

HOWAWIKAN

Zisbaktokégises | April 2024

Artist shares new
paintings and
star knowledge



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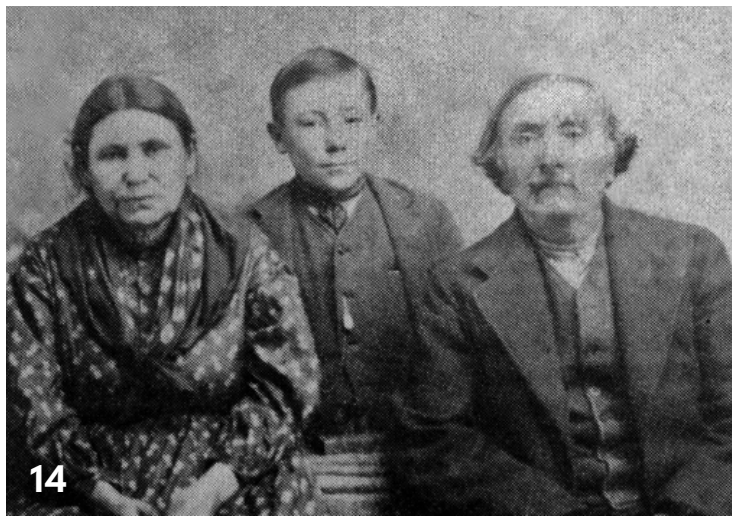
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Walking on





CPN is honored as a 2023 Partner in Progress for its work with Gordon Cooper Technology Center.

CPN honored as education partner

Citizen Potawatomi Nation was honored this year as a Partner in Progress.

Each year, Oklahoma Association of Career & Technology Education (OkACTE) hosts Partners in Progress to honor business and industry partners who work with technology centers across the state.

This year, Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma, selected Citizen Potawatomi Nation as its Partner in Progress, and representatives from both organizations attended a banquet Feb. 20 in Edmond, Oklahoma, where Tribal leadership was presented with an award.

GCTC listed just some of the ways CPN has partnered with and supported the school.

CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, a founding member of the GCTC Foundation Board, has served as a sponsor for the GCTC Foundation Rocket Man Run, a 5K race held annually that raises scholarship money for GCTC students.

In 2023, Gordon Cooper established its first Lineworker Training Program, at the end of which students will be able to begin work as pre-apprentice linemen. CPN helped sponsor the first session of the program.

The two organizations have worked together on other training opportunities as well. GCTC has provided CPN staff training in a variety of departments, from Sovereign Pipe to CPN Housing Authority, in everything

from forklift and safety, de-escalation and customer service, to multi-generational communication. CPN has also provided Gordon Cooper students with hands-on experience, allowing them to work in a design shop.

The Tribe has also helped the technology center in other areas as well. FireLake Discount Foods has provided donations to a toiletry cabinet that supplies students in need. House of Hope partners with GCTC to provide outreach to students who may be survivors of domestic violence.

"Without the support that you have offered us in many forms, our programs would not be the success that they have become today," OkACTE Executive Director Skye McNeil told attendees at the event. "The career opportunities that are possible for our students are a direct result of the support each of you have provided. We believe that the support you show our technology centers allows our students to be more successful in school, more excited about future careers, better equipped for the workforce, better employees for future employers and better contributors as citizens and taxpayers for our communities and state."

GCTC is an accredited institution and is one of 29 career and technical education options within Oklahoma's career tech system. It serves an area in east-central Oklahoma, covering approximately three counties. To learn more about GCTC, visit gctech.edu. 🔥



CPN's donated bales are loaded on to trucks.

CPN donates hay for ranchers affected by fires

After fires in Texas and western Oklahoma burned more than one million acres in February and March, Citizen Potawatomi Nation stepped up to help some of those impacted by the fires.

Friday, March 8, trucks arrived to load CPN's donation of 150 bales of hay to be sent to farms in western Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle.

"We worked with a Tecumseh firefighter named Connor Franetovich," CPN Agricultural Operations Manager Tonya Turnpaugh said. "He organized truck drivers to donate their trucks, fuel and time, and so he got us together with them and set up a pickup time for them to get loaded out."

CPN's donation, worth about \$8,200, came about after Turnpaugh was speaking to two of her crew members, Kelly Navrath and Blaine Littleton, about the fires. After discussion with her director, then with Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, it was decided to go ahead with the donation.

Turnpaugh said the Tribe had the hay because of the farming CPN does. Often, she said, when the Tribe has purchased land to build an enterprise on the property, it may take years before construction is ready to begin.

"My department comes in, and we clean the land up and make it useful and productive until the time that we can complete the eventual goal,"

she said. "Where they're building the casino and hotel right now, we farmed that for years."

Turnpaugh said there's no way of knowing exactly how many people CPN's donation will help, but added that she feels blessed to help in some way.

"I and one of my hands were cattle ranchers ourselves," she said. "If we were ever in the same position, we would need help. So I'm really happy and blessed that we were able to help them out." 🔥

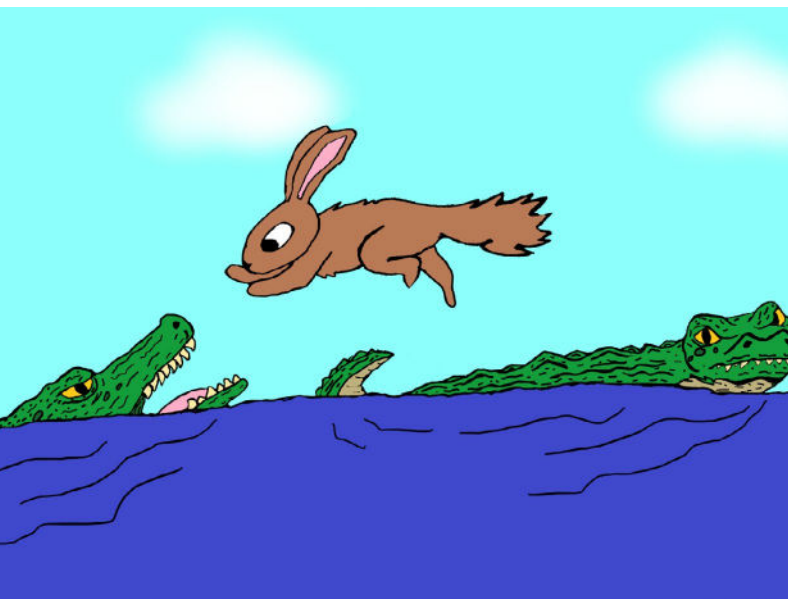


Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

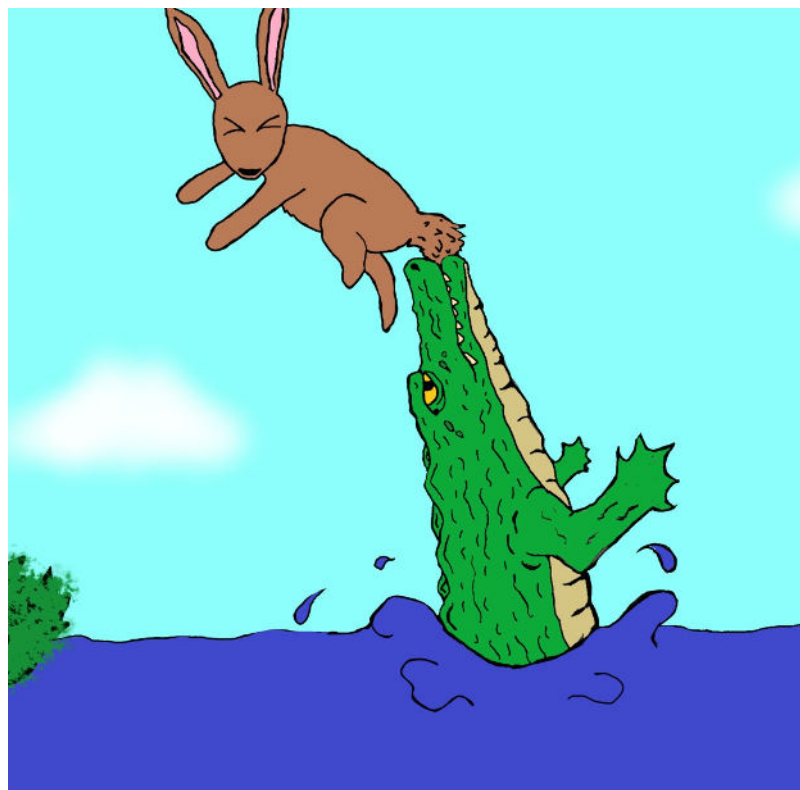
Bozho Jayek, (Hello everyone),

When you receive this, we will be wrapping up our six-week Tuesday and Thursday Beginner Potawatomi Class. Our first class went well. We had around 18 people in person and 55 online. Most classes we teach include both an onsite element as well as an online version. We also record the classes, if you have to miss a class or if you would like to check the class out now. Send an email to language@potawatomi.org and we can send you a link to our YouTube channel playlist.



We are also close to finishing up our Potawatomi 1 and Potawatomi 2 high school course. If you have a student in Oklahoma who is interested in taking Potawatomi to count towards world language credit for graduation, please let us know. It will need to be something we set up probably six months prior since some districts may need to run it by their board of education or administration at their high school. We would be happy to offer it in different districts. We have offered it so far in Wanette, Maud, Seminole and Shawnee, as well as Shawnee Middle School. We developed a middle school program specifically for Shawnee to fill a void because they did not have a Spanish teacher available. We are happy to share this course as well with middle schools that might be interested in offering it as an eight-week elective. Let us know how we can help your student out.

Our online dictionary continues to be improved upon on a daily basis. We are adding example sentences with audio, historical audio, images, videos and cultural information. Recently, our IT department created a verb conjugation device for VTA (verb transitive animate) verbs which really is a game changer for a lot of people. VTA verbs are some of the harder verbs to conjugate, and there are



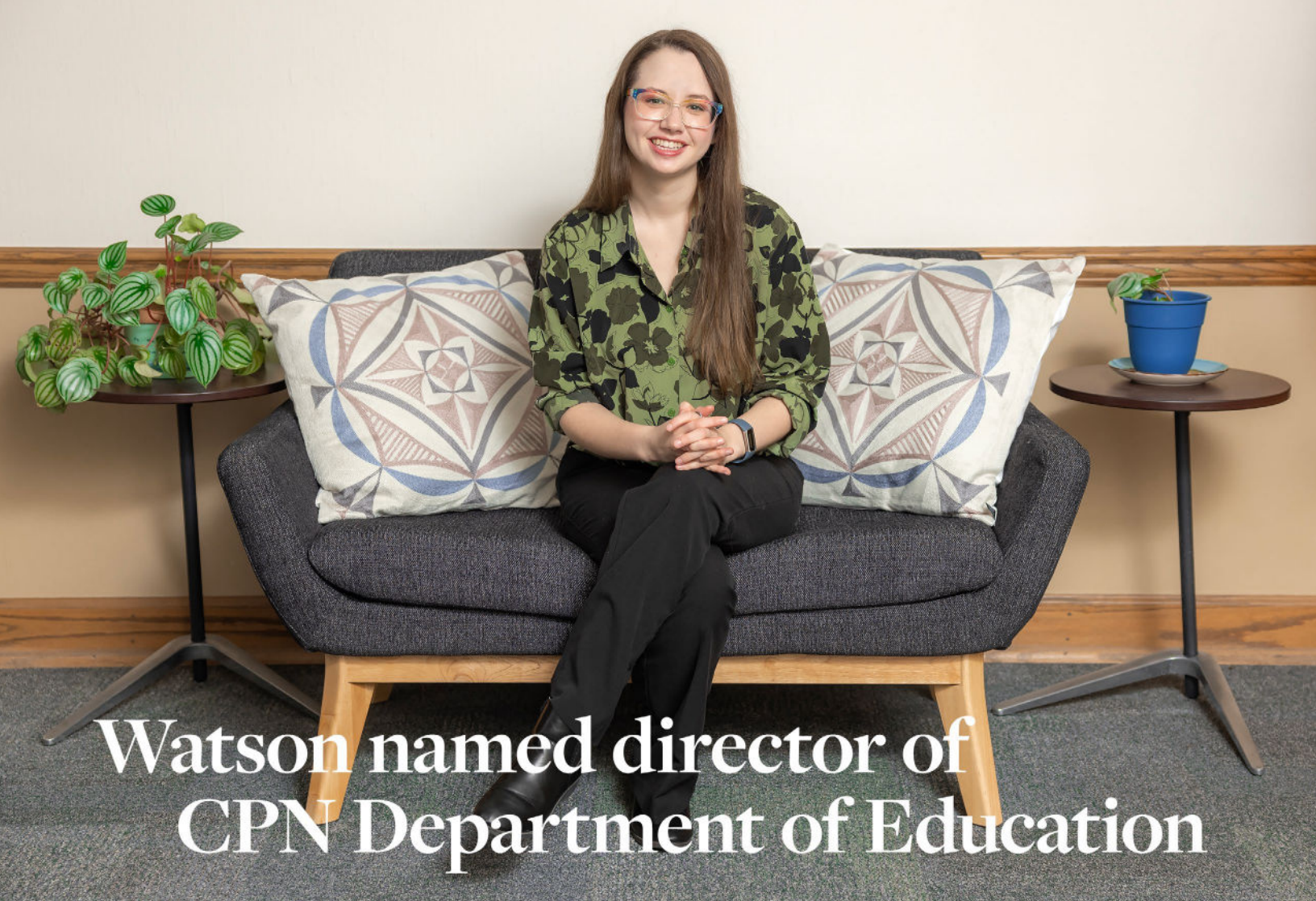
Why the rabbit has a short tail. A traditional story we are working on.

around 36 combinations. You can now choose builder in the dictionary then scroll down to the verb you want to conjugate and then choose who is acting on whom and it will conjugate it in the independent form. Right now, it only works with VTA verbs that end in *ma*. We are working to add other combinations, such as ones that end in *na*, *wa* and *zewa*. Also, we are considering doing this for other types of verbs in the future and the conjunct form for VTA. It's a really cool tool and *migwetch* to Jonathan and our whole IT team for helping us get it going. Also, if you haven't tried searching tags try that out. There are tags like animals, objects, people, school words. Some of the tags have subcategories like mammals, reptiles and birds.

We also are constantly working on updating and adding to our online content for folks who want to learn the language at their own pace at learning.potawatomi.org. We currently have an introduction course, a course designed for folks who want to study grammar, and also a children's course for middle school students. We are also working on a conversational based course.

If you enjoy podcasts or need something to listen to while commuting to work or doing things around the house, we have a podcast on SoundCloud. It's called *Bodéwadmimwen Kiktowen*. These are a series of skits that build off the previous skit to help folks really focus on listening and comprehension. Currently we are putting a new one up each Tuesday. We have shared nine skits so far. We are also finishing up work on *Why the rabbit has a short tail* in Potawatomi.

Migwetch (Thank you) 🔥



Watson named director of CPN Department of Education

When Rachel Watson received a Citizen Potawatomi Nation scholarship to help cover the cost of their master's degree, they had no idea that just a few years later, they would head the Nation's Department of Education.

Watson, a member of the Navarre family, was named director of the CPN Department of Education at the beginning of 2024, following the departure of the previous director, Tesia Zientek, in April of 2023.

"She's a wonderful person and set a great example for how to deal with different situations. She set the standard for keeping things smooth and amicable," Watson said of working with Zientek.

Watson attended Oklahoma City Public Schools, then completed an undergraduate degree at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Oklahoma, where they majored in history and minored in German. At the University of Pennsylvania, Watson received a CPN scholarship to help cover some of the costs as they earned a master's degree in Education, Culture and Society.

"It's basically an anthropology in education program, looking at the ways schools and society shape each other and that reciprocal relationship," they said. "You can really make your degree program focus on what you want to learn, so

I focused on diversity and equity in education, took some Indigenous language revitalization courses, that sort of thing."

Watson has been with CPN for about three years, first working as a college advisor, then as a senior college advisor, then as senior student success advisor.

"Halfway through being a senior college advisor, we decided college advisor didn't really capture what we wanted our advisors to be doing," they said. "It was too specific to higher education when we have a broader focus."

Though Watson hoped to someday head the department, they didn't expect it to happen, and especially not so soon.

"I wanted it, but I knew that there were a lot of different layers and a lot of different reasons why it would probably be unlikely," they said. "For instance, Tesia was with the Tribe for a very long time, so I did not think she would leave, and especially not within my first two years of employment."

Once the position did open up, however, Watson made a case to leadership that it was something they were interested in. And, though they do not think only Tribal members would be able to do the job, they do believe it's an asset to have a Tribal member in the role.

"I do think I have a unique perspective being part of the served population. I'm here to serve not just Citizen Potawatomi students but my family. It's my little sister, who is in sixth grade now, that I'm thinking about. When she's ready for college, what kind of programming will there be? Or before she's ready for college, how can I get her more connected to the Tribe?" Watson said.

Watson said they keep thinking back to a time when their family visited Shawnee. After describing some of the programs available, Watson's sister asked, "If you didn't work for the Tribe, how would we know that these things were going on?"

Watson thinks of that often and wants to strive to reach more Tribal citizens.

"If you want to be engaged and informed, you do have to be really active about seeking the Tribe out on social media or asking for the *Hownikan* to be sent to you every month," they said. "I appreciate the citizens that are engaged and involved that way, but we have so many who just don't feel comfortable or don't know that they need to do that, even, and that's kind of who I'm thinking about."

Going forward, they would like to try to capture more Tribal members through means such as mailers — since that can sometimes be more reliable than social media or email.

As a scholarship recipient themselves, Watson recognizes the importance of letting others know the opportunities that exist through CPN.

"It's about the future of the Potawatomi Nation. That's what we fund through our scholarships — our future leaders and our future employees," they said.

And while the Tribe has programs such as the Potawatomi Leadership Program and *Mdamen* to help connect Tribal members to their heritage, Watson said those still have a limited audience.

"They're wonderful programs, but you can only have 10 students in Sharp House, or 12 if you really pack them in. We have 30 in *Mdamen*, and that's fantastic. But we have 39,000 Tribal citizens, and only 10,000 of them are located in Oklahoma," Watson said. "So we want to come up with more ways to get folks involved."

Watson said they, also, went through a period where they felt culturally disconnected from the Tribe, or like they weren't Native enough, and they would like to help reach out to other students going through the same thing.

“I do think I have a unique perspective being part of the served population. I’m here to serve not just Citizen Potawatomi students but my family.”

"We know our students don't tend to check the Native American box when filling out enrollment forms, so we want to let

them know that their Tribe does claim them, that it's an important part of their identity, and that they're an important part of the Tribe," they said.

Watson anticipates continuing to collaborate with other CPN departments, such as Workforce & Social Services, the Child Development Center, Health Services and the Cultural Heritage Center, to help meet those goals.

For now, Watson also wants to focus on developing employees in the department to see where their focuses and interests lie, and using that information to craft a larger, strategic plan.

For more information about the CPN Department of Education, visit cpn.news/education. 🔥

JOIN THE NISHNABE NERDS FACEBOOK GROUP

A community space from the CPN Department of Education for Potawatomi students, parents, educators and community members.

Share ideas, resources, questions and goals about learning and education in a supportive environment.

Fanning the flames of the Seventh Fire for the next seven generations through education!

 **NISHNABE NERDS**



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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CPNEDUCATION



One Time Grant program helps Tribal members fund homes

By Sherry Byers, CPN Housing Department Home Ownership Manager

The One Time Grant has now been in operation for more than 25 years. This program has evolved and improved over the course of time. The One Time Grant Program has assisted hundreds of Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) tribal members with funds for their down payment or closing costs, associated with the purchase, building or refinancing of a home.

In addition to assisting individual Tribal members with this program, we would also like to see the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Sovereign Bank (Formerly First National Bank & Trust) benefit by originating the mortgage loans. Sovereign Bank can offer most loan programs offered by other lending institutions, except loan types affiliated with predatory lenders.

It is interesting to know that there are still many uninformed CPN members out there, when it comes to information regarding this program and the Tribal bank. Our office receives calls daily from Tribal members that never knew of this grant or that the Tribe owns its own bank.

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

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

The application must be completed thoroughly, and the following submitted:

- Copy of borrower's CPN membership card
- Copy of Social Security cards for household member without Tribal cards
- Copy of the "Loan Estimate" from lender
- Income verification for all household members (last 3 to 4 pay stubs or if same employer for years the last two years of tax returns, first page and signature page only)
- Name of the Closing Entity (Title Co., Escrow Co., Attorney, etc.)
- Completed W-9 form by Closing Entity
- Copy of Appraisal

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

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

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

For information regarding loan products and lending requirements at Sovereign Bank, ask for Rachel Vallandingham, Mortgage Loan Officer. Her direct line is 405-878-1927. 🔥

Re-Elect Rep. Paul Wesselhöft, M.A., M.Div. To the CPN Legislature

Please vote by absentee ballot request from March 1 to June 9th. CPN # is 405-275-3121
or vote at our Family Festival on June 29th.

Read about, "Paul Wesselhöft" on Wikipedia. repppaul@gmail.com Thank you!

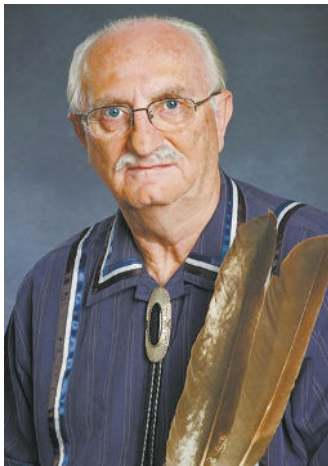


Paid for by Paul Wesselhöft

District 9 election candidates Q&A

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

Paul Wesselhöft



Incumbent

What is your Potawatomi Name and Family?

My Potawatomi name is *Naganit* meaning Leader.

I was named by Linda Capps. I am of the Burnett family. My Great-Great-Great Grandfather was Chief Abraham Burnett.

Where do you reside?

Moore, Oklahoma.
I was born

and reared in Oklahoma City.

Education and other accomplishments:

My B.A. is in Drama from University of Central Oklahoma; my M.A. is in Religion from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma; and my M. Div. is in Theology from Gordon-Conwell

Theological Seminary in Massachusetts. I am a Poet, Short Story writer, and author of two books. I have won numerous first place awards for poetry and fiction.

Employment:

I served my nation as a Private, Sergeant and a Major. I served during the Vietnam War era and in the First Persian Gulf War. I'm an Army combat veteran. I'm a Retired U.S. Army Chaplain of 20 years, and a retired Oklahoma State Representative of 12 years. I am currently a Representative in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's national legislature.

General statement:

As an experienced and trusted government leader, state, and tribe, and a tribal elder, I ask for your vote. We are the only tribal nation with a national legislature, and I have served proudly and wish another term. I would be honored to have your vote, and will serve you with all that I am.

What experiences do you have that can be applied to a legislative position with the Tribe?

My 12 years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives as well as the years serving the Potawatomi citizens of Oklahoma have prepared me to serve again. I also served as both a Chairman and a Vice-Chairmen of

Paul Wesselhöft, M.A., M.Div. for the CPN Legislature

Paul is a fifth-generation Oklahoman, Tribal Elder, Poet, Author, and Great-Great-Great Grandson of Chief Abraham Burnett.

Paul was an elected Delegate to the 65th National Congress of American Indians.

While serving in the Oklahoma House of Representative for 12 years, Paul was the Chairman of the Joint House & Senate committee on Native American Affairs, and he founded the 21-member Native American Caucus.

He is the founder/administrator of the active 4,800 member Facebook group, "Potawatomi Artists."

Paul is a highly decorated military veteran of 20 years, having served as a U.S. Army Airborne Ranger, a Chaplain and a Major officer, a Persian Gulf War combat veteran, and he served as a Sargent in the Vietnam War Era.

Rev. Paul Wesselhöft is a retired ordained Southern Baptist Chaplain having pastored four different chapels in the United States and abroad.

Paul has been married to Judy for 48 Years, and is the father of CPN members, Justin, and Holly.

Your Representative is a proven, trusted leader and tribal elder worthy of your vote. His Indian name is, *Naganit* meaning Leader. He was named by Linda Capps. He has been a leader from the beginning and is an experienced leader now.

"I would appreciate your vote by absentee ballot request from March 1 to June 9th, or at our Family Festival on June 29th. Thank you!" (Paid for by Paul Wesselhöft)

important committees as well as Chairman of the Joint House and Senate committee for Native America Affairs. I founded the 21-member Native American Caucus in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

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

I want to increase our prosperity, especially in our many enterprises, and build upon our historical accomplishments. We are a great nation and on the verge of being the 8th largest tribe. I desire that our nation becomes a model of sovereignty, self-government, and Native American leadership throughout Oklahoma and America. As a former

Oklahoma State Representative, it's important that I stand strongly against any effort by the state or federal government to infringe upon our tribal sovereignty.

Describe an effective Tribal leader.

A leader must be ethical and strongly dedicated to advance his tribe's prosperity and accomplishments. A leader speaks up, sometimes argues, and debates on important Potawatomi issues and resolutions even when his voice and vote is in the minority. However, a tribal leader acknowledges and respects the wisdom of the collective legislature especially when he disagrees with the majority.



**Matt Higdon
Challenger**

What is your Potawatomi Name and Family? Muller

Where do you reside? Tecumseh, Oklahoma

Education and other accomplishments: Graduated with an Associate's of Arts in History from Cowley County Community College, where I earned

All-American Honors in Track and Field.

Graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History from Oklahoma Baptist University, where I hold two school records for the Track and Field Program.

Currently working to earn a Masters in Native American Studies from the University of Oklahoma.

Employment:

Currently, I am a full-time student athlete completing my final semester of eligibility.

General statement:

My name is Matthew Dillon Higdon, and I am running for District 9 Legislature for the next seven generations while learning what the previous seven generations have done for us.

What experiences do you have that can be applied to a legislative position with the Tribe?

Over my life I have grown up just down the road from our tribal headquarters, so you can say that I have grown with the tribe itself. I have seen our golf course redone, our Cultural Heritage Center, Arena, ballfields, and a multitude of other tribal businesses and resources built. I have gotten to see what my elders have built for my generation, so this has inspired me to run to help build the future for the next seven generations.

On top of all of that, I have worked many sports camps for our tribe, worked at our golf course, written encyclopedia entries for our Cultural Heritage Center, worked at our Wellness Center, and have worked several events at Firelake Arena. I also completed the Potawatomi Leadership Program in 2021. This experience working throughout the tribe has given me a lot of perspective and made me grateful for what the past generations have built.

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

I want first and foremost to learn from my elders and really learn how to be an effective tribal leader from them. But then, I would want to help build on and further develop our tribe's businesses and resources in whatever capacity I can.

Describe an effective Tribal leader.

To me, an effective Tribal leader is a person who never stops learning and trying to improve themselves. The reason for this is because I have always believed that you never know everything, and any chance that you get to improve yourself, you should take because you can only benefit from being better. Another quality that is most important to me is a Tribal leader should be caring and respectful, not only to themselves, their family, and their friends, but also to the stranger walking behind them in the cold trying to get into a warm building. A Tribal leader should brave the cold a little longer to hold the door open for that stranger so they can get warm first. Lastly, I think an effective Tribal leader speaks plainly and efficiently. Now this is a place where I still need to improve myself, but through my many jobs with the tribe I have learned and improved a lot in that capacity. 🔥

Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

Our CPN Veterans Organization's Color Guard has been busy with flags at events. This year promises to be an event-filled era, keeping our flags and CPN veterans visible to the public. We encourage all CPN veterans and their families to join us. You do not have to be a member of the CPN Veterans Organization to participate in our parades. It's fun and can really lift your spirit.

Now, I would like to touch on a subject that is very sensitive and important. It is a crisis that needs to be addressed and of great concern to our armed forces and many of our veterans, especially our combat veterans. Serving our country comes at a price. It changes the individual. Most of us know a veteran who has been affected by military service. Although we were trained to keep our cool in stressful situations, it is still tough when we face them. After leaving the military, the situations themselves may change. Dealing with tough times doesn't get any easier. One example is knowing what to do if someone you served with is talking about suicide. The key is being prepared and knowing how to respond with care and compassion. You can play a crucial role in providing support and making a difference in a veteran's life.

How do you recognize a crisis? Some actions and behaviors can be a sign a veteran needs help.

Crisis signs: These require immediate attention. If you or a veteran you know is experiencing any of these signs and needs medical attention, call 911.

- Thinking about hurting or killing themselves right now.
- Looking for ways to kill themselves immediately.
- Talking about death, dying or suicide.
- Engaging in self-destructive behavior, such as drug abuse, risky use of weapons, etc.

Warning signs: These may indicate a veteran needs help. If you or a veteran you know is experiencing any of these, Dial 988 then Press 1 to contact the Veterans Crisis Line:

- Appearing sad or depressed most of the time.
- Feeling hopeless.
- Experiencing anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness or mood swings.
- Feeling as if there is no reason to live.
- Feeling excessive guilt, shame or sense of failure.
- Experiencing rage or anger.
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking.
- Increasing alcohol or drug misuse.
- Losing interest in hobbies, work or school.
- Neglecting personal welfare and appearance.
- Withdrawing from family and friends.



I'M STILL HERE BECAUSE MY PERIMETER DEFENSES ARE SO GOOD I CAN'T GET OUT!

- Showing violent behavior, like punching a hole in the wall or getting into fights.
- Giving away prized possessions.
- Getting affairs in order, tying up loose ends or writing a will.

Knowing what to say:

- Make supportive and encouraging comments, but don't ask invasive personal questions.
- Don't inject judgment or emotion into the conversation. Stay calm.
- Listen more than you speak. Don't dominate the conversation.
- Remind them you are there for them.
- Let them decide how much to share.

The first step in determining how you can best help someone struggling is to ask, "Are you thinking about suicide?" If they answer yes, then providing an appropriate level of support and connecting them with resources is the next step. If they answer no, it's important to follow up with them and help them with what they need. Asking them directly and non-judgmentally will not put the idea of suicide into their head. Instead, they will know they can rely on you if suicide is ever a concern for them.

The Veterans Crisis Line offers free, confidential support. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. Dial 988 then Press 1 or text 838255. The VA also has suicide support training available. With the rise in suicides in the nation we should all be aware.

Migwetch.

Our April CPN Veterans Organizations meeting will be April 23 at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall with food and socializing.

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

Understanding consent during Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Kayla Woody,
CPN House of Hope Prevention Specialist

Picture yourself out with friends on a Friday evening and you follow them to the local club in town for some drinks and harmless fun. When you arrive at your destination, the first thing you want is a beverage. Do you get it yourself or do you let a friend grab it for you? Or maybe you are offered a drink by an admirer. Do you accept the drink, or do you say, "No thanks"?

Believe it or not, when you accept a drink, either from an acquaintance that you know or from someone that you don't, you place yourself at high risk. Alcohol is the substance that is used most frequently to assist in sexual assaults. The American Addiction Centers state that about 43 percent of sexual assaults involve alcohol use by the victim and 69 percent involve alcohol use by the perpetrator. With or without the use of a "date rape drug," alcohol is often the device used to take advantage of a victim with ease.

A common response when alcohol is involved during a sexual assault is that it somehow lessens the crime as if the perpetrator was not aware of what was happening and is somehow less responsible for their actions. The blame is normally placed on the victim. This is a huge false assumption and is incorrect. There is research to show just how alcohol can be used to target victims. Alcohol is NOT responsible for the choices a person makes and it is NEVER an acceptable excuse for a sexual assault.

Sexual assault is defined as sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the victim. To prevent these types of acts from happening, we must understand what consent looks like and sounds like. Consent is beginning to have more emphasis in our culture than ever before, but what often gets left out of the discussion is how to go about obtaining and providing the consent without the fear of "ruining the mood."

Consent also isn't just one question. There needs to be an atmosphere of comfort and trust that you create throughout any experience. Just because you do not hear "No" does not mean the person is consenting. Planned Parenthood provides a great idea on how to remember the idea of consent. They use the main phrase, "I love **FRIES**". This stands for **F**reely Given, **R**eversible, **I**nformed, **E**nthusiastic, and **S**pecific. Some ways to ask for consent are:

- Would you like if...?
- Would you enjoy if ...?
- You wanna...?



- I was thinking about... how does that sound?
- Does this work for you?
- Are you enjoying this?
- Is this ok?

Consent is never implied by things like past behavior, what you are wearing, where you go, who you are with, or if you have consented previously. There must be clear communication every single time. Even couples who have been in long committed relationships or who are currently married must first get consent before acting.

It is important to understand that anyone can be a victim of sexual assault, no matter their gender, sexual orientation, age, race or economic status. To be able to make changes and put a stop to sexual assault, we must educate ourselves and others. April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and is a great time to reach out to local organizations like CPN House of Hope to find ways to educate.

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

Artist shares new paintings and star knowledge

Potawatomi artist Minisa Crumbo Halsey leaned into her creative side by painting and writing during the 2020 pandemic and lockdown. One of her paintings explores traditional star knowledge. It is a subject she shared with the community during an April 3, 2024, presentation at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center.

Pondésé Nēgos, or Winter Maker, focuses on the constellation known as Orion's Belt. *Pondésé Nēgos* is most visible in the night sky during winter in the northern hemisphere, from January to April. The painting features a boy and girl in traditional clothing, standing by the Canadian River under the Tree of Life.

The constellation was named Orion's Belt in the second century by astronomer Ptolemy, but its origins are even older to the Potawatomi. Unlike constellations named for Greek myths, Potawatomi constellations describe seasonal activities, such as the time when wild rice is harvested or the approach of spring.

As an artist, Crumbo Halsey hopes the painting will encourage Potawatomi to embrace the traditional star knowledge *Nishnabé* people have relied upon for hundreds of years.

Crumbo Halsey said as a child she observed the stars while her father pointed out the locations of the morning star, the evening star, the North Star and more.

"These are the first things that he began pointing out that I knew had importance, enough for him to point out and give me a teaching on," she said. "That (taught me) I could follow my inner spirit of willingness and enthusiasm to learn and be connected with the mother earth and the

father sky, sun and the Creator, which is the first, most beautiful and enduring gifts that the Creator gave us."

Stars and origin stories

Stars represent the origins of the Potawatomi people.

"When we talk about the stars, we're talking about origin," Crumbo Halsey said. "We are people that are lowered down from the stars. The Seven Sisters, the stones that were lowered down from the sky people and the star people became the teachings for the stones that go into the sweat lodge ceremony. That's one of the things that makes it so powerful is that they represent us and our star ascent or descent."

Star stories may also answer questions about the afterlife.

"One of the reasons that we get a (Potawatomi) name, aside from it being our true identity that we live and work and grow in, is that when we walk on, the ancestors know how to call. They know what our name is, and they can call us on home. And we begin that journey to return to the stars," she said.

"The star beings include not only where we came from, but the very, very deep and profoundly beautiful medicine of traditional teachings. Like, 'Where do we go when we walk on?' Well, we have a teaching on that."

Crumbo Halsey said Indigenous societies all over the world have lived in regard to the stars, to know when to plant, when to harvest, when to prepare for seasonal changes and more. Constellation stories are tied to the Potawatomi way of life and relationships to nature.

"There are specific stars that will appear in the spring. One of them is the crane constellation that appears specifically between spring and fall," she said. "The crane guides the geese going north, and they fly right under that constellation. And in the fall, when they migrate south, you can look up and they'll be under the constellation of the crane."

The story of the sucker fish moon represents an important sacrifice.

"Up in the north country, sucker fish appeared in March. They have a moon named after them because at the end of the winter season, the game was scarce, and people were hungry. A fisherman went out and cut a hole in the ice. The sucker fish spoke and said some of us are going to sacrifice ourselves for you, because we know that you're hungry. They allowed some of them to be caught and they lived. We always remember the sacrifice," Crumbo Halsey said.

Artist Minisa Crumbo Halsey welcomes visitors to her studio, where she paints, sews and makes jewelry.





Stars also hold importance when it comes to the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

“The Seven Grandfather Teachings are love, respect, bravery, honesty, wisdom, truth and humility. It is from these things, the star story and these Seven Grandfather teachings, that we come to know more about ourselves and define ourselves and our connection and relationship to all living things in a good way.”

Resources

Crumbo Halsey said there are several books available that offer more information. She recommends the works of the late Jim Thunder, a well-known Forest County Potawatomi elder, Nishinawbe Aski First Nation author Joseph *Ogimaawab* Sutherland and more. Many titles are available on Amazon or through tribal retailers.

“Amazon has several titles that deal with star stories and ‘creation myths.’ I don’t like the word ‘myth’ because it indicates there are questions about the validity of the story. I prefer ‘creation stories,’ but it will be under ‘myths’ on Amazon,” she said.

Combined with a smartphone app called Star Guide, Crumbo Halsey said the knowledge can be shared all year long.

“With Sky Guide, you can take the cell phone up in the night sky and point it to any star in the night sky, and the message will come up about what constellation we’re looking at,” she said.

She recommends using the Star Guide app in conjunction with the Star Chart created by Kyle Malott of the Pokagon Band Potawatomi. Malott’s chart features traditional *Anishnabé* constellations and their names. Access the Star Chart online at cpn.news/starchart.

Reclaiming knowledge

Crumbo Halsey is eager to share what she has learned with the Potawatomi community. During the year, she will share her knowledge through a series of articles in the *Hownikan*.

She has an optimistic view of reclaiming traditional knowledge.

“Some of us have shame that we weren’t raised traditionally and don’t know these things. We feel like we can’t access it, or we won’t be able to understand it, or someone’s going to laugh at us, or we’re going to fail in our endeavor. But, if we go with the seven grandfather teachings, we are armed with a shield. We are armed with a shield of truth,” she said.

For more information about her art and books, visit Crumbo Halsey’s website. 🔥

Levier 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.

Family beginnings

The origins of the Levier family can be traced back to the Great Lakes region, where the Potawatomi and their relatives, the Odawa and Ojibwe, lived near Lake Michigan. The early to mid-1600s were a time of peace and prosperity as Indigenous people helped develop the fur trade in the region.

As the Iroquois pushed west to attempt to dominate the fur trade, conflict increased between tribal nations. The resulting "Beaver Wars" pushed many tribes west of the Mississippi and into Wisconsin.

Fortunately, the Potawatomi were able to escape much of the warfare and starvation their Odawa and Ojibwe relatives experienced. Potawatomi villages were located in an area with rich soil suitable for farming. There, they lived peacefully for many years alongside the Wyandot, Miami, Winnebago, Sauk and Kickapoo.

The Potawatomi successfully expanded their territory from Michigan to Milwaukee and Detroit. By the 1700s, fur traders flocked to the area and many Potawatomi married into the families of the traders. It was through intermarriage that French surnames like Cadue, Battese and Levier began appearing among the Potawatomi.

Tensions rise

The federal government had begun pressuring Native Nations, including the Potawatomi, to leave their homelands in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois as settlers clamored for land. The Potawatomi concluded a treaty in Chicago on Sept. 26, 1833, selling 5,000,000 acres on the left bank of the Missouri River.

Under the terms of the Treaty of 1837, Potawatomi in Indiana gave up their lands in exchange for a reservation in Kansas. From 1837 to the early 1840s, they gradually moved to the Osage River or "Mission Band" Reserve.

The federal government's "right of discovery" caused tragic events such as the Potawatomi Trail of Death. With no time to prepare food or supplies, the forced



Elizabeth Cadue Battese, Walter and John Battese

removal began on Sept. 4, 1838, at Chief Menominee's village in Indiana. More than 850 Potawatomi made the journey, and 42 perished, mostly children and elderly.

Finally arriving at Sugar Creek, Kansas, treaty terms had promised the land would be inhabited by the Potawatomi forever. However, U.S. government promises were again broken as settlers and railroad companies began demanding access to Potawatomi lands.

Life after removal

Peter Cadue and his wife, Margarita *Kishnonckouy*, were among the Potawatomi who established themselves in Kansas. Their daughter, Elizabeth, was born in 1834. She married John (Laurence) Battese. Their children were Susan, Frank (*P-nos-wah*), Alice (*Ze-ze-quah*), Mary (*Wa-me-go*), Martha, Michel Lawrence, Walter, Julia and *Ktequa* Lucy.

When Kansas became a state in 1861, the U.S. government pushed the Potawatomi from Kansas to Indian Territory under the Treaty of 1867. The Potawatomi used the treaty funds to acquire a reservation in Indian Territory.

Some of the Levier family members decided to remain in Kansas and they became part of the Prairie Band Potawatomi. Others decided to receive U.S. citizenship and allotments in Indian Territory as part of the Citizen Band Potawatomi.

Over the next 20 years, families and individuals gradually made the move from Kansas to Indian Territory. Elizabeth Cadue Battese's descendants were among the Potawatomi who successfully made the treacherous journey and would later establish themselves in Indian Territory.

Arrival in Indian Territory

Challenges would await Levier family members in Indian Territory. None of the U.S. government's promised provisions arrived. Potawatomi who arrived found empty prairies and no equipment to help them begin farming.

The Leviers who arrived in Indian Territory worked hard to build their homes from the ground up, establish farms and raise their children. The first winter was a difficult one, and many people battled health challenges because of the harsh conditions. Some of the summers were no better, with insects destroying fruit, pecans and other crops.

However, the Leviers and other Potawatomi families relied on their strength to ensure their survival.

John and Elizabeth Battese's daughter, Martha, married Joseph Levier. Their children were Susan, Peter Oliver, Maggie, Ernest, Eunice, Alfred, Elisabeth Betsy, Sylvester, Joseph, Jr. and Abraham. In 1909, Peter died. Martha married John H. Jackson in about 1912.

After Martha walked on at age 108 in 1954, her obituary in the *Rossville Reporter* said she was one of the oldest native-born Kansans. Martha reportedly passed away at the home of her daughter, Maggie. She had been active prior to a fall, which resulted in her becoming bedfast. Her estate was left to her children: Peter Oliver Levier, Ernest Levier, Alfred (Dash) Levier, Sylvester (Sy) Levier, Joe Levier, Jr., Abraham Levier, Maggie Aitkens, Eunice L. Mulanax and Elisabeth (Betsy) L. Mulanax. She was also survived by her children, 42 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Joseph and Martha's son, Peter Oliver, was married first to Lucy *Pam-nuck-nuck* in 1919. She died in 1923. Peter then married Ellen Lewis in 1934. After Ellen died, Peter then married Mary Moore in 1942. Peter Oliver died on Aug. 27, 1971. His heirs were: his wife, Mary Moore; and his children, Francis, Carl, Anthony, Rose Ann (Bradford), Albert, Vivian (Crowder), Bernadette (Lewis), Sharon, Martha (Spencer) and Glenn Levier.

Joseph and Martha's son, Ernest, was married to Eva Louise. Their children were Robert, Douglas, Geneva, Lois, Gladys, Billy, Nancy and Alvin.

Sylvester and his wife, Agnes, had Dwight, Adelia, Antonelle.

Joseph and Martha's daughter, Eunice, married Louis Mulanax. They had Vivena, Alta, James, William, Irvin and Kenneth.

Joseph, Jr., and his wife, Cecilia, were the parents of Joanne, Charles and Cletus. Joseph, Jr., later married his wife, Beulah, and they had Atha, Judy, Francis, Joseph, Susan, Fay and Tommy.

Alfred and his wife, Josephine, had Arthur and Clarice.

Elisabeth (Betsy) and her husband, Leroy, had Howard, Ruby, Ernestine, Leon, Leroy and Bernard.

The Levier family made incredible sacrifices to ensure not only their survival, but the survival of their descendants. After countless U.S. government promises were broken, the Levier family members persevered. The solid foundation they created would ensure that Levier family members are thriving today.

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. 🔥

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ADVERTISED LEASE SALE 40

NOTICE OF SALE OF DRY LAND FARMING AND/OR GRAZING LEASES TO BE HELD MAY 16, 2024 AT THE CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE SERVICES FOR THE SALE OF FARMING AND GRAZING LEASES ON TRUST RESTRICTED INDIAN LAND TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 25, CFR 162.

Any lease granted herein will be for grazing and dryland farming ONLY. The Lease does not grant use of existing houses or the right to place mobile homes upon the leased premises. The Lease does not grant lessee the right to hunt or fish on the property.

ALLOTMENTS WITH LEASES STARTING 1/1/2025			
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	
821 900 Madeline Denton	10	E/2 SE/4 SW/4 SE/4 & W/2 SW/4 SE/4 SE/4 of Section 6, Township 7N, Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	1
821 S 62-E Josette Bennett	30	E/2 NE/4 NW/4 & E/2 W/2 NE/4 NW/4 of Section 17, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	2
821 84 Joseph Epeteska	80	E/2 NW/4 Section 24, Township 6 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	3
821 97 Clarrissa Mars	80	E/2 NW/4 of Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	4
821 S 116 John Baptiste Vasseur	80	E/2 SW/4 Section 18, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	5
821 395-C Pean-ish or Peter Curley	40	SE/4 NW/4 of Section 4, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	6
821 S 510 Rozette Trombla	80	NE/4 SW/4 & NW/4 SE/4 of Section 25, Township 8 North, Range 1 East of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	7
821 806 Ellen Cummings	80	W/2 SE/4 of Section 36, Township 8N, Range 4E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	8
821 809 Frank Davis	80	N/2 NE/4 of Section 15, Township 7 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	9

ALLOTMENTS WITH LEASES STARTING 1/1/2026			
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	
821 900 Madeline Denton	80	E/2 NE/4 of Section 7, Township 7N, Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	10
821 367 Peter Tescier	80	N/2 NW/4 of Section 23, Township 7N, Range 1 East of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County Oklahoma	11
821 219 Alexander Rhodd	24.73	Lot 99= S/2 NE/4 of Section 33, Township 8N, Range 5E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	12
821 1191 Frank Wilamette	40	NE/4 NE/4 Section 11, Township 7N, Range 4E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	13
821 714 Cora Gregson	80	NE/4 SE/4 & SE/4 NE/4 of Section 26, Township 7N, Range 2E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	14

These properties **MUST** be leased together

ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	
821 S 825 Lydia E. Riordan	240	N/2 SE/4 & NE/4 of Section 16, Township 8N, Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	15
821 S 826 Robert James Riordan	80	E/2 SE/4 of Section 9, Township 8N, Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	15
821 S 827 Grace Riordan	80	E/2 SW/4 of Section 16, Township 8N, Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	15

If you would like to request a bid packet, email Tonya Turnpaugh at tonya.turnpaugh@potawatomi.org or call 405-395-0113

From the executives



John "Rocky" Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bozho nikan, (Hello, my friend,)

April is Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month, when the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages everyone to learn about the danger of invasive plant pests and what to do to help combat the problem.

This is an issue that directly impacts our Tribal heritage.

The tragic story of the loss of the Black Ash trees in Michigan and all of the Great Lakes areas is something every Potawatomi should know.

The oldest of our artistic traditions, going back more than 1,000 years, is the weaving of Black Ash baskets. The art is handed down from generation to generation.

Artisans harvest materials for the baskets from Black Ash trees, which are usually found in wet, swampy forests or forests near waterways, with a native range that extends across the north central and northeastern United States into southeastern Canada.

Unfortunately, Black Ash trees are in danger from the emerald ash borer, an invasive wood-boring beetle from Asia. The beetles were found in North America in 2002, and if they continue to spread at the current rate, it's possible all Black Ash trees could be lost from North American forests by the middle of the century. You can read more about Black Ash trees at cpn.news/BlackAsh.

Already, artists such as the Pidgeon family are having difficulty locating Black Ash trees to use for their baskets. In a 2015 *Hownikan* article, Steve Pigeon said "There is just dead ash all over Michigan. Down in the Lower Peninsula we've only been able to find small ones; there are just not any big ones left."

Unless the Pidgeon family and other artists in Michigan can find a source, the weaving of Black Ash baskets could end in this generation.

And there are other pests that threaten our traditional plants and those necessary for our food.

In the Great Lakes region, efforts are being made to restore the growth of *mnomen* (wild rice). However, the rice is endangered not just by human activity and climate change, which brings rising temperatures and volatile weather, but also by the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil, which grows in large mats and shades native plants like wild rice, hindering their growth. An invasive macroalga called starry stonewort also threatens wild rice beds. You can read more about the threats to wild rice at cpn.news/wildrice.

It will take an effort by every person on our continent to stop the spread of these invasive foreign species. Visit the USDA website, HungryPests.com, to learn more about what dangers these pests create and how you can help stop them.

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

Megwetch (Thank you),

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





Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) Directors and Managers need to be commended for the continuing training that is conducted at CPN. Recently there has been a focus on active shooter training, which is of great importance. It has been a few years since we have had a wide-spread emphasis on this training. I appreciate Richard Brown, Director of Human Resources, for the planning that has gone into the training. Also, CPN Police Department has been instrumental in the training too.

The FBI has produced the training film *Run. Hide. Fight.*, which can be viewed on YouTube. This training video demonstrates the three tactics you can use to keep yourself and others safe during an active shooter attack — run, hide, and fight. Learning these principles now will prepare and empower you to put them into practice — and survive — should the unthinkable occur. It is often

shown during active shooter training . It is a good reminder for all people in public places to be aware.

CPN employees have also had the option to attend human trafficking awareness training during March. Human trafficking, a human rights violation, is a deeply rooted issue that affects millions of people worldwide. Women and girls are especially vulnerable. It is often described as modern-day slavery, involving the recruitment, transportation and exploitation of individuals, primarily for forced labor or sexual exploitation purposes. Human trafficking goes largely unnoticed, hidden within plain sight, making it crucial to raise awareness and educate society about its existence and the steps we can take to combat it.

Tiffany Barrett's House of Hope program brought the training to CPN employees. There is a National Human Trafficking Hotline that connects people at risk to support services that can help them stay safe. The number is: 1-888-373-7888 or text: 233733 (BEFREE). There is also Live Chat: TTY: 711. Human Trafficking awareness training is good for our police officers, casino employees, hotel employees, programs dealing with services for children and women, grocery employees, arena employees and administration. It is important to learn that victims of human trafficking can be anyone, regardless of age, gender or socioeconomic background.

The above-mentioned trainings are only two of the numerous on-going training options that our employees are exposed to on a regular basis. Many of our employees have attended personal financial planning and retirement planning offered at CPN. Some training is offered on a "lunch and learn" basis. Our Community Development Corporation (CDC) sometimes holds training sessions at lunchtime. Justin Neely has held Potawatomi language lunch and learn sessions also. All departments with grants must have compliance training. Leadership training is built into CPN's budget with Kelley Francen's program, and all employees benefit from her program. Technical training is on-going for employees in many of our trade areas. Information technology, the casinos, the manufacturing facility and the water district all must have technical training from time to time.

I am definitely proud of the quality programs that we offer at CPN. Of course, many of our departments have employees that are required to attend state-wide and national conferences for training. That is to be expected with the oversight of numerous grants, contracts and compacts. The Office of Self Governance (OSG) helps CPN directors manage many of these agreements; therefore, the training for their staff members is often in negotiation format. The director of OSG, Kasie Nichols, has a highly important role to play in her position with CPN.

Spring is evident in Pottawatomie County. Trees are budding out with leaves, flowers are blooming, and even spring showers have been plentiful. May springtime be a true blessing to you and your loved ones.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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

VISIT US ONLINE

POTAWATOMI.ORG



D. Wayne Trousdale Secretary/Treasurer

Bozho (Hello),

I hope that everyone is doing well and we are all enjoying good health. In Oklahoma, March is the month that hopefully the transition from winter to spring begins and the cold winds calm down. It seems that virtually every March we are led to believe that winter is over and then we get that one last winter blast which can often catch us, and the newly bloomed tulips, off guard. We will hope for the best this year.

We just had another CPN Legislative meeting this past week and I am reminded of how much your Representatives care about the people that they represent and the condition of the Nation itself. You can be assured that your elected officials truly care about your concerns and your well-being. There is always a lot of information passed on and a lot of lively conversation and debate. If your heart is in the right place, the real motivation in growing and preserving our Nation is because of our people and your elected officials reflect

that. If you are not acquainted with your District Representative, I would encourage you to send an email or call and make contact with them. We are all here to serve you in the best way possible. Did you know that each of the Legislative meetings is live on the internet? If you have an interest, it may be informative for you to view the proceedings sometime.

I am happy to report that the financial condition of your Nation sits on a solid foundation and continues to improve. That said, we are not impervious to the challenges that are present in the current economy and the various political happenings. These issues are not new to the Tribe and we constantly adjust our business models to produce the best results for our people. This is greatly assisted by unwavering support and expertise of the Nation's employees. You would be impressed by the dedication of our folks and their commitment to the Tribe. I am always encouraged to see how our people are involved in the local community and champion so many causes for others. I am humbled when I witness not only the participation of our employees but in many cases their leadership in helping with local causes and helping the less fortunate of our community. This is what good character is all about.

Thank you for your support and remember that you are welcome to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns; I am here to help. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Secretary/Treasurer.

Migwetch (Thank you),

D. Wayne Trousdale | *Netemgiwse (Hunts First)* | Secretary/Treasurer | 405-275-3121 | dtrousdale@potawatomi.org

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From the legislature



Alan Melot District 1

Bozho (Hello)!

Hope you're all doing well! Just wanted to drop a quick note to say how awesome it's been getting together for our Zoom craft classes. It's been a blast learning new skills and creating together, even from a distance. I'm also glad to have met in person in Chicago and will have more about our Chicago meeting in next month's issue.

Looking ahead, let's keep that momentum going. We've got our own Festival and Reunion to look forward to, and I can't wait to see all your faces in person. I'm looking forward to catching up, sharing stories and making even more memories together. Stay tuned for more details about Festival that will be shared here in the *Hownikan*. In the meantime, keep crafting, keep connecting, and keep counting down the days until we can all be together again.

I also want to share some exciting events coming up in our Potawatomi communities that are either in D1 or close. Here are some upcoming gatherings, each offering a special mix of tradition, unity and respect for our roots:

- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Powwow: June 7-9, 2024.
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi 2024 Annual Powwow: June 22-23.
- Gun Lake, Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan Powwow - Sweetgrass Moon Powwow: Weekend after July 4th.
- 2024 Potawatomi Gathering of Nations at the Pokagon Band: July 29 through August 3.

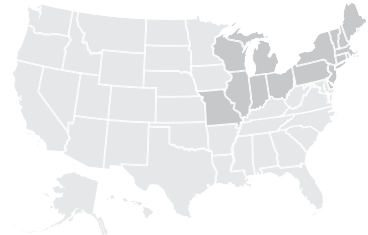
These gatherings aren't just about celebration — they're about forging connections and honoring our shared heritage. Whether it's through intertribal dances, craft exhibitions or traditional feasts, these events bring us closer together, strengthening our bonds and our pride in our community.

Can't wait to see you all!

As always, shoot me an email if you want to be added to my irregular email updates or add me on Facebook or join our D1 Facebook group. Keep me in your prayers as I keep you in mine.

Bama mine (Later),

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



You know you are starting to have fun beading when your living room looks like this!



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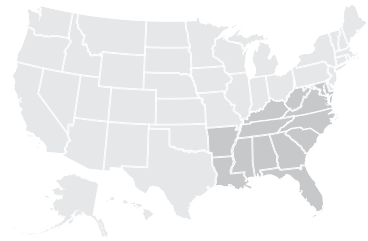
Eva Marie Carney District 2

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

Early April District 1 meeting in Chicago. Legislator Alan Melot kindly invited me to attend his District 1 Meeting in Chicago on April 6. I loved attending District 1 meetings hosted by Legislator Roy Slavin and am looking forward to attending Alan’s meeting.

Call for craft expertise: Fall Feast, Nov. 9, 2024. My husband Alan and I met up in March with District 2’s Bob and Karen Richey to muse about the craft instruction we might share during District 2’s Nov. 9, 2024 Fall Feast. If you have attended the feasts over the last decade-plus, or have read my follow-up “reports,” you know that Bob and Karen have consistently contributed their crafting expertise to our Feast. They’ve guided us in constructing, among other cultural items, medicine bags, drums, drumsticks, parfleche bags and dreamcatchers.

We are interested in hearing from folks with crafting expertise and interest in helping plan future District 2 craft projects. Please let me know how you can contribute to our shared knowledge!



District 2’s Bob and Karen Richey, March 2024

Indigenizing ARCHAEOLOGY

Putting Theory into Practice



Edited by **Emily C. Van Alst** and **Carlton Shield Chief Gover**

Indigenizing Archaeology book cover, cover art by Kay Kakendasot Mattena

Family news. Kay Kakendasot Mattena recently shared about her current research. Kay is a Ph.D. student in Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts and a graduate research assistant for the Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science (cpn.news/CBIKS). (I still “claim” Kay for District 2 as her family home is in Westmoreland, Tennessee.) Kay’s research investigates the evidence for Potawatomi body modifications; she braids archival, archaeological, material culture and community-based research with, by, and for the Potawatomi Nation Tattoo Society I am excited to learn more about Kay’s research as her work progresses. Kay’s artwork appears on the cover of the soon-to-be-released *Indigenizing Archaeology: Putting Theory into Practice*, which includes a contribution from Kay.

New fiction (book) recommendation. I just started Tommy Orange’s second novel, *Wandering Stars*. I loved his first book, *There There*. A lot of other folks did too. It got stellar reviews and acclaim for a first novel. Tommy Orange is Cheyenne and Arapaho. *Wandering Stars* covers more than a century of Indigenous history and the impact that residential boarding schools have had on the children who attended and survived them, and on generations of their descendants.

I love that the characters in *There There* reappear in *Wandering Stars* and find it fascinating to be zoomed back into history, to meet those characters’ ancestors. It’s not an easy read — it starts with the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre, when the U.S. Army slaughtered and mutilated Cheyenne and Arapaho people — and moves on to scenes of abuse at the Carlisle Indian School. I look forward to finishing the book and to understanding the context of this quoted portion of the book, which appeared in a recent review:

Yes, it would be nice if the rest of the country understood that not all of us have our culture of language intact directly because of what happened to our people. How we were systematically wiped out from the outside in and then the inside out, and consistently dehumanized and misrepresented in the media and in educational institutions, but we needed to understand it for ourselves. The extent we made it through.

If you read the book, send me a note with your thoughts about it!

Please keep in touch and share family news when you can.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Eva Marie Carney | Ojindiskwe (Bluebird Woman) | ecarney@potawatomi.org | evamariocarney@gmail.com | evamariocarney.com | PO Box 5595 | Arlington, VA 22205 | Toll Free: 866-961-6988



Bob Whistler District 3

Bozho ginwa (Hello everyone),

Planned District 3 meeting

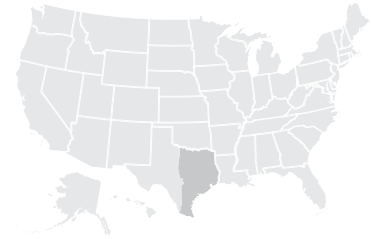
- May 18 | Corpus Christi | lunch provided | RSVP by May 10 to rwhistler@potawatomi.org or call 817-229-6271

A postcard will be mailed to Tribal members living in the vicinity of these two meetings. The postcard will have more details.

Chickasaw Legislative meeting

Legislative Chairman Lisa Johnson-Billy of the Chickasaw Nation invited us to attend their Feb. 16 meeting in Ada, Oklahoma.

Elected Representatives Dave Barrett (District 10), Paul Wesselhoft (District 9) and I were able to attend. Their legislature consists of 13 members, and they are all located in the state of Oklahoma. They have their reservation area set up into five districts. They had a very large attendance. We did meet their leader, Governor Anoatubby, after the meeting. Their total tribal membership is around 80,000. We met with Legislative Chairman Johnson and another member of the legislature for lunch and discussed the differences in their constitutional makeup versus ours, and I found it very interesting. One major difference is that they do not have absentee voting. You must reside in Oklahoma to vote. During the meeting, they had three resolutions which were read and voted upon. They had very little discussion. Whereas at our meetings we do get into some very detailed discussion in our quarterly meetings. When I asked about this variance, they advised that with their committee setup, each resolution has been reviewed three or four times. I am attaching a photo taken of all that were in attendance.



UTA 2024 Grand Entry



Chickasaw legislative meeting

UTA POWWOW March 2

I attended the University of Texas-Arlington powwow in Arlington, Texas, and had the pleasure of meeting several District 3 Tribal members there. It was a wonderful day and the turnout was very large. My main point in mentioning this event is that, at Grand Entry, they had added a new member to their color guard group. The color guard group had the usual U.S. flag, Texas flag, a tribal flag and the MIA flag. The new member was a female in full regalia, and she was carrying a long red dress as a banner on a long silver pole. This new member was there to recognize the MMIW (Murdered Missing Indigenous Women and others). Grand entry leader is Potawatomi Carl Kurtz, carrying the U.S. flag, and you can see the young tribal female carrying the memorable red dress. I thought this was wonderful and I will ask Chairman Barrett if we might add this to our Grand Entry in the future. Attached is a photo of the Grand Entry.

I thank each of you for allowing me to represent you in District 3. If you have any questions where I may be of help, please either call or email me.

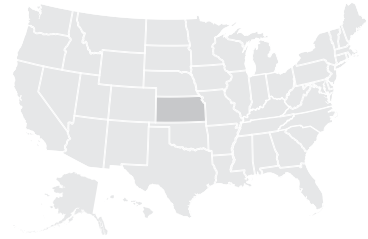
Nagech (Later),

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

A few reminders of what is available to CPN members



Affordable Rental Housing in Rossville: The Tribe has 10 rental duplexes (20 units) in Rossville, Kansas, for CPN Elders and physically handicapped members. At the time this article was written there were a few units available, but that could have changed quickly.

- All units are two bedrooms.
- No pets are allowed in the Rossville units.
- Units are furnished with washer and dryers, stove, and refrigerator.
- Rent will be based on all incomes received.
- Units are located near the CPN Community Center in Rossville.

Applicants:

- Must be 60 years of age.
- Must qualify as a low-income family whose income does not exceed 80% of the median income.
- Be an enrolled member of a federally recognized Native American tribe.
- And/or family members listed on the application CANNOT have been convicted of a felony or found guilty or criminally liable for breaching fiduciary or contractual duty to the Tribe.

For more information on availability or submission of an application contact the following:

CPN Rossville Housing Office:	785-584-6401
Or the CPN Housing Office in Shawnee, OK:	405-273-2833

CPN Mail Order Pharmacy: I'm still amazed that not all of our CPN Elders are aware of this program. This NO COST program is available to CPN members over 63 years of age and CPN members on Social Security disability. These CPN members must live outside Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, to be eligible. The formulary is very extensive and is updated frequently. Individuals simply need to register with the CPN Mail Order Pharmacy in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and then have their pharmacy prescriptions sent there. Both Tracy Kinderknecht, our RN in Rossville, and I have the registration packets, including the formulary, available. I have been using this amazing Tribal benefit for several years and have never had a problem. For renewals you just call into the Mail Order Pharmacy and within a very few days it is in your mailbox. The registration packet is also available online at cpn.news/health. You can also contact Dakota Paxon, DPH, Pharmacist in Charge, at 866-900-5236 for more information.

CPN Health Aid Program: CPN Health Aid Program helps Tribal members purchase glasses, hearing aids, dentures and other medical devices. All Tribal members born on or before Dec. 31, 1976, are eligible for the CPN Health Aid Program. The Health Aid Program funds can be used to purchase prosthetic devices, glasses, hearing aids, dentures, partials, crowns, wheelchairs, mobile chairs, CPAP machines, prescription sunglasses, contacts, and mobile chair lifts and ramps for vehicles. Please remember the health aid program pays 75 percent up to \$750, with the exception of eyewear. Eyewear is covered up to \$250 per year. There is a limit of \$750 per year. The Health Aid Program application and additional information can be found at cpn.news/health. If you have any questions, you can also contact Program Director Amber Brewer at arbrewer@potawatomi.org, or at 405-964-4025.

Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

Dates for the next two Elder Potlucks held in Rossville at noon are:

May 10	Roast Beef, w/mashed potatoes & gravy	RSVP by the 7th
--------	---------------------------------------	-----------------

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Tracy at 785-584-6171.

Contact Information

If you are not receiving emails from me, it is because I do not have your current email address or what I have is incorrect. All you need to do is email me your email address.

Megwetch (Thank you),

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



Gene Lambert District 5

Good day to you all,

It is amazing what you can learn if you just take the time.

We are talking about after the world of education in terms of a classroom. The learning at that point has just begun.

There was always a saying as I was growing up "You know you have arrived when you realize you don't know a thing." Every time I think I've got it, the ignorance shines through. So much to see, learn and experience. As long as you are here, that will be the case. Learn to love it. It can be exciting learning what the paintbrush of life presents.

Keep stretching for knowledge.

One of the things I didn't know yesterday was that we have our first Native American astronaut, Dr. John Herrington from Oklahoma and a member of the Chickasaw Nation.

Dr. John Herrington flew over 3,000 hours as a naval pilot, which led him to the 13-day trip in space.

Honoring his heritage, he traveled with a flute and feathers on his first flight. It really did not comment on if he left the flute and feathers or carried them to acknowledge his ancestors.

John attended the University of Colorado, earning a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics. Furthering his education, Dr. Herrington earned a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from Naval Postgraduate School in 1995.

NASA decided, or I should say, chose Dr. Herrington for the next astronaut training class out of several thousand applicants. He then reported to Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in 1996.

The astronaut was married to Debra Ann Farmer and they had two daughters. He grew up with his sister, Jennifer D. Monshaugen, from Texas.

The shuttle carrying our first Native American astronaut was called the Endeavour. The flight was logged as the 16th shuttle mission to visit the space station Nov. 23 through Dec. 7, 2022.

Dr. John Herrington was the first Native American to walk in space. He logged over 330 hours in space and said, "My ancestors have given me the opportunity to walk the earth and fly above."

I am not repeating myself here. Not everyone boarding a space shuttle had the gift of walking in space. We can all remember the shuttle that never arrived and the dedicated lives that were lost. There were others that never left the ground.

Maybe some of you will remember the astronauts who were stranded on the space station and the need to rescue them.

Not nearly as grand a statement by my great-grandfather saying, "My life has taken me from covered wagons to jets in the air."

Regardless of the generations mentioned, these are all miracles on steroids in my little world.

As I understand it, Dr. Herrington has spent many years traveling and inspiring the young to go into programs of math and science.

Young people of today can attend a space camp from the ages of 9 years old to 18.

For the fortunate who have been invited, there is an Advanced Space Academy. It is by invitation only for ages 17 to 18. This has also become a prerequisite for future space training programs.

NASA also has a NASA Kids club website where you can go to develop some of the various skills required for further education. Check it out...I am!

I hope you found this interesting and perhaps some of your children or you have an interest. Story is....it isn't out of reach.

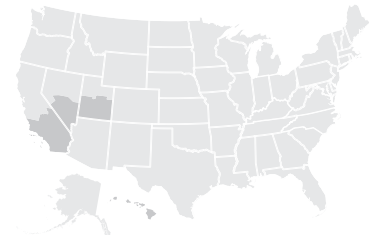
Meantime, loving you all here on earth,

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),



Podcasts are everywhere these days vying for our attention. I have a few I listen to. They are mostly motivational. Mel Robbins and Rob Dial are a couple of my favorites. For entertainment with historical value, I have come to enjoy two called *Legends of the Old West* and *Infamous America* produced by Black Barrel Media.

Before the movie *Killers of the Flower Moon* was released last fall, *Infamous America* did a six-part podcast called *The Osage Murders* in the fall of 2022. In graphic detail, the podcast tells the story *Killers of the Flower Moon* was based on. I was totally unaware of the travesty suffered by the Osage Nation. The crimes were appalling, and the injustice was just as bad.

If you haven't seen the movie, I would recommend listening to the podcast first. The podcast provides details that were left out of the movie. The greed that motivated the crimes is almost unfathomable. Some of the killers went along with the killings simply because the victims were Indian. William Hale portrayed himself as sympathetic and a friend to the Osage people all the while he was plotting to enrich himself at their expense. Unfortunately, as the saying goes, "The more things change, the more things remain the same."

Lily Gladstone, of Blackfeet and Nez Perce decent, was the first Native American to be nominated for a Best Actress Academy Award for her role as Mollie Kyle Burkhart. She also won a Golden Globe Best Performance by a Female Actor award for her role in the film.

Congratulations to Osage tribal member Scott George for his Academy Award nomination in the Best Original Song category. *Wahzhazhe (A Song for My People)* was included in the movie toward the end. Mr. George and the Osage Singers performed the song at the Academy Awards Ceremony in March. It's a beautiful song. The Oscars put it up on YouTube. Mr. George is the housing director at CPN.

The Osage "Reign of Terror" of the 1920s is a story that had to be told and I'm grateful for the film telling it in such a powerful way.

We have a District meeting coming up in Temecula, California, on Saturday, June 1. It will be held at the Temecula Community Center located at 28816 Pujol Street. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. and concludes at 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please plan to join us for a time of Tribal updates, discussion and fellowship. I hope to see you there!

Family Reunion Festival is coming soon. Festival runs from June 28 through 30. Honored families for 2024 are Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Levier, Lewis, Nadeau, Negahnquet, Pambogo and Smith. There are numerous activities for kids and adults alike. One of the most important things you can do is schedule a Festival interview. Interviews are for the purpose of telling your Potawatomi story and preserving it for generations to come. Interviews can be scheduled on your online portal. You are sure to have an enjoyable time and learn about our culture and history should you decide to attend.

Wisdom from the Word: "not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

Joganoganan ...

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Representative. Please feel free to contact me with your questions. I hope I can be of assistance to you.

Migwetch (Thank you)! Nagech (Later),

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



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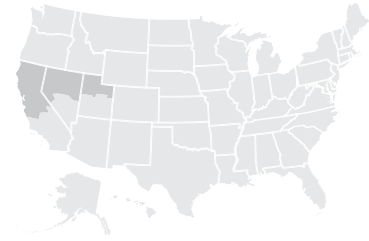
LOCATED INSIDE THE CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER | POTAWATOMIGIFTS | (405) 275-3119



Mark Johnson District 7

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends),

Some of the many questions that I get are about the benefits that are available to members of the Tribe who live outside of Oklahoma. Below you will find a quick recap of some of the most popular programs that members in District 7 take advantage of.



CPN Care

One of the great benefits available for District 7 members is 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. You will be 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. Learn more at cpn.news/cpncare.

Mail Order Pharmacy

Citizen Potawatomi Nation members over 63 years of age and Citizen Potawatomi Nation members on Social Security disability can learn more at cpn.news/health.

CPN Health Aid Program

All Tribal members born on or before Dec. 31, 1976, are eligible for the CPN Health Aid Program. Program monies are used to purchase prosthetic devices, glasses, hearing aids, dentures, partials, crowns, wheelchairs, mobile chairs, CPAP machines, prescription sunglasses, contacts, and mobile chair lifts and ramps for vehicles. Please remember the health aid program pays 75 percent up to \$750 except for eyewear. Eyewear is covered up to \$250. There is a limit of \$750 per year. Learn more at cpn.news/healthaid.

Home Down Payment & Closing Cost Assistance

This is a one-time-only grant and CPN members residing in the United States may apply. The maximum grant is \$2,125. Mobile homes are not eligible. Felons cannot reside at the home. Applications must be submitted at least three weeks prior to closing or no later than 30 days after the closing date. Applications received after the 30-day limit cannot be considered. Learn more at cpn.news/housing.

CPN Tribal Scholarship

The Tribal Scholarship Program provides financial assistance for payment of tuition for Tribal members pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees. Enrolled CPN tribal members who complete the application by the deadline and meet criteria will be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 (full-time status) or \$750 (part-time status) per semester. Learn more and apply at portal.potawatomi.org.

Have you made your travel arrangements for the Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee? As a reminder, it will be held again this year from June 28-30. The 2024 Honored Families are Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Levier, Lewis, Nadeau, Negahnquet, Pambogo and Smith. Make your plans now to join us and celebrate our heritage and community. More information can be found on the Tribal website at cpn.news/festival.

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

Migwetch (Thank you),

Mark Johnson | *Wisk Mtek* (Strong as a Tree) | 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.

I am looking forward to seeing Potawatomi family in Oklahoma and at District meetings in 2024.

Don't forget that the Family Festival (powwow) is June 28 through June 30. Planning on attending? Please jump on airfare and hotel accommodation as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

As we all know, District 8 covers a very large geographic area of the United States, though the population of each the districts is roughly 2,500

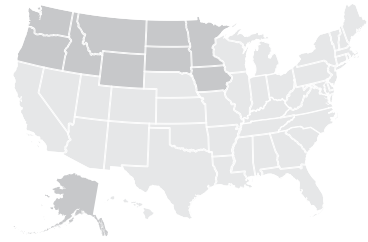
Tribal citizens. Our district extends from the West coast to Minnesota and Iowa in the East and includes the great state of Alaska. In order to visit with the larger populations of Citizen Potawatomi in 2024, I am planning three regional events:

August 17, 2024 — Coeur d'Alene, Idaho — park setting, meal, presentations and prizes

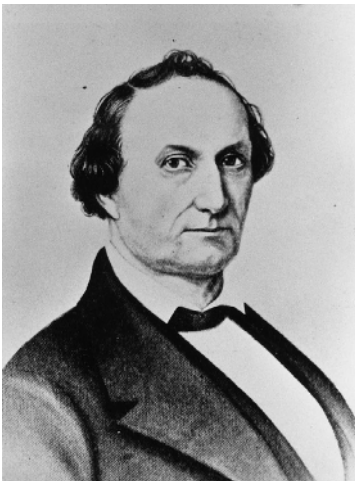
August 18, 2024 — Missoula, Montana — park setting, meal, presentations and prizes

October 19, 2024 — Portland, Oregon — Annual Fall Feast

The mid-summer cookout in Olympia will be taking a year off in 2024 to be revisited in 2025. Another trip to Alaska is likely for summer of 2025. In the past, we have had some events in Anchorage and Palmer. I would love to have a meeting again in that area, as we have the largest concentration of Tribal citizens, and I would also like to host a gathering in Juneau (named after one of my ancestors, Joe Juneau).



Joe Juneau



Soloman Juneau

I've told the story many times but will briefly relate it here again, because I think it's fun. Joe was the cousin of Soloman Juneau, who married a Native woman (Josette Vieux) and became the first mayor and postmaster of Milwaukee. Soloman is the most famous Juneau and the one that most relatives (and CPN) point to as the founding father. Joe was a relatively mediocre silver miner who explored much of southeastern Alaska with his partner, Richard Harris, and the aid of their Native American guide, Chief Kowee (Auke tribe). They eventually discovered both gold and silver and founded a settlement originally called Harrisburg.

For unknown reasons, there was a decision to rename the settlement. One suggestion was Pilzberg, in honor of the financial backer who bankrolled the operation, as well as a plan to rename it Rockwell after another miner.



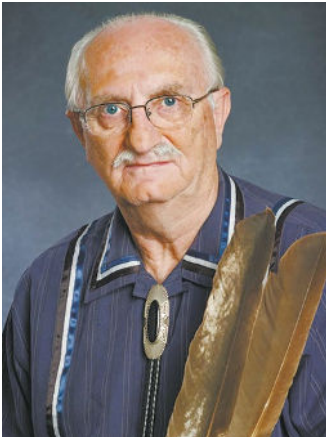
Josette Vieaux Juneau

Joe Juneau reportedly bought drinks for fellow miners to persuade them to name the city in his honor, and it received its current name at a miners' meeting on Dec. 14, 1881, at which the name Juneau received 47 of the 72 votes cast, while Harrisburg received 21 votes and Rockwell only four.

I'm not sure if there's a life lesson here, but a good story none the less.

It is my honor to serve as your Legislator,

Dave Carney | Kagashgi (Raven) | dcarney@potawatomi.org | 360-259-4027



Paul Wesselhöft District 9

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

UNION

Benjamin Franklin, probably the most important founding father of the United States, gained political insight into unifying the 13 colonies from Native American tribes. He studied how, in the last century of his time, the six Iroquois Nations had organized a confederacy that promoted unity and peace through consensus throughout the Northeastern region of North America.

The 13 colonies were independent of each other and had little communication and involvement. They were connected to England and her seat of power in London, but not to each other.

The Iroquois confederacy is believed to have existed since between 1142 and 1660. Each nation, represented by chiefs in a Grand Council, pledged to maintain peace, cooperation and not to wage war. This inter-tribal quasi-government over a vast area impressed Franklin and he thought, in effect, that if Indians can unite so successfully over such a long period of time, why not white people.

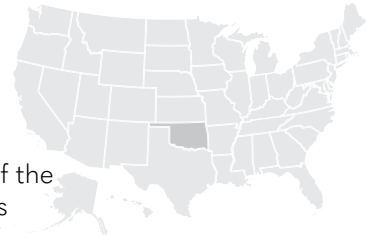
Franklin, the great visionary, began unifying the 13 colonies first by establishing an inter-colony postal system. His various print shops in multiple colonies and his published newspapers also brought the colonies closer together. Like the Iroquois, he proposed and organized a "Grand Council" for the colonies empowering them to make treaties with the Indians, regulate trade, build forts for defense and enact taxes that made inter-colony quasi-government possible.

Slowly, the colonies became less reliant on London and more reliant on each other. Franklin did not have independence or revolution in mind at this time. He simply believed, from the Iroquois example, that the 13 colonies could and should unite in various areas that benefited them together. In his newspaper he drew a snake severed in 13 parts with each part named for a colony. He titled the drawing "Join or Die."

Benjamin Franklin, the great visionary statesman, became a major founding father of the Declaration of Independence, the revolution and formation of the United States of America. His early inspiration came from Native Americans.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

10 RSVP by May 7 to attend the Elder Potluck in Rossville, Kansas. Roast beef with mashed potatoes and gravy will be served.

18 District 3 meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas. Lunch will be provided. RSVP by May 10 to rwhistler@potawatomi.org or call 817-229-6271.

JUNE

28 Family Reunion Festival for all CPN members and their immediate households will take place in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

JULY

29 2024 Potawatomi Gathering, hosted by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, will take place in Dowagiac, Michigan.

AUGUST

9 CPN's Annual Fireflight Balloon Fest will take place in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

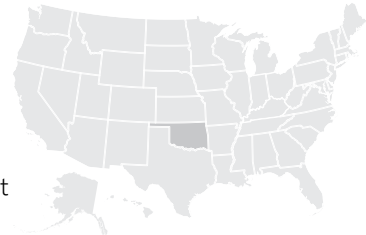
17 District 8 meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, will be in a park setting with a meal, presentations and prizes.

18 District 8 meeting in Missoula, Montana, will be in a park setting with a meal, presentations and prizes.



Andrew Walters District 11

Bozho (Hello),



I grew up in a time when “respect” was something earned. Respect was earned through the display of a compilation of many qualities: honesty, courage, discretion, kindness, intelligence, strength...the list of positive qualities goes on. In today’s world, respect is expected, demanded, no matter what. Our self-worth seems tied to the number of “friends” or “followers” we have on social media and not the cornerstones of an honorable life. For some reason, beyond my understanding, I am supposed to respect someone for no reason other than a fool’s idea that I must. The statement that everyone deserves respect is patently wrong in my world. I don’t respect bullies, thieves, mean people, drug dealers, gang members, bad cops, dishonest lawyers, corrupt politicians, pedophiles, murderers, rapists, connivers, or liars no matter how loudly they shout I should. To have my respect, you must earn it. And I work to earn the respect of those who don’t know me...through my deeds and words...not by my unearned expectations.

The Tribe was founded by folks with the same idea. They didn’t expect anything, but rather worked and suffered to earn the respect and dignity they possessed. In today’s world, the Tribal elders seem to have lost the respect of younger folks. We see it every day on Facebook and other social media. Older people’s knowledge is viewed as obsolete rather than foundational in today’s light. We insult our leadership. We are critical of our past. We forget the ideas and struggles that brought us to where we are. We seem content on applying the newest technologies, ideas and fads to alter our past, control our narrative...not to enhance it. Traditions are forgotten, ignored or simply made up.

We must stop for a moment and examine ourselves, as Potawatomi. We must remember that honor and pride was earned by our elders and follow that path. Not just expect someone to respect us for what we are, but rather for who we are...where our heart lies. Do we live an honorable life? Are we compassionate? Do we have beliefs we hold dear? Are we honest? The Gift of the Seven Grandfathers isn’t just a story...it’s a teaching. Love, respect, bravery, truth, honesty, humility and wisdom are the pathways to a better life. We all must follow those teachings. We should look to our elders for guidance. Remember, they’ve already made the mistakes, borne the weight of bad decisions, and suffered through unimaginable difficulties. Their advice and counsel must be respected.

Bami pi (Until later),

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

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Walking On

Bobby Allen Chaffin

Beaubien Family



Bob Chaffin was born Sept. 14, 1953, in Seminole, Oklahoma, and passed away Feb. 6, 2024, in Norman, Oklahoma, at the age of 70.

Services were at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at CrossPointe Church in Norman and at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10, at Freewill Baptist Church in Seminole.

and Cierra Faulkenberry of Marietta; son, Canyon Faulkenberry of Marietta; grandchildren, Cayenne Hughes, Cartlynn Hughes and Camlynn Hughes; special adopted, bonus children, Lauren Navarro of Lone Grove, Salina Ozuna of Marietta, Jamie Westfall of Marietta, Mary Brokeshoulder of Ardmore, Oklahoma, Aubry Weldon of Madill, Oklahoma, and Ryan Coleman of Marietta; and her precious pups, Sadie and Letty.

The family requests that those who wish to make a donation in Robin's memory remember the Ardmore Animal Shelter. Those who wish to send flowers may have them delivered to Cheyenne Hughes at 1306 W 17th, Sulphur, OK 73086.

Online condolences: wattsfuneralhome.com

Robin Renee Faulkenberry

Pappan Family



Robin Renee Faulkenberry, 54-year-old former Marietta, Oklahoma, resident, passed away peacefully while surrounded by her loving family Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, at the OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Cremation arrangements have been entrusted to the Flanagan-Watts Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Marietta.

Robin began this life on the Fort Sill Army Base in Lawton, Oklahoma, the daughter of Stephen and Sandra (Lewis) Pappan. She graduated from high school in Shidler, Oklahoma, with the Class of 1987. She later attended cosmetology school and worked as a nail tech for several years. She also worked at the Marietta Cookie Factory before shifting gears and getting her CDL in 2022. That is when she started her new venture as a truck driver.

Robin was truly a one-of-a-kind woman that danced to the beat of her own drum. She loved following her children all over the country to their rodeos and dirt-bike races. Robin also loved spending time in the great outdoors fishing and rock crawling in the Jeep. She was known by family and friends as a thrift store "junkie" that could never turn down a good bargain. She was a generous soul that loved having an opportunity to help others. Many things brought great joy to her life, but nothing more than spending precious time with her grandbabies.

Robin was preceded in death by her parents. Those left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Cheyenne Hughes and husband Brandon of Sulphur, Oklahoma,

Sheila Marie Kelly (Giwèkwe)

Quilmette/Greemore Family



Saturday, March 23, 2024, Shelia Marie Kelly, 69, of Tampa, Florida, walked on. She will be remembered as a supporter of women's rights, animal welfare, Native American rights, a loving daughter, niece, sister, cousin, and a loyal friend to all of those who knew and loved her.

Sheila was born on Dec. 14, 1954, in Leavenworth, Kansas. She was adopted at birth by Harry and

Patricia Kelly. Her father was in the military. During the first years of her life they lived in South America. After moving back to the States, Sheila eventually called Florida home. Sheila was a licensed counselor at the University of South Florida, working with teenagers in crisis.

Sheila knew she was adopted. She became increasingly curious about her biological family. With the approval of her adoptive family, she reached out and found the family she was looking for in 2012. Our family welcomed her with open arms. Sheila discovered she was a descendant of Rosalee Greemore, her great-great-grandmother born on the Potawatomi reservation in Kansas. Sheila became an enrolled Tribal member and was very proud of her heritage. She learned all she could about Tribal customs, traditions, culture, language and teachings. She received her name of "Giwèkwe" (woman goes home), given by her Auntie Marianne Welch.

Sheila was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Patricia Kelly of Florida; her birth mother Yvonne Engles Hall in 1989 of Leavenworth, Kansas; and her

half siblings, Tina Williams in 2012 of Olathe, Kansas, Dennis Hall in 2015 of Phoenix, Arizona, and Jamie Hall Reeves in 2010 of Phoenix, Arizona. She is survived by half siblings David Engles of American Fork, Utah, and Marcene Prentice of Leavenworth, Kansas. She is also survived by her Uncle Ron Welch of Parkville, Missouri, Wayne Welch of Leavenworth, Kansas, Auntie Marsha McPheeters of Lawrence, Kansas, and Auntie Marianne Welch of Grandview, Missouri. She is also survived by many cousins and extended Potawatomi family members.

Her ashes will be sent to her biological family for a Celebration of Life and honored in the Potawatomi tradition to be announced at a later date. (Plans are being made to stream the memorial.) The family asks that you consider donating to the "Kwek Society" in Sheila's honor.

Starla Lynn Williams
Brant/Weld Family



Starla Lynn Williams, 38, of Colonial Heights, Virginia, passed away on Monday, Jan. 22, 2024. She was a proud Tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, her Indian name being *Nanimowe Kwe*, meaning "Coyote Woman." Starla was born in Jacksonville, Florida, on Aug. 8, 1985. She is preceded in death by her mother, Sherry Lynn White Williams; paternal grandparents, Jerry and

Marylyn Williams; maternal grandparents, Harry and Fran White; and natural grandfather, Earl Campbell.

Starla was employed by Wawa as a manager for over 10 years. She loved to dance and listen to music. Most importantly, she loved her family and will be missed immensely by all who knew her.

She is survived by her beloved daughter, Shyanna Lynn Linder; her father, James K. Williams, Sr.; stepmother, Terry Williams; brother, James K. Williams, Jr.; her significant other, Albert Linder; grandmother, Ann Campbell; stepsisters and brothers, Dawn Raia (Dominic), Donna Tillett (Mike), Liz Lands (Alex) and Carl Flinn (Megan); and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members and friends. The family would also like to kindly thank Laura Fernandez-Collius and Rhonda Hickman of Hospice of Virginia, for the loving care and compassionate support they have given to Starla and the family.

The family received friends from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 3, 2024, at the Colonial Heights Chapel of the E. Alvin Small Funeral Homes, 2033 Boulevard Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834. A funeral service immediately followed at the funeral home. Interment was private. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be

made to a GoFundMe account created by Starla's family for her daughter, Shyanna Linder, to go towards an educational fund by visiting cnpn.news/StarlaWilliams.

Cindy Calloway Nooner
Ogee/Weld/ Harridge Family



Cindy Calloway Nooner, 61, of Pace, Florida, was called into Glory on March 10, 2024. Born on April 6, 1962, in Pensacola, Florida, Cindy led a life of humility and always sought to view others with deep love and compassion. Cindy was a loving wife, nurturing mother, proud Nana of 11 grandchildren, and a faithful friend. She was a fourth-generation member of the First Pentecostal Church Pensacola, a faithful Sunday School teacher for

40 years. She was known for her unwavering faith and love for Jesus and her family. Her gentleness was evident to all, and her beautiful smile touched many hearts. God gifted her with creative skills, enabling her to become a Certified Rosarian, a talented gardener, and an expert seamstress. She enjoyed the outdoors and developed a love for recreational running, hiking in the mountains, and peaceful camping with her husband. She was a Potawatomi Tribal member, descending for the Harridge family. She enjoyed simple blessings, and The Joy of the Lord was her strength. She is lovingly remembered by her husband, Patrick Nooner; her children, Erin Jenkins (Shane), Jessica Varney (Jon), and Jason Nooner; her adored grandchildren, Jaden, Alyssa, Audrey, Grayson (Varneys), Brycen, Brayden, Bryleigh (Fagers), Baylen Jenkins, and Rheaden, Rhyatt, Revan (Nooners); her mother, Joan Calloway (Tribal member), and her brother, Billy Calloway (Kim). We have peace in the confidence that Cindy Calloway Nooner is in the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father.

Thelma J. Martin
Nedeau Family



Thelma J. Martin of Topeka, Kansas, age 94, passed away Saturday morning, Feb. 10, 2024. She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, "Bud" Martin, and her four siblings. She is survived by her four children, Sheryl, Pam, Debra and Sam (Danette), as well as five well-loved generations of grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to West Side Christian Church Kitchen Fund, 432 SW Lindenwood, Topeka,

KS 66606. Cremation is planned. To leave a message for the family, please visit PenwellGabelTopeka.com.

Tommy Louis Upton

Melot Family



Tommy Louis (Melot) Upton passed away on Jan. 18, 2024, at his home in Dewey, Oklahoma, at the age of 91.

Tommy was born Jan. 11, 1933, in Asher, Oklahoma, to his parents Emory Upton and Mildred Mae (Sales) Upton. He attended school in Shawnee, Oklahoma, before starting a career with Phillips 66. On April 22, 1953, Tommy married the love of his life, Jewell Ann Upton.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Jewell Upton; his father, Emory Upton; his mother, Mildred Upton; two sisters; and four brothers.

Tommy is survived by his daughter Judy Lea Hudson and her husband John of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Brad Upton and wife Ginny of Dewey, Oklahoma; his sister Pamela Yort of Shawnee, Oklahoma; grandsons Jesse Lapp and wife Tiffany, Jason Lapp and wife Julie, and Chad Upton; and great grandchildren Isabella, Jadon, Maggie, and Griffin Lapp.

A graveside service was held Jan. 24, at 11 a.m. at Ethel Reece Cemetery in Barnsdall and was under the direction of Stumpff Funeral Home and Crematory.

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Walter Richard Beach

Evans Family



Catholic funeral services were held for Walter Richard Beach on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, at 1 p.m. in La Chapelle de Martin & Castille. Walter was 85 when he peacefully entered eternal rest on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, at his residence surrounded by his loving family.

Visitation was observed in Martin & Castille's downtown location on Jan. 8, 2024, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. with a

recitation of the Rosary at 11:30 a.m.

Deacon Robert LeBlanc officiated the services. Interment was held in Lafayette Memorial Park Cemetery.

Left behind to cherish his memory is his beloved wife of 46 years, Rena Trahan Beach; his daughter, Karen Judice (Todd); his son, Walter Robert Beach (Mary Lou); his son Shawn Beach (Noel); his daughter, Lana Gomez (Jorge); his son, Kent Alan Mire; his daughter Teresa Ellen Williams; his son, Mark Evans Mire; his son, Raylen Neil Mire; his grandchildren, Natasha

Lynn Williams, Haley Lauren Mercer, Evan Elie Judice, Hogan Gerard Beach, Brandon Thomas Beach, Brittany Rose Beach, Simon Ulysses Beach, Sophia Claire Beach, Jorge Gomez, Jr. and Elaine Rose Gomez; his great-granddaughters, Mylee Rose Morin and Ella Rose Judice; and his sister, Dorothy Gortarez.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dorothy Evans Disney and Norman Disney; his son, Walter Shane Beach; and his biological father, Chester Beach.

Walter was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend to many.

He was born on the Navajo Nation in Fort Defiance, Arizona. Throughout his career in the oil and gas industry, he traveled to many different nations. Upon his retirement, he began serving his community with a lawn service named Beach's Yard Works. Also, one of his interests was owning and operating a crawfish farm and enjoying country living. He was devout Catholic that was proud of his faith and family. Although he had many interests in life, his greatest passion was his family. He will be deeply missed and memories of him will be cherished by all who knew him.

Upholding the honor of pallbearers were Evan Judice, Jorge Gomez, Jr., Simon Beach, Hogan Beach, Brandon Beach and Neil Mire.

Special thanks to the staff of Hospice of Acadiana for their compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Walter Richard Beach's name to Hospice of Acadiana by visiting hospiceacadiana.com.

View the obituary and guestbook online at mourning.com.
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Kevin Michael Esch

Vieux Family



Kevin Michael Esch, 45, of Herculaneum, Missouri, died Feb. 29, 2024, at St. Louis University Hospital. Mr. Esch worked as an assembler for Specialty Carts in Fenton. In his free time, he enjoyed being outdoors, listening to his favorite music and spending time with family and friends. He was very proud of his Indian heritage, the Potawatomi tribe. Born August 6,

1978, in Talihina, Oklahoma, he was the son of Martha (Goss) and Robert Esch Sr. of Herculaneum.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by three brothers: Robert Jr. (Diane), Jonathan (Stephonie) and Christopher (Missy); five nieces: Ashten, Kiersten, Kathrine, Shaylin and Aaliyah; a nephew: Lane; and many other family members and friends.

Visitation was Friday, March 8, at Vinyard Funeral Home, 616 W. Main St., in Festus. Burial was held at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Crystal City. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Arrangements are under the direction of Vinyard Funeral Home.

Ricky James Bledsoe
Melott/Bergeron Family



Ricky James "Rick" Bledsoe (SSG Ret USMC), 70, of Gladstone, Missouri, passed away February 15, 2024, at KU Medical Center.

Rick was born January 1, 1954, in Kansas City, Missouri, the eldest of two sons of Jimmie W. and Mary R. (Melott) Bledsoe. His parents preceded him in death.

Rick was a 1972 graduate of Oak Park High School. He served eleven years in

the U.S. Air Force, and then attended the University of Missouri-Columbia for three years. Following his studies at MU, Rick continued his military career, serving nine years in the U.S. Marine Corps, retiring as a Staff Sergeant in 1995.

After military discharge, Rick finished his bachelor's degree at Park University. He worked as a Fund Accountant for State Street until he finally retired to be a caregiver for his mother until her death. Rick was a member of Mission View (formerly Metro) Baptist Church.

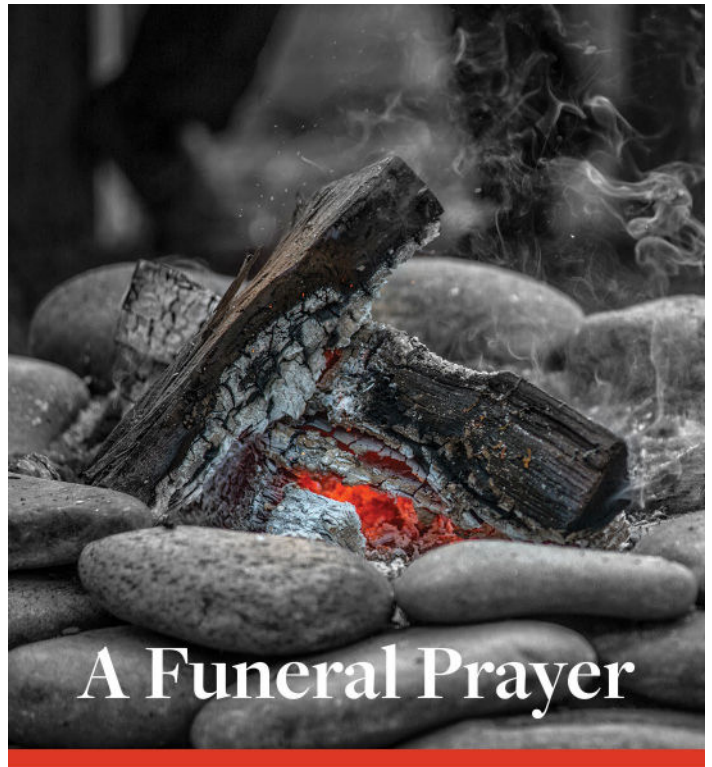
Survivors include his brother and sister-in-law, Randy and Patti Bledsoe, of Gladstone, Missouri.

Visitation was held February 23, and funeral services 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 24, all at Park Lawn Northland Chapel, I-35 at State Route 291, Liberty, Missouri. Burial with military honors in White Chapel Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Diabetes Association.

You may share a message with Rick's family or sign an online guest book via parklawfunerals.com. Arrangements: Park Lawn Northland Chapel 816-781-8228.

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.



Hau ndenwémagnek

Ho my relatives

Ébyé yak shote gnom

We have come here today

Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma

To lay our brother to rest

Ngom she épam sét ode

Today he walks

Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek

Among those who have passed on

I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngenwen

That is why we offer this song

Émno shketot wa je zhyat ibe shpemsegok

That his journey will go well where he goes above

Iw énaj moyan

That's all I have to say

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

By Don Perrot

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HOWNIKAN

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