

HOWNIKAN

Zisbaktokégises | April 2023

Leading plant ecologist and author named MacArthur Fellow

Tribal member welcomed home after Super Bowl win

Artist adds Indigenous flair to tattoos



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Denim Day highlights Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Kayla Woody, CPN House of Hope
DVPI Prevention Specialist

Every 68 seconds, an American is a victim of sexual assault. Every nine minutes, that victim is a child. Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is an annual observance during April that brings attention to sexual violence and educates communities about ways to prevent this from happening. To prevent sexual violence, we must understand it.

Sexual violence is any sexual activity that takes place where consent is not provided or freely given, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This can include words and actions of a sexual nature. This violence does not discriminate and impacts every community, affecting people of all genders, races, ages and sexual orientations. It also can be perpetrated by anyone. The National Sexual Assault Violence Resource Center states that nearly three out of four adolescents (74 percent) knew their perpetrator. These include current and former partners/spouses, parents/caregivers, family members, co-workers, acquaintances, neighbors and authority figures.

Statistics also show that younger people are at a much higher risk of sexual violence. The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network states that individuals 12 to 34 are at the highest risk for rape and sexual assault.

Sexual violence can take multiple forms including rape, attempted rape, sexual coercion, fondling or unwanted touching. Violence can occur in person, online or through technology. It can also happen anywhere. Each year, over 80,000 inmates are raped or sexually

assaulted, and 18,900 military members experience unwanted sexual contact or rape. Sexual violence is more common than other crimes on college campuses.

Sexual violence is a health crisis that is preventable. The CPN House of Hope brings education to the community around this issue. The first step is to teach youth in the community about boundaries, body safety and consent. Partnerships exist with multiple Head Start programs and schools to read to students and provide age-appropriate discussions. Another step is to educate individuals on how to respond when sexual violence is disclosed. Victim blaming is a common response to sexual assault and can have devastating effects. The House of Hope provides education on how to respond in a supportive way so that the victim feels validated and can begin the healing process.

To show support to survivors of sexual assault, the House of Hope encourages everyone to participate in Denim Day. This year it will be Wednesday, April 26. Wear jeans with a purpose, support survivors and educate yourself about sexual assault.

To find out more information on sexual assault and how to bring education to communities, reach out to the CPN House of Hope at 405-275-3176.

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





Citizen Potawatomi Nation employee George Wright takes off at the starting line. (Photo by Workingman Photo)

CPN-sponsored race funds early childhood music education

On a cold and windy morning in early February, nearly 275 cyclers and runners from five countries took off from Citizen Potawatomi Nation's powwow grounds for the 2023 Oklahoma Gravel Growler, testing their endurance on unpaved roads through Pottawatomie and Seminole counties.

The Growler began in 2016 when a group of local cycling enthusiasts chose to put on a race to give back to the community. spOKeLAHOMA bike shop owners Craig MacIntyre and Fran Topping took over planning in 2018 and have raised several thousand dollars for numerous community causes, including Community Renewal, CPN's House of Hope and the Anderson Fire Department.

"Several hundred dollars were raised just because when they registered, they added (an extra donation). And then we had a scavenger hunt. ... For \$10, you buy a card, and then they all came back and went into a raffle for a set of handmade wheels made here in the shop," Topping said.

This year, the Gravel Growler raised \$2,804.12 for the Tecumseh Public Schools Early Childhood Center's music education program for pre-K and kindergarten-aged students.

"Nothing short of perhaps second language and obvious normal care for toddlers produces greater outcomes in life than early music education. And yet in schools, the first thing that gets cut when budgets are cut is the arts and music, especially at young levels," MacIntyre said.

The money from the Gravel Growler was the first ever donation to the Early Childhood Center.

"I think sometimes people think more towards secondary, toward clubs. They think, 'I'll donate to the sports or football or band.' I think sometimes maybe they don't think in terms of an elementary or early childhood organization like that. So, it's super exciting," said ECC Principal Tammy Giaudrone.

They program will use the funds to purchase instruments such as glockenspiels, triangles and mini bongo drums or perhaps risers. The staff plans for students to work on their rhythm as an introduction to playing music and learn how to place themselves and stand for a performance.

"We know the value of music in our classrooms. We see that every day," said TPS Superintendent Robert Kinsey. "As a (former) principal at the middle school, it is a huge connection, (watching) our sixth graders when they got to join band and to see them grow and mature. It was a great way for them to get connected and motivated, even in their academics and connected to mathematics and so forth. And I think being able to offer it at ages 4 and 5 ... is important."

Logistics

Cyclists chose to ride either 16, 37 or a lengthy 85-mile course, while runners picked from a 16-mile or 37-mile ultra-marathon. The event welcomed 273 participants — 261 cyclists and 12 runners — from 12 states as well as Canada, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands and South Africa.

"The reality is, if it was just me, there would be like six of us out there riding bikes and goofing off," MacIntyre said. "(The Gravel Growler) exists because of all the people that did all the work and volunteered all their time. I just kind of tried to make sure, 'Okay, we're going to do this because I think this will make the experience good for people.'"

Citizen Potawatomi Nation employee George Wright is an avid cyclist and helped organize the event, acting as a point of contact with the Nation. FireLake Discount Foods donated essentials for the athletes, including bottled water and snacks for stops along the route. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Police Department also served as safety escorts as runners and cyclists started their journey near the powwow grounds and moved farther out from the city.

"As far as gravel roads, truly, (Oklahoma) is one of the places where people come from all over the world to ride," Wright said. "So, it's kind of a hidden talent that we have on the reservation. And that's one of my long-term goals is that we can keep this thing going and make it a reason for people who would know nothing even about Oklahoma, much less about CPN, to come see how great our jurisdiction area is."

The Grand Casino Hotel & Resort was the official race hotel, and the Gravel Growler used the North and South Reunion Halls near the CPN powwow grounds as a community space to meet, hold informational sessions before the race and spend time together.

"The reunion halls were just wonderful. It wasn't as cold as it might have been by Saturday afternoon. It was very windy. And if you've been riding 35, 85 miles, you're pretty sweaty and drained. And so having the reunion hall right there, let people come in and take their food inside. I



Tecumseh Public Schools Superintendent Robert Kinsey and Early Childhood Center Principal Tammy Giaudrone accept the Gravel Growler fundraising proceeds from spOKeLAHOMA owners Craig MacIntyre and Fran Topping (left to right).

mean, most of the time, they're used to sitting on the ground and eating," Topping said, noting the participants gave the space and track amenities "rave reviews."

The race attracted a couple of pro racers, Gosse Vandermeer from the Netherlands and Ismael Acosta from the Dominican Republic, who finished the longest course in the fastest time. Scott Johnson, a local rider, also received the Shackleton Award for his perseverance and endurance. He was the last rider to reach the finish line within the allotted time.

Wright completed the 37-mile course. He believes he and the other riders find satisfaction in races with gravel paths, such as the Gravel Growler, not only for their difficulty and unique obstacles but also the comradery.

"When you're a little kid and you're on your bike, and you can go around the puddle, but you want to go *through* the puddle, right? And that's what gravel is like. ... It's also a much more communitarian and inclusive kind of vibe. Sometimes bike races can get a little bit macho and hierarchical, and gravel is much more like, 'Hey, we're all hanging out, and let's go for a ride together,'" Wright said.

He sees the Gravel Growler turning into an annual event that people add to their calendars as well as becoming an "economic boon" for CPN.

"The Nation's already made such a big investment in the (Family Reunion) Festival grounds over the years, not for this purpose, but it's there. A lot of times it kind of stands idle. For just the, 'Yes, you can use this,' you bring in people that are going to spend their dollars right here. It was great," he said.

Find more information about the Gravel Growler and visit spOKeLAHOMA online at spokelahoma.com. 🔥

CPN legislative meeting minutes

March 2, 2023

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

Absent: Representative Rande Payne

Guests: Greg Quinlan, Chris Abel and Jamie Moucka.

Call to order: Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m. followed by the invocation.

First item of business: Minutes from the previous legislative meeting held Dec. 14, 2022, Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Representative Schmidtkofer and seconded by Representative Boursaw. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Second item of business: Resolution 23-31-R&G: A resolution approving the rescheduling of the Quarterly Meeting of the Tribal Legislature from Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, to Thursday, March 2, 2023. Motion to approve Resolution #23-31-R&G was made by Representative Schmidtkofer and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Third item of business: Resolution 23-32-App: A resolution approving a 2023-2024 annual budget of \$770,000 from the estimated earnings and interest on program money from Judgment funds awarded by the United States Court of Claims, subject to approval by the General Council pursuant to Article 5, Section 3 of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Constitution. Motion to approve Resolution #23-32-App was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Vice-Chairman Capps. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fourth item of business: Resolution 23-33-LCoE: A resolution enrolling 192 applicants into the membership of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Motion to approve Resolution #23-33-LCoE was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Walters. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fifth item of business: Resolution 23-34-NR: A resolution approving a fee-to-trust acquisition application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and request for trust acquisition of the (non-gaming/ON reservation) CPN-fy22-03 Gilbert Property. Motion to approve Resolution #23-34-NR was made by Representative Barrett and seconded by Representative Walters. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Sixth item of business: Resolution 23-35-NR: A resolution approving a fee-to-trust acquisition application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and request for trust acquisition of the (non-gaming/ON reservation) CPN-fy22-01 Smith Property. Motion to approve Resolution #23-35-NR was made by Representative Dave Carney and seconded by Representative Boursaw. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Seventh item of business: Resolution 23-36-NR: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the U.S. Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid formula grant program. Motion to approve Resolution #23-36-NR was made by Representative Eva Marie Carney and seconded by Representative Melot. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Eighth item of business: Resolution 23-37-TC&A: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the United States Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Children and Families fy2023 Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance Program. Motion to approve Resolution #23-37-TC&A was made by Representative Wesselhöft and seconded by Representative Lambert. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Ninth item of business: Resolution 23-38-TC&A: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the Institute of Museum and Library Services program. Motion to approve Resolution #23-38-TC&A was made by Representative Schmidtkofer and seconded by Representative Dave Carney. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Tenth item of business: Resolution 23-39-J&PS: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the U.S. Department of Justice fy2023 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) program, Purpose Area one. Motion to approve Resolution #23-39-J&PS was made by Representative Johnson and seconded by Representative Eva Marie Carney. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Eleventh item of business: Resolution 23-40-J&PS: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the U.S. Department of Justice fy2023 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) program, Purpose Area three. Motion to approve Resolution #23-40-J&PS was made by Representative Walters and seconded by

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Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho jayek (Hello, everyone),

Lots going on with the Language Department. We had an awesome turnout for our Winter Storytelling event; 75 folks in person and 102 online was the final count.

We also will be having a master apprentice program this summer. We expect six total students. This will be a 40 hour a week, eight-week long program starting at the end of May. At the end of the program, the six participants will have a total of 320 hours of instruction in the language. Our goal is to get these folks conversationally fluent within three years.

Depending on their drive, we hope to get folks talking within the first summer. We plan on selecting more students next summer. We hope to refine this and maybe make it an annual class.

Sengo zibiwes (Squirrel Creek Singers), our drum group, has been practicing hard and hopes to be the main drum at our dance this June. We will also be drumming for the Tribe's celebration of graduates on April 27.

We are also wrapping up the last quarter of our high school classes with Shawnee, Seminole and Tecumseh and our nine-week Shawnee middle school course.

This summer we will also be doing a couple of more public domain movies with our master apprentices, such as *House on Haunted Hill*, the old black-and-white film with Vincent Price.

Our new introductory course at learning.potawatomi.org has been getting quite a bit of traffic. It is composed of 20 chapters. Also, we are constantly creating new content to share on our two YouTube channels and on Facebook.

The newest member of our department, Josey Wood, recently finished the sixth and seventh grandfather posters for our Seven Grandfather poster series. These should be available in our gift shop in the coming months. We plan on also making either a card set or postcard series.

Remember to use our many tools, like our online dictionary (potawatomidictionary.com) and two courses on Memrise (memrise.com). Also, our partnership with Google Arts and Culture's Woolaroo program uses AI technology and your camera to recognize objects and gives you an audio recording for the word.

Robert Collins, who is currently teaching our collegiate course, is also beginning instruction at the Tribe's after school program.

Stormy Rhodd has been doing an awesome job working with our little ones in our East and West Child

Development Centers. She is also teaching a new 10-week beginner course at the Cultural Heritage Center.



We are taking a class of 4-year-olds from our Tribe's Child Development Center to the University of Oklahoma Language Fair on April 3. They are competing in the traditional song category. Also, Mrs. Neely is taking a group of first graders from Will Rogers Elementary, who are singing a song in the modern song category. My daughter, Peyton Neely, is also entering in the individual category.

Three members of our four-person Language Department will be presenting this year at the annual Potawatomi Language Conference. I am very proud of my staff for stepping up to present.

The Family Reunion Festival will be upon us before we know it. We will host several classes as well as our annual Potawatomi bingo, which is pretty popular. Also, we will have our annual scavenger hunt. So, check out some of our classes or try out our scavenger hunt.

lw
(End) 🔥

RE-ELECT
ANDREW WALTERS
NIBWEMKO [STANDING BEAR]
DISTRICT 11 LEGISLATOR



- HONESTY
- INTEGRITY
- PROVEN LEADERSHIP

"I believe in this Tribe and our people. We have many divisions we need to heal, and many things yet to do"
nibwemko@gmail.com

Paid for by Andrew Walters

Caring for family heirlooms

With special care, family heirlooms may withstand regular use so the next generation can enjoy them as well, an expert from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center said.

CHC Collections Manager Peter Kavourgias also noted that incorporating traditional practices with modern preservation techniques helps an item's longevity.

"Traditional practices, techniques and methods are highly valuable. (We don't) discount that knowledge, because that knowledge is extremely valid," he said. "There are additional methods that you can use that we've learned as professionals that hopefully can provide everyone an opportunity to preserve their items."

Pottery, other handmade art

Non-wearable heirlooms, including pottery and paintings, should be carefully stored. Preservation by maintaining a stable environment free from extreme temperature fluctuations is best. Extremely low or dry temperatures can contribute to cracking. Some materials absorb water, so high humidity must be avoided as well.

"For something that is fragile, like pottery or other ceramics, I would suggest a storage container created for ceramics. You can even make one yourself using a YouTube tutorial," Kavourgias said.

People may not be aware that placing the item on a flat surface may be harmful. Cradling the item in some type of material is best. Everything the item touches should be acid-free.

"Having like a buffer around it, whether it be one of those plastics, like the polyester bags, is helpful. If you were to store it on a shelf, you should have a small cut out of that polyester underneath," he said.

Sometimes, small nicks or scratches can also lend character to the item and can be left in place. The CHC gallery currently holds an 18th century violin, which is largely un-refurbished due to its historical value.

"A lot of times (imperfection) kind of adds a story to it. We've had people want to discuss refinishing a piece that they have from their great-grandpa. But there are stories and generational history that's associated with it. A lot of times cultural value or personal history is lost when you paint over the scratches," he said.

Beadwork

The most important aspect of maintaining beadwork and other similar items is preventative care, Kavourgias said. While some deterioration is inevitable, reducing the amount over the item's life is possible.

Beadwork presents a unique challenge because of the wide variety of materials used to make beads. Glass, shell, stone, metal or plastic may be used. Kavourgias recommends a light cleaning before returning the items to storage. There are gentle cleaning methods for beadwork made from all types of beads.

"You can use a soft bristle brush to brush away dirt, using slow, smooth movements. You can also use dust cloths, like microfiber, very gently. You really want to avoid using anything like dusting feathers and things like that. It can make things worse," he said.

However, not every piece requires cleaning. Pouches that hold tobacco or other important items should not be cleaned.

"There are specific pieces that you don't want to (clean), and that's based on cultural practices. So, you don't want to take the (residue) off. Because it's from using tobacco or something like that, you want to keep that there. You'll just need to be more vigilant in how you monitor and take care of it," Kavourgias said.

When the items are not in use, safe storage is important. Temperature extremes or large fluctuations in humidity should be avoided. High humidity can encourage the growth of mold or mildew. Extremely low humidity can cause some beads to crack. Storage in an outdoor area, such as a garage, should always be avoided.

"You really want to store it in the best conditions possible, so having it somewhere in the house, which is usually centrally air conditioned and it's not too extreme, would be good. You don't want the extreme back and forth," Kavourgias said.

For safe storage, boxes or plastics that don't contain harmful chemicals are best. Kavourgias recommends acid-free cardboard, tissue paper and plastics with polyethylene, polypropylene and polyester. Most of these items are available at major retailers.

He said if a beadwork piece becomes damaged, it is best not to attempt the repairs yourself. The staff at



the CHC is happy to answer any questions or help locate someone who can repair the damage.

"We can reach out to conservators, and a lot of them specialize in those different areas, like glass or leather or metal. That's usually the best way to do it," he said.

Natural items

Kavourgiyas said items made from natural sources, such as feathers, fur or bone, require different care because of their spiritual importance and the nature of their origin.

Eagle feathers can present a challenge because they are fragile and sometimes permanently attached to regalia. However, it's important to regularly inspect the feathers for damage or necessary cleaning.

"The most important thing for feathers or any sort of organic material is pest management. When you're storing any of these things, you want to make sure that it's in an uncluttered, dust-free environment," he said.

Feathers should be kept in acid-free cardboard or other containers free from harmful chemicals. Feathers may also be wrapped in material such as linen, muslin or cotton. Polyester or polypropylene bags may be used. Wool should be avoided as it tends to draw pests such as moths.

"Eagle feathers, because they're keratin based and have that protein still available, they're really susceptible to insects," Kavourgiyas said.

With care, it is possible to gently clean any dust or dirt from an eagle feather.

"You can put the eagle feather on a flat, hard surface and then use a soft bristle brush. You can wear cotton gloves, or with extremely clean hands, and preen those eagle feathers back into shape. And depending on how damaged they are, you might not be able to fix those gaps and things that might exist, which is okay," he said.

If the feather is attached to another item, it may be possible to remove the feathers and clean the rest of the item. In those instances, Kavourgiyas recommends taking photos of how the feathers are attached to the regalia so they may be reattached in the same way later.

"It's also important to be mindful of things that are passed down because you may not be aware of how or why it was made. Sometimes there are specific stories that are mentioned, of parents talking to their kids about something that was passed down from generations, just to be mindful of how it was cared for and made," he said.

Fabrics

Fabrics used for shirts, skirts or blouses last longer when carefully folded or hung up in a closet. However, special attention should be paid to prevent unnecessary stress on seams, especially in heavier items such as jingle dresses, Kavourgiyas said.



"Those (heavier items), you can fold them. But we would recommend that those folds be lined with acid-free and buffer tissue paper to avoid heavy creases. With fabric, they all have some degradation the more they're folded. But having those acid-free and buffered paper tissue lining the folds can save you from future issues. Whenever you have something that is able to be hung, something that isn't very heavy and doesn't have a lot of deterioration, we'd recommend padded hangers," he said.

Wooden hangers, while thought of as sturdy and long-lasting, should be avoided. Kavourgiyas said wood is probably the worst type of hanger for clothing that has any historical or cultural value because wood can release gas or acid and cause degradation.

Spot cleaning

In the event an item is stained, there are ways to gently clean it without compromising the heirloom's integrity. For cloth or leather, gentle spot cleaning can remove some dirt or stains.

"We usually use a quart of distilled water with two to three drops of mild dishwashing liquid, like Dawn," he said. "If it's ink or something difficult to

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Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

I have good news for Native American Veterans concerning VA medical benefits. As of Jan. 5, 2022, copayments can be waived. The intent of this policy is to encourage Veterans to seek regular primary care treatment, which can yield better health outcomes. Copayments for more than three visits to community-based urgent care in one calendar year would still be required, as for all Veterans. Follow-up care provided by a VA-authorized primary care provider would be exempt from copays. In addition, VA is proposing to make this copayment exemption retroactive to Jan. 5, 2022. Eligible Native American Veterans would be reimbursed for copayments paid on or after Jan. 5 upon submission of their official documentation to the Veteran Health Administration.

For verification of your military status, you will need the following:

- An affidavit of Military Service, which is a sworn statement attesting to a person's enrollment in or separation from the armed forces. This will include your name, date of birth and basics.
- The DD-215 or DD-214 form. These are given to service members upon their separation from the armed forces.
- DD-256 form. This form needs to be filled out by Reservists who have finished their military obligations. The National Guard routinely has NG-22 or the improved NG-22a version.
- VA Verification of Service Letter. This letter can prove their qualification by submitting a statement describing the work they did in the military. It can also verify they were honorably dismissed from the military.
- Form of Military Orders. Proof of active-duty service can be provided using this document. Financial statements can be used to verify your status as a Veteran.

Keep in mind that neither active-duty military members nor civilian employees of the Department of Defense are eligible for verifications over the phone. The best

Legislative meeting continued...

Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Twelfth item of business: Resolution 23-41-ED&C: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Community Development Corporation's application to the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development Honoring Nations as an All-Star Nominee. Motion to approve Resolution #23-41-ED&C was made by Representative Schmidlkofer and seconded



places to check on the status of active-duty service members are the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Centralized Verification Service (SCRACVS).

Remember, our monthly meeting of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization is the fourth Tuesday of each month, April 25 (unless otherwise notified due to weather or conflicting events) at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the CPN Powwow Grounds. All CPN Veterans and spouses and their families are welcome. Membership in the Veterans organization is not required; come and visit us and enjoy our socializing. For more information, contact Daryl Talbot.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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

by Representative Bowden. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

7 p.m. Recess (Executive Session)

8:06 p.m. Reconvene

Thirteenth item of business: Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Representative Schmidlkofer and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. 🔥

Heritage Center continued...

remove like that, you'd have to consult with a textiles conservator to figure out the best ways to clean it."

He recommends professional examination for more serious accidents. The curators at the CHC are available to help Tribal members decide if professional assistance is needed.

Deterring pests

Previous generations often relied on mothballs or cedar to deter pests. However, there are better, chemical-free alternatives today.

"Mothballs are just like a huge chemical disaster," Kavourgias said. "Cedar or tobacco, if it has like a cultural value, it's hard to argue against that. That's something you can still use if you feel like it really adds value to how you're storing it and caring for it."

He urges caution though, as organic materials like cedar can draw pests. He suggests checking the item frequently to ensure no pests have been in the area.

Kavourgias recommends closely monitoring any home pest traps for best results. These traps, while efficient, can also draw additional pests to the area.

"If you have a pest trap in there and something does get caught, specifically like rats and mice, that's essentially

food for more insects. Some people use kill bait, like poison. Poison is really like the worst thing when you're trying to preserve anything, because if it dies, then just a swarm of insects come for it," he said.

Avoiding harsh lighting

It is important to consider whether light might eventually damage an item. Museums often rotate paintings based on how long they have been exposed to artificial light, Karvourgias said. While most people do not have to use these methods, they should consider whether their heirlooms can withstand exposure to sunlight, which contains harmful ultraviolet A rays.

"Light is super harmful to most materials. Any organic materials, textiles, especially paper, store them in either low light or no light," he said. "If you're displaying an item, use a well manufactured display case. In your home, keep it somewhere where there isn't going to be constant (UVA) light on it."

With proper care, treasured family heirlooms can be preserved, Kavourgias said. Even new items will benefit from proper care so they may be proudly passed to the next generation.

For more information about preserving family heirlooms, contact the staff at the Cultural Heritage Center at 405-878-5830 or visit potawatomheritage.com. 🔥

VOTE!
INTEGRITY
PROSPERITY
HOPE

Jay Laughlin for
District 11
Representative

PAID FOR BY JAY LAUGHLIN



CPN-owned bank gets new name, look

The last few years brought many changes for First National Bank & Trust Co., including new leadership, acquisition of another bank and now a complete rebrand of its look along with products and services. Beginning in April 2023, FNB will be known as Sovereign Bank.

In 2021, Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Sovereign Bank purchased The First State Bank and merged the two entities — Oklahoma’s largest acquisitions transaction of its kind in banking since 2016. There are now nine branches and a loan production office in Edmond, Oklahoma, for a total of 10 locations. The bank’s total assets increased in excess of \$800 million.

Bank leadership, including Sovereign Bank President and CEO Bryan Cain, felt the rebrand was necessary following the merger “to really define our identity.”

“We really kind of had an identity crisis,” he said. “We didn’t know who we were. Were we First National Bank? Were we First State Bank? This way, we’re just Sovereign Bank.”

Senior Vice President and Director of Marketing and Communications Kathryn Cavanaugh agreed. They focused on realigning Sovereign Bank’s organizational values and clarifying its purpose and mission.

“It became a necessity in the sense that we needed a unified vision, mission and message, both for our employees and for our markets. Because for both banks that joined together, we were merging different markets, different cultures and things like that,” she said.

Style, products

In a recent letter to current customers, Cain described Sovereign Bank’s new logo and aesthetic for their digital and physical products.

“Our new name also includes a new logo — fresh, clean and simple, with an appealing bright red with accents of silver and white,” it read. “You’ll see this logo everywhere, from signage to bank shirts. It is uniquely ours, just like our name, so we won’t be confused with any other bank or company.”

Cavanaugh describes the new logo as “modern and sharp” with references to the bank’s Tribal ownership. The “S” that stands for “Sovereign” is comprised of four isosceles triangles, each one pointing in a cardinal direction, a depiction of the Potawatomi medicine wheel. The design acknowledges “the all-compassing, united presence of the Potawatomi Nation across the world,” she said.



**Empowering You
With the Freedom
to Dream**

As your bank, Sovereign Bank strives to provide the best banking services to all members of Citizen Potawatomi Nation. It's more than your money. It's your quality of life.

**Sovereign
BANK**

banksovereign.com

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER Member FDIC

The colors hold meaning as well with the red taken from Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s tribal seal. Cain said the rebranding presents the opportunity to lean into its ownership by a Native nation and celebrate it. Sovereign Bank is the largest tribally owned bank in the United States.

“I think any time you look for a name, you look for something that really identifies who you are. For us, again, going back to our Tribal ownership is something that set us apart in the marketplace,” Cain said.

In the coming months, Sovereign Bank also plans to elevate their online offerings by launching a new website and upgrade the smartphone apps for both retail and business banking. It will also offer online account opening. These new products will allow customers to bank wherever they are located and attract customers outside of Oklahoma.

“Our younger generation, they’re not going to go into a bank,” Cain said. “Their phone is the bank. So, the more that we can ease that access

to them and make it available in the palm of their hand, then the better it is for them, too."

Community, mission

As an institution, Sovereign Bank focuses on serving the underserved and helping its customers gain financial independence. Cain said that mission will remain the same.

"The community that really hasn't been served is the tribal community, and so we feel like no one understands that better than us," he said. "Being tribally owned gives us not just a leg up on the competition, but it gives us a true understanding of how that community is and what their needs are."

Sovereign Bank's new tagline is "Freedom to Dream," and Cavanaugh sees their staff and services as partners and resources in helping customers develop their futures. That includes financial education about loans and credit scores, not only to individuals but to the community, as well as positively impacting the schools, economies and organizations around their business.

"Without a bank and a post office, you're not going to have a thriving community. ... Your needs are going to be different in one community versus a different community but being able to be agile and provide those services to meet those needs is critical to

development, economically and educationally, for a lot of communities. From a purpose standpoint, that's what we do as a community bank," Cavanaugh said.

Sovereign Bank aims to focus on innovation and creative problem solving in its new chapter, making collaboration between different departments a day-to-day occurrence. It also plans to continue hearing feedback from employees across locations to spur growth. Leadership sought many different opinions on the merger and rebrand, which led to positive internal feedback.


Cain said the staff remains dedicated to "doing the right thing" as a business, for its staff, its customers, the Indigenous community and Sovereign Bank's larger service area. The rebrand raises everyone's expectations, and he hopes anyone interacting with Sovereign sees them met during their experience.


"As far as the Potawatomi Nation, I hope that Citizen Potawatomi members understand that everywhere we go, we understand the importance that we are a reflection on them and that we carry that with us," Cain said.

"We as an institution are very excited about the rebrand. We're excited about the future of the bank, the opportunities that we have in front of us."

Follow Sovereign Bank on Facebook [@banksovereign](#).


EQUALITY
TRADITION
INCLUSION





RE-ELECT
 ANDREW WALTERS

DISTRICT 11 LEGISLATOR



BEING YOUR LEGISLATOR IS AN HONOR. DURING MY TENURE I HAVE HELPED THE TRIBE THROUGH THE COVID PANDEMIC, THE DISTRIBUTION OF ARPA FUNDS, AND THE ENROLLMENT OF THOUSANDS OF NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR TRIBE. I HAVE ATTENDED EACH MEETING AND CONTRIBUTED MY THOUGHTS AND DESIRES AS DICTATED BY YOU, MY CONSTITUENTS. MY REQUEST TO YOU NOW IS TO VOTE. RE-ELECT ME TO CONTINUE MY SERVICE TO THE TRIBE AND OUR PEOPLE. LET ME UTILIZE THE EXPERIENCE I'VE GAINED IN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TO FURTHER MOVE OUR TRIBE INTO THE FUTURE. OVER THE NEXT 4 YEARS MANY CHANGES WILL COME TO THE TRIBE, PLEASE HELP ME BE PART OF THAT CHANGE.

PAID FOR BY ANDREW WALTERS, CANDIDATE DISTRICT 11 CPN LEGISLATOR.

District 10 election candidates Q&A

Editor's Note - Responses from legislative candidates appear exactly as they were submitted without editing for content or style.



David Barrett Incumbent

What do you hope to accomplish during your time in office if elected?

Protecting the services and benefits that we are offering to our membership across the Nation. Making sure that we are aware that the more additions to our Nation that we are able to plan and establish revenues that

will continue to pay forward those services and benefits. For us to maintain the increase of those new members we are going to have to be very diligent, innovative and forward thinking not to jeopardize future generations.

Describe an effective Tribal leader.

A leader is someone who has the art of motivating a person or a group of people to achieve a common goal. Leaders must also command respect and trust along with focusing on the job at hand with the attributes of being a good listener and being honest. Strategic planners are not everything you need; however, strategies are nothing without effective communication to ensure both sides understands the tasks and is motivated. A leader will give credit to everyone else when things go well; however, when things go wrong they look to themselves and take full responsibility.

How do you plan to engage Tribal citizens?

By my interactions in communicating and listening to our membership needs, I would be able to get more tribal citizens' involvement especially with our senior citizens. Making myself available to them at every function that is available such as at festivals, gathering, veteran's parades, PLP functions, veterans monthly meetings, during Color Guard functions, and employee appreciation day. Since Oklahoma's legislators do not have area meetings, we have to keep our membership informed by way of the Hownikan, E-Mails, phone calls, and social media.

What do you feel is the Tribe's most pressing issue it currently faces?

Addressing and being always on guard on issues between federal, state and tribal sovereignty. We must maintain, protect, and nurture our sovereignty, our self-governance and self determination with an understanding from our distinct history, culture, and language that our Nation will continue to survive the future storms that will come to our great Nation.

Charles Scott Challenger

What do you hope to accomplish during your time in office if elected?

If elected I want to help you navigate any problem or issue that affects you and our Tribe. I also want to learn under the guidance of a few pf our current leaders. Communication, Jobs and Culture and how our Government can facilitate these 3 things.

Describe an effective Tribal leader.

To be an effective Leader we must listen to our members, that requires effective communication and messaging. We must also be allowed to Represent our members with the things they require, such as Culture and Language

How do you plan to engage Tribal citizens?

I will bring back Oklahoma District meetings, once per quarter, It is also my plan to bring back our seasonal feasts as we;; as work with our Executive and create District groups in our CPN web page. We also need to reorganize how we communicate with our elected officers. The chain of command needs to work both ways, up and down.

What do you feel is the Tribe's most pressing issue it currently faces?

Our Chairman and others have built a solid foundation so future generations can build. I've identified 5 things we need to address.

Our pending leadership vacuum. Many Directors and Department heads are serving us well past normal retirement age.

We have seen our out of State population grow exponentially. We need to start preparing now for their needs both culturally and in services.

Communication and the role social media plays. Many Oklahoma and a couple of regional Legislators really don't use Social media to communicate with their members. This would solve much of the lack of participation from members.

Continue to diversify our businesses and focus that support back into our Cultural programs.

Our culture and access to our culture needs to emphasized way more. We need to fund our language department, bring back many of our best CPN language teachers and we need to invest in Language and Cultural Immersion.

District 11 election candidates Q&A

Editor's Note - Responses from legislative candidates appear exactly as they were submitted without editing for content or style.



Andrew Walters
Incumbent

What do you hope to accomplish during your time in office if elected?

During the last 2 years, I have carefully watched, listened and engaging in an effort to learn about the concerns of members and the "ways" of the Tribe and government. I have learned much and asserted myself when I felt

necessary. During the next 4 years I want to tackle some looming issues. Changes in leadership, a growing business environment, communications issues, and member participation top that list. Other issues are elder services, medical services for members outside the State, and Constitutional changes to update our existing document.

Describe an effective Tribal leader.

Leadership is the essence of our existence. Leadership is not a top down arrangement, but rather a bottom up. Leaders serve their people and their organization. Never is what's bad for the people good for the Tribe. And never is what's good for the Tribe bad for the people. A leader remembers their roots. They are able to relate to others circumstances and situations. People come first in decisions.

How do you plan to engage Tribal citizens?

Communications has always been an issue in any organization. I feel we need to try harder to engage our members and never give up. I think our organizational culture should focus on that one issue...bringing our members into the fold.

What do you feel is the Tribe's most pressing issue it currently faces?

Participation is the single most important issue. We have members who feel disenfranchised from the Tribe. Some have given up. Some cease to care. If we wish to realize the "7th fire prophesy". We must light that fire. I don't have all the answers. But I have the ability to communicate and move toward a solution.



Jay Laughlin
Challenger

What do you hope to accomplish during your time in office if elected?

What would be the most economical means to provide the most for the most, that all could benefit? I've asked myself this question many times. There are existing state, federal and tribal programs available; however,

it's difficult for one to figure out which path to take, which agency to contact, or what resources are actually available for the one seeking. I envision a resource advocacy center, a CPN Center of Helping Hands that focuses on giving helping hands to those in need. These hands would have access to the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to cut through the red tape and offer guidance and services for the particular situation. From growing a business, to emergency housing, to Medicare plans, to education, to child services, to mental health and substance abuse. These hands would have the knowledge and resources needed to guide those in need and those seeking to take the next step.

Describe an effective Tribal leader.

An effective tribal leader must represent the people. They must be of the people. They must have passion, integrity, and the ability to communicate. A leader draws the best out of people and empowers them to reach our common goal. They must have real-world experience. An effective tribal leader must take a vision and translate that vision into reality.

How do you plan to engage Tribal citizens?

It's a challenge to stay connected when you're miles away. Work, family, and the day-to-day take up most of this time. We must leverage technology and offer incentives to promote these much-needed bonds. We need to have periodic district meetings within the State of Oklahoma. At that time, we'll incorporate traditions, build bonds, and make connections.

Reach out to me at jaylaughlin4cpn@gmail.com or Facebook [@JayLaughlin4CPN](https://www.facebook.com/JayLaughlin4CPN).

What do you feel is the Tribe's most pressing issue it currently faces?

A diversified and profitable portfolio is needed to ensure that we can provide the resources to fund and grow our programs. With funding set aside, my focus will be on improving healthcare, education, our elders, our youth, affordable adequate housing, business development, substance abuse, and culture. Opioid abuse is a big issue in Indian Country at this time. 🔥

Melott family history

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives and video interviews.

To highlight some of the archive's holdings, the *Hownikan* is featuring photographs and family history of every founding Citizen Potawatomi family. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830.

Note: This article will discuss the Melott family history. A separate article is planned for the Melot family.

Family's beginnings

The Melott family history begins with a French immigrant named Joseph Melot. Joseph married Catherine (Katy) Bergeron, the daughter of Francois Xavier Bergeron and *Wat-che-kee* (sometimes spelled *Watseka*), or Josette Bergeron.

When the Potawatomi were forced out of their Iowa lands in 1846 by the Council Bluffs Treaty, they removed to a reservation of 567,000 acres in Kansas. The tribal roll of 1863, published by the Riley County, Kansas, Genealogical Society, lists both Francois and Josette Bergeron, both age 44, as residents of the Potawatomi Reservation at St. Marys, Kansas. Together, they had Jean (John) Batiste, Catherine (Katy), Matilda and Charles.

When *Wat-che-kee* died in 1875, she was buried in an unmarked grave just southwest of the present-day site of the Wanette Cemetery in Indian Territory. Her husband, Francois, died in 1881 and was buried in the Wanette Cemetery.

It was their daughter, Catherine "Katy" and her husband, Joseph Melot, who established the town of Wanette in Indian Territory, prior to Oklahoma statehood in 1907.

Founding of Wanette

In Kansas, settlers and railroad companies began pressuring the U.S. government to open land for settlement. The Potawatomi, displaced from their ancestral homelands, were now being forced from their adopted home in Kansas. Some of the Kansas Potawatomi decided to take individual allotments in Indian Territory. Katy Melot was among those who elected to receive an allotment.

A *Shawnee News-Star* article in the CHC archives recounts the history of Wanette, Indian Territory. The town was founded March 19, 1894, by Joseph and Katy (Bergeron) Melot. The couple owned 240 acres on which the first townsite was built.



Wat-che-kee, or Josette Bergeron

Katy (Bergeron) Melot was born in July 1851 in Kansas. Joseph T. Melot was born in France on Aug. 15, 1839. Katy and Joseph were the parents of Joseph Edward (J.E.), William Warren (W.W.), Joseph Thomas (Tom), Lewis (Louis), Elmer, Earl, Ruth, Grace, Leander (Lee) and Benjamin.

The family moved from Iowa to Kansas in 1863 before eventually settling in Wanette in 1868. A 1970 news article within the CHC archives stated the oldest existing log cabin in Pottawatomie County at the time had been built by Joe Melot. The cabin was originally built as a two-story structure but later was reduced to one and a half story. At the time of publication in 1970, the article said the cabin was being used for hay storage while cattle grazed nearby.

Three years after establishing his home site, Joe returned to Kansas and helped six other families move to Oklahoma Territory in 1871. They traveled in a wagon train of 14 covered wagons.

The first Catholic mass held in the county took place at the Melot cabin, conducted by Fr. Isidor Robot shortly after Robot arrived in January 1876. That year, a council led by Peter the Great approved the plan for Joe and Katy to grant some land to the Benedictine Order of the Catholic Church to establish a mission. Robot established Sacred Heart Mission, where many Potawatomi youth were educated.

The town was also known by other early names, such as Oberlin, Isabella, Clardyville and Wagoza, before finally settling upon Wanette. It is believed that the post office was opened on March 19, 1894.

However, the 1903 construction of the Santa Fe Railroad meant that the town would have to be relocated one mile north to its present-day location so the townspeople would have access to the railroad. The town prospered following the move, boasting of successful cotton gins, hardware stores, banks, a brick kiln and saloon. Soon a school was built, and more people flocked to the burgeoning town.

Joseph died in 1898 and was buried in the Wanette Cemetery. Katy died in 1933 and was also buried in the Wanette Cemetery. Some of Joseph and Katy's children, such as Leander, Joseph, Lewis and William, began spelling their last name as Melott.

Katy and Joseph's daughter, Theresa, married Alexander Upton. They had three children, named Josephus, Emery and Marie. Sadly, two of their children, Bonny and Theresa, died young.

Joseph and Katy's son, Leander (Lee) Melott, was born in Wanette on April 15, 1880. He received an 80-acre allotment in present-day Pottawatomie County. In 1900, he married Nina Lucille Johnson, and together they had Minnie Ester, Raymond Verble, Violet May (Page) and Pearl Haze. Leander died Jan. 2, 1958, and was buried in Wheatland, Oklahoma.

Joseph and Katy's son, Joseph Thomas (Tom) Melott and his wife, Margaret Jane Lambert, were the parents of Glatis M. (Melott) (Johnson) Brown. She had a son named James Earl Johnson. James and his wife, Alice Brenda (Willis) Johnson, had a son named Dennis Erin Johnson. Tom Melott also had a daughter named Marjorie (Melot) (Sinor) Bailey. She had a daughter named Barbara A. (Bailey) Montgomery and a son named Denzil Woodfer Bailey, Jr.

Joseph and Katy's son Tom was also the father of Floyd E. Melott, Marion X. Melot, Sr., Milton, Milford Glen, Joseph Aaron and George Benton. Marion, Sr. was the father of Marion X. Melot, Jr.

Katy and Joseph's son Lewis (Louis) was the father of Viola (Burrow). One CHC document stated that in 1970 Louis was 90 years old and still walked to town several times a day. He attended Sacred Heart School as a boy but later served many years as a Baptist and Methodist minister.

Katy and Joseph's son William was the father of Frank T. Melott and Ernest R. Melott. Frank's son was Roger Kenneth. Ernest's son was Teddy B. Melott.

Early life in Oklahoma

The Melott family are among the earliest contributors to what would eventually become the state of Oklahoma.

Life in Indian Territory was anything but easy. All infrastructure had to be built by hand, carved out from empty prairies. In some instances, Melott family members did leave Oklahoma to find stability.

An interview with Letha Melott Tacker published in 1983 revealed that she had two brothers and two sisters. Letha was born in 1903 in Wanette to William Warren Melott and Myrtle Melott.

The children grew up near Wanette but moved frequently to allow their father to find work. In 1911, they moved to Oregon, where their youngest sister was born in Prenore. Their father found work in a sawmill.

They returned to Oklahoma after about a year, settling near Trousdale. There, the children helped their uncle on his family farm. They returned to Wanette, where Letha attended school until the fourth grade.

Then the family moved to Cushing. Their father had found work in the oil field, and their mother ran a cook shack. Eventually, the family found a home in Shawnee on East Main Street. The children attended nearby Franklin School.

In 1918, Letha noted that she had turned 15 and recalled that World War I had begun, and she was scared her boyfriend Carter Tacker would have to go overseas to support the war effort. They married on Oct. 14, 1918, but fortunately, Carter was not deployed.

Then, the Great Influenza pandemic of 1918 was the world's greatest concern. Letha and her husband Carter were married for only 10 weeks when both came down with the disease. She was sick for 10 days; her husband for two weeks. He later developed double pneumonia. Letha and her mother sat up all night, applying the homemade remedy of turpentine, grease and camphor. Her husband recovered the next morning.

Letha said her husband began working at a lumberyard until 1928 when the Great Depression hit. Businesses, including the lumberyard, failed. They traded their home in town for a farm where they could raise their own food.

It was through the courage to take allotments and face the unknown in Indian Territory that the Melott family came to prosper. With their hard work and perseverance through unimaginable hardship, they put down roots that allowed the family to thrive, and in turn, the southern half of Pottawatomie County was able to flourish.

If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830. Schedule interviews online at portal.potawatomi.org. Learn more about the Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/festival, and find research resources online at potawatomiheritage.com. 📖

CPCDC services increase financial literacy

In 2003, Citizen Potawatomi Nation founded the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation to help improve the financial literacy and economic opportunities of CPN tribal members and Natives in the community. April is National Financial Literacy Month.

CPCDC Director and CEO Cindy Logsdon said she and her experienced staff try to create the best experience possible for their clients.

“The very first thing that we focus on with clients with financial literacy is pointing out what they’re doing well before giving suggestions on what they could do better, because it’s sometimes a difficult subject,” she said.

They find their clients often need encouragement and direction while reassessing their financial values, goal planning, and implementing practical, everyday tips.

Values

The CPCDC helps clients reassess their financial values during individual meetings. Logsdon finds many parents rely on school to provide their children financial literacy, but according to her, learning about money and financial values from family members remains essential. She encourages clients to consider the knowledge they pass along.

“We do pick up so many of our habits from our parents and our views on money. Our relationship with money is so grounded in our influences, and that could be school, that could be parents, that could be media, peers. But we know that financial education is either given to you in the home or not, typically,” she said.

To increase financial literacy in the community, the CPCDC partners with other organizations for quarterly “lunch and learn” sessions that cover a variety of topics about banking and personal economics.

Planning

Goal setting, including short, intermediate and long-term goals, is an important part of financial literacy because it provides a plan. Logsdon assures her clients the CPCDC is a confidential and judgment-free resource.

“Maybe it’s just having somebody listen and just make suggestions or work out a strategy to get themselves out of the hole,” she said. “But I think the main thing here is, no judgment. We’ve all been there, done that and taken steps through different programs to make sure that we had a more secure financial future.”

Many times, clients’ goals include owning a home or starting a business, both of which require forethought. The CPCDC assists with finding outside resources as a first step to success.

“I would set myself up. ‘In five years, I want to be able to buy a home.’ Same with starting a business. ... What does this look like? It’s almost like an ever-changing road map to know what the outcome is, and it’s not just here in my head because a lot of business owners, it’s just here in their head, and they never put it to paper,” Logsdon said.

In one-on-one counseling sessions, staff also show clients the basics of budgeting and saving. They provide information on free resources, including easy-to-use online tools. The CPN-owned Sovereign Bank (formerly First National Bank & Trust, Co.) also assists with housing and auto loans.

Tips

Generally, Logsdon recommends a more traditional “three bucket” approach to personal finances — spend, save and share. It includes placing 10 percent of total income in a savings account, donating 10 percent to a cause or organization, and using the rest for expenses.

“When you start saving, it starts a healthy habit. It creates that emergency savings. ... We might suggest a look at a secondary job. ‘Is there a side hustle that you could bring in more money? Is there something that you could do to increase your income, or is there something that you could do to eliminate some of your expenses?’” Logsdon said.

The CPCDC staff steers clients away from payday lending, a predatory practice that offers cash advances on upcoming paychecks with interest rates between 150 and 650 percent, which makes breaking the borrowing cycle difficult.

“You could self-fund putting back a small amount of your paycheck and pay yourself first (instead). ... And that should be built into a budget. You should always know where your money is going. And if you don’t know where your money’s going, that’s where you need to plug the spending leaks,” Logsdon said.

Clients sometimes avoid talking about their credit score as well, either because they have no previous history or stopped checking it. Education on how to approach and improve it makes them more comfortable.

“You should pull your credit from each bureau once a year, and you can rotate that into quarters to know what’s on there. And a lot of credit reports aren’t accurate, and the bureaus allow you to dispute anything that may not be accurate to better your score,” Logsdon said.

After creating a positive financial path, she always encourages clients to “keep the good going” for a stable future.

The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation counsels tribal members nationwide via phone or internet. To find out more, visit cpcdc.org or call 405-878-4697. Find the CPCDC on Facebook @CPNCDFI. 🔥

Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation

Financial Wellness Checkup

As a rule, do you:

	Always	Sometimes	Never
1. Pay your rent/mortgage payment on time?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Pay your utilities payment on time?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Save 10 percent of your take home pay?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Try to keep three months of your net income in reserve for emergencies?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Plan ahead for large expenses such as buying a car and moving into an apartment?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Set goals and keep a budget for your net income?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Spend no more than 20 percent of your net income for credit payments, excluding home mortgage?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Comparison shop for the purchase of most items?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Use credit only for expensive purchases or when you have the money in the bank to cover the charge?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Balance your checkbook every month?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Keep yourself financially updated by reading personal financial articles and magazines?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Total

A

S

N

Please answer Yes or No

	Yes	No
12. Do you have a checking account?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Do you have a savings account?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. Do you follow a monthly budget?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. Do you contribute to your 401k plan?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. Do you borrow from payday/loan company lenders?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



If your majority is **Always: Relax!**

You possess very good personal financial habits and behavior.



If your majority is **Sometimes: Be Cautious!**

You need to change some personal financial habits and behaviors. Obtain additional training workshop or schedule a personal consultation.




If your majority is **Never: Danger!**

You are in danger of losing control of your personal financial situation. Act now to take control of your finances by scheduling a personal consultation at your earliest convenience.



Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation

cpcdc.org | 405-878-4697 | info@cpcdc.org |  CPNCDFI

Personnel support Tribal, community safety

Telecommunicators are essential to keep communities safe, and National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (April 9-15, 2023) recognizes them for their important work.

As part of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Police Department, supervisor Katlyn Fry and dispatcher Joan Nevin are part of a team that keeps both the community surrounding CPN and law enforcement safe. They are also charged with coordinating communication among Pottawatomie County's numerous law enforcement professionals, from police departments to sheriff's deputies to ambulance service.

The team also includes Macyn Kinkade, Kayla Dixon, Maria Dean, Brittany Kelley, Kaleb Simons, Brian Scott and Megan Schmitt.

While the CPN Police Department is focused on protecting the 900-square mile Tribal jurisdictional boundary, cross-deputization agreements with other law enforcement agencies enable CPN police to have jurisdiction in Pottawatomie County. These agreements became common in Oklahoma in the 1990s as tribal nations began to assert their sovereignty. As a result, CPN officers are also called to respond to mutual aid requests within Pottawatomie County.

The telecommunications office coordinates dispatch for 26 various agencies.

"We are the voice you hear on the phone when you dial 911," Fry said.

Fry has been working in telecommunications for approximately eight years. Nevin, originally from Minnesota, has been on the job for 10 years.

"A lot of times when people call in, they're stressed out. We are the ones to calm them down so we can get the information so we're not sending our officers in blind. They are family, and we treat them as such. So, if something were to happen, that hits us hard," Fry said.

Coordinating communication between more than two dozen agencies is not easy. However, they both understand what is at stake in each call.

"We are the coordinators of the chaos," Nevin said. "She and I are working together. One of us is getting (the fire department) started, getting the ambulance started, one is getting the officer started. It's a matter of coordinating everybody, getting all these different agencies involved and everybody knowing what's going on. We're getting everybody there as quickly as possible."

Relaying valuable information

Fry compares it to trying to put together a jigsaw puzzle, but all the pieces are simultaneously moving.



Katlyn Fry and Joan Nevin

Often, callers may not have all the information dispatch might need, such as street addresses or highway mile markers. It's up to Fry and Nevin to ask the right questions to determine the exact location and which agency should be sent to the scene.

Fry urges people to be aware of their surroundings when driving. Paying attention to mile markers, or even local landmarks, can be helpful to dispatch personnel when a street address is unavailable.

They understand that many of the people who call 911 are stressed, fearful or panicked. It is not unusual for someone calling from their own home to forget their address. They urge everyone to have their home address in a place where they can quickly locate it and read it to dispatch.

"That's why I tell people, 'Write it down and stick it on your kitchen counter,' because they panic and they don't know where they are," Nevin said.

Fry said children are often told they need to call 911 in an emergency, but they are unprepared for the dispatchers' questions. Parents should also share where their important information is located so children will be able to summon help in an emergency.

"Definitely know your phone number when you're calling in. Be prepared to be asked all these questions: Who, what, when, where, why. We're going to ask if there were weapons (involved)," Fry said.

"We'll ask, 'What are they wearing? Which direction did they go? What were they driving?'" Nevin added. "Officers will ask us these questions, and that's why we have to ask. 'Did they have a hat on? Do they have long hair? Short hair?'"

Fry said vehicle descriptions, including make, model, color and tag number, are also helpful.

Sometimes the most difficult part of their job is wondering about the ultimate outcome of a call. Often, they do not hear until hours later how the call was resolved. Occasionally, they never learn of the outcome, Fry said.

Translating chaos into help

They wish more people understood that their job involves “translating chaos” and to remain as calm as possible when calling 911.

“We are doing our absolute best to help, so try not to yell at the person answering the call,” Fry said. “Please answer our questions the best you can, and don’t hang up. It will only delay us getting the help you need.”

They agree that medical emergencies can be especially harrowing, both for the person calling and for the telecommunicators.

Dispatchers work in tandem, Nevin said. While a caller may only hear one voice on the telephone, it is likely that the other dispatcher is helping to direct emergency response as well.

“We’re always listening to each other. So, if I’m saying, ‘There’s a baby not breathing,’ she just heard me, and she immediately jumps in and she’s starting help right away. While I’m still getting information, she can automatically see where (help is needed) and start units,” Nevin said.

Dealing with stress

They often deal with short-tempered callers, and they rely on each other’s sense of humor to stay calm despite the anxious moments that come with the job.

“At the end of the day, we do have to find some humor. We’ve got to make the best of each situation,” Fry said.

They both try not to take an especially stressful day home to family and try to help each other decompress before the workday ends.

Following a difficult call, it is not unusual for other telecommunications offices to call the staff at CPN and offer support — something they both appreciate about their job.

“When we take a bad call, our officers know, and they’ll come in and check on us,” Fry said.

Nevin said following the end of a particularly tough shift, the officers stopped by to check on her, and many offered a supportive hug.

They both appreciate the moments when an event concludes, and everyone involved is safe.

Offering community support

They occasionally get to know the people who often call 911 for help.

“We do care. A lot of people, they don’t realize,” the connections that dispatchers make with community members over the phone, Fry said.

Nevin said elderly citizens call, usually for help after they’ve experienced a fall. Over time, she has spoken to family members, getting to know them better. They both worry how their regular callers are doing.

Nevin said one caller in particular has connected with dispatchers and local law enforcement through his frequent calls for assistance. Occasionally, officers will stop by his house to make sure everything is okay.

“They may not see us, but they talk to us all the time. We care,” Fry said.

Sometimes after a traumatic call involving a child, the dispatchers may send the child a toy.

“There was an incident with a child at a school, and we sent a teddy bear to her. We just wanted to make sure she was okay. It was a scary situation,” Fry said.

Accidental calls happen

They’ve experienced countless accidental calls to 911, either from a cellphone in someone’s pocket or a curious child. They urge these accidental callers not to hang up. They prefer the caller stay on the line to let them know the call is not an actual emergency.

“It’s okay. You’re not in any trouble. Just let us know everything is okay,” Nevin said.

Tough experiences linger

Both Fry and Nevin are aware of the possibility that a difficult call will exacerbate post-traumatic stress disorder that first responders sometimes experience.

“I worked as a paramedic for 20 years, and I see stuff or take calls all the time where all of a sudden it brings something up from years ago,” Nevin said.

“Officers, when they take their calls, there are some that will trigger PTSD. Dispatchers do go through that as well. We may not be on the scene, but we hear everything, and I mean everything. And listening to the officers, you know how stressed out they are. It affects us as well,” Fry said.

“If you’re listening to a mom screaming because her baby’s choking and can’t breathe, and you’re trying to walk her through, hoping that (someone knows the) Heimlich or you’re trying to get someone to start

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Robin Wall Kimmerer, Plant Ecologist, Educator, and Writer, 2022 MacArthur Fellow, Syracuse, NY
(Photo courtesy of the MacArthur Foundation)

Leading plant ecologist and author named MacArthur Fellow



Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer is an American Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental and Forest Biology as well as the director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment — both at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member and descendant of the Vieux and Johnson families has a doctorate in plant ecology. In 2013, she released her second book, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, which became a *New York Times* best seller. The MacArthur Foundation named Dr. Kimmerer a MacArthur Fellow in 2022.

How long have you been studying biology, ecology and the environment?

From the time I was a little girl, I wanted to wander around and was always curious and delighted about the plant world and birds and bugs and everyone. And I had the great good fortune of growing up in the country and here in the northern forests, which of course, are part of our heritage. I live here today in Haudenosaunee Territory (in present-day New York). But this is “dish with one spoon” territory. It’s the same biome, the same ecosystems as our original homeland as well.

Why have biology and ecology been satisfying academically, especially as an Indigenous person?

I reflect on the fact that my grandfather was a survivor of the Carlisle Indian School where his way of knowing our traditional ecological knowledge was stripped away. And so it has been, in a sense, growing from that story, growing from that painful history, a personal mission to bring Western science and Indigenous science together, really for our shared concerns of how it is that we care for land. My Potawatomi history has been a major influence in my work. And so, at our Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, our real goal

is to combat the erasure of Indigenous knowledge and in fact bring it into partnership with Western science.

The first edition of *Braiding Sweetgrass* came out a decade ago this year, selling over 1 million copies in that time. How would you describe its impact since then?

There is a real longing in the public to heal our relationship with land. There’s a real longing for justice, I think, around Indigenous lands. And that’s a really hopeful sign that so many people are picking up this book. ... What’s happening is the book is moving through the world by individual people gifting it to others because they think, “Well, this is important. I think we all need to be thinking about these things.” And that’s the way sweetgrass is passed around, too. It doesn’t go by wind-blown seed. It goes hand to hand of people giving a little transplant to the next so it can be nurtured and spread. So that coincidence, if you will, between how the book spreads and how the plant spreads feels right to me.

You’ve been receiving feedback on the book for many years now. What do you feel like are a couple of major points from it that people return to again and again?

For non-Native readers, I would say, is gratitude for bringing forward another way of being, for illuminating the Indigenous worldview, which has been so erased from most of our educational system and certainly public information. So, folks being more aware of Indigenous science and the wisdom attached to it is something that I hear a great deal. But perhaps more importantly than that is that I think of *Braiding Sweetgrass* as a call to action. It’s an invitation to say, “Well, if you see the world as a gift, if you’re grateful for the gifts of *segmekwé*, of Mother Earth, then what are you going to do about it?” ... And that’s why I think we’re seeing gardens and music and school programs and plays and books and poems and environmental actions that are inspired by it because that’s what it’s asking.

While you were writing it, did you have the idea for it to be a source of inspiration?

I thought about the fact that what we are really in need of is healing, not only land but healing our relationship to land. And then I look at our Potawatomi values and our Potawatomi teachings and say, "They are medicinal. They are the medicine that keeps us as people resilient and growing and connected to land. And might that not be the medicine that could help heal relationship to the land?" In my early notebooks, I write, "I want this book to be medicine." It's fine to want something, but I'm so grateful that people have been receptive to that medicine and then began making their own medicine and sharing it widely. Metaphorically speaking.

You were recently named a MacArthur Fellow as well. Tell me more.

To me it was really affirming in that it meant that somebody has been paying attention. Somebody sees the work and wants to invite more of that. To me, that's the wonderful power of the award. ... It's liberating for sure to have that capacity. But also, I feel deeply responsible to that award and to the opportunity that's been given me.

What have you been thinking about since you were notified?

I have been working on another book, and because of my work as a professor, as a researcher, as a speaker, I haven't given it the time that it needs to come into the world. The MacArthur is, for me, a kind of affirmation to say, "Give yourself the time to create this new book," which is very deeply grounded in our traditional story as well as our traditional science.

I have been working and thinking for some years with others about the Potawatomi Plant Protection Network, which is an idea that we brought forth at a

(Potawatomi) Gathering. And I'm really interested to think about how I could use the MacArthur Award as a lever, as a vehicle for protecting our plant knowledge and our plants, particularly in a time of climate change. A lot of our plants are threatened by climate change. And how could we function as a Potawatomi nation from people in the south to people in the north to help our plants move, to share plant knowledge, to create cultural plant reserves?

What is your next book going to be about?

Broadly speaking, it's going to be about the personhood of plants. In our old teachings, we know that the plants are not natural resources. They are our relatives. They are our teachers. And Potawatomi people are embedded in that kind of thinking. ... My hope is to really awaken for my readers the fact that plants themselves have culture, plants are leaders, plants are teachers. And all of that contributes to understanding the new rights of nature movement so that once we really feel deeply the personhood of other plants, then the leap toward the rights of nature becomes almost intuitive.

What are some of the biggest takeaways for Tribal members who reconnect with the land?

Reconnecting with our landscapes, particularly our original homeland, puts us in contact with the teachings of the land. When you think about the fact that our language is rooted in the land, that our spirituality is rooted in the land, that our history is there, and therefore so is our future. Reconnecting with the land for me is a really profound way of connecting with our culture, with our ancestry and with our responsibilities to the future. ... Without the land, we are lonely. Without the land, we don't have our teacher and our foundation.

Learn more about Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer's work at robinwallkimmerer.com.



Hear an extended version of this interview



THE Hownikan PODCAST



Skin Deep

Potawatomi artist adds Indigenous flair to tattoos



Indigenous cultures across the globe have used tattoos as status symbols, to represent religious beliefs or just for adornment, according to the *Smithsonian Magazine*. The word “tattoo” is believed to have come from the Polynesian word, *tattau*, meaning to hit or strike.

In North America, Indigenous cultures are no different. Whether a tattoo symbolizes coming of age, indicates position within a tribe, or offers protection from spiritual or physical threats, many tribal nations practiced tattooing. Today, more Indigenous people are reclaiming the practice that was once discouraged by society.

One Potawatomi artist proud to share her spin on Indigenous tattoo art is Shelly Wahweotten, an enrolled citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and owner of Analog Electric Tattoos in Oklahoma City.

Originally from Wichita, Kansas, Wahweotten grew up along the powwow trail with her parents and siblings. She has always been an artist, spending hours drawing with her father. His tattoo magazines inspired her.

“He would buy tattoo magazines, and I would steal all of them and redraw all the tattoos inside of them. Little did I know that that’s one of the main practices that we do every day is redrawing, coloring and making

flash sheets that you can sell tattoos off of. I was doing that in fifth grade. I think that’s when I decided I’m going to probably be a tattoo artist,” she said.

While her father supported her decision, her mother initially was hesitant. But Wahweotten persisted.

“I kept drawing, and I eventually got a tattoo kit out of the back of a tattoo magazine. My dad had ordered it and I got it for my 15th birthday, and I was so scared to use it. My dad said, ‘We’ll just see if you can do anything with this.’ I tattooed my boyfriend at the time with these old English letters, and he still has it. That was definitely the groundbreaking moment of becoming a tattooer,” she said.

Wahweotten said for a while, her mother wondered whether tattooing was a viable career path.

“She wanted me to do things that would have had a more secure pathway, like join the military, go to college, work in a local aircraft company,” Wahweotten said.

At the time she entered the industry, tattoos had negative connotations.

“It was (associated with) drug addicts, bikers, gang bangers, people that couldn’t stay out of jail. I think there’s a generational view that you don’t decorate your bodies, you don’t desecrate temples. But as an Indigenous person, that gets debunked with different rites and passages. So, I just stuck with it,” she said.

Her mother fully embraced the unique career choice after learning it was an art form, a worldwide trade and a good career. Wahweotten said her mother is now one of her biggest champions and is proud of the art her daughter creates.

“I had opportunities to go everywhere and anywhere, and after she learned more about it, she is so incredibly supportive of me now,” Wahweotten said.

Acceptance of tattoos

Wahweotten believes the old stereotypes are fading away. Younger generations largely view tattooing as an artform that stands on its own, she said. Public representation is increasing as well.

Oglala Lakota model Quannah Chasinghorse, Native Hawaiian-Pawnee actor Jason Momoa and Shoshone-Bannock tattoo artist Kira Murillo are among the pop culture figures who have emerged as high-profile advocates for the practice. Chasinghorse has traditional facial tattoos, Momoa has a forearm tattoo tribute to his *aumakua*, or family god, and Murillo is known for her colorful, modern interpretations on traditional floral designs.

“I think (reclaiming tattooing) comes down to it being a cultural aspect for Native American people or Indigenous people all around the world. Colonization, forced religion and different periods of time created a lot of stigma about tattoos. Thankfully now, people are opening their minds and understanding a lot more,” Wahweotten said.

“I feel like I’m in the right place at the right time doing the right things that I have always should have been doing because I have something to represent for my people, for my culture, because it is part of us.”

Industry voice

The decision to open her own shop was not taken lightly. While more women are entering the industry, they still face challenges on the job. Women are sometimes told they “bring drama” to a shop, or they feel management does not value their artistic viewpoint, she said.

Shop management may have preconceived ideas of what an Indigenous tattoo should look like, Wahweotten said.

“I’ve worked at a shop a couple of years ago that had great opportunities for growth. But I felt whitewashed into what they wanted to represent,” she said. “Having my own shop here was to be able to represent myself and be able to do Indigenous tattoos and represent all of us in our unique and correct ways. Not in appropriated ways.”

Wahweotten is serious about translating an idea into art. With her understanding of various tribal traditions and Indigenous culture, she is uniquely positioned to create a lasting piece of art.

“The tattoos that I do, no matter what they are, they identify that person. You can tell not necessarily a lot about that person from their tattoos, but it definitely points you in more in a direction of who they are and what they want to represent and what they want to say with those tattoos,” she said.

A permanent part of a life

Wahweotten recognizes her art as a permanent part of the lives of countless people and serves important purposes.

“Somebody told me recently that their tattoo gave them different confidence and changed their life. (One client) had some pretty extensive scars all the way around her waist from surgery. We covered them up with flowers. When she got married, she was able

[Continued on next page](#)

Tattoo continued...

to wear the dress that she wanted to wear and felt confident and felt good. That was one of the things that makes me feel incredibly humbled and thankful for what I can do for other people," she said.

"It's a little overwhelming, thinking that I've tattooed somebody 20 years ago, and now their children are completely grown and getting their own tattoos. Now I'm seeing (young people) that I probably will see in 15 more years coming in and getting their tattoos, which I think is amazing. Now I'm already at two (generations), which is pretty cool."

Connecting with her heritage

Wahweotten jumps at the chance to connect with both her father's Potawatomi side and her Chickasaw relatives on her mother's side. Now that she is based in Oklahoma, she frequently visits Potawatomi and Chickasaw lands.

"I'm learning more and more. Being here has definitely opened my eyes to some of the things that I missed out on," she said.

Her schedule is filling up fast. She hopes to attend the annual Prairie Band Potawatomi Powwow as well as

the 2023 Potawatomi Gathering in Fulton, Michigan. It will be hosted by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi of Pine Creek. However, running a business means she often works all weekend. This year, she is scheduled to work during two tattoo conventions in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

"Later on in the year, I'll probably go to Tampa (Florida) for another convention. Being established here in Oklahoma City as a new tattoo shop and being female owned and Indigenous owned, I want to make sure that I get the word out around Oklahoma. So, I'm pretty excited about having the opportunities to get out again," she said.

Wahweotten also plans to gauge future interest in having an Indigenous tattoo seminar to educate people about the importance of traditional Indigenous tattoos and help people design and get a traditional tattoo.

In her free time, she and her dachshund, Diamond, the Analog Electric Tattoos shop dog, explore the Oklahoma City area together.


For more information about Wahweotten's work, visit Analog Electric Tattoo or connect with her on Facebook. Contact the shop at 405-849-9247 or by email at Elbowaho@analogelectrictattoo.com. 🔥

A VOTE FOR DAVID BARRETT

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 10

IS A VOTE FOR

EXPERIENCE | HARD WORK
STRONG LEADERSHIP | HONESTY



I have 46 years of experience producing economic growth for the ventures and corporations for which I have worked. With this experience, I have knowledge in these areas; Management-by-objective and long-range planning; team-player concepts; Group think tanks; Hands-on collaboration with Attorneys, Auditors, and Contractors and preparing budgets, making forecasts, and meeting deadlines.

While serving the Nation in different capacities during my tenure, I have been able to study our policies, procedures and our Constitution and have been able to "step to the Plate" to serve the Nation in a fair and objective manner.

I will bring to the table fair, impartial and independent thinking, hard work, honesty, and business leadership. I have the knowledge and experience to qualify me to represent you and serve the whole Nation equally to the best of my abilities.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ★ On Board of Directors for the Nation's Bank (2002-2008)
- ★ Former Grievance Committee member for two terms
- ★ Former Financial Controller for major Oklahoma Corporation
- ★ 46 years of managerial skills in the work place
- ★ Received BBA in accounting from Oklahoma University
- ★ Received MBA in Business Administration from Okla. City Univ.
- ★ Served in the US Navy during the Vietnam Era
- ★ Married 47 years to Connie Fry Barrett, Daughter and Husband; Allison & Patrick Nutt, Son and wife; Chad & Kristi Slavin Barrett, Grandsons Drake & Eastyn, Grand-daughter Kyla
- ★ Lived in the Nation's Territory and from the Bourassa family
- ★ Entrepreneur
- ★ Legislator (2008-Current)
- ★ Treasurer of the CPN Veterans Organization
- ★ Member of the CPN Veterans color guard and honor guard

DAVID BARRETT | OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 10

Dispatch continued...

CPR... It does get to us as well. We understand how scary it is for you guys, but we are the ones having to listen to your screams, your tears, trying to walk you through that until an officer gets there," Nevin said.

"We try not to think about it. But we also have to take the next call. When that call's over, you got to go to your next one. You got to keep going until the end of the day. And when you don't have anybody to talk to, you talk to your co-workers. They're there with you. They go through it with you," Fry said.

For her part, Nevin sees dispatching as a natural extension of her work as a paramedic. Fry originally thought she wanted to be a law enforcement officer, but a brief stint as a dispatcher changed her mind.

They are grateful for the tight bond they have formed with their colleagues.

"We get to know everybody and their kids because they're our family," Nevin said. "I say to them, 'I will get him home to you tonight.' I'll tell my guys I love 'em, and I do love 'em. I'll tell them when they're going out the door, and they'll tell me the same thing. I'll say, 'Be careful,' because you never know. I mean, that's the world we live in."

The non-emergency number for the CPN Police Department is 405-878-4818. For more information, visit cpn.news/police. 🔥

CPN brings empathy, de-escalation training as part of series

"I see you. I hear you. And what you say matters."

These words echoed through the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center on Wednesday, Feb. 22 as attendees from a variety of backgrounds participated in Empathy and De-escalation Training sponsored by Citizen Potawatomi Nation Workforce Development & Social Services.

Three training sessions each began and ended with song as Oklahoma Baptist University Musical Arts major Brock Brown performed *Stand By Me* and *Lean On Me*.

During the first session, Brown made the spontaneous decision to have everyone join him in singing, something he continued in the other two sessions as well.

"That was just a spur of the moment thing," he said. "I was like, 'Nobody's moving. I don't like that.' We need the interaction with one another."

To offer tools for building empathy and de-escalation skills, CPN Safe and Stable Families Education Counselor Jamelle Payne invited Tracy Rader. She works for GiANT, a leadership development company that works with clients all over the world. The company has more than 900 certified coaches who teach leadership tools like the ones taught at the CHC.

Finding balance

During each session, Rader talked about what defines empathy and how to have a healthy balance – neither to be too empathetic and take on everyone's troubles, nor to have an unempathetic "suck it up" attitude toward others.

In discussing some of the strategies, she said a good place to start learning empathy is to ask, "What is it like to be on the other side of you?" and to create a high-trust environment where a family member, coworker or friend would feel comfortable giving feedback.

One of the first strategies she discussed for finding a healthy balance of empathy was "know yourself to lead yourself."

Rader said this lifelong strategy starts with being aware of things a person might want to change about themselves and then noting the tendencies and patterns that would need to change to improve that behavior.

For someone who wants to build empathy and connections, they might pencil in time in their calendar to connect with others. However, someone who tends to exhibit unhealthy amounts of empathy might limit the time they give to others to avoid burnout.

When things boil over

For de-escalation, Rader said people often don't feel heard, valued or understood, especially if there are



Leadership development company GiANT's Tracy Rader presents tips and tricks on improving empathy to a workshop at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center.

other factors at play, such as personal stress or mental health issues. When this happens, she gave these tips:

- Compassionately listen to what that person needs and what they're feeling
- Give them personal space
- Use a gentle tone and body language
- Use the Communication Code to try to give them the form of communication they are looking for

The thought behind Rader's Communication Code is that people often seek a specific type of feedback when speaking with others. The Communication Code breaks down five responses people might desire: critique, collaborate, clarify, care or celebrate.

If someone has finished a big project and wants to celebrate, they may not appreciate critique, even with good intentions. By thinking about which of the five things is wanted before responding, a person can help avoid conflict.

"Every person walks in with baggage and hurt and trauma – and great things, too, to celebrate," Rader said. "So,

Continued on page 29

Tribal member welcomed home after Super Bowl win

Kansas City Chiefs starting center Creed Humphrey, a Citizen Potawatomi tribal member, received a warm welcome to his hometown of Shawnee, Oklahoma.

On Feb. 12, 2023, the Chiefs defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 38-35 in NFL Super Bowl LVII. Humphrey, who helped achieve the no-sack victory, was greeted by raucous cheers March 4 as he walked on stage for a welcome home celebration at Shawnee High School's Jim Thorpe Stadium, where he started his football career.

Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett began the event with a blessing, smoking Humphrey off with sweetgrass, cedar, sage and tobacco.

"Those are the elements of the four directions, and they are four of the seven prayers that are traditional in Potawatomi prayer," Chairman Barrett said.

He followed this with a prayer in both Potawatomi and English.

Shawnee-area representatives also stood to speak.

Shawnee City Commissioner Travis Flood said everyone he talked to who knows Humphrey personally mentions his humbleness and kindness.

"And if there's anything in this world that is worth being known for, it is the fact that through all of

the hard work, all of the trials, all of the tribulations, everything it took for him to get where he is today, he has remained that same amazing, loving, caring, kind human that each and every one of you love," Flood said.

Avedis Foundation Executive Director Kathy Laster spoke as well and announced that the foundation would present 1,000 day passes to Shawnee Splash Water Park in Humphrey's name.

Shawnee Mayor Ed Bolt read a proclamation, naming March 4, 2023, as Creed Humphrey Day. Bolt then presented Humphrey with a key to the city of Shawnee.

"It really means the world to me, being able to be someone from Shawnee, being able to set an example for these younger kids around the city. It's really a blessing. I just want to thank y'all for coming out," Humphrey said to the crowd before the celebration came to an end.

As Humphrey left the stage, fans gathered for autographs, passing the football player everything from Creed Humphrey jerseys to shoes off their feet to sign.

Afterward, Humphrey met with members of the media for a brief press conference.

"My hometown honoring me like this, it's truly a blessing," he told reporters in the high school's hospitality room. "Something I dreamed about as a little kid is being able to go out there and play, first and foremost, in that stadium in high school. Then playing at (the University of Oklahoma) was obviously a dream of mine, too, and then making it to



the NFL, winning the Super Bowl and all this. I mean, it's a dream come true. It still hasn't set in, and it's been over two weeks now. So, it's awesome."

Humphrey also filmed a segment on *Saturday Night Live* with teammate Travis Kelce. Though Humphrey's skit was one of those ultimately cut before the show aired that night, SNL later posted it on Twitter and YouTube. Watch the clip at cpn.news/CreedHumphreySNL

"It's been a wild couple of days," Humphrey said of the experience. "Travis hit me up two nights ago and asked me to do it, so I flew out there yesterday, flew back last night, and then came here. It's been awesome. It's something you didn't ever think would be possible, getting to be on *Saturday Night Live*."

As far as playing in the Super Bowl, Humphrey said he could not let himself think about it too much when he was on the field.

"You have those thoughts leading up to the game. You're in the Super Bowl, the biggest football game in the world. Things like that. Something you dream of as a kid. But as soon as you step on the field and get ready to play, you block all those things out and just focus on the game," he said.

As for Humphrey's Potawatomi heritage and the blessing from Chairman Barrett, Humphrey said it was a first for him but an awesome experience.

"There's not a ton of Native American representation in sports, so just being able to be an example for the younger generation, that's a big deal for me," he said.

Empathy continued...

if you'll just take the time to think outside of ourselves, 'What's happening in that person's world?' We could solve a lot of issues that are happening in this world if we could just be more empathetic toward one another."

Something every department needs

Payne said the training was needed, and that was evidenced in part by the variety of people who showed up to learn — including representatives from schools in the area and Shawnee, Oklahoma, Mayor Ed Bolt, as well as several city employees, from those working with the unhoused to Visit Shawnee.

"It's something every department needs, and that's love. Because we know what it feels like to receive it,



Kansas City Chief starting center Creed Humphrey (left) accepts a "Creed Humphrey Day" proclamation from Shawnee, Oklahoma, Mayor Ed Bolt.

Humphrey said it was great to be on his home field, where he played Little League through high school football and formed many memories. And Shawnee, he said, means a great deal to him.

"It's where I'm from. It's where I was born and raised," he said. "Just being able to represent my city out there on Sunday nights, it's huge for me. Just also being able to set an example for the kids in this town, let them know if they work hard and do all that, they're in a spot where they can make it too."

Humphrey graduated from Shawnee High School in 2017. He played starting center for the University of Oklahoma before being drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs in 2021. 🔥

but sometimes we forget what it feels like to give it whenever someone else isn't giving it to us," Payne said.

Philisha Lowe, with 6-L Mechanical, took part in the training, and she said one of her favorite tools was thinking about how others see her.

"You never really think about it. I know how I see them or how I think I'm being, but how do they see me? What's it like to be across from my desk? That stuck with me," she said.

The empathy and de-escalation training is part of the CPN Lunch and Learn event series.

For more information about Workforce Development & Social Service, visit cpn.news/workforce or call 405-878-3854. 🔥

From the executives



John “Rocky” Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bozho nikan (Hello friend),

History of the CPN seal

The first Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal seal was created by Secretary/Treasurer Beverly Hughes in the 1970s. It was a black line circle with “Great Seal of the Citizen Band of Potawatomi Indians of Oklahoma” inside the edge and featured a crossed Cherokee-style pipe and tomahawk over a fire with three logs. Beneath it was an oak leaf over a vine symbol. When the Tribe changed its name to “Citizen Potawatomi Nation” by constitutional amendment in 1996, a new seal was needed. I created the drawing and design. The name change was due to the declaration of our inherent tribal sovereignty by tribal law and the extension of voting rights by absentee ballot to all Citizen Potawatomi in or outside of Oklahoma. The name change to “Nation” also corrected the inference of non-tribal status implied in the word “band,” a word that usually describes an offshoot of another tribe.

Given the profound changes in Tribal governmental philosophy, the decision was made to maintain as much of the old seal as possible while adding elements of Potawatomi traditional symbolism to the new Tribal seal. I originally drew it in 1995 in pen and ink and colored pencil while the name change was pending. The design began to vary slightly over the years with the graphic adaptations of commercial printers, once even changing the number of logs in the fire, an essential element. This was corrected in 2003.

The Circle

The Tribal seal is a red circle symbolizing the Great Circle of Life — *Gzhemnedo* or *Mamogosnan’s* (God’s) great pattern for all things. All of God’s creations move clockwise like the sun and the moon through their existence in a great circle from light to dark, living world to spirit world and back. Man comes from the dark inside his mother to the light, loves his life and returns to the dark. His life force — his “fire” — the energy that made his cells divide and blood flow, returns undiminished to *Sugamukwe* (Mother Earth) and emerges into the light in the life force of other living things. A tree seed sprouts in the soil, emerges into the sun, lives its life, falls and decays into the soil again to nourish another seed. Even the rocks emerge as mountains pushed up from the depths to the surface by geologic pressure. They weather into boulders, then rocks, then sand, then dissolve into layered deposits, which create depths forming pressure and heat, and another mountain pushes up. Every beginning has an end. Every end is a beginning.

The red in the circle is the color of *Wetchnowkwek*, the South, symbolizing the direction of procreation, the women’s direction. All living things are born of a mother. South is the direction of *KehTahMah GehNinGahWin*, the Spirit of Compassion, the core strength God gave women for the rigors of motherhood and one of the four Spirits that God intended for all mankind to exhibit in each individual’s character. The existence of our Tribe is based on our union of families, related by our red blood for the purpose of caring for our own kin, especially those who cannot care for themselves in some way or another — infant, child, elder, sick or afflicted. Compassion must be given with generosity, shaped by courage and guided by wisdom.

The Border

The red border is surrounded on both edges by a yellow rope. Yellow is the color of *WetchMoKuk*, the East, the direction of *BwaKahWin*, the Spirit of Wisdom. The first wisdom was the original man’s knowledge of God’s Great Plan in the Circle of Life: *The life of one living thing is related to the life of all other living things*. Wisdom is rooted in the realization that the lessons of Mother Earth — Her creatures and features, and the heavens, the Sun, Moon and stars — are the source of the knowledge of life. The “two-leggeds,” mankind, are the only of God’s creatures given the knowledge to choose between the good and evil within human nature. All other creatures function by instinct. Knowledge applied with compassion, courage and generosity becomes wisdom. Wisdom should surround the decisions of our Tribal government.

The Declaration

The words written in black inside the red border are “Great Seal of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation,” declaring that we are a Nation of unique people with the sovereign power of self-governance since time immemorial. Our government is recognized by more government-to-government treaties with the United States than any other Tribe as well as by

treaties with France and Great Britain before the existence of the United States. We are called the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in recognition of our decision to take United States citizenship as a body in 1861, the first Tribe to do so in U.S. history. The letters are in the color black, for the color of *WetchBahKezMok*, the West. The Spirit of the West is *WehDahSahWin* — Courage. It took incredible courage for our forefathers to have survived and kept us intact as a Tribe through war, disease and deprivation. Courage must be tempered with compassion and summoned with wisdom.

The Field

The field of the seal is white. White is the color of *WetchKehSimYok*, the North. It is the direction of *MeanGoWin* — the Spirit of Generosity. Underlying all of the Great Seal is the color white, as giving must be the motive underlying Tribal governance. Giving is always in two directions — as you give, so shall you receive. As you receive, so should you give. Giving then makes a circle.

North is the source of water, the most precious gift Mother Earth gives to all living things, her lifeblood. The purifying snows of the North melt and renew the waters of our continent, Turtle Island, evaporate, form clouds and fall again, endlessly.

The Shelter

The top of the field of the Great Seal has a *pwagen* (pipe) crossed with a *WahGakWaDoan* (tomahawk) to form the shape of a roof or shelter over the fire. In peace or war, good times or bad, the Tribe must shelter and protect its people.

The *pwagen* is a prayer instrument. Its pipestone bowl holds the burning tobacco from which rises prayer smoke, a visible manifestation of our prayers to the Creator. The wooden stem is the human connection to the fire in the bowl. The bowl and stem are only joined for the Seven Prayers when we communicate with God as we smoke the pipe. The *pwagen* on the Great Seal means we pray for the good of our people and believe in the power of prayer. The *pwagen* carries four Eagle feathers, symbolizing the Four Directions and the four Spirits that God intended mankind to carry in his character.

The tomahawk symbolizes our commitment to It is positioned with the blade up showing we Eagle feathers, symbolizing the two inner and the two halves of existence in the Great spirit world — the light and the dark.

Kno (the Eagle) is God's messenger that still inhabit Mother Earth when it sees prayer Each day before the full dawn, *kno* sends his the world is worth saving for the faithful who



defend our Tribe and our history of doing so. are not at war. The tomahawk carries two natures and the two genders of mankind, Circle of Life — the living world and the

calls out to the Creator that the faithful smoke rising from the fires of the *Nishnabe*. message up that prayer smoke rises, that pray and the sun comes up for another day.

The Fire

We are the *Bodewadme*, later pronounced Potawatomi. It means "People of the Fire." In the old *Medewin* religion, we are the Keepers of the Fire in the Three Fires of the *Nishnabe* — the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Odawa (Ottawa) Tribes. The fire symbolizes the power or essence of life that is never diminished but simply changes form as living things travel from the living world to the spirit world. The fire also symbolizes the two natures we all have inside of us, good and evil. Like the fire that can heat our homes, clear our land and cook our food, fire can do much good. But fire can also kill and maim and destroy. We must control our "fire" inside of us by making the choice to do good with our existence. The physical fire makes the heat for the smoke that carries our prayers up to God.

The fire has seven logs symbolizing the Seven Prayers of the *Pwagen* (Pipe) Ceremony. The first prayer is to *WetchKehSimYok* (the North), asking for *MeanGoWin* (the Spirit of Generosity); the next is to *WetchMoKuk* (the East), asking for *BwaKahWin* (the Spirit of Wisdom); the next is to *WetchNowKwek* (the South), asking for *KehTahMah GehNinGahWin* (the Spirit of Compassion); the next is to *WetchBahKezMok* (the West), asking for *WehDahSahWin* (the Spirit of Courage); the next is down to *Sugamukwe* (Mother Earth) for all she gives to sustain life; the next is up to *Gzhemnido* (God) for all that exists; and the last is to *Jagenagenon* (All of my relations) for all of those who share our blood all around the world.

The Nishnabe

We are the *Nishnabe*, the People. The *Nishnabe* are made up of the Potawatomi, Ojibwe and Odawa (Ottawa) Tribes. We are one blood. We share a common original language. We traveled as one in the migration from the Atlantic Ocean near Nova Scotia to the Great Lakes centuries before the Europeans came to Turtle Island. The name sits on a bed of green symbolizing that we will live on as a people as long as the grass grows.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

Margaret Zientek is the director of Workforce Development and Social Services located at 1549 Workforce Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801, which is near the Tribal Administration building. Her department contains several programs including career training, direct employee assistance, education counseling, education assistance and more.

One program that I get a lot of inquiries about is the Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc. This program would be for those Tribal members residing in Oklahoma.

The free legal help organization is contracted by Margaret Zientek’s department to provide legal services to our people. The service does not pertain to all issues. For example, the program cannot provide criminal assistance nor can they represent a person against CPN or another CPN member or employee.

The service categories are

- Family — violence, divorce, paternity, minor and adult guardianships, and child support
- Housing — eviction, landlord/tenant problems, foreclosure, public housing/Section 8
- Consumer — wage and bank account garnishment, debt defense, bankruptcy
- Public Benefit Appeals — social security, veterans, unemployment, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
- Estate Planning — wills, designation of agent, advanced directive for healthcare, transfer on death designations
- Reentry — criminal record, errors/expungements, driver’s license reinstatement, court costs and fines



CPN Workforce Development and Social Services Director Margaret Zientek

Who is eligible? CPN contracts with Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc. (LASO) to provide free legal advice or representation for legal issues within Oklahoma to CPN enrolled members, CPN employees, persons enrolled in a program through CPN Workforce Development and Social Services, and persons with children enrolled in CPN childcare programs.

Margaret’s department provides services to Tribal members living in the following Oklahoma counties: Pottawatomie, Lincoln, Payne, Cleveland and Seminole. These Tribal members can call CPN Workforce Development and Social Services at 405-878-3854. Please have your Tribal ID available and ask for Melinda Duin or Brooke Wheeler. Tribal members outside of these five counties would need to contact Brooke Wheeler, Legal Aid Service of Oklahoma, Inc., 316 N. Broadway, Suite C., Shawnee, OK 74801. Brooke’s office number is 405-275-6870. (Direct line: 405-488-6753 | Fax: 405-275-6872 | brooke.wheeler@laok.org)

For our Tribal members living outside of Oklahoma, there is a possibility that there are legal services that you can access under certain circumstances. You can find a wealth of information at usa.gov, which has information about where to find answers to the most requested facts in the United States of America. You can learn about benefits, grants and loans, consumer issues, disability services, disasters and emergencies, education, government agencies and elected officials, health, housing, jobs and unemployment, laws and legal issues, and more. The list goes on with several pages of topics.

My wish is that I have helped someone with this article. I cherish the opportunity to serve as your Vice-Chairman.

Migwetch (Thank you).

My best,

Linda Capps | Segenakwe (Black Bird Woman) | Vice-Chairman
Work: 405-275-3121 | Cell: 405-650-1238 | lcapps@potawatomi.org

From the legislature



Alan Melot District 1

Bozho, jayék (Hello, everyone),

I hope you are making plans to travel to CPN this June for our Family Reunion Festival and powwow. It'll be here before you know it! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again. It's been a while since I've been able to get together with y'all.

Do any of you have family drama? CPN can often help, even for those of us who aren't close. I got a call recently from a D1 resident who was having trouble remotely managing the transition of a family elder from one facility to another in the Shawnee, Oklahoma, area. They were already in contact with our Adult Protective Services (APS) and others in our administration, and I am grateful for the help that our APS provided for the family in my district. APS Director Janet Draper and Case Manager Brian Moore visited with the family to learn what was in the best interests of our elder and worked on effective options for all involved, collaborating with the family to make sure no

stone was left unturned. I had the pleasure of visiting with Janet and Brian during the process and came away quite impressed with their knowledge and dedication to our elders. I had the privilege of meeting Janet last year at a district meeting that D4 Legislator Jon Boursaw invited me to co-host, so I already knew the goals behind our APS program. Seeing Janet and Brian in action was a different experience than just hearing Janet talk about it, and I can vouch for these people as being a blessing to our Nation. They helped out with a difficult situation and competently navigated some drama-filled family exchanges with grace and professionalism. I am proud of the work our administration and dedicated employees have done to help CPN citizens with caring programs like CPN Adult Protective Services.

The Trail of Death Caravan planning continues to gather steam. Stops are being planned for Logansport, IN; Lafayette, IN; Homer, IL; Decatur, IL; Springfield, IL (special program by the Illinois State Museum); Berlin, IL; Perry, IL; Quincy, IL; Palmyra, MO; Moberly, MO; DeWitt, MO; and Osawatomie, KS. The cross-country caravan will take place in the third week of September, which I hope will be after the summer heat breaks! Pencil this week in on your calendar as it is a very unique opportunity to honor our heritage of resilience throughout the removal period. I hope to see many of you at different points of the journey.

As always, it is a privilege to be your legislator. Please reach out if you think I can be of assistance or you just want to talk. Keep me and my family in your prayers as I keep you and yours in mine.

Bama pi (Until later),

Alan Melot | Legislator, District 1 | alan.melot@potawatomi.org | 608 S. Sergeant | Joplin, MO 64801 | 417-312-3307



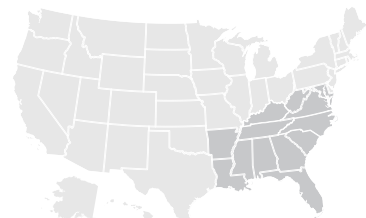
Eva Marie Carney District 2

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

Mdamen Leadership Program

I hope most readers know about our *Mdamen* program. *Mdamen* is modeled after our Potawatomi Leadership Program that is geared toward college-aged Tribal members who are exploring their heritage. Tribal members asked if a similar program could be created for them after seeing the PLP's success, and *Mdamen* was launched in the fall of 2021. The virtual format allows 20 Tribal members 18 and older, after selection by an independent committee, to learn more about their Potawatomi roots, even if they are unable to travel to CPN headquarters.

The six-week program wrapped up toward the end of February with a reflections session. I regret that I was not able to participate in the session in real time due to a scheduling conflict, but I viewed the recording and was mightily impressed and touched by the participants' varied reflections on their experiences. CPN Department of Education staff Kym Coe and Tesia Zientek poured a lot of their time and talent



into making the program a success — *migwetch* (thank you) to you both! The application window for the 2024 *Mdamen* class will open later this fall — look for the announcement in the *Hownikan*, on social media and on potawatomi.org. I'll share the announcement via email and social media, too.

Tribal enrollment news

Our quarterly Legislative meeting took place on Feb. 23. We voted to enroll 193 new Tribal members, including several infants born in late 2022 and early 2023. That means that the Tribal Rolls Department has wrestled down the application backlog, which was no small feat, and is now reviewing applications as they are received. *Migwetch* for the hard work, Chuck Clark and team!

Future District 2 meetings

We will have our Fall Feast in Arlington, Virginia, in November. I hope to host a meeting in the Nashville, Tennessee area before then and likely will plan a meeting somewhere on the east coast of Florida in early 2024. I just saw that the National Zoo Bird House in Washington, D.C., reopened in mid-March. I read that it has been transformed into a habitat for North American shorebirds, waterfowl and songbirds with an observatory where you can learn about how Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center Staff tracks the movements of wild birds. I'll be looking into options for a group tour and get the word out if that's a possibility.



Entrance to the National Zoo Bird House



Agnes Wood Barron with her godchildren Bobby Whitell, David Lawless and Eva Marie Carney

95th birthday party for her last year, and I've included a photo taken that day of Aunt Aggie and three of her godchildren. May her memory be a blessing. I extend condolences to all our family for this loss.

It's an honor to serve as your representative.

Kind regards and *bama mine* (until later),

Eva Marie Carney | *Ojindiskwe* (Bluebird woman) | ecarney@potawatomi.org | evamariocarney.com | evamariocarney@gmail.com | 5877 Washington Blvd. | PO Box 5591 | Arlington, VA 22205 | Toll Free: 866-961-6988

Please send me a note if you want to be added to my group email list to stay updated on District 2 events. And if you are a Facebook user, please send me a Facebook message asking to be added to our private D2 Facebook group, which currently has about 270 members.

See you this summer?

I hope to see many of you this summer for our Family Reunion Festival taking place Friday, June 23 through Sunday, June 25, and/or the 2023 Potawatomi Gathering, hosted by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi on the Pine Creek Indian Reservation near Fulton, Michigan, from Monday, July 24 through Saturday, July 29. The first part of the Gathering week will be a Language Conference. Craft instruction, morning ceremonies, dancing and more start Thursday. You can sign up for Gathering updates via an email subscription box that pops up when you visit the Nottawaseppi website, nhbp-nsn.gov. All these dates and details are on my website calendar.

Loss of our matriarch

My dear aunt and godmother, Agnes Wood Barron, walked on Feb. 7, 2023, at the age of 96. She was so kind and welcoming to all her family members and nieces and nephews. Her daughters hosted a



Wood thrush, official bird of Washington, D.C.



Bob Whistler District 3

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

Hope Squad

I recently read that 1 in 3 of our children in grades 7 through 12 may be struggling with mental health issues in more than 30 states. Also, 1 in 4 feel depressed, sad or hopeless most of the time. Moreover, 1 in 10 contemplate suicide. As adults, we don't realize that due to advancement in technology, social change and consolidation of smaller schools into larger central facilities that our children face a totally different environment and challenges than we did at their age. The factors that affect them today include social isolation, comparison, family issues, social media, technology, academic pressure, social pressure and the pressure to be perfect.

The program Hope Squad assists schools to help our children. It is already in 43 states. Ironically, when your child has issues in the above areas, in most cases, they will never tell you but suffer. However, they do talk to their peers. Additionally, since their student peers are faced with some of the same threats, they will recognize early signs of jeopardy and suicidality.

The Hope Squad in each school consists of trained staff along with trained and trusted elected students that your child may go to when they are the victim of a bully or are undergoing forms of mental stress.

I am asking that each of our Potawatomi parents with children in elementary, middle and high school look into having their school create a Hope Squad program if one is not already there. Yes, there is a cost for the training, etc. It will run from \$1,400 to \$3,200 for the first three to four years and then about \$500 per year thereafter. We all pay state and local taxes. Some of that tax goes into the education system, and each school has a budget. When you look at the cost, ask yourself... Is my child worth the school spending possibly a one-time cost of \$10,000 overall to protect them and the other several thousand children that attend their school each year now and in the future? While I have talked about grades 7 through 12, I suggest that you start going to your PTA in the lower level and have them approach your principal to get the program at your child's school.



Columbarium foundation



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION REQUEST FOR QUOTE FOR 2023 BALLOON FEST PARKING ASSISTANCE

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is requesting quotes for the 2023 Balloon Fest Parking Assistance.

Please mail your company's qualifications and quote to Attn: Stacey Bennett, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr, Shawnee, OK 74801 by the due date of May 1, 2023, at 4 p.m. Please contact David Bourbonnais or Tonya Turnpaugh at 405-275-3121 if you have any further questions or concerns.

Scope of Work

Ten (10) Personnel and two (2) Supervisors, to serve as event staff, to direct traffic and park cars for the 2023 Citizen Potawatomi Nation Balloon Festival on August 11 and 12, 2023 from the hours of 3 p.m. until 12 a.m. on Friday August 11 and 2 p.m. until 12 a.m. on August 12. Each staff member will be uniformed in a safety-colored shirt clearly marked with the service provider's company name on the front and event staff on the back. The supervisor's shirts will also be clearly marked so they will be identifiable as supervisors.

For the duration of the event, service provider shall provide handheld radios for each of its staff members and supervisors as well as two (2) additional handheld radios for persons designated by client. The service Provider shall provide two (2) golf carts for its supervisors only.

Selection Criteria

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation shall make selection based on the following criteria:

Project organization and staffing | Previous project experience | Prior Experience with entity | Reference(s)



Locomotive and
Tribal Chairman
John "Rocky" Barrett



For starters, go to hopesquad.com, click on the "Contact" link, then drill down to "Request information" and complete the form. For Texas schools, you may contact Dr. Jennifer Roberts at jennifer@hopesquad.com if you have any challenges or questions.

Iron Horse Industrial Park

While in Shawnee for our March 2 legislative meeting, I had the opportunity to visit Iron Horse Industrial Park and tour our new pipe manufacturing facility. While there, I saw our new locomotive to move the rail cars on our rail line for transportation of the finished product. A photo of the locomotive and Chairman Barrett is attached.

Columbarium

In our 2022-23 budget, funding was included to build a columbarium for CPN cremated remains. The initial site being built will have 400 niches to be delivered in July to hold containers for two sets of ashes. Attached is a photo of the preliminary foundation area by our church on S. Gordon Cooper Drive. You will be able to see the near completed site at the Family Reunion Festival this year.

I thank you for the honor of serving you and am honored that you have elected me as your District 3 legislator. I am your voice to staff for any questions you may have on benefits or services. Simply email or call me.

Nagech (Later),

Bob Whistler | Bmashi (He Soars) | rwhistler@potawatomi.org | cpn3legislator@yahoo.com
1516 Wimberly Ct. | Bedford, TX 76021 | 817-229-6271 | cpndistrict3.com

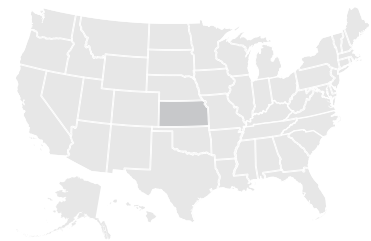


Jon Boursaw District 4

Bozho (Hello),

Naming Ceremonies

The aspect of being a CPN Legislator that I enjoy most is being tasked to give a Tribal member their Potawatomi name. I have sincerely enjoyed performing this ceremony for the past 12 years. In most cases, I have shared the various phases of giving someone their Potawatomi name with my brother, Lyman. We think combined we have named well over 150 Tribal members. Although most of our namings have been in the Prayer Circle on the grounds of the CPN Community Center in Rossville, Kansas, we have performed namings at a variety of locations and surroundings, including the Lawrence Community Center where we named 26 members of one family; a beautiful pond in the sand dunes south of Holcomb, Kansas; the Prayer Circle in Shawnee, Oklahoma, during the Family Reunion Festival; the Mid-America All-Indian Center in Wichita; and Tribal members' own backyards.



Performing the naming ceremony and the location is only half the process. The other half involves creating a name that is unique and specific for the recipient. Lyman and I share this, too. We use the same list of standard questions that gives us a little background on the individual. We also ask them for the name and contact information of someone who knows them the best. This can be a spouse, parent, sibling or a best friend. We then discuss our suggestions until we agree on what fits best.

The best part of the whole process, and the briefest, is telling the individual the name created for them. We can recognize whether we were successful in picking their names by the expression on their faces and especially their eyes. On a few occasions, we have had to render assistance to those overcome with emotion. We announce the name in Potawatomi. We obtain the name and pronunciation in Potawatomi from Justin Neely, the Director of the CPN Language Department.

Lyman and I recently held a naming ceremony east of Valley Falls, Kansas, in the farmyard of one of our Boursaw/Ogee cousins. The four individuals named that morning were:

Kassondra Christensen	<i>Jakmzhenatkwe</i>	Woman who captures life
Carson McAfee	<i>Wesi-kenonat</i>	He talks to the animals
Michael Ice	<i>Ndo-nado'at</i>	One who seeks to heal
Justin Ice	<i>Nashabjeget</i>	Man who sees things twice

I recently asked a young Tribal member what it meant to have received her Potawatomi name:

“Several years ago, I was given the name *Niba Gishek Kanabdek* (Night Sky Watcher) at a Potawatomi naming ceremony. It was a special moment in my life as I was surrounded by my family and other Tribal members. I felt as if I was part of something bigger than myself. Being Potawatomi was a part of my life that I had always wondered about, and this ceremony felt like the first step in establishing myself as a Tribal member. It helped me feel a deeper connection to my father and grandfather and is something I hope to pass down to my future children.”

Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

The dates for the next two Elder Potlucks held in CPN Community Center in Rossville at noon are:

April 14 | Italian, with garlic bread | RSVP by the 11th

May 12 | Fried chicken | RSVP by the 9th

Come join us and bring your favorite side dish or dessert. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Tracy or Brenda at 785-584-6171.

It is an honor to serve as your legislator.

Megwetch (Thank you),

Jon Boursaw | *Wetase Mkoh* (Brave Bear) | jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
2007 SW Gage Blvd. | Topeka, KS 66604 | 785-608-1982
Office Hours: Tuesday 9-11 a.m. | Thursdays 3-5 p.m. | Other times as requested



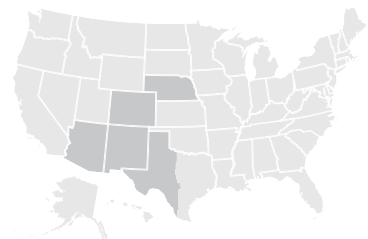
Gene Lambert District 5

Bozho (Hello),

We all know or are at least aware of the growth, advancement and achievements of our Native American people.

You can look around and see the influence we have cast on the profile of the American public through the arts, ways of life and public use of our languages tacked onto streets, sports teams, buildings, etc.

Our own Sharon Hoogstraten has a book out called *Dancing for Our Tribe*, which is a beautiful capture of Potawatomi regalia and CPN members. You could purchase the book at cpn.news/DFOT and see the talent and love this lady gathered over years of photographing Potawatomi people.



We now have a rising star, Legislator Paul Schmidlkofer, who has been working with a movie production company in Oklahoma on a movie called *A Thousand Tomorrows*. You can find a trailer online. It is my understanding this isn't the first or last. Break a leg, Paul.

Music is another influence captured by the drums touching us all throughout the ages. The beat of the heart. When I go to CPN gatherings, the drum is the first thing I hear to know I am home.

We all have a preference to the type of music we are comfortable hearing. There is a rhythm in each of us. Every generation has their own music and new ideas, including our Native people. It is impressive to see the past and present talents we encompass with Indigenous people.

I wasn't aware we have an Indigenous Hall of Fame. Amazing as you take a look at massive talents of people you didn't even know were Native. One that caught my eye first and is said to be the most famous was Redbone from Los Angeles, California. You may not be aware of the band, but you might remember the song "Come and Get Your Love." I know the words by heart but was never aware they are our people. They started together as a band in 1969 and became famous in the 1970s.

Frank Waln is another award-winning Sicangu Lakota Native from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. He has won awards and grants, including three Native American Music Awards and the 3Arts Awards grant for Chicago artists in 2016.

We cannot forget Weda Skirts, which has one member of Potawatomi heritage and released their first album *Many Moons* in 2016. Elexa Dawson, a descendant of Edith Martin Roberts, is the lead vocalist/songwriter. I have heard them perform, and they are a great folk band well worth your time to check out.

The movie *Avatar* was based admittedly on Native Americans. They made references often on the bloodshed between the military and Indigenous people. The movie itself brought in over \$1 billion in revenue, but from everything I read, there are some who fell in love with the movie and others who resented the reference. I thought it was beautifully done. It was the first time I saw anything in 3D since I was 10.

The song *Black or White* by Michael Jackson utilized Native American dancers in the video. It was not obvious to me in the past that Jackson was tuned in to our Native people.

There isn't any possible way to acknowledge all the talent out there, and hopefully, I have not offended anyone as they were not mentioned. I encourage you to take the time and realize the impact our people have had, inspired and created for the world to see.

We truly have made this a better world.

Keep making a difference!

Migwetch (Thank you),

Gene Lambert (Eunice Imogene Lambert) | Butterfly Woman | glambert@potawatomi.org
270 E Hunt Highway Ste 229 | San Tan Valley, AZ 85143 | Cell: 480-228-6569 | Office: 480-668-0509



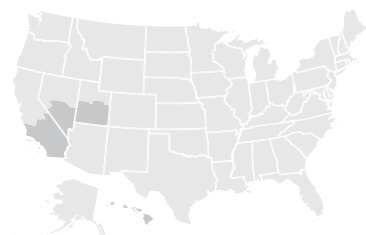
Rande K. Payne District 6

Bozho, Nikanek (Hello, friends),

I can't help but chuckle at God's sense of humor. This was supposed to be another cold and dry winter, according to all the experts. Oops! Storm after storm. Flooding. Record snowfall. If you've been in Tulare County lately, you've probably seen the pray for rain signs. I know a lot of people have been doing just that, even when it seemed like it would never rain again in California. Yet, here it is; the answer to our prayers for rain. Thank you, Lord! Maybe the One who created it all is still in control of it!

Picking up where I left off last month, I want to talk more about criminal justice reform. Let's go back 20 years to the passage of Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Reduction Act. The law watered down consequences for non-violent drug crimes with probation and drug treatment programs instead of jail time. However, unless a person has a large quantity with intent to sell, it's a citation for possession of a small amount of just about any drug. I think the idea was that as long as you're not hurting anyone else by using drugs, you shouldn't have to go to jail.

So 20 years later, we have a homeless population explosion. There are a wide range of reasons for homelessness, but from what I've heard and seen, the largest segment of this population is in some type of drug addiction. Because of



their addiction, they are unable to function in society. Many are suffering from mental illness from prolonged drug abuse. But they're not hurting anyone else, right? But what about the people I wrote about last month who make their living selling drugs? They kill each other over territory. The illegal drug trade is big business in California and lethal in so many ways. If California is going to get serious about the homelessness crisis and gang violence crisis, it has to start with dealing with the drug problem. Over time, Proposition 36 has proven to be detrimental to the lives and safety of our citizens. It says, "Drug offenses are not classified by law as violent or serious offenses." I disagree. I believe that God gives every human being a talent and will someday hold us accountable for its use. Life is a terrible thing to waste.

On a much brighter note, I recently suffered through one of the worst sinus infections I've had in a long time, and it got to the point where I knew I needed to see a doctor. I knew it would be difficult to try to get into my regular doctor, and I didn't want to go to an urgent care clinic. So, I got on my AllyHealth app for the first time since setting it up last year. Within a few minutes, I talked to a doctor and described my symptoms and history with sinus infections. The doctor prescribed a Z-Pack antibiotic treatment, and 30 minutes later, I was at Walmart picking it up. I can't tell you how fast and easy it was. I strongly encourage you to get set up. It's free for you and your family. I rarely get sick and thought I would never use it, but I'm so glad it's available to CPN members. Learn more at cpn.news/CPNcare.

Wisdom from the Word: "Aaron and his sons will go in and appoint each man to his service and his responsibility." (Numbers 4:19)

Migwetch, bama pi, (Thank you, until later),

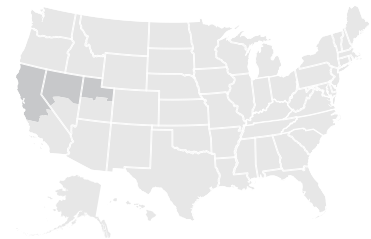
Rande K. Payne | *Mnedo Gabo* | rande.payne@potawatomi.org | 31150 Road 180 | Visalia, CA 93292-9585 | 559-999-5411



Mark Johnson District 7

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

California and the remainder of District 7 has seen a record-breaking winter as far as snowfall and rain goes. I think the terminology used is a "once in a generation" event. This is something that I can attest to, having fed my cattle in a blizzard the other day — a blizzard, in California — and I only live at 900 ft. elevation. Mother Earth is taking a long cool drink and healing herself from the last few years of drought and heat here in the West. And with all that moisture, the grass crop growing in the foothill and mountain areas of the West will be very heavy this year also. As a reminder for our families living in the mountain and foothill areas of District 7, it won't be long before the heat returns and dries out all the new vegetation. Make sure you have your 100 ft. clearance around your home, if not more. Wildfire will return to the



West again this summer as it does every year. You do not want your home to become another statistic.

Have you made your travel arrangements for the Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee from June 23 through the 25? Like I said last month, the 2023 Honored Families will be Johnson, Lafromboise, Lareau, LeClaire, Melott, Rhodd, Tescier, Weld and Young. If you have never been, you need to add this to your bucket list and come join us, and like I said, it is never too soon to secure rooms and travel for your trip to Shawnee.

If you haven't taken the time yet, sign up now for CPN Care. This benefit is available to you and your family, including non-Native children under 18 years old living with you and non-Native spouses. It will take two to three days for your account to become active, so sign up now before you need it at 2 a.m. It is no cost to you and your family to join or use. Besides being able to talk to a doctor 24/7/365 for general telemedicine, life assistance and pharmacy discount services, sign up, even if you have good insurance. It may come in handy in the middle of the night when your regular doctor is not available. I had the opportunity to use this a couple of months ago when my doctor was on vacation. It was quick and easy — and professional. Find out more at cpn.news/cpncare.

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

Migwetch (Thank you),

Mark Johnson | *Wisk Mtek* (Strong as a Tree) | 559-351-0078 | mark.johnson@potawatomi.org



Dave Carney District 8

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),



I hope this edition of the *Hownikan* finds all in District 8 healthy and doing well.

As winter wraps up and spring does its amazing work, I would like to mention an event that Justin Neely and the Language Department hosted in mid-February — Winter Storytelling. The event was live at the Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center and available on Zoom to all. Attendance was good, and the stories were well received. Traditional favorite stories included why the vulture looks the way he does, why raccoons have black eyes and why there is day and night. I have posted a collection of winter stories as compiled by my sister, Eva Marie Carney, on the District 8 Facebook page. According to the cultural teachings of the department, certain stories should only be told when the earth is sleeping in the winter months — so please be respectful of this.

I am planning on a cookout for area Potawatomi on Saturday, Aug. 5, in the Lacey/Olympia area. I hope as many members as possible can attend and enjoy summertime classics like hamburgers and hot dogs. Usually, the Nation supplies the main course, and we ask that attendees bring desserts if they wish to. Look for a postcard in your mail and other online notifications.

Whenever I host an event with food (which is pretty much all events), I have an idea of having some traditional Native foods. One side dish that I hope to have at the cookout (at least for folks to try) is wild rice.

Most scholars believe that Potawatomi began eating wild rice about a thousand years ago as they settled around the Great Lakes area. They called it *mnomen*, which means “the good seed.” They saw it as a gift from the Creator. This food became a staple to the people for many reasons, one being that it can be stored and eaten over several seasons.

The Seven Fires Prophecy tells the story of how Potawatomi eventually stopped in the Great Lakes region. One of the prophets told the Potawatomi to settle where they found “the food that grows on water.”

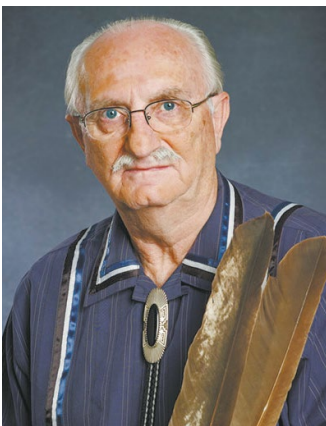
Gathering the “food that grows on the water” was pretty much a family affair — with everyone participating.

Several years ago, I purchased a generous amount of wild rice for a District 8 meeting. We cooked some and distributed more to attendees. It had a unique flavor. If you’d like to try some, go to bineshiiwildrice.store. This rice is gathered in canoes and hand harvested as it was hundreds of years ago.

I am looking forward to seeing Potawatomi family in Oklahoma and at district meetings in 2023. Don’t forget that the Family Reunion Festival and powwow is from June 23 through 25.

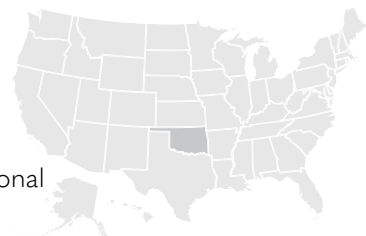
It is my honor to serve as your legislator,

Dave Carney | *Kagashgi* (Raven) | dcarney@potawatomi.org
520 Lilly Road, Building 1 | Olympia, WA 98506 | 360-259-4027



Paul Wesselhöft District 9

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),



Walked on

I’m a poet. Poets search for meaning in everything. It’s an occupational hazard. I’m struck by the Potawatomi phrase “walked on.” Many of my friends and relatives have walked on. I miss them dearly.

When we say someone has walked on, I believe we are saying that this person once walked with us, walked side by side with us, sometimes walked hand in hand with us. For me, the metaphor means that this person we loved is still walking and has walked on ahead of us on a spiritual path unlike the terrestrial path we are presently on.

My faith teaches me that the created soul and the magnificent human brain is unique and too developed, too important, too cherished, to be annihilated. I can’t accept annihilation, which is the complete extinction of someone. Annihilation signifies that this person will never exist again. I believe in an eternal state of existence unlike the existence we experience in this life. When my loved ones walk on, they “walk” into an existence created by God, and someday I will walk with them again.

A very good friend of mine lost his young, beautiful daughter to an untimely death. She walked on without him. I wrote a poem to comfort him and to honor his daughter, Charity. Edgar Allen Poe wrote, "The death of a beautiful woman is, unquestionably, the most poetical topic in the world." I agree with the Bard. My friend has allowed me to share my poem with you.

Untimely Death

By Paul Chrisstarlon Wesselhöft

The untimely death
Of a young beautiful woman
Ruptures the heart, numbs the soul.
Life is unsettling, never whole.

Such a death,
Lamented by lover, father, mother,
Is not diminished with days, years.
Tears dry but drop again.
The love and communion

Of her never ends.
The face, voice of her,
Time transcends.
The sole thing that makes a soul whole
Is a longing for reunion.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft | Naganit (Leader) | reppaul@gmail.com | pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org



David Barrett District 10

Bozho (Hello),

Sacrifices that our soldiers have made while serving our country should be remembered. With very few exceptions, the men and women who serve our country, whether in peace time or war, make sacrifices — family separations, often isolated tours of duty, long and difficult hours with no extra pay. They serve you and me through their efforts, often in dangerous circumstances.

The military families also make sacrifices from the stress of war, multiple deployments and frequent moves that can affect the wellness of military families. Children and spouses can experience anxiety, changes in relationships with family and friends, isolation, or emotional challenges in dealing with deployments, illness or injury, and high mobility.

Being a soldier is not easy; in fact, it is one of the most challenging things to do. Their lives are full of hardships and challenges that no ordinary person can survive.

Memorial Day marks the traditional beginning of the summer vacation season. The three-day weekend involves picnics and barbecues and family trips, but it is also about acknowledging the debt Americans owe those who died to protect our country. There is this one, special day each year called Memorial Day, and that is the day to remember the fallen and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Since the country was founded, well over 1 million Americans have died in the nation's wars.

Memorial Day grew out of the carnage of the Civil War. So did Arlington National Cemetery, which was created in 1864 to bury those killed in the Civil War's Overland Campaign.

Allow me to summarize something to remember during this time from an article written by Rachel Engel on May 26, 2017, for *Police1* about the five things not to do on Memorial Day.

1. Don't wish anyone a "Happy Memorial Day"
2. Don't thank the current troops
3. Don't disregard its importance
4. Don't forget it exists
5. Don't let politics keep you from rendering respect

Despite what this day has transitioned to in American culture, it was established to honor and remember America's fallen. At least, don't thank a veteran on Memorial Day just because it's Memorial Day. They deserve respect and gratitude every day of the year, but this day is set aside specifically for America's fallen warriors from every war.



Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C.

America's veterans are honored during November on Veteran's Day when we aim to remember and appreciate the sacrifices of all veterans. But, Memorial Day allows the country to focus on those service members who are no longer with us — an important distinction.

In this day and time with our society going in the wrong direction, we also need to show the same respect to our men and women in blue, who need our support.

Take time to thank a veteran, first responder and a person in blue when you have an opportunity.

It goes without saying that it is both a pleasure and an honor to serve you and our great Nation.

Migwetch (Thank you),

David Barrett | *Mnedobe* (Sits with the Spirits) | dbarrett@potawatomi.org

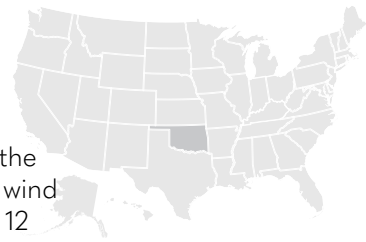
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. | Shawnee, OK 74801 | 405-275-3121



Andrew Walters District 11

Bozho (Hello),

By the time y'all read this, the storms of late February here in Oklahoma will be a thing of the past. Those storms came out of the west with a vengeance and descended on Oklahoma with reported wind speeds of over 100 miles an hour, rain and tornados. The tornados, 12 of them identified, ranged from EF-1 to EF-3. The one closest to Shawnee was the strongest.



It was in late evening when the wind came up from a remarkable calm. The air seemed heavy, and things were quiet and still. Only the sound of faraway thunder broke the peace. February is a rare month for tornados here. I believe that the previous record was two in one day, so this group far broke the previous records. Here in Oklahoma, I have found few things catch our attention more than weather. Despite some beliefs,

we get quite hot in the summer, at times over 110 degrees. And the winters can be bitter. Last year, we had a long run of below 0 weather, and in 2000, the weather was brutal with -17 degree temperatures over a large part of the state. It is, in part, those huge temperature variations that contribute to the formation of the supercell storms that birth tornadic activity. Simply put, when cold air from the Rocky Mountains mixes with the warm air of the Gulf of Mexico, huge storms form. These normally form over Oklahoma, Kansas and northern Texas in spring.

On Feb. 26, the conditions were right for these storms to form. They popped up in western Oklahoma first, and the line moved through OKC and into Shawnee heading east. The storms in the OKC area caused some damage, but by far the one that came through the Shawnee area was the most dangerous. Weather warnings popped up on the TV, and the threat of tornados quickly overcame all else in importance. As the storms birthed tornados around Norman, they moved through that area, causing some damage to homes, power lines, metal buildings and trailers. The storms moved northeast from there, coming through the communities of Pink, Little Axe and Bethel Acres and crossed I-40.

Those of you that know this area know that the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort complex is in that area. Reports started reflecting that a tornado was at the Grand Casino, moving northeast through Dale and McLoud toward Meeker. Tim Zientek, the hero of my story and the Tribe's emergency management coordinator, was already en route to the casino. Through the Chairman's forethought, the casino built a large, 5,000-person storm shelter situated in its event center. Some 20 minutes before the arrival of the storm, sirens were sounded and the building secured. The storm came close... in-the-parking-lot close... but missed the Grand and the CPN Health Services West Clinic. The storm continued for some miles, finally lifting north of Shawnee but not before destroying some homes and property here.

Having worked emergency management in my pre-retirement life as well as three major hurricanes on the Gulf Coast, countless floods and man-made incidents, I know what it takes to assure life and property in conditions like these. I must commend Tim Zientek, his emergency management crew and the Tribal Police for their work that night. When conditions are such that most people are running away and hunkering down, it takes incredibly special people to stand up and run into the maelstrom. By courage, planning and practice, this was just an incident and not a disaster. By foreword thinking in construction and management, people were kept safe. *Migwetch*... my friends. Y'all are heroes.

Bama pi (Until later),

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

Walking On

Barbara Ann Sharp Higbee Family



Barbara Ann (Higbee) Sharp, 79, passed away peacefully Feb. 6, 2023, at her home in South Jordan, Utah, after a 20-year fight with lymphoma.

The second of four children, Barbara was born Aug. 15, 1943, in Henryetta, Oklahoma, to Robert and Patricia (Jenkins) Higbee. Barbara loved to work hard and became a skilled homemaker, teacher, artist and writer.

She also loved music. Humming or singing around the house was common. She often made up her own lyrics and could be seen unconsciously conducting music to whatever tune she may be humming.

Barbara attended high school in Beverly, West Virginia. Excelling in chemistry, science and English, she graduated in 1961. After many months of letter correspondence, she married her western cowboy, Earl Francis Sharp, in the St. George, Utah, temple and soon welcomed two daughters, Patricia Rose and Barbara Ann.

Barbara joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at the age of 17. Fervent in the faith until the end, Barbara enjoyed serving in numerous callings, largely helping the youth and women of the church. A dynamic teacher and speaker, Barbara had a reputation for talking fast. Though she constantly tried to curb the speed, everyone loved it.

A 35-year resident of Kingman, Arizona, Barbara was best known for her friendly, loving nature and her motto: "Life is short. Eat dessert first." Many have adopted her motto and are now happily eating their cake first.

Barbara is survived by her two daughters; her sister, Sandra Hornick; two brothers, Robert and Bradley Higbee; and many extended family members. She is preceded in death by her parents and husband, Earl.

We miss you and love you dearly!

A graveside service was held in Lund, Nevada, along with a memorial service in Kingman, Arizona.

Billy Lewis Mars Peltier Family

Billy Lewis Mars was born November of 1932 in Durant, Oklahoma, and walked on in February of 2023 in Boise, Idaho.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Mars; parents, Frances (Frank) Merritt Mars and Mary Opal (Hughes) Mars; paternal grandparents, Joseph Mars and Clarissa Peltier (Mars) (McGraw); maternal grandparents, Henry Lewis Hughes and Willie Ann (Spaughy) Hughes; siblings, Albert Franklin Mars of Shawnee, Oklahoma, and Clara Ann (Mars) Maggio of Santa Rosa, California; and grandson, Chris Mars of Twin Falls, Idaho.

Bill is survived by his son, Steven Lewis Mars; grandchildren, Mindy Mars and Angelia Mars of Twin Falls, Idaho; sister, Sue (Mars) Meyer of Colbert, Oklahoma; and many nieces and nephews — who will dearly miss their favorite uncle!

Rest in peace, dear brother, until we meet again.

Glenda Gay Ivy Darling Family



Glenda Gay Ivy, age 62 of Lexington, Oklahoma, passed from this life Feb. 20, 2023. Glenda Gay Garver was born on April 5, 1960, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, the fourth of five children born to Everett Lee Garver and Carol Eyvonne Reed. Growing up during challenging times, Glenda developed a bond with her brothers that continued until her

passing through daily phone calls and weekly hugs; David always gave the best hugs, according to mom. On Nov. 28, 1975, Glenda became the happiest girl in the whole U.S.A. when she married the love of her lifetime, Ronald Dean Ivy. Ron and Glenda started their life together at an early age and spent the next 41 years chasing the rodeo, traveling the highways and dirt roads, raising kids, serving others, raising animals and playing with grandbabies.

Glenda lived an impassioned and faithful life, dedicating herself to her husband, their five kids, her grandkids, her church, her Tribe and anyone else lucky enough to have her in their lives.

Glenda was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and actively pursued opportunities to bring that culture to her family. She tirelessly devoted her time to creating Tribal regalia for the whole family. As she did throughout her life, she always made an effort to ensure everyone felt welcome at the powwow, at her home or just in her presence.

Glenda devoted herself to the Lord and made a lifelong commitment to him. She helped lay a foundation for

her children and her children's children that provided a way to live this life and a path to the next. She also set the standard for those kids to see what hard work looks like. Glenda raised five kids with a truck-driving husband rolling down the road and spent countless hours tending to dogs, horses and other critters. She held service jobs from firefighting to caretaking and still found time to raise, nurture and cultivate her children, teaching the values of true love and true grit.

Glenda's greatest impact to this world is through her five children: daughter, Terri; and sons Dennis, David, Daniel and Dustin. She raised five amazing individuals who know how to love unconditionally, serve unselfishly and work devotedly. These five will continue the lessons Glenda passed to them through their nine children, who will continue to share Glenda's life lesson to future generations.

Glenda has spent the last 16 years loving, hugging, holding, cheering and chasing grandbabies. Without question, this is the happiest thing she got to do. She was an amazing grandma who went out of her way to make sure she was part of the lives of all her grandchildren. She gave her love and her time unconditionally. Glenda will be incredibly missed as those grandchildren continue to grow.

Glenda will be dearly missed as a mom, grandma, sister and friend!

She was preceded in death by her parents, Everett Garver and Carol Reed; brother, Richard Garver; parents-in-law, William and Tinnie Ivy; brother-in-law, Robert Bruce; niece, Toni Bruce; nephew, John Garver; and love of her life, Ronald Ivy.

Glenda is survived by her daughter, Terri Fulton (Jeremiah); sons, Dennis Ivy (Melanie), David Ivy (Alicia), Daniel Ivy (Crystal), Dustin Ivy (Victoria); brothers, David Garver (Trena), Jerry Garver (Davlyn), Lewis Garver (Susan); in-laws, Larry Ivy, Linda Ivy and D'Ann Bark (Danny); nine grandchildren and a host of other family and friends.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, at the First Baptist Church in Wanette, Oklahoma. Burial followed at Lexington Cemetery.

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Heather Glasgow

Bergeron Family

Heather Glasgow, 44, of Poteau, Oklahoma, was born on Aug. 23, 1978, in Ely, Nevada, to Marie (Gage) Watson and James C. Glasgow and passed away on Feb. 18, 2023, in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. Heather's life was defined by perseverance, resilience and kindness. As a dedicated Department of Human Services caseworker, she made a positive impact on the lives of those she helped. Music was also a significant part of Heather's life, providing her with a way to express herself and connect with others. Her love for her children was unwavering, and she worked tirelessly to provide for them.

Though her passing has left a void, Heather's legacy of kindness and resilience will be remembered. Her family and friends are coming together to honor her wishes and ensure her children are taken care of. Heather's memory and impact on the world will live on forever.

Survivors include her two sons, Jeremiah Henry and Joshua Henry; sisters, Christina Glasgow, Kathryn Shiver and Susan Watson; mother, Marie Watson; grandmother, Edith Wash; and numerous other relatives and loved ones.

A memorial service was held Saturday, March 4, 2023, at First United Methodist Church in Poteau, Oklahoma. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Domestic Violence Shelter Freedom 2023.

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Joyce L. Dickson

Trousdale Family



Joyce L. Dickson, age 72, passed away on Feb. 23, 2023, in Henderson, Nevada, following a brief illness. She was born Joyce Lee Trousdale on March 15, 1950, to beloved parents Louis and Marjorie Trousdale, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Joyce graduated from Las Vegas High School (Class of 1968) and then attended classes at Nevada Southern (now UNLV). She

married her true love, Terry Dickson, on Sept. 11, 1971.

In the late 60s and early 70s, Joyce worked the front desk at the Flamingo and as a runner for various law firms and Clark County Sheriff Ralph Lamb. She relished that time in her career and often recalled the people she met and the things she got to do. After starting a family, Joyce returned to work as an administrative assistant for the State of Nevada and College of Southern Nevada. She took great care in her work, especially when directly serving seniors and students. She was genuinely kind and always wanted to help people.

Joyce lived most of her life in Las Vegas, except for eight years in Bullhead City, Arizona. She was at home in the desert, where she never stopped appreciating the clear night sky or preferring hot, dry wind from rolled down car windows instead of air conditioning (even in August with a car full of complaining boys). Joyce also cherished her Native American heritage and was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Pancakes, spaghetti, Luv-It Frozen Custard, Motown music and stories of old Vegas were pure joy for her.

Most of all, she loved her husband of 52 years, Terry Dickson; sons, Levi (Lisa Kemp) Dickson, Brian (Richard Wren) Dickson and Miles (Andrew Artusa) Dickson; siblings, Gregory (Susan) Trousdale and Janet (David) Turner; brother-in-law, Kent (Esther) Dickson; and extended family and dear friends.

Jerrol Osto Lemon
Navarre Family



Jerrol (Jerry) Osto Lemon, born Dec. 11, 1961, died Jan. 12, 2023.

Eight inches of snow fell in Rossville, Kansas, the day before Jerrol Osto Lemon was born. In the early morning hours, uncle Charlie Meade drove Jerry's mom, Wanda Eileen Lemon, to St. Frances Hospital in Topeka, Kansas, on snow-packed roads in his rear-wheeled-drive Corvair.

Jerry was born on Dec. 11, 1961. Jerry's father, Max Edwin Lemon, Sr., and his mother were separated at the time.

His family consists of his brother, James; sister, Jennifer; and brother, Joel (deceased), who were born before him. The family moved to Topeka in the spring.

Jerry grew up a happy child but suffered from mental illness most of his life. He was very friendly and would drop everything to help a friend. He usually had a good story to tell.

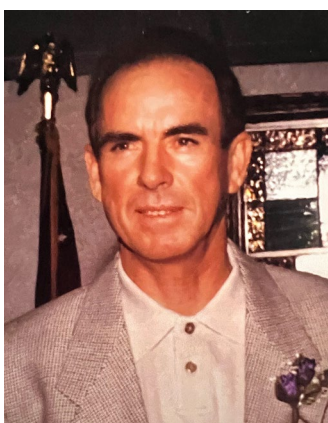
He attended Topeka Public Schools. He married Rhoda Murphy in 1980 in Topeka. They had two children, Jason Osto Lemon and Candice Michelle Lemon. He was blessed with seven grandchildren. He had a half-sister, a half-brother and a stepbrother, Charles St. Louis, Jr.

Jerry was a descendant of Pierre Navarre and a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Shawnee, Oklahoma.

He worked as an assistant janitor for several years in Topeka schools.

A private burial and celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Richard Arnold Whitten
Peltier Family



Richard Arnold Whitten was welcomed into the loving arms of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Nov. 1, 2019. He was born Sept. 21, 1942, to William Edgar Whitten and Mable Grace Coots in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

He attended Shawnee High School, was a successful athlete in multiple sports and was awarded for those efforts. He later attended Oklahoma

State University, where he participated on the football team and pursued his academic endeavors.

Richard loved his country and decided to enlist in the Army, where he dedicated six years of his life. As time progressed, he pursued a long career in telecommunication, which included work at Southwestern Bell/AT&T and the creation of a private company that continues to operate.

At an early age, he married Carole Carson and had two daughters; later, he married Brenda Schoonover and had a daughter and two sons.

He enjoyed gardening, fishing, golfing, OSU athletics, socializing and his pets. Holidays were always grand, where the entire family would come together in God's name and celebrate our lives; family was truly his greatest treasure.

He is preceded in death by his father, mother and daughter, Lezlie Jobe. He is survived by his daughters, Deborah Miller and Darbi Whitten; sons, Derek Whitten and David Whitten and wife Tina; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were held Thursday, Nov. 7 at Abiding Grace Church in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Vernon "Jack" Motley
Burnett Family



Jack Motley, 86, Tecumseh, Oklahoma resident, passed away in his sleep on Wed., Feb. 1, 2023, in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

He was born July 26, 1936, to Vernon and Halsa Motley in Macomb, Oklahoma.

He married Pat Byford on Jan. 26, 1957, in Midwest City, Oklahoma.

Jack graduated from Tecumseh High School in 1955. After graduation, and a summer playing baseball in Canada, he attended Oklahoma A&M on a football scholarship.

After a knee injury ended his football playing days, he and Pat moved to Fresno, California, where he played minor league baseball for the San Francisco Giants farm team and worked in the plumbing industry as a salesman. In 1965, with a young family, he and Pat moved back to the Bethel Acres, Oklahoma, area, where he resided until his passing. He worked as a truck driver, driving cross county and locally throughout his career. He loved raising horses and cows and was always working outside. He was always on the never-ending search to try to train the next great cutting horse, a passion he acquired as a youngster in Tecumseh.

He was preceded in death by his wife Pat, on Feb. 17, 2006; his parents; and his brother, Jerry Paul Motley.

Survivors include two daughters and one son-in-law, Cindy and Charles Crawford and Lisa Osborn, all of Tecumseh; son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Debbie Motley of Shawnee; grandchildren, Chad Stewart, Lindsay Emerson, Jason Prewett, Connor Osborn and Brooklyn Lauck; numerous great-grandchildren; and many other family and friends.

Susan K. Zimmerman

Yott Family



Susan K. Zimmerman, 68, of Beatrice, Nebraska, walked into the afterlife on Wednesday afternoon, March 8, 2023, in Lincoln, Nebraska. She was born on May 13, 1954, in Beatrice and graduated from Beatrice High School in 1972. She gave birth to her son, Jamie Yott, in 1974. Sue loved creating floral arrangements and brought joy to many with her artful creations. She was a proud Native American from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation located near Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Susan had many jobs throughout her life, including her most notable supervisory position at Sunmart in Beatrice. She married Elmer Zimmerman on June 25, 1979. Sue enjoyed working on puzzles, feeding and watching wildlife, and spending time with family and friends.

Survivors include her son, Jamie L. Yott, of Lincoln; sister, Barbara Baumfalk, of Beatrice; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; and a host of friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas L. Jr. and Helen (Harms) Yott; her husband, Elmer Zimmerman, who died on March 11, 2009; brother, Thomas Yott II; brother-in-law, Dennis Baumfalk; and paternal and maternal grandparents.

Agnes Josette "Dé'men" Wood Barron

Juneau, Vieux and Yott Families



Agnes Josette Wood Barron, 96, passed away on Feb. 6, 2023, surrounded by loving daughters, Janet and Josette. She was born in Topeka, Kansas, to Leroy Wood and Irene Schwartz. Her grandmother was Josette Juneau Schwartz, and her third great-grandparents were Solomon Juneau (fur trader/Milwaukee mayor) and Josette Vieux, and Narcisse Juneau and Madeleine Yott.

Agnes graduated from Capital Catholic High School in Topeka and worked as a long-distance

operator at Bell Telephone. When her family moved to New Jersey, she continued her career at New Jersey Bell until she met Danny Barron, and they wed at Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield. Agnes was a devout Catholic and a proud Potawatomi. She loved caring for her husband and children, sewing, journaling, writing cards to her family and caring for her home and garden. Relatives often dropped by her home for her famous angel food cake. Agnes' children were Janet (Bill Diele), Josette (Joseph Adornetto) and Matthew (Rhonda Klein). She and Danny were grandparents of three: Michael, Victoria and Thomas Adornetto. They became great-grandparents with the births of Tyler and Ryan (Victoria and Jason); Marisa (Michael and Gladys); and Emma and Noelle (Thomas and Kate).

Agnes lost her dear husband, Daniel Barron, to cancer, and she relocated to Florida near Janet's home. She attended CPN tribal meetings and received her name, *Dé'men*, meaning Strawberry/Heart of the Family. In recent years, her daughters hosted 90th and 95th birthday parties for Agnes, attended by her many nieces and nephews. Agnes returned with her family to New Jersey for her service and burial. Visitation was held at Waitt Funeral Home in Morganville, New Jersey, followed by Funeral Mass at Old St. Gabriel's Historic Church in Marlboro. Her entombment was at St. Gabriel's Mausoleum. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a Kwek Society donation.

Zoe Nell Wall Combs

Wall Family



Zoe Nell Wall Combs passed away Feb. 18, 2023, at the age of 101. Zoe was born to Jacob Oliver and Donia Wall on April 4, 1921, in Norman, Oklahoma. Zoe was one of four children: Marie, Winona, Zoe and Ira.

Zoe graduated from Tecumseh High School in 1939. Following graduation, she attended Wesley School of Nursing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where she graduated in 1942

as a registered nurse. On March 2, 1943, 1st Lt. Zoe Wall reported to duty at Camp Barkeley Station Hospital, Abilene, Texas, then to Ft. Bliss for her assignment in the Army Nurse Corp, 51st General Hospital. She would then spend the next three years in the Pacific Theater, New Guinea and Philippines of WWII, earning the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

Zoe returned to Oklahoma. She was working in Oklahoma City when she met Edward Combs. On July 8, 1949, Zoe married Edward in Winslow, Arizona. They traveled the western states while Edward worked for the Federal Aviation Administration.

In 1953, they welcomed their son, Gary Philip Combs, in Oklahoma City. They continued their

travels and returned to Oklahoma to welcome their daughter, Janet Marie, in 1958.

They lived in Grand Junction, Colorado, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Upon Edward's retirement from the FAA, they returned to Zoe's beloved Oklahoma, where they made their home and she worked. She was a very capable and compassionate nurse.

In 1974, Zoe, Edward and Janet moved to Stockton, Missouri, where she continued to work as an RN before retiring.

Zoe was a member of the Stockton Presbyterian Church. She would attend the Citizen Potawatomi Nation gatherings and was a part of the Citizen Potawatomi Cultural Heritage Center's Veterans Wall, being very proud of her Native American heritage.

Zoe was a helpmate to her husband, children and grandchildren.

Zoe is survived by her son, Gary Combs (Robin); daughter, Janet Fox; grandchildren, Justin Combs (Mycah), Jennifer Rains, Megan Wormington (David), Emily Milburn (Mark), Ryan Combs (Alyssa) and Mikayla Neil (Brandon); 11 great-grandchildren; niece, Mary Jane Miller (Ronnie); nephew, Mike Ellis; and many other family and friends.

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Jack J. LeClair
LeClair Family



Jack J. LeClair was born Sept. 14, 1946, in Ponca City, Oklahoma, to Jack J. (Chief) LeClair and Grace Jeanette LeClair. He was proud of his Potawatomi and Kaw Native American heritage. The majority of his growing up years was in Ponca City, Oklahoma, and Pharr, Texas, where he became an Eagle Scout.

He married Dianne Sicking Clegg in 2000. They found their little piece of heaven in the north

Texas Hill Country and set up a cow/calf operation with a dedication to managing the native wildlife. His love of nature sent him on fishing and hunting trips all over the country. His bird watching list was extensive as he carried his binoculars with him wherever he went.

He was preceded in death by his parents and baby sister, Pamela Sue. Jack is survived by his wife, Dianne; brother, Joe (Suzi) LeClair of Oklahoma City; and children, Jeff (Julia) LeClair of Portland, Stephen (Julie) LeClair of Gonzales, and Ashli LeClair (Ryan Jackson) of Austin. His grandson, Maddox, was the light of his life and melted his grandpa's heart.

Jonathan LeClair, Jason Thompson and Rob Brooks, along with his children, Ashli and Stephen, and brother, Joe, served as pallbearers. Readers were Jeff and Julia LeClair and Pamela Clegg. Dianne's grandchildren were altar servers and brought up offertory gifts for their Papa Jack.

Jack graduated from Pharr San Juan Alamo High School in 1964 and went on to attend the University of Texas on a baseball scholarship, then on to Pan-American College for undergrad work where he belonged to Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and was a teacher at Ed Couch Elsa Schools. He graduated from Texas A&M – Kingsville in 1975 with a master's in range science and management. His graduate thesis was written on the bromeliad plant species following research in the Mexican jungle. He began his career in field development and tech service with Chevron/Ortho Chemical in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. He also did some doctoral work at Texas A&M.

From 1982 to 1999, Jack worked in development and was an integral part of the DuPont Development team that was responsible for introducing new active ingredient chemistry for cotton, cereal, corn, rice, soybeans and range and pasture. These innovative products launched DuPont Crop Protection as a major worldwide supplier to agricultural chemistry. From 2000 to 2003, he was in field development for United Ag Products (UAP) in TX/OK/NM. Going back to DuPont in 2004, he became part of the DuPont Crop Protection team as a range and pasture specialist and traveled extensively to many Southern and Midwestern states. Once again, he developed active ingredient chemistry for range and pasture brush and weed control. He retired from DuPont after 27 years of service. In 2014, he began a three-year and final stint with Bayer Environmental Services in range and pasture sales. During his many years in the business, he made many long-lasting friendships with customers, associates and teammates across the country.

Mass of Christian burial by Fr. Joe Keating was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Muenster for Jack J. LeClair of Saint Jo, Texas, Friday, Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. Burial followed in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Rosary was led by Tom and Denise Koranek at Scott Funeral Home, Thursday, Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. The eulogy was delivered by Jack Lyons.

The **CPN Burial Assistance Fund** is available to all enrolled CPN members. Notify Tribal Rolls office of member's passing to receive \$2,000 aid. Burial process information and instructions sent to next of kin. Contact Tribal Rolls at tribalrolls@potawatomi.org or 405-878-5835.

Submit obituaries (300 words, 300dpi photo) and contact information to hownikan@potawatomi.org.

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