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Tribe's newest
enterprise opens

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Barrett receives
community
recognition

Lively Hope
Farm is ready
for the future



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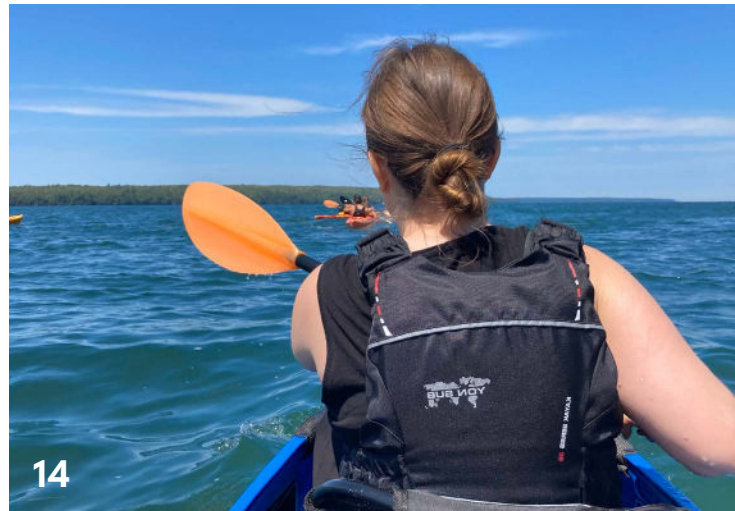
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Accounting Department earns praise

For the 34th consecutive year, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Accounting Department received the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The Nation's annual financial report received the certificate. The GFOA award honors governments who achieve excellence in financial reporting through comprehensive and transparent accounting practices, according to the GFOA.

"We're the only tribe that I'm aware of to have received this many consecutive awards," said CPN Chief Financial Officer Mary Chisholm. "It is kind of nice to walk down the hall and just see the volume" of GFOA awards.

Chisholm believes the achievement says the Nation is thriving under its consistent leadership.

"We've been able to maintain that consistency for three plus decades now. That's a long time," she said. "I think it also says a lot about the quality of staff that we have to maintain that consistency."

The GFOA uses a very lengthy checklist on how financial data is to be presented for many different criteria. The report also addresses the relationships between Tribal government entities.

Financial reporting rules and regulations change over time, so the accounting staff must stay on top of the changes. CPN maintains a high level of quality in spite of the complex nature of the financial report, she said.

"They're the best staff. I'm very proud of every one of them. They all do their part. It takes all of us doing our part to put out a good report every year that can win this certificate. If that quality of staff wasn't here and present and doing

their job, it would be a whole lot more difficult when it came time to put everything together into this," she said.

As the Nation has grown and continues to respond to the coronavirus pandemic and the management of the American Rescue Plan Act funds, the process to put together the annual report becomes more complicated.

Chisholm does not expect the focus on ARPA to change anytime soon.

"Even in fiscal year '23, we just recently received ARPA funding. Until that wanes and we're able to put that funding to good use, there is not any 'return to normal,'" she said. "I think it's still at the top of our mind whether it be in reporting, in how things can be spent and just the details in the inner workings of those funds. And we still have a number of years to complete that."

Chisholm and her department will continue to maintain their high standards.

"It's always exciting to get notice that we've received the certificate. Again, I wouldn't say that it's expected, but we do everything in our power to make sure that we keep it. If we make excellence the normal day to day, then this is just a normal day to day," she said.

The GFOA established the award in 1945 to encourage state and local governments to excel beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare annual comprehensive financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal.

For more information, visit gfoa.org/awards. 🔥

AISES STEM SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) offers a wide range of opportunities for Native American students and professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields — scholarships, conferences, mentorship programs, internships and a leadership summit.

Students can create a general scholarship application account and get matched with specific funding opportunities. Most application periods are open through May 31, and letters of recommendation are due June 7. Students will be notified of their award status through August and September.

FIND MORE INFORMATION AND APPLY AT [CPN.NEWS/AISESFUNDS](https://cpn.news/AISESFUNDS)

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Department of Education supports a CPN AISES chapter, open to those passionate about STEM or STEM education!

Join *Shkodedeajek* (Those Who Carry Fire in Their Hearts) AISES:

Email education@potawatomi.org or join the Facebook group (cpn.news/AISESFB)



Barrett receives community recognition

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett recently received recognition from two Oklahoma organizations.

Barrett will share his leadership and expertise by serving as a director on the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and Gaylord-Pickens Museum board. His term began in January.

Barrett was inducted into the Shawnee Educational Foundation's Hall of Fame on March 21. The SEF Hall of Fame honors former students of a Shawnee-area school who have made significant contributions to education.

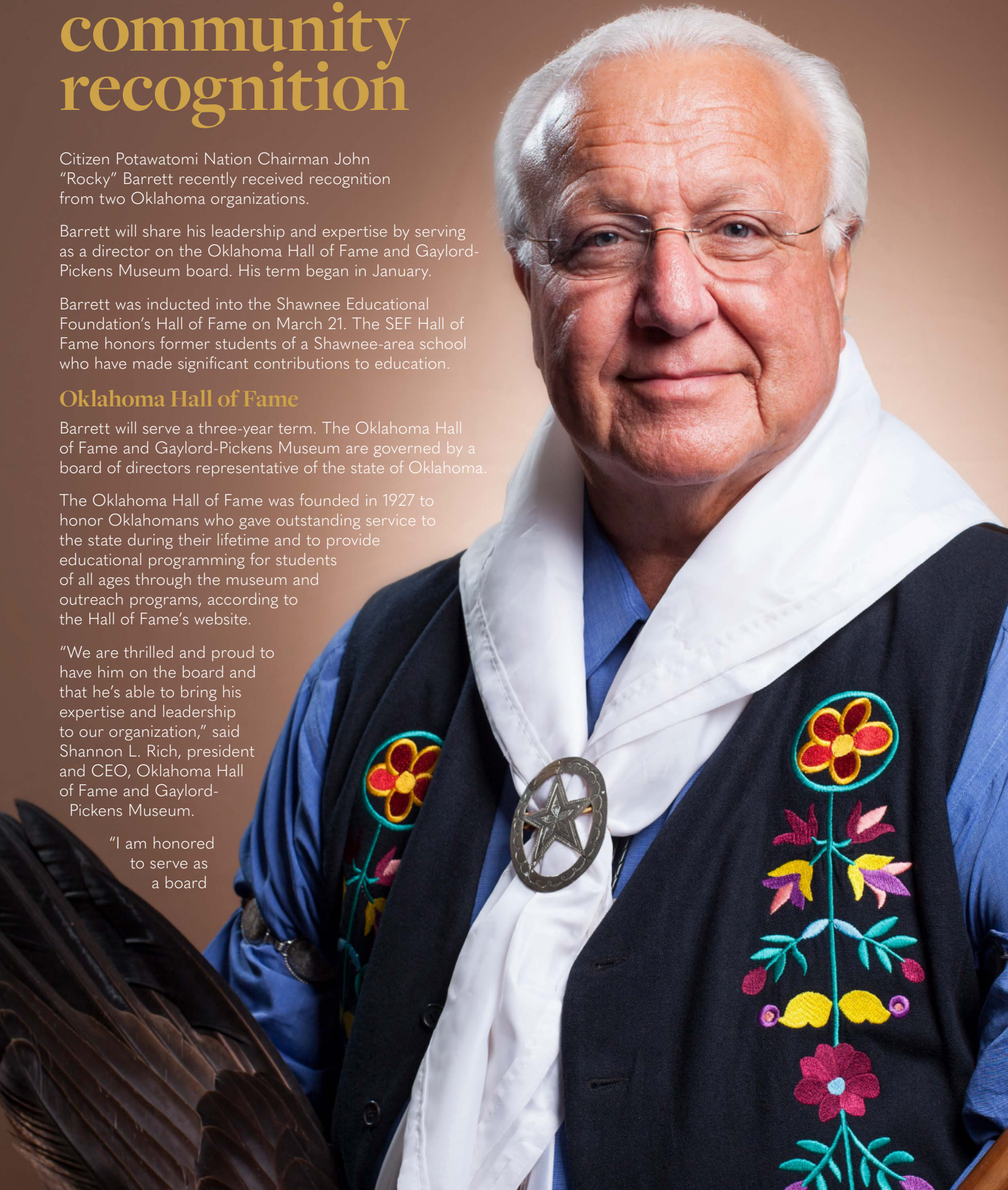
Oklahoma Hall of Fame

Barrett will serve a three-year term. The Oklahoma Hall of Fame and Gaylord-Pickens Museum are governed by a board of directors representative of the state of Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame was founded in 1927 to honor Oklahomans who gave outstanding service to the state during their lifetime and to provide educational programming for students of all ages through the museum and outreach programs, according to the Hall of Fame's website.

"We are thrilled and proud to have him on the board and that he's able to bring his expertise and leadership to our organization," said Shannon L. Rich, president and CEO, Oklahoma Hall of Fame and Gaylord-Pickens Museum.

"I am honored to serve as a board



member for the Oklahoma Hall of Fame,” Barrett said. “Potawatomi families were among the first people to establish homes in 1873 in then-Indian Territory. Indigenous history is Oklahoma history. I am pleased to support the Oklahoma Hall of Fame’s mission of telling Oklahoma’s story through its people.”

Through exhibits and experiences at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame preserves Oklahoma’s unique history and promotes pride in the state.

“The key mission of our organization is to tell Oklahoma stories through its people, and we do that by recognizing our inductee class every year at the annual induction ceremony and recognize incredible Oklahomans that way,” said Michelle Sopp, director of marketing and communications for the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

With Barrett’s executive experience and long-time support of educational endeavors, Sopp believes the board found a perfect fit.

“He is joining a board of directors of more than 60 people from across the state of Oklahoma. The people on our board represent a variety of backgrounds and industries working as business professionals, civic leaders and philanthropists,” Sopp said.

In addition to leadership, the board members are an important resource for the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and Gaylord-Pickens Museum through their program engagement and participation as well as their wide varieties of knowledge and expertise.

“We know Chairman Barrett strongly supports education,” Sopp said. “He’s been instrumental in the growth of Citizen Potawatomi Nation over the past many decades. His leadership and expertise in governance is probably something we’ll tap into a bit with him. (Board members are) a sounding board for everything we do here at the organization.”

Barrett started his three-year term in January. If he chooses, he can opt for a second term. The organization hopes Barrett opts for the additional time, allowing their board and organization to fully benefit from his leadership.

Board members are selected and personally asked to serve, Sopp said.

“It is a personal ask that we make to different people from across the state. We look for diversity in all aspects of race, creed, backgrounds, professions, because we really want to make sure that when we make decisions as an organization, we are taking into account so many different considerations from all different viewpoints,” she said.

Barrett’s long tenure with CPN, and his vast experience in key tribal leadership positions was what the Oklahoma Hall of Fame was looking for.

“With Chairman Barrett, he is the longest serving (CPN) leader. He has such a diverse history of experience with the Nation. I know that that was a key factor with asking him to come onto the board this year,” Sopp said.

CPN and Barrett are long-time supporters of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, and he joins other Oklahoma tribal leaders on the board of directors, including Chief Gary Batton of the Choctaw Nation and Gov. Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation.

“I think adding Chairman Barrett rounds out a very diverse group that is so connected. The tribes are such an integral part of Oklahoma and so connected across the state. I know Chief Batton has helped make so many connections with key people for us. I really look forward to working with Chairman Barrett in that aspect,” Sopp said.

Chairman Barrett recently made an appearance on the *This is Oklahoma* podcast, sponsored by the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Host Mike Hearne interviews Oklahomans who have had an impact on the state through history, culture, education, government and business.

The *This is Oklahoma* podcast episode featuring Chairman Barrett can be found through the Oklahoma Hall of Fame’s website or podcast providers such as Apple or Google.

To learn more about the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and Gaylord-Pickens Museum, visit oklahomahof.com.

SEF Hall of Fame

Chairman Barrett was also honored by a Shawnee group that provides crucial financial support to area teachers and students. The Shawnee Educational Foundation inducted Barrett into its Hall of Fame.

Barrett is a graduate of Shawnee High School. Under his tenure, CPN created its Department of Education in 2016, which provides college and career support to Tribal members across the country.

He was also instrumental in developing the Potawatomi Leadership Program. Held annually, the PLP educates, informs and encourages qualified Potawatomi students to develop a greater understanding of Tribal operations, history and culture.

The SEF noted Barrett’s support of local education as part of his philosophy that “a rising tide lifts all boats,” including both the Nation and Pottawatomie County.

The Shawnee Educational Foundation is a volunteer board formed in 1989. The group raises money through an annual banquet to fund teacher and site grants in the Shawnee area. The grants support innovative classroom activities that benefit students in Shawnee Public Schools, Grove School, Pleasant Grove School and South Rock Creek School. SEF also awards scholarships to graduating seniors. To learn more, visit shawneeducationalfoundation.org. 🔥

Hayes makes her mark in girls' wrestling, qualifies for state

Tecumseh (Oklahoma) High School student Vivian Hayes wrestles in a tournament, earning a fourth-place regional finish and qualifying for state her sophomore year. (Photo provided)

Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Vivian Hayes, a member of the Bourassa Family, is new to high school wrestling, but she has already begun to make her mark in the sport.

Hayes, a 16-year-old sophomore who lives in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, said she first took an interest in wrestling during her freshman year at Tecumseh High School.

"I got interested by one of my close friends," Hayes said. "She convinced me to go to practice."

Hayes began wrestling that year but said she focused on other sports during the summer. However, she "put it over everything" her sophomore year because her first season had not gone as well as she wanted.

"I started to stay after practice and practice with our middle school and go to other school rooms and clubs when I could," she said. "My love and motivation grew as my success grew."

Her work paid off, and during her sophomore year, she placed fourth in her weight class at Girls East Regional Tournament in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. Hayes and fellow Tecumseh sophomore Trinity Rakestraw both qualified for state at that tournament.

It was the first time Tecumseh female wrestlers qualified to go to state under a regional format.

"It makes me proud to know we did something no one else from this school had done before," Hayes said, adding that she would love to see more girls in the program.

Though she confessed she dealt with a lack of confidence in herself at times during the season, she said winning her first match at regionals helped.

"It was like a confidence boost. The whole time, I just knew I needed to give it my all no matter what to get where I wanted to be," said Hayes.

She focuses on pushing herself to place at state and even becoming state champion.

"Overall, I just want to be the best wrestler I can be and never cut myself short," she said.

Hayes also plays varsity for Tecumseh's fast-pitch and slow-pitch softball teams. Her parents, Mike and Casey Hayes, are happy for her and proud of her work ethic.

"The fact that she's not afraid of the work speaks volumes about her," Mike said. "She's learned from a very young age with fast-pitch that if you put in the work, you'll see results."

The fast-pitch team was runner-up at state both years Hayes has played, and the slow-pitch team qualified for state Hayes' freshman year. 🔥

New train brings opportunities to Iron Horse

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's new switch engine locomotive arrived in February, and the equipment brings with it opportunity for further economic growth and expansion at the Tribe's Iron Horse Industrial Park.

Director of Economic Development Dr. Jim Collard said the train assists in the daily operation of the transloading facilities at Iron Horse, moving rail cars from the park to different businesses. (Transloading, he explained, is moving product between truck and rail.)

"Our transloading facility will serve customers for the entire region that may need to have containers come in on rail or go out on rail," he said.

The new switch engine, in addition to moving train cars around the industrial park, will also connect the cars to the Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad (A-OK), a short-line operator that runs the track from Shawnee, Oklahoma, to Oklahoma City. From there, A-OK will move cars on to Union Pacific Railroad.

The engine will also bring cars with resin to CPN's Sovereign Pipe Technologies Company, SPT. Resin is the key ingredient in the pipes manufactured at SPT.

The person charged with moving the rail cars and working with the engine will be Transload Facility Manager Randy Story.

Story said they originally intended to buy an "overgrown tug." However, they were able to find a 1954 switch

engine in the Tulsa-Sapulpa Union Railway Yard in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. The railyard offered to refurbish the engine for the Tribe as well as teach Story and other CPN employees how to use it. It cost less than purchasing an overgrown tug, and, Story added, the switch engine pulls more loaded rail cars.

"They're made for disconnecting and connecting really quickly and being able to move cars around in the yard pretty quickly," Story said of switch engines.

"It helps Randy maneuver more cargo at the same time," Administrative Research Analyst Vedrana Milakovic said. "Because it's a stronger engine, it can operate bigger volume."

Refurbishing the engine

The coronavirus pandemic delayed the refurbishing process. What was originally supposed to take 90 days ended up taking almost a year.

One of the advantages, however, was how much the Tribe was able to customize the engine. The Iron Horse logo is on the front of the train, and several CPN employees were involved with the design.

Collard called the engine "beautiful" and "distinctive." It features the Nation's seal as well as the Tribal colors of red, white, yellow and black.

Continued on page 9



Linda, the new switch engine locomotive, arrived at CPN's Iron Horse Industrial Park in February. The train will help further economic growth in the region.

Community Baby Shower draws largest crowd yet

The Grand Casino Hotel & Resort Event Center, outside Shawnee, Oklahoma, was filled with families as Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Workforce Development & Social Services Department hosted the sixth Community Baby Shower Tuesday, March 7.

The event was open to anyone pregnant or with children up to the age of 3, including grandparents raising their grandchildren, foster parents and guardians.

The number of attendees has fluctuated through the years — usually around 750, except during the pandemic in 2021 when a drive-thru shower served 350 families. Stephanie D. McElfresh, a counselor for Safe and Stable Families Homemakers Services, said this year drew a crowd of around 1,100, about 45 percent of whom came from a Native American household.

"Every year, it has grown (except for 2021 during the pandemic), and I am excited to say this year's numbers were the highest," said Kym Coe, internship and project coordinator for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education.

The Community Baby Shower offered families a chance to take classes, learn about available services and even walk away with some free items.

Some of the day's booths included:

- Pottawatomie County Health Department offering vaccinations
- Sooner Success offering vouchers for caregivers
- CPN Health and Benefits helping families sign up for SoonerCare
- Gateway to Recovery and Prevention handing out medicine lock boxes
- CPN Workforce Development & Social Services helping Native families apply for assistance

Mary Simms, the children's department supervisor with the Shawnee Public Library, helped with the Pioneer Library System booth. To promote the library's Growing Like a Read (GLAR) program, attendees received free literacy bags with items such as board books and tips for reading to children. Families also learned how to sign up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, where children ages 1 through 5 receive a book each month through the mail.

"It's just great to promote the wonderful signature service programs that we have at the library, and we have so many that are considered early literacy and school readiness. We're just so excited to be here," Simms said.

Outside, Bonnie Simons, a voucher specialist for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Child

Development Center, distributed 300 available car seats to families that needed them.

"We have the option that they can take it with them, or they can have them professionally installed," she said. "We handed out all sorts of paperwork to show safety and the right car seats for the right ages."

A chance to learn

This year, the event offered classes about music and story time with the Shawnee Public Library as well as infant CPR, perinatal mood and anxiety disorder (PMADS), vaping 101, safe sleep and fire safety.

Those who attended classes could put their name in drawings for a changing table, crib, trundle bed, glider, messaging recliner and other items.



Families line up at the Community Baby Shower to learn about resources available to them.

"Each participant walked away with a goodie bag that had nail clippers, sensory balls, children's vitamins and so much more," McElfresh said. "We had some items that were donated from Feed the Children as well as other businesses throughout the community."

Danielle Rains and Taylor Bivings, through the Drug Free Communities Grant with Gateway to Prevention and Recovery, taught the informational session about vaping.

Rains said Bivings showed attendees one of their awareness campaigns that included a mock teen bedroom where they hid products to show how many are designed to look like everyday items, such as Juul products that look like USB drives.

"We got into secondhand and thirdhand exposure, especially for young children, toddlers, babies, pregnant women," she said. "We talked about some emerging trends."

Bivings said they also discussed the chemicals in vaping aerosol and the dangers of nicotine, including what to do if a child gets into nicotine products.

Resources for parents

Stephanie Oldham attended the baby shower for the first time this year. Though she did not attend any classes — she said it is difficult with three children along — she found the event helpful.

“It gave me a lot of resources,” she said. “We’re trying to get some tutoring, and it offered some stuff for that. And I have a friend who has a special needs child, so it let me get some information for her since she wasn’t able to come today.”

Lacey Buettner, a CPN tribal member from Moore, Oklahoma, said she has attended three times and gotten “so much information and guidance.”

When she thought one of her children had gotten into some dangerous products, she had a magnet on her refrigerator from attending before, and she used that information to know what to do and get the number for Poison Control.

“This whole thing has been great for people that may not get this information elsewhere,” she said. “I really appreciate it.”

The common good

McElfresh said the event gives the community a chance to come together for the common good.

“The Community Baby Shower may be giving a family that may not have a support system the resources that are offered in the community. It also gives some families a baby shower that may not receive one due to the lack of family support,” she said.

Coe still remembers the first baby shower she helped organize. A teary mother hugged her and thanked her after winning a crib, and Coe looked around at the vendors and volunteers that made it possible.

“Every year, it has grown, and I am so blessed that CPN, along with many other organizations, has the means to have an event like this,” she said. “Seeing families so very thankful for the prizes and, more importantly, the tools they are provided at this event. This is why we do it. At one point this year, I looked around and saw so many families visiting with all these different organizations, and my heart was so happy.”

For more information about community programs, visit the Workforce Development & Social Services page at cpn.news/WFSS. 🔥



paid for by Rocky Barrett

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

“The Seven Fires Prophecy teaches that a time will come when decisions must be made by the “New People”. They will retrace the steps of their elders to find what was left by the trail. They must carefully seek elders’ guidance. If the “New People” remain strong in their quest, the Midewiwin Lodge will again sound its voice and a rebirth of the Nation and the rekindling of the Sacred Fire will happen. I believe the “New People” are here. The young tribal members are looking for their beginnings in the Tribe. I believe they will find those roots and the Tribe will be reborn and made strong. Life is change. And change we will. But the Tribe, its customs and traditions will live on forever like a beating heart.”

Veterans Report

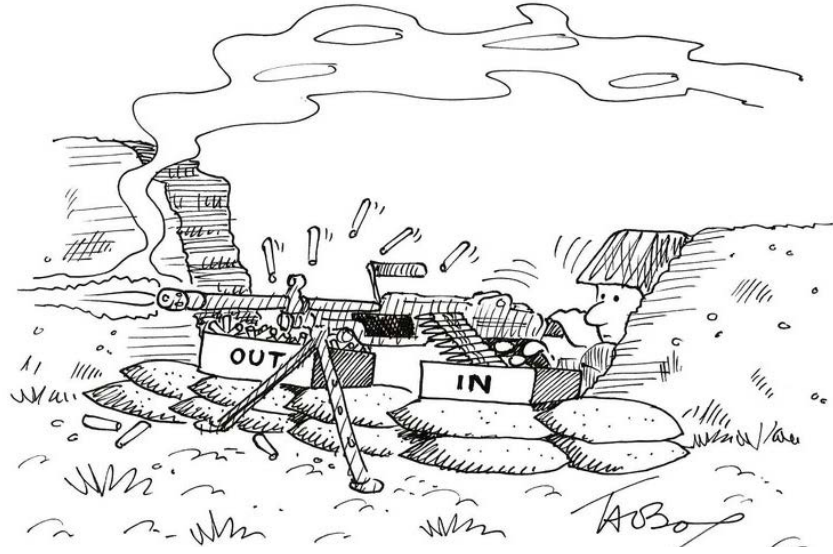
Bozho (Hello),

This has already turned out to be a busy year, and more people are becoming actively interested in the CPN Veterans Organization. There has been an awakening of the public to remembering and thanking veterans on the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Tell them, "Thank you and welcome home!"

I receive a lot of calls and emails from CPN veterans and their families asking for help with various issues they may have about veterans' benefits — mainly health care. The Veterans Administration has an awareness campaign spreading the word about new benefits. I, myself, use the VA for many of my health needs and I receive friendly and very capable care. The VA's Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is working to inform and ensure that veterans, their families, caregivers or survivors know about the expanded care and benefits. There is a primary effort to inform veterans and their families of the expanded access to VA benefits regarding veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances.

This includes more than 20 new presumptive conditions related to exposure to burn pits, Agent Orange and other substances. While there is no deadline to file a claim under the PACT Act, do not wait to file a claim. If you apply for benefits before Aug. 10, 2023, and are granted "service-connection" for your condition, your benefits may be backdated to Aug. 10, 2022. I hope this information is helpful to you veterans and your families.

Remember, our monthly meeting of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization is the fourth



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

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



I JOINED THE MARINES BECAUSE THIS RECRUITER ASKED ME! NOBODY EVER ASKED ME TO JOIN ANYTHING BEFORE!



**DAVID BARRETT
DISTRICT 10**

**SEEKING
EXCELLENCE
FOR THE
NATION**

PAID FOR BY DAVID BARRETT

Train continued...

"You should have seen it before," Story said. He added that while it looked rough before the refurbishment, underneath it was "really solid," and with the refurbishment, it "could last another 100 years."

The money for the engine and refurbishments came from part of a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.

"It didn't come from Tribal money," he said. "It was hard work to get grants. It didn't cost us a dime."

Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett named the train, choosing "Linda" after Vice-Chairman Linda Capps.

"We name all our heavy equipment," Collard said. "Since the switch engine is the most important, it needed to be named correctly."

Opening opportunities

Collard said the switch engine provides the Tribe the opportunity to develop a campaign to advertise the transloading facility and use it as an incentive to anyone considering locating their business in the industrial park.

"A big thing is that we're privileged to have our own rail, which makes us more like a yard," Milakovic said. "We can have Randy working it rather than an engineer, and we can make our own decisions."

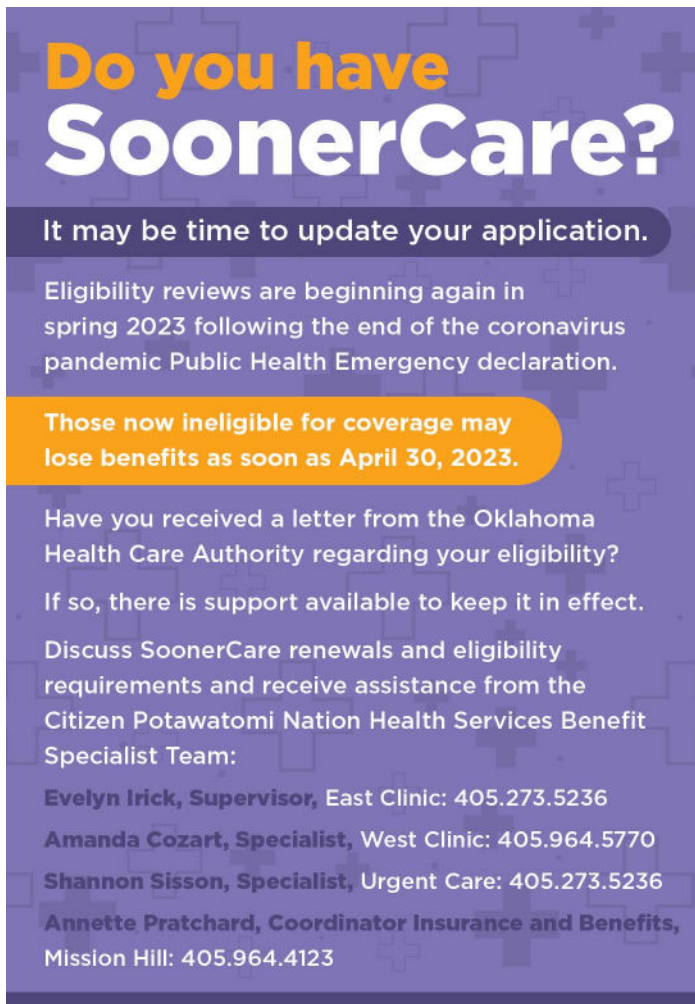
Though they are still building rail lines throughout the park, the ability to move train cars in, out and around the park with the switch engine is a big step.

"It's bringing wealth to the entire region," Collard said — not just to CPN, but also to Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma and many of the towns in the area.

"And well-paying jobs out there, too," Milakovic said.

When it comes to Iron Horse itself, Collard said that though it is small, it has "a really solid foundation, and it's not going to be shaken off that foundation. It will only expand."

For more information about Iron Horse Industrial Park, visit ironhorsecpn.com or on LinkedIn. 🔥



Do you have SoonerCare?

It may be time to update your application.

Eligibility reviews are beginning again in spring 2023 following the end of the coronavirus pandemic Public Health Emergency declaration.

Those now ineligible for coverage may lose benefits as soon as April 30, 2023.

Have you received a letter from the Oklahoma Health Care Authority regarding your eligibility? If so, there is support available to keep it in effect.

Discuss SoonerCare renewals and eligibility requirements and receive assistance from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services Benefit Specialist Team:

Evelyn Irick, Supervisor, East Clinic: 405.273.5236
Amanda Cozart, Specialist, West Clinic: 405.964.5770
Shannon Sisson, Specialist, Urgent Care: 405.273.5236
Annette Pratchard, Coordinator Insurance and Benefits, Mission Hill: 405.964.4123



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Potawatomi Fire on KGFF Radio

POTAWATOMI FIRE

KGFF.com

KGFF Radio is a Broadcast Service of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Wellness Center offers employees holistic health

National Employee Health and Fitness Day is May 17, 2023. However, any day is a good day to start a personal health and wellness routine, according to the director of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Wellness Center.

Whether someone is starting from scratch, or they are an experienced fitness enthusiast, Leslie Cooper said the CPN Wellness Center is ready to help Tribal employees meet their fitness goals.

Contrary to many people's beliefs, the Wellness Center is not strictly for bodybuilding or creating muscle but offers several options to improve overall wellness.

"You can come in the gym, and you can get in the pool and water walk. You can do an aerobics class. You can walk on the track. You can ride the bike," Cooper said.

The staff helps employees who are overcoming health challenges, recovering after an injury or improving their balance and coordination. As we age, coordination and balance become even more important, she said. Gaining muscle strength and becoming stronger can help reduce the risk of falling.



Leslie Cooper, director of the FireLake Wellness Center

Stress

Physical activity can help relieve stress, something most people experience daily, Cooper said. Even a light workout like walking offers benefits to the entire body.

"When you exercise, it increases blood flow, (which helps) your cardiovascular system work more efficiently. It's going to take oxygen to the muscle tissue to help relieve any type of muscle soreness that you might

get. The more physically active you are, the more you increase the blood flow through your whole entire body, which is going to send extra oxygen and nutrients to the rest of the muscle tissue," she said.

During exercise, the body also releases endorphins, hormones that increase feelings of well-being.

"If you feel good, you're going to perform better. You're going to be in a better mood. You're going to sleep better," she said.

In addition to exercise options, the Wellness Center has a space where people can take a few minutes to decompress. The room is a quiet space where employees can read available books, color in a stress-reducing coloring book or just sit quietly and gather their thoughts.

"There are a lot of people struggling with mental health issues right now. I'm proud that we have a decompressing room, and any employee has access to it," Cooper said.

Motivation

After work and school, finding the motivation to exercise can be challenging. The right mindset can counter the urge to stay on the sofa, Cooper said.

"I know it's tough. If you don't feel like getting out or you can't get out, there are things you can do at home," she said. "You can do squats while you're folding laundry, you can do calf raises while you're washing the dishes, things like that. Together, we can try to figure out what we need to do to help you."

If working out on a particular day proves impossible, Cooper urges people to find the right balance. Skipping one workout may be necessary, but recommitting to a fitness routine the next day is important.

"If you fall off the horse, you just get right back on," she said.

Cooper and the Wellness Center staff are available for questions, even if people usually work out at a different facility.

"Just because you don't use our gym doesn't mean that we still can't help you develop a program that's going to make exercising easier and convenient for you," she said. "We'll be more than happy to help anybody develop a workout program, whether it's at another gym, your home or even in your office."

New challenges

If an employee already has an established fitness routine, but they are hoping to find a new challenge, Cooper said the Wellness Center can help design a new routine.

"We have trainers that are certified in different areas, and they have different skills and expertise. If you're ready to move to the next level, there are trainers who can help you get there," she said.

The Wellness Center staff have expertise in high-intensity interval training, strength and conditioning, boxing, balance and cardio. They help guide employees on mechanics and proper techniques. They can also help clients who have a medical condition or previous injury affecting their ability to exercise.

"I think what makes us a little bit different than a lot of places, too, is we're all approachable," Cooper said. "We want people to enjoy coming to the gym and feel like they can accomplish anything."

Collaboration

Cooper and the Wellness Center staff often find they are a sounding board for employees.

"We love for people to feel like they can come to us and talk to us about personal issues or something going on in their lives," she said. "We try to be that outlet other than just being a place for people to come exercise. We also like to work on that wellness side of it with them, too, because there's more to a person than just being fit."

They often collaborate with CPN Health Services to help employees find the resources they need.

"We try to be the support for people and be there when they need us. The Nation has so many great resources for people. If we can't help them, we can at least point them in the right direction or get them in contact with somebody that can help them," Cooper said.

Success

Cooper enjoys getting to know people and finding out what motivates them. She draws inspiration from the late Pat Summitt, the legendary University of Tennessee women's basketball coach.



Many CPN employees start personal health and wellness routines at FireLake Wellness Center.

"She said, 'You win with people.' That is so true because you have to develop the person first. You have to learn who the person is before you can help them. And when you do that, you invest in them, and you give them what they need to conquer their next goal," Cooper said.

Learn more about the Wellness Center's hours and services at cpn.news/wellness. 🔥



Freedom to Dream

As your bank, Sovereign Bank strives to provide the best banking services to all members of Citizen Potawatomi Nation. It's more than your money. It's your quality of life.

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District 10 election candidates Q&A

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



David Barrett Incumbent

How can CPN better serve and engage its Tribal members?

Communication is the number one issue for Native American tribes and we are no exception either. I feel that good communication done properly will unite and engage our Nation in ways that our membership will react and respond

to, only if there are two way conversations and information flowing back and forth in a timely manner. Building our Nation with this communication leadership, you can attract capable leader who seek to promote the Nation's welfare.

Describe what in your life has made you appreciate your CPN heritage.

Belonging to something bigger than you "CPN", it is possible that a person can accomplish more admirable goals for your life's purpose. Being a Christian, a Barrett, a Navy Veteran and from the Bourassa Potawatomi family has been and still is a great honor. Look how our ancestors had shown their courage to endure, their willingness to be warriors, their entrepreneurship even while the U.S. Government tried to wipe out our identity by blood degrees. How can you not be so proud to call yourself a Potawatomi with upmost respect of being a part of descendants of a Powerful Legacy?

What kind of future do you envision for the Nation?

The future of our Nation will endure as we have always but we must stay the course on making sound investments. Our greatness will be in strategic planning of knowing in advance where our revenue streams are coming from and that we will have accountability on all expenditures. I see by asserting good decisions that our future will continue to be a strong, healthy and prosperous Nation.

What do you think is the most difficult thing for CPN members who may live in Oklahoma but may feel disconnected from the Tribe? How can you as legislators help with that?

The Oklahoma legislators do not have area meetings with their membership due to there being 8 Legislators that represent the whole State not divided in areas. Getting all 8 hasn't been done. It's not on my

part for not trying. But what I have been able to accomplish is for those who inform me with questions or problem, I will seek out the answers and/or assist in directing them in other avenues. Sometimes it's what they want to hear and not so for others.

Charles Scott Challenger

How can CPN better serve and engage its Tribal members?

Communication is key to how we serve and engage Tribal members. We can accomplish this by better utilizing Social media and our Tribal Portal. Allowing members to engage elected officials and allowing elected officials respond. While paper print is good, the next generations communicate through various electronic media.

Describe what in your life has made you appreciate your CPN heritage.

Being Potawatomi is who I am. One thing is how learning our language has inspired me to see the world differently, thru Indian eyes. To be a role model, to be a mentor, to give back to our Tribe so that we can carry on our culture, our heritage and find ways to support our tribe thru various businesses.

What kind of future do you envision for the Nation?

I see progress as we grow. Our Chairman and other elected officials have laid a very solid foundation for us to build on. I do think it is time for our older leaders to step aside and trust the next generation to lead and grow our tribe and to provide the support we need. Let the seed corn you planted show you that we are ready and capable to lead our Tribe.

What do you think is the most difficult thing for CPN members who may live in Oklahoma but may feel disconnected from the tribe? How can you as legislators help with that?

Mostly members feel disconnected due to lack of culture and poor communication. We need mentorship programs and cultural/Language immersion. We need to return to our seasonal feasts, gatherings, District meetings and reorganize our Veterans Group. We need to be more inclusive and create programs that promote inclusivity, and we need to promote these programs in ways that reach the members.

Legislators are the example; we should be reaching out, meeting and encouraging members to actively participate in our culture.

If elected, I will do these things, I will work with the Executive to create and fund Cultural/Language Immersion. I will be the example of the Leader we ought to be.

District 11 election candidates Q&A

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



Andrew Walters
Incumbent

How can CPN better serve and engage its Tribal members?

By improving communication, pure and simple. Communication is by its very nature a two-way street. We must build a symbiosis between the Tribal Leaders and Members.

Without this path of communication, this engagement, we will continue to struggle with service, engagement, and participation. We need Oklahoma meetings with Legislators and Tribal Members outside of Heritage Celebration.

Describe what in your life has made you appreciate your CPN heritage.

Since I was a child, I knew who I was and what I was. My Mother would tell us the old stories and teach us customs. She sang us songs and assured that we understood we were Potawatomi and exactly what that meant. She instilled in us pride in being what we are and who we are.

What kind of future do you envision for the Nation?

The Seven fires Prophecy teaches that a time will come when decisions must be made by the "New People". They will retrace the steps of their elders to find what was left by the trail. They must carefully seek elders' guidance. If the "New People" remain strong in their quest, the Midewiwin Lodge will again sound its voice and a rebirth of the Nation and the rekindling of the Sacred Fire will happen. I believe the "New People" are here. The young tribal members are looking for their beginnings in the Tribe. I believe they will find those roots and the Tribe will be reborn and made strong. Life is change. And change we will. But the Tribe, its customs and traditions will live on forever like a beating heart.

What do you think is the most difficult thing for CPN members who may live in Oklahoma but may feel disconnected from the Tribe? How can you as legislators help with that?

The most difficult thing for those who feel disconnected is to reach out and touch their family here. Many feel embarrassed and un-privileged to participate in the culture. Some feel they have not "earned the privilege" to be Potawatomi. Being Potawatomi is a right. No one gives you permission. No one can grant you the privilege. It is their right to honor their ancestors, to honor their parents and family. We, as Legislators, must instill pride, trust, and honor in this Tribe.



Jay Laughlin
Challenger

How can CPN better serve and engage its Tribal members?

Communication is key. District meetings within the State of Oklahoma at different locations would help foster communication, incorporate traditions, build bonds and make connections. To help drive this

engagement, I will collaborate with our communications department to see how we can utilize technology to focus on issues and opportunities that receive the most attention from our citizens. Everyone's voice needs to be heard and everyone has something to offer.

Describe what in your life has made you appreciate your CPN heritage.

Looking back to my younger years, I often wonder why I didn't know that some of those kids that I had grown up with were also CPN citizen's. It really drives me to encourage programs with our youth that promote our heritage and build these bonds. Nowadays, I enjoy researching our history and culture, and meeting with friends and family at our Family Reunion Festival. I also really enjoy a traditional sweat and would like to bring more into the sweat lodge.

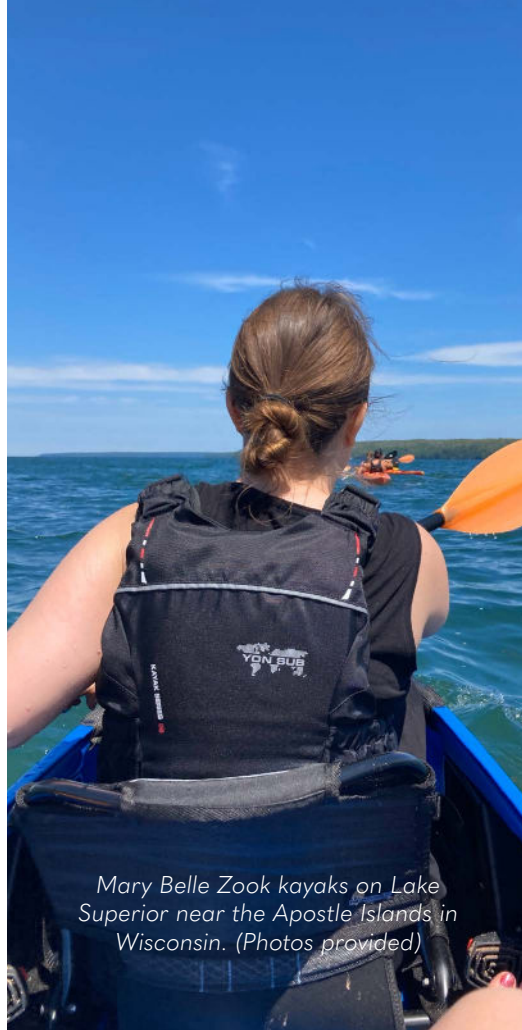
What kind of future do you envision for the Nation?

My vision is a Nation that is thriving with diversified business to promote, protect and foster our culture. I dream of a collaboration of our people coming together, bringing their ideas, skills, knowledge and passion to push the envelope in what this Nation can achieve. We must grow our business portfolio to continue our economic prosperity in order to protect and nurture our culture, identity and services.

What do you think is the most difficult thing for CPN members who may live in Oklahoma but may feel disconnected from the tribe? How can you as legislators help with that?

It's a challenge to stay connected when you're miles away. Work, family, and the day-to-day take up most of this time. We must leverage technology, culture, communication, and offer incentives to promote these much needed bonds. We all have a part. As your District 11 Legislator, I will promote initiatives that offer incentives for our citizens to learn our culture, language and heritage.

Reach out to me at jaylaughlin4cpn@gmail.com or Facebook @JayLaughlin4CPN to learn more. 🔥



Mary Belle Zook kayaks on Lake Superior near the Apostle Islands in Wisconsin. (Photos provided)



Communications specialist finds meaning as Indigenous farmers' voice

Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Mary Belle Zook spent her childhood on a farm in the Oklahoma panhandle, raising show animals and participating in the National FFA Organization. She graduated from Oklahoma State University with an agricultural communications degree in 2015.

"Growing up, I was very interested in ag law, and there was actually someone who came and presented on wind energy in Oklahoma and whether that was going to be a mineral right or land right. I geeked out on that," she said.

Now serving as the communications director for the Indigenous Food and Agricultural Initiative through the University of Arkansas School of Law, she brings together her skills, passions, agricultural background and Tribal heritage each day to help Native farmers and producers.

Agriculture as sovereignty

As part of the University of Arkansas School of Law, the IFAI works with Indigenous communities across the

country to help them establish and expand Tribal food systems as well as implement federally funded programs.

"We are the back office legal and policy nerds, so we have quite a few attorneys on staff and folks who love to read legislation and see how that's going to impact Indian Country. I kind of knew that that would be a good fit for me," Zook said.

They also work with the Native Farm Bill Coalition, which represents the interests of Native populations while working with the federal government to write and pass the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill outlines policy and funding on a national level for agriculture, including food assistance programs, natural resources and more under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Congress revisits it every five years.

According to Zook, the IFAI and Native Farm Bill Coalition hope to increase the number of provisions for Indian Country in the 2023 version of the law. The 2018 Farm Bill included 63 mentions that positively impact Tribes and Tribal producers.

"We are doing the research, getting in there and digging in deep and providing information to our partners who then can help equip tribal leaders and tribal producers with knowledge to help make a change. But our main goal is just to have a strong united voice in the Farm Bill," she said.

The IFAI also assists tribes wanting to write their own governmental food code, provides presentations on beginning a tribal agricultural program, offers training on various aspects of food production, assists food operation expansions and more — all with tribal sovereignty as a top priority.

"Communities are reclaiming their traditions, they're working with the federal government to find different ways of being able to implement their traditions into management practices," Zook said. "There's just a lot of momentum forward right now when it comes to food and agriculture and food sovereignty across Indian Country. And I think it's because we do have that mindset of the next seven generations. We do have that mindset of wanting to take care of all of our relations, not seeing any plant or animal as lower than us and actually being more intelligent than us."

Family and food

The Bourassa family descendant connected with her Native heritage later in life. Due to assimilation and forced relocation, many Citizen Potawatomi tell the same story of their exposure to Potawatomi culture. However, her career with the IFAI allows her to remain near CPN headquarters. Zook wants a different experience for her daughter, who gets exposure to *Bodéwadmimwen* (Potawatomi language) through the Tribe at 2 years old.

"She's been the first one in our family for generations to be able to do that at a young age," she said. "I'm just incredibly blessed that she's able to do that and that we're able to live here in Shawnee where the Tribe is."

Her job requires traveling to Indigenous communities across North America and includes opportunities to spend time on *Anishnabe* homelands around the Great Lakes. Zook had a "super powerful and meaningful" experience kayaking out on Lake Superior in 2022, and it made her think about her family's ancestral connections to the land and the sustenance it provides.

"As an *Anishnabe kwe* (woman), I'm thinking about, and other (Indigenous) folks are also thinking about, the past seven generations and the future seven generations. I want to be able to help leave this world better than what's been given to me. I want my daughter to be able to have clean water and food. I want my great-grandchildren to have that, too," Zook said.

She finds Indigenous people's ancestral connection to their homelands hard to explain but encourages Tribal members to experience it for themselves. She believes it can change someone's viewpoint on food, agriculture and resources.

"I just think as Indigenous people, we look at things a little bit differently than the rest of the world," Zook said. "And it's also been just incredible to get to go out to all of the different communities and learn about how they're doing things and some of their traditions and stories and knowledge that they have. And I think it's going to take all of that coming together to be able to survive in the future."

Across Indian Country

Zook's position presents the unique opportunity to visit Indigenous communities from coast to coast to see their agricultural operations, help them start new ones and understand how federal agricultural policy affects their efforts on the ground.

"Literally, I've seen more of this country than I have in my entire life in the past year. It's just been an incredible experience to be able to do that," she said.

IFAI assisted the Osage Nation in northeastern Oklahoma with writing tribal food code to meet the needs of Osage citizens, expand sovereignty and create economic opportunities.

"They're doing some incredible stuff with agriculture," Zook said. "They were able to open a meat processing facility in eight months from concept, to build, to opening the door, which is just absolutely unheard of. But having that tribal food code as a foundation is critical to helping tribes do things like what the Osage Nation did."

Visiting the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Wisconsin on the Red Cliff Reservation, she saw fishermen and women using vertical integration in their business model. They fish, process and sell their product from their own storefront, creating a market that directly serves their tribal members. Zook describes agricultural practices across Indian Country as "vibrant" and "flourishing in their own way."

"It's inspiring, though, because I'm seeing tribes that had those negative experiences that are now coming up with solutions so that if anything happens in the future, they're not in the same place because you cannot be truly sovereign if you cannot feed your people," she said.

As climate change affects more people and the human population increases, Zook finds hope in a new generation of Indigenous citizens working to feed everyone in healthy and sustainable ways with practices known to their people since their history began.

"Seeing people being able to enter into agriculture, having new farmers, new producers, people figuring out different ways to work together, reestablishing some of those traditional trade networks; it's just been incredible to see that and to know that we had a small part in that, just helping elevate voices and bring people together," she said.

Find out more about the Indigenous Food and Agricultural Initiative at indigenousfoodandag.com. 🔥

Elders share perspectives for Older Americans Month

May is Older Americans Month — a time to acknowledge the contributions of older individuals in their communities.

The *Hownikan* interviewed two Citizen Potawatomi elders about their role in the community and their advice for the younger generations.

Working for peers

Lyman Boursaw, now 90 years old, served in the U.S. Army as a young man.

“Regardless of what my brother says, I was not in the War of 1812,” Boursaw quipped. “I was in the Korean War.”

The Boursaw family descendant remains active in the CPN Veterans Organization and has carried the Eagle Staff for 20 years.

“It was an honor — quite an honor,” he said. “But I can’t make that many trips around the ceremony circle anymore. Last year, we did an abbreviated color guard, and this year, I think I’ll just have to watch.”

In the Army, Boursaw was a specialist for non-commissioned officers and trained on the 75-mm Skysweeper anti-aircraft artillery.

“When I went in the service, it was state of the art. When I got out of the service, it was obsolete,” he said. “Everything changes.”

Boursaw now lives in Rossville, Kansas, where he is regional housing manager for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

He was living 20 miles away in Topeka when the director of housing at the time showed him a vacant piece of ground and told him the Tribe was planning to build a community center and 20 duplexes, then asked Boursaw if he would manage it.

That space, today, holds the duplexes that make up the Rossville Elder Village, where Boursaw himself is a resident, and the community center, where his office is located.

“I live across the parking lot, 110 steps from the front door,” Boursaw said. “I count them every day.”

As regional housing manager, Boursaw rents and manages the community center and duplexes. In the village, he said the Tribe provides elders with housing, an affordable rent program and the Senior Support Network, where elders can receive assistance with medications, transportation to doctor’s appointments and more.

Boursaw said, in some ways, he thinks his age is an advantage in the work he does. He remembers when his mother lived in an assisted living facility with a director he described as young and very intelligent.

“But she had no experience of what the elders had gone through, or what they were going through at that time with all the computers and cell phones and internet and all the things that they did not comprehend,” he said. “So, I think being an elder does help in that way. And I believe taking care of our elders is also serving our Tribe.”

When asked about advice for the younger generation, Boursaw said, “My only advice is to take good care of the elders. They usually know a lot more than you think they do. Learn from the elders.”

And to his fellow Tribal veterans, he said, “We need more participation in the veterans group. Become active.”

Dancing at 80

At the age of 80, Tribal elder George Godfrey, from central Illinois, is still telling the story of the Citizen Potawatomi through dance.

“As much as I can,” he said. “There’s some physical limitations. I have to overcome those. If the temperature



Army veteran Lyman Boursaw, 90, carries the Eagle staff during the Grand Entry at Family Reunion Festival.



George Godfrey, 80, designs his regalia pieces to be as historically accurate as possible.

is too high, my cardiologist said no. So as long as it's 85 (degrees) and a little below, I'm OK."

Godfrey started dancing in 1988. At that time, he said, few Tribal members danced. He watched others dance and picked up pointers along the way, but much of what he did was just working on his own. Years later, he said, Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett spoke to Godfrey at a district meeting on the East Coast.

"I don't know if Rocky remembers saying this or not, but he mentioned that I had brought dancing back to the Tribe," Godfrey said.

Through research, especially viewing portraits of Potawatomi by artist George Winter and clothing displayed in museums, Godfrey designed and created historically accurate dance regalia — or as close as possible.

"I want to reflect only what is really historically Potawatomi because I use it as an educational venture as much as anything," he said.

A lot of thought goes into his dancing as well. Dancers should always reflect an animal or emotional aspect and should tell a story, he said.

In his dancing, he tries to incorporate four movements. The first is of a person who stands upright and proud. The next, he dances backwards, representing the story of a blind woman who, when being forcibly removed by the U.S. government, drew backward

when the person in front of her led her to a river, and she felt the water. The third is a swaying motion that represents a statement made when the Potawatomi were in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and an elder told an Army officer, "We feel like we're birds in a windstorm, and we don't know which bough to land on." The fourth and last movement is the return of the proud stance.

Dancing has become harder on Godfrey as he gets older, and he thinks he needs to "step back and let the younger people do their thing."

"When I see the young children, I'm very glad that they're taking their own view of dancing and are bringing that into their lives and into the life of the Tribe," he said.

But he also advised the younger generation when they dance to "realize that when they're in the dance arena, they're not to be thinking of themselves but be thinking of everybody."

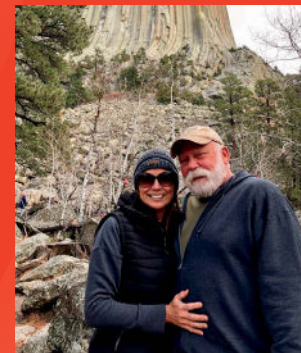
He also encouraged them to take the initiative to learn about their Tribe, who they are and where they came from.

You can see more about Godfrey and his regalia in CPN member Sharon Hoogstraten's book, *Dancing for Our Tribe: Potawatomi Tradition in the New Millennium*.

To learn more about the CPN Veterans Organization, visit cpn.news/CPNVeterans. 🔥

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



SOVEREIGN
PIPE TECHNOLOGIES



Tribe's newest enterprise opens

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's newest enterprise, Sovereign Pipe Technologies, manufactures a product that can help safeguard precious natural resources.

Ronnie Wear, chief executive officer and general manager, is leading the new venture and proud to be a part of Iron Horse Industrial Park.

"Our employees have the chance to be a part of something new and original," he said. "The Tribe's innovative thinking is making business more accessible in Oklahoma, and we look forward to leaning into this exciting endeavor."

Sovereign Pipe Technologies specializes in manufacturing high-density polyethylene piping ranging in diameter from less than 1 inch to 48 inches. HDPE pipe is used by a variety of industries, including oil and gas, municipal and sewer, industrial, mining, geothermal and telecommunications.

The 45,000-square-foot plant is the first business located in the Tribe's 700-acre Iron Horse Industrial Park. With a central location, SPT has direct access to both railways and highway systems, making it easier to conduct both domestic and international business.

Common uses

Jeremy Hohn, vice president of international sales and marketing, and Barb Donaldson, vice president of quality, said HDPE pipe is manufactured in a wide variety of sizes for different uses.

Water transfer and agricultural setting typically use smaller diameter piping. Mid-range sizes are used in the oil and energy sector. The larger sizes find their place in irrigation projects, sewer use and capturing freshwater runoff in mountainous areas.

"The piping that we are making is intended for 100-year use. It will go well beyond 100 years when it's installed. There isn't anything that's going to be going into waste, which we're super proud of. Our product is the best product in the world to be able to provide that infrastructure. It is completely leak free. It is environmentally friendly," Donaldson said.

Meeting infrastructure needs

Wear has spent the majority of his 20-year career in the pipe industry. He is proud SPT can have a positive

impact on the country's infrastructure needs. He expects that HDPE pipe will become the preferred medium in many industries as focus grows on replacing aging infrastructure and protecting natural resources like water.

"(Infrastructure) for the entire country is at a really critical point. We anticipate, worldwide, the need for plastic and pipe infrastructure to continue to rise over the next 20 to 30 years. And we're excited to be a part of that," Hohn said.

"As society experiences these scenarios where water is becoming more and more of a precious commodity, we have to have a pipe system and a pipe material that takes into consideration water loss and the magnitude to our society. Plastic pipe aligns very well with the CPN philosophy for having a green, carbon friendly business here in the industrial park."

Protecting natural resources

Wear, a Choctaw tribal citizen, said SPT's focus on environmental responsibility is one he shares as an Indigenous person. It is important to him that tribal values are upheld.

"One of the reasons I wanted to join the team here is the concept of why CPN is transitioning into manufacturing and the impact to (CPN) citizens. I'm excited what the business can do to support other programs and additional opportunities for the for the citizens in Pottawatomie County," Wear said.

As locations in the Western U.S. experienced a record drought followed by record rainfall this year, more municipalities are looking for ways to protect water during these events.

"There's a lot of projects in areas where they have a lot of that snow runoff, and they want to capture that really clean, fresh water in high volumes. With HDPE pipe, they can capture that and run it to many of the communities down in the valleys, because otherwise there's not a good way to transfer it efficiently," Hohn said.

"You're avoiding evaporation when you're in a closed system," Donaldson added. "So, you're not losing that precious water. We want to be able to make sure that we capture that and hold it and get it where it needs to go without losing any of it."

Hohn said HDPE pipe has advantages over materials like concrete, steel and ductile iron, and can address both aging infrastructure on the East Coast and water scarcity on the West Coast.

New employees

SPT's new employees will be working in manufacturing, quality control, shipping and receiving, and administrative capacities. Wear is proud of the benefits he can offer new hires, including health insurance and schedules with some flexibility.



(Left to right) Jeremy Hohn, vice president of international sales and marketing, Barb Donaldson, vice president of quality, and Ronnie Wear, CEO and general manager

"Our medical, dental and optical benefits for our employees is extremely competitive versus other employers in Pottawatomie County," Wear said. "We also have a very aggressive pay scale and a very attractive work schedule. We will be running 12-hour shifts, which is good because you have time off, and it allows you the flexibility with your family."

Local organizations and community groups from the greater Shawnee area have reached out and offered support, Wear said.

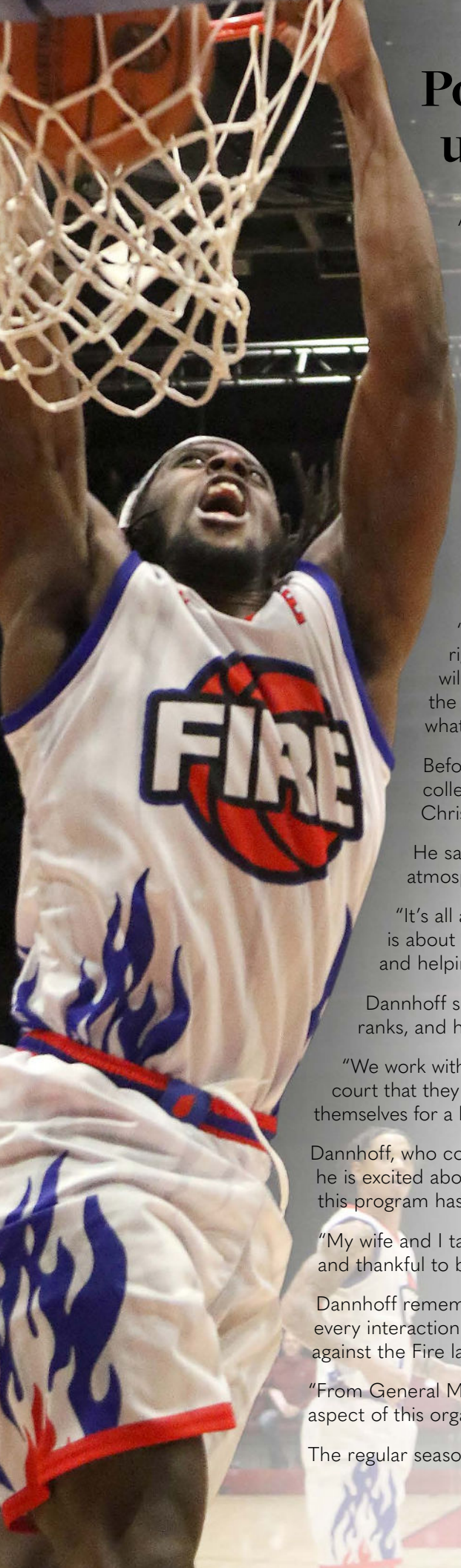
"We've been blown away by the support that we've received, not only from CPN, but also from everyone within Pottawatomie County," he said. "The local chamber of commerce and community groups are really helping us promote the business to people of Shawnee and the county. Our scope and our reach, we want it to be extensive in terms of building the team here and take that opportunity to find the best possible team members."

Wear eagerly shares the company's philosophy.

"We know about the importance of infrastructure and the importance of how we handle water and how we handle the different resources that our society uses. Our tagline for the organization is simple. It's 'We're building tomorrow's infrastructure today.'"

As each production line begins, Hohn expects SPT will continue to grow through the spring and should be fully staffed by the beginning of the summer.

For more information, connect with Sovereign Pipe Technologies on Twitter, LinkedIn or Facebook. To learn more about employment benefits or to apply for a position, visit potawatomi.org/jobs. 🔥



Potawatomi Fire turns the heat up during second season

After a solid first season in The Basketball League, the Potawatomi Fire continue to find significant success half-way through their second season.

The Fire stand atop the Central Division with a 19-3 record as of May 17. New Head Coach Mark Dannhoff and guards Deshawn Munson and Chuck Guy all took part in All-Star festivities at the beginning of April. As the team heads toward the playoffs, Coach Dannhoff said this year's Fire control their own destiny.

"How far we will go is up to the players," Dannhoff said. "We have a very talented team that has all the attributes and characteristics of a team that could make it to the finals and possibly pull off the championship."

The Fire added talented players to the roster this year, including Guy and Paul Harrison.

Dannhoff said the team uses caution and diligence when bringing players on board.

"We asked them a lot of questions trying to make sure that we had the right guys on the bus," Coach Danhoff said. "We wanted guys who were willing to sacrifice their own individual accomplishments and accolades for the betterment of the team. And, so far, everybody's been on that page. That's what has allowed us to have the success we've had to this point in the season."

Before joining the TBL last season, Dannhoff had a successful college coaching career with stops at Texas A&M — Corpus Christi, Mercer University and Tulane University.

He said he still misses parts of the college game and its atmosphere, but he enjoys this level of basketball too.

"It's all about basketball," Dannhoff said. "Everything you do every day is about improving your team and improving these players individually and helping them become the professionals that they want to be."

Dannhoff said college players all want to advance to the pro ranks, and his players also have their eyes on big goals.

"We work with them to make them the best basketball players on the court and men off the court that they can be," he said. "They have an opportunity to refine their games and prove themselves for a high-level European league or maybe even the G-League with the NBA."

Dannhoff, who coached the Enid Outlaws in the TBL last season, said he is excited about the season and his new team's potential. However, this program has been a great fit on a personal level, as well.

"My wife and I talk about it every day," he said. "We are so grateful and thankful to be a part of the Fire organization."

Dannhoff remembers knowing the organization was top-notch because every interaction he had with the team during their six contests against the Fire last season was a first-class experience.

"From General Manager David Qualls to the facilities and the CPN administration, every aspect of this organization is top of the line," he said. "I couldn't be happier here."

The regular season for the Fire wraps up May 27 and the playoffs begin in June. 🔥

Partnership with Infant Crisis Services helps community

Rain fell hard and cold outside the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Women, Infants, and Children program's Shawnee office in early February. Undeterred, Infant Crisis Services staff served 79 infants during a drive-thru BabyMobile event — a record number for this location.

The CPN WIC program has a long-standing relationship with Infant Crisis Services, an Oklahoma City-based non-profit that supplies formula, food, diapers and clothing to more than 1,200 infants and toddlers each month.

In 2013, the agency launched the BabyMobile to bring its services directly to communities throughout the Oklahoma City metro area and surrounding counties.

"I asked, 'How far out would you go?'" said CPN WIC Nutrition and Breastfeeding Coordinator Cheryl Richardson.

BabyMobile now travels to CPN WIC's main office in the FireLake complex near Shawnee, Oklahoma, on the first Tuesday of every month.

Richardson is grateful to partner with BabyMobile, which only adds to the resources WIC can provide to its clients and the community.

She named several factors that contributed to the high number of clients served in February.

Services are provided by Infant Crisis Services a maximum of four times per year for each child. As these visits reset each calendar year, many families may have been newly eligible to receive services in 2023.

Another factor is the ongoing formula shortage brought on by pandemic-driven supply chain issues and a voluntary formula recall in February 2022 by Abbott Nutrition, one of the country's largest formula producers, and the closure of its production facility in Sturgis, Michigan, according to the U.S. Administration for Children and Families ([cpn.news/formula](https://www.cpn.news/formula)).

Although the situation has improved since the shortage began, many families still find it difficult to access the formula they need.

"The thing about WIC is that we can put it on their card, but if it's not on the store shelf, they can't get it," Richardson said. "And we can have umpteen stores, but if umpteen stores don't have it, we have parents calling us saying, 'What am I supposed to feed my baby?' It's hard."

BabyMobile helps to fill in some of the gaps, serving up to 75 infants and toddlers at its monthly drive-thru events in the CPN WIC parking lot and reaching up to 150 children each month at special coronavirus pandemic relief events held in the FireLake Discount Foods parking lot in 2020.

"Sometimes BabyMobile has formula when it's not on store shelves," Richardson said.



Infant Crisis Services' BabyMobile partners with CPN WIC to provide services at its Shawnee office once a month.

Additionally, diapers are not covered by WIC benefits — but are provided through BabyMobile.

Clients who are in the process of transferring their benefits from one WIC agency to another, or who are waiting on required documentation, may also find themselves in a gap between services that BabyMobile can help bridge.

WIC provides debit-type cards that can be used to buy specific nutritious foods for pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding parents as well as for infants and children up to the age of 5 who are at nutrition risk.

Benefit packages are created by WIC nutritionists for parent and baby in tandem, Richardson explained, and take into consideration allergies, nutritional values and the needs the client expresses to WIC.

Nutrition packages are also dependent on feeding method: breastfeeding parents receive packages exclusively filled with fruits, vegetables, grains and other nutritious foods while families using formula receive packages balanced between nutritious foods in lesser amounts and formula to meet their specific needs.

Additional WIC services include nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, and various referrals.

CPN WIC serves a seven-county area in Oklahoma, including Pottawatomie, Seminole, Lincoln, Logan, Payne, Oklahoma and Cleveland counties. Tribal members living outside of this service area may be eligible for services through a local tribal or state WIC program.

To schedule an appointment with CPN WIC, call 405-273-3216. Learn more at [cpn.news/wic](https://www.cpn.news/wic).

Find Infant Crisis Services online at [infantcrisis.org](https://www.infantcrisis.org). 🔥

Lively Hope Farm

is ready for the future



Will and Sarah Pappan and their daughter, Hope, pose with a few of the animals from Lively Hope Farm in Wynona, Oklahoma.



Hope Pappan feeds the farm's goats on a spring morning. Hope represents the fourth generation of Pappans to live on the farm.

Will Pappan, one of the third-generation owners of Lively Hope Farm in Wynona, Oklahoma, works to have a positive impact on the industry as he tends to the farm where he grew up and made childhood memories.

"I started this for my kids. I wanted to build a legacy for them," Will said.

Farm life

Pappan and his wife, Sarah, are both employed outside the home while they devote as much time as possible to the farm's daily operations.

Working full-time and then late into the evening on the farm sometimes means the Pappan family may not eat dinner until 9 p.m. But it's worth it when they meet the new baby animals.

With their children, Kirsty (Pappan) Bassett and her husband, Josh Bassett, son, Dewayne Pappan, daughters, Clara Hough, Tara Hough and Hope Pappan, as well as their grandchildren, the Pappans have come to love farm life. Hope, 11, cheerfully shows visitors around and is eager to help feed the animals.

Will's sisters, Linda (Pappan) Schmidt and Faith (Pappan) Allison, co-own the property while Will oversees the farm's business interests.

Growing each year

When Will grew up on his grandparents' farm, it was only a cattle operation. He has expanded the farm's herds to include British White cattle, painted desert sheep, miniature Nubian goats, Muscovy ducks, chickens and livestock guardian dogs. Addie, the working dog, helps with herding, and cats keep the rodent population under control.



Will and Hope Pappan use the four-wheeler to lead the cattle in for feeding time.

Their daughter's horse lives in a pasture across the road from the family home.

Some of the farm animals are types that Will Pappan has always wanted to have. The painted desert sheep are among his favorites. He's also partial to the British White cattle because of their striking white coats and docile nature.

They are in the process of building their farm's livestock. Eventually, Will Pappan plans to regularly sell goats, cattle and livestock guardian dogs. So far, two litters of puppies, three British White bulls and a few goats and sheep have been sold.

Kirsty and Josh Bassett plan to return to Oklahoma from California in June and they have additional plans for expansion.

"We really want our own hay business because hay is so hard to come by. We want to help a lot of people around us that have had a hard time finding it," Will said.

By diversifying his farm's interests, Will said they hope to be able to weather economic fluctuations.

Coming home

Will has always felt his place was on the family farm.

"I was born here, basically on this farm," he said. "I've always had it in my mind that this is what I want to do. Life just changes a lot a lot of times and you don't get to do what you want to do."



Addie, the working dog, stands by as the British White cattle receive breakfast.

The loss of his parents is ultimately what led him back home as he and his sisters inherited the property. It took some time for him to settle in.

"It was really tough on us when we first got here. We went through a time of feeling guilty. You want to be here because it's your home, but it's still hard," he said.

Will said the farm is full of happy memories from his childhood, and he is thrilled to see his grandchildren, the fifth generation, making their own memories now. Good friend and neighbor Dominic Thompson frequently stops by, adding to the family atmosphere.

"I grew up playing on the creek here. Now my kids and my grandkids are all going to get to play on the same creek that I grew up playing on. And that's just really cool," Will said.

Rewarding experiences

The rewards from farming can often be long-term, with one generation planning to pass the farm to the next. Will believes this will be the case for his family.

"We've gone from my daughter Kirsty saying, 'I never want to live in Wynona' to actually buying a house and moving across the road and wanting to be a part of the farm," Will said. "That was just a big blessing to us. This was a dream that my kids would move back and be here with us, and then I can turn it over to them."

The farm has provided inspiration to the next generation. Daughter Clara and her friend, Kaitlyn Adkins, plan to start a goat milk business, using the milk in products like soap.

"They want to be a part of it. They realized that there's something awesome happening here," Sarah said. "To watch that unity of them all working together and bringing them together and wanting to make the production

Continued on next page



Sarah Pappan and her daughter, Hope, pause from feeding the farm's animals and watch over the herds.

happen, making Lively Hope what it is."

Some of the rewards at Lively Hope Farm are more immediate.

"I love going out and seeing their babies every day. That's just a reward in itself for me to be able to come home and see their babies on a regular basis because I just love the babies," Will said.

Sarah said she still cries tears

of joy when the babies are born because each birth is unique and contributes to making the farm what it is.

Safeguarding nature

"One of my main goals I strive for is to protect our species of plants, animals, bees, butterflies, birds, fish, reptiles, and whatever else may be on our place," Will said. "I hate chemicals and trash. I try my best not to allow them on our place. I wish people could understand we are responsible for taking care of God's creation."

Another way he protects nature is by avoiding unnecessary medications and chemicals. Medications like antibiotics are used only occasionally. If medication does not directly impact the health and wellness of the animal, Will avoids it. He does not use chemical sprays on his fields.

"I do use medicine when I have to, but it's pretty rare. I want to take care of the earth and leave it better than I found it. I wish the world was different than it is," he said.

Connecting with heritage

While he already has an Indigenous viewpoint when it comes to agriculture, Will is interested in learning as much as he can about other aspects of his heritage.

"I am very proud of my Native American heritage. Although I don't know much about our Citizen Potawatomi culture, I am very proud of our heritage," he said. "It brings my family great honor to represent the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in the agricultural business. We are humbled that this opportunity was presented to us, and we hope to make our people proud."

Will said he appreciates modern conveniences that make his work easier, but he always remembers how challenging life was for his Potawatomi ancestors.

Sarah agrees, mindful of Pappan ancestors who had to raise their own food, make their own clothing and live off their land. She is thankful for the opportunity to get in touch with the family's history.

"How amazing it would be that we would be able to live off of this farm," she said. "If it allows us even a touch of how our ancestors might have lived... to actually eat what we have grown from the plants and the gardens that (Will) planted to the beef that we have out in the pasture. It would be amazing that one day we might be able to do that."

Strength through faith

The name of Lively Hope Farm came from one of the family's favorite Bible scriptures.

"My dad was a preacher, and I'm a deacon in our church," Will said. "We try to put Him first in everything we do."

Sarah reads the scripture: "Blessed be the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which, according to His abundant mercy, have begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

"We just have to trust Him and know that whatever He puts in our path is His plan for our journey. And we have the lively hope to know that whatever comes is going to be abundant because of what He gave us," she said.

To learn more about Lively Hope Farm, connect with them on Facebook. 🔥



Will Pappan and his daughter, Hope, prepare to feed the cattle at Lively Hope Farm.

2023 FAMILY REUNION FESTIVAL JUNE 23 - 25



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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal roll number.

Signature _____ Tribal Roll # _____
(If you do not know your roll number, call 800-880-9880 and ask for Tribal Rolls)

Must be postmarked no later than June 4, 2023

Mail to

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Election Committee
PO box 310, Tecumseh, OK 74873-9900



Emotional exhibit raises sexual assault awareness

As an essential part of everyday life, clothing has many purposes, but it is used primarily as protection from the elements. Yet, when it comes to sexual violence, victims often hear that their clothing did not protect them but ultimately caused the assault.

Victims get asked, “What were you wearing?” or “What did you expect was going to happen?” — examples of victim-blaming, which is a common but problematic response to disclosures of assault. Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s House of Hope partnered with Oklahoma Baptist University to stage an exhibition during Sexual Assault Awareness Month titled *What Were You Wearing?* in an effort to change public perspective about this type of victim-blaming.

“We needed to plan an event to bring more awareness to the community because awareness equals prevention,” said Kayla Woody, HOH’s Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative prevention specialist.

The House of Hope worked with OBU’s Normalize.No sexual assault awareness group to gather survivor submissions from around the greater Shawnee, Oklahoma, community that described what they were wearing during the assault. Both organizations then put together clothing donated by Cinderella’s Consignment of Shawnee and displayed the outfits on mannequins, recreating the submissions. Woody said these types of visualizations “grab your attention.”

“I feel like this is a really good way to visualize what’s going on with sexual violence because this is a taboo topic, and sexual violence is something that is hard to take in. This is a safe way to really express what’s happening, and I feel (it’s) a safe way for survivors to use their voice because speaking out when you’ve experienced something like sexual violence is such a healing thing,” she said.

HOH placed the exhibit inside the university’s Geiger Center along a hallway many students and community members pass through while grabbing food or making their way to a class or meeting. The purpose was to dispel sexual assault stereotypes.

“Clothing has nothing to do with the violence that they’re experiencing,” Woody said. “There’s never an excuse for that. And I think what’s just so impactful from the submissions that we received from survivors in the area, most of the stories, the clothing is just everyday clothing.”

Nineteen survivors submitted short descriptions of the clothing they were wearing, each of which hung above the mannequin that displayed their outfit. The majority of survivors described wearing T-shirts and jeans or sweatpants and hoodies. Woody’s mother, Brenda Kelly, felt compelled by its message.



House of Hope's humbling exhibit shows messages and recreations of outfits worn by sexual assault victims.

“I think that this entire exhibition makes a huge statement. When you walk in the room without knowing what it is, it might seem insignificant, but when you stop to read the cards above each outfit, it will bring you to tears. I hope this message gets out to all the right people,” she said.

Submissions stated some were as young as 4 years old, wearing a children’s tank top swim set with pink and yellow flowers.

“They were minors when they were first assaulted, and some have experienced ongoing assault that they mentioned,” said Project Safe Executive Director Renee Clemmons. “That’s just heartbreaking, and it’s so sobering. The other thing that strikes me is that it doesn’t matter what you’re wearing. Sexual assault is not about what’s on the outside, the clothing. It’s about power and control. And somebody’s taking advantage of someone else.”

University students and the community viewed the exhibit and also had the opportunity to leave anonymous comments, encouragement, stories and feelings pinned to a sharing board for everyone to see. Messages like, “I believe you,” “It’s not your fault,” and “It gets better. I promise,” served as points of hope as part of an exhibit addressing a difficult subject.

“You have to take every day and just take self-care and remember that there’s a positive side of this and there’s a reason why we’re doing this — to really bring healing to those who have experienced it but also to stop it from happening,” Woody said.

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

This article was written with assistance from Kayla Woody, CPN House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist. 🔥

Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho jayek (Hello, everyone),

It's been a busy *Mnokme* (spring) for the Language Department. Stormy Hunter started a new eight-week beginner Potawatomi language course. She has had a pretty good, steady turnout. We have had about 15 to 20 regulars attending class. Class is going well. Everyone seems to be enjoying themselves and are eager to learn.

We just got back from the University of Oklahoma Language Fair. This is an annual event that gives kids a chance to comment using their language. This year we entered the 4-year-olds in the traditional song category, and they sang the Seven Fires song. The kids did awesome and came in fourth with an honorary ribbon. They were competing in the youngest category they have, which is Pre-K to second grade. These little ones sang for almost 4 minutes in Potawatomi, sang well and had a great stage presence for 4-year-olds. They were competing against several immersion schools



Peyton Neely with her first-place trophy. (Photo provided)

and also kids who were 8 years old. They did awesome! We are extremely proud of them.

My daughter Peyton Neely also competed in the individual traditional song category and got first. Mrs. Serena Neely, a first-grade teacher and my wife, brought a group of first graders from Will Rogers Elementary in Shawnee, and they sang *It's Raining Tacos* in the modern group category, and they got second place.

I also want to take a moment to recognize another young Citizen Potawatomi, Elora Stewart from Houchin Elementary of Moore Public Schools, who



The CPN Language Department and 4-year-old students from the CPN Child Development Center at the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair.

got third place for her comic book submission. Overall, a very good showing for our Citizen Potawatomi people.

We are working hard right now getting ready for our eight-week summer master apprentice program. We had a very good group of applicants and were able to select three for the program. We also had two additional folks who will not be official interns but are going to audit the course. Two of our newer staff are going to participate in this immersive apprenticeship as well. At the end of eight weeks, these apprentices will have spent a total of 320 hours working on the language and will be hopefully conversational in the language.

We are constantly creating new content for our YouTube channels and developing new online language courses as well as updating and adding to our online dictionary.

We are also wrapping up our high school courses at Shawnee, Tecumseh and Seminole Public Schools and our last nine-week Potawatomi course at the middle school. The high school course is online and self-paced and can be taken in any district in Oklahoma for world language credit, which will count towards graduation. So instead of taking it as an elective or having to take Spanish or French, a student can instead take Potawatomi.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Justin 🔥

Rhodd family history

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

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

The Rhodd family can be traced to Potawatomi ancestral lands in Michigan, Illinois and to the Potawatomi reserve in Iowa. Members of the Rhodd family would later make significant contributions to the establishment of the Sacred Heart Mission in Konawa, Oklahoma Territory.

Charles H. Rodd grew up in Saginaw, Michigan. He was listed on a roster of land buyers in Saginaw County, Michigan, in 1835. He was a merchant and trader and often served as an interpreter for the Ojibwe when they negotiated terms following the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

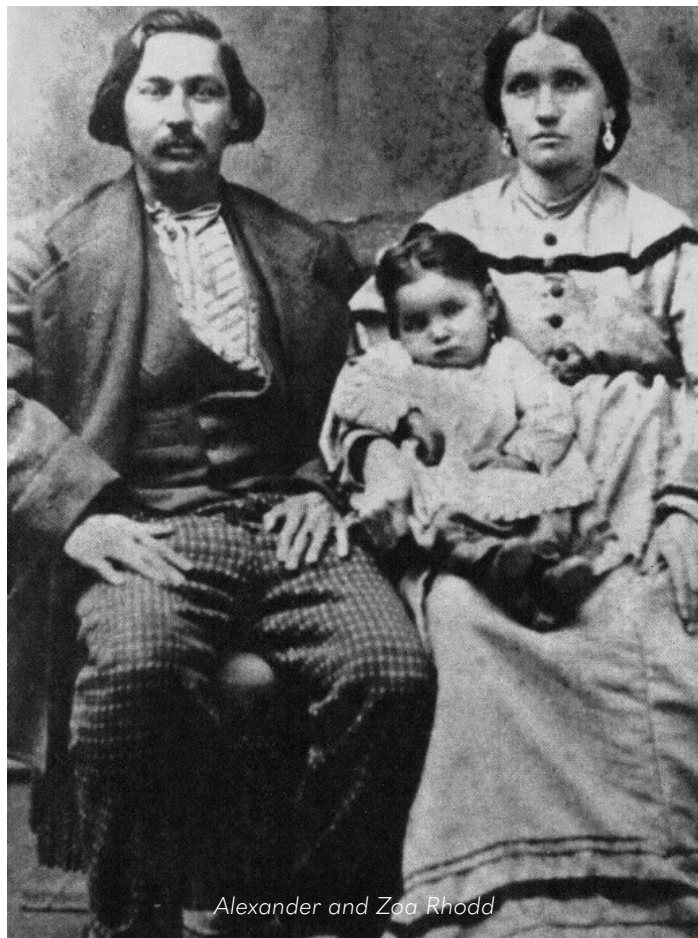
Charles eventually settled in Iowa around 1840 and married a Potawatomi woman, *Was-to-win*. She was born in Illinois and was forced to remove from her homelands when she was a child. The couple had David in 1841 and Alexander in 1843 near Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Charles and *Was-to-win* would again face removal. The Potawatomi were squeezed out of their Iowa reserve by the 1846 Council Bluffs Treaty. Squatters and railroad companies eyed Potawatomi lands and the U.S. government agreed to their demands. The Potawatomi received a reserve of 567,000 acres in Kansas. After the family arrived in Kansas, Mary was born in 1848, Charles Richard in 1854 and Elizabeth in 1858.

Charles and *Was-to-win*'s son, David, married Julia in 1863. Together, they had Rolla in 1865, Henry (Harry) in 1865, Edward in 1872, Israel in 1877 and Charles in 1883. David and Julia both walked on sometime between 1883 and 1887. Some of their children were listed on the 1887 Potawatomi Allotment Roll as orphans.

Charles and *Was-to-win*'s son, Alexander, married Mary Vieux. Their children were Ellen (Jessepe), Tom and Mary Ann. Alexander's second marriage was to Zoa (Bruno) Bourbonnais. They had Peter Albert, Inez (Little), Elizabeth (Lizzie) (LeClair), John Leander and Enos.

According to the book *Indian Tribes of Oklahoma* by Muriel H. Wright, the Potawatomi business committee that signed the agreement with the U.S. government



on June 25, 1890, included Alexander Rhodd, John Pambogo, David Hardin, Stephen Negahnquet, John Anderson, Joseph Moose and Alexander Peltier. The 1890 agreements established allotments for each Potawatomi and payment for the surplus lands.

Charles and *Was-to-win*'s eldest daughter, Mary Rhodd, married John Baptiste Bruno on June 20, 1864. They were the parents of Samuel William, John Anthony, Moses, Julia, Joseph Oliver, Josephine, Belle Binia and David. The family also included Mary's adopted younger sister, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Rhodd, who became the ward of her older sister after their parents died.

The youngest son, Charles Richard Rhodd, married Helen Acton. She was the daughter of Angeline *Azh-nick* Bellaire and James Acton. Together, Charles and Helen had Viola (Alice) in 1873, Ida in 1875, Noah J. in 1877, David C. in 1883, Unice May Margaret in 1889, Thomas M. in 1891 and Charles Daniel in 1894. Custody of Charles Richard was granted to his older brother, Alexander, after the death of their parents. Charles kept the books for the Tribe for many years and had vast knowledge of the use of traditional medicines to treat various diseases. Many Indigenous families would ask Charles to treat their ailments rather than a non-Native doctor.

The youngest sibling, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Rhodd, married Thomas (Bud) Hardin, son of Margaret Lafromboise and John Hardin. They had no children.

The Rhodd family and its descendants would go on to marry into families such as the Vieux, LeClair, Bruno, Hardin and Acton, just to name a few.

Arrival in Oklahoma Territory

When Rhodd family members arrived at their allotment in Konawa, Oklahoma Territory, they greatly contributed to the establishment of Sacred Heart Mission and what would later become Pottawatomie County in Oklahoma.

Mary Rhodd Bruno and her husband, John Baptiste Bruno, are believed to have been among the earliest Potawatomi to arrive in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma Territory, around 1868.

Mary Rhodd was born in Kansas in 1848. John Baptiste was born Dec. 25, 1840, in Iowa Territory. They married in Kansas after the end of the Civil War.

John Baptiste was a mule skinner for the U.S. Army during the Civil War, hauling supplies to forts and settlements in Kansas and Colorado. During one trip around 1863, he was confronted by Pawnee warriors, who demanded he hand over several of his Potawatomi passengers. Bruno refused and fought the Pawnee himself. The group was left alone by the Pawnee after his victory.

When the family arrived in Pottawatomie County in Indian Territory, John helped build the Sacred Heart Mission.

After a 1901 fire destroyed many of the mission's buildings, John again helped rebuild many of the new structures.

John and Mary were the parents of daughters Julia, Josephine and Belle. Their sons were Samuel (*Tick-wa-ko*), John Anthony (*Sha-won-a-she*), Mose (*Per-she-at-won*) and Joseph Oliver.

Both John and Mary are buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

A legacy in Pottawatomie County

In the early 1900s, there was not much time for leisure. Entire families worked long hours planting corn, picking cotton and raising livestock. The courage and persistence of the families who left Kansas for the unknown in then-Indian Territory are what made life possible in places like Konawa. Today, it is almost impossible to imagine being forced out of your home multiple times. However, Potawatomi families like the Rhodds persevered and left a rich legacy for their descendants.

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

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From the executives



John "Rocky" Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bozho nikan (Hello friend),

The time for our annual Family Reunion Festival is nearly here! We are excited to be getting ready and look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones.

Festival is always held on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the General Council of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation on the last Saturday in June. This meeting is the one time of the year when all of our members are invited by the Tribal Constitution to attend a meeting to accomplish business that is reserved for the entire voting population of our Tribe. If a Resolution is passed by the General Council, it is then printed on a ballot and sent to every single adult member of our Nation for a vote. While we have never done this in modern times, since the representative Tribal Legislature meets every quarter to consider and vote on regular Tribal business and law, it is still important for us to recall the times when the only government we

had was the General Council — and the only way any Citizen Potawatomi had to participate in his or her Tribal government was in person at this one meeting of the Nation. We changed our form of government from a pure democracy to a representative republic. Now, we elect representatives to our Tribal Legislature who meet by digital conferencing capability on the internet to regularly debate and vote on Tribal laws and regulations that affect us all. The annual General Council is held in memory of our ancient ways of governing and for the purpose of providing reports and information about the Nation in person. All this is done in an atmosphere of celebration — of our traditions, music, dance and family connections. One of the most important things you can accomplish at Festival is to meet kinfolks you have never met before and catch up with those you haven't seen in a long time.

We are all related. We are all descendants of about 45 families that have survived these many centuries, lived in four different homelands starting with nothing, and been scattered to the winds by the federal government. But we still survived and prospered. We are still a powerful self-governing Tribe that can and has improved the quality of life and provided opportunity for our relatives — for we are truly all related. Over the centuries, every one of our families has established a kinship with the others by marriage. In our traditional form of prayer, after asking God for the personal and character qualities of each of the four directions, and then thanked Grandmother Earth and Grandfather God above for providing all of the necessities of life, our Seventh prayer is always offered by circling one hand above our head holding tobacco and praying, "*Jage nage non*" — "for all my Relations, for all with whom I share blood" — and that tobacco is put on the fire. The family of the named person then provides a meal for the namer as thanks.

One of the other important things we often do at Festival is receive our Potawatomi name. If you want your Potawatomi name, present a small packet of tobacco to any Potawatomi that you know already has his or her name. Offer the tobacco to them and ask for a name. If that person takes the tobacco for use in your naming ceremony, a date and time will be set for the ceremony. You will not only receive your Potawatomi name, you will become a "namer" yourself, able to give names if you are asked and wish to perform the ceremony. I will show anyone who is named the way to do the ceremony or help anyone with their first naming. The Language Department will help you pick a name; plus, we have a form for you to fill out that will help a namer think or dream of a name that fits. Only the namer can choose the name, and only the namer can decide the time and place. If a namer returns your tobacco saying he or she cannot do as you ask, thank them, and take your tobacco to another named person. I have been grateful to name over 300 people. I look forward to seeing you in June!

It is a great honor to serve in our Tribal government. *Megwetch* (thank you) for choosing me as your Tribal Chairman.

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





Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

Throughout the last several years, Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s young professionals have shown a bright future for Indian Country and won several awards honoring their efforts.

First, I would like to pay tribute to Lauren Bristow, CPN Health Services Director of Clinical Operations, for her accomplishment of being recognized as one of The Journal Record’s Achievers Under 40 in 2023. The Journal Record has been giving this award for approximately 20 years. The Citizen Potawatomi

Nation has been fortunate with nominees from both an employee perspective and from outside CPN employment. Lauren Bristow does an excellent job in her position with CPN Health Services. I was delighted to nominate her for the award, and I look forward to celebrating with her family at the acceptance dinner on May 11 at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

The Journal Record recognizes 40 young professional individuals each year who “reach beyond the expected” and make a positive impact in their communities and state. I am extremely proud that we have so many members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation that have achieved this Journal Record award status. Our records show that in 2015, our first recipient was Dr. Kelli Mosteller, now the Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program. Her position is one of high standing at Harvard University, and we are very proud and happy for her.

In 2017, CPN Gaming Commission Director Daniel LeClaire received the impressive award. That year marked the largest set of statewide nominations in the program’s 14-year history. The selection process gets tougher each year with the increasing number of nominations. For 2017, there were 39 honorees selected from 139 applications from across the state. I was one of the fortunate ones to be invited to Daniel’s recognition luncheon, along with his family and friends. Daniel LeClaire continues to be an asset to CPN with his vast knowledge of gaming.



Lauren Bristow



Dr. Kelli Mosteller



Daniel LeClaire



Jennifer Bell



Kristen Vencel



Jennifer Lamirand



Dr. Kassi Sexton

Jennifer Bell was a recipient of the Oklahoma Journal Record Award in 2019. Jennifer, like the other Tribal members mentioned, is one of CPN’s shining stars. Her excellent reporting skills, publication experience, leadership and business skills and team player abilities all make her a very valuable asset in her position as Communications Director of the Bureau of Indian Education for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In addition to the Oklahoma Journal Record Award for 40 Under 40, we have three Potawatomi tribal members that received similar recognition from organizations other than The Journal Record.



Dr. Andrew Mock

The first is Kristen Vencl of Edmond, Oklahoma. She received a 40 Under 40 award in 2020 from The Connect Association, which recognizes event and meeting planners nationwide. Kristen is well known for her many talents.

The second Tribal member, selected by Oklahoma Magazine 40 Under 40 Annual Awards, is our Medical Director Dr. Kassi Sexton, M.D., MPH. She was recognized in 2020 for her contributions to our outstanding health care system. Since receiving this award, she has been promoted to Chief Medical Officer, and her contributions to the Tribe throughout the coronavirus pandemic have been invaluable.

Third is a young professional, lawyer and Citizen Potawatomi Nation Supreme Court Associate Justice. Jennifer Lamirand has a long list of accomplishments from her 20s and 30s that many hope to achieve in their entire career. Her employer Crowe & Dunlevy nominated her for the prestigious Oklahoma Magazine awards as well. The publication chose her as one of the 2022 honorees in April of that year.



Tesia Zientek

Dr. Andrew Mock was also selected for Oklahoma Magazine’s 40 Under 40 Annual Awards for 2023. Dr. Mock, HP Engineering’s Vice President and Regional Engineering Director, is recognized for being instrumental in creating HP Engineering’s new structural division.

Tesia Zientek was also selected by Oklahoma Magazine for the 2023 40 Under 40 class. She is a strong proponent of Indian education and has been throughout her career. She is currently the Senior Director of Programs for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society as well as president of the National Indian Education Association.

Congratulations are in store for all the Potawatomi Tribal members that have reached such prestigious recognition.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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

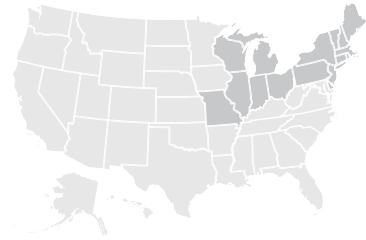
From the legislature



Alan Melot District 1

Bozho jagénagenan, (Hello, all of my relations),

As your District 1 legislator, it is my honor to provide you with an update on recent developments within our community. Before I delve into the exciting events and opportunities ahead, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our shared history as a people.



The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has a rich and complex history that stretches back through time immemorial. Our ancestors lived and thrived in the Great Lakes region for generations, cultivating a deep connection to the land and a strong sense of community. However, as European settlers began to expand westward, our people were forced to move from our ancestral homelands.

One of the most traumatic events in Potawatomi history was the Trail of Death, a forced removal in 1838 that saw thousands of our people forcibly relocated from Indiana to Kansas. The journey was arduous and dangerous, and many Potawatomi perished along the way. Despite this trauma, however, our people have persisted and continued to thrive, adapting to new circumstances and preserving our cultural traditions for future generations.

As we approach the 185th anniversary of the Trail of Death, it is important to remember and honor the sacrifices of our ancestors. Many of us have family members who were impacted by the forced removal, and their stories and memories live on through our community today. In recognition of this history, the Trail of Death Caravan is an event that retraces the steps of the original removal trail, allowing us to remember and connect with the past.

This year's caravan will start Sept. 18, 2023 (Monday), at Menominee's statue (Twin Lakes, Indiana) and end Sept. 23, 2023 (Saturday), at the Sugar Creek Mission site located in the Saint Phillipine Duchesne Memorial Park in east central Kansas. I encourage all Citizen Potawatomi to consider participating in this important event. By retracing the steps of our ancestors, we can gain a deeper understanding of our history and strengthen our connection to our cultural heritage.

In addition to the Trail of Death Caravan, I am also excited to extend an invitation to all Citizen Potawatomi to participate in hand games at the Family Reunion Festival. Hand games are an important traditional activity that have been played by our people for generations, and they continue to be a beloved part of our cultural heritage. Last year was my first year to participate, and I thoroughly enjoyed learning the game!

If you are interested in participating in hand games as part of a District 1 team at the Family Reunion Festival, I encourage you to reach out to me. We'll have room for seven players, and I would love to have our own team to



challenge other districts (we're looking at you, D2!) and the reigning champions, the Potawatomi Leadership Program (PLP) students. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other members of our community and celebrate our shared cultural traditions.

As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions on how we can continue to improve our community and better serve the needs of all Citizen Potawatomi. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any other member of the Tribal legislature with your ideas and concerns.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Family Reunion Festival and Trail of Death Caravan.

Finally, this legislative article was written with assistance from chatGPT. It's a brave new world, y'all!

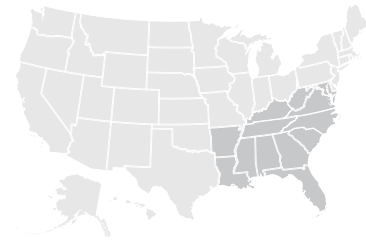
With love and care for everyone,

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



Eva Marie Carney District 2

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),



Mental Health First Aid training

The gun violence in this country is unspeakable, and I imagine that most, if not all, of us consider it something we can't do anything about. Five years ago, I completed a course in Mental Health First Aid and wrote about it in a *Hownikan* column. I am reprinting that portion of my column because I highly recommend taking the training as a very modest but tangible response to the violence we are experiencing.

Mental Health First Aid is a course that teaches you how to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Both youth and adult-focused classes are offered.

According to the MHFA website, "Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. In the Mental Health First Aid course, you learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help."

The training program is offered by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and the Missouri Department of Mental Health. You can find out more, and find an online course, at cpn.news/MHFA.

Positive development for Native nations: Supreme Court rule change

The United States Supreme Court recently adopted changes to its rules that the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) deems a "big win for Indian Country." Effective this year, tribal governments are allowed to file longer (or higher word count) briefs in recognition of their status as governmental entities and the need to better understand tribal perspectives.

In 2019, the Court adopted rules that reduced the length allowed for many amicus briefs filed by tribal governments with the Court. However, it permitted briefs filed by federal, state, and local governments a much higher word count. During the next Court rules revision process in 2022, NARF argued:

- The higher word count for governments recognizes their unique interests in participating as *amici curiae* (friends of court) out of respect for their inherent sovereignty and/or their exercise of governmental authority. Like other governments, tribes have an interest in advocating for their powers and advancing the unique interests of themselves and their members.
- Cases related to tribes' authority, treaty rights, and resources frequently do not include tribes as parties. In those cases, tribes participate as *amici*, and it is critical that tribal perspectives be fully heard on those issues. The United States does not always adequately represent tribal interests in a case. In fact, the positions of the United States and tribes are not always aligned.
- Federal Indian Law cases often address foundational constitutional law principles. Facilitating tribal participation allows tribes to provide important information and context to the Court.

NARF described the change as "right and needed."

Visiting and communication

I hope that, if you are able, you are finalizing plans for attending our Family Reunion Festival next month or the Potawatomi Gathering at the end of July. I'd like to visit during one or both celebrations. District 2 will participate in (win?) the Hand Games on the Friday night of our Festival; let me know if you want to join our team.

In the meantime, please keep in touch. I send regular emails to our District 2 email list. Email me and request to be added if you live in District 2. We have about 270 District 2 folks participating on a private FB page. Message me on FB if you'd like to join us. I look forward to hearing from you, helping you as needed, and celebrating with you — whenever possible!

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



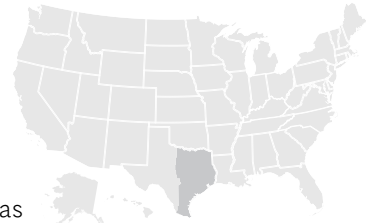


Bob Whistler District 3

Bozho Nikan (Hello friend),

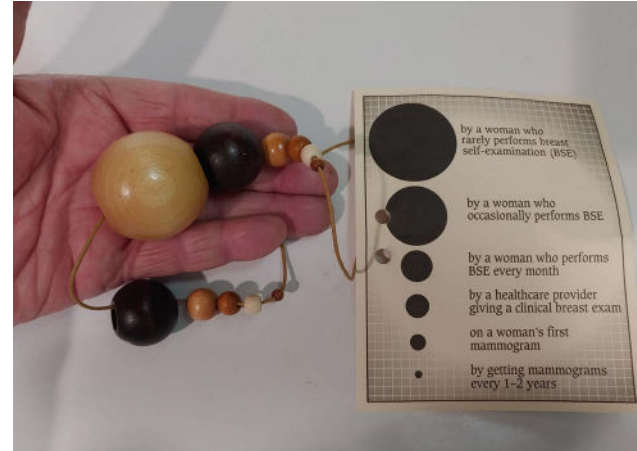
Powwow

Last month, I mentioned that the Indigenous Institute of America would hold their second annual powwow in Cleburne, Texas. It was a very good three-day event, and the weather worked very well. We had temperatures in the 70s during the day, and the rain basically missed us. This was very nice versus last year where we had very hot temperatures to deal with. I was able to participate in a number of gourd dances. Two of our District 3 citizens were there and were active participants. Carl Kurtz was the bearer of the U.S. flag for Grand Entry of the powwow and also a gourd dancer. Laura Badonski was in regalia and was a regular participant in the arena. A photo of the two of them is included showing them in front of the drum group.



The powwow had many vendors there offering a very good variety of jewelry, knives, apparel, food and other interesting items. A very new area there was a booth offering Native American comic books along with some non-Native comic books. The vendor and creator of the business is a teenage Apache young man about 15 years old. The name of the business is NDN Comics & Games. Information on this business may be found on Facebook @NDNComicsandGames or Instagram @ndncomicsandgames. His business tag line is "For all your nerd needs!" I found it quite interesting to see a teenager starting up a business and hope those of you who have an interest in comic books or games will look into his site.

For those that were not able to attend, you missed seeing the Aztec group that was present this second year. There was also representation from Hawaii, and they wore their Native regalia and performed several tribal dances. This was a first for me, and I enjoyed it very much.



Carl Kurtz and Luara Badonski

The Indigenous Institute of America held the Santa Fe Days powwow in Carrollton in years past and made the move to Cleburne a year ago. This particular site was chosen because it was a meeting area for numerous nations in Texas and Louisiana many centuries ago. Their next powwow will be held again next spring, sometime in late March and/or early April. So, be on the lookout. It is well worth attending.

Mammograms

Several years ago, I was at a Native American medical facility where they were talking about mammograms and the size of typical growth in women in this body area. At the meeting, they distributed a necklace with different size beads. A brief notation on the size of each bead accompanied the necklace. Breast cancer is an ongoing medical challenge, and regular checkups along with mammograms are a must for females. I laid the necklace down by my own hand to reflect how large a nodule in a breast might become. I am including a photo of the necklace by my hand, and it includes information on each of the size bead comparisons shown. I would hope that mothers and fathers would review this information with their daughters on the importance of mammograms and regular checkups, along with checking themselves at appropriate times.

In closing, my thanks to our District 3 members for honoring me to represent you as a legislator. If you have any questions about benefits or programs, please contact me. I am your voice and am here to assist you.

Nagech (later),

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

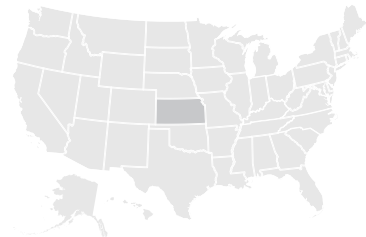


Jon Boursaw District 4

Bozho (Hello),

CPN Member selected to participate in the 2023 Leadership Greater Topeka Program

CPN member Tyler Levier has been selected to participate in the 2023 Leadership Greater Topeka Program. He is one of 37 local aspiring and established leaders selected from the community. The program introduces them to the opportunities and needs of Topeka and Shawnee County while also teaching adaptive leadership concepts. Tyler is employed by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation as Chief Operating Officer of their Prairie Band, LLC. The purpose of the LLC is to diversify, manage and expand economic interests of the Nation beyond the realm of Indian gaming. The following comments from Tyler were taken from *TK Business Magazine*, which announced Tyler’s selection:



Who is your greatest inspiration?

My grandfather is my greatest inspiration. His work ethic, integrity, and honesty were unparalleled. He had an 8th grade education, fought in two wars, and worked with his hands every day to provide a solid foundation for his family to thrive. I am a direct result of his efforts and I carry the lessons he taught me every day.

What are your strengths?

My father taught me how to solve problems. He taught me how things work and, to the contrary, if something was broken, we fixed it. Then, we needed to understand why it broke — and that lesson was the greatest gift. Growing up I thought I would grow up to be a mechanic. Understanding how the individual pieces of something larger interact with one another to accomplish a task is universal and I maintain that mindset in all of my endeavors.

Update on 8th grade student’s History Day Competition

You may recall the information I had in my March article regarding Madison Arnold, the Topeka eighth grade student who entered the Kansas District 3 History Day Competition with the Potawatomi Trail of Death as her subject. I am pleased to report that Madison placed second in the Junior Individual Exhibit Category, which had 23 entries. She was eligible to enter the Kansas State History Day Competition held on Saturday, April 22. She planned to work on a few changes to improve her exhibit, enhancing her chances of winning or placing high in the state competition.



Prairie Band, LLC, Chief Operation Officer Tyler Levier

Upcoming CPN Elders’ Potlucks

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

May 12	Fried Chicken	RSVP by the 9th
June 9	Hamburgers & Hot dogs	RSVP by the 6th

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

Updates on Uniontown Cemetery and Burnett’s Grave Site Project

Uniontown Cemetery: In late March, the Tribe contracted with Koch Construction Specialties, LLC, to perform the removal of the rock wall surrounding a



Eighth grader Madison Arnold's Kansas State History Day Competition display showcases the Potawatomi Trail of Death.

small family burial site on the cemetery. This work was scheduled to begin on April 4. Once the ground penetrating radar surveys are completed, Koch will rebuild the rock walls. I met with a local monument company regarding cleaning, repairing or replicating the grave markers inside this burial site.

Burnett's Grave Site: The cleanup work, including removing two trees and the old fence, has been completed. Soon, we will have the new fence installed and cover the site with river rock. We plan to place a small cedar tree at each corner of the site.

It is an honor to serve as your legislator.

Megwetch (Thank you),

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



Gene Lambert District 5

Bozho (Hello),

Those April showers that bloom in May are here once more. From where I am sitting, you wouldn't know unless you checked the calendar. The weather has been confusing with that regard.

Perhaps you remember the May Day Pole and dance that was prominent in my era and many generations before. It would have been the same as April Fools' Day or other insignificant holiday to some. Nonetheless, when you were a child, it was an exciting and new experience you looked forward to.

You would gather around a pole tied with beautiful colorful ribbons and weave in and out between others to create an ornate braided effect.

History tells us it was always more than we thought. It was about fertility and started in Rome, Brittany and Germany.

Originally, vines would be stripped from a tree and then danced around until perfectly wound. A living tree using pine or birch, originally considered masculine, and the stripped vines became the feminine representing fertility.

The idea was to match the feminine and masculine energy of the tree that in America later became a pole. It was definitely a part of the mating ritual.

Maybe that's why we don't do it here anymore. I had no idea what the dance represented. It was just a fun thing to do, and the pastel colors and ceremonies were exciting.

There was also a time when this ceremony was outlawed in other countries because of the intimate connotation, which brings up a lot of memories about things we do and really don't know why.

Now, we go into the Native American traditions and find out that Kokopelli was actually considered two Kachina's in Hopi legends.

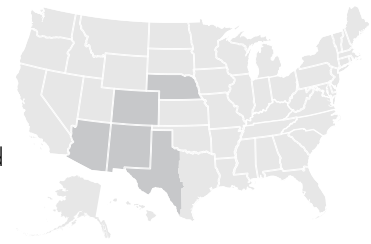
I wrote an article a few months back about Kokopelli and what the legend was about, which was all true. However, again we have the masculine and feminine side to it, which I did not cover specifically. We talked more about the harvest time, new growth and new beginnings.

Kokopoli is masculine and Kokopelmana is feminine, according to the elders of the first Mesa in Arizona. Notice the difference in spelling from above.

The article was correct in sharing the duties and fertility expectations from plants to the two-legged but considered two people, not one, as we have come to learn.

People simply do not want to accept the oneness of the two Kokos. I think I just created another reference.

Google Definition: Kokopelli is a fertility deity, usually depicted as a humpbacked flute player (often with feathers or antenna-like protrusions on his head), who is venerated by some Native American cultures in the Southwestern United States.



Now we have the Ojibwe Potawatomi's version of fertility, which is the Deer Woman. She is connected to fertility and love for women, children and men who respect all.

Don't get too comfortable with that because if you are disrespectful, she is capable of the reverse.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is a matriarchal society because as Chairman Barrett says, "All things are born from a mother." This does not lessen the need or importance of the masculine energy as men were the hunters who supported the existence of the whole.

Our lives today and world energy require the feminine and masculine in every living thing.

Never underestimate the necessity or value of other. We each carry both.

Going into our season of gatherings, please take the time to reconnect with our families.

Take care of each other, and I look forward to seeing everyone.

Love to all,

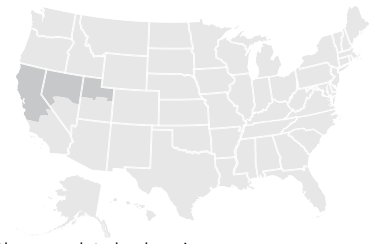
Gene Lambert (Eunice Imogene Lambert) | Butterfly Woman | glambert@potawatomi.org
270 E Hunt Highway Ste 229 | San Tan Valley, AZ 85143 | Cell: 480-228-6569 | Office: 480-668-0509



Mark Johnson District 7

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends),

I sometimes sit at the computer and contemplate what I would like to convey to the membership for the month; an idea will take hold, and the words will slowly make their way onto the paper from my fingertips on the keyboard. Writing has never been my strong suit. I have always been a hands-on, get-it-done kind of a person. I like to think that's a trait I picked up from my father. My mother, on the other hand, passed along the emotional side of my being, the empathy and caring side, and probably my humor also. Well, maybe that part just came along naturally, like the time a lizard I caught got loose in the house, which caused my mother to bound up onto the couch only to find said lizard staring at her from the window curtain next to her head. Okay, well maybe you needed to be there; but trust me, it was extremely funny watching mom fly across the living room, never touching the floor. Mom walked on in March at the age of 94.



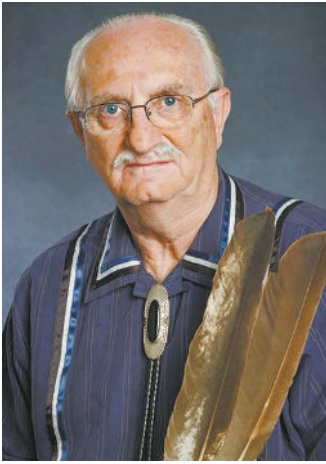
The one trait I got from both of my parents was how to be a good citizen, of both this country and Tribe. You have a responsibility to both, to be an active participant. Vote, and vote every year. Make it a habit to return your absentee ballot request form, and when you get your ballot, cast your vote and return it immediately. Don't wait for the last minute. It can be too easy to put off. VOTE! Our Tribe has thrived under a stable government; your participation will guarantee that continues.

Remember the Family Reunion Festival is in Shawnee from June 23 through the 25. Like I have said over the last couple of months, the 2023 Honored Families will be Johnson, Lafromboise, Lareau, Leclaire, Melott, Rhodd, Tescier, Weld and Young. Come join the family and participate in our heritage. If you want to vote in person, bring along that absentee ballot that you forgot to mail back, and you can vote in person. Attend the General Council meeting and learn about your Tribe. Bring your regalia and dance with us on Saturday evening to honor our Tribe. Once you attend, you will return.

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

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



Paul Wesselhöft District 9

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

The Bow and Arrow

The Potawatomi were force-driven by the federal government militia from their homes in Indiana to Kansas on their Trail of Death. Later, most of the Tribe was forced to give up their lands again and be resettled on a reservation in Indian Territory. After losing their homeland, they had to build new homes and remake their lives.

In Indian Territory, a father realized that his way of life and culture were slipping away. He knew his existence in a strange land would never be the same. He decided to make his son a gift that would honor his ancestors and the land of their birth. He instructed his son in the making of a bow and arrow, just as his father once taught him.

The father made a gull-wing shaped 42-inch bow from the wood of an elm tree. With a glue mixture, he enforced the bow with sinew for greater power and durability. He designed the bow to draw 50 pounds of strength. The string was made from a deer tendon. The lightweight arrows were made from pine. For accurate and long flights, eagle feathers were used for fletching. Eagle feathers, unlike other plumes, are sacred and honored for only brave warriors. The arrowheads were made from coyote bones, and the quiver was made from deerskin.

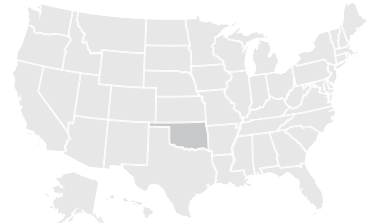
The father told his son, "In the beginning of time, our people used their hands and rocks. Then, they used clubs and spears to hunt for food. To kill their enemy. Then, we made the bow and arrow. It has been with our people for thousands of years. It is sacred. It's our friend. It's our right hand. You wouldn't be here without it. We owe our lives to it. It defended us against those who would kill us. It put meat on the fire. The bow and a quiver of arrows is a sacred weapon. It must be respected because it kept our people alive. Always give the bow and arrow your respect."

The father continued to teach his son. "When the white man came in the big ships to take our land, their guns were loud, and it took a long time for them to fire their second ball. A brave could shoot eight arrows into the sky before the first one hit the ground, and the arrow was accurate. It was silent. It was a better weapon. This is for you, my son. Someday you will give it to your son. And teach him to make one for his son. And always remember, the bow and arrow are to be honored among our people."

The son had meticulously watched his father construct the bow and arrows and sew the quiver together. He taught the son well. He knew his father took great pride in his craft. He planned to hunt with his father's gift and bring food to his mother's table. He promised his father that he would always respect and honor the sacred bow and arrow.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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

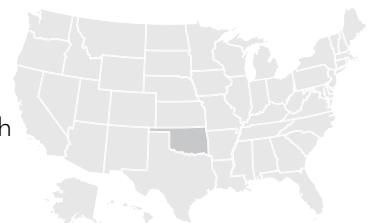


David Barrett District 10

Bozho (Hello),

The CPN veterans color guard was invited to participate in the 7th annual Rubin Rivers Medal of Honor ride. On Saturday, March 25, 2023, the Roll to Wreaths Riders 4 Vets rolled out of Papa's Leather Barn, in Bethany, Oklahoma, to begin the 200-mile ride stopping at the Seminole Nation Tribal Veteran's Cemetery. There, an air evacuation helicopter landed, and the RTW-Riders 4 Vets presented the wreaths, accompanying CPN veterans color guard. Principal Chief Lewis Johnson and Assistant Chief Brian Palmer of the Seminole Nation spoke along with CPN veteran Bill Wano and me. When in route with or without an escort, six motorcyclists rode in the "Missing Man Formation" with two in front, one in the middle and two in the back, representing the deceased.

The next stop was at the Woodland Veterans Park in Shawnee. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veteran's Color Guard and I spoke, remembering those who served, and Veteran's Secretary Bill Wano lead in the closing prayer. Also in attendance was CPN Veteran's Commander Daryl Talbot. While "Taps" was played, the Seminole Color Guard did the 21-gun salute.





David Barrett, Daryl Talbot and Bill Wano with the RTW-Riders 4 Vets

According to Wikipedia, Ruben Rivers (Oct. 31, 1918 — Nov. 19, 1944) was a United States Army staff sergeant killed in action while serving as a tank company platoon sergeant during World War II. 761st Tank Battalion was eventually assigned to General George S. Patton's U.S. Third Army. In 1997, Rivers (half-Cherokee) and six other Black Americans were awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration for valor. Vernon Baker was the only recipient still living and present to receive his reward; President Bill Clinton presented Rivers' medal posthumously to his sister, Grace Woodfork, during the ceremony at the White House in Washington, D.C. The seven recipients are the first and only Black Americans to be awarded the Medal of Honor for World War II.

Rivers was born in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, and grew up in nearby Hotulka, Oklahoma. I have to admit I did not know where this area was, and I grew up in Tecumseh. The

ghost town was only a few miles south and east of Tecumseh between 1905 and 1911. It was named for Hutulkee Martha, a prominent Creek Indian. "Hutulka" meant "wind people."

The CPN veteran's color guard attended one of the earlier dedications at the Tecumseh American Legion where we were able to talk to family members. This is one of the ways that our color guard pays tribute to our fallen soldiers. There is the Missing Man Table, the symbolism of a round table covered with a white cloth with a single red rose in a vase with a red ribbon. There is a slice of lemon and a pinch of salt with a lighted candle on the table as well as a Bible and an inverted glass. The chair is empty; the seat that remains unclaimed at the table. Most people probably have seen an aerial salute at a funeral or memorial event, typically in memory of a fallen pilot, a well-known military service member, veteran or political figure. The planes fly in a formation with an empty space for another, symbolizing the person's absence.

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

Thank a veteran, first responder or a person in blue. Take time to reflect on the sacrifices of all veterans and their families on this Memorial Day.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



Seminole Nation Honor Guard

JOIN THE NISHNABE NERDS FACEBOOK GROUP

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

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

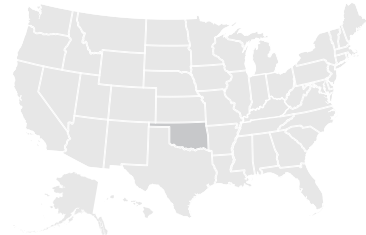
Fanning the flames of the Seventh Fire for the next seven generations through education!

NISHNABE NERDS



Andrew Walters District 11

Bozho (Hello),



The other day, I was over at the Cultural Heritage Center here in Shawnee, sitting with the drum group when an older woman and three children walked into the Long Room and sat down to listen. The woman told us that one of the children, a little boy probably 8 or 9, was Potawatomi. We all stopped and started talking to the boy, inviting him over to drum. With more than a little coaxing and coercion, we managed to get him to come sit in the drum circle and pick up a beater. Justin Neely started drumming and began to sing. Slowly a remarkable transformation happened. The little boy, who was so hesitant and apprehensive, started following the beat. It seemed natural for him. A smile came over his face. He sat up a bit straighter, a little bit prouder. Where once had sat just a little boy, now sat a Potawatomi. The other children looked at him differently... and more importantly, he saw himself differently.

It made me hope that one day all of us will be like that little boy. You see, some of us are apprehensive about being Native. We have been raised in the climate of the dominant culture for so long that we see ourselves not as we are, ancient people, but as just another member of that conforming culture. We feel uneasy, timid, afraid. We feel we have not earned the "privilege" of being Potawatomi. We do not feel comfortable displaying or presenting ourselves as Native. We don't want to take the time to delve into our ancestor's world because for the most part we are comfortable with being "normal." Maybe in the past we were told that it was "bad" to present yourself as "Indian." I know in my own family, my paternal grandfather told my father in no uncertain terms what he thought of him marrying a "G—d— Indian." But my mother never flinched, never faltered. She taught us to be proud.

I believe that little boy had an experience he will always remember — a watershed moment in his life when he realized he was something more than just "normal." A realization that he is special. A member of a family with over 38,000 members. A family that has endured sorrow, hardship and death. A family rich in tradition and meaning. A family that has lived on for thousands of years despite the privations, enforced displacements and persecutions of the near past.

If only we could all have that little boy's experience, to feel his pride of discovery. That we could all accept and embrace "Tribal Life." Its fullness and richness are indescribable. To know our past, to pray for our ancestors, to participate in celebrations and rituals that have been passed down to us for generations is life changing. To understand our Potawatomi culture brings clarity to your everyday life. To practice its tenets and follow its teachings eases your mind and brings you peace.

There is a time for us all. I would like to ask each of you reading this who hasn't yet experienced "Tribal Life" to reach out and touch your inheritance. Honor your ancestors' lives. Experience your culture. Being Potawatomi is a journey. A journey over the course of a lifetime. But each journey starts with a first step. Reach out, and the Tribe will be there to help you down your path. You can walk or you can run, but you must take the first step to learn who you are. We are all equally born Potawatomi, but the richer experience is to live Potawatomi.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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

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Walking On

Daryl Lynn Rhodd Rhodd Family



Daryl Lynn Rhodd of Seminole, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022, at the age of 57 years after a lengthy illness. Daryl was born on Dec. 14, 1964, to parents Leonard Paul Rhodd and Colleen (Johnson) Rhodd (both from Maud, Oklahoma) in Houston, Texas. Growing up in Houston, he attended Our Savior Lutheran High School. Daryl's lifelong dream was to drive big

trucks. He achieved that dream and was employed as a truck driver with J.A.M. Distributing Company for many years and was very proud to represent the company.

After time, he moved from Texas to Oklahoma and settled in Konawa. As a proud and dedicated Tribal member, he worked in Shawnee as a transit driver for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He loved his job and the guys he worked with. Unfortunately, his illness prevented him from driving, and he was not able to continue to work. After time, he moved to Seminole. Daryl enjoyed many things, especially NASCAR races, traveling to Mt. Scott in Lawton, riding the train to Ft. Worth, and most of all, camping and sitting around the campfire at Sportman's Lake, enjoying the peace and tranquility with Stephanie, his love and companion.

Daryl was preceded in death by his parents; Grandma Johnson; nephew, Michael; and niece, Sierra Rhodd.

He is survived by daughters, Montana Nikole Rhodd (Chase Kirkpatrick) and Randi Renee Tamez (Jason); sons, Richard Craig Rhodd (Jamie), Ryan Lynn Rhodd and Jason Whaley (Victoria); grandchildren, McKenzie and Cameron Tamez, Jasper and Avery Rhodd, Ally Rhodd and Alex Whaley; sister, Betty (Rhodd) and Johnny Maniscalco; brother, Samuel Paul and Alice Rhodd; and companion, Stephanie Johnson with her children and grandchildren; as well as other nieces and nephews, Tracie and Nick, Nicholas and Natalie Divirgilio, Kristy (Maniscalco) and Kennedy Woods, Kara (Rhodd) and Craig Hebbe, Aidan and Evan DeLeon, and Adam and Tanya Rhodd.

Services were held on Monday, Nov. 14, 2022, at Swearingen Funeral Chapel in Seminole. Interment was at Resthaven Memorial Park in Shawnee.

As services began in the chapel, a beautiful snow started falling and lasted throughout to the end of

service at the cemetery. Daryl loved snow, and we know he was with us throughout. It was all so peaceful.

Our thanks and appreciation to all who loved Daryl. He will always be with us today, tomorrow and always.

Dr. William (Bill) Bryan Simecka, Jr. Schropfer Family



Dr. William (Bill) Bryan Simecka, Jr., who was known for a brilliant mind and a loving heart, left this world and those he loved on March 13, 2023, at the age of 93. He died peacefully with his loving wife, Sue, at his side.

Bill was born in Delia, Kansas, to Regina and William B. Simecka. He has four brothers, Dick, Karl, Don and Terry, and a sister, Betty.

He was a strong believer in education and hard work. He achieved mechanical engineering bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from Kansas State University, UCLA and UC, Berkeley. He also inspired and encouraged both his siblings and children to pursue their educations and dreams as well.

Bill's career spanned over four decades, in which he achieved prestigious leadership positions at a wide variety of governmental and industrial organizations. He was Chief Scientist at Eglin Air Force Base, Vice-President at Northrop Corporation, Director of Mechanical Engineering at Livermore Laboratories and Engineering Director at Yucca Mountain Project.

In addition to his engineering feats, Bill served as president of the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, where he headed up the bicentennial celebration of the Army in 1975 and was able to present President Gerald Ford at the White House with a gift of a painting from artist Jaraslov Gebr in commemoration of the bicentennial.

In his spare time, he became a certified hypnotist, took voice lessons, provided theatrical support with an occasional stage appearance and was a skilled handyman around the house. He was a man of many talents and interests.

Bill is predeceased by parents and brother, Dick. He is survived by Sue Simecka, his wife of 41 years; his children, Jerry Simecka (Leslie), Jay Simecka (Katy) and Jill Simecka Davis (Ed); and his siblings, Betty Simecka, Karl Simecka (Mary), Don Simecka (Pat) and Terry

Simecka. He was the proud grandfather of Christy Simecka Morgan (Robert), Kelli Spitz (Josh), Andrew Simecka (Cat), Jonathan Davis, Jackson Davis and Christina Filadelfia (Jeffrey). He also had three great-grandsons, Brody Morgan and Logan and Owen Filadelfia.

The family would like to thank the staff at Truewood by Merrill in Henderson for their excellent care for Bill in his final days.

Glen Wayne Goyer

Tescier Family

Glen Wayne Goyer, 77, formerly of Oxford, Kansas, passed away Monday, March 20, 2023, at the Winfield Veterans' Home.

Glen was born in Oklahoma City on Aug. 27, 1945, to parents James Goyer and Alma (Williams) Goyer. He graduated from Belle Plaine High School. Glen proudly served in the Army from August 1965 to May 1968 during the Vietnam War. He was united in marriage to Janice Smith in Mulvane, Kansas, on June 8, 1968. In 1970, he graduated from the NCK Vocational Technical School in Beloit, Kansas. Glen worked as a diesel mechanic for over 30 years; he was passionate about fabricating and tinkering, especially with vehicles. He could dream up anything and make it. Some of his most recent projects were his dump truck golf cart and "the little wrecker." Another hobby of Glen's was dirt work, which he did professionally and for family and friends. He dug ponds, cleared brush, leveled ground and much more. Glen also loved being outdoors, birdwatching, gardening, fishing and cooking ribs, but most of all, he loved spending time with his grandkids.

Glen is survived by his daughter, Beth Strickland (Jason); son, Jeff Goyer (Paula Rader); grandchildren, Avery and Owen; brother, Rolan Goyer; sister, Nancy Stephens; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his wife, parents and brothers, Joe and Kenny Goyer.

Ramona Jeanne Ellinger

Peltier Family



Ramona Jeanne Ellinger was born Oct. 14, 1938, to George and Uvabelle Peltier. She woke up in the arms of God on the morning of April 13, 2023, at the age of 84. Jeanne grew up in Purcell, Oklahoma, and graduated from Purcell High School at age 16 in 1955. She married Wayne Ellinger in June 1956 and began having her four children immediately. They moved to Weatherford, Oklahoma, where Wayne began teaching at Southwestern

Oklahoma State University (SWOSU).

Jeanne received a bachelor's degree from SWOSU, a master's degree in English from University of Oklahoma and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University in teaching English as a second language. Jeanne taught in the English department at SWOSU from 1965 until her retirement in 1991. She taught teaching English as a second language, speech and English composition. She spent countless hours grading themes, which she carried with her everywhere.

Life threw many curves her way, but she always met them head-on with faith in God and a joyful spirit. Jeanne was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in her early 20s but always had an attitude of thankfulness and grace for things she could do and didn't let MS limit her. She battled with the strength of a warrior.

Those left behind to cherish her love and memory are her children, Penny (Bob) Bostwick of Spokane, Washington; Kenneth Ellinger of Dalton, Georgia; Jenifer (Paul) Nail of Conway, Arkansas; and Mary (Tracy) Marks of Ardmore, Oklahoma. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren: Carmen Nowka (Mike Weitzenfeld) and their children, Willa and Mae; Michael (Sherece) Carter and their children, K.J. and Luke; Mark Carter; Jessica Fleming; Ericka (Kyle) Caufield and their children, Camden and Chas; Evan Ellinger; Elyssa Ellinger; Anthony (Celina) Nail; Lance (Kealy) Nail; Mary (Blake) Farris; Andy Marks and his children, Georgia, Harvey, Louise and Lionel; and Amy Marks.

Jeanne was blessed to have the love of Dominic Reinpold in her later years. They were married from 2002 until his death in 2017. His children loved Jeanne dearly: Angela Kerr, Phil Reinpold and Loren Reinpold.

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to the Great Plains Family YMCA in Jeanne's memory at Great Plains Family YMCA, c/o Magan Cleveland, 1400 N. Airport Rd, Weatherford, OK 73096 or online.

Sheila Barnes

Anderson Family



With great sadness, we share the passing of Sheila Kay Barnes. She passed away on April 11, 2023, in Midwest City, Oklahoma, at the age of 71.

Sheila was loved by everyone! She was a wonderful seamstress and very crafty. She was a hairdresser for many years. She had the most beautiful and generous soul and cared so much for her loved ones. She was never

afraid to say exactly what needed to be said, regardless of how anyone felt about it. She was a force to be reckoned with, and she wrote ALL the rules. She was a very strong

woman, thanks to growing up with four big brothers! Sheila will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Terry Barnes; parents, Davis and Ina Anderson; and brother, Jerry Anderson. She is survived by her brothers, David, Wayne, and Kenny Anderson; daughters, Shanna (Barnes) Greer and April Barnes; son, Zachary Barnes; granddaughters, Kylie Uribe, Lily Barnes and Chloe Barnes; grandsons, Blake Moore and River Ross; great-granddaughters, Addelyn Uribe and Luna Uribe; and great-grandsons, Everest Barnes and August Uribe.

Mary Maxine DiGrappa
Bertrand Family



Mary Maxine DiGrappa passed on March 30, 2023, in Norman, Oklahoma. She was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Bertrand family. Born in Norman in 1929, she was the daughter of William Paul Clark (Potawatomi) and Eugenia Margaret Bourcher and granddaughter of Nora Adelaide (Bertrand) Clark, an original allottee

of 1887. She met and married Gerry DiGrappa at the University of Oklahoma where she studied art. They later moved to Big Springs, Texas, until his passing. She shortly moved back to Norman to be closer to her brother and sister, Paul Clark and Norma Watson. All three siblings passed on at the age of 93. She leaves behind several nieces, nephews and cousins and will be missed by all.

Johnni Sue (Susan) LeClair Ray
Rhodd Family



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

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

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

Susan was proud of her Potawatomi, Choctaw,

Cherokee and Creek heritage. She enjoyed taking everyone to the powwows and other educational events.

Susan is survived by two sons, Raymond Raydale Ray and Jason L. Ray (wife Julia); three granddaughters, Cat, Gabby, and Kadie; her devoted mother, Nancy, and stepfather, Walter Moss; three loving sisters, Anna, Angela and Gina; niece, Kayla (Kha'mauriah, Ry'anne); nephew,

Davien; and a host of loving extended family, including her beloved companion, Sweet Pea the chihuahua.

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

Paul Arthur Martin
Peltier Family



Paul Arthur Martin Nibwemko (Stands Tall Bear), age 84 of Tucson, Arizona, passed away from this life and into heaven on Friday, Feb. 17, 2023, after a long illness. He was born on Jan. 19, 1939, to his parents, Joseph Cecil and wife Myrtle (Peltier) Martin, one of four children.

Paul ("Sut," as he was known to most) proudly served his country as a member of the United States Navy from 1956 until 1959. In 1965, he joined the Tucson Fire Department, where he spent the next 29 years, retiring in 1994 as a Captain.

Sut was known for his devotion to family and friends. He and his wife, Kathy, raised four children: Kendra Lynn, Kirk Anthony, Karreen Nanette and James Koley.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his two sons, Kirk and Koley; brother, Joe Bud Martin; and sister, Shirley Okemah Roberts (Dave). He is survived by Kathy, his wife of 62 years; daughters, Kendra Linaman and Karreen Martin; sister, Myra Loretta Hill (Charlie); nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a host of other family members and friends.

Nora Mae McManus
Wilmette Family



Nora Mae McManus, 87, born on Aug. 20, 1935, went to be with her family that had preceded her in death on March 18, 2023.

Her father and mother, George and Alta Mae Sinor; sisters, Lucille Link and Melba Lee Shanks; husband, Jerry (Jerico) McManus Sr.; sons, James A. and Jerry L. McManus Jr.; and one great-grandson, Ryan Satterfield walked on before her.

She left behind sisters, Judy Washam and Laura Bell McHenry; brother, Johnny Sinor; sons and daughters-in-law, Michael W. (Carol), Mark D. (Lisa E.), and Steven L. (Mandy) McManus; 14 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Nora loved to cook, crochet, knit, sew, garden and spend time with her grandkids. She was an avid storyteller and would tell you like it was.

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**Joyce Darlene
(Lazelle) Alsterlund**
Darling Family



On Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023, Joyce Alsterlund passed away peacefully in her home of 66 years surrounded by her family. Joyce was born in Colfax, Washington, on Feb. 1, 1942, to Delbert Lazelle and Edith Darling Lazelle. The second of four children, she attended Palouse Elementary, transferring to Potlatch Middle School and completing grades 7 and 8. She later received her GED. Joyce was an avid reader and a life-long learner. She was always trying new ways to knit, crochet, grow things, can and cook. She enjoyed

spending time with her sisters, Judy (Gerald) Reisenauer and Jo (Duane) Minden, and her brother, Glenn Lazelle.

Joyce married Ron Alsterlund on Oct. 29, 1955, and in 1956, welcomed son, Kenneth Warren. Kenny was joined by Debi (1958) and Eric (1960), completing the family. She was preceded in death by Ron in 2002. She missed him every day.

She and Gale "Sam" Dial became engaged and traveled throughout the area for several years until Sam passed away. Mom cared for Sam during his illness and is also survived by his wonderful family.

Joyce worked for the Potlatch School District and Washington State University, retiring as the coordinator of admissions at the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine. She volunteered with the Palouse Lions Club and was a founding member of the Northwest Cancer Foundation of Hope. She was a supporter of the Light A Candle Program at Gritman Medical Center, originally established to honor her husband, Ron. She was a member of the Potlatch Pinochle Club and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her children, Kenny (Pam), Debi (Scott Dockins) and Eric; and grandchildren, Justin (Merilee) Alsterlund, Amy (Ben) Hudson, Kelly (Tasha) Siebert, Katie (Ryan) Breeze, Zac Dockins, Ashley (Landon) Kirk and Amber Alsterlund. She was especially beloved by them and their children, Caleb Papineau, Emma Hudson, Maverick and Georgia Joyce Alsterlund, Brenton and Brynlee Breeze, and Kyler Siebert; and a sister-in-law, Marilyn Kay Westerkamp of Phoenix, Arizona. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews. She leaves behind many close friends, including Jeannie Jeffers and Lorraine Arrasmith.

A celebration remembering her life was held on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, at the Federated Church in Palouse, Washington. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Northwest Cancer Foundation of Hope in Moscow, Idaho.

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**Steven Frederick
Cheatwood**
Pratt Family



Steven Frederick Cheatwood (Rick) was born on Feb. 22, 1965, in Wichita, Kansas.

He is survived by his mother, Sue A. Cheatwood; brother, Randy Cheatwood; and sisters, Teri Brunson (husband, Bob) and Tammy Cheatwood Steward. His family also includes nephews, Chase (Amanda) and Lucas (Courtney) Cheatwood; and his niece, Sarah Faith (Nate) Lewis. Not

forgetting his four great-nephews, Noah, Dean, Lincoln and Benjamin Cheatwood. We can't forget his great dad, Fred Cheatwood, who went to be with the Lord on Feb. 21, 2017. His love for his family will always remain with us.

He was a Sooner and an Alabama fan, and he played baseball and basketball while growing up. Family time consisted of baseball, softball and basketball games. Anything sports. He graduated from Broken Arrow High School in 1983 and went to Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, for a semester. Later, he traveled to and lived in Texas as well as Colorado before moving to Elberta, Alabama, where he lived and worked at Pirates Cove for over 35 years. He continued to keep in contact with friends in Oklahoma, and he added new friends in Alabama.

His smile and laughter and colorful personality will be remembered by everyone he knew! Rick was our beach bum bro, and we will miss him immensely.

Memorial services were held Friday, Feb. 17, 2023, at Sequoyah Creek Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

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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