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Tribal member
puts heart and soul
into new venture



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Tribal members collaborate for September Art Walk

Two Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal members collaborated to make a splash at a Sept. 8 Art Walk in Norman, Oklahoma, where hundreds of local residents enjoyed art, live music and activities.

Kristen Arambula Hernandez, a member of the Wilmette family who is also of Mexican descent, hosts cacao ceremonies and other cultural-spiritual gatherings at her downtown loft studio, AKI KIN. For Art Walk, she partnered with Bourbonnais/Bruno descendant Lauren Kelly.

Arambula Hernandez offered cacao products and brief talks on the history of ceremonial cacao, while Kelly brought *Visions*, a pop-up exhibit of transcendental figurative contemporary paintings.

Locals who entered the space first saw Kelly's *She Came From The Sky*, a large portrait of Sky Woman displayed low to the ground and surrounded by decorative fruit and foliage branches with large indoor trees on either side.

The show's aesthetic was inspired by the *ofrenda*, the traditional colorful Mexican table altar for remembrance of ancestors.

"We wanted to use the visual language of devotion," Kelly said. "These paintings are all about resiliency, ancestral knowledge and radical self-acceptance. By bringing the artwork lower to the ground and decorating the tables with fruit, greenery and *kokum* scarves, we aimed to elevate this body of work to a status of sublime mystery."

Kokum is the Cree word for grandmother and the scarves have been popular among Indigenous female elders for decades. Today, the scarves are worn by a younger generation as a fashion statement. When asked what brought them together, both



Artist Lauren Kelly poses with her *Visions* collection at the Norman Art Walk. (Photo provided)



Kristen Arambula Hernandez stands with cacao glyph and ceremonial cacao tools at the Norman Art Walk. (Photo provided)

women stressed the importance of showing up as Potawatomi women in unconventional places.

"We felt it was a great opportunity to collaborate," Arambula Hernandez said of the event. "Not only did we share a creative vision for this Art Walk, but we shared a vision for sowing more visibility for our people in the contemporary arts and culture sphere."

"As *bodéwadmi kwek* (Potawatomi women), it is so critically important that we uplift each other and show up in spaces where we aren't necessarily expected. We always shine brighter together," Kelly said.

Arambula Hernandez said she has collaborated with several Indigenous women since opening AKI KIN in 2022, and she hopes to continue to feature different artists each month. Those interested in collaborating with her can email kristen.arambula@yahoo.com.

Arambula Hernandez's loft studio draws its name from *aki*, meaning land or earth in Potawatomi, and *kin*, referring to relations or family. At AKI KIN, she offers private and traveling ceremonies, as well as women's retreats. She also carries cacao and cacao butter. See more at akikin.org.

Kelly also recently showed another collection, *Beyond the Veil*, at Scratch Kitchen & Cocktails in downtown Norman. She is a 2023 Oklahoma NextGen Under 30 honoree for the arts and a finalist for Paseo FEAST 2023. For more information about Kelly and her work, visit laurenkelly.art. 🔥



CPNHS helps Tribal members navigate diabetes

Kelly McKeever was 13 when he was diagnosed with diabetes. Learning he had a health condition that affected his body's ability to turn food into energy didn't bother McKeever as much as being told his parents were sending him to a summer camp for kids with the disease.

"I was thoroughly against it and wanted nothing to do with it," he recalled. "I didn't so much mind that I had been diagnosed with diabetes, but I didn't necessarily want it to be on display."

"After attending the camp, I didn't really care anymore. I was happy to share that I had diabetes with others because I had an experience with others who had diabetes and that made me feel differently about it."

The camp would help shape the teenager's future. Today, McKeever is a registered nurse who specializes in diabetes care and education for Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services and helps staff the Eye Care & Diabetes Clinic.

"As I got older and started thinking about a career, I knew I wanted to help people," he said. "I wasn't exactly sure what I wanted to do, but multiple things kept pushing me towards nursing and becoming a diabetes educator. I felt this would be a great way that I could help many people, people that I cared about, people that I had a deeper understanding of. The longer I existed

in medicine I also saw how people with diabetes were viewed by the public and even by medical professionals."

The clinic, housed behind the CPN West Clinic in Shawnee at 781 Grand Casino Blvd., provides focused diabetes care and support for as many as 1,600 patients, according to Diabetes Program Coordinator Katie Brown.

"Our goal is to be here and prevent all the long-term complications associated with diabetes," Brown said. "Just because you have diabetes doesn't mean these complications have to be part of your story."

What diabetes is

Diabetes is a group of diseases that results in too much sugar in the blood (high blood glucose). The most common types are Type 2 diabetes, a chronic condition that affects the way the body processes blood sugar, and Type 1 diabetes, a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin.

Prediabetes is a condition in which blood sugar is high, but not high enough to be classified as Type 2 diabetes, which is typically diagnosed later in life and can be managed with diet and exercise, according to Brown.

Type 1 diabetes — where the body attacks itself and kills cells that produce insulin — is considered an autoimmune

disease that is typically diagnosed in children. Individuals with Type 1 diabetes must take insulin any time they eat or drink something that contains carbohydrates – this could be six to ten times a day for many.

Common complications include heart disease, kidney disease, and nerve damage leading to problems with feet, oral health, vision, hearing and mental health.

While diabetes is not necessarily genetic, there is a link to race and ethnicity. It is more common among Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

Brown noted that diabetes is not a “one size fits all diagnosis.”

“What treatment works for one person may not work for another,” she said. “Diabetes management in 2023 is not the same as in 2000. Things are getting better as far as treatment and management options.”

One of the biggest areas of improvement over time has been technology, particularly the emergence of the continuous glucose monitor, a device worn on the back or arm that allows patients to know their sugar level without having to continuously poke their finger.

How the clinic helps treat diabetes

CPN’s diabetes program — funded by a federal grant dedicated to Native American health — is looking to expand its partnership with CPN Behavioral Health Services to provide an extra layer of support for patients with diabetes.

Currently, the facility offers both one-on-one and group sessions along with classes to learn how to manage diabetes.

“Patients may feel (more comfortable) in one or the other,” Brown said. “We want to meet them where they are. There is support from people who are going through it. Our goal is to always be an advocate for our patients. We always want to support them and be their voice.”

The diabetes clinic staff includes Dustin Miller, a registered nurse who specializes in foot care, and Administrative Assistant Alexis Edwards. A dietitian is being added to the team as well, Brown said.

“Diabetes is manageable, but some days it can seem like it takes a village,” she said. “It may take family support or making changes to your routines and habits or following up with a specialist or staying in close contact with your care teams.”

The clinic is focused on assessing patient needs and learning styles and “aligning with their goals and not our goals to improve outcomes,” Brown said.

“I’ve found with so many patients, if I can explain the why of what we’re doing I can get more of their buy in,” she said. “Because diabetes is so

common in the health care system, we assume patients know what we know about diabetes.”

McKeever is working to change the public’s perception about diabetes and how patients view themselves.

“I wanted to change that landscape,” he said. “I wanted to change patients’ images of themselves, and their conditions and I wanted them to have a positive relationship with diabetes. I was lucky enough to have a group of medical professionals that showed me that I wasn’t the problem at a young age, but many adults with diabetes are diagnosed thinking they are the problem. I didn’t want that for them, so I found a way to help change that view.”

“Being able to change the relationship that someone has with diabetes changes the course of their life for the better. Knowing that brings me great joy.”

Miller, meanwhile, is one of about 1,200 people nationwide to have earned certification as a Certified Foot Care Nurse.

“Foot care is important because if one doesn’t keep an eye on their feet, especially if they have neuropathy, they could develop complications like ulcers that could potentially lead to amputations,” he said. “It is important to have oneself or a trusted family member check the feet daily for any changes to catch issues early so they can be addressed before becoming a problem.”

Miller is a former aircraft mechanic and volunteer firefighter who pursued nursing after discovering how much “I liked running medical calls.”

“I believe I was called to nursing,” he said.

A 2021 graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Miller went to work as a trauma nurse at OU Medical Center but realized “I was not built for that kind of nursing.” He switched to home health care, which better suited his personality.

“I absolutely loved taking care of my patients in the comfort of their own home,” he said.

CPN hired Miller in January as a foot care nurse and he focused his attention on learning the “ins and outs” of foot care.

“I studied nursing journals covering foot care and spent many hours training with our podiatrist on how to properly treat a patient’s feet,” he said.

Miller, who earned his certification in June, is no stranger to diabetes. His mother has Type 1 diabetes while an uncle and two aunts were diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in the past two years.

“I have been around diabetes for a long time,” he said.

For more information about the program, visit cpn.news/diabetes. 🔥



Bristow joins other honorees onstage as fellows of the American College of Medical Practice Executives are honored. (photo provided)



Bristow achieves fellowship in the American College of Medical Practice Executives

The clinic operations administrator for Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services has earned a significant achievement in her field, one that will help CPNHS continue to meet the growing demand for quality and innovative Health care.

Lauren Bristow was named a fellow in the American College of Medical Practice Executives. Fellows are recognized for their mastery and expertise in medical practice management.

Bristow said it is unique for a tribal clinic administrator to receive this designation, and she is honored to be among the few who have.

“Seeking advanced certification strengthens my skillset and equips me with the knowledge base necessary to successfully expand our clinical operations, ensure that we have a seat at the table and access to health innovation, while maintaining high standards of care,” she said. “It’s important for me because I am Potawatomi. I am seen here; my family is seen here. By seeking continuing education and training, I am actively improving the quality of and access to care within our facilities.”

The entire process to earn the ACMPE designation took two years to complete, all while Bristow was still performing her full-time duties at CPNHS.

Bristow, a Toupin family descendant, first earned the Certified Medical Practice Executive designation by passing rigorous examinations that assess knowledge of the broad scope of medical practice management. The examinations are drawn from the *Body of Knowledge*

for *Medical Practice Management*, which covers business operations, financial management, human resources management, information management, organizational governance, transformative healthcare delivery, quality management and risk management.

Bristow also completed a minimum of 50 continuing education credit hours to achieve CMPE status. To earn Fellowship, Bristow demonstrated leadership, innovation, and professional engagement in the healthcare industry supporting the advancement of the medical group management profession.

“It took me a year to prepare and test for the initial (CMPE) designation. Two comprehensive exams are required, which cover all aspects of clinical management: operational management, financial management, quality management, transformative health care, risk and compliance.”

Bristow passed the CMPE exams and then prepared for the ACMPE process. She developed a comprehensive business plan for clinic operations. Bristow chose to write her 36-page business plan on Tribal eyecare.

“It must cover how you will implement and successfully sustain a clinical practice, including highlights of population and financial management. I opted to focus on improving eye care, as this has been a significant project here within CPNHS,” Bristow said. “Once you submit your business plan, it goes to a committee of peers who are currently executives in the health care industry and fellows themselves. It is very similar to defending

a doctoral thesis. Your submission goes through a committee review, and then Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) board review, where they may either approve or deny for fellowship designation."

When Bristow learned she had been approved, she felt both humbled and validated.

"When you go up against peers in the health care industry, many of whom are seasoned professionals leading regional health systems, it can certainly be intimidating. To me, it was validating and incredibly humbling to receive acknowledgement and confirmation that I do have the skills to lead and further develop our health care system," she said.

CPNHS patients are always at the forefront of Bristow's mind when she is making decisions. Her new designation as an ACMPE fellow will help further raise the bar with patient care standards and assist the health system in achieving operational excellence.

As a CPN tribal member, Bristow said she's proud to deliver a superior level of health care to her community, especially as the CPNHS system is poised for future growth.

"I want very much to serve our people and do anything I can personally to help us grow, expand our access and improve our processes," she said. "Every Tuesday, I have the honor of speaking to our new hires, both for the Nation and then internally for CPNHS. Every week I highlight the pride we take as a health care system in the quality of care that we provide. We have a phenomenal and competent team, and our patients choose to come here. That's important and something we cannot take for granted."

Today, MGMA membership is comprised of more than 6,600 individuals who have attained CMPE or ACMPE Fellow status or who seek certification.

About MGMA

Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) is the premier association for professionals who lead medical practice. Since 1926, through data, people, insights, and advocacy, MGMA empowers medical group practices to innovate and create meaningful change in healthcare. With a membership of more than 40,000 medical practice administrators, executives, and leaders, MGMA represents more than 12,500 organizations of all sizes, types, structures and specialties that deliver almost half of the healthcare in the United States. 🔥

Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

I'm dedicating this report to announcing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization's Annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, in the North Reunion Hall on the CPN Powwow Grounds at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there). All CPN veterans and their families are invited. You don't have to be a member of the organization. Please join us for fun and food. *Migwetch* (Thank you)!

Daryl Talbot, Commander
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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

2024 Honored Families announced

Every year at the CPN Family Reunion Festival, the Nation honors a group of families that moved to Oklahoma and eventually formed the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The 2024 Honored Families are Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Levier, Lewis, Nadeau, Negahnquet, Pambogo and Smith.



*Eliza M. Darling Smith Eldridge
Meloch Bressman and daughter
Alice Smith Tescier*

Darling

Elizabeth Ouillette married Lucius (Louis) Ripley Darling on July 15, 1836. Elizabeth was one of eight children born to Antoine Ouillette, known as one of the first residents of Chicago, and Archange Chevalier Ouillette. Archange's mother, *Chopa*, was the daughter of Potawatomi warrior and headman *Naunongee* from the Calumet River Potawatomi.

The family removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1837 and Lucius joined *Waubansee's*

Potawatomi band, serving as a trader. Their son William was baptized there on June 9, 1838. They had 13 children total: William, Francis L., Eliza, Lucius, Louis Oliver, Charles Nathan, and the remaining children died while infants.

The Treaty of 1846 required all the Potawatomi removed west to relocate on one reservation in Kansas, and the Darling family made their way there in 1847. Due to pressure from incoming settlers and business, the Potawatomi signed a treaty in 1861 that offered an opportunity to become U.S. citizens and receive land allotments. Although Elizabeth passed away before the process was finalized, Lucius and their children chose to receive individual plots of land and became members of the Citizen Potawatomi.

Hardin

Theresa Laframboise Hardin Watkins Beaubien — Chee Chee — and her family removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, before making the journey to the Potawatomi reservation in Kansas. Theresa was the daughter of Chief Joseph Laframboise and Therese Peltier. Joseph held a standing as one of the Chicago Chiefs, along with Chief *Waubansee*, Chief Thomas "Billy" Caldwell or *Sauganash*, and others. These leaders became involved in treaty negotiations across the Great Lakes region.



Front, John Bierman, middle, Ella Bostic Bierman, and right, Mary Hardin in 1914.

She married Allen Hardin, and they had three children: Mary, Theresa and Peter.

The Hardin family remained in Iowa until after the Potawatomi signed the Treaty of 1846. This agreement established a reservation near Silver Lake, Kansas, for all the Potawatomi west of the Mississippi. Theresa's descendants would go on to serve as Tribal leaders, both volunteer and elected, through military service and more.

Higbee

The Higbee's Potawatomi roots began in the 1800s with the marriage of Julia Justine Bertrand and Alva Higbee. Julia's parents, Madeline and Joseph Bertrand, were successful fur traders and business owners near Lake Michigan. Madeline was the daughter of Daniel Bourassa I and an unknown Potawatomi woman. Her mother was most likely a member of Potawatomi communities in the St. Joseph River Valley, whose villages were led by Chief *Topinabee*. Julia, born May 25, 1823, also grew up along the St. Joseph River in Michigan near the township named for her father.

A private school at the Carey Mission was run by the Bertrand community postmaster named



Lucy Higbee

Daniel C. Higbee. There, Julia met Daniel's brother Alva, who later became her husband. They married in Bertrand on Oct. 4, 1848, before moving to the Potawatomi reservation in present-day Kansas in 1850.

The Treaty of 1861 separated the Potawatomi into two distinct groups and provided an opportunity to receive a land allotment and potentially become U.S. citizens. Those accepting the allotments became the Citizen Potawatomi. The Higbees and their nine children decided to receive allotments and become members of the Citizen Potawatomi.



Elizabeth Cadue Battese, her son Walter, and her husband, John Laurence Battese.

Lavier

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

Elizabeth Cadue, her father Peter Cadue, and his wife, Marguarita Kishnonckouy, were among the Potawatomi who established themselves in Kansas.

Elizabeth was

born in 1834 in Kansas. She married John (Laurence) Battese. Their children were Susan, Frank (*P-nos-wah*), Alice (*Ze-ze-quah*), Mary (*Wa-me-go*), Martha, Michel Lawrence, Walter, Julia and *Ktequa* Lucy.

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

Over the next 20 years, families and individuals gradually made the move from Kansas to Indian Territory. Elizabeth Cadue Battese's descendants, including Martha Battese Lavier Jackson, were among the Potawatomi

who successfully made the treacherous journey and would later establish themselves in Indian Territory.



Omer Dee and Pauline McCoy Lewis

Lewis

Wesley Lewis was born April 22, 1838, near Asthabula, Ohio, to Sylvester and Anna (Smith) Lewis. As an adult, he traveled with his older brother to Lawrence, Kansas, and later to the Henry Ward Beecher colony in Waubanse County, Kansas.

Wesley married Louise Bourassa in 1859.

On Jan. 21, 1866, Wesley married Matilda Bergeron, who was of Potawatomi and French heritage, in Louisville, Kansas. Matilda Bergeron Lewis was the daughter of Francis X. Bergeron and *Watch-e-kee* Zozetta (Josetta) Bergeron. She was born on Sept. 26, 1846, in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Wesley and Matilda had a total of 11 children together. In 1891, he sold his Kansas farm and moved to an allotment in Oklahoma Territory, near present-day Wanette. In 1891, Wesley and his neighbors raised money to build the first schoolhouse, a 16-by-16 structure. The area's first post office was located in the corner of the Lewis living room until a permanent one was established. He was also instrumental in establishing the community's first cemetery by organizing with his neighbors to collect funds for the project.

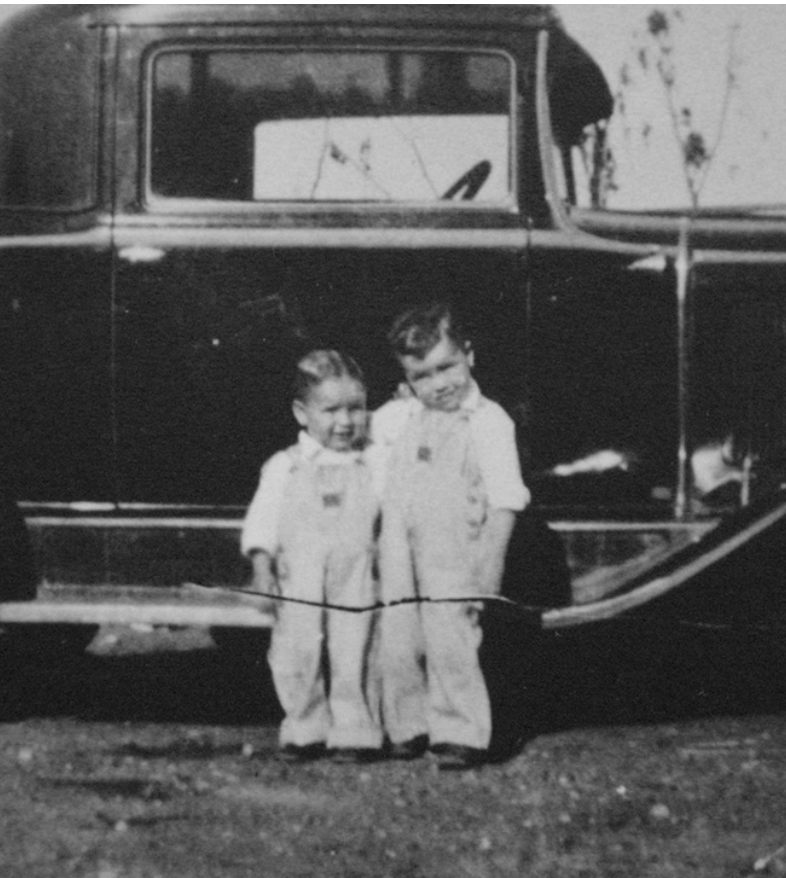
Nadeau

The story of the Nadeau family begins in France when Mascia dit Lavigne Nadeau and his wife, Jeanne Despains, had a son in 1637, named Joseph Ossany dit Lavigne Nadeau. Over the next four generations, the family lived in and around Berthier, Canada.

The family's Potawatomi heritage was established when Peter and Mary Nadeau's son, Peter Alexander, married a Potawatomi woman named

Continued on next page

Honored families continued...



Jessie Joe and Vincent Henry Nadeau

Madeline Vieux on April 22, 1860. Madeline was the daughter of Louis and Charlotte Vieux.

Peter's brother, Eli Gilbert, also married a Potawatomi woman. She was Magdalene Bourbonnais. The couple married on Jan. 1, 1835.

When Kansas became a state in 1861, the U.S. government began its final push to remove the Potawatomi from Kansas to Indian Territory. The Treaty of 1867 certified the purchase of allotments and surplus lands in exchange for approximately \$150,000. The Potawatomi used the funds to acquire a reservation in Indian Territory.

Over the next 20 years, families and individuals gradually made the move from Kansas to central Oklahoma. The journey itself was dangerous, and families who arrived found nothing but empty prairies. Members of the Nadeau family who arrived in Oklahoma had to work hard to make a life for themselves, often clearing large acreages by hand and establishing infrastructure, homes and farms.

Negahnquet

Ne-gahn-quet was married to *Tchoksak*. Their son was Stephen *Ne-bah-qua* Negahnquet. Stephen married Angeline *Ke-ten-no Wa-was-suq*. Their children were Rosalie, Albert,

Joseph, John, Mary Fannie (Stephanie), Mary Celeste, Katherine (Mary), Stephen W., Rosalie Wawyo-tch and Thomas.

Joseph married Minnie Rebecca Couch. Their children were Joseph A., Anthony, Mary, James, Thelma, Maxine and Marie.

Born on the Kansas River Reservation, Stephen Negahnquet quickly rose to become a community fixture in Kansas. After the Treaty of 1867, he removed with his family to Indian Territory and was allotted several sections of land. He is listed on the 1872 Citizen Potawatomi allotment census.



Stephen Negahnquet

On the new Oklahoma reservation, Stephen was elected to the Citizen Potawatomi Business Committee. He was among the first Tribal members to approve the founding of Sacred Heart Mission and provided resources to build the site. His children attended the mission school. Stephen's son, Albert, was later ordained as a Roman Catholic priest.

Pambogo

Louis Pambogo, born in 1823, married *Ojequa*, who was born in 1833. They had a son, John Baptiste, and a daughter, Josette.

As many people fled west to escape the U.S. Civil War, the Potawatomi entered into the Treaty of 1861 to allot their Kansas lands and become U.S. citizens. Prior to this, the Potawatomi had held land in common. The U.S. government pressured the Potawatomi to accept allotments so their land could be sold to settlers and railroad companies. Dozens of Potawatomi families would make the dangerous journey to Indian Territory to claim their individual allotments.

John Baptiste Pambogo married *Po-to-go-qua*. They had two children, but sadly, both children died young. John Baptiste then married Caroline Peltier. Sadly, their twins, a boy and a girl, died. They later had George, Alexander B., Josephine Alice, John B., Jr., *Ahs-latt*, Johnnie and Alice.



Young members of the Pambogo family, believed to be, from left, George, Alexander Benjamin and John B., Jr.

Louis and Ojequa's daughter, Josette, married John (Wak-shuk) Megah (Me-ga) at the Sacred Heart Mission. Josette and John Megah had a son named Joseph. The couple had five other children, but they died at a young age.

John Baptiste died on April 17, 1935, at age 75. At the time of his death, his son John was living in Oklahoma City, his son George had died young, about 20 years prior to his father's death, his son Alex was living in Arkansas City, Kansas and his daughter was living out west with her husband.

Smith

Frederic H. Countryman (Contraman) was born about 1795 and appeared on an 1823 Michilimackinac County, Michigan, voter list. He married a Potawatomi woman named *En-do-ga* and was fluent in Potawatomi. It is possible that a woman named *Doga* who

appears in a George Winter watercolor sketch is actually *En-do-ga*. She was the niece of a respected Indiana Potawatomi leader named *Naswawke*. Frederic and *En-do-ga* had three daughters — Betsey, Nancy and Sarah.

In 1831, the Countryman family joined a large group of Potawatomi who were moving west to Paw Paw Grove. In 1834, the Potawatomi and the Countryman family were forced west again to Calhoun County, Kansas. Frederic appears in the Kansas Territory Census of 1855 and 1857. Their home was on the Potawatomi reservation south of the military road leading from Ft. Leavenworth to Ft. Riley, near Solider Creek, Kansas.

Following the 1833 treaty, the U.S. government paid Nancy, Sarah and Betsey cash grants in lieu of allotments, each for \$600.

Several of Nancy's descendants were listed on the 1887 Oklahoma allotment roll, including: Josephine Smith Bourassa, Frank Smith, Rachel Johnson Catick, Louisa Smith Storm Hartman, Zoe Smith Denton and Elizabeth Hartman Lynn.

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



Louisa Smith Storm Hartman (third from left) and her family. The photo was taken in about 1898 or 1899.

Accomplished Potawatomi centenarian offers advice

During a recent Citizen Potawatomi Nation gathering in Olathe, Kansas, one special CPN elder stood out. Dr. Rosemary Schrepfer, 101, is among the oldest living CPN elders.

"Doc," as she is lovingly known in her family, blazed a trail for women hoping to enter medicine. When she graduated from the University of Kansas's medical school, she became the first woman to complete the obstetrician-gynecologist program.

Rosemary Schrepfer was born on Feb. 19, 1922, in Wichita, Kansas, the eldest of five children born to August and Cecelia "Susie" Schrepfer.

Rosemary lived in Wichita for two years until the family moved to Whitewater, Kansas, where they lived for several years until they moved to Potwin, Kansas. She attended schools in Potwin and Eldorado, Kansas, before graduating from high school in Eldorado.

Schrepfer recalled that at the age of 12, she drove the family's Model T to Eldorado, Kansas, sitting high on pillows so she could see the road while her three siblings rode with her.

She has fond memories of her family, especially her father, August "Bob" Schrepfer. Bob Schrepfer also overcame numerous obstacles during his youth and as he worked to become established in his profession.

"It's through my father that we trace being Potawatomi. While recognized, it was not a big part of our upbringing. Dad was orphaned as a child and he and his eight siblings were raised by two aunts," Dr. Schrepfer said.

"He worked and received an engineering degree, and it was this specialized degree which allowed him to get a good job. He worked for Vickers Petroleum and literally built and then managed an oil refinery in Potwin, Kansas," she added. "I think it was the pursuit of his degree that likely pushed him to play down his Native heritage as certainly there was a lot of stigma associated with this at the time."

"We were lucky to have a father like we did, a man who paid careful attention to each of their children, all of whom went on to get a college education," Schrepfer said.

In 1943, Rosemary began studying at the University of Kansas. She completed her undergraduate studies before entering KU's medical school. Following seven years of studies, she began a one-year internship and then entered the ob-gyn program. Rosemary's four-year residency took place at the KU hospital in Kansas City. Her third year of residency was at Duke University.

Other women had previously attempted to complete the rigorous ob-gyn program but were unsuccessful. Entering a male-dominated medical program, Dr. Schrepfer encountered numerous challenges.



Dr. Rosemary Schrepfer (Photo provided)

In her words, the department chief was "old school" and was not supportive of women entering the field. No accommodations were made at the hospital for women. While male residents and doctors had beds to rest on, Dr. Schrepfer slept on carts or wherever space could be found.

This only helped strengthen her resolve to prove the naysayers wrong. Rosemary completed the residency and joined the KU staff to become the first female ob-gyn in the state of Kansas.

Her primary role was as a teacher and she served patients as well, both in the hospital and in private practice.

"It was a killer, and I never got any rest," Dr. Schrepfer described her time at KU med.

She remained there until 1983 when she decided to try something new. Dr. Schrepfer moved to Saudi Arabia and worked in a government hospital in the city of Tabuk in the northwest corner of the country near the Jordanian border.

Many of her patients were women who came in from the desert to deliver their babies. Dr. Schrepfer was originally supposed to teach, but many of the young, male doctors did not want a woman to tell them what to do. She instead focused on medical work throughout her stay.

Returning to Kansas City, Rosemary worked at the University of Missouri Kansas City hospital. There, she worked full-time for five years as a teacher and practicing physician. She then began running the outpatient maternity clinic part-time.

Dr. Schrepfer found tremendous enjoyment in this position as the department chief was very supportive and allowed staff to do what they felt was most needed and beneficial. When she retired

in the mid-90s, she felt blessed to have worked in such a pleasant and supportive environment.

One of her most challenging deliveries was a woman who was in labor for three days. Labor began but the patient failed to dilate. Dr. Schrepfer was at her patient's side the entire time, putting off the beginning of her vacation to see the delivery through to the end. Afterward, Rosemary called her friend June to pick her up, got in the back of the car and promptly fell asleep.

Dr. Schrepfer still remembers the only patient she lost. The patient came into the hospital with an infection. Dr. Schrepfer had to break the patient's water to begin labor. The baby came, but two other patients unexpectedly came in and it was all-hands-on-deck. The patient suffering from the infection lasted for two to three days before finally succumbing to the infection.

When Dr. Schrepfer looks back on her career, she has no idea exactly how many babies she delivered but as she put it, "It was enough."

Today, Rosemary describes her career as being a baby catcher, which is known in the ob-gyn field as a person who assists a woman in childbirth. Working as a baby catcher meant always being on call, and Dr. Schrepfer compares it to working in the emergency room as catastrophes were always waiting to strike. Unlike her male colleagues, she remained with her patients from the first call through the delivery, often sleeping on a cart in her patient's room hoping labor would progress rapidly.

She received many offers to join private practice but felt the flexibility of working at the hospital would be more suitable for her lifestyle and allow for a better work-life balance.

Dr. Schrepfer offered her advice for good health and a long life.

"Wine — I am a firm adherent to a small glass of wine in the evening and I am sticking to it," she said.

Dr. Schrepfer also recommends, "All things in moderation. Whatever you do have a positive approach. It doesn't help to live in the past."

For those who may encounter obstacles while pursuing a goal, she encourages them to be resilient.

"Once my residency was complete and I was a full-fledged doctor, my time was divided between teaching at the University of Kansas Medical School and actually delivering babies," Dr. Schrepfer said. "After the trials I went through in med school as a resident where the head of my department did all he could to deter me this attitude towards women really motivated me to gut it out and complete the program."

As a result of that, Dr. Schrepfer was determined to make a positive, lasting impact on her students while she was teaching medicine.



A young Rosemary, age 8, second from left, and her siblings, front left, Judy, back right, Bob and front right, Nancy, together in 1930. (photo provided)

"In my role as a teacher of new residents, I preferred avoiding telling a resident what to do or not as it related to the future. My approach was to wait and see what they did in the execution of their duties. I was always very careful about correcting or changing the way they did their work," Schrepfer said. "I always encouraged them when they did something on their own. My approach was to guide them, not punish them. I did my best to teach them well to avoid mistakes, but when mistakes were made this was the opening that allowed for guidance and more teaching."

Not surprising for someone blessed with longevity, Dr. Schrepfer can recall many fulfilling and rewarding moments.

"While I did lots of travel and even worked overseas for a period of my life, clearly it was my work that provided me with the utmost satisfaction," Schrepfer said. "I loved working with students, always having challenges before me. I never wanted to be the boss. It was nice to have teaching, research and practice as part of my experience. I liked keeping students happy and engaged."

Schrepfer also found satisfaction in the different experiences life often provides.

"Always having something interesting to do made it all fun and worthwhile. Meeting all kinds of different people enhanced the experience and provided fulfillment," Dr. Schrepfer recalled. "People came to me seeking help, and it was not always easy to find a solution to their problem. It was an interesting life." 🔥

Tribal member hopes to revive Native sign language

When Meriwether Lewis encountered the Shoshone tribe in 1805 during the Lewis and Clark Expedition, he later wrote of the encounter, "The means I had of communicating with these people was by way of Drewyer [Drouillard] who understood perfectly the common language of jesticulations or signs which seems to be universally understood by all the Nations we have yet seen."



Major F.J. McCoy communicates with Arapahoe Chief Goes-In-Lodge through sign. (Library of Congress)

Plains Indian Sign Language (PISL), also known as Plains Sign Talk and Hand Talk, has been used for centuries, and Peltier and Vieux family member Charles Scott hopes to bring it back to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Scott first started researching PISL while taking a class with CPN Director of Language Justin Neely.

"He made a comment that you can't really be Potawatomi unless you speak the language," Scott said.

Scott's own son-in-law is deaf, and though Scott's grandchildren are hearing, they have learned sign language from an early age.

"I thought, 'What if my grandson was deaf? He couldn't be Potawatomi, because he would never speak.' That just resonated with me," he said. "I came across this Plains Indian Sign Language and started researching, and I found out that the Potawatomi, we've always used sign language."

History of PISL

According to Start ASL, an online resource for learning American Sign Language, "Some experts believe that early humans used sign language long before spoken language evolved. Similarly, Native American tribes communicated using Hand Talk centuries before Europeans came to North America."

Not only did it serve as a means of communication for Native Americans who were deaf or hard-of-hearing, but also assisted with conversations across cultures.

Starting with explorers in the 1400s, Europeans who came to the Americas described encountering an Indigenous sign language. Because there was no common language among the many Indigenous tribes, sign could act as a bridge across language barriers.

Several in the missionary and military fields studied and published information about the language, starting with Major Stephen L. Long in 1823, with several others to follow throughout the 19th century.

W.P. Clark with the U.S. Army was one of those asked to make a study of the language. In his book, *The Indian Sign Language*, which was published posthumously in 1885, he described being in command of individuals from about six different tribes around 1876.

"I had, of course, before known of the sign language used by our Indians, but here I was strongly impressed with its value and beauty," he wrote. "I observed that these Indians, having different vocal languages, had no difficulty in communicating with each other, and held constant intercourse by means of gestures."

Clark traveled across the United States and Canada with an interpreter, visiting several tribes, and he recorded the gestures used for various words, making note if there were differences from tribe to tribe.

"Although individuals may obscure the meaning of these gestures through carelessness, awkwardness, or efforts to secure a superabundance of graceful execution, yet one skilled in the sign language will instantly recognize them, provided that they possess the radical or essential part," he wrote.

"While many dialects of Hand Talk exist, the language is essentially universal," the Start ASL website said. "Two-thirds of the tribes in the United States have used it for centuries. This allowed an indigenous population that spoke more than 500 different dialects to communicate with one another."

The website even goes on to say that Hand Talk in the 1800s influenced the development of American Sign Language.

"This influence came about in the 19th century through the signing of Native American children who attended the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut," the website said.

Though it is estimated that 110,000 tribal members used PISL in the 1880s, the Start ASL website says that number had already dwindled to a fraction in the 1960s, and today, there are few active users.



Hugh L. Scott, retired general, speaks at the Indian Sign Language Council of 1930. (Theodor Horydczak Collection, Library of Congress)

“Like the other indigenous languages of North America, Native American Sign Language is endangered,” the website said.

Efforts to save PISL

At one time, efforts to document PISL were considered so important that an act of Congress supplied funding for a council.

“In September of 1930, the largest gathering of intertribal indigenous leaders ever filmed was held with the goal

of documenting and preserving American Indian Sign Language (AISL), sometimes also referred to as Hand Talk,” the National Park Service website said.

At the council, 18 official participants represented 12 different tribes and language groups.

The film, the website said, “illustrates how participants use this nonverbal-communication modality to express a wide range of ideas in a group whose diversity of spoken languages surely inhibited verbal communication.”

Today, efforts continue to revive PISL, and Scott said much of what they have to work with is the information gathered at that council and books written by Clark and by William Tompkins.

“There are a couple of sign language conferences coming up, and there are some sign language conferences that have happened in the recent past,” Scott said of efforts to revive the language. “There are more tribes starting to incorporate sign language.”

Right now, he said, those involved in the conferences are trying to standardize how PISL is taught, but also preserving the original signs.

Continued on page 18

First responders honored at new event

Citizen Potawatomi Nation honored first responders with its inaugural First Responders Appreciation Day.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 22, all first responders were invited to the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort, where tents were set up in the parking lot with food, games and prizes.

Security Training Officer Tommy Bowen said each of the responders who attended went home with about two prizes each — either from drawings or playing games such as football toss and basketball.

Joe Henry with the Shawnee (Oklahoma) Fire Department, was among the responders who came out to enjoy the event, and he thanked the tribe and said it was “awesome.”

In one tent, eight new “Big Red” CPR training manikins were on display, and first responders watched demonstrations and practiced on them. The manikins have LED lighting that displays under the skin, showing how much blood has been moved with each compression.

“With a good compression, the light will go to the head. With a compression not deep enough, the light will only go halfway up or less,” Bowen said. “That way the student will get a good idea how hard/deep to push when doing CPR.”



First responders check out new CPR training manikins that light up to help teach the proper depth for chest compressions.

Those who attended were also given commemorative coins honoring first responders.

“All of us here at the Grand Casino just wanted to let our first responders know how much we appreciate them. They always show up and help when we need them. They’re awesome people,” Bowen said.

The event only saw about 50 to 75 attendees this year, but Bowen hopes for a better turnout at next year’s event as word gets out. 🔥



Marlee Affentranger, center, performs a sideline routine with her team at a home football game on Sept. 29, 2023.

For the love of dance

Young Tribal member establishes new program

Since she was three years old, Tribal member Marlee Affentranger and her parents have known without a doubt that not dancing is simply not an option for the young artist.

"They could tell at my first dance recital that it was what I love to do," she said.

The Holloway family descendant has competed with her dance studio, DreamCatchers Dance Company of Shawnee, Oklahoma, since kindergarten. She particularly enjoys musical theatre and lyrical styles, but, above all, loves to learn new techniques, skills and styles.

Affentranger's passion led her to found the first-ever pom squad at Bethel (Oklahoma) High School.

There was no program for dance at Bethel when the now-senior started attending.

"I've never really had a passion for any sport besides dance," Affentranger said. "My school didn't really offer a social activity for me that I was passionate about before we got started."

What began as a frustration turned quickly into inspiration for action for Affentranger and a friend, who took the idea to start a pom squad themselves from bedroom brainstorm to school board presentation.

"We got tired of saying, 'Why don't we have pom?'" Affentranger said. "(We said) 'We would love it, let's see what we can do.' So, we started doing some research, and then we talked to a few different people throughout the school. ... We worked together to make different presentations and we presented to our principal and then we asked to talk to our superintendent and from there

we asked to present to the board. The month after we presented to our board, they voted to make pom happen.”

Tryouts were held in February 2022 and the team began performing during the 2022 football season, Affentranger’s junior year.

Now in its second season, Bethel pom performs at home and away football games and home basketball games and competes at Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) Game Day Competitions.

Founding the Bethel pom squad was just the starting point for Affentranger, however. She has overcome additional obstacles in her pursuit of her passion.

During the 2022-2023 school year, she underwent two major hip surgeries, leaving her non-weight bearing and unable to perform with the team except for some sideline routines during the later part of the football and basketball seasons.

Now fully recovered, Affentranger leads the team as captain during her senior year and revels in learning and growing with the team.

“I think teamwork has been a big thing, and work ethic, because we do perform at every home game,” Affentranger said. “It takes a lot to get a routine clean enough to put on for halftime.”

She also enjoys developing her skills across dance styles.

“Most of our routines we just perform one time,” Affentranger said. “I love that because we get to learn all these different styles.”

Performances range from hip hop and high kick to jazz and traditional pom.

At a home football game on Sept. 29, 2023, Affentranger could be seen anchoring the team on the 50-yard line through formation and level changes, powerful jetés and sharp pom placement. The marching band accompanied them from the sideline as the team gave their halftime performance under a supermoon.

Back on the sidelines, Affentranger’s leadership was also evident — without ever becoming overpowering — as she coordinated between the marching band staff and her teammates for short, energetic numbers between plays on the field.

The team of seven dancers, whose talent and passion are evident on display, is a testament to Affentranger’s leadership style: bringing others up with her at every opportunity along the way.

“That’s one of the main reasons I started pom,” she said. “Because I knew there were other girls in our school district who didn’t get to enjoy what they love because we just didn’t offer it. And so, it’s been cool



Marlee Affentranger, 17, serves as captain of Bethel High School pom team, which she founded in 2021.

for me and some of the other girls too, who wouldn’t necessarily be involved in a sport or activity (otherwise).”

After high school, Affentranger has her sights set on continuing in the dance world, whether at a performing arts school or within the dance industry.

“We’re still exploring some of the applications ... so it’s going to be a little while before I know for sure, but I just know I want to dance,” she said. 🔥



CPN Tribal member Jessica King runs Sunset Ranch, an equine boarding facility in Norman, Oklahoma.

Tribal member puts heart and soul into new venture

In the heart of Norman, Oklahoma, lies Sunset Ranch, a sprawling equine boarding facility that serves as a testament to dreams coming true, resilience and the invaluable support provided by the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation. This is the remarkable story of CPN tribal member and Peltier/Vieux family descendant Jessica King, the visionary behind Sunset Ranch.

For Jessica, a seasoned manager at Oklahoma Gas & Electric with over a decade of experience, life had always been about balancing work and family. She held a bachelor's degree in management and ethics from Mid-America Christian University and a master's in business administration with an emphasis in energy management from Oklahoma Baptist University. Her dedication to her career and raising her daughter, who was pursuing a master's in counseling psychology at East Central University, left little room for pursuing personal passions.

However, life has a way of shifting perspectives, and for Jessica, that shift was profound and unexpected. It came in the form of a tragic loss — the untimely passing of her mother, an avid horsewoman, at the age of 55. This loss brought into sharp focus the notion of not waiting until retirement to pursue one's dreams. Jessica began to contemplate the possibility of owning horses herself, a lifelong aspiration that she thought could only be realized much later in life. The prospect of moving

to the countryside and starting her own ranch seemed distant, but Jessica's determination was unwavering.

Her search for a more immediate solution led her to Travis Ranch, an impressive 240-acre equine boarding facility conveniently located just five minutes from her home in Norman. It was here that Jessica's journey took an unexpected turn. While exploring the possibility of boarding her horses at Travis Ranch, she discovered that the property was not just available for boarding — it was for sale.

This revelation ignited a spark within Jessica. Her dream of horse ownership suddenly expanded from a modest 10-40 acres in the distant future to a grand vision of acquiring Travis Ranch, a property of unparalleled scale and opportunity. However, this ambitious dream came with a formidable financial barrier. Jessica did not have the capital required for a down payment, and traditional lenders were reluctant to provide the necessary financing.

This is where Jessica's tenacity and the CPCDC's support intertwined. Drawing on her experience and connections, she reached out to the CPCDC, a lifeline that would make her dream attainable. CPCDC's Felecia Freeman became her guiding light through this complex journey.

With CPCDC's help, Jessica embarked on a three-year odyssey to secure her dream property. Their

partnership was more than just financial; it was about innovative problem-solving and unwavering support. The challenges were substantial, but Jessica was determined to see her vision through.

She submitted her first commercial loan application in January 2021, only to face a setback when it was initially declined due to revenue constraints. In the face of adversity, Jessica and Felecia devised a plan — negotiate the purchase price, increase revenue or find the right partner.

Undeterred, Jessica delved deep into the property's financials, identifying opportunities to boost revenue by increasing boarders and improving rent collection. While her commitment was unwavering, it became evident that finding the right partner would be the key to success.

The journey continued with the pursuit of potential partners. The first prospect seemed promising but ultimately withdrew from the opportunity. Jessica's perseverance remained unshaken. The second set of potential partners, experienced and enthusiastic about the venture, ignited new hope. Yet, once again, uncertainty loomed as they deliberated.

Then came a moment of serendipity. During a lunch meeting with Mary Westman, a boarder at Travis

Ranch and a supportive friend, Jessica received an email that would change everything. Her second set of potential partners regretfully withdrew their interest. With mixed emotions, Jessica finished her lunch and, after processing the news, shared it with Mary.

In a surprising turn of events, Mary Westman, not just a friend but an equine attorney with a deep understanding of the property and its challenges, offered a glimmer of hope. She asked Jessica if she had a business plan and whether she would be interested in presenting it to her husband, David.

Jessica's response was filled with a mix of excitement, anticipation and trepidation. What followed was a pivotal meeting where she presented her business plan to Mary and David Westman. The outcome was nothing short of a dream come true. Mary, David and Jessica decided to join forces and pursue the opportunity to acquire historic Travis Ranch.

In October 2022, they submitted a commercial loan application that marked a turning point in Jessica's journey. Freeman and the CPCDC remained steadfast pillars of support throughout, participating in countless meetings and offering guidance to keep the process on track.

Finally, on Jan. 20, 2023, Jessica King, alongside Mary and David Westman, celebrated the opening of their new Sunset Ranch — a momentous achievement that had been three years in the making. Jessica has since brought her daughter on board, making this a family business.

This transformative journey taught Jessica invaluable lessons. It proved that dreams could be grander than imagined and that "no" was not always a dead end but sometimes a redirection toward the right path. Trust in the process and the support of the CPCDC allowed her to create a legacy and fulfill a lifelong dream.

Jessica King's story is a testament to the power of determination, the importance of seeking unconventional solutions and the role of unwavering support from organizations like the CPCDC in making dreams come true.

To those considering a similar path, Jessica's advice is simple, "Do it. Don't be afraid to ask questions or to get something wrong. CPCDC is your partner and will help you through the challenges. CPCDC made my dream possible."

To learn more, visit sunsetranchok.info. Sunset Ranch is a gated facility. Guests may call 405-726-0246 for assistance, and boarders are assigned a gate code for entry and exit.

The CPCDC is a tribally chartered nonprofit corporation that provides capital for projects that create a healthy tribal economy through a commercial loan program tailor packaged to help Native American businesses become more competitive and profitable. Learn more at cpcdc.org or on Facebook at @CPNCDFI. 🔥



Jessica King, right, is pictured with her daughter, Tiatiana Bryant.

WIC clinic receives prestigious award

During World Breastfeeding Week in August 2023, Citizen Potawatomi Nation's South Oklahoma City Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Clinic received a gold award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service for exemplary breastfeeding support and practices.

Cheryl Richardson, nutrition and breastfeeding coordinator, said there are thousands of clinics in the Southwest region, and of those, the organization gives an average of one premier award and 13 gold awards per year.

"The award requires staff to complete a breastfeeding training, have a breastfeeding peer counselor for the clinic that is available after hours for WIC participants, have certain clinic environment requirements that promote breastfeeding, as well as many other checklists that must be met," Richardson said. "This award wants to see a hierarchy of support and referral in place, also."

In addition to Richardson, staff members at the clinics include WIC Specialist Robin Gibson, Nutrition Assistant Viviana Juarez and Contract Peer Counselor Vera Moore.

"The staff there work together beautifully as a team," Richardson said. "They are dedicated employees that all want our WIC moms to succeed at breastfeeding."

She added that Moore, the peer counselor, has been with the clinic since the beginning of the Peer Counseling



Pictured from left are Viviana Juarez, Vera Moore, Robin Gibson and Cheryl Richardson

Program in 2005, and she completed a week-long program to become a certified lactation counselor.

Richardson said it "takes a team, it takes a village" and that all the staff at the South OKC WIC clinic helped achieve the gold award, but that Gibson is "the hub that keeps it going."

"Being a mom, being a parent is hard work! Parents have hopes for their children. WIC can't do everything, but we can help parents help their child in ways that can impact a lifetime," Richardson said.

For more information about WIC, visit cpn.news/WIC. 🔥

Native sign language continued...

"There's always a tendency to make up a sign. We want to try to keep it pure with these books we have, the historical books," Scott said.

Sign language as a bridge

Not only does Scott hope to bring back sign language as a way of preserving Potawatomi culture, but he also thinks it can be used as an aid to learning the Potawatomi language.

"When I met some of these other tribes from out west, they're starting to incorporate sign language, and they're revitalizing their language faster," Scott said.

"At any given time, about 8 percent of the population is either deaf or hard-of-hearing," Scott said. "That's a lot of people, especially when you spread it out over 38,000, like for our Tribe. ... If our goal was just to get 8 percent of our population to speak Potawatomi, sign language can do that."

He thinks sign language could make the language more accessible, especially for Tribal members who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

It's a concept sometimes employed with other languages. There are multiple resources available for teaching babies and toddlers sign language,

something they can pick up before learning speech. There have even been studies on sign language being used as a bridge to learn a new language.

A paper written by Sheryl Nicholson and Emily Graves, titled "Sign Language: an effective strategy to reduce the gap between English Language Learners' native language and English," explains that having a tangible sign to link two languages — for example the English word red and the Spanish word, rojo — offers a concrete connection to speakers.

"By providing students with a manual form of communication, the gap between the two languages can be narrowed," they wrote. "Sign language does provide a tangible means to link two languages together. It does not matter what the two languages are since signing provides the connection between them."

With so few first-language speakers of Potawatomi, and not many second-language learners who are fluent, Scott's hope is that someday PISL could be incorporated into language classes, possibly resulting in a revival of both pieces of the Potawatomi culture.

"In the sign language community today, what we like to say is when we lost our language, the first thing we lost is sign," Scott said. 🔥

Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho Jayek, (Hello everyone),

Ni je na ginwa? (How are you all?)

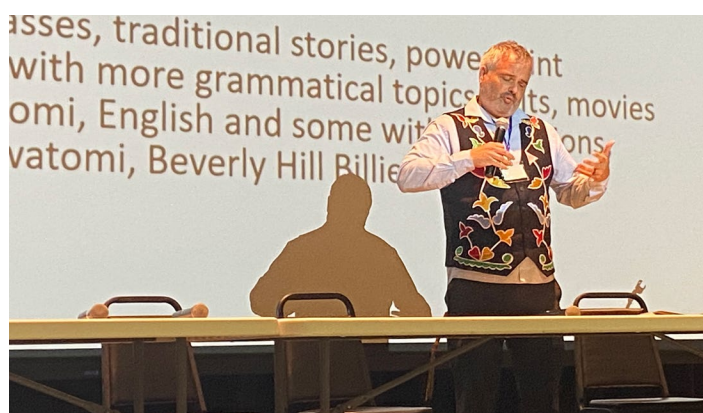
We are wrapping up our Beginner Language course. It meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings for an hour. We had a nice core group of around 12 people in person and another 15-20 online. Cole and Josey did a great job with their first adult class. The students were engaged and had lots of great feedback. We appreciate our students who took the time out of their own busy schedules to learn a little of our language and culture. When you take the opportunity to learn our language you will also be learning more about our culture. If you weren't able to be a part of this class, we archived the classes on YouTube. Search for "Justin Neely" and "Potawatomi language," and you should find our two channels. We also have an online course at learning.potawatomi.org as well as other tools to help you with your language learning journey. Also, a dictionary is available at potawatomidictionary.com.

We will be getting ready soon for our next big event, our annual Winter Story telling event. We will be hosting it in February, so pay attention to updates. We will also begin a second beginner class in the spring. We also will be starting up an intermediate/advanced class in the spring.

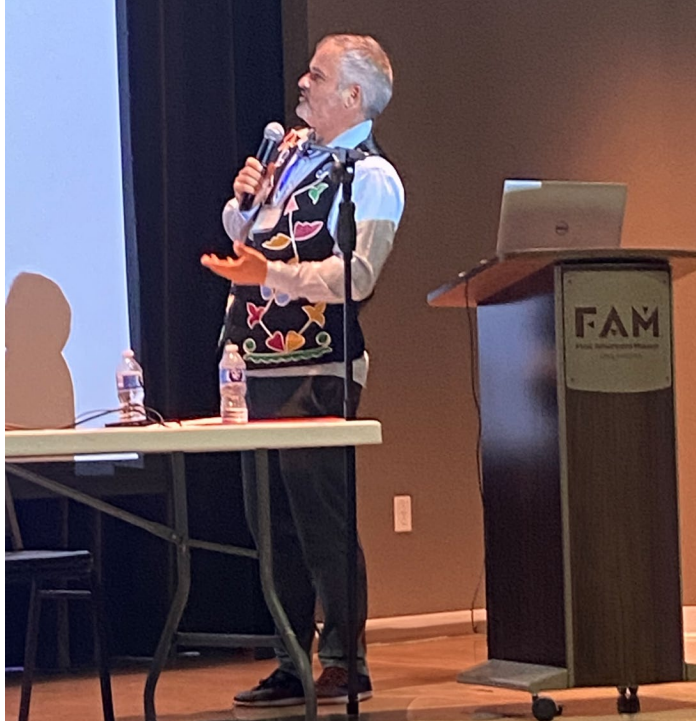
Remember the language is currently available to be taught in any district in Oklahoma for world language credit towards graduation. You just need to reach out to the Language Department and your local district to get it set up.

We will be hosting the second year of our eight-week master apprentice summer program. We will have two paid internships and the ability for others to audit if they have the time and means to be with us. This summer program is a great opportunity to really pick up a ton of the language in a relatively short amount of time.

We also recently wrapped up our world premiere of *House on Haunted Hill* in Potawatomi. This was a re-dub of the



Justin Neely presents at the Algonquian Language and Cultural Convention at the First Americans Museum.



Justin Neely talks about using technology to teach language.

classic black and white horror film with Vincent Price. We had a nice turnout of about 45-50 people. It was a fun time watching a film in Potawatomi and enjoying some popcorn and snacks. We have done a number of public domain films in the language. Our next film will be the 1970's stop motion film *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*. We hope to have it out before Christmas. Whenever we do a film, we do three versions: one version with captions in Potawatomi, one with captions in English and one version with no captions.

I had the opportunity to network and present at the 2nd Annual Algonquian Language and Cultural Convention hosted at the First Americans Museum. I talked about using technology to teach language. I networked with several different language departments to find out about their projects and share things we are doing.

***Dgwaget Kedwnen* — fall words**

(Listen to the words at potawatomidictionary.com)

Zawboyga — leaves turning yellow/brown

Mashdoshk'egé — he/she is raking

Datbek — leaf

Datbegon/datbekwen — leaves

Dgwaget — fall

Giwse — he/she is hunting

Yabe — buck

Watébgya — the leaves are changing color

Bnakwi — leaves falling

Tkéyamget — It is cool

Bonimget — It is snowing.

Gonnene — snowman

Gon pkwakwet — snowball

Boniswen — light snow ❄️

Collaboration results in new children's book

Author and artist Minisa Crumbo Halsey recently published *Going to CPN Family Reunion*, a book created for young readers. Crumbo Halsey collaborated with the CPN Language Department to publish the book.

The daughter of famed Citizen Potawatomi artist Woodrow "Woody" Wilson Crumbo and Lillian Hogue Crumbo, Minisa was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and spent many years in both Oklahoma and in New Mexico.

Like many people did during the pandemic, Crumbo Halsey turned her energy to art and created a painting that inspired the idea for the book, she said.

"For two and a half years, I painted and wrote. I was painting a star series called *Winter Maker*. It's a little boy and girl, and they are in traditional clothing. They have the four directions icons going all the way around them, and they're standing beside the bank of the Canadian River beneath the Tree of Life," she said. "It was from that I got the idea that they were going to have a family reunion."

She is no stranger to the publishing process, having released three books: *Spirit Talk*, which examines the healthy and balanced relationship we have with Creator; *Woody Crumbo*, with contributions from Crumbo Halsey and published by the Gilcrease Museum; and *The 13 Moons*, an adult coloring book for artful meditations.

She said the Annual CPN Family Reunion Festival means more, culturally, to the Nation than a typical social gathering like a powwow.

"That was why I really wanted to do it because that's the whole idea of Family Reunion. It's about coming to learn about making a drum, making moccasins, singing and learning some language," she said. "We're putting



on the regalia and meeting people and dancing. We're having traditional foods. That's what the book is about."

The CPN Language Department received a U.S. Department of Energy grant to publish 12 children's books, so when Crumbo Halsey reached out to CPN, the timing was perfect, said Language Department Director Justin Neely.

"She had heard about what we were doing and reached out to me about a children's book. And she had a lot of the artwork. She had basically designed it out, which is helpful because some people have an idea for a book but without any images or anything like that. But Minisa's quite an artist, and it just kind of fell together and in a good way," he said.

The Language Department contributed by adding *Bodéwadmimwen* to English translations and additional cultural content.

Both Crumbo Halsey and Neely hope the book spurs interest in those who have not attended a Family Reunion Festival but are interested in what goes on.

The book "really shows the beauty and the fun that goes into the Festival. A person who doesn't live maybe locally or hasn't been to Festival before can get a feel for the kinds of activities that you may encounter if you come," Crumbo Halsey said.

"It's a chance to both educate tribal members about what goes on here and get a sense of it because (Crumbo Halsey) also highlights some of the Tribe's businesses and

things like that,” Neely said. “It includes a kid’s perspective as well. I thought it was an interesting book idea.”

Crumbo Halsey said she hopes the book will spur interest in learning about Potawatomi culture and eventually create connections among generations, across distance and to Potawatomi ancestors.

“If we learn even a few words, it begins to shift our vibration and we have a connection. Just a few words, even just one word will suddenly provide the connection that we might not even be aware of,” she said. “The idea of the book was that a child could sit by a parent or a family member or friend. The family member probably is in the same position as the child. They’re living in Anaheim or Seattle or Phoenix. And they can learn at the same time.”

While Family Reunion Festival has been in existence for decades, there are still many Tribal members who have not attended. Neely hopes the book will encourage both young and old to make the trip to Shawnee, Oklahoma, and to learn more about the Nation.

The books are available through the Language Department, or by visiting the CPN Portal, where Tribal members can also order the other children’s books Neely’s department has recently published.

“If they go to the portal, there’s a way to order all of the children’s books,” he said.

Those ordering a book should keep in mind that the department uses bulk mailing to keep postage costs down, so it may take a while before orders are mailed out, Neely added.

Going to CPN Family Reunion and other children’s books also have a unique feature for those learning *Bodéwadmimwen*.

“You’re able to use the QR codes (on the book’s back cover) to read the book. You can click on the QR code and listen to the book read in Potawatomi so you can hear



all the words that way. That was another neat addition with a lot of those books that’s pretty cool,” Neely said. “We put quite a few of them in Festival bags last year.”

He expects *Going to Family Reunion Festival* will be included in the 2024 Festival bags.

Neely looks forward to collaborating with other Tribal members on future projects.

“We love creativity, and we love trying new things out. So, we’re always interested in looking for partnerships with Tribal members. We’re always up to try new ways to get the language out there to the people and to get the culture out there in a meaningful way. A book like this is a nice way to be able to reach our children,” Neely said.

For more information, contact the CPN Language Department or visit the CPN Portal.

Learn more about Crumbo Halsey’s work on her website, minisacrumbo.com. 🔥

2024 ELECTION NOTICE

For Legislators for Districts 9 and 12

LEGISLATOR

Filing form and fee must be received by the Election Committee no later than 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 10. Candidates for Legislator must be at least 18 years old upon being sworn in on June 29, 2024, and must have physically resided within the district they would represent continuously for at least six months prior to the election.

APPLICATIONS

AVAILABLE AFTER DEC. 13, 2023. TO REQUEST, EMAIL ELECTIONS@POTAWATOMI.ORG

CPN partners with technology center to train future linemen

When Gordon Cooper Technology Center (GCTC) in Shawnee, Oklahoma, received feedback from Citizen Potawatomi Nation and other local entities that there was a need for linemen training, the school set up a new program to fill the gap. Now, CPN Electrical Director Justin Whitecotton hopes it will lead to opportunities to hire employees for the Tribe.

"We're on the advisory committee with Gordon Cooper," Whitecotton said, explaining how the program started. "They got some industry leaders together, basically, and asked us what we would prefer to see in the training program."

Sarah Weeks, director of business and career services for GCTC, said the first class started in September 2023, and it will go through the middle of December. From there, the students will have the option to take CDL training in January.

However, when they finish the linemen training in December, graduates will be ready to start as a pre-apprentice with a company.

In the training, she said students learn a variety of things, including design, construction, how to pack a bag to go out on a job site, bucket rescue and various safety certifications.

"We have a team of three adjuncts, all of them retired linemen, and they are the instructors," Weeks said. "They're the ones teaching them how to put their gear on and do things correctly."

Instructors for the program are Jr. Lowden, a CPN member who retired from OG&E; Bobby Shatto, who retired from OG&E; Gerald Rounsaville, who retired from Canadian Valey Electric Company; and Trey Williams, who is a subject matter consultant for the class.

Each Thursday, GCTC also partners with local companies to help with the training.

CPN had the opportunity to be one of those partners, and the class came out to see CPN facilities and equipment.

"We showed them some of the things they would actually see out on the job," Whitecotton said, from walking students through CPN's substation to showing them where the electricity enters the building at the end of the line. "Just showing them every step of the way, parts and pieces. We showed them a bucket truck and some of the equipment they'd use. Not hands on out here, but to see how it's used, so when they get hands on work in class, they'll understand it better."

Weeks said the class will be offered once a year, every September, with up to 10 students accepted per year. The first class didn't quite fill up, with six students enrolled, but she said word is getting out and she's already had several enquiries about next year's class.

"We expect the next one to fill up pretty quickly," she said.

Whitecotton hopes the program will get good publicity to develop the student pool and lead to future recruitment opportunities.

"Not just for us. It's good for the county and surrounding areas," he said. "I know from the electrician program that they do a very good job ... They teach them the basics and they make them good employees."

Weeks said the training is all about GCTC's partners and adjuncts, who lend their knowledge to the students.

"Without our adjuncts and people like Justin (Whitecotton) and CPN that let us come out and tour their facilities, it would not be successful," she said. "We look forward to our graduates working with them in the area for years to come." 🔥



Gordon Cooper Technology Center students train at the school, located in Shawnee, Oklahoma.



96TH ANNUAL

Oklahoma Hall of Fame

INDUCTION CEREMONY



Photos provided by LimerickStudio



Chairman inducted to Oklahoma Hall of Fame

In November, eight amazing Oklahomans received Oklahoma's highest honor, a high school senior was awarded a \$6,000 scholarship and a group of young professionals were appreciated for raising nearly half a million dollars in support of Oklahoma families.

Eight officially inducted into Oklahoma Hall of Fame

On Nov. 16, Masters of Ceremonies and Oklahoma Hall of Fame Members Dr. Pamela McCauley and Sharen Jester Turney emceed the 96th Annual Oklahoma Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Norman Hotel & Conference Center. More than 900 people gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of eight incredible Oklahomans.

In order of induction that evening: Dwight Adams was presented by W. Roger Webb; Chairman John A. "Rocky" Barrett was presented by Brad Henry; Judith James was presented by Jane Jayroe Gamble; J Mays was presented by Helen Ford Wallace; posthumous honoree Mary Golda Ross was inducted; Barry Pollard was presented by Todd Lamb; Madeline Manning Mims was presented by John Jackson; and Bill Lance was presented by Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby.

With the addition of these eight individuals, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame now has 738 inductees. Portraits of the newest inductees are now on display at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum in the Hall of Fame Gallery. Information on all Oklahoma Hall of Fame Members can be found online oklahomahof.com/hof/inductees. 🔥

Father and son conquer Longs Peak



Koby and Steve Lawson take a photo in front of the part of Longs Peak known as the Diamond.

Lafromboise father and son duo Steve and Koby Lawson made the trek to the top of California's Mount Whitney (the highest point in the contiguous United States) in 2021. Two years later, they teamed up again to tackle Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park, known as Colorado's deadliest 14'er (a mountain with an elevation of at least 14,000 feet).

"After summiting Mt. Whitney, I realized that the sky is the limit when it comes to achieving what I previously thought were impossible tasks," Koby said.

Because of that, he completed four marathons, improving his time for each one. From there, he decided to train for his first 30K trail race and an ultra-marathon of 50 kilometers (31.07 miles).

"In the midst of all this training, my dad reached out to me telling me about a failed attempt that he had experienced last year to summit the notorious Longs Peak," Koby said. "I am always up for a challenge, so I began researching it, and we scheduled the trip."

First attempt

Steve said he first went to Longs Peak when Koby was still in grade school and they were visiting friends in Denver.

"At the time I was not in the best of shape and couldn't imagine ever being able to reach the top at 14,259 feet, but I always dreamed of doing so," he said.

Because of that dream, seven years ago he started hiking, making multiple trips into Rocky Mountain

National Park. One of his favorite locations there was Chasm Lake, located at the base of Longs Peak's Diamond, which is a diamond-shaped sheer cliff face that reaches more than 1,000 feet up to the summit.

"As you hike up the trail, the trees thin out, and you're suddenly met with the truly amazing sight of the Diamond. That view rekindled my hope of someday reaching the top," Steve said.

In July of 2022, Steve set out on a hike with his girlfriend Beth, her brother Dan, and Dan's significant other, Ellen, the latter two being experienced hikers who had reached the summit before. Steve said the group camped at 12,800 feet, then set off at sunrise to make the rest of the trek. However, it was at the top of an area known as the Trough that Beth decided to turn around, and Steve ultimately joined her.

"The top of the Trough ends with a difficult climb up a slippery 15- to 20-foot sheer granite face with minimal hand holds. I made it up so I could see around the corner to the next section, the Narrows, but then turned around and headed down with Beth," he said. "The good part of failing to summit meant only one thing — I would get to come back and try again, this time with Koby."

Training

With Koby living in McKinney, Texas, and Steve in Oklahoma City, they were not actually able to train together as they prepared for the trip.

"However, we are both dedicated to fitness and like to challenge each other," Steve said. "Koby keeps telling me that he will someday be able to do more pull ups than me, but that day has not yet arrived."

Steve has hiked locations in Colorado, California, Washington, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona, though he doesn't have any real climbing experience. Living in Oklahoma, he must travel to get to any high elevations, so he did most of his conditioning by biking.

Koby, who started running in 2019 to train for the hike up Mt. Whitney, said he mentioned in an article written about that trip that he hated running.

"Now it is a part of my everyday life, and my perspective has changed," he said. "I have since run thousands of miles, over a hundred each month so far this year."

For Koby, he said he trained by working out five days per week and running every day, even when his wife, Samantha, was giving birth to the youngest of his three children in September.

"I found a way to get outside and run a couple laps around the hospital," he said.

He added that he set up his training schedule so he doesn't miss out on family time — waking up at 4:30 a.m. to complete morning runs before his wife and children wake up for the day.

Conquering Longs Peak

Steve and Koby's trip started with a delay, with large amounts of snowfall pushing back the day they planned to start their hike.

"Once we were up there, we had to constantly be aware of the weather," Koby said. "The day before, we had to huddle in our tent for several hours to avoid hail and rain that appeared out of nowhere."

Steven said they started at the trailhead and hiked about 6.5 miles to a campsite in the Boulder Field — a climb in elevation of almost 3,400 feet from where they started.

"When we arrived at our campsite, dark clouds threatened, and by the time our tent was set up, a cold rain began," Steve said. "Fortunately, the weather cleared for a while, and Koby convinced me to hike an extra quarter mile up to Chasm View ... We made it back into our tent as more rain and hail set in. A strong wind and occasional rain made sleeping difficult, but we were up and headed to the top by sunrise."

Koby said one of his favorite parts was reaching the summit and knowing he could have gone even farther.

"It was incredibly rewarding," he said. "It just made me want to find the next adventure."

Though the hike didn't come without challenges.



Steve Lawson is pictured toward the end of his ascent of Longs Peak.

At one point, Koby described 50 mile per hour winds as "deafening" as they climbed down rocks near the Keyhole. And coming down the Trough, Steven had a close call.

"He slipped and slid 15 to 20 feet before catching himself before going over the ledge," Koby said. "He was fine, and was a little shaken up, but not as much as the lady who witnessed him sliding. She let out a shrill scream, leading me to think that he was a goner. We slowed down a bit after that."

The next challenge

With that peak conquered, Koby and Steve have gone back to their day jobs: Steve as chief legal officer for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company in Oklahoma City and Koby as senior preconstruction manager for CORE Construction in Frisco, Texas.

However, Koby is also planning his next adventures. While goals can seem daunting during the training phase, each new accomplishment leads him on to the next.

"Once I complete a race or big hike, it is extremely rewarding. It's hard to explain the fulfillment of crossing the finish line or summiting a mountain, knowing that all of my disciplined planning and training has paid off," he said.

For his next hike, he thinks he might try to summit Capitol Peak, which he described as having a lot more exposure and a knife edge that looks challenging.

"Endurance and bravery are indicative of a Potawatomi," he said. "Reflecting on the immense hardships endured by my ancestors on the Trail of Death, I can draw inspiration to challenge myself mentally and physically, whether it be completing a race or climbing a mountain." 🔥

From the executives



John "Rocky" Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bozho nikan, (Hello, my friend,)

With December, we will soon close out the year and prepare to start a new one. It is a good opportunity to look back on the Tribe's many accomplishments these past 12 months and to see all the ways we have grown.

CPN's industries are healthy and strong, with an impressive amount of growth this year. Along with opening Iron Horse Industrial Park, CPN has also opened its first business within the park. Sovereign Pipe Technologies manufactures high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe that can be used in a variety of industries, from oil and gas to geothermal and telecommunications. We also received a new switch engine locomotive in February, which will bring more opportunities for economic growth and expansion at the park as we develop the CPN Railroad, a Class III rail line.

The Tribe's bank, formerly called First National Bank, rebranded to Sovereign Bank this year, and the Tribe purchased an 18-story building in Oklahoma City that houses our metro Oklahoma City branch. The Sovereign Bank also purchased the former Bank of America bank building in Edmond, Oklahoma, for a branch operation.

Construction is underway for several projects around the Nation.

We broke ground on the new FireLake Hotel and Casino. This will replace the current casino, located next to FireLake Discount Foods, which was built in the 1980s. The new building will cover 49,000 square feet and hold more than 600 slot machines, in addition to a small kitchen and bar. The adjacent three-story hotel will include 126 rooms, offering nearby accommodations for visitors coming to festivals, concerts, sporting events and even the Family Reunion Festival.

Improvements to the FireLake Ball Fields have included the transition from dirt to artificial turf, and with another quad and a championship field planned, the goal is to become a World Series destination for NCAA Division II and lower softball teams. We already hosted the first two rounds of the state tournament for all seven Oklahoma fast pitch classes this fall, drawing thousands of fans to the area.

Services for Tribal members have also improved this year. A new Behavioral Health building next to our Mission Hill Hospital is completed and is being furnished now. The new space will offer expanded staff and services. Tribal housing is expanding as well, with several additional family housing units planned for completion in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. In addition, we have added two new childcare facilities, and plans are also in motion to build another grocery store in Asher, Oklahoma.

With the receipt of a grant, CPN's Language Department was also able to host its first immersion program. The grant funded three students to attend a summer master apprentice project where they could study the Potawatomi language for eight weeks.

The Tribe also saw some notable athletic performances. Tribal member Creed Humphrey, a center for the Kansas City Chiefs, received his first Super Bowl ring, and the Potawatomi Fire, the only tribally-owned professional basketball team in the United States, earned the title of national champions for The Basketball League in only its second season.

As we get ready to celebrate the birth of Christ with family dinners and get together, take time to be gentle with yourself amid all the stress that comes with planning big gatherings. In following Tribal tradition, remember to include others in the preparations so that everyone can contribute. Honor our elders and allow them to get food and drinks first at meals. Learn your family stories!

With the year coming to a close and a new one ahead, take peace of mind from knowing that your Tribal government and Nation are thriving. We will continue to grow our enterprises and services so that we can better support our communities and Tribal members. Thank you for the honor of serving as your Tribal Chairman.

Megwetch (Thank you),

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



Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

It is my sincere wish that everyone had a happy Thanksgiving. It is a great time for seeing family and reflecting on all our reasons to be grateful, but also a season of giving. During the holiday season, I am proud to serve for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, which partners with many nonprofit entities in Shawnee, Tecumseh and the surrounding areas.

One of the deserving organizations the Tribe partners with is the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army offers transformative programs to improve the lives of those who find themselves in dire need of food and overnight shelter.

CPN donates and assists with several Salvation Army and Boys & Girls Club events in Shawnee and Tecumseh, from Spaghetti Day to the BGC Golf Tournament Fundraiser. FireLake Discount Foods rotates months of serving in the soup kitchen, with staff preparing and providing food to serve about 100 people once a month after working hours. Justin Neely with the Language Department also teaches Potawatomi language and songs to the Salvation Army Afterschool Program, and the Potawatomi Fire basketball team provides camps and rally events for students.

In addition to working with nonprofits throughout Pottawatomie County, CPN also reaches out to each school district in some way. Each school district in the county has Potawatomi children among its students, which makes every school important to the Tribe. One example of how CPN benefits schools is our vehicle tag operation. Profits from the CPN Tag Agency are sent to schools around the state. The majority of those funds have benefited Pottawatomie County schools, because that is where most of our Tribal members live. Since 2005, CPN has donated more than \$3.9 million to Oklahoma school districts.

Recently, the Tribe also sponsored a First Responder of the Year award, which was presented to Lt. Dakota Snow with the Tecumseh Police Department. He responded to an emergency call involving a child who was injured by a lawnmower. Due to the quick actions of Lt. Snow and others who arrived on scene, the child had a positive outcome, and today, not only can she walk, but she's even a cheerleader. To honor his service, Lt. Snow was presented with a plaque, \$500 and a \$100 gift card to buy lunch for his shift.

Our employees also offer many acts of kindness during the holidays. They work hard during Thanksgiving and Christmas to participate in "angel trees" for various organizations. They donated items and participated in a holiday craft silent auction to raise funds for others in need. They give money to supplement various programs for children and needy adults. They donated food for holiday baskets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas, and they volunteered to help distribute the baskets as well. For Thanksgiving, CPN employees donated more than 600 pounds of food for up to 300 baskets for families. Another 350 families will receive baskets for Christmas. Employees give their time to help boundless programs at CPN and in the community.

All these things are just a part of what our Tribe does for the community.

Happy holidays to each member of the CPN family. I hope this time of year brings you many blessings and some precious time with those you love.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Vice-Chairman throughout the years.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



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From the legislature



Alan Melot District 1

Bozho jayek (Hello everyone)!

I'm writing this month to encourage you as you move into the new year — I promise this is intended to be uplifting.

Life requires only a few things from us we cannot avoid. My religious background and tradition introduced me to some of these basics, and as far as I can tell, they are universal. Two basics that I want to encourage you in are working and suffering. I remember laughing with my sister at a hymn we sang in church that had the line "Work and suffer, brother!" We would tell each other that whenever we faced some unpleasant task, laughing at the idea working and suffering might bring joy. I guess I've matured a bit since then, because although I still think the line is funny, I understand it now.

We all suffer. Suffering is the universal experience of humanity. Suffering defines humanity, but it doesn't define us as individuals. As individuals, we are defined by how we respond to that suffering. All effective responses to suffering involve work.

So, work! Work won't end your suffering, but odds are it will bring meaning to it. I've talked to many of you who want to learn our language and our culture, and I would strongly encourage you to do so. It takes work! You can't just order a book and magically learn our language; you have to put in the time and effort. You must sacrifice something to learn our language. You must harness your mind and allow yourself to make mistakes and be imperfect. You can't join a Facebook group, watch a YouTube video or read a *Hownikan* article and learn our culture. You must spend time and effort to create personal relationships. Your heart and motivations have to be in the right place so you can be taught. It's work to learn the language and our culture.

It takes work to learn what belongs to the Potawatomi instead of just learning what belongs to Indians. For example, anyone who has watched *Dances With Wolves* can remember that *tatonka* means buffalo, but it takes work to learn that the Potawatomi for buffalo is *bgoch bsheke* and is a reference to running fast and being wild. It's okay to know *tatonka* but better to know *bgoch bsheke*, and you can't learn the difference from a Kevin Costner movie.

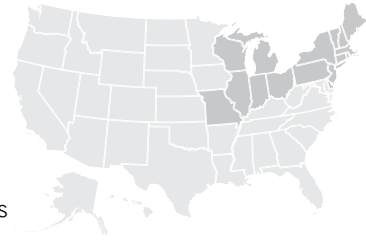
It takes work to learn that "Alan *ndezhnekas*" doesn't mean "My name is Alan" but "I am called Alan." English is constructed around things, and Potawatomi is constructed around doing, as evidenced by Alan being my name (a thing I possess) or Alan being how I am called (an act, a way of doing). Fundamentally, Potawatomi are about doing rather than about having.

Embrace work and live with vitality. You suffer no matter what, so make it meaningful and full of purpose! Don't lose heart while you work towards the good, because in time you will be rewarded if you don't give up.

If you want a language storybook, get in touch. I may have some Potawatomi cookbooks from Jody Mattena soon, so reach out if you would like to get one of those!

It's a privilege to serve the District. It has been a good year. I'm thankful for the goodness of God in my life and ask that you keep me in your prayers in the New Year. I will certainly keep you in my prayers as well. I wish you all the warmest holiday greetings. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

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



D1 Citizen Kat Allen models an otter tail beadwork bracelet she completed in the first D1 Culture Zoom Class. Lovely work, Kat, I'm so glad we all got to spend time together and have Laura Hewuse teach us! Look for more Culture Zooms and get in touch if you'd like to participate.



Eva Marie Carney District 2

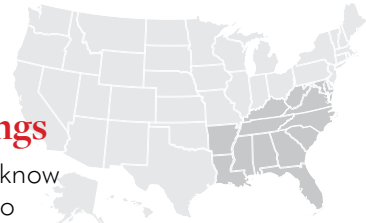
Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

Gilcrease Museum's Digitized Indigenous Paintings

Visiting Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa is on my bucket list. You may know that the museum is temporarily closed for construction. You also may know that the museum's founder, Thomas Gilcrease, was Muscogee — he was an avid collector of ethnological objects from Indigenous communities throughout the Americas and invested in the work of living Indigenous artists in the first half of the twentieth century. Gilcrease Museum now holds more than 2,500 Indigenous-made works.

I recently learned about significant, oral history-based research (cpn.news/gilcreaseoralhistory) into Gilcrease's holdings by Jordan Poorman

Cocker (Henry Luce Foundation Curatorial Scholar of Indigenous Art 2022). Poorman Cocker relates that her research "began with a deep-dive investigation into the records of over two hundred and fifty Indigenous artists who represented vast regions of the North American continent. Biographical research further revealed that over 50 percent of these artists descended from the more than thirty-nine federally recognized Indigenous nations now connected to the fluid boundaries of the region known as Indian Territory, or present-day Oklahoma." She obtained extensive input from the artists and their descendants or tribes, and among the artists she researched are CPN's own Minisa Crumbo and Woodrow Wilson "Woody" Crumbo. Per Chelsea M. Herr, Ph.D., Jack and Maxine Zarrow Curator for Indigenous Art and Culture, "This project serves as a catalyst for more ethical, appropriate, and inclusive research and representation" in Gilcrease and other museums. During Gilcrease's temporary closure, digitized works by 47 of the artists selected for the project can be found on Gilcrease's website (cpn.news/digitizedworks), along with biographies written for 10 of the artists (cpn.news/artistbiographies), drawing upon Poorman Cocker's research. You can find Minisa's drawing, *The Pueblo Dress* (charcoal, pastel, and watercolor on paper), among the art presented online (cpn.news/pueblodress). While on the website, use the search tag "Potawatomi Indians" to find 46 holdings by artists Louis Shipshee, Woodrow Wilson "Woody" Crumbo, Marcell J. Darling and others.



Fall Feast Art contest winners Brent K. (professional), Ella P. (over 16) and Nathan G. (youth)

National Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C.) Contemporary Art by Native Americans Exhibition

Until Jan. 15, 2024, the National Gallery of Art is exhibiting "many of today's most boldly innovative Native American artists," according to Native News Online. The exhibit is titled "The Land Carries Our Ancestors: Contemporary Art by Native Americans."

Let's plan to start the new year off in a good way by meeting up on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, outside the exhibition (East Gallery, Upper Level, West Bridge) at 1 p.m. to see the art, and then visit together at one of the gallery cafes. (I'll buy the snacks and drinks.) You can find directions on the National Gallery's website. Admission is free; no tickets are required. I look forward to seeing some of you there!

Educators, don't miss the National Gallery's K-12 resources related to this exhibition!

Birthday/wedding/other milestone celebrations?

In my January 2024 column, I'll give a report on our Nov. 11 Fall Feast.

If you have milestone events featuring folks in our District 2 community that you'd like noted in a future column, please let me know. I'd like to share and celebrate them.

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

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



District 2 Fall Feast Wisest attendee Patsy Vawter with Legislator Eva Marie Carney



Bob Whistler District 3

Bozho ginwa (Hello everyone),

September was a very interesting month with several activities that I participated in, one of which was:

PTOD (9/18 – 9/23)

We began the Potawatomi Trail of Death caravan at the Fulton County Historical Society Museum in Rochester, Indiana, on Monday, Sept. 18. They have copies of the 2003 book *Potawatomi Trail of Death*. I purchased a copy for my library.

From there we proceeded to the Chief

Menominee Statue in Twin Lakes, Indiana, where introductory comments were made by special guest George Schricker. A group photo was taken and we then set off to over 70 locations where our ancestors camped on that 660-mile forced death walk between Sept. 4 and Nov. 5, 1883.

A number of nature's messages to us occurred just prior to the trip and during our memorial journey. Two days before the start, a member of our caravan was at the site of the Menominee Statue and took a picture of an eagle resting on the head of the statue. At one stop we encountered monarch butterflies basically greeting us. At another there were literally hundreds of dragonflies and our group leader George Godfrey advised us that they were there eating the mosquitoes that were concentrated in the area.



Participants pose for a photo at the start of the Trail of Death in Rochester, Indiana

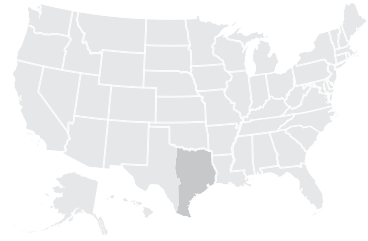


A staff member for U.S. Congresswoman Sharice Davids presents CPN legislators Alan Melot, Jon Boursaw and Bob Whistler with a recognition certificate in Olathe, Kansas.

At almost every stop there was a memorial marker with a brief description of the Trail of Death. A number of these markers were created and placed there by a Boy Scout as part of his work towards getting their seventh and highest rank, Eagle Scout.

The markers ranged from just a few sentences to a fairly long statement. The one at Sangamon Crossing read: "24-26 September, 1838. Forcibly removed from northern Indiana to eastern Kansas, over 800 Potawatomi encamped here, cared for sick, and were allowed to hunt; 2 children and 1 woman died; 39 deaths occurred along the entire route." This bronze plaque was sponsored by: Hanson Engineers, Springfield Meyer Material, McHenry.

On the trip we were hosted by locals for lunch, snacks and supper. The hospitality provided by local citizens along with visibly demonstrated reverence of our journey was constant. Each of our vehicles had a white flag with dark blue and red imprint commemorating our trip. As we drove along many roads, the cars coming



towards us stopped and waited until our 14-vehicle caravan had passed. I was in the tail vehicle and waved to signal that our group was complete. When our trip began, I was asked to be the last vehicle and was to confirm to the lead vehicle that our group was intact. The term I was instructed to use was: "Quack, quack, all ducks in a row."

Due to article space limits, I will simply move on to our next to last stop where we were in Kansas. My next article will give a few more details on this trip.

Prior to our drive on to Sugar Creek, Kansas, we stopped for a late breakfast at Heritage Park in Olathe, Kansas. We were greeted by over 200 in attendance recognizing our trip. A recognition certificate of our trip was given to us by the Honorable U.S. Congresswoman Sharice Davids. Legislators Alan Melot (District 1), Jon Boursaw (District 4) and myself accepted the certificate. A photo of that presentation is included with this article.

I felt, as a legislator, I needed to make this trip and provide some feedback on the journey. It is held every five years. If your future schedule permits, it is a trip through some history of our ancestors that is very enlightening, and I urge you to join a future caravan.

Migwetch for the honor of serving as the elected representative for district three.

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),

Holiday greetings

Peggy and I would like to sincerely wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to 2024 with great expectations and enthusiasm as I continue to serve Tribal members across the state and foster the history and presence of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Kansas.

District 4 meetings in Rossville and Wichita in October

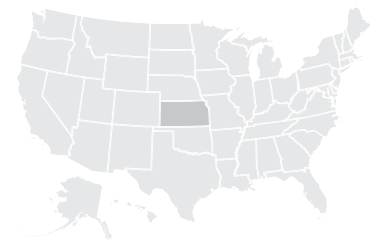
The 90 attendees at the Rossville meeting participated in a Zoom presentation led by Blair Schnieder, Ph.D., from the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) regarding her involvement in the Uniontown Cemetery project. She has conducted and analyzed the numerous surveys done in the cemetery. A DVD presentation by Ronnie Wear,

General Manager & CEO of Sovereign Pipe Technologies, on the operation of the plant was also on the agenda. He had also sent me a short length of the pipe produced by the plant and a sample of the ingredients used to manufacture the pipe, which was passed through the attendees so they could have an appreciation of what is produced by the plant in Shawnee, Oklahoma. At the Wichita meeting, the 50 attendees were treated to an extremely interesting presentation by Bryan Cain, President and CEO of Sovereign Bank of Oklahoma, on the current size and financial value of the bank. There was an excellent interchange between Bryan and the attendees during a lengthy Q&A session. The Sovereign Pipe DVD and pipe samples were also available at this meeting.

Three Tribal History Presentations in October

The first was in the Topeka Public Library. Prior to the presentation, I was informed that 20 were expected to attend. Later I noticed the number of attendees exceeded 20 and the majority were young individuals. I asked the woman who had invited me what was the total number and why so many young people. She replied there were 42 attendees, and the young people were from Washburn University. She went on to say that a WU English professor had given an assignment to write a paper on a subject that the student knew nothing about and then handed out a list of suggested topics and my presentation was on the list. Needless to say, the Q&A session following my presentation was very active.

The next presentation, again at the Topeka Library, was to the Topeka Genealogical Society. Again, I had a very active Q&A session, particularly pertaining to the period of time the tribe was in Kansas. Later I received an email from the woman who had invited me to speak saying, "Thank you so much for your fantastic program to the Topeka Genealogical Society on Thursday.... I think you win the prize for the longest question and answer session we have ever had after a meeting!"



Dr. Schnieder invited me to give my presentation to a group of her associates with KGS and Kansas University. I was amazed at the emotional reaction my presentation had on the group, with several expressing that they were not aware of the severe hardships endured by the Native American tribes displaced by the forced removals.

Rebuilding of the Rock Walls at Uniontown has been completed.



East Wall Before



East Wall After

Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

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

December 8

Traditional Holiday Feast

(Ham, mashed potatoes and corn)

RSVP by the 5th

January 12

Variety of Soups

RSVP by the 9th

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

Come join us and bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Tracy at 785-584-6171.

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 (Greetings),

We have finally completed our District 5 meetings for the year 2023 and are saying goodbye to another year.

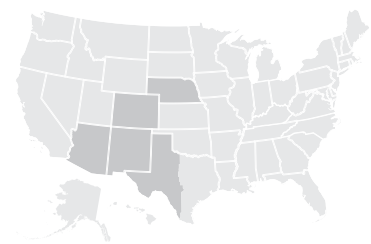
It has been exciting seeing all of you again.

The meetings weren't perfect, but you were there supporting our Nation. That's what it is all about.

We have had personal visits, namings and meetings in Chandler, Arizona; Denver, Colorado; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. If you didn't make it this year, there is 2024 coming up and we invite you to join us.

This year, as always, we acknowledged our youngest Potawatomi member, as they are our future. Youngest member was Corrie Graber, who attended with her mother, Stacie Graber.

Next, the acknowledgement goes to our wisest member, as they are the rock of which the young will grow. Wisest member was Marlene Perez.



The distance is acknowledged for efforts over, above and beyond to attend the meeting. Farthest traveled was Robert Melot from Palisade, Colorado.

District meetings are where you gain information about new programs, exciting upcoming events, and benefits for CPN members, not to mention having the opportunity to meet family members you didn't even know you had.



Tribal member Marlene Perez was recognized as the wisest in attendance at the November District 5 meeting.

Going into December brings about all the family days remembering the past and looking forward to the memories you are making today.

Never think "Well, there is always next Christmas," because it might not be the case for some. Let those you love know by telling them.

Let's also not forget why we celebrate Christmas. It is more than gifts and family gatherings. Remember the star that led the wise men to the manger where Jesus was born. The gifts we share with each other today are reminiscent of the gifts brought by the wise men to the new born king of kings.

What a gift from our Creator.

I want to wish you all the happiest of holidays. Stay healthy and safe, because we love you and want to see you next year.

Love you all,

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



Tribal member Corrie Graber, pictured here with mother Stacie Graber and Legislator Gene Lambert, was recognized as the youngest in attendance at a November District 5 meeting.

ARPA Funds Update

Due to recent clarification by U.S. Treasury regarding the ARPA/FRF funding obligations/expenditures deadline, **CPN Executive leadership has decided to set a deadline of 9/30/2024 as the last day to apply for CPN's ARPA Tribal Member Assistance Program (aka \$1,400 program).** This will help CPN make any final adjustments prior to the ARPA obligations deadline of 12/31/2024 to maximize the Tribe's utilization of this funding.

To apply for assistance, visit portal.potawatomi.org



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

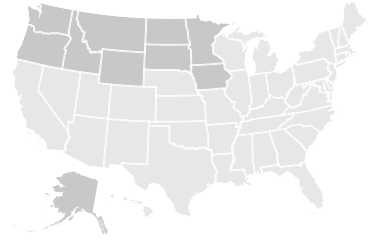


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CPNEDUCATION



Dave Carney District 8

Bozho ndenwenmagenek (Hello, relatives)!



District 8’s annual Fall Feast was held in Seattle on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Duwamish Longhouse. We had approximately 70 members from around the district come and enjoy presentations, food, prizes, crafts and camaraderie.

At the beginning of the get-together, loaner hand drums were passed out to each table and the words to *The Morning Song* were both handed out and projected on the screen for all to participate. Julie Jackson and Robert White of Coleville, Washington, and John Kochanowski of Portland, Oregon, led the singing, and the overall musical effect was very good — and a great way to start our fall celebration.

Presentations included an overview of the Nation’s history, the current form of government, enterprises and benefits. Another presentation highlighted the progress of the Nation’s new columbarium (niche wall). The news of this newly completed project was very well received.

Selah Bellscheidt of Vashon, Washington, did a wonderful job presenting information about the Potawatomi Leadership Program and her experience in it a few years back. She encouraged those present to support loved ones in that age group to apply next year. *Migwetch* (Thank you), Selah!

The meal shared was roasted turkey, potatoes and salad. There was also an amazing array of desserts brought by our citizens!

We recognized our “Wisest Potawatomi,” 82-year-old Mary Ewing from Camano Island, Washington, (Stackhouse Family) by awarding her a beautiful Pendleton blanket. Four-year-old Penelope Gatsby from Lacey, Washington, was our youngest enrolled member, and she received a child’s Pendleton blanket. Whitefish, Montana, resident Frank Anderson and his daughter flew in to join us and received a traveling bag for his efforts. All prizes were purchased from the gift shop in the Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center.



Wisest member Mary Ewing

District 8 gatherings usually include an art contest for members to highlight their talents. At this event, we had some excellent artists. The winner of the fine arts category was Jan Lamascus of Banks, Oregon, for her bronze statue titled, *The Archer*. Carol Yancy took the prize in the craft category for her greeting card featuring the Citizen Potawatomi seal. The youth category winner was Elijah O’Neil of Southbend, Washington, for an original pencil drawing called *Bag Boy*. All winners received gift cards from Hobby Lobby.



Farthest traveled Frank Anderson

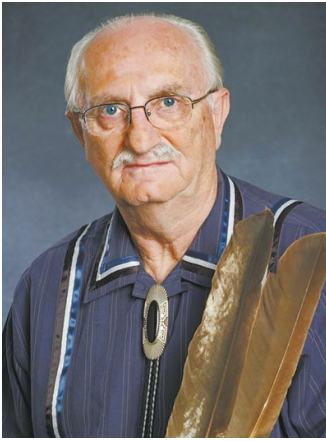
Our meeting concluded with a non-sewing sewing project. Folks used stencils on fabric to create woodland designs and then adhered the patterns to canvas tote bags. This seemed to be a successful project, with our citizens being able to show their Potawatomi pride the next time they visit the grocery store. This idea was given to me by Leslie Deer of the Cultural Heritage Center.

As with every event, many hands make like work. I am thankful to volunteers like Rick and Nancy Eilers, Thomas and Sue Taylor-Jones, Rocky Cheraux, Jenna Ruggenberg and my wife Nicole Carney.

Looking forward to next year and meeting more Potawatomi family!

Whatever your faith tradition, I wish you a very fine holiday and as always, 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),

CPN is not a reservation tribe

An Indian reservation is an area of land held and governed by the U.S. Federal Government. Native tribes are semi-sovereign, subject to the regulations passed by the U.S. Congress and administered by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and not the state government in which they are located.

There are approximately 326 Indian land areas in the U.S. administered as federal Indian reservations. The Navajo Nation is the largest with 27,000 square miles.

Vice-chairwoman Linda Capps has said that the BIA refers to our Potawatomi area as a former reservation, but a lot of time has passed since we mainly lived in the Asher area.

She writes, "The Indian Appropriations Act of 1851 authorized the creation of Indian areas in what is now Oklahoma. Native peoples were once more forced to move to smaller portions of that land called reservations. I like to think of our 'former reservations' as 'jurisdictional area' because within that area, we have certain rights. The main one, of course, is placing land into trust."

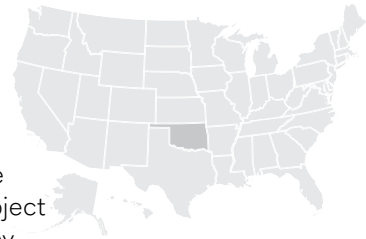
Possible paradigm shift

In July 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that nearly 4,700 square miles, or roughly half of Oklahoma, is Native American reservation land. The high-profile decision settled questions of whether the reservation still remained in existence after Oklahoma officially became a state. Despite having such a large proportion of Indian Country within its state boundaries, Oklahoma's population is just 8 percent, or about 316,929, Native American.

It's yet to be seen what or how such a Supreme Court decision will affect the state of Oklahoma! Theoretically, Oklahoma could be divided into two separate states! However, I don't think that will happen. What do you think?

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



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Walking On

Donald Dean Adams
Bourassa/Ziegler Family



Donald Adams was born in Nevada, Missouri, on April 5, 1945. He passed away on June 6, 2023, in Nevada, Missouri.

He was preceded in death by his father, Clarence Kermit Adams, his mother, Viola (Mahan) Adams, and his eldest brother, Hurbert Lee Adams.

He graduated from Nevada High School in 1963 and served his country in the United States Army. On April 8, 1972, he

married Teresa Annette Mathis. On June 6, 1974, they had a daughter, Carrie Donette Adams. Don was an entrepreneur throughout his life, including construction, realtor, car dealer, smokeshop, restaurant lounge, and recent gun shop with his grandson, Keller Dean Adams.

Survivors include his wife, Teresa Adams; one daughter, Carrie Donette Adams; two grandsons, Keller Dean Adams and Gavin Reid Adams, all of Nevada, Missouri; siblings, Paul Leroy Adams, KC, Joe Eugene Adams, of Tennessee, Lois Dianne Richardson, of Missouri, Barbara Jean Pierce of Arizona, Viola Mae Wilson, of New Mexico, and Sharon Kay Schaefer, of Illinois. He is buried in Fort Scott National Cemetery.

Gayle Ann Lewis
Bergeron/Lewis Family



Gayle Ann Lewis passed away on Sept. 15, 2023, at Marshfield Hospital. She was born July 18, 1969, at Medford Memorial Hospital to Lester and Patricia Lewis. She lived in the city of Medford and town of Molitor. She attended Medford Area Schools, graduating from Medford Senior High in 1987. She graduated from UW Stevens Point in 1991 with a B.A. in Business Administration. She worked in various businesses in Stevens

Point, Medford and Marshfield. Her last place of employment was at the Marshfield Clinic.

She enjoyed many crafts and arts, making and visiting many friends along the way.

She is survived by her parents, Lester and Patricia Lewis; sister, Rebecca Lewis of Bono, Ohio; her children, Madison and Samuel; brother, Lester Lewis and wife, Mindy, Withee; their children, Lester Butch, Melaney and D'iana; her best friend, Kristen Raasch (Ronald) and their daughters, Skylar Hall and family; goddaughter, Kendall Nernberger and family; and Taylor Raasch and family, and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials would be appreciated if sent to The Ronald McDonald House of Marshfield in Gayle Lewis' name.

Tommy Ray Evans
Evans/Peltier Family



Tommy Ray Evans was born Sept. 10, 1952, in Bristow, Oklahoma. Tom passed away peacefully at home in Tulsa on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, at the age of 71.

After growing up in Bristow, Tom served in the Air Force, where he met and married Liz in 1975. Through the years of school, work and into retirement, Tom enjoyed great food, playing guitar, staying

active and supporting the Oklahoma Sooners. Tom was proud of his Citizen Potawatomi heritage and appreciated family memories and connections.

Tom is survived by his wife, Liz (Meyer) Evans; daughter, Beth Taylor; and grandsons, Trenton (Flanagan), Garrett and Jackson of Tulsa; brother, Terry Evans of Bristow; and many other beloved nieces, nephews, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, cousins and more. He is preceded in death by his son, Tommy; brother, Ted; and parents.

Albert Earl "Al" Kremenak
Lafromboise Family



Albert Earl "Al" Kremenak, 93, of Toledo, was born on Nov. 25, 1929, in Toledo, Iowa, the son of Frank and Elizabeth (Anderson) Kremenak.

He graduated from Toledo High School in 1947.

On Nov. 27, 1948, he married Donna Jean Plum in Austin, Minnesota, and together they had two daughters. Later, he was

remarried to Barbara Marshall and she passed away in November 2020. Al worked at the Button Factory in Toledo Heights and was a union mason in Iowa City. He had his own business, Kremenak Construction (then Twin Cities Construction), that left his footprint on many local projects in the Tama-Toledo area. Al was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Masonic Lodge and Shriners, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Hawkeye Club. He was also an enrolled member of the Potawatomi Tribe. He enjoyed fishing and playing sand golf in Quartzite. He spent winters in Arizona and he had one of the original homes on Holiday Lake in Brooklyn. Al also enjoyed going to "Ross's Camp" in Canada in the summer.

Survivors include two daughters, Diana Spooner (Richard Sova) of South Carolina and Jill (Kenny) Bacon of Tama; three grandchildren, Stacey Fay, Sally Spooner (Jess Thielmann) and Madeline (Brody) White; four great-grandchildren, Zoey Chilcote, Macy Chilcote, Tanner Fay and Preston Thielmann; one great-great-grandson, River Chilcote/Luersen; his step-children, Kathy (Mike) Thiessen of Florida, Maureen (Todd) Kratoska of Toledo, Pat (Karen) O'Rourke of Iowa City; step-grandchildren, Pat (Megan) Thiessen, Eric (Yana) Thiessen, Ryan (Paige) Kratoska, Allison (Eric) Homan, Devan O'Rourke and Erin O'Rourke; three step-great-grandchildren, Hailey Thiessen, Dominic Homan and Mila Thiessen; and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his granddaughter, Polly Jane Spooner; two brothers, Frank and John Kremenak; and his sister, Pauline Shearer.

A memorial fund will be established.

Jequita Ann Uhles
Bertrand Family



Jequita Ann Uhles, 88, of Norman, Oklahoma, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. She was born Dec. 3, 1934, in Corbett community east of Lexington, Oklahoma, to Otis Oclea Johnson and Willene Clara Higbee Johnson.

Jequita moved to Norman in 1940 and started first grade at Lincoln Grade School. She began attending First Baptist Church

of Norman in 1944 and was baptized in 1948 by her "preacher" E.F. Hallock. Jequita graduated Norman High School in 1953 and attended OU for one year where she was a varsity cheerleader. She married William Herbert Uhles II "Herb" on July 10, 1954, at First Baptist Church Norman and was blessed with their five children, Sharla, Rusty, Ron, Ric and Rob.

She dedicated her life to faith, family and friends. She coached countless church league softball teams. She also helped operate the family business, Uhles Grocery Store. Her life was dedicated to serving others; she hosted exchange students, bible studies, and helped anyone in need of clean clothes and a homecooked meal. She worked for decades at First Baptist in the Family Life Center and never missed an opportunity to witness. A recent line from one of her nephews captured her perfectly. "Today I am remembering Jequita's constant smile, her sense of humor, her sincerity in everything she did, how she made everyone feel welcome, and how she anchored a family for a generation."

A number of years after Herb passed away, she was blessed with over 25 years of trips and adventures with her "special friend" Newt Mitchell, Sr. There wasn't a birthday party, ball game or holiday that they missed and were together for each other through good times and bad.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Herbert Uhles II "Herb"; her son William Herbert Uhles III "Rusty" and her "special friend" Newt Mitchell, Sr.

Jequita is survived by her daughter Sharla Leonard and husband Kenny of Edmond, Oklahoma, her son Ron Uhles and wife Holly of Norman, her son Ric Uhles and wife Sherri of Norman, her son Rob Uhles and wife Charla of Norman, and Rusty's surviving widow Starla Van Winkle of Norman; her brothers Robert Johnson and late wife Sue, Kenneth Johnson and wife June and Dwight Johnson and wife Kathy; her grandchildren Hutch Hibbard and wife Alyssa, Heath Hibbard and wife Anna, Taylor Stitt, Hunter Hibbard and wife Lindsay, William Herbert Uhles IV "Ty" and wife Randi, Amy Miller and husband Jesse, Lance Uhles and wife Suzy, Jaxon Uhles and wife Jordan, Zac Uhles and wife Madison, Jillian Uhles and fiancé Jake Coffee and 16 great-grandchildren.

The family thanks the leadership and staff at Arbor House Reminisce Norman for the love and care they provided to Jequita.

The memorial service was Saturday, Nov. 18, at First Baptist Church Norman, officiated by Monty Priest.

Online condolences may be shared at tribute.care

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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