life was held on Monday, Dec. 27 at Dove Cremations and Funerals Southwest Chapel in Topeka, Kansas. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ronald McDonald House in Kansas City, Missouri, the Shriner's Hospital for Children in St. Louis, Missouri, or to the family.

**Debra Jean Kissler  
Ogee Family**

Debra Jean Kissler was born Oct. 22, 1954, in Melbourne, Florida, and is a direct descendant of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Debra passed away Nov. 28, 2021, at the age of 67 in Richards, Texas.

She initially lived in Baltimore, Maryland, and at age 6, she moved to Madrid, New Mexico, to live with her father. At age 15, Debbie acted in the Hollywood movie *The McMasters* with Burl Ives. Debbie developed a love for acting and playing the guitar.

In 1973, Debbie graduated from Manzano High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She accepted Christ into her heart while acting in a play at a local church in Bernalillo, New Mexico. She moved to Texas and graduated from the University of Texas. She attended CFNI, a Christian Bible Institute, in Dallas, Texas.

She majored in music ministry and became a chaplain also.

In 1996, she moved to Houston and in 2000, met and was befriended by the McNeals. She became an integral part of the whole family as a beloved sister, aunt, godmother and friend. In 2003, she received the Holy Ghost, and in 2016, she accepted her call to become an evangelist.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Violet Jean Kelly; her father, Edward Kissler; uncle, Lonnie Perry; stepfather, papa Kelly; brother, Michael Kelly; sister, Faye Kelly Hitchens; and sister-in-law, Kim Kelly. She is survived by Sally Perry; nieces and nephews by her surrogate family; and her loving Hope Community Church family.

**Jahn Eric Humphreys  
Slavin Family**

Jahn Eric Humphreys, 63 years old of San Leon, Texas, passed away Aug. 23, 2021. He was born in Borger, Texas, on Jan. 28, 1958, to John Eckford Humphreys and Dwalia Norma Jean Rowe Humphreys.

He was a well-known and respected attorney for over 30 years. Later in his career, his passion became mediation and being a child advocate. He was one of the founders of the Bay Area Turning Point for battered women. He enjoyed being Santa for Galveston County Adoption Day each year, bringing joy to the children and their new families as well as making surprise visits in various places.

He was extremely proud of his Native American heritage and being a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. His Potawatomi name was "Hand of Bear." His favorite pastime

was riding his motorcycle; he always said, "An Indian on an Indian." He loved old westerns, action-packed movies, comedy and being a comedian himself.

Jahn had a big personality, opinions and really did not care what anyone else thought about him. He had the kindest heart and was a man of honor.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Dwalia Humphreys.

He is survived by his loving girlfriend and soulmate, Tina Cook; son, Jeremy Humphreys and granddaughter, Carys Jane "Kai"; son, Gelacio Torres and his wife, Mercy; grandson, Elises and granddaughter, Emily Natly; brother, Don Mark Humphreys, Sr. and his wife, Caroline; sister, Laura Humphreys Badonski and husband, Miroslav; and many nieces and nephews. Jahn had many friends that were his extended family, which he considered his brothers and sisters. Jahn never met a stranger.

A memorial service and funeral were held at Crowder Funeral Home in Dickinson, Texas, in September 2021, per Jahn's request.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Galveston County Child Adoption Day Foundation or The Bay Area Turning Point.

**Robert Arthur Lewis  
Lewis Family**

Robert (Bob) Arthur Lewis, Dec. 9, 1944 – Dec. 21, 2021. Bob was born in Chicago, Illinois, the eighth child of Lester and Dorothy (Guy) Lewis. He was named after two men that had gone on before him — his uncle Robert Guy, killed in action while serving his country during WWII in 1944, and his grandfather Arthur Lewis,

who lost his life in the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918.

Bob grew up in Chicago and the surrounding area and entered the U.S. Navy after completing his education. He returned home to Homewood Acres, Illinois, in 1964 to begin a career that would take him all over the country and allow him to meet many people over the years. He was the true definition of a trucker and never got behind the wheel of a vehicle he did not want to control.

While his travels took him all over the country, it was in Oklahoma he found his true home. It was there that he was most happy to return home to his wife Loucinda and the kids. A proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, he served on the Tribe's Business Committee from 1981 to 1983. He enjoyed sharing Tribal history and the part the Lewis family held in that history. He gratefully received the award of the Wisest Tribal Member in attendance at the 2020 Family Reunion Festival General Council.

The word "quit" was not a word anyone would use to describe Bob. He worked hard and loved deeply. Help was not something he would ask for, but he was always willing to offer help and advice — sometimes even when people did not ask for either of those things.

He is survived by his wife, Loucinda; and children Shanna, Joshua, Brandy, Ronald, Dawn, Laurie and their families. His granddaughter Kayleigh holds a special place in his heart. He is survived by siblings Kay, Marty, Maida, Dorothy, Lester, Cheryl and their families. Waiting to greet him as he walks on are his parents; his sons, Douglas and Robert; his sister, Gwen; and brothers, Mike, Jerry, Dale and Keith.

**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](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org)

**CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls**

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

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

For more information, please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email [tribalrolls@potawatomi.org](mailto:tribalrolls@potawatomi.org).