

# HOWNIKAN

Kchemkogises | January 2024

Elders receive  
home updates to  
lower winter bills



# What's inside

- 1**  
Documenting domestic violence
- 2**  
Elders receive home updates to lower winter bills
- 4**  
Language update
- 5**  
Basketball teaches Berry leadership on and off the court
- 6**  
Darling family history
- 8**  
Tribe's recycling program six years strong and growing
- 10**  
Student qualifies for state archery competition
- 12**  
Window to close soon for PLP applications
- 13**  
Veterans Report
- 14**  
Tribal members visit 'sacred ground' during Trail of Death observance
- 16**  
Legislator reflects on Trail of Death observance
- 18**  
Tribal executive and legislative updates
- 28**  
Walking on



# Documenting domestic violence

By Kayla Woody,  
CPN House of Hope Prevention Specialist

Reoccurring abuse from an intimate partner, better known as domestic violence, affects nearly half of all Oklahomans each year. For someone experiencing that abuse, documenting what is going on might feel like the last thing that you would want to do. It can be hard to remember or even put your experiences into words. Sometimes warning signs aren't always obvious. However, documenting abusive events when you spot them can validate abusive experiences and serve as a critical tool in taking legal action with criminal charges, divorce or even child custody.

## Why is it important to document?

Evidence is the moving force for our legal system. It is necessary to establish relevance and proof. When abuse occurs in intimate partner relationships, it likely happens behind closed doors with no one present other than the victim and perpetrator. It's a "he said, she said" situation that is difficult to prove in a court of law who is truly at fault. Allegations and claims won't get you very far. Abusers even use legal strategies to perpetrate abuse and manipulate the system into believing their narrative.

Credible, verifiable, well-documented evidence is what stands best in a courtroom. When domestic violence occurs, documentation can be the difference between a perpetrator being held accountable or not.

According to WomensLaw, in most states, evidence can include (but is not limited to) the following:

- Verbal testimony from you or your witnesses
- Medical reports of injuries from the abuse
- Pictures (dated) of any injuries
- Police reports of when you or a witness called the police
- Household objects torn or broken by the abuser
- Pictures of your household in disarray after a violent episode
- Pictures of weapons used by the abuser against you
- A personal diary or calendar in which you documented the abuse as it happened

## What to document?

When in an intimate partner relationship, it can be challenging to identify and distinguish between typical relationship behaviors and control and manipulation. If your partner is physically violent, it is a clear sign, but emotional or verbal abuse is more subtle and complicated.

There are many different ways that you can obtain information about the abuse you are experiencing, but it is important that the collected material is stored safely. Some great ways to document abuse include:

1. **Visiting the doctor** — Your doctor or health care provider can be a safe resource for disclosing abuse. Most medical staff are trained on how to assist victims experiencing abuse.
2. **Ask a loved one to document** — Ask family to write down what they see in your relationship, ask coworkers to log reoccurring calls, let friends hold your evidence in safe keeping.
3. **Times, dates, locations** — Create a log of incidents that happen with time, date and where it happened. This is extremely important with stalking situations.
4. **Take pictures** — Take pictures of injuries and damage to residence, vehicle or property.
5. **Create police reports** — Call your local police department's non-emergency number and find out about the protocols and procedures of filing a police report. Reports can create a paper trail of abuse.
6. **Let it go to voicemail** — Repeated calling and text messages can also be another way to prove abuse. Voice mail and even call logs can be used.
7. **Save digital evidence** — Social media posts can contain evidence of emotional and verbal abuse. It is important to print off the evidence because it can be removed.

## Where to store the documentation?

It is crucial that all documented material be kept safely away from the abuser. If the information were to be found that could mean serious implications for the victim. Physical abuse could be a consequence as well as destruction of the documentation.

It is recommended to store the documentation where the abuser does not have access. Paper documents could be kept at work or with trusted friends or family members. Digital items could be kept on a phone that the abuser does not have access to or possibly does not know about. These could also be saved on small storage devices like thumb drives or hard drives.

If files are kept on digital devices, they can be saved on mislabeled folders and locked with passwords. Consider storing information on password-protected cloud services, like Dropbox or Google Drive.

If you're not sure if documenting your abuse would be safe, always trust your gut. You are the expert on your situation, and no one knows how to keep you safe better than yourself. What works for one person may not be a safe idea for another person.

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



From left are OG&E Community Affairs Manager Emily Tate, CPN Electrical Director Justin Whitecotton, CPN Housing Department Director Scott George, CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, OG&E Account Executive Kylee Mendenhall, OG&E Program Manager Toney Cooper, Shawnee Mayor Ed Bolt and an OG&E contractor.

## Elders receive home updates to lower winter bills

Citizen Potawatomi Nation partnered with Oklahoma Gas & Electric to weatherize homes for Tribal elders in November.

The utility company arrived at Father Joe Murphy Elder Housing, near Shawnee, Oklahoma, Nov. 8 and 9 with supplies and volunteers, completing basic work on 35 homes in the community.

“We wanted to ensure our elders are comfortable and reduce their electric bills during the hot summer and cold winter months in Oklahoma,” CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps said. “We were thrilled to learn that OG&E could weatherize the homes in the Father Joe Murphy housing community. We are grateful for their continued partnership and critical investment in our community.”

Volunteers assessed what was needed at each unit and then made the necessary updates, such as weatherstripping and caulking to seal air leakage around windows and doors, blowing insulation in the attic, duct sealing, air conditioner and furnace tune up, and installing energy-saving light bulbs. The improvements, which came at no cost to the residents, were intended to increase energy efficiency to make homes more comfortable in months of extreme temperatures and to lower electric bills.

“We’re out here today with about 20 to 30 OG&E employees, as well as Skyline Energy Solutions weatherization contractors,” OG&E Lead Program Manager Toney Cooper said. “First, we go in and do tests to determine where the leakage is in the home. Once we determine that, we come back in and provide



A volunteer blows insulation into an attic during weatherization improvements for units in Father Joe Murphy Elder Housing.

cost-effective energy measures, such as adding attic insulation where needed. Customers immediately feel a lot more comfortable. The home is a little warmer and, obviously in the summertime when we have that Oklahoma heat, the home is a lot cooler.”

Justin Whitecotton, CPN electrical director, said the Tribe participates in many commercial programs through OG&E to save on energy costs, and the recent improvements at Father Joe Murphy Elder Housing are a perfect example of that.

“It’s going to save the tenants a lot of money,” he said. “Saving electricity is good for the planet and good for their wallets at the same time, so it’s kind of a win-win all the way around.”

Scott George, CPN’s Housing Department director, said the houses in the complex are all part of a low-income program, where elders pay no more than \$250 per month for rent but are responsible for all their own utilities.

“It’s really important for us to try to make the houses as efficient as possible,” he said. “We were seeing some of our tenants starting to suffer with the electric bills. They’re on a fixed income, so anything we can do to help lower that bill puts money in their pocket to use elsewhere.”

“Our electric bills have been pretty high during the summer, and we had no idea OG&E had a program like this,” Father Joe Murphy resident Ruthann Smith said. “I know there are some spaces around my doors and windows that need to be fixed because you can see daylight, which means cold air is coming in. It’s good to know that OG&E cares. It means a lot that they are a part of our community and they are really helping us out.”

The weatherization program that made the updates at Father Joe Murphy possible is one available to all qualifying OG&E customers. It is available to customers who own



*A volunteer makes weatherization improvements to one of the houses in Father Joe Murphy Elder Housing.*

or lease a single-family, duplex or mobile home who have a household income of less than \$60,000 per year. In Oklahoma, 50,000 customers have had weatherization improvements through the program since 2009.

“Changes in temperature can significantly affect your home, and OG&E’s weatherization program helps customers who need it most combat the impact of extreme temperatures during the summer and winter,” Cooper said. “Our partnership with Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Father Joe Murphy Elder Housing shows how simple improvements can make a home more comfortable and monthly bills more manageable. We are proud to help energize the lives of our tribal customers through this key partnership.” 🔥

# Congratulations

POTAWATOMI GRADUATES

**Thomas Hilton**

Juneau Family  
Olathe, KS  
Kansas State University  
BA in Marketing

**Elyssa Ellinger**

Peltier Family  
Dalton, Georgia  
Dalton State College  
BA in Interdisciplinary Studies

**Ken Korzeniewski**

Lewis/Bergeron Family  
Boyd, Maryland  
Case Western University  
BS in Finance

**George Korzeniewski**

Lewis/Bergeron Family  
Boyd, Maryland  
Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia  
MS in Teaching Middle  
School Mathematics

**Caly Bourbonnais**

Bourbonnais Family  
Wichita, KS  
Wichita State University  
BS in Health Management  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude

# Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

We just finished up our release of *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, the old 1970s stop motion public domain cartoon. You can find it by going to YouTube and searching "Justin Neely" and "Potawatomi Language." You will find two channels: one more geared to kids and one more geared to adult learners. One version is captioned in English for beginners, one is captioned in Potawatomi for more advanced learners, and one has no captions for kids or folks that just want to hear the language without being distracted by captions.

The Language Department was asked to participate in a Veterans Day event at Gordon Cooper Technology Center. We did the pledge of allegiance in Potawatomi and sang an honor song for the veterans in attendance. We also did talks at the Tecumseh Boys & Girls Club and Bethel Elementary for Native American Heritage Month.

We wrapped up a successful Beginner Class taught by Cole Rattan and Josey Wood. We are planning our next in person class for spring 2024. We also have scheduled our annual Winter Story Telling event for March 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Cultural Heritage Center. For those who have never attended our Winter Story Telling event, we will tell a number of traditional Potawatomi stories (some in English, some in Potawatomi with translation) as well as some short story videos. A good time is had by all, and food and drinks will be served. For those of you who do not live locally, we also plan on Zooming the event. We will share the link in our Potawatomi Language Facebook group.

We are wrapping up our first semester of Potawatomi Language 1 and Potawatomi Language 2 offered in high schools across Oklahoma for graduation credit toward World Language. Instead of taking Spanish or French to meet your requirement, you are able to take Potawatomi. Currently, though it is available anywhere in Oklahoma, the following districts have offered Potawatomi language in the past: Shawnee, Tecumseh, Seminole, Maud and Wanette. We have also offered an eight-week middle

school program in Shawnee. If your student goes to a school in Oklahoma and you would like to have your student take Potawatomi, reach out to your school district and also reach out to the Language Department so we can get it set up. It may require your district's school board to approve it. There is no cost to the district; they simply have to supply a computer, internet access and a staff member to be with the student.

If you get onto the dictionary, you will notice we have been working quite a bit on adding images and example sentences with audio as well as other updates to the dictionary. If you have not checked out the dictionary, it is at [potawatomidictionary.com](http://potawatomidictionary.com).

Another new project we have been working on is a podcast. We have had several Tribal members ask about us doing a language podcast: something they can listen to during their commute to work or driving as part of their job. So, we are developing a skit/conversation-based podcast which we hope to have out by the first of the year. We will release five episodes in the initial release and then release one per week after that.

If you haven't tried our online course, go to [learning.potawatomi.org](http://learning.potawatomi.org). We are also working on a children's course and a second online course to complement the first 20-chapter course.

We have several Christmas tunes online as well.

*Eneemego merry Krismes mine mno webponget.*

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 🍷



## 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

# Basketball teaches Berry leadership on and off the court

Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Reagan Berry, a member of the Cheatwood family, is serious about basketball and will continue playing even after her senior season at Tecumseh (Oklahoma) High School is over.

Because of her desire to be successful playing in college, she accepted an invitation in summer of 2023 to attend the first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's College Basketball Academy.

One of the coaches whom Berry worked with at the combine was Gary Van Atta, the winningest coach in Alabama's Montevallo University history. He has led two teams to the NAIA Final Four.

The week-long event in Memphis, Tennessee, was centered around basketball, but the training Berry received will help her find success on and off the court.

To be one of eight female players in Oklahoma invited to the camp, Berry's basketball skills were an important consideration. But the camp also brought in many off-the-court lessons for the players. They learned about letters of intent with colleges, the names, image and likeness (NIL) sponsorships that can provide money for college athletes, and about leadership in basketball and beyond.

Berry said she isn't always a loud vocal leader on the court, but she leads in other ways.

"I always try to show my work ethic as a player," Berry said. "And there'll be times where I talk to a player and try to help them out. So, I tried to do a little bit of both."

Her coach, Eldon Gentry, said Berry has established herself as a leader.

"She's a gym rat," Gentry said. "Her basketball IQ has grown immensely. You can tell she's one of the select few that actually love basketball. She puts in a lot of work."

Berry, 6'1", said her love for the game began when she started playing at the age of 4. She was always taller than her classmates, and that helped her in basketball. Her height is still an advantage for her.

"I am more comfortable inside, but one thing that I was really working on this summer was trying to bring my game out a little bit to help spread the floor and get more opportunities for me and my teammates," Berry said.

Berry has committed to play in college at Oklahoma Christian University.

"One of the big things for me is trying to find a school close to home," Berry said of the university in Edmond, Oklahoma. "I'm a homebody. I like to be with my family. So that was something that was really important to me."



Tribal member Reagan Berry (32) goes for a rebound.

Gentry said Berry and the five other seniors on this year's team will be responsible for the success of the team.

"Last year, we had one player average 18 points per game," Gentry said. "We don't need any one of this year's seniors to do that. We need them as a group to score an extra 18 points per game."

Berry said her goals for her senior year have more to do with team success than her personal success.

"I want us to go further in the playoffs," Berry said. "I think this team can do it." 🔥

# Darling family history

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

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

## Family beginnings

Elizabeth Ouilmette (Wilmot) married Lucius (Louis) Ripley Darling on July 15, 1836. She had previously been married to Michael P. Welch. Before he died, the couple had two children, Joseph and Catherine.

Elizabeth was one of eight children born to Antoine Ouilmette and Archange Chevalier Ouilmette. Archange's mother, *Chopa*, was the daughter of Potawatomi warrior and headman *Naunongee* from the Calumet River Potawatomi.

Lucius, Elizabeth and 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 a total of 13 children with William, Francis L., Eliza (Bressman), Lucius A., Louis Oliver and Charles Nathan surviving to adulthood. The other children died as infants.

Lucius, Sr. later married two more times. First, he married Theresa Hardin. The couple had one child, who, sadly, died as an infant. After Theresa's death, Lucius, Sr. married a third time to a non-Native woman named Esther Hartwell. They had three children: William O., Fortis (Fordice) S. and Herman.

## Life in Indian Territory

The Treaty of 1846 required all the Potawatomi 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 died prior to 1863 and before the process was finalized, Lucius and their children chose to receive individual plots of land and became members of the Citizen Potawatomi.

Life in Indian Territory came with many challenges. The first winter was difficult and many families subsisted on little more than roots to survive. Poor health also persisted.



*Daniel Oliver Bressman and his wife, Jimmie Lou (Moore) Bressman.*

In the summer of 1874, a plague of grasshoppers destroyed the fruit, pecans and other crops of many families.

Nevertheless, the Potawatomi were resilient and determined. In 1875, many Potawatomi began to consider how to educate their children. While some relied on the Sacred Heart Mission, others who lived further away from the mission dedicated their time to establishing day schools. Some of the earliest communities in Indian Territory were created around these day schools.

Some family history can be found within testimony family members provided during probate cases. Records reveal that Lucius Darling, Sr. died on March 18, 1875.

A document dated Sept. 19, 1912, revealed that Lucius Darling, Jr. died in Red Rock, Oklahoma, at the age of 38. His sister, Eliza Bressman, testified that her brother never married. He died from pneumonia.

Eliza's testimony also stated that William died at about age 42, having never married or having children.



Francis and his wife, Mary, had a total of nine children: Rose L. (Moore), Carrie (Striegel), Francis E., and other children who died young. After Mary died in 1880, his second and third marriages ended in divorce and no children were born as a result of either union. Francis died Nov. 28, 1911, at the age of 69, with his three surviving children as heirs. According to the testimony of his son, Edward, Francis was 60 years old when he died and he was buried in Denver, Oklahoma.

Louis was still alive at the time of Eliza's testimony and was age 60. Louis and his wife, Maggie, were the parents of Anna E. (Konkoskie), Frances E. (Steward), Louise, George P., Lucius J. and Ernest O.

Charles was also alive, age 56, living in Washington state. Charles and his wife, Annie, had Frank, Bina (Dailey) and Otis.

Eliza stated that she had been born in Shawnee County, Kansas. She lived there until she was 20, when the family moved to Indian Territory.

## Legacy

The earliest communities in what would become Oklahoma were born from the hard work and generosity of families like the Darlings. Family members created schools, businesses and helped push for vital infrastructure like roads to help support these growing towns.

A copy of a certificate within the CHC archives lists Carrie May Darling as having completed educational requirements at the Indian Industrial School. Carrie was admitted to the school on Sept. 18, 1885, and graduated in June 1889. She received training in sewing and general needle work and completed a course in the dressmaking trade.

On Nov. 13, 1912, Louis Melosh gave testimony to determine the heirs of his deceased sister, Agnes Melosh (Newton), who had died on Sept. 8, 1912. Louis shared that his mother, Eliza (Darling), was first married to William Henry Smith. Together, they had six children before William's death: William E., Alice May (Tescier), George B., Frederick H., Ella F. (Cook) and John W. Eliza then married Charles Eldridge. They had a son named Lucius before Charles died. Eliza was then married to Joseph Melosh. They had Louis and Agnes. The couple divorced and Eliza later married Daniel Bressman and they had a son named Oliver.

At the time of his 1912 testimony, Louis said Eliza was about 62 years old, and living in McLoud, Oklahoma.

Rose Darling would go on to marry Charles Moore. They were the parents of George, Willie, Lillian, Amy and Charles.

The Darling family made countless contributions to the fabric of life that would eventually become Oklahoma and Pottawatomie County. They helped create a solid foundation that would benefit not only their Darling descendants but also non-Natives who would eventually call the area home.

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

CONTROL IS NOT  
ROMANTIC  
REAL LOVE  
HEALTHY



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM**

**24/7 CRISIS HOTLINE 405-878-HOPE**  
VISIT US ONLINE AT [CPNHOUSEOFHOPE.COM](http://CPNHOUSEOFHOPE.COM)



CPN's recycling facility on Hardesty Road.

## Tribe's recycling program six years strong and growing

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's recycling program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and was established in 2017 following a four month waste audit conducted by CPN Department of Environmental Protection.

Waste auditing, explained Micah Isaacs, CPN DEP assistant director, is a fancy term describing what amounts to climbing into dumpsters and sorting through the trash.

"That's essentially jumping into every dumpster that the Tribe has out here, going through the trash, separating out the different materials in there, and seeing what kind of recyclables and how much the Tribe goes through," Isaacs explained.

The waste audit process helped the team tailor the program precisely to the Nation's needs so that it would have maximum benefit to both the environment and the Tribe.

Cardboard, because of its overall bulk and popularity as a recyclable material, proved the most effective and efficient material to start with. The program now processes paper shred and aluminum as well.

### Reduces waste, saves money

Environmental Specialist Bryce O'Connor manages the recycling program's operations, from collection to compacting and baling cardboard, paper and aluminum.

O'Connor makes daily rounds servicing 21 facilities throughout Tribal headquarters, collecting the recyclables.

A facility approximately a half-mile from the FireLake complex houses three compactors, one for each material.

A bale of cardboard can weigh between 500-1,200 pounds, and paper shred can weigh even more.

In its first year, the recycling program diverted 98,400 pounds of recyclable material from landfills. Now, the program diverts roughly 140,000 pounds per year, allowing perfectly usable materials to recirculate and reducing demand on natural resources.

The program also reduces costs to the Tribe.

"You can imagine, just in a small dumpster, ... how fast one of those could fill up with cardboard," Isaacs said. "That thing gets filled up with essentially empty space."

Solid waste disposal costs the Nation per pickup — that is, every time a disposal truck comes and tips the dumpster. By diverting recyclable materials, especially ones that take up so much space, the recycling program reduces dumpster tips dramatically, saving the Tribe money.

Solid waste pickups at Tribal administration are down to approximately one tip per week, as compared to one per day prior to the implementation of the recycling program. At places like the FireLake Corner Store, the shift is even more dramatic:

"The corner store dumpster would have to be dumped three times a day, I would guess, if that recycling bin wasn't out there," Isaacs said.

### Support

O'Connor and Isaacs are grateful for the support the program receives throughout the Tribe.

"It's important to everyone from the top down," said Isaacs.

Tribal administration has shown tremendous support to the program since its inception, and departments and enterprises were quick to get on board.

"I'll get calls every day from different departments saying, 'Hey, can you come get this?' or 'Where can I store all this cardboard, because we want to help recycle,'" O'Connor said. "It's just good to see the community want to recycle and hop on board."

The recycling program's reputation so far precedes them that when Sovereign Pipe Technologies, the Nation's newest enterprise, opened at Iron Horse Industrial Park, SPT staff came to O'Connor to set up a partnership without any prompting.

"Of course, they were on our list to go contact, but when we're getting a call first, it means that people are aware of what's going on," Isaacs said.

Isaacs noted that federal partners, like the Environmental Protection Agency which funds the recycling program, are supportive, and that the program simply would not be possible without the leadership of CPN Department of Environmental Protection Director Shawn Howard.

## Looking ahead

In November, the department acquired two new recycling trailers with hydraulic tilt to assist with the collection operations of the program, as well as a new turntable for wrapping the bales of cardboard, paper and aluminum that will further expedite the process.

Proud of the program's successes to date, O'Connor and Isaacs have one eye turned towards future development for the betterment of the Tribe and the environment.

They hope to further develop hard drive and printer ink cartridge recycling soon, as well as secure document shredding capabilities.

Education and raising awareness are also key missions of the recycling program.

Ultimately, the team hopes to see the impact of the program extend far beyond the day-to-day operations within the FireLake complex.

"I think that's the most important thing about recycling, period, is being educated on the do's and the don'ts," Isaacs said.

From setting up at the annual Family Reunion Festival to connect with Tribal members, to answering calls about how to get involved, O'Connor is especially driven by the educational aspect of his work. Outreach programming will continue to develop as the program expands, he said.

O'Connor encourages readers of the *Hownikan* to learn about and participate in recycling programs wherever they might be, and he is happy to answer questions that Tribal members might have. Reach O'Connor at [bryce.oconnor@potawatomi.org](mailto:bryce.oconnor@potawatomi.org) or 405-878-4929 ex.4283. ♡



*The CPN Department of Environmental Protection acquired two new recycling trailers with hydraulic lift in November 2023.*

Shaela Halte, 10, is an established competitor on the archery field. (photo provided)



## Student qualifies for state archery competition

At only age 10, Shaela Halte has become a standout in the sport of archery. But it is not unusual for Shaela to defy expectations, according to her mother, Acacia. She has been doing that for most of her life.

This year, Shaela competed against hundreds of high school students to qualify for the 4-H archery state tournament in Colorado. She surprised many by placing 50th in the state against older, more experienced competitors.

True to form, Shaela immediately began planning how she would place even higher next year, Acacia said.

### Defying expectations

When Acacia was pregnant with Shaela, doctors told Acacia she was experiencing complications that could threaten the pregnancy.

"Three times while I was carrying her, they told me she (wouldn't make it)," Acacia said.

Shaela also had breathing difficulties following her birth. Doctors told Acacia that her daughter might have lifelong health complications.

"They said, 'She's always going to be behind,'" Acacia recalled. "They told me she would never read. In second grade, she was at a ninth-grade level. They had all these things they said and everything they told me (didn't turn out to be true)."

With a child who has been defying the odds since her birth, sometimes Acacia must appreciate the daily challenges of raising a pre-teen.

"It's so funny because sometimes she gets so obstinate with me and I can't get mad because that is what has kept this kid going," Acacia said. "You can't get mad because she's defied the odds."

### Archery one of many interests

Shaela became interested in archery about three years ago. The 4-H archery competitions begin at a local level before competitors can qualify for the county competition. County qualifiers then proceed to state.

"She was so naturally drawn to it," Acacia said. "It was really cool because I wasn't expecting that."

Most of the competition shooting uses a paper target. Shaela also enjoys shooting decoys. She can hit an elk decoy at 50 yards, a fairly long shot for someone her age.

Shaela was excited to use the 3-D targets, one of which resembled an alligator.

"She likes to shoot at the paper targets, but it's not nearly as fun to her as the 3-D target," Acacia said. "There was a kid next to her that previously shot at nationals, and they just could not get these alligators. She just walks up there, all confident, and got both of them."

Shaela still gets nervous before competing but many of the other competitors have taken her under their wing.

"At state, she was between these two (older) boys, and you would have thought she was their little sister," Acacia said.

The next level of competition will temporarily have to wait. Shaela will not be able to compete at 4-H's national tournament until she is 14. But she plans to practice as much as she can to prepare for that day.

"It's exciting," Acacia said. "We're really proud."

Shaela's team has organized practices, but she likes to devote her own time to archery as well. Her parents recently surprised her with a pass to a local archery range, where she can continue to refine her technique.

With Shaela's devotion to the sport and her unexpected success, Acacia and her husband wouldn't rule out one day seeing their daughter take her skills to the ultimate competition level, the summer Olympics.

"She would love that. It would be amazing to see," Acacia said. "We've had people asking, because she's so young and doing so well, if we had considered it. We'll have to see."

For now, the family is focused on school and encouraging Shaela to explore more activities.

"She's doing really well. She writes songs and she loves tennis too. She saw someone playing tennis and said, 'I'm going to do that.' I said, 'Whoa, hold on,'" Acacia laughed.

Shaela is an avid reader and recently completed reading 4,000 pages in a single month. Her favorite authors include Jules Verne and Emily Dickinson and one of her favorite books is Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes*.

Acacia said her daughter has come a long way and the family is excited to see what the accomplished pre-teen will do next.

"Her pre-K teacher told me she was one of the most 'delightfully determined young children she had ever met,'" Acacia laughed.

## Family time

The family has a history with archery. Acacia's grandfather used to make his own bows. Acacia's father plans to show



*Shaela Halte is proud of her bow and handmade quiver sewn by her mother, Acacia. (photo provided)*

his granddaughter Shaela how to make a leather armguard.

Acacia enjoys beadwork in her spare time and recently made a special quiver for Shaela, with beadwork, that Shaela treasures.

Acacia was recently asked to instruct Shaela's 4-H group in leatherwork and beadwork.

"The (club leader) mentioned they didn't know anyone who could

instruct on Native American beadwork and Shaela said, 'My mom could,'" Acacia said.

Acacia said her husband often jokes that Shaela got her talent from his side of the family, but Acacia said she is certain it is the family's Potawatomi ancestors that passed the skill along.

Joking aside, "he is a very proud papa," Acacia said.

The 4-H archery season ended in August and the family is enjoying some down time before archery begins again in January. They plan to enjoy camping and hiking in the meantime.

However, Acacia isn't planning on too much downtime because Shaela already has her eyes on a new bow, she laughed.

4-H is America's largest youth development organization, having supported almost 6 million youth across the country. The Colorado program has more than 100,000 annual participants, who are learning to become confident, independent, resilient and compassionate leaders, according to the website. Programs cover topics such as health, science, agriculture and citizenship. 4-H focuses on head, hands, heart and health, with students ages 8-18 tackling issues such as community health inequality, civil discourse and advocating for equity and inclusion for all. Learn more at [4-h.org](https://4-h.org). 🔥

# Window to close soon for PLP applications

The window will be closing soon for the chance for Potawatomi youth to apply for this summer's Potawatomi Leadership Program.

The program, which welcomes college-aged Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal members, will run from June 14 to July 27, 2024.

The six-week program teaches participants about CPN's culture, governance and business operations, but it also works to develop leadership skills that will help students succeed in their academic and professional lives.

"The Potawatomi Leadership Program represents an incredibly unique opportunity for CPN youth to learn about their heritage, get connected with the Nation, and explore their personal relationship with what it means to be Citizen Potawatomi," PLP Advisor Rachel Watson said. "If you've ever felt like being Potawatomi is difficult to talk about, or if you grew up hearing traditional stories from your family, or if you're anywhere in between, there's so much to be gained from making connections with your Tribal government and CPN Tribal members your age."

PLP participants visit CPN departments and enterprises and spend time with Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and Tribal legislators. They participate in language classes, ceremonies, dance lessons and traditional crafts that help connect them to their culture. Students also complete an intensive leadership training curriculum that helps them develop and build their skills.

Issak "Ike" Decker, a member of the Ogee family who participated in the 2023 PLP program, described his experience.

"The beginning is all about getting adjusted and familiar with the environment and schedule and process," he said, adding that there were several fun activities scheduled throughout the program as he got to know housemother Margaret Zientek and his roommates. "There is important work, as well, and projects you must complete. It's a learning program, not a vacation."

Some of that work included department sessions where students learned about the inner workings of the Tribe, a language class, and collections and research that Decker said helped him connect to his Tribal heritage.

"You must be able to work effectively with others under deadlines," he said. "You have to see past personal differences and potentially work with people you may disagree with. All of these, however, train extremely useful skills for the workplace."

For Grey Doster, a member of the Johnson family who also participated in the 2023 PLP class, a desire to learn more about Potawatomi heritage inspired them to apply for the program.

"I had always known that I was Potawatomi, but didn't know what it meant to be Potawatomi. I got the flyer in the *Hownikan* and had been looking for ways to reconnect with my heritage, and a full summer immersion in the culture seemed like a great way to do that," they said.

A part of the program that was memorable for Doster was the drum circle, where they could connect with other Potawatomi women and two-spirit people.

"I wasn't sure if I belonged there, but one of the women said that I belong wherever I feel that Creator



PLP participants receive eagle feathers from Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett.

means for me to be, which meant a lot in terms of reconnecting as a two-spirit person,” Doster said.

Doster said they feel a better understanding of the Potawatomi culture, language and ancestry since being in PLP, and they have even incorporated things they learned into their daily life, such as smudge, speaking the language, attending local powwows and even competing in the Southern Cloth Dance.

Watson took on the role of advisor in 2023, when the program was in its 20th year, and said they are excited about working with the next group of students in 2024.

“In our department, our guiding light is how our work contributes to not just this next generation, but the next seven generations,” Watson said. “The PLP participants are always just the start of that ripple. They share what

they learn with their family and loved ones, and they play a vital role in keeping our traditions and culture not just living, but moving forward and growing.”

To be eligible, applicants must be enrolled CPN Tribal members between 18 and 20 years old by the program’s start date, have a 3.0 or higher GPA, and should be enrolled in a college or career tech for the fall 2024 semester.

The application window opened Nov. 15, 2023, and will close Feb. 15, 2024.

“If you’re even considering applying just a little — apply,” Doster said. “PLP is an incredible opportunity for CPN youth. It taught me so much about Potawatomi culture and gave me a second family miles away from where I grew up.”

To learn more or to apply, go to [plp.potawatomi.org](http://plp.potawatomi.org). 🔥

## Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

Well, we made it through 2023. And what a year it was. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization has had a busy 2023 in presenting the colors at various events, demonstrating folding the U.S. Flag to local schools and our annual CPN Festival. We are proud to represent the Citizen Potawatomi Nation throughout the state of Oklahoma. Our membership has grown, and Tribal veterans are beginning to show interest in our Color Guard and Honor Guard. We invite all CPN veterans and their families to join us for a meal and social gathering on the fourth Tuesday of each month. You do not have to be a member or even join, but we welcome interaction and socializing of our veterans and their families.

As most of you know, I try to keep our veterans informed of the benefits available through Veterans Affairs (VA) health care programs. Oklahoma City recently launched a new app called “VA Health Chat” to help veterans “chat” directly to health care professionals. The goal is to improve veteran satisfaction and improve timeliness of getting veterans scheduled for their appointments with providers outside VA with Community Care appointments. With VA Health Chat they can offer another way for veterans to return that critical information and move forward with their consult quicker and easier. The VA Health Chat app connects veterans with online messaging or text with a VA health care professional who can assist you. If a provider from your assigned care team needs to be contacted, the health care professional can send a message on your behalf and relay the messages.

On another note, the Veterans Benefits Administration’s (VBA) Loan Guaranty Service (LGY) helps address the needs of Native Americans through the Native American Direct Loan (NADL) program, a special initiative that supports Native American veterans who want to buy, build or refinance a home on federal trust land. For Native



American veterans to apply to NADL, their tribe must have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the VA.

Remember our monthly meeting of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization is the fourth Tuesday of each month. January’s meeting is on the 23rd (unless otherwise notified due to weather or conflicting events) at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the CPN Powwow Grounds. All CPN veterans and spouses and their families are welcome. Membership in the veterans organization is not required; come and visit us and enjoy our socializing. For more information, you can contact Daryl Talbot.

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



Tribal members gathered in Olathe, Kansas, one of the stops along the Trail of Death observance.

## Tribal members visit ‘sacred ground’ during Trail of Death observance

Officials with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Tribal members from across the country met in Indiana and retraced the steps their ancestors took in 1838 when the Potawatomi were forced to leave their Indiana homelands and march to a reservation in Kansas.

The 660-mile journey became known as The Trail of Death. A band of 859 Potawatomi set out from Chief Menominee’s village near Twin Lakes, Indiana, on Sept. 4, 1838. More than 40 people died during the journey, which ended in November at a small Osage reservation in Indian Territory, now Kansas. The Potawatomi later moved to a reservation further south at Sugar Creek, Kansas.

2023 marked the 185th anniversary. Every five years, a caravan of cars retraces the journey, stopping along the way at historical markers and other sites related to the forced removal.

On Sept. 18, 2023, the group gathered at the statue of Chief Menominee in Twin Lakes to open the caravan. They visited Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, making a brief stop on Sept. 23, 2023, in Olathe, Kansas, where CPN District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw and the Johnson County Historical Society hosted breakfast for the participants.

A staff member for U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids, a Kansas Democrat representing the third congressional

district, presented a proclamation recognizing the Trail of Death observance. Rep. Davids was unable to attend the breakfast, but had read the proclamation on the U.S. House floor earlier in the week.

CPN legislators Jon Boursaw, District 4, Alan Melot, District 1, and Bob Whistler, District 3, accepted the framed document on behalf of the Nation.

“This is sacred ground for us, for our grandparents and our ancestors,” Melot said of the journey.

Boursaw described how his great-great-great-grandfather, Daniel Bourassa, II, was among the Potawatomi who were held under guard in a church before they were forced to grab what they could prior to setting out on the enforced march. Their homes, crops and businesses were burned to discourage their return.

“The tribal leaders were placed in chains and loaded into wagons, elders were placed in wagons and over 850 men, women and children left Twin Lakes, most on foot,” he said. “Along the way, more than 40 Potawatomi, mostly elders and children, died. Over 60 were able to escape.”

The group didn’t have adequate food or water. Several townspeople along the way were compassionate, offering what they could to help the Potawatomi, Boursaw said. In



some towns they passed through, local women gathered what food they could and gave it to the Potawatomi, who had received rotten rations from the U.S. Army.

A Catholic priest, Fr. Benjamin Marie Petit, insisted on accompanying the Potawatomi and recorded the events in his journal, one of the few who documented the events. Father Petit attempted to minister to the sick and dying. His journal described the conditions as hot, dusty and dry, and many of the makeshift encampments along the journey as “a scene of desolation; on all sides were the sick and dying.”

Once the Potawatomi arrived at Sugar Creek, Kansas, the housing the U.S. government promised was not there. The first winter at Sugar Creek was a difficult one, Boursaw said.

Susan Mong, superintendent of culture for Johnson County, said the county plans to develop a community art project to commemorate the Trail of Death.

“We knew art could help tell that story and create a greater sense of place and an awareness for our visitors,” Mong said. “We think this is a powerful tool to help them understand the history of this land long before it was a park.”

The county plans to have a national call for proposals, assemble an art selection committee and then choose an artist with an Indigenous background to create the art, Mong said. Johnson County is eager to receive input from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as the project develops over the next several months, she added.

Boursaw expects the Johnson County officials and CPN representatives will meet again later to discuss ideas. He said several Tribal members expressed their interest in contributing to the project.

He appreciated the support from Mong, who “spent a considerable amount of time and effort making the arrangements” for the mid-morning stop in Olathe.

Also in attendance were CPN citizens George Godfrey, the president of the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association; Brian Wano, a descendant of *Ship-she-wano*; and Dr. Rosemary Schrepfer, 101. Dr. Schrepfer was the first woman to complete the obstetrician-gynecologist program in the state of Kansas.

Godfrey also introduced Shirley Willard, a former Indiana middle school teacher, who has led the effort to teach students about this chapter of Potawatomi history. She is a former president of the Fulton County (Indiana) Historical Society. Over the years, Willard has worked closely with Godfrey to organize the caravans and help share the Trail of Death story with media and local communities.

Each participant in the caravan introduced themselves and shared where they had traveled from to be a part of it. Some came from as far as California and Arizona. A few had made multiple trips in prior years while others were experiencing their first caravan. The group included a wide range of ages, from young children to elders.



*Representative Jon Boursaw*

The group then gathered for a photograph together before leaving for the next stop in Osawatomie, Kansas. Osawatomie received its name as it was the site where the Potawatomi joined a small group of Osage who had also been removed.

In 1838, some Osawatomie residents generously shared their food and water with the Potawatomi, but in 2023, the Potawatomi were special guests who were treated to a community meal and welcomed by town officials.

Departing Osawatomie, the caravan continued to a location near Parker, Kansas. Here, the event concluded at the St. Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park, located on what had been the Sugar Creek Reservation where the Potawatomi lived for approximately 10 years.

“I was amazed at the turnout at the event this morning in Olathe,” Boursaw said. “There were three groups, from the people on the caravan, tribal members from as far away as Wamego (Kansas) and several local residents from Johnson County. I was extremely pleased with the turnout and the support from the Johnson County officials was exceptional.”

For more information, visit the CPN Cultural Heritage Center online at [potawatomiheritage.com](http://potawatomiheritage.com) or the Trail of Death Association website at [potawatomi-tda.org](http://potawatomi-tda.org). Tribal members who participated also documented their trip on Instagram at [@potawatomitrail1838](https://www.instagram.com/potawatomitrail1838). 🔥

# Legislator reflects on Trail of Death observance

A Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal legislator reflected on his experience during the recent Potawatomi Trail of Death caravan.

Alan Melot, who lives in Joplin, Missouri, joined the group at a caravan stop in Olathe, Kansas, and continued to the caravan's conclusion in Sugar Creek, Kansas.

Like many Tribal members, Melot is familiar with the history, but it was his first time to join the caravan. He plans to experience the entire trip, some 660 miles, when the caravan travels again in 2028.

## Connections with history

"Going into Sugar Creek was solemn. We're connecting with these historic things and some of the heavier experiences that we've had as a Nation, as a people," he said. "It's powerful to be able to go back and visit the same place that my ancestors were nearly 150 years ago."

Melot said he thought of his Potawatomi ancestors and tried to understand how they must have felt.

"Being there in Sugar Creek, (I knew) that they were there for the better part of a decade, without having (the promised) support, being lied to by the government, having discord with people who are already there in the area, (people) who had also been displaced and removed."

A licensed therapist, Melot said the experience even left him searching for the right words to describe it. He felt several emotional highs and lows.

"Life is difficult. Hardship and suffering are the things that unite us as humans. To be in a place where the people are experiencing such hardship, such suffering and disconnection from their ways of life" was moving, he said.

Since the area around the former Sugar Creek reservation is still rural and undeveloped, Melot was able to imagine what must have awaited his ancestors.

"Being able to feel the depth of that hardship and connect with it in a way that's real, that you can look around and know (they) must have said, 'Wow, we've got to scratch a living out of this.' There was something profound and deep about that connection," he said.

Melot said he deeply appreciates how far the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has come. When the Potawatomi survivors of the Trail of Death finally arrived in Sugar Creek, Kansas, their primary focus was on survival. Today, the Nation is prosperous and has an optimistic outlook. Melot believes his ancestors would be equally as proud of their descendants.

## Planning for the future

In the past, some caravan participants have chosen to travel the entire 660-mile distance. Others have joined

the group at different stages. Each participant may decide which method suits them best, Melot said.

As many of the Trail of Death Association leaders are now elders, Melot said the younger members of the group will have to take all they've learned so the event may continue to serve future generations.

"I feel like the next one is going to have a different flavor. The association leaders are aging; I am hopeful that (they) will still be able to participate, but I know that there's a point where you just don't have the energy to do the planning side," he said. "I feel like we are in a time of transition now where we've got quite a few people who are younger stepping into positions of leadership. It's a grassroots organization, and I just love that."

Melot said the younger Tribal members are grateful for what their elders have accomplished and feel the weight of carrying the legacy forward. From planning the accommodations, viewing sites of special significance, to working with local citizens and governments to place historical markers along the route, he's grateful for everything the Trail of Death Association has done.

In Fulton County, Indiana, alone, there are 80 historical markers, designating Trail of Death campsites every 15 to 20 miles, according to the Fulton County Historical Society. Efforts to add more markers in additional states continue.

"There's been so much heavy lifting already done. There are so many markers along the trail. I feel like it's a real gift to be handed to us," Melot said.

## Life changing experience

He was happy to see young children on the trip as well. Melot hopes more parents will consider including their children in the next caravan.

"Then that becomes part of your history, that is part of your legacy, when you are able to experience it as a kid," Melot said.

He compared traveling in the caravan to visiting a boarding school that his great-grandfather attended. Both were meaningful experiences, but with very different emotions.

"Walking around (the school), the place just felt evil to me, and it made me so mad. We've read about boarding schools and children being taken away from parents. But that changed from being an academic thing that we read about," he said. "On the Trail of Death, I got none of the anger, which kind of surprised me because it was a catastrophic displacement for our people. (Being there) just evokes such a different experience. I just felt deeply connected."

For more information, visit the Trail of Death Association website at [potawatomi-tda.org](http://potawatomi-tda.org) 🔥

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# From the executives



## John "Rocky" Barrett Tribal Chairman

*Bozho nikan, (Hello, my friend,)*

I hope you all had time to celebrate the holidays, gather with families, and to pass on your family stories and the stories of our people. As we embark into a new year, I am looking forward to what we will achieve and reflecting on all I am grateful for.

In November, I had the honor of being one of eight inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. It was a great night, and a privilege to be surrounded by so many fine Oklahomans who were also honored for their accomplishments.

I would like to extend a thank you to Vice-Chairman Capps, CPN

legislators, and so many others who have worked alongside me and helped bring our visions and goals to fruition. Having a dedicated group of people who care deeply about the future of our people has been a vital part of my journey as Chairman. Thank you, also, to you, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members who have elected me to this position 10 times over the past several decades and entrusted me with this role.

CPN has come a long way through the years, from the small trailer in the 1970s that served as Tribal headquarters to a jurisdiction of more than 900 square miles today. CPN now comprises more than 38,000 Tribal members, 2,200 employees, an economic impact of more than \$700 million, and enterprises that vary from FireLake Discount Foods, to the Grand Casino Hotel and Resort, to Iron Horse Industrial Park and so many more. We have seen



*CPN's columbarium is nearing completion.*

many positive changes in job creation, expansion of services and the revitalization of our culture. Last year was a year of growth and fresh opportunities, with new construction and new enterprises breaking ground. This year, we will see the completion of many of those projects.

The future of our Tribe is a bright one.

With last year behind us 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



*Work is underway for CPN's new hotel and casino near Shawnee, Oklahoma.*



## Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

*Bozho (Hello),*

I wish all our Tribal members the very best for the 2024 New Year. There is often excitement regarding a new year, along with lots of questions about what the year will bring. One big question is what is expected to happen with the U.S. economy in 2024? Of course, even the best predictions have a margin of error, but professional predictions have the economy still growing in 2024 ... even if it is at a slower rate.

One main reason for slower growth in the early part of 2024 is consumer spending will experience a decline. Consumers have relied on savings accumulated during the pandemic and credit card balances they paid down to combat inflations. Pandemic savings are mostly gone, and credit card spending has risen sharply. The capacity to add more debt will be limited in 2024.

How does the growth for CPN look during 2024? The Nation is in a growth mode in many areas. We have a lot to look forward to during 2024. I have been telling our employees that it will be a great year. Our unemployment numbers are finally down. We struggled during and after the pandemic with employees leaving for various reasons, some because they wanted to continue working from home. We have a limited number of employees who can work off location; therefore, it makes it difficult to offer those types of positions.

Due to an inflow of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the Tribe is in a building mode. The ARPA funds were allocated to entities to help them recover from the pandemic. They have been a blessing to our Tribe and to our members (the \$1,400 payments). Incidentally, the \$1,400 payment is still open to those that have not applied. Please do not apply again if you know you have received the \$1,400. Our staff keeps excellent records to show all individuals that have applied for and received payments.

CPN is the largest employer in Pottawatomie County with wages that are commendable. We have outstanding employees and departments. I want our employees to be productive and experience a good working environment. When you like your job, it is so much more enjoyable to work throughout the day. In addition, time flies by and it is day's end before you know it. CPN has invested in resources to help with retention and job security.

The new Employee Engagement & Advocacy Program under the leadership of CPN professional staff member Kelley Francen began in the fall of 2022. Still in its infancy, the program has made a difference in the workplace. The program has given our employees a morale lift as Ms. Francen develops strategies to show appreciation and support to employees from senior management to entry level. I believe that CPN will see more job satisfaction in 2024, plus we will be on our journey to experience an all-time high in job retention.

If you have not been to the headquarters area for a while, you will be surprised to see a huge amount of construction fencing on the north side of Hardesty Road and the same type of fencing stretched around the softball fields. The area enclosed by fencing is where Crossland Construction Co. is building the new casino, hotel and expansion of the softball fields. This is a good reason why CPN will grow to look different at the headquarters area in 2024. Although the construction will not be completed until 2025, buildings will be in the air and the ballfields will take on new dimensions in the new year. During the spring/summer of 2025, the casino will open first, followed by the hotel.

Thank you for the opportunity to share good news with you about CPN. I cherish my years as the Vice-Chairman of our great nation.

*Migwetch (Thank you),*

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

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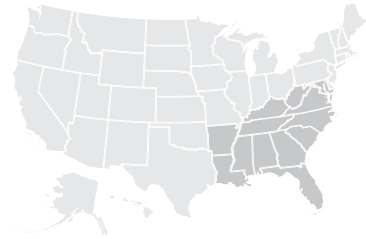
# From the legislature



## Eva Marie Carney District 2

*Bozho, nikanek* (Hello, friends),

**Upcoming District 2 Meeting in Arkansas.** CPN citizen and pastor Alan Johnson (Wilmet/Spencer families) of Rogers, Arkansas, has kindly offered to host District 2 in the Church Hall of Rogers First Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, April 20, 2024. More details will be provided in my February column, on my website, and in a postcard that will be mailed out next month. Please remember that you do not need to receive a postcard invitation to attend, but please do RSVP.



**District 2 Fall Feast.** We had a terrific Fall Feast. *Migwetch*/thank you to everyone who attended, brought delicious food (if you were able) and a generous spirit, and spent time with our extended family. Congratulations to our wisest, farthest travelled and youngest attendees — Patsy Vawter (95 years old), Sherree Collier (visiting from Texas), and Wyatt Oliver Nowaten B. (6 months old). Congratulations also to the winners of our first-ever art contest – Brent K. (professional); Ella P. (over 16) and Nathan G. (youth). (Photos of Mrs. Vawter and the artists were part of my December 2023 column.)

Special thanks to Bob/Shaweno and Karen Richey for teaching the dreamcatcher craft and for helping to set up and clean up; to *Pitchikwe* for sharing her dreamcatcher teachings ahead of the meeting; to Alan and Marshall Cohen for set up and food delivery and service; to George Korzeniewski for sharing about his experiences in the *Mdamen* program; and to Amanda Funk for sharing about the nonprofit she operates, Widoktadwen Center for Native Knowledge.



*Youngest attendee with mother Whitney Greenfield and Legislator Eva Marie Carney, Fall Feast 2023*



*Roy and Julia Slavin with Eva Marie Carney and Alan Cohen in Burlington, VT*

More special thanks go to Kim Pratt for bringing her lovely pottery to add to our giveaways table, and to Ron Bazhaw for gifting District 2 the beautiful cedar boxes he crafted and for offering to provide more as needed. A photo of our youngest attendee accepting his gift blanket is part of this column. If you are on Facebook, you can find more photos posted to my page.

**White House Tribal Nations Summit 2023.** I expected to attend the White House Tribal Nations Summit 2023, representing CPN, but did not get a timely clearance. I am sorry I can't provide a personal take on the discussions; you can follow these links for [media coverage](#) of the summit, the [Justice Department's readout](#) of its participation, and the White House's [written report](#) to the Tribal Nations on "2023 Progress."

**Interesting law review articles.** I do not typically recommend law review articles but two came to my attention recently that weave together Native history, law, and policy that I do recommend. The first is "We the (Native) People?: How Indigenous Peoples Debated the U.S. Constitution," published in the [Columbia Law Review](#). You can read a Q&A with the authors [here](#). The second is "The

Capitalization of 'Tribal Nations' and the Decolonization of Citation, Nomenclature, and Terminology in the United States," published in the [Mitchell Hamline Law Review](#). I hope you also find these worthwhile.

**Thank you to our Public Information and IT departments.** I recently learned that a CPN citizen who relocated to Ireland did not have access to the CPN website from her (new) home computer. After a few exchanges of relevant information with our Public Information and IT departments, she now can view the site and stay informed. If you are outside the country and are not able to view [potawatomi.org](http://potawatomi.org), please contact me and I will direct you to folks who can troubleshoot the issue.

**Condolences to the Slavin family and to her many friends.** Julia Slavin walked on late in 2023. She was a vibrant woman and a good friend. I send condolences to her children, Verna Slavin Brooks and Rod Slavin, and to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. My husband Alan and I have many great memories of spending time with Julia and her late husband, Legislator Roy Slavin. I have included a photo of us all together, in memory of them.

Migwetch (thank you),

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



## Bob Whistler District 3

*Bozho ginwa* (Hello everyone),

With the combining of the October and November *Hownikan*, my planned November article that is in the December *Hownikan* advised of a continuation. So here is my supplement.

### PTOD (9/18-9/23) CONTINUED

As mentioned in last months' article, we started our trip in Indiana and thereafter traveled through Illinois, Missouri and ended the trip in Kansas. There were 79 locations visited.

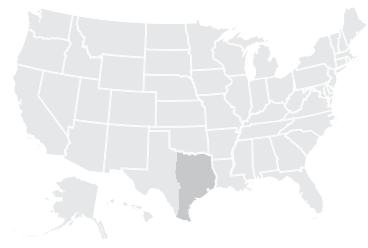
As we drove through Indiana and Illinois, we were in some very beautiful, forested areas. Our ancestors' trip tended to stay close to both water and forest where possible. This allowed for the needed hydration and provided the opportunity to do some hunting for meals along with firewood for cooking and heat as needed.

We also ventured past many farmland fields of corn and soybeans in Illinois and Missouri.

Some of my memorable events were a stop at the Tippecanoe County Historical Association in Lafayette, Indiana. There, we were treated to viewing original works in the George Winter collection. His artwork is published in the book *Indians and a Changing Frontier: The Art of George Winter*. A very worthwhile stop!

Another museum we visited was the Illinois State Museum where we were briefed on the Potawatomi Settlement in the Kankakee River Valley. They had many artifacts that we were able to view. As a side note, they had a huge Aztec basket measuring over 4 feet high and about 3 feet in diameter that was over 100 years old. They advised it had held grain, possibly corn. The basket had been held by a local family through many generations, and they chose to give it to the museum since that would allow others to see it.

The next major thing that comes to mind was our stop in Quincy, Illinois, where we arrived in the very late afternoon. On the western edge of the city, we drove across what most likely at one time was a railroad bridge to a small island. Once there, the locals had some entertainment and provided our evening meal. We were treated to another nation's



*Bob Whistler and George Godfrey blessing the site.*



ceremonial dance, and the leader of the dancers presented each of us with a gift. The gift was a handcrafted necklace, and we were briefed on the significance of each of the elements of the necklace. The shell represents water. The small dark colored item on the necklace cord inside the shell is clay and represents mother earth. The cord is made of braided sinew and the knot is sealed with a flame representing fire. And finally, the cord being circular in nature represents the circle of life. I have included a photo of the necklace.

As we approached Moberly, Missouri, our stop was at a site that our leader, George Godfrey, advised that it had no marker or plaque. I had packed tobacco, sage and my eagle fan for the trip. I suggested to George that we bless this site for the future and he agreed. I was able to light the sage and used the smoke to bless each member of our group. While doing this each member of our group took a small portion of tobacco in their left hand. Then the tobacco was offered in prayer to the Creator and George said a prayer for the blessing and ceremony. I've included a photo of George and me at the site.

I have many more memories and urge you to consider making the trip when it is held again in 2028. It will certainly offer you good memories

and an understanding of what our ancestors encountered on their fateful trip.

Nagech (Later),

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

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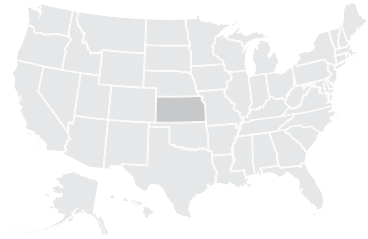




## Jon Boursaw District 4

### Happy New Year

Peggy and I hope each of you had a joyful and safe holiday season.



### Teaching and Learning About American Indians in Kansas Schools

Previously I mentioned that I had been asked to serve on the Kansas Academic Council for Indigenous Education (KACIE). The KACIE has joined with the Kansas Department of Education to work toward expanding the teaching and learning about American Indians in Kansas schools. KACIE met frequently over the past several months with the Kansas tribes. However, in December KACIE met in Oklahoma with tribes that had a historical presence in Kansas prior to being relocated to Oklahoma but have tribal members with children attending Kansas public schools. Obviously, that includes those CPN members living in Kansas. The goal of the KACIE is to have Native American studies included in the curriculum for all Kansas public schools

grades 1 through 12 within a few years. Proposed topics for this Native American curriculum include tribal histories and geographies; governance, sovereignty, and citizenship; and language, art and literature. A few states have Indigenous Education Programs in their schools, but unfortunately most states have none, including Kansas.

### Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

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

January 12	Variety of Soups	RSVP by the 9th
February 9	Baked Crack Chicken and rolls	RSVP by the 6th

Please RSVP to Tracy at 785-584-6171.

### KEEP Funding for K-12 Students in Kansas

The Kansas Education Enrichment Program (KEEP) is for students/families that reside in Kansas. It provides financial assistance to eligible students with \$1,000 for approved educational resources. This includes such items as school supplies, laptops or tablets, tutoring, instrument and vocal lessons, instrument purchase or rental and language classes. Tuition, school, and sports related fees are not eligible under this program.

Parents and guardians who earn 300% or less than the Federal Poverty Guidelines qualify for the program.

The student must be a resident of Kansas, currently enrolled in a Kansas school (public, private or home school) and at least 5 years old as of Aug. 13, 2023, or 18 years or younger as of May 31, 2024. (Students may be above 18 with proof of enrollment.)

Students are qualified for the program if their family is enrolled in or qualifies for SNAP or FDRIP food programs.

If you are not familiar with this program, I strongly encourage you to contact your child's school for particulars on how to make purchases, pay any fees, etc. Do not make any expenditures without assurance that it qualifies under this program. ([keep.ks.gov](http://keep.ks.gov))

### Presentation of Three Quilts of Valor

At the October District meeting held in Rossville three Citizen Potawatomi veterans were recognized for their military service and each was presented with a Quilt of Valor.

The honored veterans were:

**Steven Rhodd:** Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army (Retired) | Dates of Service: Jan. 2000 to Sept. 2022  
Primary Duty: Intelligence and Sniper | Overseas Service: Afghanistan

**Mark Mulanax:** Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force & Kansas Air National Guard | Dates of Service: Sept. 1986 to May 2018  
Primary Duty: Avionics | Overseas Service: Saudi Arabia, Europe, Japan, Qatar,

**Matthew Hogan:** Technical Sergeant, U.S. Army Reserve & Kansas Air National Guard  
Dates of Service: Nov. 1999 to April 2015 | Primary Duty: Military Police  
Overseas Service: Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Afghanistan, Iraq

These Quilts of Valor were made by a quilting group based in Linwood, Kansas, led by Peggy Pistora, a Navarre family descendant.

Megwetch (Thank you),

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



## Gene Lambert District 5

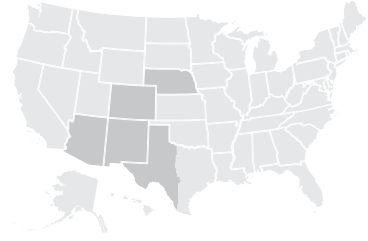
Bozho (Hello),

What a wonderful turnout and group of CPN members in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Nov. 4, 2023.

We have had meetings there before, but this was by far the best attended and most active as we look forward to the future.

We had great Indian fry bread, for starters, and a table fit for the "Chief." In my opinion, that in itself is worth the meeting.

The Pueblo people were very entertaining and hospitable as they have been in the past, exceeded only by the guided museum tour sharing likenesses and differences in culture.



Our meeting began with the spreading of cedar and a beautiful opening prayer by Bob Hoy.

On Nov. 4, we also had a naming for two of our distinguished members: Robert and Dennis Hoy.

As usual, Justin Neely and Robert Collins from the Language Department are always there for backup when you need language assistance. Fortunately, we have the greatest department support with CPN of any nation.

Following tradition, we gifted our wisest, who was Dennis Hoy, and the youngest, Susanna Basappa.



*Pictured, from left, are Susanna Basappa, Gene Lambert and LauraAnne Carney.*



*Pictured, from left, are Susanna Basappa, Robert Hoy, Dennis Hoy, Beth Hoy and Gene Lambert.*

When you start to see some of these pictures, it may seem a little confusing as the youngest was also a sponsor in the naming for Robert and Dennis Hoy.

During the naming, we went through the normal proceedings of a naming and why we continue the process, as did our ancestors. Many had never attended the ceremony.

I feel like I need to say thank you to our Creator for 2023 and the many gifts it has brought us. Yes, there were challenges, but we are here to do more and better in 2024 with the help and assistance of the Creator.

As you make your New Year's resolutions, remember to put the Creator first, family and loved ones next, then your work or profession that calls you. Remember it all manifests through you.

Time will pass you, each day will challenge you, but Lord willing, your loved ones will be there to help you through or celebrate your successes.

Let's let go of the past and know it is "A NEW DAY." Celebrate the ability to love another day. Here comes 2024, your year.

Love you all,

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



## Rande K. Payne District 6

*Bozho Nikanek (Hello friends),*

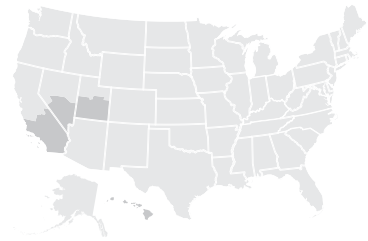
I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and your New Year is off to a great start. It seems a little strange to be talking about October in January, but I want to make sure I cover our District 6 and 7 Fall Festival. This year's event had a good mix of first-time attenders and folks that have attended more than once.

There is never a shortage of things to share as there are so many good things happening at CPN. The list covered at the gathering is too long to recap in this column. Because the FY 2024 budget had recently been finalized, it was included in the agenda, and I'll use it as an overview.

Hopefully, folks gained a better understanding of the variety of revenue streams and how those resources are utilized to keep our Tribe moving forward. One of our most vital sources of revenue are our enterprises or Tribally-owned businesses. A breakdown of how our enterprises are performing was included in the discussion. We can all be proud of our Nation's results and the people who work hard every day to make it happen.

Out of the budget discussion came the question of why we don't provide per capita payments to our Tribal members as many of the California tribes do. For perspective, if you used our casino profits for per capita payments to only Tribal members in District 6, you might be able to give about \$1,000 a month. But what about the other 38,000 Tribal members across the country? And you would most likely have to end scholarships and other benefits and services CPN provides its citizens. Even if those over the age of 18 received per capita payments, it would still not be feasible. The best thing that came out of the discussion was creating the awareness of the benefits and services CPN does have available. Many were unaware and now have the knowledge of what's available and how to gain access.

In our attempt to better understand what attendees would like to see at future events, Representative Johnson and I asked for feedback from those in attendance. There was a wide range of interests, and we will do our best to organize future meetings that include what our constituents are most interested in.



*Wisest - Mary Boland*



*Farthest Traveled - Danna Barron*

As is tradition, special recognition was given to our wisest (oldest) Tribal member, the youngest (future of our Tribe), and farthest traveled. All three were presented with a special gift from the Tribe.

Our wisest in attendance was Mary Boland. Mary is a Melott descendant from Visalia in District 6. Mary and her daughter Valerie McKee have attended nearly all our joint District 6 and 7 events. Mary said she knew that if she hung around long enough, she would eventually get a blanket! Mary and Valerie are such sweet spirits, and we enjoy seeing them every year.

Our youngest was Everly Ann Abbott, from Napa in District 7. Her parents are Caymus and Shauna Abbott. Caymus is a Rhodd descendant.

Our farthest traveled was Danna Barron from Spring Valley in District 6. Danna is also a Melott descendant. Ironically, Danna discovered that she was related to Mary Boland and Valerie McKee at one of our previous gatherings. They have gotten to know each other quite well and Danna now stays with Mary and Valerie when she comes up for the gathering. Good stuff!

Well, that about does it for this time around.

Wisdom from the Word: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

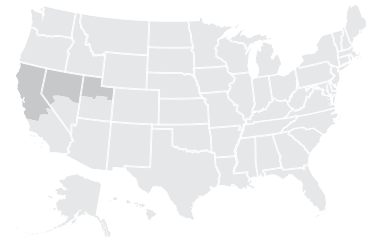
*Nagetch (Later),*

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



## Mark Johnson District 7

*Bozho nikanek (Hello friends),*



On October 21, District 7 held a joint meeting with District 6. The future of the Tribe blanket was given to Everly Abbott from District 7. Her parents are Caymus and Shauna Abbott. Everly is a Rhodd descendant.

Hope and eternal optimism are two things that should be found in every new year. I know that I have held onto those throughout my 60 something trips around the sun and will continue to. But I also recognize that for many, those thoughts are out of reach at the moment. I'm not sure what happened to the world I was fortunate enough to grow up in; if you are over the age of 30, you kind of maybe know what I mean. If you are over the age of 60, you definitely know what I mean. We ain't in Mayberry anymore. Feel free to look that up on Wikipedia. You know, that internet page that took the place

of the encyclopedia books we could read when we were growing up. I figured it out pretty late in life, I really don't need to know anything, I can just Google nowadays and it will tell me everything I didn't need to know, and it's on the internet so it has to be true. Right? Satire can be good for the soul. It helps in a world where it seems that everyone is offended by everything and hate seems to be the guiding principle that a good number of people seem to live by. I spent all of my professional career in the fire service, dealing with people, many on the worst day of their life. It didn't matter to me what color they were, nor how much money they had, if they wore nice clothes, what side of the tracks they lived on, or anything else that you could choose to characterize somebody with. If you are injured, we all bleed the same, we all breathe the same air, and they were just glad that Roy and Johnny showed up to give them the help they deserved (you might need to Google that).

So I hope that one of your New Year's resolutions involves tolerance of those that are different than ourselves, that kindness will fill your heart in place of hate, and that you will not charge your smartphone at least one day a week. I know it will be touch and go, but I promise you will live after not seeing that cute dog video the same second it was posted on your favorite unsocial media platform.

But if the need to charge your phone becomes too strong, at least do something useful with it and start planning your trip to attend the Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee from June 28 to June 30, 2024. You can also use it to connect with your family and talk, that lost art form, and you might just learn something about your family heritage that Google doesn't know.

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

*Migwetch (Thank you),*

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



*Everly Ann Abbott received a blanket for representing the future of the tribe.*

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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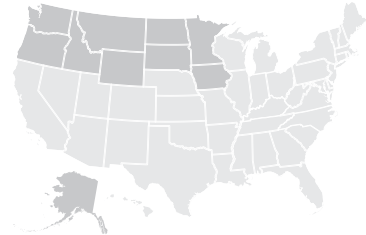


# Dave Carney District 8

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

It's hard to believe that we are turning the calendar page to January 2024!

I can remember preparing my business and my personal finances for the Y2K projected shutdown. For those reading this who are not "elders," Y2K was when, on Jan. 1, 2000 (midnight to be exact), major systems such as power, telecommunication and the grid, as it existed then, were supposed to shut down due to computer codes not being able to continue to work properly after 1999. This was also known as the millennium bug — many computer programs only allowed two digits (e.g., 99 instead of 1999). As a result, there was immense panic that computers would be unable to operate at the turn of the millennium when the date descended from "99" to "00."



Even looking in the rear-view mirror, it is hard to determine how much catastrophe was averted by the many hours and dollars spent addressing this issue or if there really wasn't much there. This is not dissimilar to building a bomb shelter in the 1950s.

I can clearly remember hosting a New Year's Eve gathering at my home for neighbors as we nervously awaited the calendar change — and here we all are 24 years later. I am hoping for an even less eventful transition this year.

If you haven't taken a tour around [potawatomiheritage.com](http://potawatomiheritage.com) in a while, I'd highly recommend it. Click on the Resources tab to access Ancestors. Under the Resources tab, there is a wealth of information about YOUR founding family. Some parts are more developed than in the past and it's definitely worth a look. The possible place to go from the Resources tab include: Allotments, Ancestors, Archives, Family Banners and Family Manuscripts, to name a few. The Allotments tab, for example, can lead you to your family's historic land holdings from the 1872 and

1887 process. Additionally, using the little Google maps avatar, you can place yourself at the location and take a look around (through Google Earth technology) and see where your family lived and worked the land. Imagine what your ancestors would think of this being possible! Other ancestry treasures found here are family manuscripts and family banners. I am sharing mine (Juneau/Vieux) here as examples.

With a nominal interest in genealogy, I really like having the Nation as the holders of this information. From doing a bit of work on other branches of my family tree, I can attest to the difficulty of painting an accurate picture sometimes. It seems pretty common to write family members out of obituaries and family trees. It's less common, but not unusual, to see non-biological family members listed as offspring.

In 2024, I plan on a summer event in the general area of the Idaho panhandle in an effort to bring together Citizen Potawatomi from Eastern Washington, Idaho and parts of Montana. I will be sending out more details through e-mail and the closed District 8 Facebook page as details firm up.

If you are a member of District 8 in the Dakotas, Minnesota or Iowa I would especially like to hear from you and get your contact information. Tribal Rolls does not and will not share your information with the legislators. Please reach out to me!

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

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

58 1863 TRIBAL ROLL FOR POTTAWATOMIE INDIANS August 1979

321 1072 Edwah-ge-zhick m 15 2/54 (Edwah)	336 1127 Nahk-sa m 39 3536/1
1073 So-pe f 10 33/23	1128 Elizabeth f 30 35/21 (Elisab)
1074 Pe-an-nish m 8 33/23	1129 Oge-wah f 6 36/21
1075 Es-sup-pe f 6 27/23	1130 Mash-kum-me m 2 18.2/22
22 147 Smith, Sidney W m 47 196.29630/237	1131 Mnis-non-see m 1 256.26/1
(previous line written in pencil)	337 1132 Alcott, Albion m 23 276.28/41
322 1076 McLane, Nancy f 40 29630/23	1133 Helen f 20 28/21
389 1284 McLane, Albert m 19 31/23	1134 Adeline A f 3 276.28/21
(previous line written in pencil)	338 1135 Smith, Andy Z m 22 8/22
1077 McLane, Rachel f 13 34/23	(son of Sidney W. Smith by Zoe Tronly 2d wife)
335 1136 McLane (Smith), Josephine f 20 8/22	Josephine f 20 8/22
(previous line written in pencil)	(daughter of Nancy Smith)
1078 McLane, Louisa f 10 5/24	Elisa f 1 16/22
1079 William m 5 4/24	1137 Zoe see #1484 (line written in pen)
1080 Thomas m 1 4/24	1138 Bertrand, Benjamin H m 50 1-6/8 & 10/13
(previous three corrected in pencil with McLane crossed out, Smith written in)	1139 Clara f 50 136.21/13
338 1135 Smith, Andy Z m 22 8/22	340 1140 Za-gah-Kmuk-Nas-wa-ga m 13 186.21/13
(son of Sidney W. Hakell)	1141 Ge-kyah-go f 30 22/13
323 1081 Smith, Isabella f 18 33/23	1142 Ahh-nick-za-gah-Kmuk f 31 22/13
1082 Eliza f 15 33/23	341 1143 Me-gah m 51 21/13
(wife of Aron Sage of Dover)	1144 O-zah-we-ab-mo-qua f 26 21/13
324 1083 Burk, Joseph m 55 32/23	1145 Me-gah, Madeline f 2 216.2/13
1084 Mnah-je f 55 29/23	342 1146 Ke-o-tah-Kmuk m 60 56.28/13
325 1085 Wa-zah-wahn-quah m 23 32/23	1147 Kahn-zo-qua f 50 32/13
1086 Ahg-nas f 19 29/23	(corrected to Kah-zwo-qua)
1087 Ahn-wahn-Ka f 60 29/23	1148 Ain-no-mo-qua f 8 32/13
326 1088 Nim-Ke m 48 44/22	343 1149 Mmuh-quet m 35 27/19
1089 Mto-sa-qua f 32 5/22	1150 Sasa-gmo-qua f 35 27/19
1090 Sha-qua-nah m 17 9/22	(corrected to Sasa-gno-qua)
1091 Ngih-wis m 3 5/22	1151 Baptiste, Pierre m 3 16/13
(corrected to Mge, age 2)	1152 Nah-ge-zhick m 14 27/19
1092 Nim-Kies m 1 8/22	(corrected to Now-ge-zhick)
327 1093 Zo-zas, Josette f 24 34/21	344 1153 Weld, Volney m 23 15/19
1094 Ke-wah-qua f 1 32/21	345 1154 Collins, Abraham m 23 15/19
1095 She-mah-qah, Jean B m 3 29/21	1155 Francis P m 18 15/19
328 1096 Ma-zhe- (chief) m 42(48)34/216	(corrected to Frances - f)
3/22	448) 1156 Volney m 1 15/19
1097 Neab-no-qua f 33(32)12/22	346 1157 Dean, Charles J m 32 56.8/20
1098 Nah-nah-quah-be m 17 12/22	1158 Archangel f 22 5/20
1099 Zo-zas, We-zo m 11(2)12/22	1159 Joseph m 3 5/20
1100 Mo-no-nah m 7(11)12/22	347 1160 Wilmet, Frank m 44 29/194
329 1101 Nwah-ga f 24 35/21	1161 Kah-ba f 40 30/194
1102 Bourrassas, Alexander m 5 26/21	(corrected above two to Wilmet)
330 1103 Pah-ies, m 40 34/21	348 1162 Vieux, Anabelle m 51 21/23
1104 Tah-quw f 30 27/21	1163 Mary f 35 36/20
1105 Shah-bwa-qua f 9 5/22	349 1164 Juneau, Narcis M m 42 17/23
1106 Mash-uk m 7 5/22	1165 Madeline f 42 20/23
1107 Pah-ies, Shop-tese m 6 35/21	1166 Catherine f 18 17/23
1108 Shah-o-da m 4 35/21	(corrected to Catharine)
(corrected to Shah-wda)	1167 Julia f 16 20/23
1109 Wahb-che-qua (que) m 1 276.32/21	(Julia F. Juneau)
331 1110 Mta-gosee m 35 29/21	1168 Charles H m 12 24/21 & 29/23
1111 Mta-gosee m 4 7/21	1169 Stella M f 8 17/23
	1170 Jusette f 6 21/23



Juneau

# Walking On

## **Alvin (Skip) Otto Greeson** Navarre Family



Alvin (Skip) Otto Greeson passed peacefully Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, in Graham, Washington.

Skip was born to Alvin Otto Greeson II and Joan Lorraine Patton in Emporia, Kansas, on March 18, 1950. He is survived by his mother, Joan Garrison (Patton); brothers, Mike Greeson (wife Jill) and Craig Greeson; son Tad Greeson (wife Sue); daughter, Karri Reynolds (husband James); grandchildren,

Shelby, Kellen and Jaylee; and his chocolate lab Yogi.

Skip grew up in Topeka, Kansas, graduating from Seaman High School in 1969 and moving to Washington state in 1978. He had a career as a bricklayer, spent time as a real estate agent, and retired after 25 years spent with Pierce County Planning and Land Services in Washington state. Skip was very knowledgeable about Native American history and was an avid collector of Native American artifacts. He loved lake fishing for trout and family get togethers where everyone enjoyed his brisket, chili and homemade salsa.

The loss of Skip is hard to bear; we will miss and cherish him in our hearts forever.

## **Marcella Marie (Roberson) Johnson**

Willmetts/Spencer Family



Marcella Marie (Roberson) Johnson, 85, passed away peacefully on Aug. 7, 2023, at the Circle of Life Hospice in Bentonville, Arkansas. Since November 2017, she had resided at a number of care facilities in Rogers, Arkansas.

Mom was born Sept. 13, 1937, to Leon and Inez (Paine) Roberson (both deceased) of Harrah, Oklahoma. She was the oldest of seven children: Jessie Jeffers (deceased), Evelyn Garton, Ronnie Roberson (deceased), Bobby Roberson (deceased), Sherry Effinger and Kelly Wood.

She grew up in Harrah, graduating from Harrah High School in 1955. She attended Harrah Church of the Nazarene, where she married Robert C. Johnson, Jr. (deceased, 2017) of Wellston on June 12, 1955. They moved to Midwest City, where they raised two sons, Myron (Ron)

and Alan. She was able to stay at home in the early years, volunteering and serving at church and her sons' schools.

In 1973 when we moved to Richardson, Texas, she went to work for the Richardson ISD for 24 years. She served on her church's Sunday school and missions boards and as Sunday school secretary for 29 years.

Mom was a loving wife, a caring mother, adoring daughter, sister and mother-in-law, wonderful cook and hostess. She wrote and sent multiple hundreds of cards and letters in her lifetime. She supported and attended countless functions of family members, church family and friends.

She was a proud Citizen Potawatomi Nation member, often attending the Family Reunion Festivals and regional meetings.

She is survived by her two sons and daughters-in-law (Ron and Dena; Alan and Paula); five grandchildren: Emily (Trammell), Tim, Zachary, Bradley, and Jacob Johnson; nine great-grandchildren: Sadie and Jackson Trammell, Lincoln and Edison Johnson, Tristan, Rylan, Cohen and Lorie Johnson, and Claire Johnson; and many beloved brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and very dear friends.

## **Rubin Ray Rhodd**

Rhodd Family

Rubin Ray Rhodd was born to Earl L. Rhodd and Mary E. Griffin in Santa Rosa, California. He was preceded in death by our parents, brother Bobby, sister Doris, and also his beloved dog Tinkers, his partner in crime.

He is survived by his wife of four years, Nana; five siblings, Kenneth, William, John, Ramona and Rhoda; and lots of nieces and nephews. Although he never had children of his own, he was always there for our kids, including the neighborhood kids. We never worried about them when Uncle Rubin was around. He was just a big kid himself and the kids loved playing with him. He was the coolest guy you'd ever meet. Whenever a family get together was happening you could always count on him being there (with spinach dip); he was very much a family man.

He loved fishing and hunting until it became difficult for Bobby to get around, which then caused Rubin to lose interest, but he never lost the love for nature, especially the ocean.

He loved working on cars; we always knew he was there to keep our cars up and running. He was a TRUE friend to anyone in need. You could always count on him.

He loved his SF 49'ers, proof in the décor of his home.

He had a heart of GOLD. His passing has left a HUGE hole in our hearts!

Rest in peace, brother of ours.

Save a place for us.

Loves and hugs, your siblings.

.....

**David Everett Bodine**

Bourassa Family



David Everett Bodine passed away Nov. 14, 2023.

David was born Sept. 14, 1957, to Everett and Lazelle Bourassa Bodine.

He was a longtime resident of Wanette, Oklahoma, and worked most of his life as a cross country truck driver.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Sue Bodine.

Mr. Bodine is survived by one uncle, Jerry Bourassa, of Wanette;

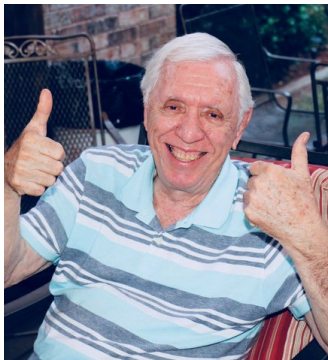
one aunt, Jobyna Bourassa, of Woodward, Oklahoma; and numerous cousins.

To share memories or sign the guestbook online, go to [cooperfuneral.com](http://cooperfuneral.com).

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**Jerry Eugene Hopkins**

Wilmette/Darling Family



Jerry Eugene Hopkins was born July 27, 1941, in Norman, Oklahoma. He passed from this life in the quiet, still morning of Nov. 16, 2023, in Cleveland, Georgia, with his son Brent and his wife, Christina, by his side.

He was born the oldest of three children to Eugene Boyd and Torrence Carole (Moore) Hopkins

of Norman. Denny Gale (Rose, wife) and Carole Jan (Zeigler) (Gary, husband) completed their family. They attended McFarlin United Methodist Church in Norman, where Jerry was baptized. Jerry and his family are proud members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma. (Rosa Darling Moore family).

Jerry fell in love at 18 when he met Kay Frances Geer. They were married on Feb. 9, 1961. Two sons were born to their union, Marc Eugene and James Brent. They called Norman home.

Jerry worked at Oklahoma Natural Gas for a few years. In 1964, he became a U.S. Postal Service mail carrier. Jerry retired in 1997 after 34 years of faithful service.

Jerry and Kay welcomed seven grandchildren; Justin (wife Lecia), Jordan (wife Lydia) and Chad (wife Shelby), Holden, Hunter, Elise (husband Robert), and Ethan (wife Carlee).

Next, they were blessed by six great-grandchildren; Cadence, Grady, Arthur, Prestyn, Aubrey and Riley.

Jerry and Kay bowled in a league. Jerry was the American Bowling Congress State Champion in handicap singles and singles from 1976 to 1977. Jerry loved football, especially the University of Oklahoma's team.

Everyone who knew Jerry loved him for his big, happy, and genuine smile. It lit up every room he walked into.

He is preceded in death by his beloved Kay; his grandparents on both sides; father and mother. He is survived by all of the family previously mentioned.

.....

**Margaret Ann Jacobs**

Peltier Family



Margaret Ann Jacobs passed away on Nov. 6, 2023, at The Journey Home in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, at the age of 88.

She was born to her parents David Peter Coots and Elizabeth Coots (Peltier) on Aug. 3, 1935, in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Margaret graduated from St. Benedict's High School in Shawnee. On Aug. 1, 1956, Margaret married the love

of her life, John Thomas Jacobs. They were married for 63 years and raised four beautiful children together. She spent her working years taking care of her home and family. She was an amazing wife, mother and grandmother. She enjoyed caring for animals and nurturing her grandchildren. She left behind a legacy of love and family.

She is preceded in death by her husband, John Jacobs; her son, Steve Jacobs; her parents, David Peter Coots and Elizabeth Coots (Peltier); and all of her siblings.

Margaret is survived by her daughters: Gail Seward and husband Jeff of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Lisa Phillips and husband Brian of Claremore, Oklahoma, and Cathy Witherow of Dewey, Oklahoma, and best friend Bryan Cargill also of Dewey; her grandchildren: Kylee Hamlin, Tanner Henry, Aaron Phillips and wife Grace, Jed Phillips, Mona Allain and husband Michael, Wyatt Seward and wife Necia, and Jordan Seward and wife Cierra; and her great-grandchildren: Riylee Shields, Daly Shields, Kylynn Shields, Jax Allain, Riya Seward, Koen Seward, Liby Seward, Daisy Phillips, Eliza Phillips, Hudson Phillips and Griffin Phillips.

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# HOWNIKAN

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