

HOWNIKAN

Minkégises | August 2023

Water quality testing
as a reflection of
Potawatomi ways

ICWA ruled
constitutional by
U.S. Supreme Court

CPN partners with
Feed the Children to
help 800 families

Gathering photos



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Tribal filmmaker, actress makes name for herself

Cadence Barreda's enthusiasm for acting and filmmaking led her to auditioning for roles, starring in commercials and gaining on-set experience before graduating from Deer Creek High School. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member began acting on stage at the age of 4 and joined an agency at 7, which has provided her many opportunities throughout her childhood.



Filmmaker Barreda attends deadCenter Film Festival to screen *Game Night*. (Photo provided)

Acting, filming

In 2018, Barreda was cast in a short film titled *Forget-Me-Not* and saw the roles of the director, camera operator and gaffer firsthand. She found the details inspiring.

"It was an amazing experience," Barreda said. "It really helped me see what goes into making movies because I was on set all the time."

She said *Forget-Me-Not* is her favorite shooting experience of her career so far. She was in middle school at the time, and the camaraderie involved in the process sprouted new friendships, which is her favorite aspect of participating in the film. After working on set, she flew out to Los Angeles to attend the North Hollywood CineFest in March 2018. Barreda was thrilled to walk the red carpet and celebrate the film's success.

Barreda's love of sci-fi and fantasy inspired her to make her first short film, *Game Night*.

"I had zero resources because my family didn't own a camera, so I had my phone and used it to record everything," she said.

She was the only crew member of her short film, and she had one other individual, her sister, as the only cast member.

Festivals, awards

Barreda made her directorial debut so she could audition for an Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute camp. She then realized she could send *Game Night* to multiple festivals.

"I went on FilmFreeway, which is the website to submit films to festivals, and submitted to all the free festivals I could," she said. "I think in the end I submitted like 70, and I've gotten into nine so far," including deadCenter Film Festival in Oklahoma City and Circle Cinema Film Fest in Tulsa.

Barreda won the Silver Award at the Red Nation Celebration Institute's Native Indigenous Student Academy for Cinematic Arts. She was also a finalist at the Student World Impact Film Festival for best student short in May 2023 and won Best Short at Finger Mullet Film Festival in St. Augustine, Florida.

"They said they got almost 200 entries and picked 10," said Kendra Barreda, Cadence's mother. "Whenever her film showed up, I got teary eyed, like, 'Oh my gosh, we get to see it on the big screen!'"

Kendra finds pride in her daughter's work and self-motivation. In the beginning, Cadence did not know how to make a movie, but she used her determination to figure it out.

"I'm so proud of her for being able to think of something and actually follow through," Kendra said.

Motivations, goals

Storytelling has been an important thing for Barreda, and she is grateful she can express it through singing, dancing and writing. Acting and filming are just other outlets to express her feelings and thoughts. She called trying to act and make films a "natural progression."

"I just feel like I have this internal drive, this innate desire, where I cannot see myself doing anything else; so, I'm just going to go as far as I can go," Barreda explained.

When she graduates high school, she wants to major in theater and minor in film. Barreda hopes to meet people who will help her learn more about the film community and technical aspects of her craft.

Watch *Game Night* at cpn.news/GameNight. 🔥



New Behavioral Health building to open winter 2023

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Behavioral Health Department will see the completion of a new building soon.

The building, planned for completion by the end of 2023, broke ground in winter of 2022.

"I haven't been over there for a week, but it looks like they're ahead of schedule," Behavioral Health Coordinator Virginia Kinkade said in June.

The facility will move from its current location at 26 Father Jo Murphy Drive at CPN Headquarters near Shawnee, Oklahoma, to a location just northwest of that near Johnson Drive. Kinkade said the new location is near an open field with a creek running nearby.

"It's just a really nice view from there. It's a much larger, nice environment," Kinkade said, discussing some of the anticipated changes.

The staff will upgrade from a small kitchenette that serves as a conference room to a dedicated conference room with equipment for training, scheduling and more.

Also planned are group rooms near the front of the building, which will be more convenient for when meetings extend beyond business hours.

There will also be a designated area for services for children. There is an area now, but it is small and not currently being used for that purpose.

"I suspect it will be a much more modern and efficient space to work with children," Kinkaid said. "We do have a therapist who is designated to work with children now. ... She's very excited about having a larger space to work with kids."

Expanding staff, services

With the bigger space will also come staffing changes as well as the potential for changes to services offered by Behavioral Health.

Kinkade said they are adding eight positions: a peer recovery specialist, two peer prevention specialists, two therapists, two psychologists and one psychiatrist.

"We've already begun that process," she said, noting the peer recovery specialist started in June.

They hope to possibly expand services with the move and potentially make changes such as having a therapist trained in EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing) therapy.

"We're looking at a number of things that will benefit employees, tribal members, anyone who receives services through Behavioral Health," she said.

Bringing in Potawatomi culture

Design details had not yet been finalized in June, but Kinkade said the department had several things in mind that could be incorporated, such as planting a recovery tree outside for use in recovery ceremonies.

Other ideas have included the possibility of decorations, such as photographs from Balloon Fest, for the children's area and incorporating the Potawatomi language and significant cultural items in the building design.

"One of the things we hope to do is provide displays of meaningful cultural items that can be visuals in the building," she said. >



The back side of the new Behavioral Health building

Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho jayek (Hello everyone),

Ndotmesmen ode nibek. We have been busy this summer. Family Reunion Festival has wrapped up. It came and went pretty fast. (*Gi wenet egi wabmengo.*) It was good to see you all. We are in the last two weeks of our eight-week master apprentice program. We have some very dedicated students with us. They have come from near and far to learn *gde-zheshmomenan* (our language). *Ngot bémadzet gi wjé byé zhi Colorado mine ngot nene egi wjé byat Kansas mine natsek e gi dawat nekmek shena zhi Mshkwakik.* (One person came from Colorado, and one man came from Kansas, while several live here and there in Oklahoma.) *Anet kékendasjek gi wshke-ndo-kkéndanwa mine anet egi kkéndanawa bgéji nwéché.* (Some students were new trying to learn, and some knew a little more.) *Jayek kyétnam kche-gshketonawa mine shpénmegwa nangotoygo.* (Everyone is really trying hard, and I am proud of each of them.) *Znéget nangdogen nétem gde-ndo-dapnan I gde-zheshmomenan.* (It's hard sometimes when you first try to pick up our language.) *Moshek bémadzejek wi nsetonawa nwéché gshke-*

› For now, she said they are exploring furniture and décor suggestions, which will be passed on for review before final decisions are made.

“One of the things that has been approved is a fire pit to use for ceremonies,” Kinkade said.

Shifting the discussion around mental health

Ultimately, Kinkade thinks the new building will be beneficial to both clients and staff at Behavioral Health.

“The building is being provided for them. It was created specifically for them to work through issues and improve their life circumstances,” she said.

She said she saw a shift during the pandemic in the way people talk about mental health, allowing a more

kiktowat. (Most people will understand more than they are able to say.) *Bédo bwamshe gbonyénwimen gode bémadzejek gde-gshkekiktomen mine nsetetonawa ode Bodéwadmimwen.* (I hope that before we conclude, these people will be able to talk and understand this Potawatomi Language.) *Jayek abdek penojes penkiwen ode zheshmowen.* (Everyone has to take baby steps with this language.) *Ashkem gwi-nseteton mine ewi kiktoyen epich ndo-kkendasyen ode zheshmowen.* (More and more you will understand and will talk as you try to learn this language.) *Babwichgen! Gwi-gshketon ekiktoyen gishpen babwichetzoyen.* (Wait! You will be able to talk if you are patient with yourself.) *Gaga she nwi-pabmadzemen ibe Wéché ksenyak ode Bodéwadmimwen mawjeshnowen mine Bodéwadmim mawjeshnowen.* (Soon we will travel north to the Potawatomi language conference and Potawatomi gathering.) *Bédo gwi-wabmenem ezhi.* (I hope I will see you all there.) *Nwi-kenomage ezhi Bodéwadmimwen.* (I will be teaching at the Potawatomi language conference.)

Nagech (Later),

Justin 🔥

open discussion about the importance of mental health and services like those offered by Behavioral Health.

“Everyone was OK with getting a therapist, suddenly. They’re talking about it in open dialogue. The stigma attached to it was just reduced greatly, because everybody needed help,” she said. “So Behavioral Health has moved from kind of the less important to something that’s valued and very important and prioritized, and I think this building kind of reflects that. It’s an investment in both employee and clients.”

For more information about CPN Behavioral Health and the services offered, visit cpn.news/behavioralhealth or call 405-214-5101. 🔥



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CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

Interns OF 2023



Emily Higdon **TECUMSEH, OKLAHOMA**

Graduated with BA in Humanities from St. Gregory's University

Emily is interning in the Department of Education to find a new career path after teaching for nine years. She felt the internship would be a great opportunity for career placement as well as giving back to the Tribe. She is inspired by her ancestors and motivated by the Seven Grandfathers and the Seven Fires Prophecy. "They are who I do everything for. I am here because they provided a future," she said. In her spare time, she enjoys painting and writing.

Matthew Mayer **MCLLOUD, OKLAHOMA**

Majoring in Graphic Design at East Central University

Matthew is interning in graphic design in the Public Information Department. He applied for the internship to hone his graphic design skills and abilities in a professional environment. He feels the graphic design team has already helped him gain a deeper understanding of typography and that his skills in type and typographic design have greatly increased since joining the team. One fun fact about Matthew is that he used to swim competitively, placing high in several state competitions.



Alex Trousdale **LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

In her 3rd year of law school at Arizona State University

Alex is interning in the Legal Department to better understand Oklahoma Indian Law and how CPN conducts its legal practices and manages the complex issues it entails. In this field specifically, she is inspired by her ancestors and everyone else who has taken steps for Native justice before her. "Without them, the path for Native justice would not be paved for me, and they show me that it is a cause worth fighting for," she said. Her hobbies include reading, crocheting and baking—in particular, making French macarons.



Rachel Maker **GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA**

Majoring in Communications at Oklahoma Baptist University

Rachel is interning in the Public Information Department. She is eager to enhance her skills in her field and gain firsthand experience. Her motivation stems from knowing she can apply her creativity in a practical context, and she draws her inspiration from her parents, who have achieved remarkable success in their respective careers. "They have always encouraged me to persevere in pursuing my dreams," she said. Rachel enjoys writing music, playing the piano and singing in her spare time.



Titus Wright **SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA**

Majoring in Biology at the University of Oklahoma

Titus is interning in the dental office and hopes to gain a better understanding of what being a dentist is like on a day-to-day basis. Titus' dad is his main inspiration because he has given him a good example of a provider. His dad has and always will be there for him, and it is Titus' goal to be that person for somebody later in life. Titus also enjoys playing soccer as a hobby.



The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education provides great opportunities for Tribal members and those pursuing their academic goals. One of these is a six-week paid internship with the Tribe.

This summer, CPN hosted 10 interns. Each of them brought a unique set of skills, experiences and aspirations to the table, making valuable contributions during their time.

To apply for an internship, please visit portal.potawatomi.org.

Mikinley Griffin **EDMOND, OKLAHOMA**

Studying Healthcare Administration and Marketing at the University of Oklahoma

Mikinley Griffin is interning in CPN Health Clinics and the Public Information Department. She hopes to gain valuable experience that will propel her career forward while fostering a connection to her Tribe. "What truly drives me is the gratification that comes from being recognized for my hard work as well as the satisfaction of successfully comprehending and accomplishing objectives and goals," she said. Her father's determination to master a subject has deeply influenced her approach to life and inspires her.



Natalie Bright **TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA**

Majoring in Graphic Design at Oklahoma Baptist University

Natalie is interning in graphic design in the Public Information Department. She chose this placement for the welcoming and friendly environment, and she hopes to get experience doing graphic design work in a professional setting, rather than in a classroom. Her inspiration comes from her choir director, Dr. Louima Lilite. "He lives out his beliefs in every aspect of his professional and personal life, and he does everything with wisdom and compassion. That's how I want to live my life," she said. A fun fact about Natalie is that she loves performing musical theater.



Pryce Holloway **CHOCTAW, OKLAHOMA**

Majoring in Health Science at Tabor College

Pryce is interning in the CPN Health Clinics because he has a desire to help others and serve Native Americans like himself. His main inspiration is his high school BioMed teacher, Mrs. Sendall, who fought cancer the entire time he was in high school and is still fighting today. "Though she fought through many challenges and health battles, Mrs. Sendall never wavered when it came to teaching in the classroom. I will never forget the love she showed her students," he said. Pryce is currently a college baseball player and a left-handed pitcher.



Joshua Bumgarner **DUNCAN, OKLAHOMA**

Graduate student in Business Analytics at the University of Central Oklahoma

Joshua is interning in Information Technology. He hopes to gain insight from the software developers to learn more about casino game algorithms. "I believe that if you enjoy what you do, then you do not have to rely on motivation to get through the day. I enjoy what I do and what I am studying so far and hope to become successful in the long run," he said. He also draws inspiration from his parents and their hard work and sacrifices to achieve their goals. Joshua's hobbies include exercising, golfing and enjoying time with friends.



Hannah Kessner **SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA**

Majoring in Hospitality and Tourism Management at Northeastern State University

Hannah is interning in the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort and hopes she can select a more direct path in the travel industry. The people who inspire her the most are her parents because they have always worked hard and shown her how to be resilient. "They are always there for me and have shown me unconditional love," she said. One of her impressive hidden talents is she can do a dramatic dance movement called a death drop.



Hewuse takes first in professional art category at Festival

The 2023 Family Reunion Festival saw many entries for its art contests, with pieces ranging from beading to woodworking and sketches to sculptures.



Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, left, presents Laura Hewuse with the prize for winning first in the professional category of the adult art competition.

Professional

Laura Hewuse, a member of the Bourassa and Curly families, took first place in the professional category of the adult art competition for her “Two Brothers, One Nation” hand-beaded bandolier bags.

Hewuse started loom work in 2009 after attending a monthly workshop hosted by Roy and Julia Slavin.

“Bandolier bags take 8 months to a year,” to complete, Hewuse said. “Each one is designed

around the person. I put a lot of thought into each one, using antique beads, including making the tassels.”

She made the bandolier bags entered in the competition for Lyle Simmons and Justin Neely.

Simmons’ bag included details such as a magnolia for his home state, a staff of Asclepius to represent his professions and eagle feathers to represent his ancestors.

Neely’s bag included elements in homage to his third great-uncle, Anthony Navarre, who was a tribal leader for both the Prairie Band and Citizen Potawatomi. It also contains references to many things significant to the Potawatomi culture, such as the fisher star and the four directional colors of yellow, red, black and white.

Hewuse said she has tried different things, but always comes back to the craft she loves most, which is loom work. She has entered her work at many past Festivals, and said she won Best of Show at the Potawatomi Gathering when it was hosted by the Prairie Band a few years ago.

To learn more about Hewuse and her work, find her on Facebook at [facebook.com/laura.hewuse](https://www.facebook.com/laura.hewuse).

Amateur

For the amateur adult art competition, winners for photos, paintings and drawing were Shilo Whitman in first place for a painting of a dog titled “Elma,” Connie Kennedy Herron



Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, left, and Joe Wulfkuhle with his lap steel guitar.

in second for a painting titled “Two Fish,” and Jasmine Brown in third for a drawing of a tiger titled “Conte.”

This year was the first time Whitman — a member of the Anderson family from Madisonville, Kentucky — entered the art contest, but she said she has been drawing and painting since she was a child.

“This painting took me around three days to complete,” she said. “This was a picture of my dog that just passed away. My dog was named after my grandfather that I lost 11 years ago.”

Amateur adult art competition winners in the “other” category were Joe Wulfkuhle in first place for a lap steel guitar, Pam Wamego in second for a Wahoo game board with the Potawatomi seal, and Danny Wood in third for a copper wire Godzilla.

Children

The next generation of artists also entered a variety of pieces in the children’s art competition, with winners selected in four different age groups.

In the 5 and younger competition, Jaxon Andrew took first place with “Jaxon’s Fireworks.”

For ages 6 to 9, Mikaylie Shouse placed first with a pottery cup, Axel Winn came in second with “Flower Power,” and Tess Ivy was third with her “Rainbow” painting.

For ages 10-12, Cruz Winn came in first with a sketch of a buffalo, Dean Ivy placed second with his painting “Dragon,” and Gracie Evans was third with a painting of a wolf howling at a night sky.

For ages 13-15, Elena Bradley took first with her drawing “Shkwedes Moewe/Fire Wolf,” Drake VanVacter was second with a “Froggie” sculpture, and Kirsten VanVacter was third with a “Forest Night” painting.

Next year, the children’s art competition will move to the South Reunion Hall. 🔥

Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

In my efforts to keep our CPN veterans informed, I try to include topics and information that would be of interest to our readers. This includes health, both physical and mental, VA (Veterans Affairs) benefits and policies. I thought I might begin by including recognition of honorable CPN veterans who are still living. How better to begin to know our brothers and sisters-in-arms? I'll begin by attaching a photo



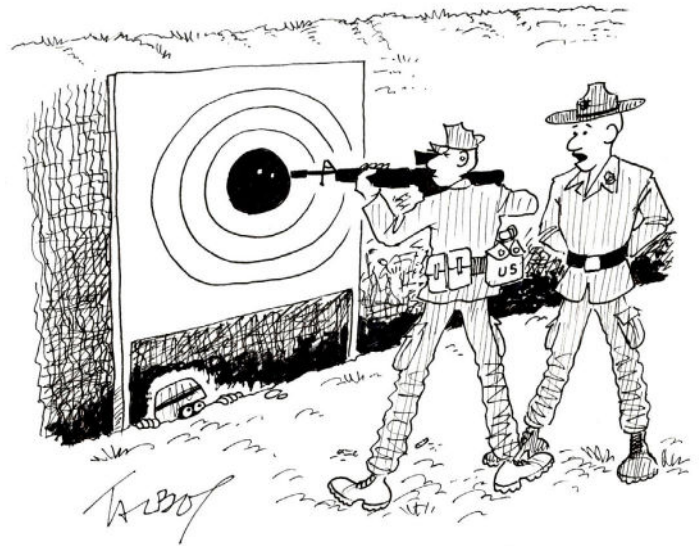
Lt. Col. Stacy R. Soutter

sent to me by a very proud mother of a U.S. Army soldier retiring at Fort Benning, Georgia, after 23 years of honorable service to his country and CPN Tribe, Lt. Col. Stacy R. Soutter. He has had multiple deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and South Korea with additional assignments in South Korea, Hawaii, California, Texas, Kentucky and Georgia. He and his wife, Christy, have four daughters named

Skylar, Sydney, Shae and Susie, and they live in Cleveland, Oklahoma. Migwetch, Colonel Soutter and family!

This is information that should be invaluable to everyone during this summer — ticks. Many of you know about ticks, but what you don't know about them could be dangerous to your health. That goes for all ages.

1. Know what ticks look like. Learn which tick species live in your area and places you may travel. Blacklegged ticks and western blacklegged ticks spread Lyme disease.
2. Know where to expect ticks. Ticks live in grassy, brushy and wooded areas. Walk in the center of trails. I have had them drop from trees onto me in my own yard. Be aware.
3. Protect your body before going outdoors. Cover your skin and scalp by wearing a hat, long pants, long-sleeved shirts and socks. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends using insect repellent. Learn how to use it safely and effectively. When I was in the field in the Air Force Reserve, I used to put tick-and-flea collars on my boots. Warning: you can't wear



RECRUIT: THIS RANGE MEASURES THE DISTANCE TO THE TARGET IN YARDS NOT INCHES!

them touching your skin, but wearing them on your boots is safe. You can also sprinkle powdered sulfur in your socks and your underclothes. It's very effective.

4. Check your body for ticks after being outdoors. Key parts of the body to check:
 - Under the arms
 - In and around your ears
 - Inside the belly button
 - Back of the knees
 - In and around the hair
5. Learn the signs of and symptoms of Lyme disease. Seek medical attention if you show symptoms or have a tick bite. In most cases, a tick must be attached for 36 to 48 hours or more before the Lyme disease bacterium can be transmitted. Symptoms include:
 - Bullseye-shaped bite mark
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Headache
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or joint aches
 - Swollen lymph nodes

Be safe and enjoy your summer.

Remember, our monthly meeting of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization is the 4th Tuesday of each month, August 22 (unless otherwise notified due to weather or conflicting events) at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the CPN Powwow Grounds. All CPN veterans and spouses and their families are welcome. Membership in the veterans organization is not required; come and visit us and enjoy our socializing. For more information, you can contact me.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



Resource independence: Water quality testing as a reflection of Potawatomi ways

In Potawatomi culture, water is regarded as a powerful, life sustaining force that should be cared for and highly regarded. August is National Water Quality Month, and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Environmental Protection began water quality testing across Tribal land in 2008.

For several years, staff members have increased their efforts in protecting human health and the environment. Environmental Department Assistant Director Micah Isaacs began working for the Tribe in 2012. He and Environmental Specialist Samantha Hinman now visit 10 locations on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, including spots along Squirrel Creek and North Deer Creek as well as at the Wes Watkins Reservoir, sampling approximately 17 water quality parameters.

“Part of the reason why we sample (is) to get that baseline data set to see, are our waters getting better or are they getting worse and what can we do in the long term to help mitigate some of those things?” Isaacs said.

They collect samples with equipment known as a sonde that reports several factors, including temperature, depth, oxygen, pH and salt levels, conductivity, and turbidity. According to Hinman, it is easy to get stuck looking at “numbers on a screen.”

“I’m looking for stream bank conditions. I’m looking for oils (on the surface). I’m looking for iron precipitate. ... And then I’m also like, ‘Is there trash in the water?’” she said.

Looking at elements beyond the data gives insight to what kind of habitat the water supports. The Department performs further analysis of the samples in CPN’s water lab to see what types of water bugs live in the sample sites.

Some grow well in pollution, while others do not, and their absence or presence reveals a lot about the area.

“What we’re really looking for is the type of bugs that cannot grow in pollution. If we have that type of habitat, it kind of backs up our data in saying that we are doing our job, we’re doing what we’re supposed to in protecting our waters,” Hinman said.

Their field analysis also includes weather reports and how the water and surrounding land look that day. Repeating the process sometimes multiple times a month makes the data more precise.

“We could go pull a sample right now from one of the spots, and I could tell you almost exactly what it’s supposed to be and what it’s supposed to look like. And that only comes with going out there and getting familiar with everything. ... Not only because we like to play in the water, but it’s something that is beneficial,” Isaacs said.

Data as sovereignty

Isaacs listed getting “reliable, legally defensible scientific data” to ultimately make informed decisions on protecting human health and other valuable Tribal resources as a main motivation for testing.

“States have their own right to go out and manage their own water resources, too, and so tribes should have that (same) right,” he said. “It’s part of exercising that tribal sovereignty that we have.”

According to Isaacs and Hinman, CPN regularly tests bodies of water the Oklahoma Department

of Environmental Quality never has, including some that have yet to be named.

“(Having the data) also builds reliability and credibility just within the state and within the state partners that you work with and maybe looking at your data and builds rapport with the EPA, also the people that are funding your projects,” Isaacs said.

CPN receives the EPA’s Non-Point Source Pollution Grant through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (1972). Non-point source pollution refers to any water pollution not caused by a single source, like an industrial factory. It often refers to runoff from pastures, construction sites and domesticated animals, most of the time after a heavy rainstorm. The Environmental Department used the 319 funds to begin building a high flow bypass system by the Eagle Aviary in recent years, an area known for heavy flooding.

“There’s going to be a series of aquatic filters in here to be cleaning the water before it enters the North Canadian River,” he said.

It provides a secondary route for the water when it gets high and floods the land. The filters clean the water and prevent flooding while still allowing nature to control the flow.

Building the dataset and relationships with regulatory agencies also reinforces the Tribe’s sovereignty and paves the way for future accomplishments.

“Another goal of tribal sovereignty would be to completely manage our own environmental regulatory programs that could include a water quality standards program,” Isaacs said.

Education as culture

Their work with water quality reflects Tribal cultural values, including maintaining a reciprocal relationship with the land.

“Water quality is incredibly important to tribal people,” Hinman said. “Me being a member of the Choctaw Nation, ... water is central to tribal identity for our ceremonies, medicine and just overall promoting resource independence.”

Colonization and industrialization have made it difficult to build those connections for Tribal members in today’s society. However, the CPN Department of Environmental Protection aims to reinvigorate people’s passion for environmentalism with a more scientific approach that puts those values on display.

Hinman and Isaacs have several educational materials and visit schools to teach elementary school students about non-point source pollution in their communities. One of them looks like a Lego set that demonstrates waterflow and the movement of sediment and other pollutants, including domestic animal waste. They simulate a rainstorm and use cocoa powder and Kool-Aid as dirt and runoff, and they discuss how to reduce the pollution.



The CPN Environmental Department keeps a close eye on local water quality using a water quality sonde.

“The older kids, they absolutely loved it. And even the adults were having a lot of fun with it, too. And ... we used Kool-Aid packets to dye the waters different colors. And then we had that cocoa powder and once it had all mixed up, it smelled awful,” Hinman said and laughed.

The 319 grant requires an educational aspect, but Hinman and Isaacs see it as an important responsibility. They love the time spent with kids and families showing them how their homes and actions contribute to their community’s water quality.

“That’s really the only way that we’re going to get over the hump long term is by teaching and educating the younger generations,” Isaacs said. “You can teach and educate me all you want, but if the people coming behind me are not doing more than what we’re doing now, then you’re going to be taking a step back.”

Water quality testing and education about water pollution are only two small facets of the Environmental Department’s work, but ones that bring together the Tribe’s ability to look after the land and pass along those methods.

“The whole point is that we should be able to have the water on our land the way we want,” Hinman said. “Which means we want it clean, plentiful and as unrestricted from its natural affinity as possible.” 🔥

ICWA ruled constitutional by U.S. Supreme Court

In 2022, the states of Texas, Louisiana and Indiana, as well as individual plaintiffs, challenged the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the act in a 7-2 vote, June 15, 2023. Citizen Potawatomi Nation staff recently weighed in on the decision and how it affects the Tribe.

History

Congress enacted ICWA in 1978 in response to decades of state officials and private parties removing Native American children from their families and culture at an alarmingly high rate.

CPN Tribal Attorney George Wright explained Congress decided to enact ICWA with care and forethought.

“It was based on trying to correct or ameliorate or just arrest decades of deliberate federal action to try to discriminate against Native people, to try to separate children from their parents, culture, home, or the place where their relatives are, deliberately and on purpose,” he said.

Wright’s explanation shows how ICWA helps ensure that Native children stay connected to their tribes, despite the long history of discrimination against Native people.

2023 ruling

The *Haaland v. Brackeen* case began when the Brackeen family adopted a Navajo boy. However, Navajo Nation interposed the adoption and wanted to place the Native boy with a Native family. As a result, one of the arguments made in the case was that ICWA violated the right to equal protection under the law, which prevents government discrimination based on race and gender. ICWA gives Native American families preferential treatment in child custody cases, and the Brackeen family felt ICWA was racially discriminatory against non-Native people who want to adopt a Native child.

“Nowhere in the history of American law has Native or non-Native status been considered a racial classification. It’s a citizenship classification,” said Wright, explaining that Native American tribes are sovereign government entities.

The Supreme Court’s decision to uphold the constitutionality of ICWA is a major victory for Native American children and families.

In a concurrence to the opinion, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote that the Court’s decision “safeguards the ability of tribal members to raise their children free from interference by state authorities and other outside parties.”

The decision reaffirmed the importance of ICWA in protecting the best interests of Native American children and ensuring that they can maintain their cultural heritage.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation placement preferences

- 1 Natural parents, adoptive parents, or step-parents;
- 2 A family member* who is a member of CPN;
- 3 A family member who is a member of another tribe;
- 4 Any other family member;
- 5 A foster home licensed by CPN;
- 6 The home of a CPN member licensed as a foster home by any other licensing authority with the state or licensed by another tribe;
- 7 A Native foster home licensed by any other licensing authority within the state or a Native foster home licensed by another tribe;
- 8 An institution for children licensed or approved by the Nation’s Department of Social Services with a program suitable to meet the needs of the child;
- 9 Non-Native placement licensed by any other licensing authority within the state.

*A grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, niece, nephew, first or second cousin, and their spouses.



“We now have a pretty great success rate in drastically reducing the number of kids that are removed from homes or removed in a permanent way, and of connecting with family members or other tribal members who are willing to step in and help where parents are struggling,” Wright explained.

FireLodge

CPN’s FireLodge Children & Family Services handles all adoption and foster care cases involving Potawatomi children who are enrolled or eligible for enrollment, regardless of where they live in the United States. Once a case transfers to a Tribal court setting, Citizen Potawatomi Nation follows their own Tribal code.

“It is actually really unique in that the placement preferences differ a little bit than ICWA,” Director of FireLodge Children & Family Services Ashlee >

Featured scholarship opportunities: The Gates Scholarship

By Rachel Watson, CPN Department of Education Senior College Advisor

The Gates Scholarship is a special program that helps outstanding high school seniors in the U.S. who come from minority backgrounds. If you are a senior in high school, you might be eligible for this scholarship provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It offers full funding to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Application requirements include U.S. citizenship, a good academic record, proven leadership skills, and financial need. You must also be African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian and Pacific Islander American, and/or Hispanic American.

Start the application process early so you have enough time to gather all the necessary documents and carefully write your application. The application opens July 15 and closes September 15. Be yourself and let your unique qualities shine through. Do not try to be what you think the Foundation wants; just be honest about who you are and what you're passionate about.

To make your application strong, give examples and stories that show your achievements and leadership skills. Explain how you have made a positive impact in your community or in activities outside of school. Also, talk about your goals for the future and how receiving this scholarship will help you achieve them.

It's a good idea to ask teachers or mentors for help. They can give you feedback and advice on your application. Make sure to edit and proofread your essays to make them clear and error-free. Follow the instructions carefully and submit your application on time.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education also offers assistance. Both Charles Lee and Rachel Watson are Gates Scholars and can help you write a strong essay. You can reach out through the portal (portal.potawatomi.org), via email at education@potawatomi.org, or by phone at 405-695-6028.

Remember — the scholarship application process can be tough, and you might not get selected. Don't give up, and stay positive. Every experience is a chance to learn and grow. Good luck with your application! 🔥

thegatesscholarship.org

› May explained. "So, we actually hold our Citizen Potawatomi family to a higher placement preference."

The Tribal code prioritizes family for Tribal children and seeks to maintain the child's connections to extended family, Tribe and other Native American families. If the family is not a good fit for the child, they look to Tribal foster homes approved by the CPN Foster Care & Adoption Program.

FireLodge has met with adversity while protecting Tribal children. For example, they have received racist comments from non-Native people. They have also faced not being invited to out-of-state court hearings while awaiting the Supreme Court decision. However, the staff at FireLodge hope to see an immediate effect in their cases following the ICWA ruling.

"Equity is something that we advocate and fight for every single day in our cases across the United States," May said.

She hopes that ruling ICWA constitutional will "negate future litigation surrounding it."

While CPN and FireLodge still face challenges in their cases, May said the Supreme Court ruling is "a huge win for Tribal children, Tribal families, Tribes in general."

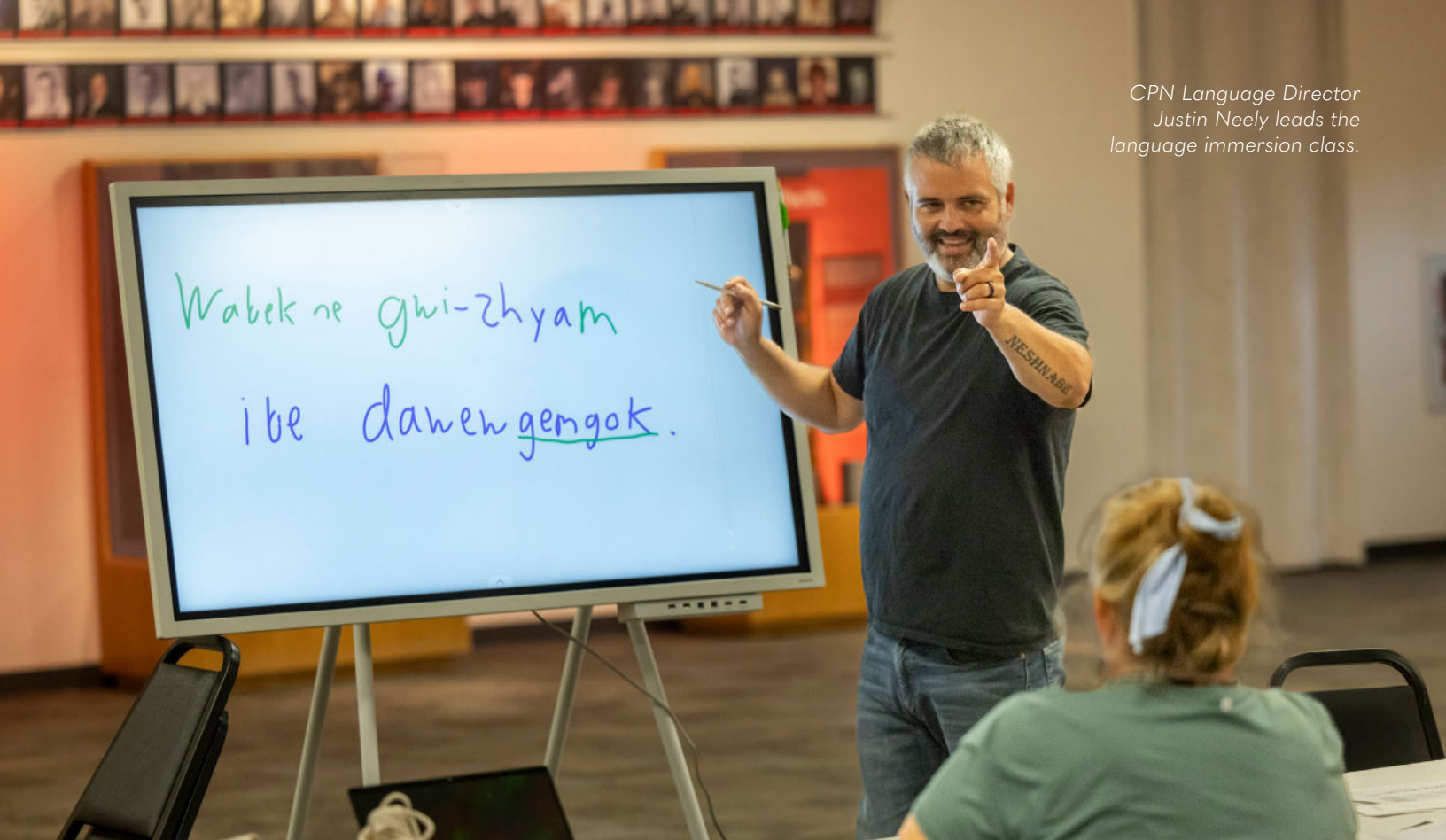
For more information about FireLodge, please visit cpn.services/firelodge. To read the full ICWA decision, please visit cpn.news/ICWAdecision. Learn more about National Indian Child Welfare at nicwa.org. 🔥



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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‘Creating a language community’ Grant funds *Bodéwadmimwen* immersion program

Fewer than five first-language *Bodéwadmimwen* (Potawatomi language) speakers are alive in North America. Citizen Potawatomi Language Department Director Justin Neely began working for the Tribe more than 15 years ago and took on a new challenge this summer to expand the number of fluent second-language speakers with help from The Endangered Language Fund.

CPN was one of four Native Voices Endowment grant recipients in 2022, which the department used to fund a summer master apprentice project in 2023. This is the first immersion program Neely has offered as a language teacher, and the grant helped pay for three students to study *Bodéwadmimwen* for eight hours, five days a week for eight weeks. One language department staff member also joined the group as well as a graduate student and two Tribal members eager to audit the class, making a total of seven students.

“I’m very, very proud of each of these individuals for taking the time and effort to try to learn. Because one thing that I think is the hardest to get is enough time with people,” Neely said.

Bridging gaps

Lorrie Underwood came to CPN from Colorado for the program, which lasted from May 30 to July 21. She spent several years working on the language on her own but decided not to pass up the unique opportunity to immerse herself, despite the distance.

“It’s been an amazing program. I’ve met some amazing people, and I’m just very thankful that everything turned out the way that it did,” she said.

Marilyn Annanders has also been studying *Bodéwadmimwen* for the last few years, and when her granddaughter, Mikayla Paison, got accepted into the summer master program, she decided to audit the class alongside her.

“I’m trying to start a fire because I know I’m not (an expert), but here’s my ember,” she said, pointing to Paison.

It has brought them closer together and filled a generational divide. Paison had no experience and knew only three or four words Annanders had taught her when the program began.

"I figured I would delve a little bit deeper into (the language). I actually didn't think I would actually get accepted into (the program), but I'm really, really glad that I did. And it's definitely something I'm going to work on in the future as well," she said.

Kansas University doctoral student Matt Biel worked hard to find funding to spend the summer in Oklahoma and participate. While he did not receive funds from the Endangered Language grant, he was able to travel with the help of his graduate studies program.

"Having gone to university and having mistakenly wandered into ancient history for a while where I had to do several languages, I can say ... this has been a far better experience than any university, any other language learning process that I've gone through," mostly because of the hands-on approach, he said.

Cultural connections

Tribal member Cole Rattan felt the call to learn the language and the Potawatomi culture as a young boy and into adulthood. He considers *Bodéwadmimwen* the basis for all other cultural practices, and the program has helped him progress further in his understanding than ever before.

"It's almost like we're doing our best to get as much as we can, and it's eight weeks, but we're going to, after this, be able to have a good handle on it moving forward. And I think everybody in this room is actually serious about learning the language," he said.

All the students expanded their vocabularies and abilities to construct sentences, conjugate verbs and converse. They created group chats to send each other voice memos to speak the language. Having each other to practice with all day made the biggest difference in their progress, and they also took on cultural traditions together, including growing ceremonial *sema* (tobacco).



Mikayla Paison

Rattan feels speaking the language is a spiritual act, and he put his skills to the test while caring for their medicines. Annanders recalled seeing his progress in the garden.

"We get down there to visit our *sema* and take care of it. And we said, 'Well, we ought to say a prayer.' And Cole says, 'I can do that.' And he did an amazing job, all in Potawatomi, and I felt like a proud peacock down there working with these two young ones because he did so good," she said.

They all look forward to teaching future generations and spreading their knowledge amongst their family and friends. They saw the opportunity to spend eight weeks learning the language as contributing to something bigger than themselves, and Neely recognized that in his students as well.

"They're putting all this effort in. They're creating a language community for each other and for the future," he said. "And the more folks that we can get to take that kind of level of commitment, will take the Tribe, will take us as Potawatomi people, far into the future."

Find more learning opportunities from the CPN Language Department at cpn.news/language. 🔥



Students in the first-ever language immersion program studied *Bodéwadmimwen* for eight weeks.



CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps speaks to volunteers, thanking Feed the Children for partnering with CPN.

Feed the Children

CPN partners with Feed the Children to help 800 families

Volunteers gathered in the FireLake Arena parking lot near Shawnee, Oklahoma, June 1 as Citizen Potawatomi Nation partnered with Feed the Children and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe to help 800 families in the community.

“We’ve been working this year toward our Native populations,” Aaron Hazel, event manager for Feed the Children, said. “This was just a natural fit, because one, you just had a tornado that recently came through that impacted people, but then also, just for (Tribal) members, I feel like this was a great partnership.”

Two lines formed in the parking lot, where volunteers loaded six cars at a time with three boxes of products and one to two children’s books.

Products included one 25-pound box of non-perishable food items, one 15-pound box of hygiene items and one 8-pound box with items such as makeup and women’s clothing.

Brian Brady, director of distribution for Feed the Children, said the food box should help supplement a family for up to two weeks, and the hygiene box includes items such as toilet paper, paper towels and toothbrushes.

“Anything hygiene, personal care related, because if you can’t afford food, you can’t afford personal care items,” he said.

The organization estimated boxes would be passed out to 800 families, and lunch was provided for the volunteers who helped with the event. Gary Sloan, chief U.S. operations officer for Feed the Children, said events the size of this one usually require help from 40 to 50 volunteers.

“I think this is a great way to get the community together,” Sloan said. “We love working with the tribes here in Oklahoma, and we feel it’s a very important part of what we do.”

Absentee Shawnee Lt. Governor Ezra DeLodge spoke on behalf of the tribe at the event, thanking Feed the Children, CPN and volunteers for their efforts.

“It’s not one individual, organization or group to uplift our community,” he said. “It’s all our responsibility to uplift and bring positive change to our communities.”

CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps also spoke before the event kicked off.

“I want to thank Feed the Children, not just this time, but for many times they have blessed us,” she said. “Feed the Children has been partners with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation for a long time, and I know that they have done a lot of good in our communities.”

To learn more about Feed the Children, visit feedthechildren.org. 🔥

HOMEOWNER EMERGENCY MORTGAGE

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This program was developed by the U.S. Congress and U.S. Treasury Dept. to assist low-income households impacted by the COVID-19 health emergency with mortgage and certain property charge assistance.

This program is available to homeowners only and may only be requested for primary residences. Eligible applicants must have a combined household income that is not more than 100 percent of the median income for the United States as defined by HUD. This will vary based on the household's location and size. To determine if you are eligible, please visit huduser.gov/portal/datasets or call 833-481-0638. CPN will make the final determination about whether a household has demonstrated that its combined income makes it eligible for aid based on applicable federal laws. The program benefit is determined on a case-by-case basis. Payments will be made directly to mortgage companies and applicable servicers for debts related to qualified property charges.

To determine if you are eligible, please visit huduser.gov/portal/datasets or call 833-481-0638

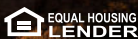
By CPN, For CPN



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Young 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.

The Young family is closely linked to the Vieux family. Jacques Vieux, Jr. was the son of Angelique LeRoy and Jacques Vieux. Jacques Jr. and his wife, Liz, had a daughter named Josette in 1834.

The marriage records of St. Marys Mission reveal that Josette married George L. Young on Jan. 20, 1856, at Indianola, Kansas. Witnesses were John Young and Benjamin Harris.

George would later play a critical role as the Potawatomi endured removal from their ancestral homelands to Kansas and then experienced tumultuous early years in Indian Territory.

Life in Kansas

George and Josette had three children, Anna, Alice and George, Jr.

George L. Young appears on the 1863 Kansas roll, and some documents list him as headman. George, a non-Native, played a role in the treaties of 1861 and 1867.

He was a member of the 1862 business committee, along with Joseph N. Bourassa, B.H. Bertrand, Louis Vieux, M.B. Beaubien and John Tipton. Young was also on the first Citizen Potawatomi business committee in 1867, along with I. N. Bourassa, A. F. Navarre, Narcisse Juneau and Louis Vieux.

He wrote the following in 1876, reflecting on the hardships:

"...we were told that all we had to do to become happy and prosperous was to become citizens and having always listened to the words sent us from Washington we did as the Government wished us to do. And what have been the consequences? ...we found instead of being a prosperous and happy people we were a debased and unhappy one, and seeing no hope for ourselves and our children while surrounded by those influences, we came down here away from temptation to attempt to build for our families homes and at least spend the remainder of our lives in sober, industrious labor."



Lizzie and George Young, Jr.

Arrival in Indian Territory

The Young family was among the many Potawatomi who decided to become U.S. citizens and receive plots of allotted land in Indian Territory through the Treaty of 1867. They moved to Indian Territory in 1871 and settled in the community of Pleasant Prairie, which was established 5 miles northwest of present-day Wanette. Later, the Youngs would move to their allotment near Oberlin.

Anna (Annie) Young was born in 1860. Alice Josephine Young was born in 1870 or 1871. George L. Young, Jr. was born March 25, 1864.

One of the earliest Potawatomi day schools was called the George Young School. It was established in January 1876 but only remained open for a year as the Potawatomi families began to move to other locations.

The 1880s brought challenging times for the Potawatomi. Drought, disease and crime were the main problems.

Youngs Crossing was founded in 1893 on the south Canadian River. It was located on the allotment of

George Young, Jr., and it became a principal crossing. Unfortunately, many of the crossings in heavily wooded areas contained saloons, and they became notorious for harboring criminals. Problems like excessive drinking, violence and theft followed. A patchwork of jurisdictions and authority allowed the criminal element to prosper, creating a nuisance for law abiding families.

Annie Young married Frank A. Bourbonnais. Alice Young married Edward P. Jones in 1870. George Young, Jr. married a Citizen Potawatomi woman named Elizabeth McDole.

George was known to play the violin while his wife played the organ. They also encouraged their children to learn. Elizabeth was known to be a seamstress who used her earnings for music lessons. Sadly, she died of pancreatic cancer. George Jr. died of stomach cancer on April 6, 1943.

Foundation for the future

Life in Indian Territory was challenging, but the Youngs worked to persevere. By the time Oklahoma achieved statehood in 1907, the family was among the state's earliest inhabitants who had established many of the county's first roads, schools, governments and communities.

Anna and Frank had a daughter named Lillie on April 16, 1883. She died on Dec. 2, 1897, and was buried at Sacred Heart.

Alice and Edward were the parents of Frank Preston, Ramona Anna and Lucille Martha. Frank Preston Jones was born in 1902 or 1903. He died on Aug. 23, 1977. Ramona Anna Jones was born in 1900. Lucille Martha Jones was born in 1905.

George and Elizabeth had nine children: Georgia Ann, Oscar Weber, Lorene (Lorine) L., Merritt L., Jesse L., Agnes, Carl, Benjamin W. and George.

Georgia Ann Young was born June 17, 1892, at Sacred Heart. She married John George Nickell at Little River, Arkansas.

Oscar Weber Young was born in 1900. He married Gracie Irene Myers and worked as an engineer.

Lorene (Lorine) Young was born in 1914 in Oakland, Oklahoma, and grew up in Stonewall. In a 1983 interview in the CHC archives, she shared that she took piano lessons as a child and practiced hours each day. Lorene said they had no vehicle, hot water or electricity, and they used soda and salt for toothpaste. The family raised their own vegetables and fruit and then canned hundreds of jars and stored them in the family cellar. The family used 25 pounds of ice each day for their ice box.

Lorene married Guy Ernest Marsh on New Year's Day (year unknown) in Hutchison, Kansas. They had a daughter, Elizabeth Ann. After Guy died, Lorene

and Elizabeth moved to Ada, Oklahoma, and Lorene worked as a bookkeeper, typist and receptionist.

Merritt was born on Oct. 10, 1903, in Wichita, Kansas, and passed away on Jan. 18, 1991.

Jesse L. was born on Nov. 10, 1902, and owned a clothing store in Ada, Oklahoma, called Stevens Ready to Wear. He was married to Tess Young. They divorced, and he married Juanita Harris Young. Jesse died of cancer.

Agnes Young Eished had a son, Max Earnest. Max would later serve in the U.S. Marines but died during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Carl Young was born Feb. 1, 1908. He died on June 16, 1909, and was buried at Sacred Heart.

Sadly, George died during childbirth and was buried at Sacred Heart.

Generations flourish

Many of the Young descendants would become integral to the growth of small Oklahoma communities like Ada and Stonewall.

Jesse Louis Nickell was born July 21, 1910, in Ada. He married Sibyl Potter and worked as a farmer. Edgar Leon Nickell was born in 1914. He married Lois Nadine Dillard. Edgar died on May 17, 1985. Kenneth Austell Nickell was born in Stonewall on June 25, 1918. He married Lydia Ophelia Cooper and worked as a carpenter and mechanic. They had three children, Mary Alice Nickell Arredondo, Judy Ann Ramsey and Delora Ann Nickell Goodson Wilkes. Kenneth died on Jan. 19, 1986.

George Louis Nickell was born in Ada on June 22, 1937. Edgara Dale Nickell was born in Bakersfield, California, on March 31, 1941.

Jesse Louis Nickell Jr. was born Feb. 16, 1933, in Erick, Oklahoma. JoAnn Frances Nickell was born on Jan. 23, 1937, in Greer County, Oklahoma.

Delora Ann Nickell was born on March 10, 1953, in Bakersfield, California. She lived in Lamont, California, and later moved to Shawnee, Oklahoma. Marie Alice Nickell was born on May 10, 1948, in Granite, Oklahoma.

With little more than their strong bonds and belief in unrelenting hard work, the Young family persevered against hardship and created the foundations upon which their descendants, and several Oklahoma communities, would flourish.

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



2023 POTATO
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PLP STUDENTS ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION



As the annual Potawatomi Leadership Program drew to its close, the participants reflected on what they learned throughout their six weeks with Citizen Potawatomi Nation and encouraged other Potawatomi youth to apply for next year's program.

Each year, the Nation welcomes several college-age Tribal members to learn about its culture, history and government.

The 2023 program participants were: Amity Tarter, Tarter family, Berkeley, California; Ike Decker, Ogee family, Topeka, Kansas; Justice Wolfe, Curley family, Jones, Oklahoma; Roslyn Bellscheidt, Kennedy family, Vashon Island, Washington; Grey Doster, Johnson family, Lebanon, Pennsylvania; and Tate Lewis, Barnett family, Paris, Texas.

"There is no other educational opportunity like this that allows you to learn this much from your culture," Decker said. "There is no other program like this, and I would highly recommend it to anyone."

"This program has been super important to connect me to that culture, and I didn't expect to be able to retain this much information in six weeks," Tarter said. "So, if there are people who feel a disconnect like that, I think that this is a great opportunity to take advantage of."

"You receive nothing but just the most loving people, generous people, and they provide you with so many resources and everything you could need for the six weeks you're here and so many beautiful connections I've made while being here," Lewis said.

"If you're afraid to apply because you feel like you won't fit in or it wouldn't be the right fit for you, I'm telling you that there are so many experiences, so many different opportunities that we get to have," Bellscheidt said. "This experience will help you learn and grow. And it is for everyone. And I hope that you take the chance and apply."

A deeper connection

Part of forging a deeper connection with their Potawatomi roots involved learning *Bodéwadmimwen*, crafting items like moccasins and hand drums, and learning about Potawatomi spiritual and cultural practices. Students also participated in talking circles to share their experiences both as individuals and as Potawatomi.

Some members of the group had always wanted to attend PLP, while others were inspired by an older sibling or relative to attend. Whatever the reason, each student hoped to learn more about their family's history and Tribal history.

"I could always say that I was Potawatomi, but I couldn't exactly say what that culture meant to me," Tarter said. "Last year, my older brother attended (PLP), and he came back with a lot of information, and he brought back a lot of culture. So, I felt like it would be pretty important for me to do the same and get the experience while I'm able to."

In addition to cultural teachings, they also witnessed the importance of tribal sovereignty. During the six-week program, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its opinion reaffirming tribal sovereignty and the Indian Child Welfare Act. They also learned how sovereignty impacts environmental protection efforts.

"Getting to hear from FireLodge (Children and Family Services) was especially impactful and hearing about all the services that they provide for all types of people within the community, especially children and foster kids," Bellscheidt said. "The Environmental Department had to be my favorite session we attended. It was just an incredible experience and really built my foundational knowledge about local environmental issues."

While their reasons for applying for PLP may differ, each participant received knowledge they will continue to carry with them in the future.

"I feel like the view of our culture is just to be respectful, to give back, to acknowledge your existence and acknowledge earth. And I think that's really cool because it's a little bit different than a Western view of living with the earth," Tarter said.

"I think one of the most important things that I learned and will probably continue to learn will be of our Native language," Decker said. "I believe it was very important and very informative to learn, but also to keep going forward and to continue learning our language and potentially teach it to others."



The PLP class of 2023 receives eagle feathers from the Nation's Eagle Aviary as a parting gift.

Final reflections

At a reception honoring the participants, teams of two presented a special project they created together during their time in the program. Projects can include programs, services or enterprises they envision for the Nation's future.

Doster and Tarter created Native Environmental Curriculum, a lesson plan targeted toward elementary-aged children that helps Potawatomi youth better understand how to care for the natural world, using Potawatomi spiritual and cultural beliefs as the basis.

Insight Into PLP was presented by Tate Lewis and Justice Wolfe. This project focused on promoting the PLP to a wider audience to encourage more Potawatomi youth to participate. They created a photo slideshow and videos and used PLP alumni testimonials to help increase awareness of what the program involves and what participants can expect.

Roslyn Bellscheidt and Ike Decker created *Combatting Caricature: Reclaiming Indigenous Representation in Mainstream Media*. This project features a comic book, written in *Bodéwadmimwen*, to counteract negative and harmful stereotypes of Indigenous people often used in mainstream media. The book portrays Potawatomi people in a respectful manner while encouraging new generations to learn *Bodéwadmimwen*.

Attending the reception were Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, Tribal Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and District 10 Legislator David Barrett.

Program participants received gifts from Chairman Barrett, Workforce and Social Services Director and PLP housemother Margaret Zientek and PLP counselor Braden Bruehl to commemorate their time at CPN headquarters.

For more information about the 2024 Potawatomi Leadership Program, email college@potawatomi.org or visit plp.potawatomi.org.



Ike Decker and Roslyn Bellscheidt smudge before their final project presentation.



IHS Director visits CPN Health Services

The director of the U.S. Indian Health Service visited the Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquarters on June 30, 2023.

Roselyn Tso (Navajo Nation) and her administrative staff met with CPN Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Self-Governance Director Kasie Nichols, CPNHS Medical Director Dr. Kassi Sexton and CPNHS staff.

Director Tso, Chairman Barrett, Vice-Chairman Capps, Nichols and Dr. Sexton discussed the growing CPNHS patient population and the need to expand health care services the Tribe provides.

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 2010 gave IHS the ability to expend funds directly or through contracts or compacts. The funds helped many tribes construct new facilities, improve existing facilities, expand some community health programs and recruit health care professionals.

“That’s probably been the single most important budgetary appropriation impact that Congress and IHS has made to CPN,” Nichols said.

While the Oklahoma City area IHS remains underfunded, Nichols said the IHCA funds, along with other federal grants, have helped CPN close some funding gaps.

The group also discussed the sometimes-complicated federal regulations regarding purchased care, or when a patient is referred to a health provider outside the Tribal health system. Dr. Sexton said she would like to see the process made simpler to help both patients and clinic staff.

Director Tso agreed that the process should be streamlined and said she has created a team to explore options.

“I think we have to uncomplicate this on our side — on the IHS side. We’re going to be taking a deep dive into these issues that we’ve been hearing about from the tribes. We want to make it simple, particularly for that patient that needs the care,” she said.

Director Tso toured the East and West Clinic as well as the Behavioral Health facilities.

She said she was impressed with CPNHS and its staff, in particular the West Clinic’s specialty services, where diabetes care, podiatry and optometry are in a single facility to make it more convenient for diabetes patients to receive care.

As IHS director, Tso leads a nationwide health care delivery system responsible for providing preventive, curative and community health care to approximately 2.7 million Native American and Alaska Natives in hospitals, clinics and other settings throughout the U.S.

Tso was sworn in as IHS director on Sept. 27, 2022, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra. She has served in various leadership roles at IHS for nearly four decades. Prior to her national service, she was the director of the IHS Navajo Area since 2019, leading the comprehensive federal, tribal and urban Indian health care system for more than 244,000 Native Americans and Alaska Natives throughout Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

Find out more about Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services at cpn.news/health. 🔥

Photo: (Left to right) Rear Admiral Dr. Gregory Woitte, Oklahoma City IHS chief medical officer; Rear Admiral Travis Watts, PharmD, Oklahoma City IHS area director; CPN Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett; IHS Director Roselyn Tso; CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps; CPN HS Medical Director Dr. Kassi Sexton; and CPN Self Governance Director Kasie Nichols following their meeting.

From the executives



John "Rocky" Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bouzho, Nicon, (Hello, my friend),

Many members of our Tribe are not aware of the hard work under difficult circumstances performed by our Department of Indian Child Welfare headed by Ashlee May. Also, the department that handles Adult Protective Services, which defends our elders, both those in private homes or living in nursing homes. This department operates under the direction of Janet Draper.

One of the reasons I am so concerned about the legal basis under which we protect our children who live in an unworkable or even abusive environment is a piece of Tribal history. This history goes back before the U.S. Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act in 1978. The State of California took custody of a CPN child when I was Vice-Chairman in 1975 and placed him in foster care. They then adopted him out. There was no notice to the Tribe and no notice to the grandparents. California even refused to disclose to the parent, the Nation or even local law enforcement where the child was living. This was in the early 1970s. We never found these children. They are now adults. It haunts me still.

In another case, two small children, both under 4 years old, were found in an abandoned car in a slum in Los Angeles in 1994. Their mother, a Citizen Potawatomi woman, was jailed for the third time for drug possession and intoxication. Her parental rights were terminated by the California court. The father was unknown. After a lengthy court fight, we were finally able to take custody and placed the children in an excellent foster home. Sadly, after the children were adults, they both died of drug use.

If a child is in danger, or the child's parents are incapacitated, incarcerated or grossly negligent, the Tribal Court can take custody of the child until a member of the child's family or a qualified foster parent is appointed by the Tribal Court.

The problem with assisting abused elders is more delicate. Often the elder has cognitive issues or physical disability and is domiciled in the home of a relative who may or may not be aware of, able or willing to accommodate the problems of the elder. In my opinion, it is the most difficult job in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Our Courts have the ability under Tribal Law to become the Court Appointed Guardian of an elder if he or she is in danger. Taking custody of an adult and protecting their assets is a very difficult and sensitive task. We do it very reluctantly. Quite often, we have the cooperation of a district judge in Oklahoma, for which we are grateful. Often, family will assist when they have planning assistance.

Sadly, in cases outside of Oklahoma, cooperation from local judges has been a part of our battle to protect our children. Most troubling is the hostile attitude and failure to perform their duties lawfully in so many of the state courts. Our Indian Child Welfare advocates have to defend children from becoming wards of the state and adopted out. Most recently, states like Texas, Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Virginia have refused to recognize the federal law under which the Citizen Potawatomi Nation operates in providing care for a child separated from his or her family.

When any state takes custody of any juvenile member of our Tribe, they are required by federal law to inform the Nation. The Tribal caseworker will enter an appearance in the state court representing the child, asserting our custody and jurisdiction over the child, allowing us to place the child in the home of a Tribal relative or a qualified foster parent with home facilities that have been inspected and approved by the Nation. Sadly, there has arisen a virtual cottage industry in foster care. And there is an even more sinister and opaque market for adoptions.

In the case in Virginia, the family court that handles child custody is not a "Court of Record." In other words, we were not allowed to obtain any court records of any previous proceedings and testimony relating to the Citizen Potawatomi child. This included the circumstances under which the child was seized and the parents deemed to be incapable of keeping the child in a safe environment. In the case I am describing now, the judge refused to hold court any time our representative had flown to Virginia to enter an appearance to inform the court of our authority in the case. They kept this up for two years. The twins were placed in the home of a member of the Virginia court and law enforcement.

These part-time foster parents already had four older foster children and proposed to add the pair who we were trying to represent. This would make six children for which the State of Virginia was paying \$1,700 each to this couple (and friend of the judge) for foster care. For as long and for as many children as this employee of the State of Virginia was willing to take, this judge was willing to give them away without our being able to inspect the home and be certain the child's needs were met. It appeared to be a scheme, with the judge placing every obstacle she could find to obstruct the duty of our Tribal representative. It is now going on four years since the parents and grandparents of these twins have been allowed to see their children. The foster parents are not required by the court to provide the children any contact with their extended Tribal family or be exposed to any part of their Native culture.

Given the age of the twins at the time of their seizure by the State of Virginia, I doubt they will recognize each other.

In the case in the courts of the State of Texas, we have been rejected by the judge in performing our duties by a total refusal to see or read any of our documents in the court, as authorized by federal law, unless they were filed by a Texas lawyer with a Texas Bar Association number. The judge refuses to obey the federal law. We have a solution to this issue, but the expense is formidable.

Thank you for the privilege 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),

We had a great time at the 2023 CPN Family Reunion Festival. Aside from the heat and humidity, it was an outstanding event. The honored families were Johnson, Lafromboise, Lareau, LeClair, Melott, Rhodd, Tescier, Weld and Young. My heartfelt thank you goes out to those members of all families that attended. I hope the honored families had a good time at the reunion spaces in the Round House. The families for 2024 will be Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Levier, Lewis, Nadeau, Negahnquet, Pambogo and Smith. If your family is included for 2024, it is time to reach out to your relatives to remind them that they will be honored next summer.

The next major event on CPN's agenda is the 2023 Balloon Festival, August 11 and 12, 2023. The very first event began in 2017, but this is only our sixth festival since we skipped 2020 due to the pandemic. The Balloon Festival committee has worked diligently this year to make the event bigger, better and more exciting. I believe more people are catching on to the times of day that are especially captivating... to me that is when the balloons are in flight. Friday morning, the balloons are in flight from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. with the caveat that the weather must be permitting. Saturday morning, the times are repeated for the balloons to be in flight. It is a wonderful display to see!

My next favorite sight is the balloon glow beginning at 9 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. on Friday followed by an amazing firework display. The glow event is repeated on Saturday evening followed by band entertainment. In between my two favorites are countless activities at the festival. There are activities for children, teenagers and adults... something for everyone. It is a spectacular event.

Unfortunately, the heat and the humidity in Oklahoma have converged! Not too different than past years, except July is predicted to be one of the wettest on record. The combination of wet conditions and high temperatures calls for extreme humidity. To add insult to injury, we are dealing with the aftermath of both the tornado of April 19th and an evening with straight-line winds exceeding 70-80 miles an hour. These catastrophes left the Tribe with over \$4 million in property damage. The \$4 million is a pittance compared to the total damage in the Shawnee area, which suffered widespread destruction on the west side of the city. Thankfully, the roofs are being repaired, awning replacements are ordered, and tree limbs and trunks have been removed.

The good news is that we had insurance to cover the damages, and we will be made whole within a couple of months. All repairs should be completed by the end of September. At that time, we will be preparing for the winter months along with any bad weather anticipated for the year-end and coming new year.

Please know that it is our valued employees that make this Tribe great. They work the Family Reunion Festival, the Balloon Festival, provide daily maintenance, repair damages and supply media content. They staff our medical facilities, maintain our vehicle fleet, provide for our children and work toward educating our students. They manage our enterprises, preserve our heritage, improve our real estate, harvest the crops and provide the accounting for all programs. They administer oversight, assist Tribal members, provide entertainment. They do everything to keep CPN alive and thriving. They are the employees of CPN — loyal, devoted, respected and appreciated.

I enjoy spreading the news about this great Tribe, and I cherish the opportunity to be your Vice-Chairman.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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

From the legislature



Alan Melot District 1

Howdy, y'all!

I'm looking forward to the Trail of Death Caravan in September! Who's with me?! I won't be able to be there for the whole event (keep reading to learn why), and I am so grateful for the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association for doing so much work to make this event happen. There will be special presentations, special site visits and much more on this trip that covers several states as it follows the path our families took when they were forcibly evicted from our ancestral lands. If you haven't already, please get in touch with our good friend and unofficial tribal historian, PToDA President George Godfrey at pnginthewoods@gmail.com or 217-502-9340 so they will know to expect you!



I am so proud and impressed by the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association. For many years, they have been a sub-group of the Fulton County Historical Society in central Indiana.

When I became your legislator, I expressed a strong desire for them to find a path to increased self-determination where the direction of the association was determined by Potawatomi. We are appreciative for the work that the Fulton County Historical Society has done over the years in preserving our stories and creating a platform for us to be able to grow from. Their service to us and our history is invaluable; as it always is, we stand highest when we are standing on the work of those who have gone before us. *Chi migwetch* to all of those who put in hard work on our behalf.

Over the past two years, the PToDA has grown and is now an independent Potawatomi organization! *Wateya!* After many, many years, we have finally been able to re-appropriate our own history, memories and narratives. *Igwien* to all involved in this effort. I cannot overstate my gratitude to the PToDA officers and board for their work, and I look forward to the association keeping us connected to our stories as we move forward into time immemorial.

As I look back over the past two years, I recognize that I have fulfilled some of my promises to you and still have some to work on. I am excited about the future of our Nation and want to continue to connect our people. I recognized pretty quickly that I needed more time to be able to serve you, and I have been working behind the scenes to be able to do more. I was invited to join a team working as a school-based therapist in the Neosho, Missouri, school district and plan to start there when school starts in August. This is a huge change for me in that I get to work with kids again (YAY!), and I get to work the school schedule... which means I'll free up most of the summer to be able to travel through the district! This move is an answer to prayer for me, as it allows me to serve my community in a way I feel called to and allows me to serve you in a way I said that I would. The only downside of the transition is that I can't get off work for the entire Trail of Death Caravan next month, which is why I won't be able to be there for the whole event. I'm sad that I will have to miss parts of the caravan, but I know that it's a good trade since I'll be able to invest so much more time in the district in coming years.

On a final note, I ordered books written by the late Jim Thunder that have stories in *Bodéwadmimwen* and English. If you live in District 1 and would like one, let me know via email or text or phone call or Facebook or skywriting or carrier pigeon or however else you prefer, and I'll get one sent out to you.

Bama pi, jayek (Until later, everyone),

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

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



Eva Marie Carney District 2

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

Family Reunion Festival recap

The Family Reunion Festival weekend, once again, was fun and meaningful. I was honored to assist Mike Carter/Jejak (Colorado/Peltier family) with several family namings, share dinner with the Legislators and some spouses in the Grand Casino's Deer Room, participate in Grand Entry for the first time since 2019, and visit with many folks, including the spirited members of this year's Hand Games

team. The team included three generations of the Lewis family (Nancy Korzeniewski, Kim Chatfield Pratt, and Anna Korzeniewski) as well as Kathy Meacham Webb, Kabl Wilkerson, Rachel Watson and me. I am sharing an action shot of the D2 team after Rachel scored a point. We played in the final round and had an exciting time. I hope to see many District 2 folks at next year's Festival.

Five of our nine board members of The Kwek Society attended the Family Reunion Festival and were able to meet up before General Council to pose for the photo taken by another great *kwe* (woman), former CPN Public Information Director Jennifer Bell. Shown left to right, top row – Pam Vrooman (OK), Kathy Meacham Webb (TN), and Kim Chatfield Pratt (VA); bottom row – Paige Willett (OK) and Tesia Zientek (OK). I am in the photo but am not a board member – I am our Executive Director. Not pictured are Barbara Hannigan (VA), Lisa Witt (NM), Susie Howard (NH) and Winona Elliott (Ontario, CN). It was lovely to gather briefly, not over Zoom! I am grateful to these *kwe'k* for their generous service and support of our mission to end period poverty in Indigenous North America!



Board members of The Kwek Society, 2023

Recent Supreme Court ruling upholding the Indian Child Welfare Act

In a 7-2 decision issued on June 15, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of ICWA, which prioritizes, in adoption proceedings involving Native American children, the child's placement with an Indian family from the child's tribe or another Indian tribe and protects the right of the child's tribe to intervene in the proceedings. Many are characterizing the decision as a major victory for Native American rights. One statement in the concurring opinion by Justice Neil Gorsuch is too good not to share in full:

"Our Constitution reserves for the tribes a place – an enduring place – in the structure of American life. It promises them sovereignty for as long as they wish to keep it. And it secures that promise by divesting States of authority over Indian affairs and by giving the federal government certain significant (but limited and enumerated) powers aimed at building a lasting peace."

It is a good day when justice and fairness prevail!

Celebrating *Neshnábé* cooking

District 2 resident and friend Jody Gzhadawsot Mattena just published her first cookbook, *Gbaton Neshnábé – Cook Something Neshnábé: How to Decolonize Your Pantry and Diet*. I just received my copy from Amazon (it is available in hardback, softcover and Kindle) and am delighted with it. Jody explains food sovereignty and the Honorable Harvest throughout the book and includes recipes for fish, venison, buffalo,



D2 hand games team 2023 in action

bread, desserts, entrees, herbs, spices and foraged staples, referencing ancestral *Bodwéwadmimwen* (Potawatomi) and English terms. A delicious way to get more familiar with our language and foodways!

Save the date

Our annual Fall Feast will take place in Arlington, Virginia on Saturday, November 11, 2023. Please save the date; more details to follow in next month's column and through email, the traditional mailed postcard invitation, and social media.

Enjoy the summer, *bama mine* (until next time),

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



Bob Whistler District 3

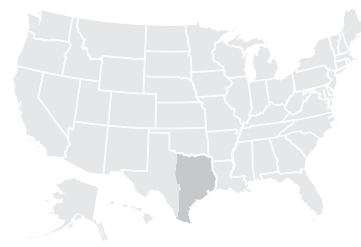
Bozho Nikan (Hello friend),

August meeting

Our District 3 meeting scheduled for Aug. 12 is being held in Bryan, Texas, and I will provide details of the meeting in the October *Hownikan*. Given our very hot summer, I am hoping that it doesn't stifle attendance.

USPS stamp

The USPS issued a stamp this year on May 12 honoring Chief Standing Bear, a Ponca Nation Chief who was their leader in the late 1800s. He successfully argued in 1879 that Native Americans needed to be recognized as people in the eyes of the law. The landmark court ruling that he took to task confirmed that under the law we have the inherent right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Chief Standing Bear (1829-1908) lived in the area of the Niobrara River in northeastern Nebraska. The Ponca Nation was relocated in the late 1800s to a parcel of land on the outskirts of Ponca City, Oklahoma. The relocation resulted from the 1868 Fort Laramie treaty, which included the land the Ponca Nation was on that became part of the overall Great Sioux Reservation. The USPS has issued stamps of past leaders and patriots who have been involved in positive changes in our history. It is an excellent gesture by the USPS that they have honored Chief Standing Bear with this forever stamp for his courage in getting this area of right to life recognized. In our language, *Mko* (bear) is the protector of the people in the forest. His name is so fitting.



Family Reunion Festival

At the legislative meeting held on Monday, June 26, a question was asked as to how many attended Family Reunion Festival this year. The number given was that it was around 3,200. We had a very good turnout, and the Grand Entry on Saturday, June 24 was excellent with many participating in this ceremony. Our staff does a great job in putting this weekend together. They create craft classes for the attendees that include making chokers, beading lanyards, making drums, moccasins and other items. Something that every attendee receives at registration is a name tag and a backpack type bag. The back of the name badge has six quick Potawatomi language idioms commonly used. The bag issued holds items for all ages with a variety of uses. I have included a photo of the bag given out this year. It contained a drinking bottle, a fan that can be collapsed into the handle, a pen, a pencil, a small note pad, lip balm, antibacterial hand sanitizer spray, a small balloon, crayons, a color book *Fun With Forest Friends*, a pocket Potawatomi dictionary with about 45 general words or phrases, and two books for all ages that are written in our language. We hope that this exposure to our language will create the desire to begin learning the language, since it is very important

that it be preserved and taken into the future. I included this topic so those of you who haven't attended Family Reunion Festival in the past see the value that is offered by attending in the future.

Potawatomi Gathering

I will be attending the Potawatomi Gathering this year hosted by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi in Fulton, Michigan, July 24-29 and will cover that event in my September article.

In closing, I am honored to represent District 3 and am your voice to our leadership. So, if you have a question on services or benefits that needs clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Nagech (Later),

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



Jon Boursaw District 4

Bozho (Hello),

Potawatomi Trail of Death Pilgrimage Event

Saturday, September 23 | 9-10:30 a.m.
Heritage Park, Marina parking lot
16050 Pflumm, Olathe, KS 66062

This is open to all CPN members and families. If you would like to join us for breakfast, please let me know by email or phone not later than 3 p.m., Monday, Sept. 18.

Additional Upcoming District 4 Events

Oct. 21: A District 4 meeting will be held in the CPN Community Center in Rossville on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. I am very pleased to announce that Ronnie Wear, the General Manager & CEO of Sovereign Pipe Technologies, CPN's latest economic development expansion, will be our speaker. If you plan to attend, please let me know no later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 17.

Oct. 29: I will hold a District 4 meeting at the All-Indian Center located at 650 N. Seneca St. in Wichita on Sunday, Oct. 29 at 12:30 p.m. It is my honor to announce that Bryan Cain, President and CEO of the CPN-owned Sovereign Bank, formerly the First National Bank, has accepted my invitation to speak. If you plan to attend, please let me know no later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 24.

To RSVP, call me at 785-608-1982 or email jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. You can also call Lyman Boursaw at 785-249-2915. Please identify which meeting you plan to attend.

VA Waives Copays for Native American and Alaska Native Veterans

On April 4, 2023, the VA published a final rule waiving copayments for health care and all urgent care visits for eligible Native American and Alaska Native Veterans.

Copays for domiciliary care, institutional respite care, institutional geriatric evaluation, and nursing home care are still required.

How does the new policy benefit Native American and Alaska Native Veterans?

- Retroactively reimburses eligible Native American and Alaska Native Veterans from copayments for health care and all urgent care visits received on or after Jan. 5, 2022.
- Eliminates future collection of copayments for health care and all urgent care visits for eligible Native American and Alaska Native Veterans.

How to receive this benefit:

I recommend you contact your VA facility for details on how to be identified in the VA system as a Native American Veteran and how you may be eligible for reimbursement, if applicable. You will need your CPN enrollment card and a copy of your DD form 214. You can also learn more about at va.gov/health-care/copay-rates or call 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) for more information.

Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

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

Aug. 11	Goulash	RSVP by the 8th
Sept. 8	BBQ meat balls & cheesy potatoes	RSVP by the 5th

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

Updates on Uniontown Cemetery and Burnett's Grave Site Projects

Uniontown Cemetery: The ground penetrating radar surveys have been completed and we are awaiting their analysis. Next up will be the rebuilding of the rock walls and resetting the grave markers.

Burnett's Grave Site: The tree stumps have been removed, and the site has been leveled. By the time this *Hownikan* edition is printed, the new fence should have been installed and the site covered with river rock. Next up is placement of a small cedar tree at each corner of the site.

It is an honor to serve as your legislator.

Megwetch (Thank you),

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



Gene Lambert District 5

Bozho (Hello),

There is so much going on in the world, it is difficult to determine what to write about. Water might be a good subject as it affects us all.

One of the most basic of necessities has now brought out the old and present power struggles. I have personally witnessed most of them, having been a resident in Arizona since 1972.

The opinion of support has changed.

The changes are due to the present water shortage not only in Arizona but across the nation, directly affecting New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. California has had water and fire issues always hand in hand. You would think we could figure something out for their crops since the ocean sits on its shores. But no!

Remembering firsthand the negative side of negotiations with the Salt River Pima Community and the State of Arizona, this isn't new.

It first started when the State of Arizona highways department wanted to build the 101 freeway across the Pima's frontage property. As I recall, Arizona offered the Pima \$3,000 to \$6,000 for said property. Of course, the Pimas were insulted by the offer and so stated to the authorities, claiming the property was invaluable.

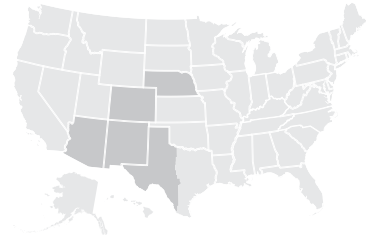
The pressure was on, and the City of Scottsdale started claiming that the cotton fields were causing the locals cancer of various types.

To end it all, the Salt River Pimas let Scottsdale residents know they could not utilize half of the main road because the property belonged to them right to the white line. Two years passed and Scottsdale Community College students were having to go around to another entrance as it was located on tribal land.

The State of Arizona and City of Scottsdale did finally come to their senses and rightfully paid for the property in question. I call that bullying, pure and simple, as it went on for two years.

Now, here we are again after reaching casino agreements, trust lands, sovereignty rights, threatening limitations should the local tribes not succumb to the growing Arizona population's need for water.

The Navajo Nation constructed their medical center facility over one year ago.



The Dilkon Medical Center cost over \$128,000,000 along with housing for their medical staff.

They cannot open the costly facility due to the lack of water, and they, too, are being threatened with limitations should they not agree with the State of Arizona on water rights. All other states have negotiated and been in agreement to date as per the *Phoenix New Times*.

It was also stated that it is now sitting with the Department of Interior for final analysis.

The new Arizona policies will force the Pascua Yaqui to decide what they need most: housing or water.

The State of Arizona has set forth conditions for tribes who do not complete a water agreement that could affect any potential expansion or renewal of casino license.

One of the Arizona concerns according to locals is they could lose their governing rights if the 22 Arizona tribes continued to expand their land base and population. It sounds a bit preposterous to me.

I Googled the numbers and wonder how that could possibly be. Arizona land base: 72.69 million acres; federal government owned: 30.74 million acres; and approximately, 20 million acres tribal land, so the Arizona state department owns 10.9 million acres. Maybe there should be concern?

None the less, we all need water. To hold someone hostage with food or water as governments have done to tribes in the past is certainly unacceptable, especially when the same tribes have assisted Phoenix with their water shortages in the past.

We all need to be cognizant of our water usage. It is an international concern.

Please take good care of yourselves and let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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

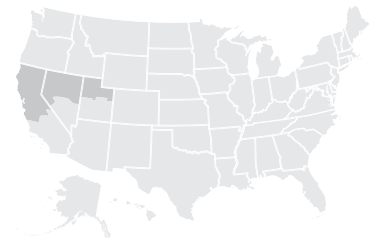


Mark Johnson District 7

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends),

Another Family Reunion Festival has come and gone in Shawnee for 2023. If you were unable to attend this event this year, it is never too early to start planning for next year, particularly if your family falls into the Honored Families for 2024, which are: Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Levier, Lewis, Nadeau, Negahnquet, Pambogo and Smith. The Festival always falls on the Friday through Sunday of the last full weekend in June.

I know it is not possible for everyone to attend the district meetings and the Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee, but hopefully you can make the trip sometime. The memories will last a lifetime. I thought I would point out some cultural opportunities in District 7 that are available in California and Nevada in August, September and October that you may want to visit. Even though these are not Potawatomi events, they can be well worth spending some time at:



Yurok Tribe's 50th Annual Klamath Salmon Festival 2023 | Aug. 19, 2023

Yurok Tribe | 190 Klamath Blvd, Klamath, CA, 95548

Numaga Indian Days Pow Wow 2023 | Sept. 1 – 3, 2023

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony | County Hwy 200, Sparks, NV, 89441

Stillwater Pow Wow 2023 | Oct. 6 – 8, 2023

Redding Rodeo Grounds | 715 Auditorium Dr, Redding, CA, 96001

Rande Payne and I will also be co-hosting a joint district gathering in central California this fall. Last year's gathering was well attended and a hit with those who attended. It is always great to get together and enjoy our heritage. Watch your mail for an invitation card.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 Legislator. As always, give me a call, and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have or provide you with additional information you

may need to access tribal benefits that are available. 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),

The 2023 Family Reunion Festival was a great opportunity to meet new and old Potawatomi friends, and it's always an adventure to travel to Oklahoma. The weather mostly cooperated, with a few notable exceptions: There was a storm that came through Friday afternoon with torrential rains forcing vendors off the fairgrounds for several hours, and temperatures spiked (heat index of 103 F I've been told) during Grand Entry.

Each year, the Nation hosts members and their significant others for a weekend of cultural activities, touring, games and spiritual pursuits (namings and church services) the last full weekend of June. Having gone to quite a few of these, I can say that there is always something new to see each year. This year's "new to me" sites were the foundations of the columbarium (niche wall for urns holding our loved ones' ashes) and seeing the Sovereign Pipe Technologies production plant up and working.

Niche wall: Over 10 years ago, the planning began for a columbarium at the Nation to receive the cremated remains of Tribal members and their spouses. I'm pleased to say that great progress has been made, and the foundation has been poured for the first section of niche wall. The design is inspired by a medicine wheel, and the location is on the grounds of the old quaker church on Gordon Cooper Drive, just beyond the Cultural Heritage Center and the Absentee Shawnee Health clinic. More details will be forthcoming.

Sovereign Pipe Technologies: Several members of the legislature received a tour of the new plant that is up and functioning.

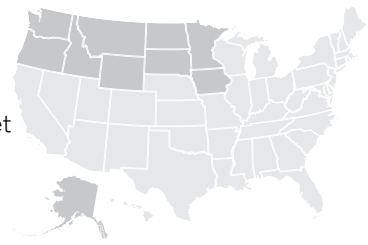
It is a fascinating enterprise and one that will go far in diversifying our business base and energize Iron Horse Industrial Park. The plant will be capable of making pipe from 4 to 40 inches wide, and it will be used for water, sewer and oil refining. The whole process starts with raw pellets that are brought in by our own train line and stored in silos (pictured here). Pipes are made with state-of-the-art extruding equipment per order specifications and will be shipped across the country.

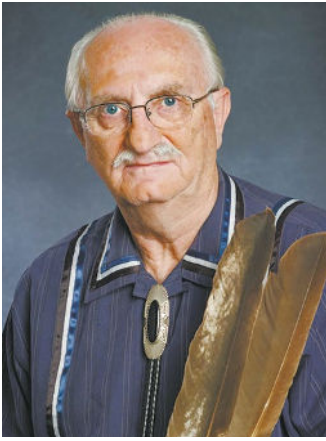
I will continue to send out updated information through email. It's been said many times, but if you would like to get regular e-mails from me, e-mail me at dcarney@potawatomi.org.

Please save the date: I am looking forward to being able to meet in person with District 8 members. The date of the Fall Feast has been set for Oct. 14, and it will be held at the Duwamish Long House in Seattle, Washington. It will be a mid-day meal and gathering.

It is my honor to serve as your Legislator,

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





Paul Wesselhöft District 9

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

A Blessing in Smoke

Smudging is a Native American sacred ritual. To receive the smoke from another Native American, especially an elder or a leader, is an honor and a spiritual blessing. This ritual has been performed by Native Americans for thousands of years.

Historically, the burning of incense is a divine command that reaches back in time to Moses, the Law Giver. In Exodus chapter 30, God gave Moses and his brother Aaron detailed instructions for the proper time and place of burning incense. The sweet smell and smoke were to be burned before the Lord as a holy act of worship.

The sweet fragrance and smoke are symbolic. It's a misinterpretation to believe that there is something magic about the smoke and ritual. The whole symbolic meaning of the ceremony is in a person's desire to be blessed, cleansed and purified. It's one's attitude and understanding toward the ritual that is important.

In Christianity, when a priest or minister waves the incensed smoke down the aisle of the sanctuary, he or she is performing a symbolic ritual, and the smoke represents the Holy Spirit. There is nothing magic being performed in the church, just rich spiritual symbolism.

For Native Americans smudging is also a ritual full of symbolic meaning. Some Native Americans consider the sweet aroma and smoke as symbolizing something pleasing to God as one is being blessed by another.

For other Native Americans, the ritual has no connection to God, but to Mother Earth and its richness. For them it is a purification ceremony using the gifts that the earth has provided to heal and promote positive thoughts and feelings. Yet others participate in the ritual for no meaning other than solidarity with thousands of Native Americans who have done the same ritual for thousands of years.

The deeper meaning of the ritual, therefore, is in the mind and heart of the one performing the ritual and the one receiving the aroma and smoke.

Historically, Native Americans believed that there was power in the herbs and smoke that rid their bodies and the space around them of unwanted thoughts and feelings. For them, the ritual promoted a higher state of well-being. Contemporary Native Americans can consider the ritual as doing the same. Again, the interpretation is in the mind and heart. It is how you perceive the ceremony that is of importance.

The ritual itself can be performed in different ways, but there is a standard among most Indigenous people. Allow me to offer such a standard.

First gather the ingredients consisting of sage, which represents the maternal lineage of women. Cedar is recommended because it is known for cleaning and purifying. Sweetgrass is known as the hair of Mother Earth, and it is also known as "holy grass." When it burns, it does not produce an open flame but sweet-scented smoke. And tobacco is considered a sacred medicine.

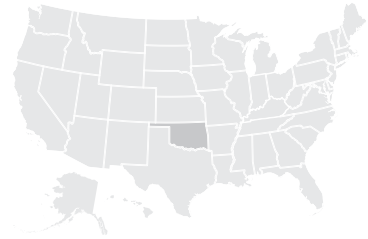
The herbal ingredients are placed in an abalone shell bowl and set on fire by rubbing flints against the sweetgrass. Place your hand over the bowl to extinguish the fire but allowing the smoke to rise. The herbs used have antiseptic features that when burned purify the air.

An elder or leader can be the one who carries the bowl around the room to each participant. That person should smudge themselves first. Then he or she fans the smoke toward the person with an eagle's wing. The receiver fans the smoke with his or her hands all over their head and upper body as they pray or meditate on the meaning of the ritual. After the ceremony, it is respectful to return the ashes from the herbs back to the earth.

The ritual of smudging is a blessing in smoke.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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

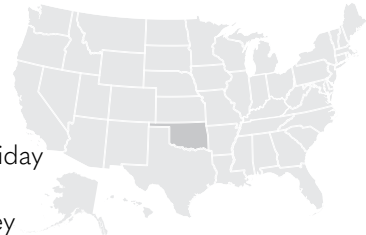




David Barrett District 10

Bozho (Hello),

At this year's Family Reunion Festival, we had over 150 veterans come by the veteran's table on Thursday afternoon through Friday night at closing (8:30 p.m.) after registering their family. It was again an enjoyable time to visit with other veterans across our nation. They filled out new application forms to update their current information. No membership fees, and they were all given a red ribbon to attach to their registration ID name packet.



On Saturday (Voting Day), we also had our monthly veteran's meeting at the FireLake Golf Course clubhouse at 9 a.m. We had a good turnout of about 40-plus who attended. Our



Vice-Chairman Capps brought 3-4 dozen donuts, which were deeply appreciated to go with our coffee furnished by the golf club. Everybody had a chance to introduce themselves and tell what service and a little bit about what they did in the military.

After the meeting, we adjourned to the round house for the 13 folds ceremony of the American Flag and with each fold the explanation of the meaning of that fold. Right after this ceremony we went directly to the flag retirement ceremony showing the proper way to dispose of our flags. We presented the flags to the commander for final inspection and for a dignified disposal since these flags have become faded and worn in a tribute of service and love.

We incorporated this year anybody who was in the crowd to participate in holding the flags for inspection. Then after all flags were inspected and deemed fit for retirement, each person handed the flag to the sergeant-at-arms to present to the commander for final disposition.

We had a mixed group of people holding the flags, from young girls to boys to adults. What a humbling sight to see. Wow!

We then went to General Council (3 p.m.) where Sovereign Bank President/CEO Bryan Cain informed us about the finances of our Nation's bank, and Secretary/Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale gave the state of affairs report for our Nation. The results of the Legislature election were announced, and the swearing in took place.

The next was about 7:30 p.m. when the veterans lowered the flag that was flying on the east dance arena flagpole to give to the Honored Veteran Jon Boursaw right after the Chairman smudged the dance arena for Grand Entry.

In the veteran's meeting Saturday morning, we assigned who was carrying which flag during Grand Entry by their name, military service, and which flag in order for the arena director to know and call out their names when entering the arena.

My point of telling you all of this is that preparation and planning for the Festival isn't by chance. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work that goes unnoticed. I personally know it takes a lot of people to pull off the Festival. Thanks to all who were involved. We had one afternoon blowing rainstorm, which I think was the first time ever that the weather scrambled our members; however, after it passed, the brats and fry bread were again cooking. Then the sun started to shine.

Take time to thank a veteran, first responder and a person in blue when you have an opportunity, and I hope you all had a great 4th of July.



It goes without saying that it is both a pleasure and an honor to serve you and our great Nation. I am truly grateful for your trust in me by reelecting me as your legislator. This will not be taken for granted, and I will promise all the Nation's members that I will try to continue earning all of your trust.

Migwetch (Thank you),

David Barrett | *Mnedobe (Sits with the Spirits)* | dbarrett@potawatomi.org
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. | Shawnee, OK 74801 | 405-275-3121

Walking On

Calvin Ray Hull McCall Family



Calvin Ray Hull, age 75, of Moberly, Missouri, passed away surrounded by family on April 28, 2023, at the VA Hospital in Columbia, Missouri.

Calvin was born on Aug. 29, 1947, in Fulton, Missouri, to George Thomas Hull and Ethel Josephine (Clapper) Hull. He graduated from Moberly Area Community College in 1976 with a general studies degree.

In 1965, he moved to Moberly and accepted a position as a maintenance supervisor at Moberly Housing Authority, where he worked for more than 25 years and then retired.

He honorably served his country in the United States Army from 1965 until 1968 as a sergeant E5. Calvin then went onto the National Guard Reserves from 1968 until 1971. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, two Purple Hearts, Combat Infantryman Badge, two Bronze Star Medals with V-Device, Vietnam Campaign Medal and a Parachutist Badge.

He was a member of the Moberly Independent Holiness Church and was a social, active man who was deeply involved with his church, family and friends.

Calvin was a great dad, papa and friend. He was loved by so many and will be greatly missed. He enjoyed taking his dog for a walk when it was warm outside, and going to the back of the house to water his flowers and drink his coffee. He also loved spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as all his extended family and close friends.

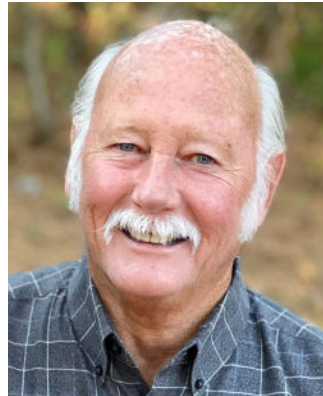
His family will always remember him and how much time he would spend with his dogs and planting flowers all around the house.

He is preceded in death by his parents, George Thomas and Ethel Josephine Hull; daughter, Angie Hull; three brothers, Joe Hull, Cliff Hull and Paul Hull; two sisters, Carol Hendren and Delma Martin; and great-grandson, Emerson Aleshire.

Calvin is survived by his children, Steven (Chonda) Hull, John Hull and Michelle (Joshua) Mathis, all of Moberly; grandchildren, Tiffany (Tyler) Lawson of Moberly, Jennifer Hull of Moberly, Sadie (Drake) Pagliai of Clearance, Missouri, Justin Aleshire of Moberly, Ashley Aleshire of

Moberly, Nicole Prather of Cairo, Missouri, Zach Prather of Cairo, Alex Prather of Cairo, Tristan Brockman of Moberly, Haile Hull of Moberly, Allison Price of Columbia, Haley Price of Columbia, Caleb Smith of Cairo and Alexis (Austin) Carlson of Higbee, Missouri; great-grandchildren, Adilynn Lawson, Gavin Lawson, Andrew Lawson and Parker Lawson, all of Moberly, Laykin Pagliai and Landry Pagliai, both of Clearance, Eisaac Aleshire of Moberly, and Kira Carlson of Higbee; siblings, Phillip (Kathy) Hull, Ken (Medonna) Hull, and Dale (Sherrie Hutton) Hull, all of Moberly; and extended family and many close friends.

Bobby Gene Roselius Vieux Family



Bobby Gene Roselius, *Mno mikas* (Good Path), age 68, of Choctaw, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully in his recliner with his two favorite pups in his lap on Thursday, July 6, 2023, in Choctaw.

He was born Monday, Dec. 13, 1954, in Shawnee, Oklahoma. He was the son of Jack Orville and Bette Jean (Cooper) Roselius and the youngest of four brothers. A member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, he was a

descendent of the Vieux family. He married the love of his life, Ilene Sue Sulivant, in Oklahoma City, on Sept. 3, 1981.

Bobby "Ish" was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and grew up in Macomb, Oklahoma. He always wore a smile and had a one-liner up his sleeve for any occasion. He loved to laugh with his friends and family and had a nickname for all of them. He made it known just how much he loved his family. Bobby was a "jack of all trades" and master of many. He built the backyard of his dreams in 2020 with the hope of bringing everyone together. He was always working on equipment or cars, and he loved mowing the lawn, listening to music and DIY projects. He enjoyed watching sports and was a Sooner fan through and through — "Boomer Sooner!" He was a diesel mechanic by trade, including for his entire family. He took pride in his work as "anything worth doing is worth doing right."

He is preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Bette; and brothers, Larry (Rooster), Charles (Mouse) and Connie (Kisses).

Bobby is survived by his wife of almost 42 years, Sue Roselius; daughter, Kassi Sexton, MD, MPH, and husband, Nate Sexton of Choctaw; and son, Austen Roselius, MD, JD, and wife, Katherine Roselius, MD, with a grandson due in October, Griffin Gene Roselius.

David Lloyd Jager
Degraff Family



At 2 a.m. on May 17, 2023, the world lost a wonderful, talented soul. David Lloyd Jager (68) died in his sleep at his home in Eureka, California. David was born in Eureka in 1955. He was the fifth child of Frank and Fredia Jager. He attended St. Bernard's and graduated in 1973. Shortly after high school and encouraged by his good friend, Father Tom Devereaux, he entered the Catholic seminary at St. Mary's in Kentucky and began his studies to

become a priest. After two years, he returned home convinced that the priesthood was not his calling. He next attended College of the Redwoods and briefly Humboldt State. He obtained his EMT certification and became a member of the Eureka volunteer fire department.

In the late 1970s, he earned his commercial truck license and began his career as a long-haul truck driver. He traveled all over the United States and had many stories to tell about the various cities he visited as a truck driver.

During his early teen years, David was a proud member of Boy Scout Troop 54 in Eureka.

In his youth, David was an accomplished rock climber and mountaineer. He completed numerous climbs in Yosemite, the Trinity Alps, the Sierra and the Cascade mountains of Oregon. His ascent of the Grand Teton in Wyoming was a proud moment in his climbing career. David was also a certified scuba diver and enjoyed his trips to Florida to dive in warm waters.

David had Native American roots. He was a Tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. His ancestry was the Bird Clan of the Degraff-Navarre families.

In his retirement, he operated a lawn care business to keep active until his health failed. He was a caring person and donated to many charities, both locally and nationally.

His brothers and sisters would like to give a special thank you to Hospice of Humboldt who cared for David in his last few days.

David was a lifelong bachelor and was predeceased by his father and mother as well as his brother, Paul.

He is survived by his sisters and brothers, Dora Kaliamos, Patty Roberts, Dot Wentworth, Frank, Michael and Adam Jager.

A memorial service will be held on Aug. 19, 2023.

Evelyn Hart
Greemore Family



Willie Evelyn (Reese) Hart was born on Jan. 24, 1931, in Phoenix, Arizona, and died on Nov. 23, 2022, at age 91.

Her youth took her and her family from Oklahoma to Eugene, Oregon, and then to Pomona, California, before settling in Newport Beach in the 1950s.

She passed peacefully on her own terms without medical aid after trying to recover from

a stroke. A wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother, she is survived by many, especially her beloved husband of 65 years, John Lynn Hart. Evelyn was also a wise and spiritual woman and a devoted member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (People of the Place of the Fire).

Evelyn lived her life to its fullest, and her positive energy ensured a good time for herself and all those around her. From working at Newport Beach (NPB) Police Department, to joining her husband's family business at Hart's Sporting Goods, to serving on the city's parks and recreation department, to city council member, to mayor of Newport Beach, she never lost her drive and energy to serve her city. She had a personal and professional commitment to keep the city of Newport Beach prosperous while respectively keeping intact its beautiful environment. One of her proudest accomplishments is forever preserving the view from development of the Back Bay at the intersection of Coast Highway and Jamboree.

Her love and care for homeless animals is surpassed only by her support for Newport's elderly. "Newport's Sweetheart," the honorable Evelyn Hart, was a hard-working member of Oasis Senior Services, Youth Employment Services, NPB Animal Shelter, Stop Polluting Our Newport, AIRFARE, The Blind Institute of Ca., Water Board of Ca. and the Coastline College Board. Evelyn was also proudly named The Citizen of the Year and dignitary of sister cities Osaka, Japan, and Antibes, France.

Evelyn's personal contributions to society are endless, and those memories are left to the people who know her best. Evelyn was loyal, encouraging and always had her friends' backs. Her infectious smile was beautiful. She loved entertaining, boating and gardening. Evelyn was a master bridge player, a Native American beader and a slayer of books. She was a leader who never stopped challenging to better herself and her community. Evelyn Hart was truly a grand lady.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Newport Beach Animal Shelter at 20302 Riverside Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660.

John Carl Whittall
Lareau Family



John Carl Whittall, age 81, born March 5, 1942, peacefully passed on May 7, 2023, in Tulare, California, with beloved ones near.

His beautiful survivors are his wife, Maureen Whittall (of 37 years); daughter, Rhonda Burmeister; granddaughter, Samantha Burmeister; and great-granddaughter, Ivy Robinson; as well as his three non-biological children, Darren

Bryce, Kristin Payne and Tyler Bryce; four grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and his brother, David Whittall.

John was a hardworking man, serving in the U.S. Air Force and later vice-president to the local bank. He was a dedicated horseman who was president of the Woodlake Lions Club and loved the rodeo and his animals.

You are dearly missed, and moments shared with you are forever loved and cherished. Try to stay out of trouble! Until we meet again.

.....
Johnni Sue LeClair Ray
LeClair Family



We are sad to announce the sudden passing of Johnni Sue (Susan) LeClair Ray.

Susan was reunited with her late husband and the love of her life, James Ray, on Feb. 1, 2023, following an unexpected illness.

She graduated from Douglas High School where she was a member of the high school band.

Susan was proud of her Potawatomi, Choctaw, Cherokee and Creek heritage. She enjoyed taking

everyone to the powwows and other educational events.

Susan is survived by two sons, Raymond Raydale Ray and Jason L. Ray (wife Julia); three granddaughters, Cat, Gabby, and Kadie; her devoted mother, Nancy, and stepfather, Walter Moss; three loving sisters, Anna, Angela and Gina; niece, Kayla (Kha'mauriah, Ry'anne); nephew, Davien; and a host of loving extended family, including her beloved companion, Sweet Pea the chihuahua.

Her memory will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone she interacted with as well as those she reached. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her, friends and family alike.

Joseph "Joe" Alexander Schrepfer
Schropfered Family



Mr. Joseph "Joe" Alexander Schrepfer, born on Feb. 7, 1953, in El Dorado, Kansas, to Mr. Robert Wayne Schrepfer and Mrs. Virginia Louise (Delaney) Schrepfer of Wichita, Kansas, passed into the care of our Lord on Wednesday, May 18, 2023, at the age of 70. Joe spent his formative years in Potwin, Kansas; Saudi Arabia; and Lake Charles, Louisiana. He graduated from St. Louis High School in Lake Charles (first graduating class) and McNeese State University in Lake Charles with degrees

in wildlife and environmental science. He also proudly served in the U.S. Army ROTC and the U.S. Army.

Mr. Schrepfer followed in his father and paternal grandfather's career footsteps by working in the oil and gas industry while marrying the woman who he knew would be with him in heaven, Betty Frances (Patton) Schrepfer. He embraced fatherhood with his one daughter, Erin Alexandra Schrepfer, whom he adored.

Joe Schrepfer was not without exceptional engineering talents and taught himself plumbing, electrical, welding, carpentry, car mechanics, marine craft maintenance, scooters and meteorology. Joe was musically inclined without formal musical training, composing several of his own pieces on the piano. He furthered his education in the sciences by learning physics, astronomy, chemistry and quantum mechanics as well as history, particularly United States and world history.

He possessed an innate gift for studying and visualizing road maps, able to plan and navigate trips with family and friends, always keeping the best restaurants and attractions in mind. Throughout his life, Joe remained a wildlife conservationist, watercraft enjoyer, bird enthusiast, gardener, music-lover, tool collector, traveler and western/black-and-white movie lover. He was a proud voting member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation; a member of the Model T Ford Club of America, to which he contributed an extensive amount of knowledge to his forum; and a founding member of the Louisiana Lizzies (2021).

While Joseph Schrepfer excelled at many things in life, he is perhaps best remembered for his quiet nature and his observational personality as well as being a caring son and brother, loving husband, devoted father, helpful and insightful friend, and philanthropist.

Mr. Schrepfer was preceded in death by his grandparents; father, Robert Wayne Schrepfer of New Orleans,

Louisiana; mother, Virginia Delaney Schrepfer of New Orleans; and brother, Robert Christopher "Chris" Schrepfer of Houston, Texas. Joe is survived by his wife, Betty Frances (Patton) Schrepfer of Moss Bluff, Louisiana; his daughter, Erin Alexandra Schrepfer of Moss Bluff and New Orleans; and his mentee-turned-son, David Dwayne Barber (Amy Gerrard) of Moss Bluff. He is also survived by two sisters, two great-nephews and a great-niece, as well as numerous first and second cousins.

Marvin Hugh Goyer
Tescier Family



From the moment Marvin Hugh Goyer was born on the dirt floor of a farmhouse in Choctaw, Oklahoma, his adventure began. Like many of this generation, Marvin's story is built upon a lifetime of hard work, sacrifice and love. Stories of his mama's bright and cheerful zinnias and a garden that fed him and his family were one of many memories the family enjoyed recounting over the years.

At age 17, Marvin joined the U.S. Navy with blessing from his mother. As his adventure continued, Marvin trained pilots to use the ejection seat, often demonstrating at state fairs and providing a lifetime of bragging rights to the fact he had experienced 9Gs. Following his service, the GI Bill granted the opportunity to study at Oklahoma State University. There, he honed his interest in geology, leading to a career as a geophysicist. He also met the love of his life and wife of 65 years, Mary Yvonne Goyer.

Marvin's career took him all over the world, from Brazil to Pakistan to New Zealand and back again. Time at the dinner table was filled with countless "this one time in..." stories. When not surveying distant lands or mapping the sea floor of the Gulf of Mexico, Marvin and family loved to birdwatch. While his favorite remained the scissortail flycatcher, the elusive dipper kept his binoculars at the ready.

Marvin and Yvonne had two children, Nannette and John Goyer, who traveled the country and world with their parents. Settling in the Houston, Texas, area was serendipitous as an avid Houston Astros fan. His dedication and enthusiasm for the team spans generations. Marvin is survived by his wife, Yvonne; daughter, Nannette; granddaughter, Gwen Dildine, and her husband, Steve Dildine; and great-grandchildren, Allen and Joanna.

His loved ones share their goodbye with this message: We will find you in the birds who visit the garden, the zinnias we

plant in your memory, the pineapple upside-down cake we bake on your birthday, the love of the Astros you instilled in all of us, and forever in our hearts. We are all grateful for the stories you told and the adventures we shared.

Lewis "Tobie" Lee Tyler

Dike Family

Lewis "Tobie" Lee Tyler, age 78, passed away peacefully at home on May 23, 2023, in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

Lewis was born to loving parents in St. George, Kansas, on July 4, 1944. Lewis was proud of his Native American heritage and being a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

In 1967, Lewis became a Brookfield police officer in Wisconsin after serving in the Wisconsin National Guard. He served 15 years in the police department, always giving 110%. Yet, sadly, on July 9, 1982, he was shot in the head in the line of duty, paralyzing the right side of his body and eventually ending his police department career.

However, that didn't stop him, and in 1988, Lewis moved to Manhattan, Kansas, and became an advocate for disability rights and a member of ADAPT (American Disabled for Attended Programs Today). In early 2000, Lewis started an ADAPT chapter in southeastern Wisconsin and was an active board member at Independence First in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Lewis enjoyed nature, hunting, fishing, and watching various birds and wildlife that would come to his feeders around his house. Lewis also enjoyed attending various powwows and the Indian Summer Festival in Milwaukee. Lewis was also an avid Green Bay Packers fan.

Lewis is survived by his son, Timothy; daughters, Katrina and Michelle; his wife, Roxan Perez; nieces and nephews; and grandchildren. Lewis was preceded in death by his parents; his two sisters, Alice and Sharon; and his three brothers, John, Doug and Thomas.

Lewis lived a full life. He was loved by many and will be dearly missed by all. Love you, Dad!

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

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

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