

# HOWNIIKAN

Abtenibne Gises | July 2023

2023 Tribal  
election results

.....  
Behind the  
scenes at Flame

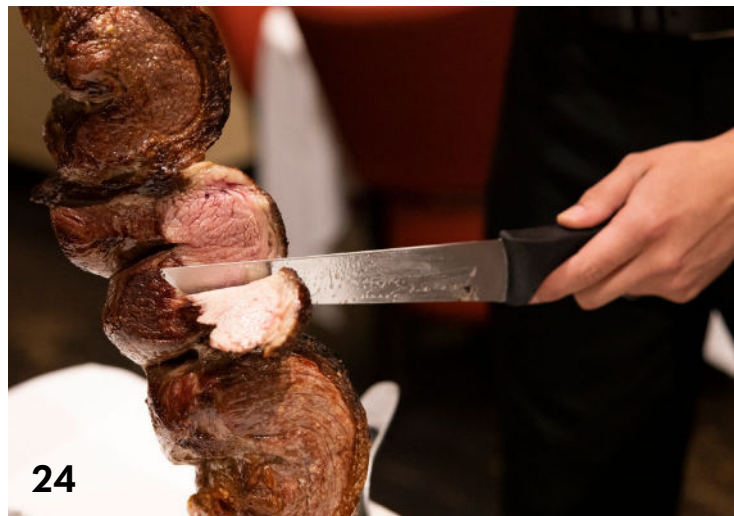
.....  
Festival photos





# What's inside

- 1** Sovereign Bank leader selected as Oklahoma Bankers Association Chairman
- 2** Fighting opioid overdose: CPN adds NARCAN
- 3** Down payment, closing cost assistance still offered after 24 years
- 4** Applications open soon for new affordable housing
- 5** SNAP benefit reduction brings changes to Tribal clients
- 6** Meet the 2023 Potawatomi Leadership Program class
- 8** Tribal member opens company's newest franchise
- 10** New program welcomes students, parents into the circle
- 12** Health care everywhere: CPNHS, IHS and CPN Care
- 13** Veterans Report
- 14** Chairman Barrett accepted into Oklahoma Hall of Fame
- 16** *Braiding Sweetgrass* inspires Griffin to run marathon
- 18** Sovereignty Symposium
- 19** CPN hopes to recruit more dental hygienists, nurses with scholarship
- 20** JOM program seeks student, parent involvement
- 22** Legislative meeting minutes
- 24** Behind the scenes at Flame
- 26** Family Reunion Festival photos
- 28** Weld family history
- 30** Potawatomi graduates
- 32** Tribal executive and legislative updates
- 42** Walking on



# Sovereign Bank leader selected as Oklahoma Bankers Association Chairman

Sovereign Bank President and CEO Bryan Cain now represents Citizen Potawatomi Nation and bankers across the state as the Oklahoma Bankers Association Chairman. He accepted the position at the annual OBA convention on May 10, 2023, as part of the association's awards ceremony at the Embassy Suites in Norman. Cain was selected by committee as the organization's leader for the next year.

"I consider it a great honor. And it's very humbling ... I think of the people in the industry that have been chairman previous to me, and they're people I've always held in high esteem because they're brilliant. They are amazing at their craft," he said.



*Sovereign Bank President/  
CEO and Oklahoma Bankers  
Association Chairman Bryan Cain*

Cain first joined the OBA more than 15 years ago and now has more than 20 years of experience in the banking industry. He became the head of CPN's bank in January 2020 and oversaw the company's rebranding to Sovereign Bank earlier this year. He also oversaw the Tribe's purchase of The First State Bank in 2021, which expanded Sovereign Bank's customer reach. The merger increased its assets to more than \$700 million.

Cain's appointment is the second time the head of the Nation's bank has also served as OBA chairman. He has also served as the organization's vice-chairman and government relations committee chair.

Cain said the OBA's purpose in a modern world is to "build better bankers" through education, industry advocacy and security. In turn, he believes community banking improves the lives of its customers by helping them meet their financial goals.

"(Community banks) make the first car loan. They make the first home loan. They give scholarships. They donate money to non-profits, to little league. They donate their time and their energy to all these different functions and civic organizations. And when you really take all of that in context, I think the amazing part to me is ... they are the catalyst for the American dream," he said.



*Bryan Cain (center) celebrates being named the leader of the Oklahoma Bankers Association for the next year with CPN Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps.*

The OBA began in 1897, more than 125 years ago and prior to Oklahoma statehood.

"The 25 bankers that gathered in Oklahoma Territory at that time, they gathered for a shared purpose and shared goals for increased communication between each other and in their industry to support one another through these difficult times and lean on each other," Cain said. "I think that's the beauty of the organization, and that's what I cherish is that through this shared purpose that we create a stable financial network in the state of Oklahoma for our customers and for the state."

As the leader of Sovereign Bank, he utilizes OBA resources by sending employees to their many trainings on banking regulations, better practices and lending, among other subjects. As OBA president, he looks forward to visiting the organization's membership to listen to their needs, networking with industry leaders across the state and sharing ideas on how to best improve banking practices — all while representing the Tribe.

"I feel like it's an honor to serve in this position because hopefully it brings light to our ownership and it brings light to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in a way that's good," Cain said.

Find out more about Sovereign Bank at [banksovereign.com](http://banksovereign.com). Visit the Oklahoma Bankers Association online at [oba.com](http://oba.com). 🔥



# Fighting opioid overdose: CPN adds NARCAN

Every day in America, 256 people die from a drug overdose. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overdose deaths involving opioids have increased by more than eight times since 1999. In 2020, there were 91,799 overdose deaths, 75% of them involving opioids.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation is making a change throughout its organization to help reduce that number. This year, NARCAN was added to all AED cabinets at Tribal enterprises and offices.

NARCAN, or naloxone, is an opiate antidote that attaches to opioid receptors, then temporarily blocks and reverses the effects of opioids. The AED cabinets, which already housed an automated external defibrillator for cardiac arrest emergencies, now always include one to two doses of NARCAN.

The cabinets include written and voice instructions for how to administer NARCAN.

“So, you press this, and it goes through the four steps and repeats them over and over,” said Chad Stieben, CPR and First Aid instructor for CPN, demonstrating a button on the NARCAN kit. “It’s helping you remember in a stressful situation what to do.”

Stieben started adding NARCAN to the Tribe’s 98 AED cabinets in March. Leading up to the change, he also conducted a week of classes explaining the use of the NARCAN. In the future, he plans to add that information to the CPR classes as well.

“Everyone, I believe, should be trained on using NARCAN, and adding it to the AED cabinets is very important to save lives,” said CPN Nurse Coordinator April Crockett. “The opioid overdose deaths have skyrocketed during the pandemic, killing more than 69,000 people. ... It is important that we are prepared in a crisis situation and cannot just wait for something to happen.”

## Employee training

To prepare for the change, CPN offered four Overdose Lifeline, Inc., courses each day for the week of March 20-24. A total of 175 attended the classes led by Stieben.

Kari Thornton, payroll and benefits manager for CPN, was one of those students, and she said the entire human resources department planned to attend as well.

“I personally have a family member that was affected by Fentanyl,” she said. “I lost a 22-year-old nephew this past year. So, I really understand the importance of the training. It is so scary what our kids and young adults are facing right now.”



*Starting this year, NARCAN is included in all AED cabinets at Tribal enterprises and offices.*

Thornton carries NARCAN with her just in case anyone needs it. Though she was already familiar with how to use it, she found the training helpful — especially a segment when a video was shown demonstrating how to administer NARCAN.

Crockett said the training has already paid off, and that the Tribal police used NARCAN in the field to prevent someone becoming another statistic in the opioid crisis.

“I was extremely glad that this is something we can offer all around the Tribe to help the growing crisis,” Crockett said.

## Overdose response

Symptoms of an opioid overdose can include pale face, clammy skin, limpness, fingernails or lips turning blue or purple, vomiting, slowed breathing or heartbeat, and unresponsiveness.

If an opioid overdose is suspected, Stieben said to start by immediately calling 911 and sending someone to meet paramedics to show them where the emergency is happening.

The person experiencing a potential overdose should be rested on their back, with their head tilted back and support provided for their neck. Insert the tip of the nasal spray all the way into the nostril, so that none of the dosage is missed, and then press the plunger to administer the NARCAN. Stieben also explained it is important to remember which nostril is used. If a second dose is necessary, it needs to be administered in the other nostril.

[Continued on page 17](#)





# One-Time Grant program

## Down payment, closing cost assistance still offered after 24 years

**By Sherry Byers, CPN Housing Department  
Home Ownership Manager**

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department's One-Time Grant program has now been in operation for more than 24 years. It has evolved and improved over the course of time and assisted hundreds of CPN tribal members with the down payment and/or closing costs associated with the purchase, building or refinancing of a home.

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

It is interesting to know that there are still many CPN members uninformed about this program and the Tribe's bank. Our office receives calls daily from Tribal members that never knew of this grant or that the Tribe owns its own bank.

All CPN tribal members are eligible for this grant one time only. The maximum amount is \$2,125, which does not have to be repaid. The grant cannot be used for any type of mobile/manufactured home, the home being purchased must be the borrower's primary residence, and the Tribal member's name must be on the loan. Convicted felons or other household member felons are ineligible. The application must be completed thoroughly and include the following:

- Copy of borrower's CPN membership card

- Copy of Social Security cards for household members without Tribal cards
- Copy of the loan estimate from lender
- Income verification for all household members (last three to four pay stubs, or if same employer for years, the last two years of tax returns, first page and signature page only)
- Name of the closing entity (title co., escrow co., attorney, etc.)
- Completed W-9 form
- Copy of appraisal

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

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

To request the application and/or general information regarding the One-Time Grant, contact Sherry Byers, homeownership manager, at 405-273-2833 or [sbyers@potawatomi.org](mailto:sbyers@potawatomi.org).

For information regarding loan products and lending requirements at Sovereign Bank, ask for Rachel Vallandigham, mortgage loan officer, at 405-878-1927. 🔥





# Applications open soon for new affordable housing

Citizen Potawatomi Nation has 160 affordable rent units — 46 family units and 114 elder units — but that number is set to increase soon. After two years of planning, construction started this spring on 66 new family units.

They will be added to the existing family units that were built in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, in 2005. The original duplexes, CPN Housing Department Director Scott George said, are all made up of three-bedroom units, which made it hard for some families to get off the waiting list.

“The waiting list for those has always been a mixture of families that could use a larger unit or a smaller unit, and because they didn’t meet that three-bedroom criteria, they were passed over and put at the bottom of the list,” he said.

To alleviate that problem, the new development has plans for two-, three- and four-bedroom units, with two different floor plans for each size.

“We’ll also add an additional playground and an additional storm shelter,” George said.

The existing units have a Federal Emergency Management Agency-certified storm shelter already, but George hopes the new shelter might also serve another purpose for the community — such as offering a space to host community meetings or events.

He added that the development will also include ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) units, which will have an area of refuge within the unit.

## Building in phases

“Just before COVID, we started talking about it, and then all during that time, we worked with an architect to develop the floor plans,” George said. “We just let it out for bid this winter, actually in February.”

Dirt work and infrastructure were completed in 2022, and construction of the units started in spring of 2023.

The development will be built in stages, with George estimating each stage to take six months and the final stage to be finished in two years.

The first stage will see the completion of 16 two- and three-bedroom units. The rest of the two- and three-bedroom units will be completed

in the second and fourth stages, and all of the four-bedroom units will be built during the third stage.

The playground and storm shelter are also planned for the last stage.

## Applying for waiting list

The development, like the CPN Housing Department’s other programs, is funded through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA).

The units are available for low-income Native Americans, though CPN tribal members have first preference. Applicants cannot have any felonies and must go through a background check.

“Our mission is the same as HUD’s mission,” George said. “We have to provide safe, sanitary, affordable housing, and we take the ‘safe’ part very seriously.”

Rent for the units is based on income and won’t be more than 30% of the renter’s total adjusted monthly income.

George added that some income is still needed because renters pay their own utilities. However, he said the housing department is familiar with typical utility costs for the units, so if they think an applicant’s income is not enough to pay the utilities, they will make recommendations for additional options.

Right now, there is a waiting list for housing, but George hopes to start taking applications for the new units soon.

George recommends making an appointment to go into the office in person so employees can explain how the program works, what the rent structure is, and help with any questions about documents and the application process.

“It serves us a lot better, and them, for them to come in person to pick up the application,” George said. “We can help them fill it out here if they need to, or they can take it home and come back.”

Those interested in applying for housing can call the CPN Housing Department at 405-273-2833 or 800-880-9880 or visit in person at 44007 Hardesty Road, Shawnee, OK. 🔥



# SNAP benefit reduction brings changes to Tribal clients

Oklahoma residents utilizing the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program saw a decrease in the amount of money issued each month for groceries. In February 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service ended the emergency allotments added to clients' SNAP totals since April 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Workforce Development & Social Services serves many clients who also receive SNAP benefits. The Community Services Block Grant program provides support in a variety of ways based on income and household size. Clients can apply for help with utility bills and rent once in a 12-month period.

WFSS Counselor Michelle Ramirez called the pandemic federal government assistance, including the increased SNAP dollars, "unbelievable."

"(My clients) were so, so appreciative. It was much needed because people were getting sick, people were dying, everything was shut down. So, it was a different time. And now, we're back to regular work," she said.

Ramirez said the tide is swinging in the opposite direction now. She began working as the WFSS counselor five years ago, and this fiscal year saw the most clients apply for assistance with utilities or rent. WFSS serves approximately 300 clients each fiscal year (ending in September), and that number reached 290 in May 2023. In interviews with Ramirez, they often mention the cost of groceries and recent reduction in SNAP benefits.

"When I say, 'What's going on? Did something unexpected happen?' They're like, 'Well, nothing unexpected or bad. It's just the cost of everything. And I used my electric bill money (for groceries) hoping I would get some help,'" she said.

## Inflation

Since the beginning of the year, CPN's FireLake Discount Foods has experienced an overall 10 to 12 percent reduction in SNAP benefits that the stores redeem. FDF Director Richard Driskell noted a correlation between that and the end of additional pandemic funds.

However, FDF's statistics also show an increase in sales as well as a reduction in the number of items per transaction. Driskell attributes that largely to inflation, which is at the highest rate since the 1970s.

"Just the nature of food prices being so much higher than what they were prior to COVID is definitely taking a toll on a lot of people, including those that were getting extra SNAP benefits," he said.

The FireLake grocery stores have noticed more people "trading down," or buying cheaper store brand goods. Driskell and customers have also noticed manufacturers

decreasing the amount of product in an individual unit, such as fewer chips in a bag, while keeping the price equal or slightly increasing it. Driskell called it "shrinkflation."

"The net effect is generally it's a lot more of an increase in price," he said. "But people really don't see that because they just see the overall price of the product has changed very little, but the amount of ounces and things put into that has decreased quite a bit."

Ramirez hears about inflation from her clients often.

"They'll say, 'We just can't do it. What are we supposed to do?'" she said.

## Options

Ramirez presents her clients options for stretching their dollar further. She provides locations and names of food pantries as well as resources at other tribes. CPN WFSS also has a program that helps clients pay for gas if their doctor's appointment is more than a 25-mile round trip. The number of requests for gas cards has "gone up tremendously," according to Ramirez.

"(It used to be that) only our elders were utilizing it, but now all ages are utilizing it really," she said.

People often use SNAP benefits to purchase staples hit hardest by inflation, including fresh meat, produce, milk, bread and eggs. According to Driskell, FDF knows its customers feel the high prices across their budget and want to "reduce the burden." On Mother's Day weekend in May, FireLake Discount Foods hosted its first two-day sale since the pandemic began. Customers looked forward to sales prior to the pandemic.

"We try to take the items that are the most purchased and are probably the most sensitive that people use the most. And we try to make a smaller margin on those, if you will, and put those out there where it doesn't really cost as much," Driskell said.

FDF plans to continue to hold two-day sales each quarter and make their weekly ads appealing to customers. In June, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported decreased inflation to 4 percent, the lowest since May 2021. Inflation rates may continue to improve for consumers, and Driskell has noticed more of a balance in distributors' prices.

"Right now, they at least seem to be leveling off as opposed to continually having increases, multiple of them every week, so that's good news," he said. "But, it'd be even better news if we kind of see a lot of these prices start to go down where we can continue to help the consumer out with getting our prices lower."

Find out more about Workforce Development & Social Services at [cpn.news/workforce](https://cpn.news/workforce). Visit FireLake Discount Foods on the web at [firelakefoods.com](https://firelakefoods.com). 🔥



# Potawatomi Leadership Program Class of 2023

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation welcomes six students pursuing higher education to the Tribal grounds for six weeks for the Potawatomi Leadership Program. During June and July, they will explore their Potawatomi identities, meet with Tribal leaders, attend sessions with various services and enterprises,

and meet Tribal employees and family members during the Family Reunion Festival. 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the program, and this year's class represents CPN members from across the country — from California to Pennsylvania, Washington to Texas.



## Amity Tarter

Tarter family descendant from Berkeley, California

**Education:**

Sophomore at Berkeley City College

**Fun facts:**

Enjoys music/theater, hiking, art, cooking/baking, fashion and reading

**Good leadership:**

“Those who lead need to be able to continue to find inspiration and growth throughout the process. While leadership can be seen as a teaching process from one person passing along information to another, it can also involve lots of reciprocal insight.”

**PLP goals:**

Strengthening her connection with her Potawatomi heritage, better understanding Native culture and having a great experience in the program like her older brother.



## Ike Decker

Ogee family descendant from Topeka, Kansas

**Education:**

Natural science/nursing freshman at Haskell Indian Nations University

**Fun facts:**

Plays guitar, piano, bass and video games

**Good leadership:**

“A leader is one individual who goes above and beyond the average individual's duty. Who in the heat of the moment is willing to take charge and commit themselves even if they are unsure or uncomfortable with their commitment.”

**PLP goals:**

Learning the ins and outs of Tribal government as well as the Tribe's cultural connection to fire and attending Family Reunion Festival.



## Justice Wolfe

Curley family descendant from Jones, Oklahoma

**Education:**

Marketing freshman at the University of Central Oklahoma

**Fun facts:**

Previously wrestled, practiced MMA and trained in Brazilian jiu jitsu

**Good leadership:**

“Open minded, empathetic, and smart. ... Leaders are individuals that leave a legacy for others, always do the right thing, show humility, and find ways around difficult situations.”

**PLP goals:**

Better understand the past and present functions and Tribal government and hierarchical structure as well as meeting other Tribal members.



## Roslyn Bellscheidt

Kennedy family descendant from Vashon Island, Washington

**Education:**

Neuroscience freshman at Duke University

**Fun facts:**

Trained in classical ballet, a member of Duke Women's Rowing, enjoys sewing and designing clothes, and knows elementary sign language.

**Good leadership:**

“A leader encourages those around them to cultivate leadership within themselves. They provide an environment where their peers can thrive, be empathetic, and serve others.”

**PLP goals:**

Making a deeper connection with her heritage and finding new ways to give back to the Tribal community as well as learning the history and cultural meaning behind the Tribal seal.



## Grey Doster

Johnson family descendant from Lebanon, Pennsylvania

**Education:**

Environmental studies freshman at the University of Pittsburgh

**Fun facts:**

Trained ballet dancer, enjoys making jewelry, avid hiker and interns as an environmental educator

**Good leadership:**

“Leaders listen to their people, understand concerns, and push towards a common goal. This requires dedication and time commitment to champion the cause, direct work that must be done, and effectively utilizing assets at your disposal.”

**PLP goals:**

Learning cultural art forms and the Potawatomi language to be able to take them wherever they go as well as ancestral research.



## Tate Lewis

Barnett family descendant from Paris, Texas

**Education:**

Business administration sophomore at the University of Texas at Dallas

**Fun facts:**

Expert golfer, travel enthusiast and won the 2020 Dr. Pepper College Tuition Giveaway

**Good leadership:**

“Leaders understand that pressure will be put on them to succeed and are willing to take the challenge head on. They are often soft spoken and calm in high pressure situations. But one of the most important aspects of a leader is someone who is unafraid of adversity.”

**PLP goals:**

Following in the footsteps of his two older siblings who participated in the program, as well as meeting and helping elders, learning to bead moccasins and play hand games, and meeting new friends.



# Tribal member opens company's newest franchise

A Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member recently became the newest franchisee of an Oklahoma business dedicated to preserving homes.

Just a few months ago, Blake Elwell opened a branch of Preservan in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The business repairs homes using an epoxy material for a long-lasting and environmentally sustainable solution.

Oklahoma's first Preservan franchise was founded in 2016 in Oklahoma City by CPN member and Bourassa family descendant Ty McBride and his wife, April. Ty's sister, Jimmie Hodgkins, also helps oversee operations in Oklahoma City.

"We just saw this huge opportunity where with the epoxy we can mold, mimic and permanently and sustainably repair rather than replace," Ty McBride told the *Hownikan* in 2022. "We can come in and repair it within a couple of hours, save people thousands of dollars, and it's really convenient."

Elwell previously worked as a Preservan technician in the Oklahoma City area. The Melot and Bergeron descendant thought about the possibility of owning his own franchise and decided to tackle the market in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

## Both new and older homes

Elwell focuses on getting the word out to homeowners that Preservan may be the perfect fit for home repairs. The company uses an epoxy resin, a versatile product that can be used on almost any surface.

"Most of our focus is wood rot. We dig out the rot and treat the wood to prevent it from rotting anymore. Then the epoxy putty goes on. We sand and sculpt it down to the original profile, so it looks like repair was never done.

The benefit is that it doesn't take water damage after it's painted," Elwell said.

Owning an older home often means devoting resources to repair, but newer homes can benefit from using epoxy as well. Faulty paint or caulking during construction can cause problems later in new homes, especially with trim, siding and door jambs.

"Most of the time, it only takes two days to complete the job," Elwell said. "You don't have to worry about getting things torn out and replaced. We can come in and get that rot taken care of, have it painted and back to the way it was, and with little disruption to your home life."

Targeted repairs can also save money because the cost of total window and door replacement can quickly rise. Elwell said Preservan suits many common repairs, such as wood rot on the windowsill, siding and garage doors.

He has been visiting Tulsa's historic and newer homes, enjoying the architecture while exploring the city and surrounding areas. One customer he met had moved back from Austin, Texas.

"His house was built in 1907 and has some amazing arched windows, and the joist and rafter were made of solid oak," Elwell said. "Some of the oak was beginning to rot and needed repair. He just wanted to preserve it and keep it as close to the original as possible."

## Entrepreneur's spirit

Elwell has always admired entrepreneurs. He felt a Preservan franchise would allow him to build his own small business while still receiving support as a first-time owner.

"As a franchise, you keep that small scale, but you're still a part of a bigger company as the franchises grow. You have access to more resources," he said. "There's been a lot of help from Ty in starting this franchise up."

Most of his experience is on the operations side. Elwell spent most of the winter preparing for the franchise to launch and learning about other aspects of business, including marketing.

"That was definitely one of my biggest concerns. I've been a technician doing the work. That's all easy, but everything else is outside of my experience. It's definitely been the challenging part," he said.

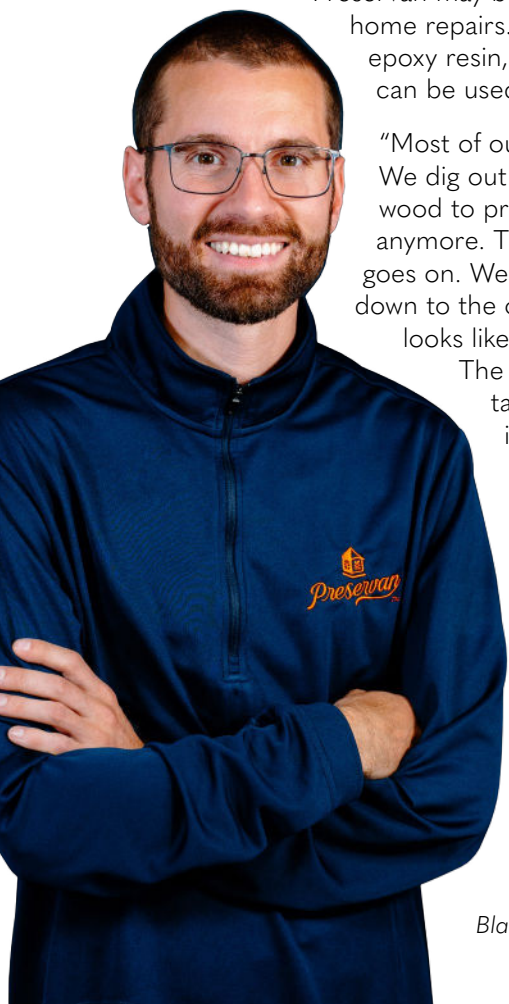
## Indigenous values

Elwell is committed to helping the environment as well.

"They don't make it like they used to, that's true with older homes. I think if you can save something you should. Sometimes there's a point where you can't, but with the work we do, nine times out of 10, we can save it," he said.

At the end of the week, he is proud to see the difference he made.

"When I work a full week, I have a little trash can in my van at the end of the week. Sometimes it's not even full. Most of the waste is just the wood rot that I tear out," he said.



Blake Elwell, new Preservan franchise owner and CPN member.



Blake Elwell repairs a window frame using Preservan technology.

## Cultural connections

Since moving to Oklahoma, Elwell has strengthened his connection with his Potawatomi heritage, something he knows makes his grandmother proud. While living in Oregon, she was instrumental in sharing Potawatomi culture with her grandchildren. She often took them anywhere they could experience Indigenous culture.

"I appreciate my grandmother's influence on how important our heritage is to us, especially growing up in Oregon because it's not as valued there as it is over here. When I got to move here and really see our ancestry, it was really cool," he said.

Now, he happily takes advantage of everything Oklahoma offers.

"Since being in Oklahoma, I've gone down to (CPN headquarters) to try to trace my genealogy. Being where it's so prevalent, you can get to know your history. There's so much to learn," Elwell said.

## The Preservan family

McBride believes Elwell's skills and business knowledge will lead to success.

"His whole entrepreneurship journey has been really exciting to be a part of. He's such a hard-working and honest young man who took a big leap in himself but also in us as a young brand. It took a lot of courage," McBride said.

Elwell has always received glowing reviews from Preservan customers in Oklahoma City. McBride said he is not surprised to see Elwell succeeding in a

new market and believes the timing is perfect as the spring and summer is their busiest time of year.

"Our service really kind of speaks for itself because it is designed to be convenient and affordable," he said. "Blake's going to be able to go out and offer people a repair service that takes less than two days and costs 90% less than the typical replacement solution."

McBride said the Preservan team will be there to support Elwell along his journey as he builds a team and takes on new clients. Elwell shares McBride's excitement and vision for the franchise's future.

"It will be exciting to get someone hired on and expand in that aspect," Elwell said. "I thought it was so cool that Ty McBride is Potawatomi, and when I started that job, I didn't know that. I'd like to see if I can hire some employees that are Native American."

McBride said he is proud that, as a Native American, Elwell also received a special discount on his franchise fee.

"Whether people are in Oklahoma or outside of Oklahoma, any member of a federally recognized tribe can get a discount on a Preservan franchise fee," McBride said. "We look forward to supporting other Native American entrepreneurs in the future."

Elwell will be serving homeowners in the Tulsa, area, plus Jenks, Broken Arrow, Sand Springs and Okmulgee. For more information or to schedule service, contact Elwell in Tulsa at 918-732-9088.

Oklahoma City-area residents may contact McBride at 405-546-9627 or visit [preservan.com](https://preservan.com). 🔥



# New program welcomes students, parents into the circle

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education unveiled a new program this spring designed to help CPN students fully embrace their Potawatomi heritage.

The first-ever Coming Into the Circle event took place at the South Reunion Hall on the CPN Festival Grounds. Organizers said they hoped the day's events would encourage high school graduates to claim their Indigenous identity and help them feel they belong to a bigger community.

Department of Education staff Rachel Watson and Matt Higdon first developed the idea to increase student engagement, said Interim Director of Education Charles Lee.

"They realized that some students may not feel comfortable engaging with the Nation at events like (Family Reunion) Festival because it could be overwhelming or they're at a different point in their journey connecting with their Tribal identity," Lee said. "We decided, 'Let's have this kind of crash course or beginner course. They can come to the Nation and see what the space looks like and feels like.' We just make it a welcoming space for folks who maybe have never visited Shawnee."

## Cultural activities

The day began with a tour of the CPN Eagle Aviary to learn more about the spiritual importance of eagles within Potawatomi culture.

Parents then participated in a talking circle about concerns they have as their child prepares to start college. They also discussed the challenges of exploring their heritage. Students held a separate talking circle where they could discuss reconnecting to their culture and ask questions about starting college.

Department of Education staff shared their own personal journey of embracing their cultural identity and offered guidance on how the Nation can help students as they begin exploring their heritage.

"You'll always have your Native values to rely on as you encounter challenges," said Jamelle Payne, safe and stable families education counselor, Workforce Development & Social Services. "The Native community will sustain and uplift you."

Payne discussed with students the WF&SS programs that serve Potawatomi across the state.



*College-bound students attended the first-ever Coming Into the Circle event to learn more about their Potawatomi heritage and connect with other Tribal youth.*

Lauren Bristow, clinical operations director from CPN Health Services, offered a presentation on how attendees can access health care services while they are at school. She said that it is possible for Tribal members to use other U.S. Indian Health Services facilities while they are away from their communities.

Education services staff told the students about higher education scholarships available through CPN as well as internships and programs like the Potawatomi Leadership Program and *Mdamen*, the seven-week virtual program created to foster Tribal connections across the country.

As the activities concluded, the group took part in a make-and-take activity and created medicine pouches containing *sema* (tobacco), sage, cedar and sweetgrass. Many students and their families then headed to FireLake Arena to watch the Potawatomi Fire with complimentary tickets provided by the Department of Education.

## Positive responses

Lee said the Department of Education staff was pleased with the response to this first-ever Coming Into the Circle event.

"I could not be happier. Some of the students reached out to us after the fact with emails and thank you cards, just letting us know that they really enjoyed the event," he said. "We had students travel from Perkins (Oklahoma) and even as far away as Texas who came up for the event, and they were really impressed with the programming."

Heather Swann and her daughter, Camryn, drove from Denton, Texas, to participate.

"I wanted her to learn more about what she's drawing from and how she'll have opportunities in the future to give back," Heather said.

Heather enjoyed the talking circle the most because she was able to hear what other parents are thinking about as their children prepare for college. Talking helped her understand that many parents are facing the same challenges.

Camryn, a Bourassa family descendant who is planning to attend Texas Tech University, agreed.

"I actually did have a girl come up to me and say, 'Oh yeah, I thought the same thing, you know?' So I liked being able to connect with another (student)."

The Payton family drove from Perkins, Oklahoma, to attend. Brandon and Ivan Payton, both Higbee family descendants, hoped to learn more about their heritage and Tribal services.

"I was hoping to learn more about the Tribe and see what they offer," said Brandon Payton. "And I certainly did. I really enjoyed the Aviary and the talking circle. Talking with other parents made me feel like there were people I can relate with, and it really felt like we were family."

Ivan Payton, a Perkins High School senior, is planning to attend Oklahoma State University and major in finance.

"I think it was really cool being able to see other people that are part of my Tribe and my age," Ivan said.

He thinks the event is just the start of his journey to connect with his Potawatomi heritage.

Lee said the response to the program was overwhelmingly positive.

"We developed the program mainly for our students," he said. "But, as a parent of a Native child, there are things that parents maybe don't have the tools to help with, if they're not particularly engaged with the Nation. They may not know how to be good advocates for their children, to be okay occupying Native spaces and things like that. So being able to talk it out with other parents just strengthens their resolve as Indigenous parents."

Encouraged by the responses, plans are already underway for the second Coming Into the Circle event.

"I think we'll expand it next year, maybe do a half-day and tour of the Cultural Heritage Center as well as the Aviary. We still want to do the talking circles because I think that was probably the most meaningful part to let them have a safe space to discuss kind of where they're at," Lee said.

Students and parents who are interested in attending Coming Into the Circle should follow the CPN Department of Education Facebook page, or they may receive education emails by signing up through the CPN portal at [portal.potawatomi.org](https://portal.potawatomi.org). 🔥



The graphic features a dark red background with a white house silhouette at the top center. Below the silhouette is a white rectangular box with a dark red border. Inside the box, the text "HOMEOWNER EMERGENCY MORTGAGE" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this box, the text "ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" is written in smaller, white capital letters. At the bottom of the graphic, there are two white rectangular boxes with dark red borders. The top box contains the text "This program was developed by the U.S. Congress and U.S. Treasury Dept. to assist low-income households impacted by the COVID-19 health emergency with mortgage and certain property charge assistance." The bottom box contains the text "To determine if you are eligible, please visit [huduser.gov/portal/datasets](https://huduser.gov/portal/datasets) or call 833-481-0638".

## HOMEOWNER EMERGENCY MORTGAGE

### ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

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

To determine if you are eligible, please visit [huduser.gov/portal/datasets](https://huduser.gov/portal/datasets) or call 833-481-0638



# Health care everywhere: CPNHS, IHS and CPN Care

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services staff are always happy to see Tribal members at the Nation's East or West Clinic, and any Tribal member is eligible to receive care at CPN facilities. However, CPNHS recognizes that time and distance can be a challenge for Tribal members living outside of Oklahoma.

Clinical Operations Director Lauren Bristow spoke with the *Hownikan* about ways that Tribal members across the country can access health care through CPN and the Indian Health Service.

## CPNHS

CPNHS offers primary medical care, prenatal care, dentistry, optometry, public health services, laboratory services, pharmacy, X-ray, ultrasound, mammography, behavioral health services, chiropractic care, physical therapy, cardiology services, focused diabetes care and more.

All CPN tribal members are eligible for care at CPNHS clinics.

"Unfortunately, we are a bit limited within CPNHS on what we can offer out of state Tribal members due to various legal and licensing issues across states," Bristow said.

Nevertheless, there are a few ways that CPNHS can help, she said.

CPNHS has a mail order pharmacy program, which is structured to support the prescription needs of out-of-state elders and Tribal members on SSI (Supplemental Security Income).

To qualify for the mail order pharmacy, the Tribal member must live outside of Pottawatomie County and must either be 63 years of age or older or receive SSI benefits.

Call the East Clinic at 405-273-5236 and ask to speak to the pharmacy for more information. Find the mail order pharmacy information packet at [cpn.news/mailorder](http://cpn.news/mailorder).

Additionally, CPNHS blocks off time during the Nation's annual Family Reunion Festival to see Tribal members travelling from out of state.

"It's a great time to get that annual wellness exam and annual eye exam, among numerous other services," Bristow said.

## IHS

For health care closer to home, the Indian Health Service is a great resource.

IHS is an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services responsible for providing federal health

IHS serves approx. 2.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to 574 federally recognized tribes in 37 states

Health services are provided  
a) directly by IHS,  
b) through tribally-contracted and operated health programs, and c) through services purchased from other providers (Purchased/ Referred Care)

IHS operates 26 hospitals, 59 health centers, and 32 health stations, and partners with 41 urban Indian health projects at 59 locations throughout the U.S.

Over 60% of health services are delivered through tribally-operated facilities (like CPN's). As of 2016, there were 90 self-governance compacts with tribes (including CPN) with over 350 of the 567 federally recognized tribes served.

Find a provider near you at [ihs.gov/findhealthcare](http://ihs.gov/findhealthcare).

services to American Indians and Alaska Natives, according to its website. This service is in fulfillment of trust agreements made with Native nations, which stipulated that the federal government would provide certain services to those nations, including health care services. Currently, the IHS operates in 37 states and provides services to over 2 million American Indian and Alaska Natives who belong to 574 federally recognized tribes.

CPN tribal members are eligible for care at all facilities directly operated by IHS.

Tribal members can find an IHS facility close to them by using the "Find Health Care" map at [ihs.gov/findhealthcare](http://ihs.gov/findhealthcare).

Additionally, Tribal members are likely eligible to receive care at tribally-operated facilities.

Through the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, and a later amendment to this act in 1994, Native nations can assume the administration of some federal services, such as health services. CPNHS was established by such a compact in 1997, and today, over 60 percent of the IHS appropriation is administered by tribes, according to the IHS. ▶

# Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

I would like to address something that has troubled me for several years: our veterans' health. As we age, we get older — trust me, it happens whether you like it or not. I know. I woke up one morning, and I was 78 years old... and looked it... and felt it, too. There are things I can't do anymore and don't want to. Most of us living veterans have experienced a war era, whether in combat or in support of combat. Whether you experience actual combat or not, you are affected by it. I have been through two war eras without any combat. That is over a 22-year period. During my 22 years in military service, I experienced loss and hardship, and it has given me a bond with fellow troops of each branch that cannot be broken. I care about the well-being of my fellow veterans. I want to share with you the help that you have earned: the health help that is available to veterans with the Veterans Affairs Department. I use them for many of my health issues. And at 78 years old, I have them. I have received friendly and efficient care. I have selected a few health issues that some of you may have and could use help with.



WOW! DID YOU HEAR THAT?

## Vision

How would you feel if, due to poor eye health, you could no longer see clearly or perform routine tasks that you have been doing your entire life? For veterans who may be functionally blind and losing their vision due to age-related macular degeneration, having virtual eye care services has made adapting to a different lifestyle a little easier. You may have an option of working virtually with a Clinical Resource Hubs (CRH) TeleEye optometrist and an in-person certified low-vision therapist to regain your independence. Ask your local VA about the TeleEye Virtual Eye Care System (TEVES) pilot. You can access from a community living center or a community-based outpatient clinic.

## Life without tobacco

No matter how long you have been smoking, chewing or dipping tobacco, the time is right to consider stopping. The VA has partnered with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to establish and maintain two highly successful and effective tobacco use treatment resources: the 1-855-QUIT-VET telephone quitline and the SmokefreeVET text messaging program. Treatments include individual or group counseling, prescription medications and nicotine

replacement products like gum or patches that treat withdrawal symptoms and help manage cravings. Call the VA national quitline at 1-855-QUIT-VET (784-8838).

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

Migwetch (Thank you),

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

› Bristow noted that it is best to contact the individual clinic to verify eligibility when seeking care at tribally operated facilities, as qualifications and services may differ.

## Telehealth

Tribal members are also eligible for telehealth benefits in any state through CPN Care. Registered patients receive

24/7 access to doctors, counselors, pharmacy discounts and more via phone, video or mobile app. This benefit is available at no cost to Tribal members and their dependents.

Find CPNHS online at [cpn.news/health](http://cpn.news/health) or call 405-878-4693. Learn more about the IHS at [ihs.gov](http://ihs.gov). Register for CPN Care at [cpn.news/CPNCare](http://cpn.news/CPNCare). 🔥



# Chairman Barrett accepted into Oklahoma Hall of Fame



Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett is one of eight honorees selected for the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2023. Since its inception in 1927, 730 accomplished individuals have received this commendation.

Chairman Barrett is one of only eight people from Shawnee during that time, joining Gregory Gerrer (1931), Cassius Cade (1939), Burton Rascoe (1944), John Wesley Raley (1958), Gordon Cooper (1962), Tom Steed (1971) and Robert Henry (2008).

“These friends stand tall on a mountain of accomplishments, yet their feet are planted firmly in the red dirt of Oklahoma,” said Oklahoma Hall of Fame Member Jane Jayroe. She spoke during the announcement luncheon on May 25.

Chairman Barrett joins scientists, health care professionals, automobile designers, Olympic gold medalists, neurosurgeons, engineers and other Tribal leaders as part of the 96th Oklahoma Hall of Fame class.

“It is an honor to be among the more than 700 individuals recognized for their contributions to the state and society at large,” Barrett said. “As the leader of a tribal nation, I serve as a steward of the traditions that have built CPN into the robust and thriving sovereign entity it is today.”

Chairman Barrett has served as an elected official for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation since 1973 when he was first elected as Vice-Chairman. Barrett is the eighth generation of his family to serve in elected office for CPN. Under his leadership, the Nation has grown from having assets totaling just \$550 and less than three acres of land to an entity making an annual economic impact exceeding \$750 million and becoming the largest employer in Pottawatomie County. Barrett attended Shawnee High School and holds degrees from St. Gregory’s University, Oklahoma City University, the University of Oklahoma and Princeton University.

“Our state’s highest honor goes deservedly to these Oklahomans who apply their talents and intellect to reach for more. Each Honoree is an inspiring ambassador of the pioneer spirit we so admire and need today,” said Oklahoma Hall of Fame President and CEO Shannon L. Rich.

Barrett has guest lectured at Harvard University for the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development and at the Banff Center in Banff, Alberta, Canada, to the assembled Canadian First Nations. He serves on the International Advisory Council of the Native Nations Institute and has served as a delegate of the United States Federally Recognized Tribes to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at The Hague, which provided the International Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People approved by the U.N. Committee on Human Rights and the U.N. General Assembly. Barrett also recently accepted an appointment to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame Board of Directors and the Leadership Award for Public Service from the International Economic Development Council.

The induction ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Hotel & Conference Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

*About the Oklahoma Hall of Fame: Founded in 1927, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame preserves Oklahoma’s unique heritage by telling Oklahoma’s story through its people. The organization was created to honor exceptional Oklahomans and provide educational opportunities for students of all ages. Induction to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame is recognized as Oklahoma’s Highest Honor. Through interactive exhibits and programming at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, as well as statewide outreach, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame promotes pride in our great state. For more information, visit [oklahomahof.com](http://oklahomahof.com). 🔥*







# Braiding Sweetgrass inspires Griffin to run marathon

What inspired Vanessa Griffin to run her first marathon at 50 years old and raise money for a Citizen Potawatomi Nation scholarship? In part, it was the bestselling book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, written by CPN tribal member Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer.

## Getting the idea

Griffin joined fellow parishioners at her church reading books and educating themselves on racism in the United States.

"As I did that work and kind of did some self-examination, one of the things I was reflecting on was, 'What can I personally do?'" Griffin said.

That thought brought her to the idea of a marathon — what Griffin considers to be one of the few things in a polarized society that everyone can get behind.

Griffin took up running when she was 40, completing 5ks and half marathons, but never a full marathon. She decided to try to help make a difference by running her first one to raise money.

## Choosing a cause

When deciding who should benefit from any money she raised, she was strongly influenced by Dr. Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

"When you train for a race, you are signing up to spend many hours in nature," Griffin said. "I sometimes listen to audiobooks and podcasts while I run on forest preserve trails, and there is no better companion than Dr. Kimmerer's calming, wise voice while running through those landscapes. She helps you absorb the world in a deeper, more complex way."

Griffin said the book also brought home the knowledge that she lived on land that once was home to the Potawatomi people.

"Dr. Kimmerer's chapter on pecan trees ... that is one of the most beautiful essays I've run across. It's such a beautiful expression of the importance of place and the grief that is involved when a people are relocated from one place to another that is so different from an ecological standpoint," Griffin said.



*At 50 years old, Lake Zurich, Illinois, resident Vanessa Griffin contributes to CPN's Michael John Kennedy Scholarship by running her first marathon as a fundraiser.*

Though she wanted to help raise awareness about the removal of the Potawatomi people, Griffin also researched where the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is today and its headquarters in Oklahoma.

"I came back to the idea that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation exists. That is where the Potawatomi Nation was forcibly and violently relocated to, and that is where they have their home. And there is beautiful work going on there," she said.

With that in mind, Griffin called the CPN Department of Education and spoke to former Education Director Tesia Zientek and Interim Education Director Charles Lee III.

"I had a very, I'll call it a 'white lady' idea, which is I'd like to create a scholarship," she said. "I came to Tesia and Charles with this grandiose proposition of a new scholarship, and they very gently, very calmly said, 'That's a great idea. We love that idea. Thank you. But what

would really help us is if you donated to this other scholarship that's already established and exists.'"

Zientek and Lee told Griffin about the Michael John Kennedy Scholarship, which was established in 2021 to honor Citizen Potawatomi Nation veteran Michael John Kennedy. Each year, the scholarship awards \$1,000 to a CPN tribal member who is a veteran or the child or grandchild of a veteran, with applications taken from July 15 to Sept. 15.

"My understanding is that he was so committed to the idea of education that he really wanted it to be passed on to new generations," Griffin said. "I love the fact that there is a connection to someone who believes deeply in the power of education."

## Completing the race

Griffin trained for about six months before running in the Madison Marathon in Madison, Wisconsin, in November 2022.

"It went really well," she said. "I prefer to run in the cooler weather rather than the heat of the prairie summer. It was a little cold, but there was no precipitation."

Her goal was to finish the marathon and raise \$5,000, with a stretch goal of finishing the marathon in less than 5 hours. She was able to finish in 5 hours, 13 minutes, and she ultimately raised \$6,500.

"It's a little mind blowing. I'm somebody who, for the first 40 years of my life, only ran when chased," Griffin joked. "I think that might be part of the success of the fundraiser. I think a lot of people in different walks of my life, maybe before my 40s, were like, 'She's doing what? We'll give her five bucks!'"

Though Griffin said it is too soon to think about if she will do another marathon — she likened being

---

## NARCAN continued...

Once the dose is administered, the person should be placed into the recovery position on their side and then monitored. If they do not improve within 2 to 3 minutes, a second dose of NARCAN can be administered.

"A good thing to remember is that there are no adverse effects with NARCAN. So even if someone is overdosing on something that's not an opioid and you try to give them NARCAN, it's not going to help them, but it's also not going to hurt them," Stieben said.

If at any point the person stops breathing, Stieben said to begin CPR as soon as the NARCAN is administered.

After administering NARCAN, Stieben said to be aware that people can sometimes be combative when they wake up from a traumatic experience like an overdose, so it is important to give them space.

Stieben explained again the importance of calling 911 any time there is a suspected overdose.

"Naloxone lasts 30 to 60 minutes. The half life of an opioid may be much longer," he said. "So that means that you

asked so soon to asking a new mother when she'll have her next baby — she found it empowering.

"It feels so big when you haven't done it yet, but if you have achieved that goal and you can look back on it and say, 'Well, I spent that many hours doing that. What am I going to do with the next however many hours?' It's sort of a good puzzle to have before you," she said.

Griffin said she does want to continue to educate herself and others about the country's history.

"This has allowed me to be a little more public with this interest in understanding and learning from and moving past, in healing ways, the hard histories of our nation. I think those are hard conversations for a lot of people to have, and I hope I am opening the door gently, always, in all the projects that I work on," Griffin said.

She feels honored to have worked with Zientek and Lee to benefit the MJK Scholarship.

"They were so kind and responsive," she said. "They just have these beautiful, open spirits, and I just was so honored to partner with them."

To learn more about the Department of Education or the MJK Scholarship, visit [cpn.news/education](http://cpn.news/education) or [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org), or on Facebook at [facebook.com/CPNEducation](https://facebook.com/CPNEducation). 🔥

---

always, always want to have someone who is in overdose or has been in overdose to go to the hospital. If the opioid is stronger than the NARCAN and it lasts longer than 30 to 60 minutes, they will be in danger of overdosing again."

## Prepared to help

Stieben said it is a good idea for anyone to have NARCAN available, including those with opioid prescriptions. Accidental overdoses are not necessarily common, but sometimes a person, especially older individuals with memory issues, might forget and take pills more than once, which could lead to an overdose.

In Oklahoma, it is possible to get NARCAN through a licensed pharmacist without a prescription for an opioid. It should not be stored in extreme temperatures or exposed to direct sunlight, and it should always be kept within the expiration date.

Similar to CPR, Stieben said anyone acting in good faith who administers NARCAN is protected under the Good Samaritan Law.

For more information about NARCAN, visit [cdc.gov/stopoverdose/naloxone](http://cdc.gov/stopoverdose/naloxone) 🔥



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK  
CPNEUCATION



# Sovereignty Symposium

## CPN leaders highlight Tribal successes

The Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma hosted the 35th Annual Sovereignty Symposium June 13 and 14 at the Skirvin Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma City University Law School will become the sponsor of the event in 2024.

As usual, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation played a significant role in the symposium that shines a light on the 39 tribes in Oklahoma and the legal and social issues they face. CPN Director of Planning and Economic Development Dr. Jim Collard moderated two panels on the first day of the event. They focused on symbiotic economics as tribes in Oklahoma work with other governing bodies to build and advance the communities inside their territories.

CPN Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett was featured on the first panel Tuesday morning. He discussed the Tribe’s difficult relationship with the City of Shawnee in the past. However, the community and CPN have formed a close bond and strong partnership throughout the last five years.

“We have a wonderful mayor now and a new city commission,” Chairman Barrett told the packed room.

With almost 2,200 employees, CPN is the largest employer in Pottawatomie County. Chairman Barrett listed some of the many projects the Tribe is hoping to finish by the end of 2024.

“We are in the process now of building a new casino and a hotel and restaurant complex and retail center,” he said. “And we have a complex of turf softball parks being built. Oklahoma is the best girls’ softball state in the union, so it made sense to highlight (those teams’ successes) at our parks.”

The Chairman also spoke about the Tribe’s investment in a new behavioral health center, two new childcare facilities, and the recent purchase and plans for a new branch of Sovereign Bank in Oklahoma City.

“I hope every tribe represented here today is a self-governance tribe, because it makes a huge difference in how you can do business,” Chairman Barrett

said. “There were some tough times at the start of the bank in 1985 when it was a \$14 million bank in a double wide trailer on a gravel parking lot. This year, we expect to surpass \$900 million in market value.”

Chairman Barrett also pointed to the Tribe’s \$65 million Community Development Financial Institution, the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation.

“Our CDFI is expanding greatly, and we hope that we can be of service to all the other tribes in the state,” he said.

Barrett also discussed the Tribe’s significant investment in Iron Horse Industrial Park and Sovereign Pipe Technologies as well as the short CPN railroad line that serves the industrial park. He said CPN is working with

state, federal and other tribal governments in an attempt to reopen a rail line between Shawnee and McAlester that would benefit several tribes and add transportation

capabilities for Sovereign Pipe and any future industry that locates inside the industrial park.

“I hope every tribe represented here today is a self-governance tribe because it makes a huge difference in how you can do business.”

**John “Rocky” Barrett**  
Tribal Chairman

Chairman Barrett pointed out that partnering with tribes in Oklahoma offers a safer bet for the state and federal government than depending on major industries that could choose to leave at any time.

“I think the state government is beginning to realize what an asset it is to have tribes as partners,” he said. “We’re not only contributing to the economy, but we’re not going anywhere. We’re locked into that piece of land that is held in trust for us. When times get bad, we’re not going to leave. I think we are headed toward great times, and I think it’s going to be an exciting period for all of us.”

This was the 18th year that Dr. Collard moderated sessions like these on behalf of CPN. The first session also featured Reggie Wassana, Gov. of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes; Deborah Dotson, President of the Delaware Nation; Bill Lance, Secretary of State for the Chickasaw Nation; Leslie Osborn, Oklahoma State Labor Commissioner; and Carly Griffith Hotvedt, Associate Executive Director of the University of Arkansas School of Law’s Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative. 🔥

# CPN hopes to recruit more dental hygienists, nurses with scholarship

When Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services reached out to the CPN Department of Education and said they were having trouble finding viable applicants to fill LPN and dental hygienist positions, they worked together to set up a scholarship to bring more candidates to those fields.

The CPNHS Scholarship for Service, or *Mshkeke* (the Potawatomi word for medicine), covers tuition and fees in return for a minimum of one to three years of employment at a CPNHS site. Scholarships are available for one person going into a licensed practical nurse program and for two people in a dental hygiene program.

Interim Education Director Charles Lee III said applications are open year-round. For the licensed practical nurse program, one scholarship per year covers 100% of tuition and fees.

"The dental hygiene is a little more finessed," Lee said. "It's a three-year program, but we only pay for the last two years once they enter the professional part of the program. The prerequisites are not covered."

Once the previous scholarship winners have made it through their respective programs, the scholarship will become available to the next round of applicants.

Applicants must be Oklahoma residents who are at least 18 years old. Eligible schools include Rose State College, Gordon Cooper Technology Center and Metro Technology Center. The scholarship is open to Native and non-Native applicants, though CPN members will get preference.

"Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services is thrilled to partner with the CPN Department of Education on this innovative effort to strengthen education and employment tracks for high-demand fields within health care," Clinical Operations Director Lauren Bristow said.

"We look forward to the opportunities *Mshkeke* will provide for our health system and ultimately to our patients."

To find out more about the scholarship or how to apply, email [education@potawatomi.org](mailto:education@potawatomi.org) or call 405-695-6028. 🔥





# JOM program seeks student, parent involvement

Even though most students are still enjoying their summer break, a Citizen Potawatomi Nation program is already planning to boost student and parent involvement when school starts.

The Johnson O'Malley program is a long-time federal resource available to Indigenous public education students. Authorized by the Johnson-O'Malley Act of 1934, the program contains educational objectives to address the needs of eligible American Indian and Alaska Native students. The programs vary from Nation to Nation but may include culture, language, academics and dropout prevention.

The CPN Workforce Development & Social Services Department administers JOM and serves Oklahoma's public school students in Asher, Bethel, Choctaw-Nicoma Park, Dale, Earlsboro, Harrah, Lexington, Little Axe, Macomb, Maud, South Rock Creek, Tecumseh and Wanette. They also assist Epic Charter Schools and homeschool students.

CPN employees Shelly Watson, WF&SS employment and staff manager, and Peggy Walters, WF&SS youth counselor, are leading the JOM group. They want parents to know JOM may be able to help with unexpected school costs.

"The program is designed to allow Native students the same opportunities that non-Native students would have when it comes to purchasing things for school, such as school pictures, spirit t-shirts, yearbooks, letter jackets, senior announcements, and cap and gown," Watson said.

Parents could also receive help with school supplies, tutoring and driver's education, as well as funds to help purchase gym shoes, gloves, cleats and uniforms.

In most cases, JOM assists with a portion of school-related expenses. In some instances, JOM

might be able to assist with a larger portion. Each student is evaluated individually, Watson said.

Students who earn good grades can also qualify for incentives.

"There are some grade incentives. They can earn a \$10 gift card every nine weeks that they make a C or better in all their classes," Watson said.

## Applying

Parents who are interested in JOM should fill out an application. Since JOM programs are federally funded, the application helps Workforce Development & Social Services fulfill the federal government's information requirements.

All parents should apply regardless of income level, Watson said.

"A lot of parents maybe don't apply because their income is substantial, but that shouldn't deter anyone," she said. "Even though we do ask for income (information), we do serve all the youth."

Once the application is complete, parents will receive a letter with the name of their child's JOM counselor.

"They contact that counselor to complete the process. We can do it over the phone or in person," she said. "This helps us outline what kind of services (parents want) throughout the year."

## Activities

JOM also hosts activities when students are on school breaks.

"We try to plan a (whole) day, especially for kids that would be home by themselves," Watson said. "We teach them how to make hand drums. We teach them how to make rattles, or we teach basket weaving."

While the Potawatomi culture is often featured, Watson said employees from different Tribal backgrounds also contribute their knowledge of their own cultural practices, so each student learns something from their own Nation.

"We serve all kids in six counties. So, we might (include something) from the Seminole Nation or the Choctaw Nation. We have invited language programs to do a little teaching, and we try to expose kids to their Native language," she said.

Students also receive guidance from a nutritionist on how to prepare healthy meals and snacks, and there is a fitness component to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

The education component includes camps every Tuesday and Thursday in July. Past camps have included Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or, STEM.



*Students participate in a variety of cultural and educational activities as part of the Johnson O'Malley program. Organizers hope to attract more student and parent involvement this fall.*



*Participants' channel their creativity during hands-on artistic projects, like painting sneakers.*

Walters' favorite activity is painting.

"Everyone painted little canvases, and they're all very creative. That's my favorite part," she said.

All the projects are featured in an August display at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center. Gift cards are awarded for first, second and third place.

## Fall plans

The first JOM parent meeting held in the fall will include the election of new parent officers. Having recently added Noble Public Schools to their list, the group plans to schedule meetings outside the Shawnee area so more parents will be able to attend.

"Moving forward, we want to see more participation. We'll start out the school year with the exhibit at the CHC, a back-to-school bash for the kids and a camp over fall break," Watson said.

Later in the year, the group will attend an Oklahoma City Thunder game. They also hope to teach students how to make ribbon skirts and tribal regalia, she added.

## Next level

The program has come a long way since its inception and over the past several years. Watson is excited to see it reach the next level.

"I didn't know (JOM) did all of this stuff. When my kids were young, I really could have benefited. I think it's definitely come a long way," she said.

She attributes the changes to the federal government becoming more observant and responding to what Native students really need.

Walters said she and another staff member will be attending the National JOM Conference in Chicago, Illinois, this year. It is an opportunity to see new innovations the program has planned and how those can be implemented in Oklahoma.

"It will be interesting to see what knowledge they bring back. We do a lot to help people and I'm thankful for that," Watson said.

## Streamlined

The JOM program benefits from recent reductions in government red tape.

"Our program, I will say it's amazing. We're under public law 477. So, all the money comes here, and we disperse the funds," she said.

Public Law 102-477 is the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992. The Act allows Tribes to integrate employment, training and related services into a single program with a single budget.

Previously, a tangle of federal government regulations could mean Native students only received a small dollar amount annually in services.

"I definitely think our kids benefit more (from 477) because it's less administrative funds going towards staffing and fringe costs. It's program money going to the kids and not paying salaries to several different people. I think that's great," Watson said.

For more information, contact Workforce Development & Social Services at 405-878-3854 or join the CPN JOM Facebook group. 🔥



# CPN legislative meeting minutes

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

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Greg Quinlan, Rachel Watson, Braden Bruehl, Roslyn Bellscheidt, Issak Decker, Grey Doster, Tate Lewis, Amity Tarter, Justice Wolfe, Alexandra Trousdale, and Jamie Moucka.

**Call to order:** Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. followed by the invocation.

**First item of business:** Minutes from the previous legislative meeting held May 18, 2023. Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Representative Schmidlkofer and seconded by Representative Payne. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

**Second item of business:** Resolution 24-01-App: A resolution authorizing the Tribal Chairman or his Designee to open one or more interest bearing cash accounts with F&M Bank. Motion to approve Resolution #24-01-App was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Walters. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 1 abstaining.

**Third item of business:** Resolution 24-02-Ed: A resolution pursuant to Public Law 102-477 – regarding consolidation of employment, training and education services for fiscal years 2024-2029. Motion to approve Resolution #24-02-Ed was made by Representative Boursaw and seconded by Representative Dave Carney. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

**Fourth item of business:** Resolution 24-03-TC&A: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the United

States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs Living Language Grant Program. Motion to approve Resolution #24-03-TC&A was made by Representative Wesselhöft and seconded by Representative Eva Marie Carney. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

**Fifth item of business:** Resolution 24-04-J&PS: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency fiscal year 2023 grant program. Motion to approve resolution #24-04-J&PS was made by Representative Barrett and seconded by Representative Lambert. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

**Sixth item of business:** Resolution 24-05-NR: A resolution approving a fee-to-trust acquisition application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and request for trust acquisition of the (non-gaming/on reservation) Hardesty Grocery property. Motion to approve Resolution #24-05-NR was made by Representative Bowden and seconded by Representative Payne. The motion passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Representative Dave Carney had to leave the meeting to catch a flight.

**Seventh item of business:** Resolution 24-06-LCoE: A resolution enrolling 64 applicants into the membership of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Motion to approve Resolution #24-06-LCoE was made by Representative Melot and seconded by Representative Whistler. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

11:20 a.m. Recess (Executive Session)

12:05 p.m. Reconvene

**Eighth item of business:** Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. 🔥





# GET A FREE HONOR CORD

## TO QUALIFY YOU MUST:

- Have a 3.9 GPA or above
- Must receive a GPA from your school
- GPA can be weighted or unweighted
- Be a CPN high school student or above

**APPLY AT [PORTAL.POTAWATOMI.ORG](https://portal.potawatomi.org)**

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**QUESTIONS? EMAIL [COLLEGE@POTAWATOMI.ORG](mailto:college@potawatomi.org)**

## 2023 Election Results

### District 10

Incumbent David Barrett: 309

Challenger Charles Scott: 182

### District 11

Incumbent Andrew Walters: 260

Challenger Jay Laughlin: 210

### District 13

Incumbent Bobbi Bowden: unopposed

### Tribal Budget Approval

Yes: 1,466

No: 89



## BEHIND THE SCENES AT



National Culinary Arts month is observed in July to recognize the chefs, cooks and staff who create innovative, unique cuisine. That creativity is on display at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Grand Casino Hotel & Resort's Flame Restaurant.

In a Brazilian steakhouse like Flame, guests can expect gauchos to come to the table with a vertically-held skewer, which holds various premium cuts of meat, including beef, pork, chicken and lamb. The restaurant features a full-service bar and the dining room's atmosphere is upscale and modern.

Executive Chef Nate Hahn leads a group of 12 employees, including dish washers, sous chefs, food prep and gauchos. Hahn has worked for CPN for 15 years, starting as a line cook, then sous chef, and now as executive chef.

"It's been fun. There's always plenty to do. It's definitely busy for sure," he said.

While each employee has a different path to the culinary field, they have one common attribute: they are all passionate about food.

### Careful preparation

The kitchen at Flame is busy several hours before food is served. The staff trims and seasons fresh cuts of meat before placing them on skewers. They also prepare fresh salad greens, roasted vegetables, soups, cheeses and cured meats for the salad bar.

"Usually around 4:45, I'll make sure the grill's lit. Then we'll start firing (food). And then I'm usually (at the grill) until we close," Hahn said.

During dinner service, Chef Hahn and the gauchos continuously grill premium cuts of steak, pork, chicken, sausage and lamb, and a Brazilian favorite called picanha. Flame offers 11 different kinds of meat, each prepared differently. Some cuts are wrapped in bacon. Even the way the meats are skewered varies according to the cut.

The picanha is a cut of beef taken from the top of the rump and is also known as rump cover or sirloin cap. It is prepared in the traditional churrasco style. Churrasco refers to the Portuguese and Spanish name for grilled meat, and it features in the cuisine of Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. Flame's gauchos then serve each table in the dining room.

"It was a lot to learn when I came up here," Hahn said. "Looking in, it looks easy. You just throw stuff on the fire. But fires are a lot more unforgiving than when you're cooking with gas."

Diners can expect great flavor in each dish — something the staff is passionate about delivering each meal service.

"I was always taught customers taste with their eyes," said Line Prep Cook Tanya Pitchford. "If it looks beautiful and tasty, they're going to take it."

Pitchford has been with Flame for five years. She began her career as a dishwasher in the Grandstand Sports Bar and Grill. Her passion for food motivated her to pursue a career in culinary arts.

Line Cook Rick Cornish helps with the prep work as he slices roasted yellow peppers. Cornish began working in the culinary field about eight years ago. When the opportunity arose to move up as a line cook, he jumped at the chance.

While patrons are savoring their meal, the kitchen is buzzing as Pitchford, Cornish and the rest of the staff keep the salad bar full and ensure that clean tableware is ready for the next set of customers.

"When I first started it used to make me nervous to see (customers) taking so much from the salad bar, but now I know it just means I did a good job," Cornish said.

Gauchos play a very unique role at Flame. They not only help trim the meats before they're cooked, but they also help in the dining room, taking the grilled meats from table to table so customers can sample their favorites.

"The gauchos are kind of a cool thing. They serve the meat, but they also cut it. They'll throw stuff on the grill; they'll take stuff off the grill. Gauchos are a unique position," Hahn said.

Gaucha Julio Flores has been on the job for two years. Like Pitchford, he began working in the "back of the house." He was asked if he would like to apply for one of the open gaucha jobs.

"It seemed pretty cool, watching (them) carry all the meats around and talking to people," Flores said. "I get to meet lots of interesting people."

## High standards

Over the years, Flame staff have become friendly with their regular customers. But whether the customer is a regular or first-time guest, staff wants each patron to experience the exact same level of quality each time they visit.

Customer favorites can vary: one night, guests can't get enough of the restaurant's oysters. Another evening, the filet mignon takes center stage. The staff goes with the flow.

Cornish's chimichurri sauce is a crowd pleaser, Pitchford said. Cornish prepares four to six quarts each week, using fresh ingredients. Patrons have often asked for the recipe.

"I have to tell them, 'I can't give you the recipe because then you might not come back,'" Cornish laughed.

The staff is also happy to help customers celebrate special occasions like birthdays, graduations and holidays. Cornish noted that one unique Oklahoma phenomenon also brings out the crowds.

"If it's going to storm, we know we're going to be busy," he said.

## Staying positive

Workdays in a busy restaurant like Flame can be long, hectic and just plain hot. But Cornish, Pitchford and Flores agree that Chef Nate provides steady leadership.

"He's a very good boss," Cornish said. "He's the most even-keeled man I know."

Hahn is a graduate of Platt College in Oklahoma City, but for those hoping to enter the field, his advice is simple.

"Get a job in any restaurant and just make sure you really like it," he said. "Culinary school is good; it teaches you the basics. But if you get that work experience, that will help you in the long run."

Pitchford agrees the right attitude and teamwork are essential in any professional kitchen.

"You've got to be positive," she said. "I know it's kind of corny to say, but there is no 'I' in 'team.'"

"You can teach someone, but you can't really teach them to have the right attitude. I look for someone who really wants to be here," Hahn said.

Despite the sometimes physically grueling work, there are many rewards.

"I'm used to long hours on my feet, but it does get tiring," Hahn said. "At the end of the day, it's a good feeling to go home and say, 'I accomplished this. Everything went smooth.' Even when you're tired, you're still happy."



*Flame's chefs prepare the picanha beef in the traditional churrasco style. Churrasco refers to the Portuguese and Spanish name for grilled meat featured in the cuisines of Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.*

Occasionally, the staff is reminded that their work is not as glamorous as it is on television cooking shows. One evening, they had to contend with a malfunctioning air conditioning unit. Pitchford said despite the heat, they pulled together by focusing on the food.

"I think (television) does make it too glamorous. You're around heat and stress. The (television) glorifies it, which is fine, but it's not always what you'll be doing," Hahn said.

The staff draws positive inspiration from some well-known chefs. The late Anthony Bourdain, author and television star, remains an inspiration to both Chef Hahn and Cornish.

"I was a young cook when I read *Kitchen Confidential*, and it really opened my eyes. It takes a specific type of person to want to do this and be happy doing this," Hahn said.

"This doesn't feel like a job — it's my passion. I'd be up here every day if I could," Pitchford said.

For more information, visit Flame at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort. Reservations are encouraged. Call 405-964-4777. 🔥







# Weld 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.

## Broken government promises

Mary Margaret Ogee, the daughter of Joseph and Madeline Ogee, appears on the 1863 Kansas census. Joseph and Madeline also had sons, Joseph Jr., Baptiste, John Lafayette and Louis Henry.

Mary Margaret Ogee married Hiram Weld around 1835. Following the 1846 Council Bluffs treaty, the Potawatomi removed from Council Bluffs, Iowa. The Welds relocated to the 567,000-acre Potawatomi reservation near Silver Lake, Kansas. The Weld children were Mary Ann, Josephine, Volney, Sarah Joane, Francis Prudence, James, Madeline and Hiram Cornelius. Sadly, James died at age 8.

After the family arrived in Kansas, Hiram built the second ferry in Uniontown and began its operation in 1853, catering to travelers along both the Oregon and California trails. Hiram walked on in 1855. Mary Margaret walked on in 1865.

While living in northeast Kansas, the Weld family learned they could become U.S. citizens and receive plots of allotted land in Indian Territory through the Treaty of 1867. The terms stipulated the Potawatomi could return their allotments to the U.S. government, which sold the land to railroad companies. The proceeds from the sales were used to purchase land in Indian Territory.

Each Potawatomi family then wrestled with a decision. Many had been through removal before and knew the potential challenges. However, life in Indian Territory was full of unknowns. The U.S. government promised to provide annuities and farming equipment so Tribal members would have a source of income.

Decades of migration then began in the 1870s.

## Leap of faith

The Welds were among the families who made the difficult decision to leave Kansas to carve out a new life for themselves and future generations on the plains of Indian Territory in the late 1890s. Despite the hardships, the Weld children would persevere.

*Irene Whitehead  
Pecore, Ed Pecore  
and Autwin B. Pecore*





Mary Ann Weld married Samuel Cummings. They had Francis, Joseph, Hannah and Charles. Mary Ann died in 1864.

Josephine Weld married Joseph Abraham Weldfelt. Their children were Margaret, Samuel, Abe, John, Fanny and Mary. Sadly, Fanny died at age 11. Joseph died in 1907. Josephine died in 1913.

Volney Weld married Mary Dudley. They were the parents of Oliver, Joseph, Hiram and George. CHC records indicate that Volney and Mary both died at their home, located three miles south of Silver Lake, Kansas. The same record states that Oliver died in 1886, aged about 20 years. Their youngest son, George, died as an infant, shortly after his mother died. Their surviving sons, Joseph and Hiram, received allotments. At the time, Hiram Weld was living in the orphan's home near Topeka, Kansas. The allotments were selected by Hiram's namesake, Hiram C. Weld, because the children were too young to select their allotments.

Sarah Joane Weld married Bone Brandon. They had a daughter named Sarah. Sarah Joane died in 1885.

Francis (some records spell her name as Frances) Prudence Weld married Abraham Collins. They had a daughter, Olive, and a son, Volney. After Abraham died, Francis later married Samuel Cummings. They had Andrew, Madeline, Ellen, Sadie and Clarence. Francis died in 1884.

Madeline Weld married Charles Kennedy. Their children were Charles, Albion, Frank and another child not named in records. She later married Thomas Harridge. They had Clara, Edward, Melone (or possibly spelled as Melvan), William and two other children unnamed in records. Some CHC records indicate Madeline may have married a third time, to a man with the last name Hiram.

Hiram Cornelius Weld married Mary Margaret Fielden (possibly spelled as Fiden or Fieden). They had three children.

## Arrival in Indian Territory

Migration from Kansas to Indian Territory would ultimately take decades. Most families had to save for many years before attempting the journey. The trip had to be timed so travelers could avoid dangerous winter weather or spring storms and mud along the way.

Life in Indian Territory would also prove challenging, but the Weld family relied on their strength and their family bonds to succeed.

Josephine and Joseph Weldfelt's daughter, Mary Weldfelt, married John Whitehead. Mary and John had a daughter named Irene. Irene later married Ed Pecore. They had Autwin (A.B.) Pecore.

Francis's daughter, Olive Collins, and her husband, Edward Hutton, had Edward George Hutton. Olive later married a second time to a man with the last name of Shepard. She married a third time to Alan Ogee.

Francis's son, Volney Collins, died in 1880.

Andrew Cummings survived to adulthood. He and his wife, Theresa, had a son named Charles and daughters named Cora and Fama.

Madeline married Dan O'Bright. They had Ollie Johnson, Christine (Tiny) O'Bright, Christina Heck, Edith O'Bright and Andrew O'Bright. Madeline died in 1896.

Ellen survived to adulthood. She was known as a musical genius and played a pump organ.

Sadie married James Shives. They were the parents of Florence and Birchie (possibly spelled Berchie) in California. Sadie died in 1901.

Samuel Clarence Cummmings died in 1911.

Oliver Kelly Weld, Sr. and his wife, Gladys, had Elva, John Robert, Wanda Clariece, Doris Marie and Oliver Kelly, Jr.

## Oklahoma's earliest inhabitants

By the time Oklahoma became a state in 1907, Potawatomi families like the Welds had already helped establish many of the state's earliest roads, schools, governments and communities.

Edward Hutton, the son of Olive Collins Hutton and Edward Hutton, was born in 1879. He later married Bessie Pletz. They had Agnes, Paul, George and Thelma.

Charles Cummings, the son of Andrew Cummings, married Etta Lindley. They had a daughter, Normalee. Cora Cummings married Tom Tribbey, and had a son named Tom H. Tribbey. Cora married Paul Harrison and had a son named Charles William and a daughter named Louise. Fama Cummings married William Brookover. They had Steve, Hazel and Virginia.

With their leap of faith to become U.S. citizens and taking allotments on an unknown prairie in Indian Territory, the Weld family members embraced the opportunity to create a better life for themselves and their descendants.

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). 🔥

# Congratulations

POTAWATOMI GRADUATES

**Allison Kate Brackett**

Madisonville, TN  
Family: Wickens  
Sequoyah High School  
High School Diploma

**Bayler Rebold**

Udall, KS  
Family: Rhodd/LeClaire  
Udall High School  
High School Diploma

**Brandon Rouzard**

Redondo Beach, CA  
Family: Bourassa  
St. John's University  
MS in Library and Information

**Brody Schrepfer**

Reisterstown, MD  
Family: Schropfer  
The Gilman School  
High School Diploma

**Carter Paul Anderson**

Herndon, VA  
Family: Ogee  
Liberty University  
BS in Psychology

**Cassie Faith Rapson**

Midwest City, OK  
Family: Pappan  
Rose State College  
AA in Pre-Education

**Caylin Nicole McCullough**

St. Joseph, MO  
Family: Slavin  
Medical University of South Carolina  
MS in Dentistry

**Christina Gloady**

Brea, CA  
Family: Schoeman  
California State Polytechnic University  
BS in Biology

**Clark David Jackson**

Gallatin, TN  
Family: Vieux  
Hendersonville High School  
High School Diploma

**Dakota Garrett Miller**

Duluth, GA  
Family: Rhodd  
Mountain View High School  
High School Diploma

**Daniel Adkins**

Edmond, OK  
Family: Milot/Beaubien  
Oklahoma Christian University  
BS in Psychology

**Dylan Tyler Chrismer**

Ruskin, FL  
Family: McCall/Hull  
University of South Florida  
BS in Finance and Investment Analysis

**Eden Rose Benshoof**

Glendora, CA  
Family: LaFromboise/Vieux  
Life Pacific University  
BA in Worship, Arts and Media

**Ethan Hopkins**

Moore, OK  
Family: Peltier  
University of Oklahoma  
BA in Economics

**Gavin Nathaniel Lackey**

Bartlesville, OK  
Family: Bruno  
Dewey High School  
High School Diploma

**Gerardo Sigala Thompson**

Bernice, OK  
Family: Vieux  
University of Oklahoma  
MS in Regional and City Planning

**Guy Alan Raasch**

Sweeny, TX  
Family: Macon  
Homeschool  
High School Diploma

**Jack Lewis**

Chandler, AZ  
Family: Navarre  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
BS in Comparative Media Studies  
BS in Computer Science  
and Engineering

**Jackson Avery**

Lake Charles, LA  
Family: Anderson  
St. Louis Catholic High School  
High School Diploma

**Jakob Cole Montgomery**

Hemet, CA  
Family: Melot  
California State University Fullerton  
BS in Geology

**James Joseph Lipinski III**

Plainfield, IL  
Family: Bourassa  
Oklahoma Baptist University  
MBA in Business Administration

**James Negahnquet**

Tecumseh, OK  
Family: Negahnquet  
Tecumseh High School  
High School Diploma

**Joelle Rose Dilley**

Fort Collins, CO  
Family: Kennedy  
Colorado State University  
BS in Human Dimensions  
of Natural Resources

**Jordan Frapp**

Robinson, IL  
Family: Frapp  
The Southern Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
MDiv in Christian Ministry

**Joseph Rushay**

Liberty, MO  
Family: Bertrand  
Liberty North High School  
High School Diploma

**Kaitlyn Jean Murphy**

Valley Center, CA  
Family: Bourassa  
Arizona State University  
BS in Forensic Psychology

**Katherine Nicole Brice**

Evansville, IN  
Family: Rhodd  
Indiana University Bloomington  
BS in Biology



**Katie Rose Younger**  
West Long Branch, NJ  
Family: Navarre  
Flagler College  
BS in Coastal Environmental Science

**Kristen Advincula**  
Whittier, CA  
Family: Schwartz  
California High School  
High School Diploma

**Landri Jo Lowden**  
**Mskopneshi Kwe (Red Bird Woman)**  
Tecumseh, OK  
Family: Curley  
Tecumseh High School  
High School Diploma

**Lauren Kiersten Rice**  
Lexington Park, MD  
Family: Darling  
Great Mills High School  
High School Diploma

**Lindsie Darvin**  
Moore, OK  
Family: Weld  
Texas A&M University  
BS in Biomedical Sciences

**Macie Layne Grizzle**  
Dallas, TX  
Family: Macon  
University of Texas

**Madeline McKeever**  
Richmond, TX  
Family: Rhodd  
Foster High School  
High School Diploma

**Mary Hrenchir**  
Paola, KS  
Family: Juneau  
University of Kansas  
BS in Business Analytics

**Matthew Sean McKeever**  
Richmond, TX  
Family: Rhodd  
Foster High School  
High School Diploma

**Matti Lynn Wendel**  
Cuero, TX  
Family: Burnett  
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi  
BS in Business Administration

**Nathan Scott Kennedy**  
Litchfield Park, AZ  
Family: Regnier  
Estrella Mountain Community College  
AA in General Studies

**Nicholas A Slavin**  
Coffeyville, KS  
Family: Slavin  
Emporia State University  
BS in Business Administration

**Nicholas Jones**  
Eugene, OR  
Family: Bourassa  
Western Oregon University  
BS in Mathematics

**Paisley Ward**  
Tecumseh, OK  
Family: McKee  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
Child Development Center

**Robert Negahnquet**  
Tecumseh, OK  
Family: Negahnquet  
Tecumseh High School  
High School Diploma

**Samantha Catori Bolt**  
Tulsa, OK  
Family: Bruno  
Thomas Edison Preparatory  
High School Diploma

**Sara Belle Sanchez-DiVall**  
Green Forest, AR  
Family: Anderson  
Green Forest High School  
High School Diploma

**Stanley Jarrett Czernecki**  
Moore, OK  
Family: Weld  
Moore High School  
High School Diploma

**Susanna Basappa**  
**Nanendek (Deep Thinker)**  
Birmingham, AL  
Family: Juneau  
Mayo Clinic Graduate School  
of Biomedical Sciences  
PhD

**Veronica Gabrielle Cortez**  
Anchorage, AK  
Family: Lewis  
Dimond High School  
High School Diploma

**Victoria Paige Brenner**  
Boise, ID  
Family: Veix/Laframboise  
Idaho State University  
MC in Clinical Mental  
Health Counseling

**Weston Keller**  
Santa Fe, NM  
Family: Anderson  
Santa Fe Preparatory School  
High School Diploma



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI  
GIFT SHOP

shop in-store & online at [POTAWATOMIGIFTS.COM](https://POTAWATOMIGIFTS.COM)

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

# From the executives



## John “Rocky” Barrett Tribal Chairman

*Bouzho, Nicon (Hello, my friend),*

We had a wonderful Family Reunion Festival this year, in spite of the 100-plus degree heat index. It was great to see old friends and a lot of new ones. I want to thank everyone here at Tribal headquarters who contributed to the event. The General Council held at FireLake Arena was well attended. The air conditioning was a welcome break in the late afternoon. Our congratulations and thanks go out to John Anderson, age 96, who was honored as our Wisest Citizen Potawatomi. Our Youngest Citizen Potawatomi was Lila Hughes, 3 months old, who attended with her mother, Alyssa Monroe. Alyssa was a past Youngest Citizen Potawatomi when she was an infant and attended General Council with her mother. That is a very heartwarming thing for us all to see — two consecutive generations of active citizenship in our Tribal Nation!

The Tribal elections returned Bobbi Bowden, David Barrett and Andy Walters to another four years in their offices in the Tribal Legislature. I am grateful for their service to our Tribe and congratulate them on their successful campaigns. For the most part, the election was as usual. Unfortunately, this year’s election again contained some shameful Facebook behavior, a problem our Tribe will have to address or we will not have qualified candidates running for office in the future for fear of being smeared online. It is a difficult problem because the Citizen Potawatomi Nation values free speech as a fundamental right. Ultimately, the issue of slanderous comments on the internet will have to be addressed by the Tribal Legislature. It should not be an issue first decided by the Tribal Courts. It should be a legal issue with new Tribal Code statutes framed to protect candidates and office holders from slanderous publications on the internet without the vagaries of a lawsuit, while protecting the Constitutional right of free speech. Such laws exist outside of Tribal law, but they are ponderous because of court precedent. Over my more than 40 years of holding Tribal elected office, I have been the target of a lot of rough talk. As social media has come to dominate the entire fabric of human interaction, at some point, we will have to accept some standards that limit online behavior to prevent libel and slander in our elections.

Several people came to me at the Festival and suggested changing the date of our General Council and Festival to a cooler time of year. We have talked about this for years but have always been stumped by the questions of how to consider holding a public event with children in school, holiday traditions and other months of adverse weather. If anyone wished to weigh in about such a change, the Tribal Legislature would like to hear about it.

The construction of the new casino and hotel across from Tribal Headquarters has begun. The site is being prepared for concrete now and the new structures will start going into the air by August. We will keep everyone informed with progress pictures in the *Hownikan*. All of our planned new projects — the casino, hotel, restaurant, ball fields and service station/convenience store — will be going on through this winter and next spring. We will be advertising for people in the new jobs that are created as early as this fall. If anyone of our Citizen Potawatomi wants a great new job or career, please consider these positions. Your Tribe is a great place to work. You can make your history a part of Tribal history!

It is an honor to be your Tribal Chairman, and I thank you from my heart.

*Megwetch (Thank you),*

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





## Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

*Bozho (Hello),*

Summer months can be a difficult time for many children because it represents the end of regular meals and snacks served during the school year. School meals have been offered as far back as the 1890s for U.S. students. Some European countries were operating lunch and snack programs a hundred years before that time. Today, many students will be served by summer programs that provide free meals and snacks. Sadly, this is not the case with all students in the U.S. Some students attending remote country schools may not have access to summer food programs due to the lack of transportation. It is unfortunate for these children; however, many rural schools across the U.S. run busses to accommodate children, so they will have access to summer food programs.

The summer food programs in schools contribute to children's healthy growth and development by providing them with nutritious meals and snacks over the summer months, a time when children can be more at risk for hunger and weight gain. As an example, Shawnee Public Schools provides a child nutrition program that serves sit-down, in-person meals during the month of June. All students 18 years of age and under are welcomed to participate at these meals for both lunch and snacks. Shawnee serves these meals at two schools in the area. After June, they have one location to distribute food to students.

Pottawatomie County students are served at the Community Market and Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. The program, which runs from June 4 through August 4, is a federal nutrition program managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and distributed through the Oklahoma State Department of Education. This program teams up with the Oklahoma City-based Regional Food Bank, which prepares and packages food by volunteers in Hope's Kitchen, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's production kitchen.

The USDA Summer Food Programs provide meals equally and without charge to all children aged 18 and younger, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma leads the fight against hunger in 53 counties in central and western Oklahoma. Founded in 1980, the Regional Food Bank is the state's largest domestic hunger-relief 501(c)(3) nonprofit that distributes food through a network of community-based partner agencies and schools.

I am fortunate to have visited the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma on two separate occasions. It is a gigantic warehouse stocked with endless rows of boxes and packages of food. In addition, there is a massive garden filled with vegetables that grow well in Oklahoma's soil. Those visiting the food bank go away amazed at the amount of food that is distributed by truck to organizations and schools throughout Oklahoma.

In addition to the USDA and Regional Food Bank, another organization that especially has been great in serving Native children in our area is Feed The Children, Inc. Since 1979, Feed the Children has been dedicated to helping children and families. With the support of donors and corporate partners, they deliver food and household essentials, offer nutrition training and clean water programs, provide school supplies, and assist in times of disaster. They believe in helping families and communities with immediate needs. Feed The Children is one of CPN's partners and has aided in numerous ways throughout the years. Their mission is to not only to provide food and household goods for the needy, but to provide the tools needed to help those being served achieve a bright future.

I am so grateful to the organizations in our country that provide food to children in need. Thank you for letting me share this important message about summer food programs.

*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)

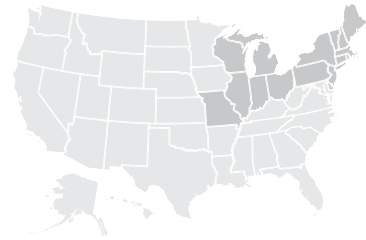
# From the legislature



## Alan Melot District 1

Bozho (Hello) everyone,

This month's article is a change of pace. We've had our Family Reunion Festival, and it was great to see everyone. I'm excited to continue to learn and be a better legislator for you. I'm looking forward to seeing some of you on the different stops of the Trail of Death Caravan in September. The Trail of Death Caravan is our meeting event for the fall of 2023, and I encourage you to get in touch with the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association President George Godfrey at either [pnginthewoods@gmail.com](mailto:pnginthewoods@gmail.com) or 217-502-9340 for more details.



During my work as a therapist, I advocate for victims: victims of abuse and neglect of all sorts; ages, young and old. I'm a strong supporter of our House of Hope in Oklahoma, and I want to continually raise awareness of the disproportionate

abuse and neglect that Native women suffer. What follows was written by a young woman I know of Sac & Fox descent who lives in our district — a resilient young woman who is on the long road of recovery:

*"From ages 14 to 16, I was a victim of abuse by the man who was supposed to be my father figure and spiritual guide. I suffered in silence, masking my pain with a smile. Some people sensed something was wrong, but they couldn't fathom the secrets I held within.*

*I doubted the seriousness of the situation, convincing myself it was normal for a grown man to make inappropriate requests. It took a toll on me, leaving lasting effects that still suffocate and lash at my being.*

*When I finally spoke up to a trusted adult, I was forced to face my abuser in court. It was a harrowing experience filled with tears, anger and humiliation, but I couldn't let my years of silence go to waste. My anger consumed me, robbing me of my identity. I had to rebuild myself through art, dance and other forms of expression.*

*His abuse not only silenced me but also stole my femininity, confidence and autonomy. I became terrified of revealing my body or looking attractive. For years, I pretended everything was perfect, but I grew tired of playing that role.*

*At almost 17, others in my family saved me. They taught me to reclaim my voice and to shout instead of whisper. I became my own person, no longer defined by others. However, this came with sacrifices — I lost best friends and parts of my family and had to leave my home state.*

*I refuse to be a victim again. I will fight for others who have suffered abuse. My artwork and videos reflect the pain I still carry, serving as reminders of my journey.*

*I have grown and survived many hardships in my 18 years. The justice system may not be fair, but survivors learn to live with that. I found empowerment in art and dance, discovering a justice within myself that the law couldn't provide.*

*I want to be a voice for those who can't speak yet and scream for those still afraid to whisper. I won't hide myself anymore."*

We are responsible for acting when and how and where we can to make the world a better place for those around us. Sometimes those actions are expensive. I've sacrificed many relationships in the process of advocating for victims. These actions allow me to feel confident that I have represented myself well with integrity and compassion and wisdom and love. In the end, when acting on your values is expensive, I hope you experience what I have, which is that it is worth it. I encourage you to fight for what you believe to be right, give a voice to the voiceless, and be what you needed when life was hard for you. Be able to say *gwabmen* (I see you) and mean it at a deep level.

Until next time we visit, keep me in your prayers as I keep you in mine.

Bama mine (Until later),

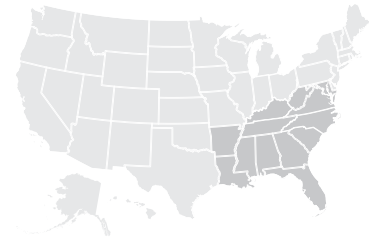
Alan Melot | Legislator, District 1 | [alan.melot@potawatomi.org](mailto:alan.melot@potawatomi.org) | 608 S. Sergeant | Joplin, MO 64801 | 417-312-3307





## Eva Marie Carney District 2

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),



### Regulatory gap: eagle feather permits

I asked Gayle Malone, formerly a District 2 resident who now is living in Ireland, to write up her recent, extremely frustrating experience with federal regulators when she sought a permit to take her eagle feather with her to her new home. Perhaps it will be read by someone who can fix the regulatory gap that denied her that permission:

*In November 2022, knowing that I was going to be moving from Tennessee to Ireland, I asked Eva Marie Carney, my district representative, if she knew of any issues or impediments involved in taking my eagle feather with me. She indicated that there are indeed permits required to take eagle feathers out of the country and not risk having them confiscated. I completed the application request for the required permit. In addition to the usual information requested, I had to indicate when I expected to return (never) as well as provide documentation signed by our tribal leadership affirming that I am an enrolled member of the CPN and legally entitled to own the feathers.*

*Following the submission of all required paperwork, I received a letter in January 2023 denying me permission. The writer acknowledged that, as the laws required, my “specimens were legally acquired” and that “the export was not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild,” but ruled that my request — because it proposed permanent removal of the feathers from the United States — did not meet the legal requirement that “no trip can be longer than 180 days.” The letter states: “[Y]our request is for the export of your items containing bald eagle feathers for purposes of a long-term or permanent household move outside the United States, with no intention of returning with the items to the United States within the 180-day period. Because there is currently no provision for permanently moving lawfully acquired bald eagles or golden eagles, or their parts, nests, or eggs to another country, we must deny your request.”*

*I was beyond disappointed. I wrote to Deb Haaland, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. I wrote to my Congressional representatives. I contacted our tribal leadership as well as our CPN Eagle Aviary management. In these correspondences, I cited links to our Potawatomi teachings on the sanctity of the eagle and the cultural importance of eagle feathers.*

*Unfortunately, no one pointed me to a way around the cited laws. The denial letter permitted an appeal, so I appealed with the offer to refile/renew my permit request every 180 days. That appeal was denied, but — just days before I was to leave for Ireland — I received a 180-day permit. That permit, however, was usable only with the stamp and signature of an inspection officer, and the enclosed list of inspection offices and locations did not include one in Tennessee! So, the unhappy ending to this story is that I was not permitted to bring my feather with me.*

To learn more about the Potawatomi teachings Gayle references and find links to the relevant laws and regulations governing eagles and eagle parts and feathers, visit the “Heritage” tab of my website, [evamariocarney.com](http://evamariocarney.com). The information provided there is under password protection, so contact me if you don’t have the password. Information on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s eagle management policies and its National Eagle Repository is available at [cpn.news/FWSeagles](http://cpn.news/FWSeagles). Please note that enrolled members of federally recognized tribes do not need a permit to travel domestically with federally protected birds, bird feathers or other bird parts.

### Potawatomi Gathering

I’m looking forward to our Gathering toward the end of July and hope to visit with many of you on the Pine Creek Reservation in Michigan! It’s an honor to serve as your representative.

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

Eva Marie Carney | Ojindiskwe (Bluebird woman) | [ecarney@potawatomi.org](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

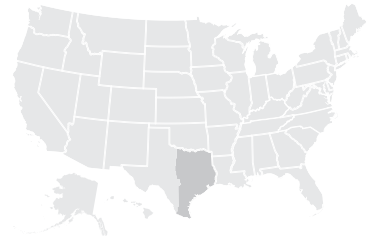


Photo I took at our Eagle Aviary, June 2018



## Bob Whistler District 3

*Bozho Nikan (Hello friend),*



### District legislator challengers

This year, there were three Oklahoma legislative positions on the ballot for Tribal citizens living in Oklahoma to vote upon. I regularly drive up to Shawnee to attend our quarterly legislative meetings.

Our meetings are open to the general citizens if they would like to attend. All three of the current legislators who were up for re-election have been at every meeting as would be expected. However, not one of the challengers has taken the time to come to even one of our meetings to understand what is going on and what is being discussed and voted upon.

When I was first elected as the District 3 representative, I was surprised at how complex the issues were, and it took me over a year just to recognize what the acronyms referenced when I received the resolutions for review before the legislative meeting. I came with a background in management and experience in a number of fields. For over 10 years, I was responsible for creation and justification and had to operationally stay within a \$50 million budget for the airline city that I ran. I also served a three-year term as a city council member at-large in the city I live in and dealt with various city issues, ordinances, and budget review and preparation. Even with this variety of business and city government experience, there were times I found our legislative items a bit challenging to understand.

Next year, we will have two more Oklahoma district legislative positions open, and I hope to see any challengers attend our legislative sessions. If elected, how do they expect to clearly understand the resolutions and budget areas that they will be reviewing and voting upon?

If these candidates say that they had conflicts for not attending a meeting, that could be a reasonable explanation. But for them and future candidates in the eight districts outside Oklahoma, have they gone online and listened to the recorded version of the legislative meetings that are available on our [potawatomi.org](http://potawatomi.org)? Since they may be representing us in the future, we should be asking, what have they done to understand our nation's budget and all of the resolution areas involved?

### District 3 meeting

On Saturday, August 12, I will hold a meeting in Bryan, Texas, at The Brazos Center from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The address is 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, TX. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP by August 3, with the number in your party to [rwhistler@potawatomi.org](mailto:rwhistler@potawatomi.org) or call 817-229-6271. A post card is being sent as a reminder this month.





## Native American clothing style show

The Native Care facility of Dallas hosted a Native American Clothing Style Show in Arlington, Texas, in May. Clothing from a variety of Nations in the U.S. — including the Southwest, Plains, the Dakotas and one First Nation from Canada — was worn and displayed. It was an opportunity to see the regalia differences. The event included some artwork for sale. I have included a photo of the models along with the event organizers.

## Land acknowledgement

At the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) held in New Orleans the first of June, presentations were made by several representatives from at least two of the universities from Tarrant County in Texas. While they went over the wording used relative to recognizing that their land had been taken from various Native American nations, I was very happy to learn that a statement I had made about the land acknowledgement at one of the colleges was included to the 5,000 in attendance. I had said that in time, although there may be a plaque, the college should consider offering scholarships to any Native American students whose ancestors had occupied that land that was taken. This would help ensure that the apology remained current forever.

It is a pleasure and honor to serve my Nation's District 3 citizens.

*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)



## Jon Boursaw District 4

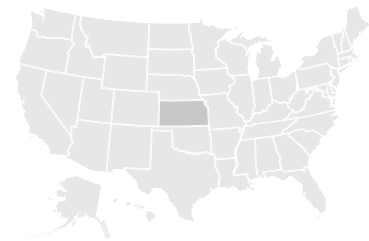
*Bozho* (Hello),

### Health Services available to CPN members at Hunter Health in Wichita

At my request, the following information was provided by the Hunter Health Clinic:

The Hunter Health Clinic, located at 527 Grove St. in Wichita, Kansas, is a good option for CPN members who are unable to travel to Tribal healthcare facilities in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Hunter Health provides traditional, patient-centered care at minimal or no cost. Services, funded by Indian Health Services, include comprehensive medical and behavioral healthcare, preventative and basic dental services, and annual vision exams. Other services such as substance abuse treatment, immunizations, HIV testing and health education are also included. IHS-approved medications can be obtained through Hunter Health's onsite pharmacy. To be eligible for the program, patients or their family members

must be enrolled in a federally recognized American Indian tribe. For more information, visit [cpn.news/hunterhealth](http://cpn.news/hunterhealth).



## Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

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

July 14	Goulash	RSVP by the 5th
Aug. 11	BBQ meat balls & cheesy potatoes	RSVP by the 8th

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

## CPN member is a Winning Girls Fast Pitch Coach

Recently, the local Kansas sports news was filled with details of the State Division 3 Girls Fast Pitch Championship won by Wamego High School. The most amazing detail in the news was one pitcher, Peyton Hardenburger, pitched back-to-back no-hit games in one day to secure the championship. A contributing factor in this amazing feat is the training Peyton has received over the past few years from her coach, Phil Quinn. Phil is a CPN member and a descendant of Jude Bourassa. Peyton is only one of the hundreds Phil has coached in the past 30-plus years. He told me that several have received college scholarships. I asked him at what age his trainees typically start taking lessons. He replied that it is not uncommon for girls to start training at 8 years old. If you were to meet Phil, you would never guess his amazing life's achievements. He has a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, was a high school coach for 14 years, has written a newspaper column, and has written several books on Family Violence and Child Abuse. Phil has been retired for several years and now lives in CPN housing in Rossville, Kansas, and serves part-time as the Senior Support Network



Clean Up Crew

transportation driver. Another interesting facet in Phil’s life is that his son, Jonathan, was an NFL quarterback (one year with the Chiefs) and is now a coach at a high school academy in Tennessee.

## Updates on Uniontown Cemetery and Burnett’s Grave Site Projects

Uniontown Cemetery: On Saturday, June 3, a group of nine Tribal members and Dr. Schneider from the Kansas Geological Service met at the cemetery to remove the small rocks and chips that were left after the walls were removed. Afterwards, Dr. Schneider described to the group her plans to perform the last of the Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys of the site and the

suspected mass grave site. During the cleanup, two arrowheads were found, one slightly larger than my thumbnail.

Burnett’s Grave Site: The Tribe has contracted with a local landscape firm to perform a stump removal and leveling of the site. This work will be accomplished prior to the new fence being installed around the site and the site being covered with river rock.

It is an honor to serve as your legislator.

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),

We have officially arrived past the halfway mark of 2023. It hits so quickly that an entire year passes, and you wonder what happened to the time. This is a subject I cover often as I just cannot believe how it flies, and I don’t want you to forget.

What I want to talk about today is procrastination, of which I am as guilty as anyone. I always think I have plenty of time. Maybe tomorrow?

I have goals and projects I want to complete in this lifetime.

You never know what the next day or hour will bring, so we need to be cognizant of the gift. No one gave a guarantee of how much time we have; let’s not throw it away with petty arguments, upsets and disagreements. In the grand scheme of things, it doesn’t matter anyway.

It isn’t about being right or wrong, winning or losing. It is about finding a common ground where you can agree, respect and build.

We are presently in a time where a lot of dissention hovers over religion, politics, ethics, etc. We each have a belief system that may differ from our neighbors, relatives and friends. Having varying life experiences, upbringing and educations sets up the cognitive nature of who we are. To deny that would be wrong, nor is it required.

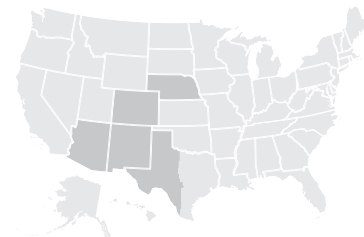
Regardless of the situation, one can only see through their own eyes.

That being the case, start your conversations with something you can agree on. “It is a beautiful day,” might be a gentle way to start. (I exaggerate here to make a point.)

I have wonderful friends that are opposites in religion and politics. If you value their friendship, it might be a subject you agree to disagree, or simply choose to discuss the many other subjects you commonly share.

You don’t throw away a friend because they are different. If all your friends thought like you, there would be no opportunity to learn or grow.

If we were all alike, it would be a pretty boring world to live in.





Let me suggest you write down the things you would like to accomplish and the time frame. Maybe even a list of those you are angry with and think of a way you could release. It takes two. What was your contribution to the disagreement? How could I have handled it differently? You take you everywhere you go, not them.

Decide what you want to experience in this life and create a “bucket list.”

Every week, month or year — depending on cost, time and interest — do something you have always wanted to do.

Keep a journal and/or pictures. Take the time to stop and look back occasionally. Don’t rush from one thing to another without realizing or having appreciation in-between. I know one person that stays so busy she has no idea what she did last week. This isn’t about busy. This is about enjoying the experience.

Appreciate the different cultures, ideas and thoughts of others. You will find yourself. It’s amazing!

Happy Fourth of July! Make it memorable.

Keep me posted on your new experiences. I can’t wait to hear about them.

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

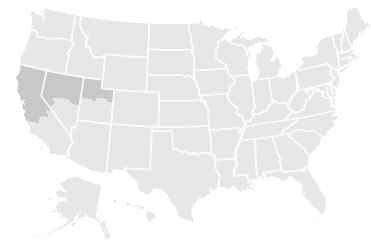
---



## Mark Johnson District 7

*Bozho nikanek* (Hello friends),

Another June in Shawnee and another successful Family Reunion Festival. The 2023 Honored Families were the Johnson, Lafromboise, Lareau, Leclair, Melott, Rhodd, Tescier, Weld and Young families. As we gathered to celebrate our shared heritage and love for our part of the world where our ancestors settled, it was great to see those familiar faces of old friends and to meet new ones. Things around the Nation never stand still very long. A lot of new construction and improvements have happened in the last year, including the construction of the long-awaited Tribal columbarium. Once completed, this sacred place will offer a resting spot for up to 400 Tribal members who choose to be cremated and wish to be interred in our Tribal Nation. If you didn’t attend this year, find the time in the future and join us in Shawnee over the last full weekend in June.



With Festival in the rearview mirror, the Potawatomi nations will come together for the 29th annual Potawatomi Gathering hosted by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi from July 24-29, 2023, at the Pine Creek Indian Reservation in Fulton, Michigan. Along with all our relations from the other Potawatomi nations, from the language conference to economic and cultural events, along with governmental meetings, it will be a great time to celebrate our heritage and gather as one.

Remember that scholarship applications for the fall semester are due by September 15 online at [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org). Enrolled CPN Tribal members who complete the application by the deadline and meet criteria will be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 (full-time status) or \$750 (part-time status) per semester. For further information, contact the CPN Department of Education by email at [education@potawatomi.org](mailto:education@potawatomi.org) or give them a call at 405-695-6028 or toll-free at 1-800-880-9880.

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

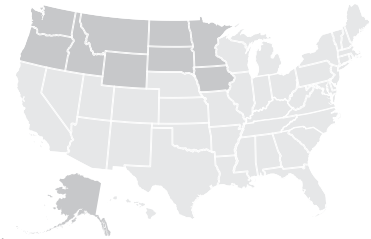
*Migwetch* (Thank you),

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



## Dave Carney District 8

*Bozho, nikan* (Hello, friend),



When this paper is published, the Family Reunion Festival for 2023 will be in the history books. Hopefully, the gathering was a fun and meaningful event for those who attended. It's never too early to plan, so think about coming to the Nation in June 2024. If your family is one of the founding families being honored, it's just a bit more special with gathering areas set aside in the round house for each family, a photoshoot, Cultural Heritage Center interviews and powwow dances to recognize the families. Next year, the Hardin, Darling, Higbee, Levier, Lewis, Nadeau, Pambogo, Negahnquet and Smith families will be honored. Some of these families have fewer members than say the Melots or Peltiers, so it is even more important to go and represent your family and honor your ancestors.

I am looking forward to the summer-time cookout August 5 in the Lacey/Olympia, Washington, area. We've had a few of these in the past, and they have been very successful in terms of having new members attend, having folks connect either for the first time or as friends made at previous District 8 events over the years, and giving folks information about the Tribe — both past and present. Look for information in your email, a postcard in the mail and/or the District 8 Facebook group.

The other event to put on your calendar is the Fall Feast — this year held in Seattle. This will be a mid-day meal with presentations, craft and art contest. The location will be the Duwamish long house, and the date to save is October 14. Please consider coming if you have not attended one of these before.



*Veronica Cortez, Miss Alaska for America 2023*

This summer, while we celebrate graduating students, I think we should acknowledge the Nation's contribution to their success through the CPN scholarship program. In that vein, I'd like to recognize Tesia Zientek, our former CPN Department of Education Director who has recently moved on to a new career opportunity. She did an excellent job of modernizing the process for scholarship applicants and is passionate about educating our people. *Migwetch* (thank you) to Tesia, and I know she will stay connected to the Nation and will continue to share her gifts.

I try to stay connected with many members throughout the district, and many people call asking for unique assistance. Sometimes the Nation has a program that can help, and sometimes not, but I never mind brainstorming with folks.

It's also nice to hear about accomplishments of members. Recently, I received this press release (edited):

*Saturday evening, May 6, 2023, the stage at Bartlett High School Auditorium in Anchorage was packed with friends and family members as women from across Alaska competed for the title of Mrs. Alaska America AND the Miss Alaska For America.*

*Our new Miss Alaska for America is VERONICA CORTEZ from Anchorage. Veronica is a graduating senior from Dimond High School and is Spa Consultant at Planet Beach. She plans to ignite women to tap into their inner confidence and push them forward toward their goals. She aspires to create a collaboration of women that can help their community for their cause.*

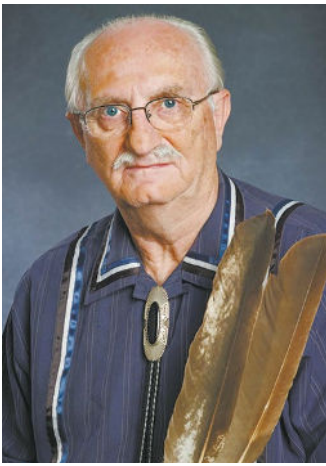
Veronica will be on her way to the Miss Alaska For America Pageant at the annual National Competition in August in Las Vegas, Nevada. Additionally, she will be making personal appearances throughout Alaska during her year's reign.

Congratulations, Veronica!

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





## Paul Wesselhöft District 9

*Bozho, nikan* (Hello, friend),



### The Creator's Game

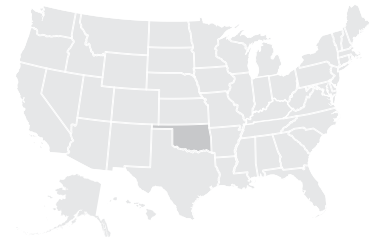
Lacrosse was called *The Creator's Game* by Native Americans. As early as 1100 A.D., Native Americans played lacrosse, which they also called the "stick game." Jesuit missionary priests in the 17th century recorded the game being played in Canada.

Lacrosse was played by up to a thousand men and lasted from sunup to sundown. The game was considered a ceremonial ritual symbolizing warfare and to give thanks to the Creator. It was a spiritual experience bringing honor to the tribes and their Creator.

Today lacrosse is played in virtually every state, and there are over 825,000 men and women playing The Creator's Game.

*Migwetch* (Thank you),

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



## Andrew Walters District 11

*Bozho* (Hello),

There are times when you find yourself in an odd situation. For me, this is one of them. We write these about a month and a half out, so I have little idea at this point as to whether I will be re-elected as your District 11 Representative or not...or whether this will even be posted in the *Hownikan*. So in a leap of faith, here we go. I can honestly say that if you read this... I'm back for another four years. If you don't...well...I'm locked in my bedroom, crying, lamenting, and reading Revelations. Just kidding!!!!

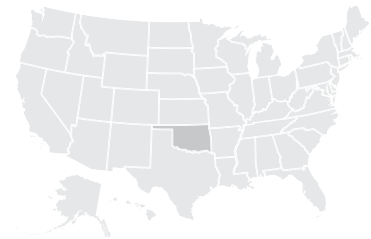
If you do read this, *Igwien*. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to represent you in our Tribal Government. I promise to work toward better things in the next four years and to address issues involving our members with vigor and focus. As

Rodney Dangerfield used to say..."It ain't easy bein' me." I have to balance my heart with the practicalities of Tribal Government. I want so much to see this Tribe prosper and grow. I want to have each of you in Oklahoma contact me and tell me your heart involving this Tribe, this Family to which we all belong. As I've said before, I don't have all the answers...heck...I don't even know all the questions. But I'm willing to work, communicate and revitalize this Tribe. The coming years are hiding great challenges and great opportunities. Working together, we can grab ahold of them and give 'em our best ride. Some will throw us, but every once in a while, we can hold on for 8 and get the prize.

We are the keeper of the Fire, the Keepers of Life. We will prosper and grow together.

*Bama pi* (Until later),

Andrew Walters | [andrew.walters@potawatomi.org](mailto:andrew.walters@potawatomi.org) | [nibwemko@gmail.com](mailto:nibwemko@gmail.com)



**← JOIN THE NISHNABE NERDS FACEBOOK GROUP →**

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

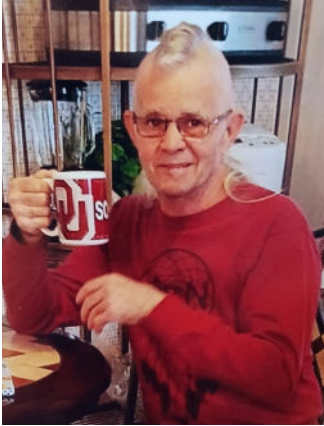
Share ideas, resources, questions and goals about learning and education in a supportive environment.

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

**NISHNABE NERDS**

# Walking On

## **Bobby Dale Holloway** Holloway Family



Bobby Dale Holloway was born Feb. 28, 1951, at Valley View Hospital in Ada, Oklahoma. He was the son of Bill and Dymple Holloway and brother of Janie, Helen and Sandy. The family moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma, when Bobby was 4 years old. He then attended Irving Elementary School, Alice Robertson Jr. High and Muskogee Central High School.

After graduating in 1969, Bobby joined the U.S. Navy, serving from 1970 to 1974.

Bobby was most proud of his son, Jermaine; being a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation; and his service to his country.

Bobby passed from this life on May 20, 2023, and rests in Maxwell Cemetery, where a large number of his family members are resting.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; his infant son, Dustin Wayne Holloway; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He is survived by his son, Jermaine Yates (Jennah); granddaughters, Aerianah and Amayah of Caledonia, Michigan; his sisters, Janie Compassi of Wagoner, Oklahoma, Helen Anderson of Muskogee and Sandy Johnson of Hiwasse, Arkansas; two aunts, Lea Brecheen of Del City, Oklahoma, and Hazel Holloway of Safford, Arizona; as well as his nieces, nephews and several cousins.

## **Linda Ruth Miskovsky** Milot Family



Linda Ruth Miskovsky of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, passed from this life on April 29, 2023, at the age of 73. She was born April 22, 1950, in Oklahoma City to Kenneth Joseph and Ruth Ellen (Mathis) Hey. Linda's hobbies were gardening, shopping and crafting. Most importantly, she loved spending time with her family. Linda was a wonderful woman and

will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by one son, Sean Miskovsky, and wife, Kim; two daughters, Felicia Cox and significant other,

Donnie Jackson, and Melissa Brumley and husband, Earnest; 13 grandchildren, Mariah, Patrick, Josh, Cooper, Brittany, Alyssa, Daniel, Destiny, Elaina, Hailee, Avery, Ava and Alyvia; three great-grandchildren, Nikiah, Kaiden and Jo'syah; three sisters, Carol, Gail and Patricia; and two brothers, Mark and David; and a host of other loving family members and friends.

Linda is preceded in death by her son, Scott Miskovsky; two brothers, Wayne and Glenn; parents, Ken and Ruth Hey; husband, Thomas Miskovsky; and her significant other, Richard Baker. Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Friday, May 5, 2023, in the chapel of the Wanette Cemetery in Wanette, Oklahoma, with services under the direction of the John M. Ireland Funeral Home and Chapel.

## **Max Boyd Hester** Tescier Family



Max Boyd Hester of Canyon Lake, Texas, passed Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at the age of 65. He was born on May 13, 1957, to Albert and Maxine Hester in Oklahoma City. Max lived in Choctaw, Oklahoma, until graduating high school. He valued education and later earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma. Max's entire career was spent working at AT&T. After starting with them in Oklahoma City, he later moved to Monett and St. Louis, Missouri. At the end of his career, he moved to San Antonio, Texas, where he later retired from the company. Max eventually settled in Canyon Lake, Texas, where he spent the rest of his days dealing antiques — a love passed on to him from his parents.

Max lived life to the fullest. He spent many years traveling to see the world and enjoying the outdoors. He enjoyed activities like skiing, mountain biking and running. He loved dancing and going to concerts to see his favorite artists — Enrique and Madonna. He made many friends all over the country who enjoyed these activities with him. Max will be remembered for being funny, generous and a caring soul who never met a cat he didn't love.

Max was preceded in death by two nephews, Brian and James; his brother, Jim; mother, Maxine; father, Albert; and sister-in-law, Candy Hester. Max is survived by one brother, Bert Hester, and his wife, Liz; nephew, Hank Hester, and his wife, Twylla; nephew, Kyle Hester, and his wife, Laci; niece, Kimberly Nei, and her husband, Darin; nephew, Jon Hester, and his fiancé, Alyssa Perez; as well as



great-nieces and nephews Haley Burge and her husband, Kaleb, Hannah Hester, Hank Hester II, Grace Hester, Nate Hester, Gabe Hester, Liam Hester, Abi Hester, Serenna Nei, Audie Nei and Hester Nei. Max is also survived by his Aunt Jimmie King and Katherine Sandlin as well as numerous cousins, friends and coworkers.

Services were held Monday, April 17 at the Bill Eisenhower Funeral Home in Oklahoma City followed by interment at Elmwood Cemetery in Choctaw, Oklahoma.

**Lyle H. Yowell**

Denton Family



Lyle H. Yowell was born in Kansas on June 22, 1934, and walked on April 6, 2023. He was raised in Venice, California, where he attended high school and then joined the United States Air Force for seven years. He enjoyed a good football game between USC and UCLA. He also enjoyed women's softball, and he liked college basketball. He retired from the phone company. He was married for 42 years, and he is going to join her.

At birth, we boarded the train of life and met our parents, and we believed that they would always travel by our side. However, at some station, our parents would step down from the train, leaving us on life's journey alone. The trials and tribulations, the pain and stress we know of don't exist where they are going. Only happiness.

I believe, I hope that you will be there to wish him on his way. It's not a journey you can join in on. It's not your time today. There'll be many destinations. Some are happy, some are sad. Each one a brief reminder of the great times that we've had, Dad. Your fatherly love for me was so strong that it transcended time and space. Thank you for making me the man that I am today, and thank you for all that you did for me. With all my love.

**Melvin Terry Cheatwood**

Pratt Family



Mr. Melvin Terry Cheatwood passed away peacefully on May 3, 2023, at his home in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Terry was born on Jan. 27, 1957, in Norman, Oklahoma, to Melvin Eldo and Juanita Dale (Chandler) Cheatwood. After Terry finished high school, he started his truck driving career. He worked for Andrews Rodeo company, hauling Bodacious the bull around. Terry enjoyed

telling his grandsons stories from time on the circuit. He later drove for 5 Star Trucking before eventually going back to his childhood roots of farming and ranching. Terry loved to work with animals and be outside.

He is survived by his parents, Melvin and Juanita Cheatwood; children, Santana Marie Cheatwood, Briana Cheatwood, Aleta Danita Danielle Saunders and husband, Andy, and Terry Michael Cheatwood and wife, Erica; siblings, Larry Cheatwood and wife, Gail, of Lexington, Oklahoma, Craig Cheatwood of Ketchum, Oklahoma, and Cheri Cheatwood Thiry and husband, Curtis, of Burneyville, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Kobe Ty Montana Kern, Keylam Wayne Kern, Kahlayah Alesia Brown, Evangeline Bernice Cheatwood, Brantley Robert Dale Cheatwood, Remington Lee Cheatwood, Ellis D'Brick Saunders, Jacob Donovan Saunders, Chole Cheatwood, Tyler Cheatwood, Elijah Cheatwood and Easton Cheatwood; plus a host of other loving family and friends.

**Lisa Lee McGregor**

Pappan Family

Lisa Lee (Carroll) McGregor was born Jan. 1, 1951, in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, to Billy and Opal (Pappan) McGregor. She passed away in her home in Edmond, Oklahoma, on May 21, 2023, at the age of 72.

Lisa started school in a one-room schoolhouse in Cuba, New Mexico, a Navajo Reservation School. She later graduated from OSU Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. She worked as a baker for many years before her career as a workers' comp adjuster with NAICO in Chandler, Oklahoma.

Lisa was preceded in death by her mother, Opal Eager, and stepfather, Dewey Eager; brother, Stephen; and sisters, Paula and Margaret. Survivors include her husband of 45 years, Robert McGregor of the home; son, Tim McGregor, and his wife, Erin; and grandsons, Ian and Mason McGregor; along with other family and friends.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at the Oak Hills Freewill Baptist Church in Edmond, Oklahoma, under the direction of Lehman Funeral Home of Wellston.

**Frankie Carl Long**

Mars Family

Frankie Carl Long, 72, of Ada, passed away on March 14, 2023. Frankie was born on May 18, 1950, to his parents Leston Long and Clara Marie (Wilson) Long, daughter of Katherine McGown, daughter of Clarissa McGown, in Ada, Oklahoma. Frankie attended and graduated from Ada High School then went on to become a truck driver and traveled all over the country to help provide for his family.

Frankie loved nothing better than to pick on and aggravate his friends, neighbors and family. Frankie lived simply and was quite satisfied with what he had and never troubled himself with materialistic things. Frankie loved

a good game of cards or dominoes and was extremely well read. He was an avid outdoors man and loved to go fishing and camping, and especially enjoyed bragging about what a sharpshooter he was (although, strangely enough, no one can confirm this). When it was time to relax, Frankie would kick back and watch old western movies and wrestling on TV, many of which he recorded on VHS tapes to watch later. His collection was very extensive to say the least, and he was proud of it!

Frankie is preceded in death by his mother, Clara Marie Lancaster; father, Leston Long; sister, Debbie Shelton; and niece, Marissa Morriss.

Frankie is survived by his sons, Leston Long, Billy Reid and Michael Walker; sister, Kathrine Lee; brother, Fred Long; grandchildren, Jaelyn Long, Emily Walker, Shawnee Walker and Viola Walker; great-grandchild, Chayton Wheeler; nephews, Jonathon Shelton and Larry Loudermilk; and nieces, Carla Hasley, Alex Hasley and Shelby Taylor.

Funeral services were held March 20, 2023, at Estes-Phillips Funeral Home in Ada, Oklahoma, followed by interment at Memorial Park Cemetery in Ada.

**Peggy Irene Cribbs**  
Anderson Family



Peggy Irene Cribbs, born June 20, 1936, went to be with Jesus on May 1, 2023. She is survived by her three children and their spouses, Larry and Gigi Cribbs, Mike and Donna Cribbs, and Vince and Penny Norman. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Jacob, Brent, Adam, Heath, Naomi, and William Cribbs and Jessica Burt; and step-grandson, Raymond Norman. She was preceded

in death by her parents, Kenneth and Minnie Farrington; her husband, James D. Cribbs; and her son-in-law, Eric Burt.

Peggy was born in a little house on NE 4th St., just north of what is now the Bricktown entertainment district in Oklahoma City. She attended school at Millwood Junior High and Northeast High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from Central State College in 1959 and a master's in business education from Oklahoma State University in 1960.

While at OSU, she met an engineering student, James Cribbs. They married at a little church just north of the current Millwood School. James finished his military ROTC requirements while they were married, and Peggy enjoyed traveling with her parents and cousins. Their wedding took place at Millwood Baptist Church on Nov. 24, 1960. They were married 57 years until James' death in 2018.

Peggy enjoyed teaching 2-year-old kids at Meadowood Baptist Church for about 25 years. She was a Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader for her three kids and was active in the PTA at Sooner Rose Elementary, holding the office of president for a time. She attended many of her grandkids' activities, including sporting events and band concerts. She loved selling Avon and collecting the Avon President's Club awards and Mrs. Albee dolls.

Visitation was held at Barnes Friederich Funeral Home in Midwest City, Oklahoma, on Thursday, May 11 and Friday, May 12, 2023. A funeral service was held at Barnes Friederich Funeral Home on Saturday, May 13, followed by burial at Sunny Lane Cemetery.

**Trudy Ann Flud**  
Krapp Family



Trudy Ann (Harris) Flud of Nail, Arkansas, went to be with the Lord on April 24, 2023, surrounded by her family.

She was born Oct. 20, 1959, in Carlsbad, New Mexico, to James and Anna Jean (Rehard) Harris.

She was baptized on Aug. 2, 1973. She married Don H. Flud on May 15, 1975, in Hobbs, New Mexico. Throughout most of their almost 48 years of marriage, they operated their family cattle farm together. Trudy worked at Singers in Clarksville, Arkansas, then at Levi Strauss in Harrison, Arkansas, for 19 years before obtaining her cosmetology license. On May 21, 1999, she then became a business owner with her dear friend, Sharon Falconburg. They operated The Hair Station in Jasper, Arkansas, until Sharon's passing. Then, Trudy continued on and gave her last haircut 12 days before her passing.

Trudy never met a stranger and was known for her beautiful smile, bubbly personality, her kindness to all and her love for God. She loved her friends and family, fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and her pets. She was never shy about saying, "I love you."

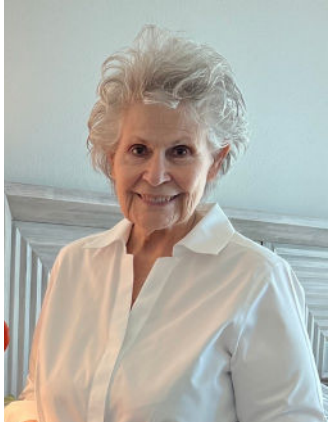
Trudy is preceded in death by her parents, her father and mother-in-law, Delmer and Vivan Flud; brother-in-law, Bobby Wright; sister-in-law, Mary Perry; and daughter-in-law, Amanda Flud.

She is survived by her husband, Don H. Flud of the home; sons, Jayson Flud and wife, Mena, of Nail, Arkansas, and Justin Flud of Tahoka, Texas; daughter, Heather Russell of Deer, Arkansas; grandchildren, Keleigh Flud (Gabriel), Starla Flud (Ethan), Carter Flud, Owen Hardt and Jordan Flud; great-grandchildren, Wrenlee and Madelynn Hallum, Rya Poyner and one soon to be here.



Trudy is also survived by her sisters, Marrietta Wright and Cheryl Fitzjarrell (Stan); and many nieces and nephews that loved her dearly. And her very special friends, Kay Davis, Earlene Davis, Victoria Davidson, Donna Bolin, Judy Henderson and Shelly Vaughan.

**Theresa Marie Neal**  
Negahnquet Family



Theresa Marie Neal, 79, of McGregor, Texas, passed away Saturday, April 15, 2023, at Ascension Providence Hospital of Waco. Visitation was Wednesday, April 19, at Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey Funeral Home followed by the Rosary. A Mass of Christian Burial was Thursday, April 20, at St. Jerome's Catholic Church followed by burial at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, in West.

Theresa was born in Grand Junction, Colorado, to Joseph and Lyda Mae Negahnquet. She grew up on the East Coast and in Oklahoma. After graduation from Macomb High School in 1962, she moved to Santa Monica, California, where she met William Henry Neal. They were married in Oklahoma City on Feb. 18, 1964, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Throughout her life with Bill, they lived in Indiana, California, New York, Arkansas, Arizona and Texas. Theresa was an active member of the Reachout Ministries, St. Rita's Extraordinary Ministries to the homebound, and Legion of Mary. She was a member of Citizen Potawatomi Nation and a parishioner at St. Jerome's Catholic Church.

Theresa and Bill were always on an adventure. Along with her children, they especially loved being outdoors. From backpacking in the Sierras, skiing in Lake Tahoe, houseboating on Lake Powell, river rafting and relaxing on the beach, they were always on the go. Additionally, they traveled all over the world together and with loved ones. She especially loved traveling to Las Vegas, often a few times a year. Her hobbies included art, photography, storytelling, quilting, slot tournaments, games, trivia and an occasional bet on the ponies. Theresa was competitive and excelled at word games and puzzle solving; there was no beating her. She loved watching classic movies and playing King's Quest, I Spy and other spooky computer games with her grandchildren. She truly had an eye for design and the ability to put together beautiful family gatherings and parties. She always made it nice and did it right!

Theresa was a devout Catholic and unwavering in her faith. She shared her love for God with everyone and had strong values full of charity. She spoke with conviction and told

you like it was. Not one to mince words, you knew what she said is what she meant. She was smart, funny and loving.

Her love for her husband, Bill, of 59 years, her children, and being "Mama" to her grandchildren meant the world to her. Family was everything. She loved her grandchildren, and they loved her even more. She was incredible. Together, they created the most amazing memories that will not be forgotten. They were her pride and joy.

She spent her last few years in Waco, Texas. With both her children down the street and her sister/partner-in-crime, Jo Nell, minutes away, she was surrounded by family and truly loved by us all.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, Christine Marie; her parents, Lyda Mae and Joseph Negahnquet; her brother, William Negahnquet; her sister, Kathryn Hallam; and her sister-in-law, Martha Jo Dull.

She is survived by her husband, William Neal, of McGregor; her son, Joseph Neal and wife, Kristina, of McGregor; her daughter, Ursula Bumpass and husband, Michael, of McGregor; her grandchildren, Mary Diamond and husband, Austin, Madeline Bumpass, Monica Bumpass, Erika Neal, Nicholas Neal, Christian Neal, and Joseph Neal; her great-grandchild, Theresa Anne Diamond; her sister, Jo Nell Negahnquet, of Waco; her brother, Stephen Negahnquet and wife, Claudia, of King George, Virginia; her sister, Lyda Rebecca Stinnett and husband, Dorwin, of Tulsa, Oklahoma; her brother, Thomas Negahnquet and wife, Shirley, of Oklahoma City; her sister, Susan Panter and husband, Ron, of Carson, California; her brothers-in-law, Rick Dull, of Albion, Indiana, and James Neal, of Kendallville, Indiana; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Theresa was a loving daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, niece, cousin and friend. She will be missed by all but not forgotten.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Rita Catholic Church, 1400 E. Owens Street, Show Low, AZ 85901. The family invites you to leave a message or memory on our "Tribute Wall" at [WHBfamily.com](http://WHBfamily.com).

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

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

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #295  
NORMAN OK

# HOWNIKAN

The *Hownikan* is a publication of Citizen Potawatomi Nation Public Information and a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Reprint permission granted with notice and publication credit. Editorials/letters are subject to editing and must contain traceable address.

## Subscriptions

Tribal members **free**  
Non-members **\$10/year domestic**  
**\$12/year foreign**

## Questions? Story ideas? Contact us!

### Hownikan

1601 S Gordon Cooper Dr.  
Shawnee, OK 74801

[hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org) or 800-880-9880

## Address change?

Send to Tribal Rolls ([tribalrolls@potawatomi.org](mailto:tribalrolls@potawatomi.org))  
or log on to [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org).

## Executive Committee

Chairman

**John "Rocky" Barrett**

Vice-Chairman

**Linda Capps**

Secretary/Treasurer

**D. Wayne Trousdale**

## Editorial staff

Director

**Kent Bush**

Editor

**Paige Willett**

Writer

**Mary Leaver**

Writer

**Tina Bridenstine**

Writer

**Rachel Vishanoff**

Page/Graphic Designer

**Trey DeLonais**

Graphic Designer

**Emily Guleserian**

Photographer

**Garett Fisbeck**

Submissions Coordinator

**Brittany Oswald**



## FOLLOW US!



Search Citizen Potawatomi Nation