

HOWNIIKAN

Dé'mengises | June 2023

A Family Reunion
Festival tradition
makes its return

.....

FireLake
improvements
coming through
end of 2024

.....

Potawatomi
Leadership
Program
celebrates
20 years



What's inside

- 1 Extend your stay after Festival
- 3 Festival health screenings with CPNHS
- 4 FireLake improvements coming through end of 2024
- 5 Veterans Report
- 6 CPN After School Program sees many changes
- 8 CHC hopes to capture Tribal members' experiences
- 9 Kids' Festival activities
- 10 Dedicated employees keep Nation running smoothly
- 12 Election candidates' final statements
- 14 Norton, Wolf named to lead Cultural Heritage Center
- 16 Aviary tours, book signing and classes available at Festival
- 17 Competitions open to all as Festival returns
- 18 Powwow etiquette and dress
- 20 Legislative meeting minutes
- 21 Language update
- 22 A Family Reunion Festival tradition makes its return
- 24 CPN sponsors Native American wellness event
- 26 Behavioral Health, House of Hope reflect on PTSD
- 28 Potawatomi Leadership Program celebrates 20 years
- 30 2023 Honored families
- 33 Tribal executive and legislative updates
- 42 Walking on



EXTEND YOUR STAY AFTER FESTIVAL

There are many nearby attractions to help you extend your 2023 Family Reunion Festival stay in Oklahoma – before or after the main event!



The First Americans Museum holds two permanent exhibits, *OKLA HOMMA* and *WINIKO: Life of an Object*. *OKLA HOMMA* tells the stories of all 39 tribes located in Oklahoma today and features works of art, interactive media and film. *WINIKO* returns objects from the 39 tribes to Oklahoma for the first time in 100 years. Handmade cultural materials reveal Indigenous creative diversity through the present day, and visitors can examine the complex relationship between Native people and museums.

An outdoor feature, 21st Century Mound Builders, is free to explore. This exhibit honors Mound Builder cultures that thrived across North America from about 3,500 BCE to 1751 CE, according to the FAM website. The exploratory walk is two-thirds of a mile around the mound, which rises to a height of 90 feet and serves as a cosmological clock.

First Americans Museum | 659 First Americans Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK | Tickets and more at famok.org Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; weekends 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays | Admission: Children under 3 are free; youth are \$5; adults are \$15; senior, military and students are \$10



Nature enthusiasts will enjoy the **Myriad Botanical Gardens**. The 15-acre grounds in downtown Oklahoma City offers nature walks, concerts, movies, classes and children’s activities. The newly renovated Crystal Bridge Conservatory is an indoor space with a reflection pool, waterfall, tropical plant collections and overlook terraces. Many outdoor features are free to enjoy.

Myriad Botanical Garden | 301 W. Reno, Oklahoma City | myriadgardens.org | Hours: Crystal Bridge open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; outdoor space open daily, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. | Admission: \$10.50 for adults; \$9 for seniors and military/veterans; \$7 for students; \$5.50 for youth 5-17; children under 4 are free



Cool off from the summer heat by visiting **Shawnee Splash Waterpark**. Open to all ages, it includes a shallow play area, regulation pool area, spray ground, diving area, climbing wall, slides, basketball goal and concessions. Outside food and drink are not allowed, but picnic space is available outside the fenced area.

Shawnee Splash Water Park | 101 E. Highland Street, inside Shawnee's Woodland Veterans Park | shawneeok.org | 405-273-0700 | Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 7 p.m. | Admission: \$6 for children under 48" tall and seniors; \$7 for those over 48" tall



The **Oklahoma City Zoo** has animals from all over the world as well as educational events, a children's petting zoo, elephant presentation and animal care chats with some of the zoo's keepers. Other activities, such as carousel rides and animal feeding, are available for additional purchase.

Oklahoma City Zoo | 2101 NE 50th St., Oklahoma City, OK | okczoo.org | Hours: daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults are \$16; children and those over 65 are \$13; children under 2 are free. Half price for active-duty military, retired members and veterans with valid military ID.



The **Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art** in Shawnee was founded in 1919 by Father Gregory Gerrer and is one of the state's oldest museums. During Father Gerrer's European travels, he acquired Egyptian, Greek and Roman objects, Middle Ages and Renaissance art, and cultural artifacts from American Indigenous, African/Oceanic and Eastern peoples.

Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art | 1900 W. MacArthur Street, Shawnee | mgmoa.org | 405-878-5300 Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. | Admission: \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors and \$3 for youth; children under 5 are free



Visit Downtown Shawnee to view architecture from the past, such as the historic Santa Fe Depot, and enjoy a variety of entertainment options. The downtown area is pedestrian and cyclist friendly. Shopping is available at antique stores, art galleries and boutiques. Some of the popular dining options include Comma Café, Hamburger King and Theopolis Social Club.

Downtown Shawnee | 2.5 miles north of CPN headquarters | visitshawnee.com



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

SCHOLARSHIPS



FALL 2021

1,546 students
\$2,740,750

SPRING 2022

1,783 students
\$3,136,250

SUMMER 2022

534 students
\$685,500

TOTAL

3,863 students
\$6,562,500

TOP 3

UNIVERSITIES

University of Oklahoma	80
University of Central Oklahoma	50
Oklahoma State University	48

STATES

OK	610
TX	225
KS	201

MAJORS

Business	161
Nursing	135
Education	74



VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

\$76,248 | 33 WSS clients awarded 40 scholarships

ADVISING

105 Total advising sessions

CPN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

education@potawatomi.org | 405-695-6028

Festival health screenings with CPNHS

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services will be offering health screenings and other services on Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24 during the 2023 Family Reunion Festival.

Carotid artery screenings, behavioral health information, and diabetes nutrition and prevention information are available at FireLake Arena from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Most Festival guests are looking forward to the cultural activities, but the event is also a good time to consider overall health and wellness.

"CPNHS offers a multitude of health services to CPN tribal members that may be challenging to access or financially prohibitive in their home states," said CPNHS Clinic Operations Director Lauren Bristow. "Taking a few moments out of your weekend for preventive screenings or a routine wellness visit supports the overall wellness of our Tribal members and provides the opportunity to catch potential health concerns before they become a problem."

CPNHS operates two health clinics near Shawnee, providing primary medical care, prenatal care, dentistry, optometry, public health services, lab services, pharmacy, X-ray, ultrasound and mammography. Diabetic care and a weekly cardiology clinic are available to patients.

In addition to the Festival health screenings, informational sessions will cover cardiopulmonary resuscitation, automatic external defibrillators and naloxone. The course meets Friday from 9 to 11 a.m., 1 to 3 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.; and Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Registration is not necessary, but seating is limited. Each session is limited to the first eight participants. The sessions will take place at Mission Hill, located next to the Raymond Peltier Park and powwow grounds.

While Tribal members attend Festival, a first aid tent will be available from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. to assist with any minor medical issues.

"Our team looks forward to Festival every year, and we especially enjoy seeing and catching up with some of the patients who only come to Health Services during Festival," Bristow said.

Call to schedule an appointment with CPNHS during Festival.

East Clinic: 405-273-5236 | 2307 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. Shawnee, OK

West Clinic: 405-964-5770 | 781 Grand Casino Blvd, Shawnee, OK

For more information, visit potawatomi.org.



FireLake construction Improvements coming through end of 2024

Working on a tight deadline, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Construction Department and several general contractors broke ground earlier this year on new additions to the FireLake complex. They plan to complete them by the end of next year using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, which was distributed by the federal government during the coronavirus pandemic to help spur economic development. CPN received more than \$200 million. According to the ARPA, all funds must be spent by Dec. 31, 2024.

"I think some of this stuff could get done one project at a time. But I think with these funds, it has enabled the Nation to do it all at one time," said Construction Department Director Jackie Gamble.

Currently, CPN continues to work with Guernsey, an architectural firm out of Oklahoma City, to finalize plans for a new casino near FireLake Discount Foods and a new 126-room hotel beside it. They will be located on the north side of Hardesty Rd. between Rangeline Rd. and S. Gordon Cooper Dr. The Nation has also spent time between softball seasons updating and adding to FireLake Ball Fields.

"I've worked for the Tribe for a long time, and I've been in the construction department since '06," Gamble said. "And Chairman (John 'Rocky' Barrett)'s goal was always to make this a destination area."

FireLake Ball Fields

FireLake Ball Fields has already seen significant expansion and improvements this year. The construction

department has been working with specialists to transition all fields from dirt to artificial turf. Right now, one quad and two additional fields comprise FireLake Ball Fields for a total of six fields. To make FireLake a regional softball destination, an additional quad will be added as well as a championship field.

"The bleachers will be elevated. So, everything's going to be above ground, and it is estimated to seat around 1,500 people. Press box. The whole nine yards. We'll have the capability for live televised games and stuff like that," Gamble said.

With the rise of softball's popularity, FireLake Ball Fields has become one of the Tribe's most utilized and prominent enterprises. The new fields and improvements aim to expand on that, with the ultimate goal to become a World Series destination for NCAA Division II and lower teams. Gamble's excitement for this particular project comes from his family's history with the sport.

"I coached my daughter. She played college ball. We traveled all over the country. This will be the nicest facility that I've seen, personally," he said.

FireLake Entertainment Center

CPN purchased the building that holds FireLake Entertainment Center in the 1980s. First a bowling alley, it was retrofitted to become a bingo hall and eventually a casino and gaming destination. The Tribe solidified plans for a new FireLake Entertainment Center this spring, covering 49,000 square feet and holding more than 600 slot machines. Plans include a small kitchen and a bar.

"Over the years, it's been added on to, it's been repaired here and there. But the facility's outlived its life. It's time for a new facility," Gamble said.

"You'll still have that smaller feel, but it'll be updated and very nice. Some of the interior renderings are really sharp."

By Family Reunion Festival at the end of June, the construction department plans to have the footings poured so construction above ground can begin. A call for bids for general contractors for the hotel and casino went out in mid-May.

"My phone has actually been ringing off the hook when people find out what's going on," Gamble said.

FireLake Hotel

With the development of the FireLake complex throughout the last 20 years, more people are traveling farther to attend festivals, concerts and sporting events in the area. The Tribe began building a hotel next to all the action this spring.

Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

Well, it's Family Reunion Festival time again. We hope to have fair weather for all the festivities. The Citizen Potawatomi Veterans Organization will be handing out the Veterans Red Ribbons at our table near the registration booths Thursday and Friday. Our Veterans meeting will be Saturday at 9 a.m. at the FireLake Golf Course clubhouse on the second floor. Coffee and donuts... Yum!

Our CPN Veterans Organization has been growing and very busy with local school demonstrations and parades. We have a trailer we use for parades, which allows us to ride. All CPN veterans and their families are welcome to join us. All we ask is that you provide your own lawn chair; if you don't have one, we have extras.

I like to keep our veterans informed about the help available through the Veterans Affairs (VA). They are always adding to and improving services to help our veterans. One area is helping family caregivers of veterans. The VA is providing in-person home visits to allow staff to collaborate with caregivers and veterans, adequately assess their clinical needs, and recommend any additional support and services that may improve their quality of life. Their goal is to provide the best care possible for every veteran and caregiver. Migwetch (Thank you)!

Our next CPN Veterans Organization meeting will be July 25 (the fourth Tuesday of the month) at 6 p.m. or as soon as you can get there. All CPN veterans and their families

"There's no reason why a family can't come in here and spend the whole weekend right here and never have to leave this little one-mile square area," Gamble said.

The FireLake Hotel will be located just west of the new Fire-Lake Entertainment Center, offering 126 rooms on three stories over 80,000 square feet. Gamble and his crew hope to be working on the hotel's concrete pad by the end of June.

"I think with what we're doing currently with our ball fields and with the expansion of that, I don't see them having any problems keeping that hotel full on weekends," he said.

CPN also plans to add 1,600 parking spots in the surrounding area.

Gamble takes pride in the project not only as an employee, but also as a Tribal member and Willmette family descendant.

"I keep the Tribal part and my work separate because they hired me as an employee, not as a Tribal member. But as a Tribal member on this side of it, it's really exciting ... for me to have a part in the growth of the Nation," he said. ♡



HOWEVER GOOD YOU THINK YOUR AIM IS,
OCCASIONALLY YOU SHOULD LOOK AT THE RESULTS!

are welcome; you don't even have to be a member. We just like socializing with our veterans and their families.

Meet, greet and eat!

Migwetch (Thank you),

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

CPN After School Program sees many changes

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's After School Program looks a little different these days.

Jerri Mayer, originally hired as a master teacher in spring of 2022, took on the position of program coordinator in November 2022.

The start of clubs

Each day of the week, children attend clubs with different themes such as art, young engineers, science, sports, theater, beading, virtual reality and tea party. They first launched in January 2022, when parents and children were given the chance to find out more about each club before students signed up for the ones that interested them.

"When I came on board, children struggled with basic table manners and etiquette during lunch and snack time," Mayer said.

From that stemmed the idea of a tea party club. With the help of Jamelle Payne in CPN's Workforce Development & Social Services, students in tea party club learn about table manners and etiquette using real dishes and utensils and sometimes dressing up with items like boas and fedoras.

"It's not just about etiquette," Mayer said, adding that they also try to expose the children to different cultures, educate them about topics such as the arts, and start conversations about emotional skills like self-confidence and body image.

Mayer said the difference has been noticeable. In just a few months, she has seen an increase in manners while the children eat but also a decrease in bullying.

In the young engineers' club, Mayer said students might have a challenge such as being shown a picture of the Eiffel Tower in 2D and being tasked with recreating it in 3D.

In beading club, students learn techniques for Native American beadwork. The younger children start out with large beads. As their fine motor skills improve, they move on to seed beads and learn to make their own patterns.

With all the clubs, she said, there are more advanced activities available for the students as their skills develop.

Mayer also wants students to be exposed to a variety of subjects, which is why they can sign up for a different club every day of the week.

"I didn't want to pigeonhole certain kids into certain fields," she said. "Even though you might be science inclined, I think it's important that you see that liberal arts side of yourself."

Summer schedule

Mayer plans to have fall and spring club schedules, but things will change in the summer.

"The summer program is a little different," Mayer said, explaining that during the school year, the children are usually only there from 2:30 to 6 p.m. "But in the summer, it's an all-day program from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m."

This summer the clubs will continue, but with the common theme *Walking Through the Ancient World*. It starts with ancient Egypt, moves to Greek and Roman times, and finishes with the Medieval period and a Medieval fair at the end.

For young engineers' club, students will study construction of the pyramids, learning about ancient architecture and building the Colosseum. In art club, students will replicate King Tut's sarcophagus and the mosaic floors of Pompeii.

The program will also take children on several field trips to museums across the state.

"Every week, we're trying our best to have an educational field trip," Mayer said. "It's the most wonderful opportunity for these kids."

In addition, program participants will be taken twice a week in June to Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma, where they can work with college coaches and athletes in the track department.

Other changes

With approval from Child Development Center Director Donnette Littlehead, Mayer oversaw building updates that included new floors, new paint and new lighting.

Master Teacher Alicia Lamb, left, and Coordinator Jerri Mayer stand with many of the CPN after school program's new toys.



She also brought in new toys and items for the classrooms, including dolls with different skin, hair and eye colors as well as dolls with disabilities. There are also sensory areas with items such as a beanbag to sit in and headphones to muffle noise if students are feeling overstimulated.

Mayer also worked with the CPN Language Department to bring the Potawatomi language into the program.

"The children need to be reconnected with their ancestry," she said.

Language Aide Robert Collins hosts the Potawatomi Language Program. The children also have access to a language program in the after school program's computer lab as well as new headsets with microphones, so they can speak Potawatomi words into the microphones to get help with pronunciation.

For children ages 7 to 12 who are struggling in class, Mayer has also added a tutoring program so they can get help with homework and improve their math, science and reading skills.

Mayer and Alicia Lamb, master teacher of the science club, are also working on a mentorship program for the older students.

"We're trying to instill a sense of ownership in this place," Lamb said, "Because they're our oldest kids, sometimes, unfortunately, feel they are too old for the program."

Lamb wants to instill a sense of pride and responsibility in the children regarding the after school program. She said many of the older children are eager to help, and the program will further encourage them to help staff so they can feel like young professionals and someone their younger peers can admire.

Mayer said more changes are on the way.

"We're in our infancy. So, I'm thinking, where are we going to be in two years? Three years?" she said. "There are all

these things I'm hoping we will be able to do in the future. This is just off the ground, and it's amazing the things that we've accomplished in this short amount of time."

She said none of it would be possible without the support of Littlehead and the rest of the after school program staff and volunteers.

"Ms. Donnette has been 100 percent supportive of us. When I come to her with these crazy, big ideas, she says, 'Go for it,'" Mayer said. "The staff is amazing here. When I say these are probably the best people I've worked with in 30 years, that's not a joke. They are very family-oriented, very kind and generous to the children."

Find out more about the CPN Child Development Center at cpn.news/childdevelopment. 🌱



Students dress up for the after school program's tea party club.



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CHC hopes to capture Tribal members' experiences

Heritage Interview Clerk Christopher Lenggenhager with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center hopes to see many Tribal members during Family Reunion Festival this year. He aims to record interviews that serve as video time capsules for future generations.

Lenggenhager said he starts off the interview with basic questions such as the person's name and age before transitioning to a discussion style that is more fluid to allow the interviewee to talk about whatever they feel they need to discuss.

Interviewees have taken many approaches. In one video, a mother and daughter sat down together. The mother had written down what she wanted to say and read from the paper. The daughter closed the interview by singing. In another, he asked a young girl to leave a message for her future self. In yet another, a young woman spoke about the experience of being new to learning about her Potawatomi heritage while her children played around her.

"There's a lot of people who can relate to that," Lenggenhager said. "Down the road, if they continue with it, it would be great to see where it began. The kids might look back and think, 'This is the moment Mom decided.'"

He also said he tries to ask participants for thoughts they might want to pass down to their future self or to descendants.

"Not to put a lot of pressure on them, but just a basic thing," he said. "What have you picked up in your knowledge so far in life? What advice would you give a younger you?" You're talking to someone who may watch this video that you may not even know yet, but maybe a blood descendant of yours that may be 15 or 16 years old. What would you say to that person about your experience now?"

The interviews do not have to be full of historical or cultural insights — though they appreciate when they can capture those aspects. In essence, they hope to capture individuals and families sharing about themselves and their lives in their own words.

"The whole point is to make it conversational to make the person more comfortable," he

said, adding that the person being interviewed controls the content of the interview.

This also means those who are interviewed can put restrictions on the use of the interview, though that rarely happens, including not allowing it to be shown to the public, not allowing it to be shown to family, or even not allowing it to be shown for a certain timeframe.

Lenggenhager said the project has been around for many years. It originally focused on Tribal veterans and then on elders. Now, it is open to everyone. Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett expressed a wish to get every Tribal member on camera at some point.

"We literally have hundreds of videos, but not nearly enough," Lenggenhager said. "We have less than 1 percent of our Tribe. We'd appreciate more participation."

Lenggenhager said he often thinks of his own Tribal heritage and how much he would have loved to have an interview with his grandmother that he could share with his grandchildren to pass down her stories.

"I didn't get that opportunity. But if I can capture that for someone else, how awesome that would be," he said.

Heritage Interview Schedule

Thursday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There is a staff lunch break from noon to 1 p.m. each day.

Interviews can be scheduled in 30-minute, 45-minute or 60-minute blocks on portal.potawatomi.org or in person at the CHC.

Lenggenhager thinks the videos are made for people 100 or 150 years from now, not for those filming them today.

"The main message I want to convey to people is that they may not realize the importance of it now, but it will be very important to somebody later," he said. "And it doesn't matter what you have to say. If you're willing to just sit for a minute to talk about anything, you're passing on something invaluable to your descendants. Long after you're gone, people will be able to hear your stories, your words, from your mouth. And that's invaluable."

Interviews can be scheduled during Family Reunion Festival from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Staff lunch breaks are scheduled daily from noon to 1 p.m. Interviews can be scheduled in time slots of 30, 45 or 60 minutes.

To schedule an interview, visit the Ancestors portal (portal.potawatomi.org) to register and select a time. 📍

Kids' Festival activities

Parents of Citizen Potawatomi Tribal youth should rest assured that a wide variety of activities will keep the Tribe's youngest members busy all weekend, an organizer said.

If people are attending the 2023 Family Reunion Festival for the first time, they may not be aware of the variety of activities scheduled with the youth in mind, said CPN Child Development Center Director Donnette Littlehead.

"I tell you, my employees and myself, we all love it," she said. "We love to just enjoy the Festival with the children that come from all over. We meet so many people, and it's just so wonderful. We enjoy it so much, we really do."

A complete schedule is included in the Festival registration packet. Most of the fun does not require registration, aside from a few contests. Youth are invited to attend any activities that may interest them, Littlehead added. It is recommended parents review the Festival schedule in the registration packet for additional details.

Often, parents and elders join in and are welcomed as well. Littlehead said the volunteers want everyone to enjoy themselves, no matter their age. Time spent between the generations is one of the best parts of Family Reunion Festival, she said.

Friday

Arts and crafts begin Friday at the South Reunion Hall from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Painted necklaces, God's eyes and dream catchers are just a few of the planned crafts.

Parents and children do not need to be experienced crafters. Everything is designed so that any level of experience can participate.

"We make it age appropriate so even the littlest ones can do it," Littlehead said.

June weather in Oklahoma can be very warm, so the pool is usually a popular place for youth to gather, she said. Located at the Child Development Center, it is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Because of its depth, the larger pool at the daycare is best for elementary-age children, pre-teens and more experienced swimmers. CPN employees as well as lifeguards are on hand to watch over the swimmers.

With safety in mind, Littlehead urges the parents of toddlers and smaller children to use the swimming pool at the powwow grounds since it is shallow.

Last year, the new splash pad located on the powwow grounds was also a popular stop for children and parents. All ages are welcome to visit the splash pad.

After a lunch break from noon to 1 p.m., arts and crafts re-opens from 1 to 4 p.m. at the South Reunion Hall.



Children cool off at the splash pad located at Raymond Peltier Park.

Chess and checkers tournaments begin at 1 p.m. The coloring contest gets underway at the same time. Registration for the coloring contest closes at 2 p.m.

For teens 16 years and up, a pool tournament begins at 1 p.m. Competitors should register at the tent located south of FireLake Discount Foods. Registration closes at 12:30 p.m.

Friday evening concludes with the all-ages Dance Under the Stars event. Everyone is welcome to dance to old favorites and contemporary hits, Littlehead said. A dance contest is scheduled from 7 to 11 p.m. Registration begins at 6 p.m. in the tent south of FireLake Discount Foods.

Saturday

Arts and crafts resume Saturday at the South Reunion Hall from 9 a.m. to noon, Littlehead said.

The pool located at the Child Development Center re-opens from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Activities pause during a staff and volunteer lunch break from noon to 1 p.m. Arts and crafts re-opens from 1 to 4 p.m. at the South Reunion Hall.

Basketball enthusiasts are invited to take part in the 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Play tips off at 9 a.m. at the CPN Child Development Center's after school facility gym, located next to the CPN Wellness Center.

Both boys and girls aged from 7 to 14 years may compete, Littlehead said.

No activities are planned for Sunday, as most families are preparing to return home, she said.

A complete schedule is included with the Family Reunion Festival registration packet. 🔥

Dedicated employees keep Nation running smoothly

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's extensive network of governmental, cultural and financial departments as well as its enterprises and services are made possible by the dedicated work of over 2,000 employees. The *Hownikan* spoke with four of these employees about what it takes to keep the Nation running smoothly and what it means to work for the Tribe. Melissa Creek is the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) Manager for FireLake Casino and the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort, as well as the Operational Compliance Manager for FireLake Casino. Tonya Jarvis is a Benefits Coordinator in the Nation's Human Resources Department, and Robert Price is a Jr. Developer within the Information Technology Department. Senta Rowan manages grants and the indirect cost processes in the Tribe's Accounting Department.

Melissa Creek



Melissa Creek is the BSA Manager and Operational Compliance Manager for FireLake Casino and the BSA Manager for the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort.

"I implement and monitor policies and procedures to ensure compliance with Tribal, Federal and State gaming laws, rules and regulations," Creek told the *Hownikan*. "I also audit and input all Bank Secrecy Act and Federal Tax Reporting forms for accuracy and completion."

*BSA Manager/
Operational
Compliance
Manager*

Passed in 1970, the Bank Secrecy Act works to deter money laundering and terrorism financing, among other criminal activity. It requires all banks and financial institutions to follow recordkeeping and reporting protocols and established the U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) to

Tonya Jarvis

Tonya Jarvis is a Benefits Coordinator within the CPN Human Resources Department.

She liaises between employees, providers and brokers to facilitate benefits for the Nation's employees and also assists employees in navigating these resources.

"We offer Group Health Insurance to full-time employees; Teladoc Health Services and an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that offers all employees access to medical and behavioral health attention; 401(k); and several voluntary benefits such as short-term disability, life insurance, accident and cancer benefits, and LegalShield (an online legal service)," Jarvis said.

Jarvis also handles on-the-job injury claims and Family Medical Leave.

She enjoys helping Tribal employees and Legislators with claims issues, changes to their benefits, questions and more.

"I always say, 'It's never a dull moment in HR,'" Jarvis said. "We must all remind ourselves that we don't always know what people are going through and where they have come from. We should always be gentle, kind and helpful."

Jarvis celebrated 17 years with the Tribe in April.

"I have experienced the growth of the Tribe from 600 employees in 2006 up to 2,500 employees pre-pandemic," she said. "It has been both amazing and exciting to be part of this enterprise-driven Nation. I feel like part of the CPN family."



*Benefits
Coordinator*

Senta Rowan



IDC/Grant Management Accountant

Senta Rowan is the IDC/Grant Management Accountant for Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She ensures that federal funds are spent and reported correctly.

"Maintaining compliance helps assure CPN continues to receive federal funding," Rowan said. "I also want departments to recognize that they must spend their grant dollars. If we do not spend all the money from a particular grant, that money must be returned to the federal government."

Rowan aims to use federal dollars whenever possible rather than non-federal funds to make purchases.

The Indirect Cost Proposal process through the Interior Business Center allows the Nation to charge federal programs for administrative costs that otherwise would not be covered. Though lengthy and tedious, Rowan takes on this process with commitment and satisfaction, achieving full funding for everything in the Nation's Indirect Cost Pool.

Rowan attends conferences to stay up to date on current guidelines and has spoken on panels for the P.L. 102-477 Program. The program allows tribes to integrate employment, training and related services into a single program with a single budget, a financially advantageous arrangement for tribes.

Rowan has worked for CPN for 12 years. She draws a sense of purpose in her job from the bigger picture of which she is a part — a family with a rich culture and history.

"I have learned what a deep sense of community this Tribe has," she said. "I am very proud to share with people that I work for Citizen Potawatomi Nation."

Robert Price



Jr. Developer

Robert Price joined the CPN Information Technology Department in late 2022 as a Customer Service Technician and was swiftly promoted to Jr. Developer in January 2023.

"My role assists with the accessibility of knowledge and resources, both within and outside of the Tribe," Price explained.

His work includes upkeep and edits of various websites, applications and programs throughout the Tribe and its departments and enterprises.

Price is motivated by "the basic truth that what I am doing matters and impacts people. It assists with achieving the goals

of the Tribe, be they big or small."

Though working across such a large and complex group of departments and enterprises, he finds the Tribe extremely cohesive — something he is impressed by and enjoys supporting.

"I'm immensely grateful for the opportunity to work within a tribe with deep culture and ties to its roots," Price said. "It's unlike anything I've ever worked with before, and honestly, it's something I truly doubt I'd find anywhere else. There's a lot of opportunity here and even more support."

District 10 election candidates' final statements

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



David Barrett Incumbent

At this time there are a lot of topics that should be mentioned. Let's start with the 208 million dollars of American Rescue Plan Act funds that we will have to spend or be returned. The tribe has plans for all 100% of the ARPA funds along with other tribal monies to start these projects in Shawnee which consists of a new casino, gas station and convenient store travel plaza, and a hotel.

Also based on the Tribal population of 36,315 members (enrolled by February 1, 2021 as set by U.S Treasury), the tribe still have approximately 6 to 7 million dollars to disperse out of the \$50,841.00.

With our roads monies we will be able to widen Hardesty road which has been so badly needed for some time.

Sovereign Pipe Technology is a Poly pipe operation that we have (1) one line in operation with another (3) three lines hopefully in the near future. This is the type of business that we will need to increase our revenue streams to generate more cash flows.

We are looking forward to getting our Columbarium ready to store and display urns for our membership later this summer or early fall. Vice Chairman Capps and I have visited numerous times about establishing a Veteran Memorial on Tribal Trust land, still a work-in-progress.

The issue of voting comes up all the time and how to get more membership participation. To have a say in our tribe, you need to exercise your precious vote and get involved.

It has been a great privilege and a continued hope to address any topic that you (our membership) have sent my way. Listening to your needs will not fall on deaf ears, as I have experienced in the past that some will like the solution to their requests while others the request is not doable at the time.

Charles Scott Challenger

Bozho Jayek,

Many of you have reached out and offered to support my campaign, I thank you and ask only for your vote and bring your family to vote as well. At Festival, we reunite with friends and family, we sing, drum, dance, play games. eat brats n burgers...and **VOTE**.

Our elected leadership has written about our lack of participation. Apathy runs rampant. We have done many things right, yet this problem has affected our tribe for years. **We can fix it.**

I have talked with many younger members; they are very apathetic. They don't relate to our elected leadership. They communicate via social media. They want jobs that are meaningful. They want to identify and learn to be Potawatomi. They want Culture. They want education. **I have heard you.**

I have talked with many older tribal members; they feel their voice isn't being heard. They want change. They want more elder housing and access to assisted living housing. They want to see more Potawatomi employed by our Tribe. They want the next generation to step up, participate, lead and care for them. **I have Listened.**

I have talked with several veterans; we would like to see our veterans group reorganize and focus more on our cultural identity as Native veterans. **I agree.**

We want District meetings for Oklahoma members with our Legislators. We want to communicate. We want jobs and We want to see Potawatomi in those jobs. We want more access to Language and Cultural Classes. We want accountability and transparency. We want change in small increments. **I want what you want.**

I promise, I will bridge the generational gap, be a mentor, be a teacher, be a Leader you relate to and can communicate with, and **your voice will be heard.**

I will serve you with Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Honesty, Humility and Wisdom.

Migwetch, **please vote.**

Charles Scott



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

District 11 election candidates' final statements

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



Andrew Walters
Incumbent

This is our final statement to the Tribe concerning our qualifications for District 11 Legislator. I believe it has been a good campaign with no mudslinging or contemptuous statements. Your job, as voters is to look hard at the two of us. Study our words. Examine our actions.

Search our hearts. And then decide which of us you wish to hold the Office. "Legislator" is hard to define. In the dominate cultures politics, the position is considered one of controversy and violent debate. In our culture the position is one of helping and advocating for our fellow tribal members in their lives, facilitating their interactions with the Tribe. We may review budgets, develop plans, consider enrollments, and allocate some funding, but we do not control the budget. We have nothing to do with the investments made and only in meetings will we decide on the grants applied for and amounts. Truly, the position of Legislator for the Potawatomi Nation is one of caring for and assisting others. Another Legislator once told me that "we" were more like social workers. I can agree with that. Over the last years, with the COVID epidemic, we spent a lot of time deciding on programs and issues dealing with funding for Tribal members and programs. After the recent storms I spent time calling those members I could locate to assure they were well and un-harmed. Last weekend, while on vacation, I helped a family locate a lost family member. To be an effective Legislator, one must be a caring person. Money, although important, does not make this a Tribe. People do. And it is our duty to see to and help those members

seeking assistance. So, in closing, let me say again, I care about this Tribe and its people. I would appreciate our vote.



Jay Laughlin
Challenger

Time goes by so quickly. As I look back, I wonder did I use this time wisely? Did I make a positive impact? Did I change a process or thought that benefits one or another?

I want to start my last Q&A for this election cycle by saying that I truly appreciate the executive branch, the legislative branch, the

workforce that runs this Nation, and all the people that have taken time to make an impact. I've seen so much passion from so many, and I want to let you know that it matters. As we move forward, just remember that kindness avails. You make a difference. Sometimes we may not see it or realize it, but someone does.

We have been faced with so much over the last few months on a personal level, as family, and as a Nation. I know some are fighting to survive, some are fighting to feed their families, some are fighting to save and rebuild their homes, and some are wondering why. I can tell you we will make it through this together and when we come through this together, we will be stronger.

I challenge you to focus on the good and prepare for the future. Prepare for the generations to come. Once elected as your District 11 Legislative Representative, I will focus on our future, our survival, our culture, and our economic prosperity.

Migwech 🍷

What is the Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal scholarship?

The award is \$2,000 (full-time) or \$750 (part-time) per semester up to three times a year (fall, spring, and summer).

Am I eligible?

To get the scholarship, you must:

- Be an enrolled CPN tribal member
- Be seeking a degree at a not-for-profit, regionally accredited college or university
- Have a 2.5 or above grade point average on a 4.0 scale
- Submit all required application materials by the deadline

What degree programs does the tribal scholarship support?

At not-for-profit, regionally accredited schools, the Tribal Scholarship funds:

- High school students taking college courses
- Associate degrees
- Bachelor's degrees
- Master's degrees

Ph.D. students receive funding on a case-by-case basis. The scholarship will not fund graduate-level certificates. Each student is only funded for one of each degree type.

If you are not sure if your program is eligible, please contact the department before the deadline.

Find more online!

portal.potawatomi.org
cpn.news/edubook

Norton, Wolf named to lead Cultural Heritage Center

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center began 2023 under new leadership.

In January, Blake Norton took over the position as director of the CHC and tribal historic preservation officer (THPO), and Keisha Wolf signed on as assistant director. However, both have worked there much longer than that.

Norton started at the CHC in 2005 after graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in anthropology, where he also worked stints as a student at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History and Oklahoma History Center. He heard CPN was opening a new cultural center and made the hour drive to Shawnee to hand deliver his resume.

"It just so happened that the director of Cultural Development was in the office and asked if I wanted to sit down and discuss the position. It turned into a two-hour interview, and I got the job," Norton said.

He first worked as the Tribal archivist and then assumed the position of curator before being named director and THPO. During that time, Norton also pursued his master's degree in museum studies at OU and graduated in 2010.

Wolf earned her bachelor's degree in business from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, in 2008.

In 2013, she started working for the Tribe as an administrative assistant for the Environmental Department. Wolf began working for the CHC in 2017 as the facilities manager and director's assistant, which was her role before accepting the assistant director position.



Wolf, speaking about what drew her to work for the CHC, said, "I wanted to know more about my culture because I didn't grow up knowing about the Potawatomi side."

New roles

Norton said he and Wolf make a good team, with him overseeing tribal historic preservation, the institutional and programming side of the CHC, community and academic outreach, and Wolf overseeing the administrative, business and facility management, among many other duties they partner on.

"I think people misinterpret the diverse roles and experience needed to operate a facility like this," Norton said. "Most see it simply as a group of people that really love history and culture, while others lean toward solely academic or scientific programming. In reality, it's much more diverse, especially for a facility of our size and the programs we offer, allowing us to really utilize the background and expertise of our whole team."

Though they have taken on different titles, Norton said much of what they do in their new roles is similar to what they were doing in the interim since the previous director, Dr. Kelli Mosteller, accepted a position with Harvard University in July 2022.

"That's not to say that responsibilities haven't grown, but the interim really helped us to acclimate to our new positions," Norton added, especially since both



will retain their previous roles in addition to the new responsibilities as director and assistant director.

And he credits Dr. Mosteller’s leadership for where they are now, adding that it allowed them to build a solid foundation.

“A lot of credit has to be given to Kelli for her leadership in allowing us to grow both professionally and personally,” Norton said.

Moving forward

Norton said the CHC has “grown exponentially” since a flood and redesign in 2014, and they plan to help the CHC continue to grow. Throughout the next six months to a year, they have many projects in the works, especially for digital programming and outreach.

“A big focus is going to be our digital outreach,” he said. “The COVID period allowed us to regroup and recenter our focus. Digital programming is something we always wanted to do; COVID just expedited things.”

They want to enhance genealogical programs and eventually use augmented reality to allow visitors to learn about culturally and historically relevant locations.

Another area that they want to expand upon is the Tribal Heritage Project, which started as an oral history project to capture recordings of Tribal members and preserve that knowledge for posterity.

“What we are developing is the natural evolution of the Tribal Heritage Project, using technology and digital platforms to expand outreach to all corners of the community,” Norton said.

By allowing Tribal members to log onto a digital portal that seasonally prompts them with questions, they hope to make the interview process more comfortable, and as a result, get more detailed information and more personable responses. They will also be expanding in-person interviews at gatherings and other events. Since they will solicit new questions every quarter, the interview process becomes more than a one-time activity. True connections will be established with the community. Additionally, they want to intertwine those interviews with genealogical and family history resources.

They also want to expand digital access to the CHC’s collection and create a platform that allows visitors to view and add captions to unidentified images. Staff are also creating tutorials about how to use the numerous programs the CHC offers as well as covering topics such as caring for family heirlooms, and managing and digitizing family collections.

There are also plans to increase acquisition of collections from partnering institutions, such as universities and historical societies, and to develop community-based curriculum for the child development centers and afterschool programs.

Improving exhibits, gift shop

For the museum itself, plans are in the works to update most of the interactive displays, implement a six-to-nine-month schedule for temporary exhibits, expand resources in the library, and give a facelift to the classroom and gift shop.

“We are redoing the look of the gift shop,” Wolf said. “We’ve had it repainted and installed new furniture.”

They also plan to bring in more Woodland-style items, focusing more on culturally-oriented merchandise made by Potawatomi and Indigenous peoples.


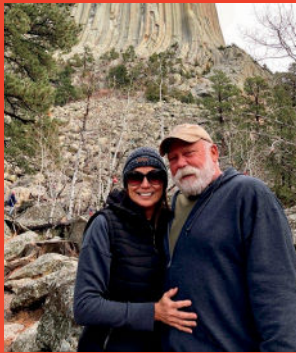
Norton said they are making room for new products, but also “many Tribal members are professional artists and knowledge keepers, so we want to provide a space for cultural and artistic expression with the ability to earn a living.”

Norton and Wolf’s list of improvements and plans will likely continue to grow.

“Some will see putting our plans into action as change. We see it as growth,” Norton said.

For a virtual tour or to see more information about the CHC, visit potawatomih heritage.com. 🔥

RE-ELECT
ANDREW WALTERS
NIBWEMKO [STANDING BEAR]
DISTRICT 11 LEGISLATOR

- HONESTY
- INTEGRITY
- PROVEN LEADERSHIP

“I believe in this Tribe and our people. We have many divisions we need to heal, and many things yet to do”

nibwemko@gmail.com

Paid for by Andrew Walters

Aviary tours, book signing and classes available at Festival

As the Family Reunion Festival returns, so do classes offered by the Cultural Heritage Center. Whether wanting to learn how to bead or get information about preserving family history, there's something for everyone at the CHC classes.

Creating culturally relevant items

Throughout the weekend, there will be classes about how to make several items, including bandoliers, loom beading, chokers, flat stitch earrings, hand drums, shawl applique and fringing, moccasins, and corn husk dolls. All skill levels are welcome.

Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Most of the classes are free, but the moccasin class costs \$40 for materials, and the drum and shawl classes each cost \$35 for materials. The CHC gift shop also sells kits for hand drums, moccasins and shawls, and participants who purchase the kits are guaranteed a seat. Drum making classes are for those age 12 and older.

Preserving history

For those who are interested in researching their genealogy or preserving family history, there are also classes available.

There will be demos for the genealogical research program, *Ancestors*, and workshops about how to digitize and care for family archives.

The CHC gift shop offers an information table for those interested in learning more about the Trail of Death Association.

Tribal members and families will also have the opportunity to participate in heritage interviews. See more information on page 8.

Other experiences

From 12:15 to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sharon Hoogstraten will have a presentation and book signing for her book, *Dancing for Our Tribe: Potawatomi Tradition in the New Millennium*. Hoogstraten traveled to many states over the course of a decade to portray contemporary Potawatomi in regalia. Her book includes more than 150 formal portraits as well as hand-written statements from the Tribal members pictured.

There will be multiple Q&A sessions about and tours of the Aviary. A bus will leave on the hour each morning of Festival to take participants to the Aviary, where they can see eagle residents such as *Nnoshe* (Stepmother), *Archer* and *Netem-nos* (Flo). Registration is required, and those interested can sign up at the CHC.

For more information, view the schedule of events handed out at registration or call the CHC at 405-848-5830. 🍷



Bandolier making



Shawl making



Drum making



Loom beading

Competitions open to all as Festival returns



As the 2023 annual Family Reunion Festival returns to the Citizen Potawatomi headquarters, so do competitions like traditional handgames, art contests and more.

Art competitions

Tribal members of all ages can enter their creations in some category of the annual art competitions. Past submissions have included mediums like paintings, photography, sculpture, beadwork and moccasins.

For those age 15 and younger, there are art contests available for four ages groups: age 5 and younger, ages 6-9, ages 10-12 and ages 13-15.

Each participant may enter one piece of art, and art can be submitted between 9 and 9:30 a.m. Saturday in the youth tent, located south of the FireLake Water Tower. All pieces must have been created before Festival but within the past three years.

First, second and third place winners will receive a FireLake gift card. Judging starts after registration ends, and winners are typically announced by 10 a.m. Any artwork that is not picked up at that time will be put in the concession trailer.

For Tribal members who are 16 and older, there are amateur and professional categories for the adult art contest. Contestants can only enter one of those categories.

Submissions can include all types of modern and traditional art, and the art does not have to include Indigenous themes.

Artists who have been paid for the type of work they are submitting should enter the professional division. Professional artists can enter only one piece. First place is \$300, and the winner will be selected by a vote of the Potawatomi people taken in the foyer of FireLake Arena.

If an artist has never been paid to create work in a certain medium, they can submit a piece in that medium in the amateur division. Amateur artists can

enter up to three pieces of art in two categories: photography/painting or other mediums.

Winners of the amateur art contest will be selected by a professional artist, and prizes are \$300 for first, \$200 for second and \$100 for third place.

Registration for adult art contests is from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at FireLake Arena. All entries must be the work of the artist without any assistance.

All prize winners will be announced during General Council, where the prize money will be awarded. All entries must be picked up by the end of General Council.

Handgames

The traditional handgames competition will be Friday night. The family competition sometimes has more than 100 participants broken into groups of seven.

The traditional Potawatomi game goes back generations.

Each team of seven has one captain, one picker and two hiders. The two hiders each hold a colored bead in their hands, which they pass back and forth behind their backs as another team's picker attempts to guess where the beads are. The hiders must stay in the circles painted on the ground but can still use tactics such as dancing and singing to distract the pickers.

Once the judge calls for hands forward, the picker uses a stick to indicate one of four guesses for the location of the beads. If they guess correctly, their team gets a point. If they do not guess correctly, the other team gets a turn.

The winning team will receive \$100 for each of the seven team members.

At the beginning of the game, each team's flag will be sold at auction. The winning team will also receive 25 percent from the auction, with the remaining 75 percent going to the person who bought their flag.

Find more information about hand games on the *Hownikan* Podcast at cpn.news/handgamespod.

Other competitions

Other competitions open to Tribal members will include fry bread making, softball, golf, volleyball, dominos, checkers, chess, three-on-three basketball, archery, horseshoes and dance competitions. More information on dance competitions is included in this issue on page 19.

For some of those competitions, prizes can range from \$100 for first-place individuals to \$1,100 for first-place teams.

Look for more details in the Festival registration packet, or learn more about Festival at cpn.news/festival. ♡

Powwow etiquette and dress



Whether Tribal members dance in regalia that reflects a traditional or more contemporary style, everyone in proper attire is welcome to participate in Grand Entry.

To respect the sacred nature of the dance space, traditional regalia is preferred. Tribal members who do not have regalia and plan to dance should choose clothing that keeps the legs and shoulders covered. Women and girls should wear ankle-length or maxi-type skirts. Blouses should cover the shoulders. Men and boys should wear slacks and a ribbon shirt. It is acceptable to add ribbons to commercially produced shirts. Several tutorial videos are available on YouTube and other websites.

Casual clothing like shorts and tank tops, or open-toed shoes such as sandals and flip-flops, are not permitted in the dance arena. Flat shoes are recommended since the dance surface is grass-covered.

If Tribal members do not have appropriate attire, they are welcome to observe the dancing from the stands but should not enter the dance arena. Parents are urged to keep a close eye on their children, so they do not accidentally enter the dance space or disrupt the dancers.

“How do I enter and exit the dance area?”

If Tribal members are participating in the powwow, they are free to move within the dance circle or sit on one of the benches in the outer perimeter of the circle. The dancers will move in a clockwise direction around the dance area.

Observers should avoid crossing the boundary line on the outer edge of the dance circle. Seating is available in the bleachers surrounding the dance arena, or folding or camp-type chairs may be set up outside the circle.

Dancers may use the benches to rest in between songs. Please do not move any blanket, shawl or dance regalia that may be sitting on the benches.

To respect the sacred space, pets are never allowed inside the dance circle. Eating, drinking or smoking are never permitted within the dance circle.

“Can I take photos?”

Before taking a photo of a dancer, it is best to ask for permission. If a dancer declines, please respect their preference not to be photographed.

While taking photos, do not touch any part of the dancer's regalia without asking. Regalia is often passed down, and care must be taken that it does not become damaged or soiled. Items like feathers, fur, buckskin and some fabrics are not easily cleaned. Many items have special spiritual or historical significance to the wearer and should not be casually handled.

Do not step into the dance arena to take photos or video. Observers should avoid standing in front of others and blocking the view of those seated closest to the dance circle.



Both men and women should follow regalia guidelines if they plan to participate in Saturday's Grand Entry and powwow.

Never photograph dancers during the competition dances. Flashes, even from camera phones, may be distracting.

“Can I talk to the dancers while they’re outside the circle?”

Yes, dancers are often willing to answer questions about their regalia or just to socialize. Please be respectful of their time. During the evening’s dance competitions, dancers may be called to the arena for their contest. Do not delay their return to the dance circle.

For many dancers, the experience of dancing is a spiritual one, sometimes compared to prayer. Do not interrupt the dancing or cause a distraction while people may be involved in a sacred practice.

“I’ve never danced before? What happens?”

Listen to the master of ceremonies, or emcee, for information about when to enter the dance circle, exit or other instructions.

The Grand Entry begins at 8 p.m. Plan to be fully dressed and ready before 8 p.m. and head to the Grand Entry point a few minutes before it begins. An arena director will help dancers find their group. If you are a member of one of the honored families who will be leading Grand Entry, gather with your family members.

Dancers enter the space single file, organized in groups according to their dance style. Veterans and elders will enter the space first.

If a dancer is not able to make Grand Entry, they should wait to enter the dance circle until Grand Entry has concluded. Participants should not disrupt the process to belatedly join their group.

Immediately following Grand Entry, honor songs will be sung. These songs may honor ancestors, those who have walked on or Tribal veterans who have served their Nation. All dancers and spectators, including children, should stand quietly and respectfully during the honor songs.

During intertribal songs, everyone, regardless of age, may participate if they are dressed in regalia or in appropriate clothing.

If dancers have questions, they may ask the arena director or the designated head dancers for additional information.

Dance demonstrations and practice will take place prior to Grand Entry on Saturday. This is an opportunity for first-time dancers to practice before the powwow. There are videos online on the different types of powwow dance styles.

Read more about Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/festival. 🔥

LEGAL NOTICE

IF YOU, A CHILD IN YOUR CARE, OR ANOTHER LOVED ONE WERE HARMED BY ENDO OR A RELATED COMPANY, INCLUDING PAR OR AMS, OR THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDING OPIOIDS, RANITIDINE, OR TRANSVAGINAL MESH, YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED BY DEADLINES IN THE ENDO BANKRUPTCY.

The deadline to file a claim in the bankruptcy is July 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time). The deadline to object to Endo's sale is July 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time).

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On August 16, 2022, Endo International plc and certain of its affiliates filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. Certain Endo affiliates manufactured and/or sold, among other things, branded opioid medications (including but not limited to OPANA[®] (oxycodone hydrochloride), OPANA[®] ER (oxycodone hydrochloride extended release), and PERCOCET[®] (oxycodone and acetaminophen tablets)), generic opioid medications, generic ranitidine medications, and transvaginal mesh. **This notice is intended to inform you of your rights in this bankruptcy regarding the bar date and proof of claim process and Endo's proposed sale of substantially all of its assets.**

WHAT IS A CLAIM?

A “claim” means a right to seek payment or other compensation. If you, a child in your care, or another loved one were harmed by Endo or a related company, including Par or American Medical Systems (AMS), or their products, including opioids, ranitidine, or transvaginal mesh, you may have a claim against one or more of these entities. To make a claim, you will need to submit a proof of claim in the bankruptcy case. You may file a claim on behalf of yourself, a child in your care (including a child exposed to opioids in the womb), or a deceased or disabled relative. Examples of claims that may be filed in the Endo bankruptcy include but are not limited to:

- > **Opioid Claims:** Claims for death, addiction or dependence, lost wages, loss of consortium, or neonatal abstinence syndrome (sometimes referred to as “NAS”), among others.
- > **Ranitidine claims:** Claims for cancer, including bladder, esophageal, pancreatic, stomach, and liver cancer, among others.
- > **Transvaginal mesh claims:** Claims for pelvic pain, infection, bleeding, among others.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BAR DATE AND PROOF OF CLAIM PROCESS?

The deadline to submit your proof of claim is called a bar date. The bar date, or the deadline to submit your proof of claim, is July 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time). If you do not submit a proof of claim by the deadline, you will lose any rights you may have had to seek payment or compensation. You must file a proof of claim form so that it is actually received by the bar date. A proof of claim form can be filed by you, a legal guardian, survivors, or relatives of people who have died or are disabled. You do not need an attorney to file a proof of claim for you.

For a more complete list of relevant companies and products manufactured and/or sold by Endo and its related companies, including full prescribing information and BOXED WARNINGS for OPANA[®] (oxycodone hydrochloride), OPANA[®] ER (oxycodone hydrochloride extended release), and PERCOCET[®] (oxycodone and acetaminophen tablets), and for more complete details about the bar date and instructions on how to file a confidential personal injury claim, visit EndoClaims.com or call 877.542.1878 (Toll-Free) or 929.284.1688 (International).

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SALE?

Endo intends to sell substantially all of its assets in an auction and sale process in the bankruptcy case and subject to approval by the bankruptcy court. **Endo is seeking relief that the sale will be free and clear of all claims, liens, and encumbrances.**

If you disagree with the proposed sale, you must object to the sale in writing, so that your objection is received on or before **July 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)**. **Any party in interest who fails to properly file and serve its objection by the objection deadline may lose its claim against Endo's assets if the sale is approved.** Objections not filed and served properly may not be considered by the bankruptcy court.

Complete details about the proposed sale, including any auction for Endo's assets, the date of the hearing to consider the sale, and instructions on how to file an objection, are available at EndoClaims.com or by calling 877.542.1878 (Toll-Free) or 929.284.1688 (International).

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CALL: 877.542.1878 (Toll-Free)
929.284.1688 (International)

VISIT: EndoClaims.com
EMAIL: EndoInquiries@ra.kroll.com

WRITE: Endo International plc Claims Processing Center
c/o Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC
Grand Central Station, PO Box 4850
New York, NY 10163-4850

Legislative meeting minutes

May 18, 2023

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, Alan Melot, Rande Payne, Andy Walters, Paul Wesselhöft and Robert Whistler.

Absent: Representative Paul Schmidlkofer

Guests: Greg Quinlan, Jason Smalley, Chris Abel and Jamie Moucka.

Call to order: Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. followed by the invocation.

First item of business: Minutes from the previous legislative meeting held March 2, 2023. Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Representative Bowden and seconded by Representative Lambert. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Second item of business: Resolution 23-42-R&G: A resolution approving the rescheduling of the Quarterly Meeting of the Tribal Legislature from Thursday, May 25, 2023, to Thursday, May 18, 2023. Motion to approve Resolution #23-41-R&G was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Boursaw. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Third item of business: Resolution 23-43-LCoE: A resolution for the voluntary relinquishment of Robert Grant Baker. Motion to table Resolution #23-42-LCoE was made by Representative Walters and seconded by Representative Wesselhöft. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fourth item of business: Resolution 23-44-LCoE: A resolution for the conditional relinquishment of Tricia Lynn Tripp-Blake. Motion to approve Resolution #23-43-LCoE was made by Representative Barrett and seconded by Representative Dave Carney. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fifth item of business: Resolution 23-45-LCoE: A resolution for the conditional relinquishment of Claude Anthony Blevins. Motion to approve Resolution #23-44-LCoE was made by Representative Payne and seconded by Representative Melot. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Sixth item of business: Resolution 23-46-LCoE: A resolution enrolling 181 applicants into the membership of CPN. Motion to approve Resolution #23-45-LCoE was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Vice-Chairman Capps. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Seventh item of business: Resolution 23-47-HHS: A resolution supporting an increase in funding for CPN's sanitation facilities construction program, P.L. 86-121, for new and like-new scattered homes offered through the U.S. Indian Health Service (Project OK 23-F76). Motion to approve Resolution #23-47-HHS was made by Representative Eva Marie Carney and seconded by Representative Lambert. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Representative Melot had to leave the meeting.

Eighth item of business: Resolution 23-48-J&PS: A resolution approving CPN's application for funding under the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management agency, fiscal year 2023 Tribal Homeland Security grant program. Motion to approve Resolution #23-48-J&PS was made by Representative Johnson and seconded by Representative Walters. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Ninth item of business: Resolution 23-49-J&PS: A resolution approving CPN's application for funding under the United States Department of Justice fiscal year 2023 Office for Victims of Crime, Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside formula program. Motion to approve Resolution #23-49-J&PS was made by Representative Eva Marie Carney and seconded by Representative Wesselhöft. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Tenth item of business: Resolution 23-50-NR: A resolution approving CPN's application for funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary grant. Motion to approve Resolution #23-50-NR was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Representative Johnson had to leave the meeting.

Eleventh item of business: Resolution 23-51-TC&A: A resolution approving CPN's application for funding



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under the National Park Service fiscal year 2023 Tribal Historic Preservation Office grant program. Motion to approve Resolution #23-51-TC&A was made by Representative Dave Carney and seconded by Representative Boursaw. The motion passed with 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent and 0 abstaining.

Twelfth item of business: Resolution 23-52-TC&A: A resolution approving CPN's Memorandum of Understanding with the Arizona Board of Regents, the University of Arizona. Motion to approve Resolution #23-52-TC&A was made by Representative Payne and seconded by Representative Lambert. The motion passed with 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent and 0 abstaining.

Thirteenth item of business: Resolution 23-53-ED&C: A resolution approving CPN's application

for funding under the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Justice, Thriving Communities Grantmaking program. Motion to approve Resolution 23-53-ED&C was made by Representative Eva Marie Carney and seconded by Representative Wesselhoft. The motion passed with 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent and 0 abstaining.

7:30 p.m. Recess (Executive Session)

8:15 p.m. Reconvene

Fourteenth item of business: Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Representative Walters and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent and 0 abstaining. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. 🔥

Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho, ginwa,

Ni je na ginwa emno gishek?

Bédo gde-mno bmadzem ngom. Wawyasto gi byé zhi Shawni odanek. Bgéji nshonajya mget nesh je shawniyek wi zhetonwa ewishkwzeyak.

Shishibéniyek nakwnegewen nishokmagewat nekmek shena mine jayek widoktadwek.

Jeshek ngi-gishyéwimen shkwach shke-bodéwadmimwen kenomagewen.

Nishwabtek bémadzejek gi byé-kkéndaswek ode gde-bodéwadmi-zheshmomenan.

Penojejek, kajkejek, kekyajek mine penojek gi byék.

Gaga she Bodéwadmimwen kakendasjek "apprentices" wi byék shode mine dnezwat nazh nish gisok. Gme gishet mine gbe gishget wi ndo-kkéndaswek, gé winwa yowat gé winwa bodéwadmimowat. Noek bémadzejek wi wij-kkéndaswek ode niben.

Bédo manek shishibéniyek wi byék I Shishibéniyek mawjeshnowen gme-niben ode gtége gises. Nwi-okenomagemen natsek kenomagewnen mine chikemak "scavenger hunt" mine "Bingo" zhenkadenon.

Sengo zibiwes nwi-déwégemen. Wi wenet shena gishpen jésh Shishibéniyek byé-nimediat. Migwéché gode nenwek byé-ngemwik.

Jeshek mine ngi-gishyéwimen I skongemek kenomagewnen. Tecumseh, Shawnee, Seminole skongemek kakendasjek ngi kenomowamen zhi tasomkekosek. Shawnee naw-skongemek mine shak neme-gishgek kenomagewen.

Bama mine ngoji gaga she gwi-wabmenmenwadek.

Hello, you all,

How are you on this beautiful day?

Hopefully you all are in good health today. A tornado came to Shawnee. It messed stuff up a little bit, but the people of Shawnee will rebuild, and we are strong.

The CPN government helped all over and everyone came together to help each other out.

We just finished our last beginner class.

Twenty people came to learn our Potawatomi language.

Children, adults, elders and a baby all came.

Soon Potawatomi apprentices will come here and hang around for two months. Every day and all day, they will study, use and talk Potawatomi. Seven people are coming to learn with us this summer.

Hopefully many Citizen Potawatomi will come to our annual Citizen Potawatomi Festival this June. We are going to teach several classes and have a scavenger hunt and play bingo.

Squirrel Creek will be drumming. It will be good if lots of Citizen Potawatomi come to dance. Thank you to these men who are coming to sing.

We also just finished our school classes. We teach students at Tecumseh, Shawnee and Seminole online as well as a Shawnee middle school nine-week class.

We will see you all soon somewhere perhaps. 🔥

A Family Reunion Festival tradition makes its return

The Family Reunion Festival resumed in-person last year following the pandemic. This year, a special tradition will be back on the schedule when events get underway June 23-25 on Tribal grounds just south of Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Recognizing Potawatomi families will again be part of the 2023 Family Reunion Festival. The honored families are Johnson, Lafromboise, Lareau, LeClair, Melott, Rhodd, Rescier, Weld and Young. Last year, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation did not have honored families but remembered those who walked on due to COVID-19.

The Nation has long had a tradition of recognizing the families that moved to Oklahoma following forced removal and eventually formed the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. This is an important part of Festival as it allows many Tribal members to identify and connect with each other during Festival. The honored families also lead the Grand Entry during Saturday evening's powwow.

Some families plan activities and games so they can all gather, renew old bonds and create new ones while others explore the Cultural Heritage Center or stage a family photo.

Members of the honored families are encouraged to participate in family heritage interviews at the CHC, both in groups and individually. The interviews provide a valuable resource to preserve and protect family histories for future generations. Interview times may be scheduled through portal.potawatomi.org.



Registration

Festival registration opens Thursday at noon and continues Friday and Saturday beginning at 8:30 a.m. inside FireLake Arena. Registration takes place in person and ensures Tribal members can access all Festival activities and amenities.

Elections

Elections for district legislators are on the June 24 ballot. Voters will choose a representative for District 10 between incumbent legislator David Barrett and challenger Charles Scott. District 11 voters will choose between incumbent legislator Andrew Walters and challenger Jay Laughlin. Only Tribal members living in those districts may vote on their representative.

Also on the ballot is the annual CPN budget.

CPN members 18 years and older on election day may vote at designated polling places from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Valid Tribal ID is required to cast a ballot. Absentee ballots must be received at the CPN Election Commission's post office box by 10 a.m. on Election Day.

Museum improvements

During their Festival stay, visitors can take in the new improvements at the Cultural Heritage Center. The CHC received a nearly \$100,000 federal grant in 2022 that allowed staff to update several interactive features in the museum, improving the user experience for all. The funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services helped update dedicated touch screens, add direct and ambient surround sound speakers and upgrade computers.

Friday and Saturday

Family Reunion Festival activities are designed to help Tribal members connect with their culture and to explore their heritage more deeply.

Friday's schedule opens with Aviary tours beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing through 11 a.m. Visitors should register for an Aviary tour at the CHC. Tours take place each hour with the last tour beginning at 11 a.m. Buses will transport visitors from the CHC to the Aviary.

The family and veteran interviews begin at 8 a.m. at the CHC. To schedule an interview, visit the *Ancestors* portal to register and select a time. Sample questions will be available on the portal so individuals and families can get an idea of what will be discussed during the interview. Interviews continue through 5:30 p.m.

The recently updated museum gift shop will be open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday. It has a variety of art, apparel, jewelry, gifts and crafting supplies. Visitors will find more handmade items to browse that are not available on the website. The gift shop will close at 2:45 p.m. on Saturday so visitors may attend the General Council meeting at FireLake Arena. The shop re-opens from 5 to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

An information table for the Trail of Death Association caravan will be at the CHC so Tribal members can



learn more about the observance. The association was established to commemorate the Potawatomi's 1838 forcible removal and 660-mile journey from northern Indiana to present-day Kansas. Without adequate food and water, and in oppressive heat, 41 Potawatomi died. The Trail of Death honors victims and survivors as they retrace the original route the Potawatomi took during their ordeal.

Crafting classes will take place at the CHC in the morning and the afternoon. Both beginners and experienced crafters can learn more about beading, hand drum making, shawl and moccasin making, and much more. The cultural crafting classes are designed so that Tribal members can work at their own pace. Register for classes by contacting the CHC at 405-878-5830. Some classes are free of charge, but others require a small fee for supplies.

General Council takes place at 3 p.m. Saturday at FireLake Arena. During General Council, Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett will provide an update on Tribal business and announce election results.

The highlight of each year's Festival, the powwow and Grand Entry, begins at 8 p.m. Dancing, singing and socializing take place on the grounds of Raymond Peltier Park. All Tribal members are welcome to attend and participate or just observe.

Sunday

As Festival winds down, the CHC museum gift shop will be open from 8 a.m. to noon for last-minute souvenir shopping. The last Aviary tours begin at 8 a.m. and continue through 11 a.m. The CHC closes for the day at 12:30 p.m.

For more information about the 2023 Family Reunion Festival, visit cpn.news/festival or consult the schedule in the registration packet. 🍷



CPN sponsors Native American wellness event

Fitness professionals from across the United States attended an event designed to help them improve the overall wellness of the Native American communities they serve.

The Native American Fitness Council held a conference at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort April 18-21 so participants could receive certifications in medical conditions and exercise. Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services sponsored the event.

The NAFC was established in 2004 to empower Native Americans through exercise education. Its goals include helping increase the number of Native American fitness instructors as well as teaching fitness professionals to train Native Americans in exercise techniques and achieving a healthy lifestyle.

Conference topics included chronic disease and exercise, relaxation and balance exercises, physical effects of aging on individuals, how to start an elder exercise program and more. CPN Wellness Center employees attended the conference and received certification.

"The majority of the people we work with are Native Americans," said Leslie Cooper, CPN Wellness Center director. "A lot of Native American communities are traditional and very culture based. The classes we offer (respect) cultural and traditional ways more than you would in a typical gym setting."

Conference attendees discussed how to meet the unique health and wellness needs of their respective Indigenous communities and participated in hands-on exercises they can share with the people they serve, said Brian Laban (Hopi/Tewa), NAFC executive advisor and board member.

Training clients

Fitness training often involves memorizing technical terms, but that terminology does not always apply to the day-to-day reality of training people. Laban said NAFC focuses on the information trainers need to more effectively help their clients.



Attendees at the Native American Fitness Council participate in an exercise demonstration at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort.

"We want people to use that simple, applicable language," he said. "If you say, 'Raise your arm to the side,' people understand that instead of using technical language. We give (trainers) the core concepts of exercise, how to set things up, and from there, they can start adding to it."

Some people exercise hoping to maintain their health or to avoid health issues. Others with chronic health conditions are often advised by their doctors to start exercising and may not know how to begin. Cooper said trainings like the one the NAFC provided will help her staff assist clients who have diabetes, cancer, osteoporosis or several other chronic conditions.

Laban said the NAFC works with trainers of all types of experience to help them tailor their approach to their client. Working with youth or with an athlete requires a different approach than working with an elder.

"We've had people with their master's in kinesiology and biomechanics tell us, 'They've never taught us this before.' But book learning and practical learning are a little bit different," he said. "We hope to make fitness concepts and techniques applicable for every day."

By making fitness accessible, Laban said more people will be inclined to participate in programs or visit a fitness facility. He wants people to know they do not have to "get in better shape before they visit the gym."

"I think everybody's starting to understand, 'Come and let us help give you different ideas.' The main goal



is keeping (clients) safe and teaching them how to do things correctly so their lives can get better," he said.

In addition to improving physical fitness, NAFC advocates for supporting emotional and spiritual wellness. Laban recalled a client who was injured after a fall and then became homebound. The experience caused her to lose confidence and feel guilty about how her condition affected her family.

"We did help her physically with strength, balance, endurance, flexibility, agility. All of this improved, but she gradually gained her independence and her confidence back. That was huge. Sometimes it's not just about helping (clients) physically," he said.

Future collaboration

Laban met Cooper at a previous NAFC training where Cooper expressed interest in hosting the organization at CPN.

NAFC is always interested in visiting other tribal communities so their membership can network with peers. The NAFC is based in Colorado, but its members are located across the U.S. CPN's central location made it easy for everyone to attend, Laban said. This year, members from as far as Maine, California and Florida traveled to the conference.

The council is looking forward to collaborating with CPN again. They hope to develop an agreement for the CPN Wellness Center to be one of NAFC's official training sites, Laban said. Currently, the Mille Lacs Band Ojibwe in Onamia, Minnesota, is the only other site with an official designation from the NAFC.

With an official training site designation and its central location, CPN could host future NAFC events, making it more convenient for fitness trainers to attend and learn new skills, Cooper said.

She believes the variety of NAFC programs may help increase the number of fitness trainers who work with Native American populations.

"They have a certified personal trainer class, a group fitness instructor class, classes for special medical conditions. They also focus on exercise and aging. As an official site, (NAFC) would be able to come and offer different (classes) at different times of the year," she said, making the certification process easier for trainers.

For more information, visit the NAFC at nativeamericanfitnesscouncil.com. To learn more about starting a fitness plan, visit the CPN Wellness Center online at cpn.news/wellness or contact them at 405-395-9304. 🔥

EQUALITY TRADITION INCLUSION

**RE-ELECT
ANDREW WALTERS
DISTRICT 11 LEGISLATOR**

BEING YOUR LEGISLATOR IS AN HONOR. DURING MY TENURE I HAVE HELPED THE TRIBE THROUGH THE COVID PANDEMIC, THE DISTRIBUTION OF ARPA FUNDS, AND THE ENROLLMENT OF THOUSANDS OF NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR TRIBE. I HAVE ATTENDED EACH MEETING AND CONTRIBUTED MY THOUGHTS AND DESIRES AS DICTATED BY YOU, MY CONSTITUENTS. MY REQUEST TO YOU NOW IS TO VOTE. RE-ELECT ME TO CONTINUE MY SERVICE TO THE TRIBE AND OUR PEOPLE. LET ME UTILIZE THE EXPERIENCE I'VE GAINED IN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TO FURTHER MOVE OUR TRIBE INTO THE FUTURE. OVER THE NEXT 4 YEARS MANY CHANGES WILL COME TO THE TRIBE, PLEASE HELP ME BE PART OF THAT CHANGE. V

PAID FOR BY ANDREW WALTERS, CANDIDATE DISTRICT 11 CPN LEGISLATOR.

Behavioral Health, House of Hope reflect on PTSD

The sounding of a siren. The scent of a cologne. The sight of a hospital hallway. For someone who has suffered a traumatic event, reminders as simple as these could cause flashbacks, just one of the symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

According to the American Psychiatric Association (APA), PTSD can affect a person's mental, physical and spiritual well-being and is "a psychiatric disorder that can occur in people who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event, series of events or set of circumstances."

It can be caused by a wide range of events, including natural disasters, combat, bullying, accidents and historical trauma. The National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) also lists life events such as the death of a loved one as possible causes.

"An exposure to death or the threat of death or serious injury, sexual violence, those are all things that are associated with the diagnosis of PTSD," Citizen Potawatomi Nation Behavioral Health Coordinator Virginia Kinkade said.

She listed hypervigilance, panic attacks, reoccurring nightmares and avoiding certain situations that are reminders of a trauma experience as symptoms of PTSD.

PTSD and Native populations

The APA explains that PTSD, which many people associate with veterans, affects people of all ethnicities, nationalities and ages.

The Native population in the U.S. suffers the highest rates of PTSD, along with Latino and African American populations. NIMH cited a study that estimates 4.8 to 6.4% of the general U.S. population will develop PTSD, which increases to 16 to 24% for Native Americans and Alaskan Natives.

"Women's diagnosis is much higher than men," Kinkade said. "But for Native women, it's exceptionally high."

She said there are also many reasons Indigenous women are sometimes apprehensive about seeking help.

"I think that historical trauma definitely plays a role in that," she said.

Women might have been raised by generations of women forced to attend boarding schools and conditioned not to talk, separated from family and separated from their language.

"That has an impact still. ... It's been one of my greatest privileges to work with Native women, develop trusting therapeutic relationships and witness recovery. The resilience is just amazing to witness," Kinkade said.

"My hope is that the women who have transitioned from surviving trauma to thriving in trauma recovery as a result of trauma treatment will share and encourage others to seek treatment with us. And that is already happening. We are having more women come in to address trauma. I hope it continues."

Domestic violence and PTSD

Prevention and Education Coordinator Kayla Woody, with Citizen Potawatomi Nation's House of Hope, said survivors

Information from the National Institute of Mental Health

- » Wetting the bed
- » Not being able to talk
- » Acting out the event when playing
- » Being unusually clingy

Someone with PTSD might experience some of the following symptoms:

- » Flashbacks
- » Reoccurring memories or dreams
- » Distressing thoughts
- » Physical signs of stress
- » Avoiding people, places, events or objects that are reminders of a traumatic event
- » Avoiding thoughts or feelings related to a traumatic event
- » Easily startled
- » Tension or feelings of being on guard
- » Difficulty concentrating
- » Difficulty sleeping
- » Irritability
- » Reckless behavior
- » Trouble remembering the traumatic event
- » Negative thoughts
- » Feelings of blame, fear, anger, guilt or shame
- » Loss of interest in hobbies and activities
- » Feelings of isolation
- » Difficulty feeling happiness or other positive emotions

In children, symptoms can include:



of domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking are just some of those who might suffer from the effects of PTSD. Sometimes, she said, triggers come from unexpected sources like smells, sounds or even textures.

"We've even had survivors walk into a store and see someone that has the same type of characteristic as their perpetrator and then shut down in that store. Or smell a type of cologne or a scent that reminds them of a certain situation they were in," Woody said.

She also explained that PTSD can affect not only the victim but also witnesses, family members, first responders, or even social workers who help survivors.

"It's important to understand that PTSD won't just happen to the victim of the trauma," Woody said. "It could be for the child who witnessed it, for the advocate who's trying to provide assistance, or the family members."

However, Woody also explained that not everyone who experiences trauma will necessarily develop PTSD, and those who do manifest their symptoms in different ways.

"It may make it difficult for an individual to see they might have PTSD because they're not experiencing the same things as another person (with PTSD)," Woody said. "But everyone is very different in how they process that trauma."

Seeking help

For those potentially suffering from PTSD, Kinkade said Behavioral Health offers a variety

of services and different types of therapy, either with clinicians or with a psychiatrist on staff.

"One of the things that's really exciting right now is that we're exploring treatment approaches that are more culturally meaningful," Kinkade said. "There's some evidence that indicates treatments that don't require as much talk therapy have good outcomes with Native American clients."

For example, Behavioral Health offers a women's trauma group that communicates about their feelings while doing cultural activities such as beading.

"Seeking treatment can make all the difference in long-term quality of life. Untreated trauma can manifest in a number of ways," Kinkade said, listing depression, anxiety, and negative impact on relationships and employment as just some ways it might manifest. "Every aspect of life can be impacted by trauma that goes untreated."

Tribal members who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking, or who think they may be suffering PTSD, can contact House of Hope at 405-275-3176.

Tribal members who may be suffering from PTSD can also call Behavioral Health at 405-214-5101. An intake clerk will help callers fill out an application and establish services. No referral is necessary for Tribal members and CPN employees. For Tribal members who do not live in the Shawnee, Oklahoma, area, Kinkade said Behavioral Health can still act as a point of contact to help find assistance. 🔥

HOMEOWNER EMERGENCY MORTGAGE

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

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

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



POTAWATOMI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Class of 2015

This month 20 years ago, Citizen Potawatomi Nation welcomed the first group of students to participate in the Potawatomi Leadership Program. Brittany Destree Dek was 17 years old in 2003 and participated in the PLP between her junior and senior years of high school. The Bertrand family descendant traveled from Illinois to CPN land near Shawnee, Oklahoma, and stayed for six weeks.

"It was a cultural experience that we were feeling tied to in a way that I don't think that we would have without that the leadership program," she said.

Each year, the Tribe invites approximately 10 students to spend six weeks at the Nation's headquarters as interns. They learn about the Tribe's government, resources and enterprises as well as Potawatomi culture and their Tribal identity. They meet with each department, listen to presentations from CPN leaders, attend ceremonies and the Family Reunion Festival, and present their ideas for Tribal improvements to the larger community.

The first year or two, students stayed in the dorms at the now-closed St. Gregory's University, but that quickly changed after the Tribe bought a piece of property, affectionately called the Sharp House after the previous owners. Margaret Zientek is the director

of the Workforce Development & Social Services Department; however, each summer, she also lives with the PLP interns as their house mother.

"It's amazing to me to see the students walk away and how many of them are better prepared for college and dorm life and sharing roommates because they had to," she said.

Approximately 200 students have participated in the program, and Zientek sews each one a set of regalia in time for the Family Reunion Festival powwow at the end of June with few exceptions.

Adulthood

While some of the qualifications have changed over the years, the program welcomes high school graduates on their way to their freshman or sophomore year of college to apply. Most participants experience some independence for the first time while living with the Tribe. Zientek has seen many of them grow from children to young adults.

"They really learn to talk and to listen and to work together on cleanup," she said. "And they learn how personalities are different. And it's so much fun to watch them evolve and to see them develop friendships. And some of them I've seen come back year after year, and to see them grow and see their faces light up when they talk about what their passion is, I love it."

Zientek said living with the young Tribal members keeps her youthful, and they teach her things as well, such as the differences between vegan and vegetarian diets.

For many participants, the experience changes their educational and career paths. Some transfer schools, change their majors or move across the country. Dek



2006

decided to attend the University of Oklahoma and started as a Native American studies major before switching later.

“It was like my first view at independent life as well as working for the Tribe and just kind of an awakening into all of these things that I didn’t really know about myself as a Tribal member and just as an adult human,” she said.

Throughout the last 20 years, PLP participants have returned to work for the Tribe in a variety of capacities, found purpose in their career through inspiration ignited by the experience, and made friendships and relationships that have lasted a lifetime.

“The PLP opened my eyes to how much tribes do for our communities, which is an honor to experience given that the last 50 years have been a ‘rebuilding’ period for tribal nations, so to speak. With this in mind, it not only deepened my appreciation for my heritage but fueled my curiosity about how we can be active participants in bettering Indian Country,” said Katie Simpson, class of 2019 and Toupin and Kennedy family descendant.



More than anything, Zientek said, the participants each year learn how to find strength and solidarity in their identity as an Indigenous person.

“(When they start) it’s, ‘I’m going to do a summer program with the Potawatomi.’ And they don’t really see themselves as a Potawatomi. And when they leave, it is, ‘I am Potawatomi,’ and they own it. ... And many of them will tell you, ‘I didn’t know where I was coming and what to expect, but I feel like I’m at home.’ And that feeling of belonging is just a revelation,” she said.

After being a member of the first PLP class, Dek became the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Princess at the Potawatomi Gathering in 2004. She has continued to feel that sense of duty to represent her heritage well into the present day as a 37-year-old mother working in film and television production.

“I do try to share about my experience often. And I think, especially in L.A., working on sets with people that sometimes say things, and you’re like, ‘Actually, I’m Native American, and what you’re saying is pretty racist.’ ... I try to be a good representative of our community. It was some of the best time of my life, honestly. It was so transformative for me,” she said.

Dek hopes to see her daughter, now a toddler, attend the program. As time moves toward the next generation of participants, Zientek feels grateful for the experience of teaching the next group of Tribal leaders.

“It doesn’t feel like 20 years to me, and it actually amazes me,” she said.

Harvard’s Honoring Nations program recognized the Potawatomi Leadership Program in October 2014 at the National Congress of the American Indian Annual Convention for its focus on the future of Indian Country. The PLP updates its curriculum each year to improve and offer a new experience to each class.

Find out more about the Potawatomi Leadership Program at plp.potawatomi.org. 🔥



Culture

The program also provides many participants with a variety of cultural experiences for the first time, including naming ceremonies, handgames, talking circles, dancing in the powwow arena, learning the language, drumming, different ceremonies and attending the annual Family Reunion Festival at the end of June.

Kaitlyn Precure Bazhaw, Beaubien family descendant and PLP class of 2017, remembers everyone supporting each other during a vulnerable talking circle. By the end, everyone cried together in their communal, safe space.

“We knew we were there to support one another, love each other, and to let everyone’s voice be heard,” she said. “It was something I really needed at that point in my life. It is these moments that brought us closer together, that created an unbreakable bond with some of us, which makes the miles between us seem that much farther. But the Creator always finds a way to bring us together again.”

2023 Honored families



Sophia Vieux Johnson

Johnson

Sophia Vieux (Johnson) was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1840 to *Shanote* (Charlotte), daughter of respected St. Joseph headman *Chisagen* (Big Water), and Louis Vieux. Like many Potawatomi, the family were prominent fur traders in the Great Lakes region before removal.

Afterward, Sophia attended school at St. Mary's in present-day Kansas where she met restaurant proprietor

Jacob Johnson. The couple wed three years later. After Jacob's brother Andrew died, they moved to Vermillion, Kansas, to work for her father as a toll bridge collector.

In 1861, the family relocated to Rossville, Kansas. When the opportunity to take allotment in Oklahoma Territory became available, the family initially moved near Sacred Heart. Around 1873, they relocated to Pleasant Prairie where they farmed, raised cattle and owned a general store. The Johnsons settled on Sophia's allotment 2 ½ miles west of Shawnee and had 12 children that carried on the Johnson family legacy.



Theresa Lafromboise

Lafromboise

Chief Joseph Lafromboise was born in 1798 to Francois Lafromboise and *Shawenquah* (Southern Wind Woman), around the Saint Joseph River where the family owned and operated a trading post. They relocated from Milwaukee to Chicago around 1800, and Joseph became a prominent headman for the Tribe.

Chief Joseph married Therese E. Peltier (Metis), and they had 13 children together. Their

oldest daughter, Theresa Lafromboise, experienced three of the Tribe's removals and moves during the 19th century.

Theresa and her family were removed from the Great Lakes region to Council Bluffs, Iowa, before eventually making their way to Silver Lake, Kansas. Around 1891, she relocated to present-day Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma. Theresa wed three times — first to last, Thomas Watkins, J. Allen Hardin and Medard

Benjamin Beaubien. Theresa passed away in 1914. Her legacy remains visible in her descendants today.

LaReau

Mary Anastasia Higbee and Joseph LaReau wed on July 25, 1871, in St. Marys, Kansas, and they bore their seven children on the Potawatomi reserve near the St. Mary's Mission.



Mary Anastasia Higbee LaReau and family

As a Citizen Potawatomi, Mary Anastasia received a land allotment in Indian Territory through the Dawes Act of 1887. She and Joseph resolved to make one final journey together and carve out a home and future for their family along the plains of Indian Territory. They relocated to Wanette in 1896 and raised their children on a family farm.

Joseph and Mary Anastasia's offspring quickly became integral parts of their new community. Joseph Alva (Alvie) LaReau, the oldest son, started a livery and feed store, and Francis Casimir LaReau (Cass) became a merchant in Wanette for many years.

LeClair

Pierre LeClair — married to Cecile LeClair — was an important Potawatomi translator. John Kinzie, one of Chicago's earliest settlers and fur trader, employed Pierre as an interpreter. In this role, Pierre mediated the terms



Peter LeClair, son of Pierre LeClair, and family circa late 19th century

of surrender after the Battle of Fort Dearborn in 1812. By 1832, Pierre fought alongside Chicago Potawatomi chiefs Wabaunsee, Shabbone and Bigfoot during the Black Hawk War and served as an official interpreter.

After the 1833 Treaty of Chicago, Pierre removed with the Potawatomi to Missouri. He served as the key interpreter in an 1845 delegation that traveled to Washington, D.C., to discuss the cession of the Iowa reserve to the government. He became well known for his colorful and moving speech addressed to President Polk. In his statement, Pierre referenced prior treaties between the Tribe and the United States, highlighting broken promises. He also discussed the beauty and connection the Potawatomi had to their homelands, which they ceded for little in return.

Pierre's efforts helped make the delegation a success, and soon after, Tribal leaders moved the band to Kansas. Many of Pierre's children emerged as leaders in Kansas and eventually Oklahoma.



Catherine (Katy) Melott

Melott

Catherine (Katy) Theresa Bergeron was born in 1850, the second daughter of Watseka (Daughter of the Evening Star) and Francis Bergeron. She married Joseph L. Melott, whose family emigrated from France to America in 1826. In 1868, they were among the first families who came to the new Potawatomi reserve in Indian Territory from Kansas.

From 1868 to 1871, the Melott family became familiar with their new environment. By the spring of 1871, Joe returned to Kansas and led six families back to Indian Territory in 14 covered wagons to become the first group of Potawatomi to settle on the new reservation. Many others followed suit.

Father Isadore Robot arrived in Indian Territory in 1876 and formed a friendship with Joseph. The Melott cabin hosted the first Catholic mass in the county. Later that same year, with the support of the family and other Tribal members, the Citizen Potawatomi gifted the church one square mile of land that became home to the Sacred Heart Mission.

The Melotts became the principal founders of Mission Hill, now known as Wanette, Oklahoma.

Rhodd

Charles Richard Rhodd, the youngest son of Charles H. Rodd and Wasiewen (Light Reflecting Off of Water), was born around 1854 in Rossville, Kansas. His name first appeared on the Kansas Potawatomi Tribal Rolls of 1863 at 8 years old.



Charles Richard Rhodd and Helen Acton Rhodd

His older brother, Alexander, served as his guardian after their father returned to the Great Lakes region and their mother, Wasiewen, passed away.

On Nov. 2, 1872, Charles Richard Rhodd married Helen Acton (Rhodd), the daughter of Angeline Bellaire and James Acton. Their wedding took place in Rossville, Kansas. Charles kept books for the Tribe for many years. He was also an expert in herbal medicines with a

vast knowledge of plants and other natural treatments for various diseases. Members of surrounding tribes regularly called on Charles for medicinal purposes.

The families' children lived through the Civil War and other trying times, finding love and support in each other. Their turbulent upbringing created an unbreakable bond that continues today.

Tescier

In 1844, Anthony Tescier married Catherine Bourbonnais. Through the 1833 Treaty of Chicago, Catherine and her family relocated to lands between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Eventually, the family moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, before they arrived at the new reservation in Kansas, where Catherine passed away in 1860. One year later, Anthony married his first wife's niece, Elizabeth Catherine Bourbonnais.



Tescier wedding

The Tescier family eventually moved to Indian Territory and established a family farm on their allotment near present-day Choctaw, Oklahoma. Although Anthony Tescier passed away in 1891, Elizabeth Catherine

Tescier remained an icon of love and strength in the Tescier family until her death in 1920.

The Tescier family saw the country develop as few others have. They lived through the Land Run of 1889 and experienced the breakdown of the reservation into allotted farmsteads. They witnessed the birth of Oklahoma and endured both the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. Their lives of hardship and grief, balanced by effort and perseverance, and their devotion to family remain an inspiration to later generations.

Weld

Mary Margaret Ogee, born in 1819 in Illinois, married Hiram Weld around 1835. After the Potawatomi removed from Council Bluffs, Iowa, the Welds relocated to the Potawatomi reservation in Kansas. The couple had eight children: Mary Ann, Josephine, Sara, Volney, Fannie, James, Madeline and Hiram C. Weld, Jr.



Josephine Weldfelt, daughter of Hiram Weld and Margaret Ogee

Hiram built the second ferry in Uniontown and began its operation in 1853, catering to travelers along the Oregon and California Trails. Hiram passed away in 1855, but the Weld family received an opportunity to become U.S.



George Young Jr. and wife Elizabeth (Lizzie) McDole-Vasser-Young

citizens and plots of allotted land through the Treaty of 1861. Eventually, they left behind the prairies of the Kansas reserve to carve out a new existence for themselves and future generations along the unsettled plains of Indian Territory in the late 1890s.

Young

In 1856, George L. Young, Sr. married Josette Vieux, daughter of Potawatomi fur trader Jacques Vieux, Jr. and Liz Langier, in Indianola, Kansas. Josette's grandfather, Jacques Vieux, Sr., married a Potawatomi woman named Angelique

LeRoy in Wisconsin. Josette's father Jacques Vieux, Jr. and uncle Louis Vieux helped her grandfather maintain a successful fur trading business in the Great Lakes region.

George Sr. and Josette had three children, Anna, Alice and George L., Jr. After the Treaty of 1867, the Young family left Kansas and traveled south into Indian Territory. George Sr. owned a general store and one of 11 saloons in Meanko, Oklahoma.

His Potawatomi children established themselves across Oklahoma and built families of their own, including George Jr., who married Elizabeth-McDole-Vasser-Young. Elizabeth was the daughter of Susan Vasseur, a Potawatomi, and James P. McDole. George and Elizabeth raised six boys and three girls. They believed in the importance of music, encouraging their children to learn instruments. Elizabeth paid for their music lessons as a seamstress, and the family sang and played religious music prior to special meals.

Very influential in early Potawatomi affairs, the family built a legacy around protecting the Tribe's interests. 🍀

RE-ELECT DAVID BARRETT FOR DISTRICT 10

LEGISLATOR VIETNAM VETERAN/ TREASURER/COLOR GUARD FROM THE BOURASSA FAMILY AARP NATIVE ELDER RECIPIENT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOYAL SUPPORT

Paid for by David Barrett

From the executives

John “Rocky” Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bouzho, Nicon (Hello, my friend),



We recently observed our Memorial Day ceremonies here at Tribal Headquarters, honoring those who have walked on to the next life and, particularly, our Veterans who have contributed a part of their lives, and in some cases their very lives, in defense of our country.

Here at the Nation we have a special place of honor on the walls of the Tribal Heritage Center for those Citizen Potawatomi who have served their country in the military. When you are here, please take the time to visit this place of honor for our vets.

In addition to the Wall of Honor, we have an active Veterans group who are part of our traditional Honor Guard that leads the Grand Entry at powwow for all who have come to the Festival in tribal regalia and plan to participate in the dancing, as well as the nine honored families who are recognized this year.

The CPN Veterans organization is headed by Tribal Legislator David Barrett. David and I have the same last name but are not blood related through the Barrett sides of our respective families. We have common relatives on the Bourassa side of our family, but they are at least four times removed.

David has done a very commendable job in organizing and leading the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans, and I hope all of you will honor and congratulate him for giving his time and intellect this year. I am not supposed to campaign for a candidate in a tribal election in my *HowNiKan* column, so I am paying for this writing to be run as a campaign ad.

David Barrett’s opponent for Position #10 in the Tribal Legislature, one Charles Scott, will not allow the *HowNiKan* to publish his picture. Looking at this man’s picture, I can see why he might not want you to see it, but I believe that the voters of our Nation deserve to know the people who are running for office. If Charles Scott feels his too picture should be seen by the voters, then I think he might be too self-conscious to represent our Tribe effectively. He should know that appearance is not what makes legitimate service in the Tribal Legislature. It is honesty and integrity, plus staying informed and impartial. In my opinion, his refusal to allow his picture to be published is actually a misrepresentation in not allowing people to be fully informed about his characteristics, his strengths and weaknesses. It is actually a misrepresentation of himself to each of you. He should have more faith in the fairness and judgement of the Citizen Potawatomi people.

So, I intend for each of you to know what he looks like, since he has published his image on the internet, his appearance is a part of the public domain. As a candidate, he is a “public figure” in the legal definition of political office holders and candidates. Here are pictures of the two candidates for District 10 of the Tribal Legislature:



Charles Scott
Candidate for District 10



David Barrett
District 10 Legislator (incumbent)

Thank you all for the honor of serving as your Tribal Chairman. Without your votes and support, I would not have received the recent recognition of my service to the Nation in the press.

Megwetch (Thank You)

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

Paid for by John “Rocky” Barrett



Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

Citizen Potawatomi Nation held a graduation celebration on April 29, 2023, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Cultural Heritage Center. The event began in 2019 with a large group in attendance with students from as far away as California. The next year was the beginning of the pandemic; therefore, there was no attempt to have the graduation, but in 2021, we had a virtual celebration. Then in 2022, we went back to in-person attendance. Each year, several students come from out of state to participate. The 2023 eligible students were those graduating in the summer 2022, fall 2022 or spring 2023 from high school, trade school or any level of college. Students who could not attend in person were encouraged to register to be eligible for a special gift and recognition in the slideshow, which was presented at the event.

I was honored to have the opportunity to speak to the graduates and families this year. It was somewhat of a reunion for me because I knew many of the families in attendance but had not seen some of them for years. In fact, I hurried to the gift shop during lunch to purchase some gifts like CPN gives away during our district meetings. It seemed fitting since some of our attendees had traveled such a long distance.

Don Moutaw from Tecumseh, Oklahoma, was presented a Pendleton blanket for being the eldest in attendance. Don is 72 years old with a birthday right around the corner. Our youngest enrolled Tribal member was Bodie Payton, age 3, from Stillwater, Oklahoma. Bodie was given a woven basket, which he seemed to thoroughly enjoy. The two that traveled the longest distance were Brissa Black from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and Abigail Watson from Saint Paul, Minnesota. Brissa and Abigail were given a pitcher from a collection that was specially made for the CPN Gift Shop. The gifts were greatly appreciated by those receiving a prize.

The graduation was an excellent event, complete with cultural activities, including presentations by the men's and ladies' drum groups. Each graduate was called to the front of the Long Room and presented gifts from the CPN Department of Education — a print by CPN artist Penny Coates and an eagle feather. These prints reproduced from the original painting are the only ones in existence. It is a true bonus for the students to receive such a beautiful, limited art piece presented by the education department.



Students celebrate their accomplishments at this year's Department of Education Graduation Celebration.

Citizen Potawatomi Department of Education provides training and leadership as well as the scholarships — all to help expand educational opportunities for Tribal members. The education staff process and monitor all student scholarships, which is a huge undertaking. Countless CPN tribal members throughout the U.S. have benefited from the educational funding that is provided by the Tribe. The education staff members also provide students with information about additional funding sources besides the CPN scholarships. The education employees are beneficial to the entire CPN operation and are often requested to assist the Tribe with special events and programs.

Charles Lee III was named interim director of the department in April of this year after Tesia Zientek resigned from the position. He is following in Tesia's footsteps in providing professional leadership for the program. Charles and his team members were responsible for this year's graduation celebration — Rachel Watson, Kym Coe and Matt Higdon, all of whom are exceptional in their educational roles.

The graduation celebration for next year will be scheduled again in May. We will be celebrating the summer and fall 2023 and spring 2024 graduates. Please keep this in mind if you have loved ones that will be graduating. I look forward to seeing family of graduates next year. As always, I cherish serving as your Vice-Chairman.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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

From the legislature

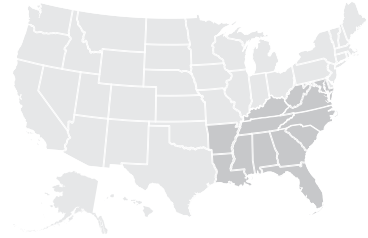


Eva Marie Carney District 2

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

VA Aid and Attendance benefit and Housebound allowance

I spent the last week of April in New Mexico, visiting some of the schools and programs The Kwek Society supports with period supplies. I traveled with our board member and Albuquerque resident Lisa Witt. Lisa and her husband, Tom, own and operate senior living communities in New Mexico, Nevada and Texas. During our visit, Lisa mentioned the VA Aid and Attendance benefit and Housebound allowance. I'm sharing the information here and ask you to share it widely with your networks.



The program provides monthly payments added to the amount of a monthly VA pension for qualified veterans and survivors. Lisa reported that the current benefit amounts are between \$1,250 and \$3,017!

VA Aid and Attendance eligibility

You may be eligible for this benefit if you get a VA pension and you meet at least one of these requirements.

- You need another person to help you perform daily activities such as bathing, feeding and dressing
- You must stay in bed — or spend a large portion of the day in bed — because of illness
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to the loss of mental or physical abilities related to a disability
- Your eyesight is limited (even with glasses or contact lenses you have only 5/200 or less in both eyes or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less)

Housebound allowance eligibility

You may be eligible for this allowance if you get a VA pension and you spend most of your time in your home because of a permanent disability.

Lisa provided more details on program eligibility, based on her experience:

- Veteran over age 65, who served during war time, with honorable, medical or general discharge (no flexibility)
- Surviving spouse, married to the qualified veteran at the time of death (no flexibility)
- Needs some care assistance or a protected living environment (some flexibility)
- Assets less than \$123,000, excluding home value and personal property (some flexibility)
- Must not be receiving a benefit for wounds suffered during service (some flexibility)

How do I apply?

You can apply in one of these ways:

- Send a completed VA form to your pension management center (PMC)
- Fill out VA Form 21-2680 (Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance) and mail it to the PMC for your state. (You can have your doctor fill out the examination information section.)
- If you're in a nursing home, you'll also need to fill out a Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance (VA Form 21-0779).
- Apply in person — bring your information to a VA regional office near you.

Links to the needed forms and more details are on the VA's website, va.gov.

As you might expect, the application process can be challenging to navigate. Lisa and Tom work with one of the many companies that offer advisory and application assistance to veterans and their families, Patriot Angels (patriotangels.com). All the companies charge for their services. I understand that the VA review process can take three to four months after you submit the formal application, and that benefits, if awarded, will be back-dated, effective to the date of submission.



Loss of a dear Potawatomi veteran

I'm offering condolences to the family members and friends of Robert Pearl/Kiwezi, who walked on in late April. Bob was an honored veteran, a true gentleman and a great dancer. He attended several of the meetings and events I've hosted. I've included a photo I took of him during one of our trips to the NMAI Archives. May his memory be a blessing.

Please keep in touch

I look forward to hearing from you and to greeting some of you in person at our Family Reunion Festival at the end of this month! *Migwetch* (thank you) for the honor of representing you.

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

Robert Pearl (Kiwezi), February 2015 visit to the Archives of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian



Bob Whistler District 3

Bozho Nikan (Hello friend),

Ghost Dance

In mid-April, I made a short visit to South Dakota. While there, I stopped in Chamberlain and visited the Akta Lakota Museum & Cultural Center out of St. Joseph Indian School. They have a wonderful display of their history along the same lines as our Cultural Heritage Center near Shawnee. One item in particular that I found interesting was a display of the shirt and shield worn by a leader of the Ghost Dance. It was a religious ceremony created by the Great Plains nations and gained prominence under a Paiute Indian named Wovoka in the fall of 1869. This ceremony promised the renewal to the Indians, return of horses and bison, and that the white

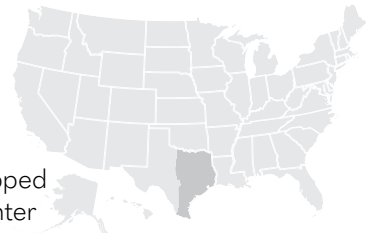
man would disappear. In addition, the ghosts of their ancestors would return, and mother earth would become as it had been before the white man arrived. I am including a photo of this exhibit. The Ghost Dance scared the Indian agents, and the government called for the arrest of the leaders. They created the Religious Crimes Code in 1883 that banned Native dances and ceremonies. On Dec. 15, 1890, Sitting Bull was killed while being arrested. The code was repealed in the 1970s. This is one of the methods used to try restricting our cultural identity.

Hiawatha Asylum

The federal government created the Hiawatha Asylum for Insane Indians around 1899, and it was built in Canton, South Dakota. The government made it illegal for the Indians to speak their language or talk about Wounded Knee massacre and Little Bighorn. If the Indian police heard that you were doing any of this, they would come to your home. If you argued with them, a rope would be strung between the two horsemen, and they would drag the rope through your crops to destroy them and you would be arrested. You were then taken and admitted to the "living burial site" called the Hiawatha Asylum for Insane Indians. Anyone admitted was never released or heard from again. This was a one-way trip, and you died there. No records were kept as to what killed the 121 Indians buried in the small cemetery there. The facility was checked from 1929 to 1933 and found to have intolerable conditions and abuse of the inmates or so-called patients. In 1933, a new commissioner of Indian Affairs ordered the closing of this facility. It no longer stands. However, a historical marker is located on their property, which is now the Hiawatha Golf Course. The cemetery is located between the fourth and fifth fairways. This facility was just another means of intimidation to discourage the use of their language or their desire to orally pass on history and culture to their descendants.

Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse

While in South Dakota, I also visited Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse monument. These are two great monuments to see. The town of Keystone is on the edge of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial. It has many hotels, shops and restaurants. Keystone also has a very good museum on some history of our U.S.



Ghost dance regalia



presidents. The Crazy Horse monument is about 11 miles beyond on the same basic road. You are in the Black Hills that the Sioux nations loved.

My trip was for more information on the high school American Indian Native Studies ethnics class I am working on with the Grand Prairie School District that ultimately may be used in all Texas high schools.

I thank the CPN citizens in District 3 for allowing me to represent you. I am your voice, so contact me if you have questions on benefits or services.

Nagech (Later),

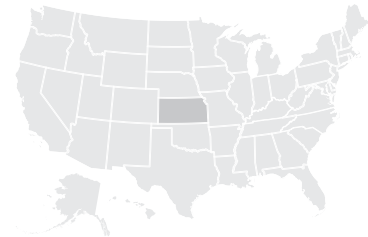
Bob Whistler | *Bmashi* (He Soars) | rwhistler@potawatomi.org | cpn3legislator@yahoo.com
1516 Wimberly Ct. | Bedford, TX 76021 | 817-229-6271 | cpndistrict3.com

Jon Boursaw District 4

Bozho (Hello),

Kansas Academic Council for Indigenous Education (KACIE)

Back in January, Vice-Chairman Capps asked if I would serve on the Kansas Academic Council for Indigenous Education (KACIE) along with Tesia Zientek, who was then the CPN Director of Education. The plan was that I would attend the Council meetings in person, while Tesia would attend via Zoom. The Council is an advisory body for the Native Nations in Kansas, the Kansas Board of Education (KSBOE), its Department of Education (KSDE) and the State Board of Regents (KSBOR) with the primary goal to strengthen government-to-government relationships to ensure adherence to existing education laws and policies for the purpose of improving education for, about, and with Indigenous peoples and communities in Kansas.



The primary organizer and administrator of the Council is Dr. Alex Red Corn, member of the Osage Nation. He is on the staff in the College of Education at Kansas State University, where he serves as an Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Coordinator of Indigenous Partnerships, Co-chair of the Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance, Executive Director of the Kansas Association for Native American Education (KANAE) and Program Coordinator for the Indigenous Educational Leadership Graduate Certificate.

The Council is comprised of two voting representatives from the four federally-recognized tribes in Kansas (Prairie Band Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Sac & Fox and Iowa) and one each from the KSBOE, KSDE, and KSBOR. In addition, there are several non-voting members consisting of a representative from the Bureau of Indian Education, one member of the Kansas legislature, one individual from the Governor's Executive staff and one each from up to the five of the federally recognized tribes residing outside of Kansas with histories and connections to Kansas. These currently include the Osage, Kaw, Shawnee, Delaware, and Citizen Potawatomi tribes located in Oklahoma. It is estimated that CPN has close to 600 students attending public schools in Kansas.

The primary objective of Council is that, in the near future, all Kansas public schools will have Indigenous studies as part of their curriculum in grades 1 through 12. This has already been accomplished in several states such as Michigan, Montana, Alaska, Oregon and North Dakota.

Since January, I have attended meetings in Wichita, Topeka, Lawrence and at the Prairie Band Potawatomi. The May meeting was scheduled to be hosted by the Royal Valley School District in Hoyt, Kansas, which serves the students from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation.

Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

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

June 9th	Hamburgers & hot dogs	RSVP by the 6th
July 14th	Roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy	RSVP by the 11th

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

Update on 8th Grade Student's History Day Competition

Remember Madison Arnold, the Topeka 8th grade student who entered the Kansas State History Day Competition with the Potawatomi Trail of Death as her subject? I am pleased to report that Madison placed second in the Junior Division Individual Exhibits and is now eligible to enter the National History Day Competition this summer in Washington, D.C. Madison has accepted our invitation to speak at the June 9th Elders' Potluck in Rossville.

I look forward to seeing you at the CPN Family Reunion Festival.

It is an honor to serve as your legislator.

Megwetch (Thank you),

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



Gene Lambert District 5

Bozho (Hello),

Upcoming exciting times as June is the month of the Family Reunion Festival for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. It is the most important gathering of the year for us.

We have our district meetings throughout, contributing to the comradery, but CPN members look forward to the fantabulous festivities available when we go home.

The Arizona District 5 2023 was our first meeting kicking off a wonderful year of family reunions.

We went back to the San Marcos Hotel in Chandler, Arizona, where we had our first group of namings many years ago. I remember the namings were announced at the Boy Scout Park and continued until midnight. Wow! It was also the year I received my name, too.

This year was no exception. While there was not a naming, we did have a Zoom get-together with Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, Ms. Linda Capps, Vice-Chairman, and of course Justin Neely, director of our Language Department.

It would have been perfect except for my inability to get logged in to the meeting for 15 minutes that seemed like an hour at the time.

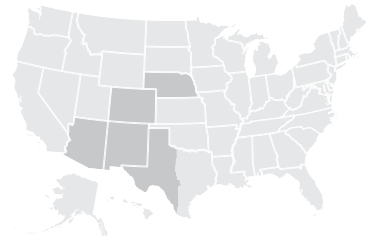
We really appreciated Chairman Barrett taking the time on his weekend to talk to us about new projects and answering questions. Ms. Capps, as usual, shared a lot about benefits available to our people and specifically reiterated information about CPN Care and provided a number you can call (888-565-3303) as there had been so many questions. Justin Neely opened the door for some with the Potawatomi language, what words sound like and mean in English. His special multifaceted talents allowed a few wonderful Native puppet stories for the children with animation and all. Quite entertaining. Everyone loved it! I think the adults enjoyed it more than the children. I know I did! We simply needed more time to spend with them. While being there in person works best, the opportunity to see and talk to our leadership on Zoom is the next best thing.

Our new District 5 member Scott Holzmeister had just a few minutes to update us about his involvement with the research into ancestral burial grounds in Kansas. Again, I wish we had more time.

Our drawings took place as traditionally practiced, and Ms. Janet Lunsford from Yuma, Arizona, won the wisest person of the day. What a beautiful lady inside and out.

Little Jesse Watkins from Prescott Valley, Arizona, was the youngest at 1 year old. He is the son of Jordan and Ashley Watkins, and great-grandson of Joy Esch. Wow! Time does fly.

The greatest distance traveled went to Mr. Cashion C. Hodam, who traveled from South Korea where he has been teaching for the last two years. He is now wanting to teach here in the USA, and we wish him well.



We always take the time to introduce each table and the Native family names, allowing others to identify with ancestral backgrounds.

This is what it is all about. Family!

It was great to see everyone, as always, and I appreciate your tolerance of my imperfection over the years. You have taught me so much about love and life.

Please let me know if you are new to our district so we can stay in touch for future activities.

Love you all,

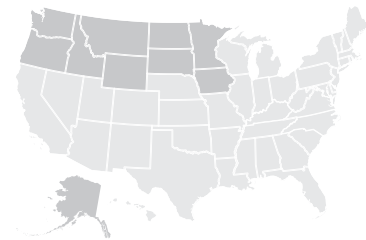
Gene Lambert (Eunice Imogene Lambert) | Butterfly Woman | glambert@potawatomi.org
270 E Hunt Highway Ste 229 | San Tan Valley, AZ 85143 | Cell: 480-228-6569 | Office: 480-668-0509



Dave Carney District 8

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

Well, it seems like the switch has been flipped from winter to summer here in the northwest. Sunny and 60 at the end of April. Tulips and daffodils blooming, birds chirping — the whole scene. Time to spend hours cleaning up — weeding, pressure washing and, in general, getting the green mildew off the gutters, siding and outdoor furniture. And most of us in the northwest wouldn't live anywhere else!



There are two CPN events set in stone as of now. A summer-time cookout Aug. 5 in the Lacey/Olympia Washington area. Last time we had a similar gathering it was very popular; however, we had it in May, and we had a significant amount of rain. August should be a better bet. Since this will be after the Family Reunion Festival in Oklahoma (end of June), I hope to bring back the latest news and developments from the Nation.

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

Postcards will be out for these two events. You can always RSVP to dcarney@potawatomi.org. This is primarily to get an idea of the volume of food needed. If you've ever been to a District 8 meeting, you know that we have not run out of food yet!

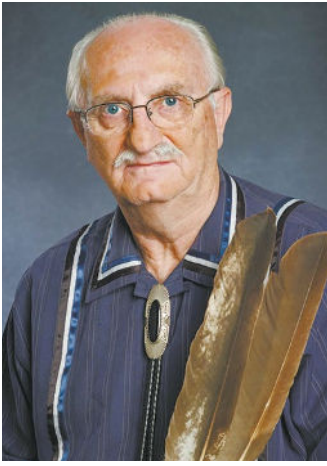
Something happened recently in my family, and I thought I'd share it with Tribal members — particularly our elders. My mother-in-law received a call from a person pretending to be one of my children. This is known as the "grandparent scam" and has been around for a few years. The story changes slightly, however, the main gist of it is that the grandchild is in jail (could be hospital) in another state (or country) and is in dire straits if a wire of \$5,000 to \$20,000 is not sent immediately. The scammer may be a great storyteller, embellishing the story with great details. One consistent element is that the grandparent is not supposed to tell the parents, and the target is sworn to this.

This particular scammer was calling from the Connecticut district attorney's office. My son had apparently struck a pregnant woman in a crosswalk, and \$20,000 had to be wired immediately for bail and his defense. What was my son doing in Connecticut? And why did we not know he was across the country for a sudden funeral for a friend? My mother was given a number to call at the "DA's office" to verify the story — and by gosh, the person who picked up the phone said it was all true.

The only thing that stopped my mother-in-law from wiring her life savings to an offshore bank account was another relative who overheard one of the phone calls. My son had to call her and say, "Grandma, I am home and would never ask you to wire money or not tell my parents." Friends, don't fall victim to anyone asking for wires, gift cards or anything else you did not initiate. Once the money is wired, it is gone! Elders beware.

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

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



Paul Wesselhöft District 9

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

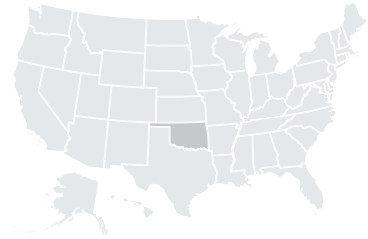


Davey Crockett

Congressman David Crockett opposed President Andrew Jackson's 1830 Indian Removal Act

and was the only member of the Tennessee delegation to vote against it. Cherokee Chief John Ross sent Crockett a letter declaring his appreciation for the congressman's stand against this terrible legislation.

The unpublished mission of the Indian Removal Act was ethnic cleansing. Tragically, the removal of Native Americans was seen as necessary for Manifest Destiny. The act was signed into law by a president who earned the name of "Indian Killer."



This legislation forced at gunpoint more than 60,000 Indians from at least 18 tribes to move west of the Mississippi River. The southern tribes were resettled mostly in Indian Territory (Oklahoma). The northern tribes were initially resettled in Kansas.

David Crockett's vote against this inhumane act was unpopular and cost him his political career. He lost his next election. His vote was a historical profile in courage. Eventually, the frontiersman moved to the future state of Texas and was killed fighting for Texas independence at the Alamo. We "remember the Alamo." We should remember Davey Crockett.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



David Barrett District 10

Bozho (Hello),

What do we value most in life? Most people will say that their home is their most important asset because it will normally increase in value as time moves forward. Allow me to suggest that family and friends should also be near the top, if not the top.

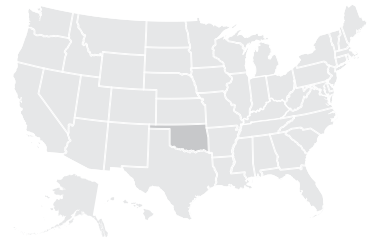
A family could include grandparents, aunts and uncles, godparents or close friends. What is important is the love or common interest that binds them together. Family means having someone to love you unconditionally in spite of your shortcomings. Family is loving and supporting one another even when it's not easy to do so. How many of us would like to say, "Enough is enough!" but continue to inspire your loved ones?

When our love, attention, help, support, forgiveness and acceptance are given to all, whether it is deserved or not, that, to me, would be a special family. During my lifetime, I have seen families interact this way, and other family members would say, "Gosh, I am always doing things right, but I don't get the same treatment." It is the best thing about being a family. It is also the basis where we learn to give grace to others outside of our family. Forgiveness can go hand in hand with grace.

God's definition of a family is the foundational institution of society ordained by God. It is constituted by marriage and is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, by blood or adoption. The family is a fundamental institution of human society (Genesis 2:20-25, 4:1; Exodus 20:5-6; Joshua 7:10, 15, 24-25; 2 Kings 13:23).

There are so many things that you can do to become or develop your family to be a strong family.

1. Spend enjoyable time together
2. Express appreciation and affection to one another
3. Have a strong commitment to each other
4. Work together to manage stress and crisis effectively
5. Develop a sense of spiritual well-being





Barrett family

You can look inside your family to see some common features of healthy, happy families that include: **cohesiveness, open communication, parents leading by example, complicit management, and setting clear expectations and limits.**

The family will also develop character in your children through what your child learns through the interactions between you and them. That is what they will carry for the rest of their life in regard to how to treat others. Through this socialization with family, your child will learn how **to trust, seek friendships from others and find comfort with others as well.**

Families have significantly shifted in terms of structure, going from two-parent households to more selective form of expression of what it means to be a family. While in the 1950s and 60s, there was more of an emphasis on a family including two parents and children. Now families have a much more diverse structure.

Despite the fact that everyone is born to a mother and father, not everyone is born into a loving family. In

so many ways, a lack of healthy, loving families can contribute to the breakdown of modern society. Being a part of, or not being a part of, a family has an impact on the decisions and behaviors we take.

To wrap my column up, it's always family first. Be there for the important moments, birthdays, holidays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, weddings, etc. The Potawatomi Family Reunion Festival is another function that brings our extended family together.

Take time to thank a veteran, first responder and a person in blue when you have an opportunity.

It goes without saying that it is both a pleasure and an honor to serve you and our great Nation.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



Andrew Walters District 11

Bozho (Hello),

It's that time of year. At the end of this month, we will have the Family Reunion Festival and elections for legislators. I don't know how all that will turn out, but I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the people that have walked beside me on this journey as your District 11 Legislator. Those folks who mentored me, gave me sage advice and even criticized me. I have learned a lot, seen a lot, heard a lot, and am thankful for the experience and folks I have met. I am hopeful to continue my service.

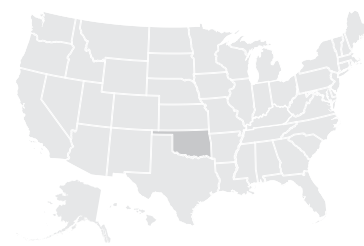
That said, the most important thing about this month is that you exercise your right to vote. Of all the rights given us by the Creator, the right of free choice is the most important.

Voting is the lifeblood of democracy. Participation in the Tribe is essential to its continued existence. Like any growing thing, our Tribe needs the rejuvenation brought about by new ideas, new faces and new thinking. Our Tribe needs the new blood of young members exhorting growth and change. But we must not forget the traditions and ideas that have paved the way to the present. The prayers, the songs, the beliefs that have acted to keep us grounded must not be forgotten.

Mamogosan (Creator), please continue to bless this Tribe and to provide for us all.

Bama pi (Until later),

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



Walking On

Alfred Keesee Rayfield Family



Alfred Keesee, age 86, of Wanette, Oklahoma, passed away Friday, April 28, 2023. Alfred was born Nov. 17, 1936, to Oatie Gardener Keesee and Myrtle Rachel (Lamirand) Keesee. Alfred was the fourth of five children. He was born and raised in Wanette, and he attended Wanette Public Schools. Alfred moved to Oklahoma City and started working in construction, pouring concrete with his brothers,

Coy and Kenneth. Alfred met his late wife, Virginia Gayle (Downey) Keesee, while he was working on a job in Oklahoma City. He told Gayle he was going to marry her. They did marry, and together they raised two children, son Don and daughter Sherrie. Not long after that, they returned to Wanette to raise their children. Alfred was inspired to sell tractors by an ad that was in his son's FFA book. He started the family business, Wanette Tractor and Supply Company, with his brother Coy in 1976. His dream carries on today. Alfred could sell just about any tractor or some kind of tractor implement or equipment. Alfred never knew a stranger. Not only did he sell tractors, but in his free time, he attended many auctions, especially car auctions. That was the salesman in him.

After his late wife Gayle passed away, Alfred met and married Lavonne (Hutchison) Brown. They enjoyed each other's companionship. Alfred was a wonderful husband, father, grandpa, great-grandpa, brother and friend. He absolutely enjoyed cooking a big breakfast, but he never liked to clean up after cooking. Alfred cooked many hamburgers, not only for family and friends, but he also cooked burgers for Flag Day in Wanette. He even came to his oldest granddaughter's 16th birthday and brought his griddle with him just to cook hamburgers for her. Alfred was a great man, and he loved big. He cherished his family and selling tractors. He will be greatly missed!

Alfred is preceded in death by his late wife, Gayle Keesee; daughter-in-law, Rita Keesee; parents, Oatie and Myrtle Keesee; brother, Kenneth Keesee; and infant brother, Oatie Keesee, Jr.

Alfred is survived by his wife, Lavonne Keesee of the home; daughter, Sherrie Forman and husband Mark of Wanette; son, Don Keesee and wife Carla of Macomb; four grandchildren, Donnell Koster and husband Chad of Wanette, Cody Keesee and wife Megan of Macomb, Corey Forman and wife Shakota of Wanette, and Mya

Forman and fiancé Luke Brundage of Wanette; nine great-grandchildren, Austin, Caitlin, Chase, Braxton, Brooklyn, Rylee, Ellee, Wyatt and Bronc; brother, Coy Keesee and wife Allena of Wanette; sister, Katherine Curry and husband John of Oklahoma City; step-children, James Brown and wife Terrie of Stratford, Leroy Brown of Norman, and Candace Chandler and husband Dean of Norman; 10 step-grandchildren; 20 step-great-grandchildren; and a host of family and friends.

Funeral services were held May 3, 2023, at the First Baptist Church of Wanette. Burial followed at the Wanette Cemetery. Send online condolences at wilsonlittle.com.

Carl Kessler Mitchell Family



Carl Kessler of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, walked into his eternal life on April 20, 2023. He entered into this life on July 8, 1931, in Chandler, Oklahoma, to Cecil Kessler and Goldie Mitchell Armstrong. Carl would go on to graduate from Classen High School in 1951; he attended OU and OCU and obtained an associate degree. Carl also devoted part of his life to the U.S. Air Force and then became an

entrepreneur, owning his own heating and air company in Edmond, Oklahoma, for 40 years. Carl was a faithful member of the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church and became a part of the Freemasons as well.

Carl was a true patriarch of his family and did not take that honor lightly. He was a loving husband to Babe; a devoted father to Luke, Toots and Buckshot; and an amazing "Pa" to his grandkids. Carl was a role model as a husband, father, Pa, brother, community leader and a man of faith, always leading by example. Carl was ornery, witty, funny and had the best laugh ever. It is an understatement to say what a void his passing has caused and how deeply he will be missed.

Carl is preceded in death by his loving wife, Leah Kessler, enjoying 67 wonderful years of marriage.

Carl leaves behind his children, Holly Heim and spouse Lonnie, of Oklahoma City, Tracey Custer of Dallas, Texas, and Tod Kessler and spouse Christy, of Prosper, Texas; brother, Earl Kessler and spouse Donna, of Klamath Falls, Oregon; sister, Almeda Crook and spouse Victor, of Ponca City, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Natalie Barnes and spouse Beau, Nick Heim and spouse Amie, Chris Heim and spouse

Kaylee, Brandon Kessler and spouse Jessica, Graciela Custer and Austin Kessler; and four great-grandchildren.

The Kessler family would like to extend a special thank you to Maria Silva for all of her assistance and caring for Carl.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 10 a.m. honoring Leah and Carl Kessler at Chapel Hill Funeral Home and Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital in honor of Carl.

Kim Dale Bahner
Peddicord Family



Kim Dale Bahner, 66, of Belvue, Kansas, died Sunday, April 2, 2023, at his home. He was a life-long resident of the area.

Kim was born Dec. 10, 1956, in Wamego, Kansas, the son of Alfred Dale and Anna Fern (Peddicord) Bahner. He attended Belvue Grade School and graduated in 1974 from Wamego High School. Kim then attended Fort Hays State University and graduated

with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Education from Emporia State University.

Kim worked 25 years for HF Mixing Group in Topeka, first as a sales technician, then sales manager and then a department manager. He also worked nine years in the drafting and marketing departments of Balderson in Wamego and four years as co-owner and vice president of Dymax. He worked for a time at Kansas State University and then farmed and built his own home.

Kim loved to hunt, fish, camp and play golf. He was passionate about attending his kids' and grandkids' sporting events and was a fan of Kansas State football. He enjoyed wood working and doing home remodeling projects, and he loved to travel. Kim was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Kim married his high school sweetheart, Candace Arlene Piper, on June 3, 1978, in Manhattan, Kansas. After almost 45 years sharing their lives together, Candy survives at their home.

Kim is also survived by his children, Kari Roberts (Loren), Albany, New York, and Tyson Bahner, Springfield, Missouri; his grandchildren, Rhett Roberts, Paityn Bahner and Emersyn Bahner; his sister, Kathy Douglas (Denny), Wamego; mother-in-law, Fae Piper, Wamego; brother-in-law, Jim Piper (Irma), Manhattan; and his nieces, Kacy, Ashley, Jana and Tanya. Kim was preceded in death by his parents, his father-in-law, Leland Piper, and his sister-in-law, Sharon Caster.

Carole Eyvonne Reed
Darling Family



Carole Eyvonne Reed was born to Lewis and Virgie (Darling) Reed on Dec. 26, 1933, in Little Axe, Oklahoma. She departed this life on Dec. 12, 2022, at the Noble Health Care Center at the age of 88 years.

Carole was a lifetime resident of the Cleveland County area. She graduated from Noble Public Schools. Carole was employed at the Joseph Harp Correctional Center in Lexington

as a librarian. She enjoyed sewing, gardening, horses and spending time with her family.

Carole was preceded in death by her parents; son, Richard Keith Garver; two brothers, Gene Reed and Don Reed; and one grandson, John Garver.

She is survived by three sons, David Garver of Noble, Jerry B. Garver of El Reno and Lewis Q. Garver of Ohio; daughter, Glenda Ivy of Lexington; 13 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and many other relatives and friends.

A graveside service was arranged and directed by McMahan's Funeral Home of Noble at McGuire Cemetery on the March 1, 2023. Pastor Raymond Ullery presided.

Robert Louis Pearl
Slavin Family



Robert Louis Pearl, also known as Bob to his family and friends, lived an exceptional life reserving a special place in the hearts of those he met. Bob was first and foremost a son, brother, husband, father, uncle and grandfather to all of his loved ones. He was a World War II veteran and proud Tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (Shawnee, Oklahoma).

Robert was born May 25, 1926, in Rossville, Kansas, to Thomas and Florence (née Doyle) Pearl (deceased) and the grandchild of James H. and Rosa (née Kiernan) Pearl, Sr., and James B. and Mary (Slavin) Doyle. He was one of six siblings — Marjorie Pearl Guerich (deceased); James (deceased) and Eileen Pearl; Maureen Howes Harris (deceased); Sister Virginia Pearl, CSJ; and Gerald and Hildegard Pearl (deceased). A child raised during the years of the Great Depression in the Dust Bowl region built his tremendous character and sense of duty to his family, community and Nations.

Despite his family receiving a farm deferment for one of the family's sons, Robert chose to enlist during World War II on Sept. 25, 1944. He was first stationed at Fort Leavenworth (Kansas) for basic training and later stationed at Camp Robinson (Arkansas) as a Classification Specialist.

During his service, he was tasked with interviewing enlisted personnel as they returned from or prepared for overseas deployment, making recommendations for inter-camp transfers, and assisting with any processes or preparation of travel accommodations for soldiers returning from active duty. Anyone who knew him knows there was no one better to serve in this role as he was always a careful listener who led first with empathy and respect. Robert was honorably discharged on June 21, 1946, at Fort Sam Houston (Texas). After the end of his service, he decided to pursue a college degree, utilizing the G.I. Bill, at St. Louis University, where he graduated in 1951 and met the love of his life and wife of 56 years, Joyce Ann (née Cox) Pearl (deceased).

Robert and Joyce married on June 20, 1953, in St. Louis, Missouri. Together, they raised five daughters — Janet A. Pearl, Lakewood, Ohio; Ellen K. Pochedley (Thomas) Hardgrove, Columbiana, Ohio; Maureen S. (Mousa) Babaki, Westlake, Ohio; Meghan K. (Mike) Musko, Vancouver, Washington; Erin A. (Rich) Bruening, Parma, Ohio; and preceded in death by a son-in-law, Joseph Pochedley. Robert and Joyce decided to relocate their young family from St. Louis, Missouri, to Parma Hts., Ohio, in 1960. Despite being far from home, Robert always ensured their family traveled "home" at least once a year to visit his family in Kansas and Oklahoma and Joyce's family in Kentucky, Missouri and Indiana. All of his nieces and nephews have fond memories of these visits "home" and continue to share these stories with his daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Together, Robert and Joyce were founding members of Saint John Bosco Parish in Parma Hts., Ohio, established in 1963. Over the years, Robert served as a Eucharistic minister and volunteered his time every week to serve as an Offertory Counter. He was also a member of the Holy Name Society, Saint John Bosco Seniors, and Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and an Adorer in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Outside of his service at Saint John Bosco, he also was a member of the Saint Padre Pio prayer group and the First Friday Club of Cleveland.

Robert worked for nearly 35 years in the petroleum industry as an accounting executive for Standard Oil and retired in 1985. After retirement, Robert and Joyce traveled the U.S. and the world. They were also patrons of Cleveland's Playhouse Square and often enjoyed the arts, music, opera, theater and social gatherings such as bridge club. Robert was a lifelong learner and active participant in Baldwin Wallace University's Institute for Learning in Retirement. Robert also took an active role in the lives of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren — Matthew (Jessica), Steven (deceased), and Laura

Babaki; Lakota (Bill) Hobia and Elan (Caroline Dönmez) Pochedley; Max and Maor Bruening; Wren and Leo; and was a special Grandpa Bob to many adopted grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He never missed the opportunity to spend time with them, share all of his knowledge and wisdom, take them with him on his travels and celebrate all their accomplishments.

No words could capture the life and impact of Robert Louis Pearl, and he will be so dearly missed by all he touched throughout his long life.

The family suggests memorial contributions to:

- St. John Bosco Church, 6480 Pearl Rd., Parma Hts., OH 44130
- Native Forward Scholars Fund at nativeforward.org
- Sisters of the Incarnate Word, 6618 Pearl Rd, Parma Hts., OH 44130
- A charity of your choice

To offer condolences and further information about Robert L. Pearl and his extraordinary life and service to his community and Nations, please visit ZaborFH.com.

Michael David McKinney McKinney Family



Mr. Michael David McKinney, 51, of Noel, Missouri, departed this life suddenly on Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021, at Mercy Hospital in Bella Vista, Arkansas.

Michael entered this life on Feb. 5, 1970, in Kansas City, Missouri, born to the union of Dwight and Linda (Burrous) McKinney. He was raised in Horton, Kansas, and was a 1989 graduate of Horton High School. In 1996, he graduated from Climate

Control Institute in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with a degree in HVAC and was most recently employed by Multi-Craft Contractors in Lowell, Arkansas. He resided several years in Northwest Arkansas before moving to Noel, Missouri, in 2017. He enjoyed his Harley and shooting guns. He was excited about being a *Misho* (meaning Grandfather) and was patiently awaiting the arrival of his first granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dwight, and a daughter, Mykala McKinney.

Michael is survived by his wife of 31 years, Mrs. Gina McKinney; three sons, Dakota Bradford of Madison, Florida, William McKinney of San Diego, California, and Johnathan McKinney and Marissa, of Noel; his mother, Linda McKinney of Colorado Springs, Colorado; a sister, Teva McKinney; niece, Mayson McKinney, also of Colorado Springs; as well as a host of other family and friends that he loved dearly.

A visitation was held on Saturday morning, Sept. 4, 2021, at the Anderson Chapel of the Ozark Funeral Homes. Online condolences may be sent to the family through ozarkfuneralhome.com.

Christina Arlene Fritchman
Hurd Family



Christian Arlene Fritchman of Shawnee, Oklahoma, passed away April 10, 2023.

Christina was born on April 14, 1935, in Hoyt, Kansas. She married Bill Fritchman in 1952. They had five daughters, Sondra, Vickie, Rhonda, Betty and Gail; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

She is predeceased by her husband, Bill, and daughter, Rhonda.

She loved life and enjoyed seeing her daughters and grandchildren.

A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

Stephen Randall Dunham
Milot Family



Stephen (Steve) Randall Dunham, 62, went to be with Jesus on March 11, 2023.

He was born on Oct. 23, 1960, to Bill and Margaret Dunham in Borger, Texas. He was preceded in death by his father, Bill, and infant brother, Curtis Lee.

Steve is survived by his wife, Tammy Dunham of Borger; his mother, Margaret Dunham of Borger; a sister, Mickey Dunham of Amarillo, Texas; and a brother, Billy

Dunham, and wife, Karla, of Fritch, Texas. He is also survived by two nephews, one niece, three stepchildren and nine grandchildren that knew him as "PaPa Steve."

Steve married the love of his life, Tammy, in May of 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Steve has two small dogs he adored named Lola and Mia.

Steve was a NRA-certified chief safety range officer and a gunsmith and enjoyed traveling on his Harley Davidson TriGlide.

He graduated from Borger High School in 1979 and worked for Phillips Petroleum for 30 years in the instrument shop and operations.

Steve was a member of New Life Baptist Church in Borger and the chaplain for Sons of Thunder International motorcycle club. He was also a conservative patriot.



Hau ndenwémagnek
Ho my relatives

Ébyé yak shote gnom
We have come here today

Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma
To lay our brother to rest

Ngom she épam sét ode
Today he walks

Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek
Among those who have passed on

I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngenwen
That is why we offer this song

Émno shketot wa je zhyat ibe shpemsegok
That his journey will go well where he goes above

Iw énaj moyan
That's all I have to say

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

By Don Perrot

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

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

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1601 S Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801

hownikan@potawatomi.org or 800-880-9880

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