

HOWNIKAN

Bnakwigises/Giwségises | October/November 2023



New cookbook
celebrates Potawatomi
food, culture



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Walking on



Intergenerational cycle of abuse

By Kayla Woody,
CPN House of Hope Prevention Specialist

As children, we learn many things from our families like values, habits and character. Whether we are taught directly by caregivers or we pick these traits up by observation, this knowledge has a deep impact on our lives. Our relationships and the way we handle situations all stem from the interactions we experience with our families.

When there is violence in a home, abusive behavior becomes the standard for relationships. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that over their lifetimes, approximately 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men experience physical violence, sexual violence or stalking, and more than 43 million women and 38 million men experience psychological aggression ([cpn.news/cdcfastfacts](https://www.cdc.gov/fastfacts/physicalviolence.htm)).

The Office on Women's Health (OASH) states that more than 15 million children in the U.S. live in homes in which domestic violence has happened at least once, and these children are at greater risk for repeating the cycle by entering into abusive relationships or becoming abusers themselves ([cpn.news/oasheffects](https://www.oash.hhs.gov/our-work/prevention-and-control/advance-domestic-violence-prevention/)).

Intergenerational violence happens when the abuse affects several generations within a family. This term has been associated with societal trauma like the abuse that has been inflicted on racial and ethnic groups. The abuse directed at Native Americans through colonization and boarding schools is an example of historical trauma that continues to impact Native communities today. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) states that more than 4 in 5 (84.3%) American Indian and Alaskan Native adults have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime ([cpn.news/dojreport](https://www.dhs.gov/indian-tribes-acting-against-domestic-violence)).

However, this cycle can be caused by family violence as well. Abuse tends to be a learned behavior, and when the abuse is normalized by frequent acts of violence in the home, whether physical, emotional or by coercive control, the cycle continues. It is difficult to break this cycle of abuse when an individual views the abuse as a normal way of interacting in a relationship.

In order to prevent this cycle of abuse from continuing generationally there must be more awareness around the issue. For individuals to make changes they must first see what the problem is. These individuals need to be provided with quality interventions and social support systems.

In a report, *Breaking the Cycle of Intergenerational Violence: The Promise of Psychosocial Interventions to Address Children's Exposure to Violence*, there are

some approaches that can be taken to decrease the likelihood of abuse continuing generationally ([cpn.news/breakingthecycle](https://www.cpn.news/breakingthecycle)).

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with trauma focus (CBT) — this type of therapy can include cognitive coping skills, conjoint child-parent sessions to enhance communication, safety planning for future development and increasing emotional expression.



- Interpersonal Therapy (IPT) — this type of therapy can include coping with grief after the loss of a loved one, overcoming difficulties in adapting to changes in relationships, gaining an ability to handle difficult social situations and resolving conflict.
- Mindfulness and Yoga — these types of interventions are normally group-based and include meditation. Growing evidence supports the use of yoga as a treatment for depression and PTSD among child or adolescent survivors of sexual assault and abuse.
- Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention — this intervention is for a child and their caregiver to be implemented within 30 to 45 days of a traumatic event or disclosure of abuse. It is used to improve communication between the child and the non-abusive caregiver and to increase the support of the caregiver to the child.

Even though the history of abuse and trauma might have started with your parents or your other relatives, you have the power to break free from this curse.

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

Q&A with Audrey Kiefer of Axiom Space

Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Audrey Kiefer is helping people reach for the stars with Axiom Space, the leading provider of human spaceflight services and developer of human-rated space infrastructure, according to their website.

The company operates end-to-end missions to the International Space Station while developing Axiom Station, an eventual successor to the ISS. Axiom Space is also known for building next-generation spacesuits.

Kiefer, a descendant of the Theresa Richstatter family, is the senior director of customer experience operations. She shared her insights during a Q&A with the *Hownikan*:

Q: Tell us about yourself and your position:

A: "My name is Audrey Kiefer. Axiom Space is not only building the world's first commercial space station and the spacesuit that will be worn by the first woman who steps on the lunar surface, but we also send private and government astronauts to the International Space Station to conduct science and outreach."

"I lead a group of individuals who care for our astronauts, from the moment a contract is signed until after they return to Earth. We manage their schedules, travel, on-orbit cargo, family support and overall experience preparing them for their mission to space."

Q: Tell us about your family and upbringing:

A: "I grew up outside of Kansas City, Missouri, and perhaps like many of my Citizen Potawatomi Nation brothers and sisters, I didn't have a privileged upbringing. In fact, quite the contrary; for the better part of two years, my mother and I survived on food stamps and the generosity of her friends offering a roof over our heads. Despite our struggles, I am thankful to have two parents who supported my ambitions from an early age."

"As kids do, my interests often shifted between dinosaurs, Egyptology, space, airplanes, extreme weather, and so on. I learned early that every career path that caught my attention required a college degree. Coming from a family where no one had attended college, I had to pay attention in school to maintain my grades. As I grew older, I sought advice from the teachers I admired who recommended that I also get involved in extra-curricular activities. I did, but I had to fit them in around my work schedule."

"I started working at 15 and learned when you combine work ethic and a servant's heart, you'll be rewarded. I earned higher tips and more corporate recognition than any of my peers."

"I learned to balance a full school day with weighted classes, the presidency of two clubs, student

council, show choir and a part-time job. By the time I graduated from high school, I had a spectacular resume, several scholarships and an admission letter to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida."

"The moment that letter arrived, I knew it could change my life. With the encouragement from my parents and teacher-mentors, I made the first major uncomfortable decision in my life. I packed up my old Ford Explorer and drove to Florida to start this chapter."

Q: How did you get professional experience? Did you have any challenges?

A: "Graduating with a technical degree in meteorology and a minor in aviation business during the Great Recession with over \$100,000 in student debt was the first adult challenge that I had to face. Bills were coming due, and I needed to find an income fast."

"After a grueling search, I found a part-time meteorology gig at a Houston non-profit, paying close to minimum wage. I took a night job at a restaurant so that I could pay for my small apartment and student loans. The meteorology gig was hardly what I had in mind, so I resumed my job hunt in my spare time."

"After several discouraging months of searching, I opened a beer that I recently learned about at work, considered its complexity and my admiration for it, and typed 'beer' into the [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) search engine. It was then that my very surprising career in sales began."

"Without a speck of sales experience — it terrified me, honestly — I began working for a broker selling independent spirits and craft beer to restaurants and stores. It's true what they say, with enough practice, anyone can learn any skill. I had tremors before walking in to speak with a potential account. But, the more confident I was in the product, the more successful I was."

"I caught the attention of one of our craft beer suppliers out of California. Like many other small breweries, they couldn't afford to have full-time sales representatives, so they used brokers to represent their product around the country."

"This is where I took another big risk and made a strategic change in my career. I booked a flight to San Francisco, drove the three and a half hours north to where they were located, sat across from the brewmaster and president and told them I could sell enough of their brand across Texas to make up for the salary that I wanted."

Q: How did your risk pay off?

"The next four and a half years allowed me to hone my skills. I realized that sales is all about the relationships you make. A common misconception is that you need to be a great talker to be a great salesman, when the truth



is that you need to be a great listener. I grew the brand 400% and Texas became the top market in profitability.”

“My first raise came when the president approached me and said, ‘Audrey, do you know how much you’ve made for this company in the last year?’ To my embarrassment, I did not. He gave me the number along with a very big raise. I learned a lesson. Always know and be able to communicate the value you’re bringing to a company. You shouldn’t expect others to know it for you, and you can’t champion yourself without it.”

Q: How did you make the shift to Axiom Space?

“It was difficult to leave the brewery to follow my aviation bug but I worked in business development for a local company for a couple of years. I then set out on my own and started two companies: a technology company for which I raised \$200,000, and a private aviation marketing and consulting company to support me while building the first.”

“During the height of COVID in spring of 2020, I received a call from an industry friend that I met during

a business conference a few years prior. He told me about Axiom Space and said that they were looking for someone to who could help serve as ‘concierge style’ support in Houston to their high-net worth customers on their first private commercial mission to space.”

“I hadn’t been interested in space since I was a child, but I wanted to be part of it. I love the start-up environment, the hustle, the uncertainty and the ability to make big impacts from any position.”

“I met for coffee with a woman from marketing and received a call from the highly decorated chief astronaut explaining the position to me. I applied and interviewed with the leadership team. I still remember the day the CEO walked into the room and shook my hand with congratulations.”

Q: Where is most of your focus today?

“I negotiated everything from the scope of my role to my new title of customer experience manager. I wanted to

Continued on next page



ensure that I had a voice to speak for the customers, soon-to-be-astronauts, across their entire journey. It turns out, not coming from a space background was an advantage. I had a new perspective on customer service and the future of commercial space that many of my colleagues did not.”

“Commercial space was and is still a new industry, and prior to this moment in history, there were only a handful of private citizens that had been to space, and zero fully private missions by a private company. The type of customers that we attracted had very high expectations of their experience with us. When people are paying to go to space, instead of being paid to go, it requires a complete mental shift for those providing that service.”

Q: What was your biggest challenge?

“The biggest challenge I faced was the balancing act of respecting and learning from government-career space executives and giving a voice to my values as the only expert that has worked closely with high-net worth clients. I was also the youngest and a female at the leadership table.”

“I can say that sending the first-ever fully private crew to the International Space Station was the most challenging thing that I have done, but it was also the most rewarding. I was regarded as the ‘bull in the china shop’ on more than one occasion. I’m proud that I remained headstrong in my commitment to excellence. I had to gain the trust of not only our customers, but also of the leadership team and my peers. Customer satisfaction is critical to a successful commercial company.”

Q: Tell us about your most recent work. Would *Hownikan* readers be familiar with it?

“Axiom Space recently unveiled the Extravehicular Mobility Unit to provide increased flexibility, greater protection to withstand the harsh environment and specialized tools to accomplish exploration needs and expand scientific opportunities,” according to the Axiom Space website.

“Before the public release of our Axiom Space spacesuit, the AxEVA suit, I called a friend working in Hollywood on the show *For All Mankind*. I asked if he could recommend someone to assist us with the cover layer worn over the suit to protect the proprietary components. He connected me with the costume designer for the show.”

“Together, Axiom Space and costume designer Esther Marquis collaborated on the suit’s cover layer for display purposes to conceal the suit’s proprietary design, using the Axiom Space logo and brand colors. The collaboration was well-received by the media. Some stories about the suit highlighted the courageous spirit of Axiom Space when they hired a Hollywood designer from a hit space-themed TV show.”

“For our second private spaceflight mission, I approached Build-A-Bear and asked if they would be interested in making a stuffed-animal sized version of the suit. My goal was to send a spacesuit-wearing bear on our mission, then sell the suit in stores around the country to inspire and educate children about space. It was a success, and we’re still proud partners with them today.”

Q: What advice would you offer others?

“One important piece of advice is to remember your heritage when choosing a school. Many prestigious universities will offer full-term scholarships for Native Americans. I chose a private school and had to supplement my tuition with student loans.”

“I owe a great deal to the people that I’ve hired at Axiom Space. Service is a thankless job, but it manifests the most selfless hearts. No matter the obstacles, we do what it takes to get the job done.”

“I’d like to offer what I’ve learned to others like women, single-mothers and Native Americans. There have been over 600 people sent to orbit the Earth, and we only just witnessed the first Native American woman, Nicole Mann, launch to space in October of 2022. We can do better as a nation, an ethnicity and a species.”

“Robert Allen said, ‘Everything you want is just outside your comfort zone.’ I wanted to share the moments in my life when I decided to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. I took risks, fell and stood back up, came to peace with the fact that not everyone is going to appreciate when you stand up for your values, and stopped apologizing for chasing goals that the people around me didn’t understand.”

“I encourage others to pursue education, seek advice from teachers or mentors, always ask or the answer will be ‘no,’ learn to communicate your value, learn to listen, give thanks often, and don’t underestimate the power of your unique perspective. I invite anyone seeking career advice to reach out to me.”

For more information, visit the Axiom Space website. 🔥

Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) is dedicated to providing high-quality and holistic care for veterans. The VA's National Oncology Program recognizes the significance of *healthy living* in cancer care.



BACK HOME WE CALL THIS LINE DANCING!

The VA has transformative resources, guidance and real-world perspectives that empower veterans, enhance well-being and foster resilience.

"Getting regular physical activity, striving for a healthy weight, being tobacco free and limiting alcohol are

powerful tools for reducing cancer risk. Not only for cancer, these healthy lifestyle behaviors are the foundation for preventing and reducing other diseases as well," said Dr. Jane Kim, executive director for Preventive Medicine at VA's National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

Staying up to date on your cancer screenings is one of the best ways to stay proactive in safeguarding your well-being. If you are curious about whether you might be due for a cancer screening, the VA has a quick-reference list for most common cancers that veterans face, including breast, cervical, colorectal and lung cancers. It is important to talk to your primary care provider to determine whether you are due for any of the screenings listed and ask questions you might have.

Wellness after cancer treatment holds immense significance as a new chapter in the survivor's journey, emphasizing the need to restore and optimize overall well-being. While treatment addresses the physical aspects of cancer, your wellness goes beyond mere recovery. It also includes the veteran's emotional, mental and social well-being.

Migwetch (Thank you).

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization does not have a meeting this November, but we have our Christmas/Thanksgiving Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the North Reunion Hall. All CPN veterans and their families are welcome. You do not have to be a member of the CPN Veterans Organization to attend. Remember, our regular meetings will begin again at 6 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024. You do not have to be a member to attend. Have a safe Thanksgiving.

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

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**



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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MDAMEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Mdamen prepares for third session

The application period for *Mdamen*, an eight-week leadership program, opened on Oct. 1, 2023. This is the third session of the virtual program, which helps Citizen Potawatomi Nation members establish and maintain a strong connection to their heritage.

Mdamen comes from the *Bodéwadmimwen* (Potawatomi language) word for corn and translates as “that miraculous seed.” The deadline to apply is Dec. 1, 2023.

Tribal members from across the United States have made and maintained connections with their fellow Potawatomi as a result of *Mdamen*.

CPN Education Department Internship and Project Coordinator Kym Coe encourages CPN members over the age of 18 to apply, no matter their knowledge of Potawatomi culture. The application contains five short essay questions with a maximum of 250 words.

“*Mdamen* is open to 20 applicants,” Coe said. “So, apply quickly.”

With the beginning of 2024, Education Department employee Emily Higdon said she hopes the optimism people have at the beginning of a new year will carry over into *Mdamen*.

Weekly sessions

The eight-week program begins on Jan. 11, 2024, and continues each week until the final session on Feb. 29, 2024. Each session is held from 6-8:30 p.m., CST.

Higdon participated in the first *Mdamen* class. She said applicants shouldn’t stress over the time commitment required, since the program is held over Zoom.

“You can eat dinner while you’re on the Zoom. If you have kids playing in the background, you can just be muted,” Higdon said. “The talking circles are the only times that you’ll want to have a little bit of a quiet space.”

Even if applicants don’t have Zoom experience, the Jan. 4, 2024, introduction session includes time for everyone to get acquainted with Zoom, ensuring they can successfully log on and know how basic functions work.

New to *Mdamen* this year, the sessions will include the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

“Each week they learn a word of the Potawatomi language, and by the end they’re able to completely introduce themselves in Potawatomi,” Coe said. “At the very beginning, we will go over what love means. And then we will keep adding layers that make them feel connected.”

Other sessions will include Tribal history, government, enterprises, services, language, and culture. Participants will hear from guest speakers such as Tribal leadership, Harvard University’s Dr. Kelli Mosteller, AISES Senior Director of Programs Tesia Zientek and more.

The *Mdamen* talking circle is often a time when people feel nervous at first, but later they come to deeply appreciate the experience, Coe said.

“We make it as least stressful as possible. We start our talking circle by sharing your highs and lows for the week and then something that you got out of the day’s presentation,” she said. “Usually at the end of our time, the talking circle is their favorite part.”

Forming connections

In addition to increasing their overall knowledge of the Nation, Tribal members will create a supportive, online community. Higdon said she formed bonds with her fellow Potawatomi during the program and gained a deeper understanding of culture.

“*Mdamen* really helped me feel like I am able to claim this identity because it’s a hard identity to claim sometimes if you don’t feel like you’re connected as strongly as other people are,” Higdon said. “(Participants) can expect to form a really amazing community. I still talk to people daily from my first class (as well as) the second class and it’s a really good, strong community.”

Higdon hopes anyone considering applying doesn’t feel intimidated, because everyone is welcome to join.

“That’s what this program is for. That’s what I tell everyone, this is a way to learn,” she said. “And if you already feel like you have a little bit of knowledge, you can still join if you want more enrichment.”

She is proud of the bond her group created during *Mdamen*. They were thrilled to finally meet in person.

"I still remember my first talking circle and I'm very close with the three other people that were in that talking circle with me. We all got to meet in person at Family (Reunion) Festival this year. It was a really wonderful experience," she said. "One of my friends, this year was their first Festival. *Mdamen* really helped solidify her connection to the culture and the Tribe."

Coe said the program is designed to create those bonds and strengthen them so the next generation will be able to experience that same connection.

"One of the young ladies from this last group shared that she wanted to be able to teach her daughter about the culture and she wanted to be confident in what she was teaching," Coe said.

New leaders

Higdon described the *Mdamen* experience as welcoming.

Tribal member named Teacher of the Year

For the past seven years, Sarah Garrison has taught grade school in her hometown of Seiling, Oklahoma. This year, she was named 2023 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

"It was very surprising, and it was just an honor to be chosen," she said. "It was a good group of kids, and it was an interesting year."

Garrison graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond in 2005. She has taught in Oklahoma schools for 16 years, starting out for seven years at Choctaw-Nicomma Park Schools and then teaching two years at Crutchco Public Schools in Oklahoma City.

"I've had three different administrators, and all of them have been pretty amazing. They each brought something different to my learning experience and my education," Garrison said.

She said teaching can come with many challenges, which vary greatly depending on the school.

Teaching in a previous school where many students had difficult home lives, including students who were homeless, was a challenge, she said, but also rewarding.

"Those kids, they love hard," Garrison said, explaining that she tried to provide a safe environment. "This is their safe space, and they may not have anywhere else that they feel safe but at school. If you can make them feel safe, then they're going to open up and share."

Garrison also worked to earn the respect of her students.

"If you treat kids with respect, they're going to respect you. Even if they're children, they're still human and deserve respect as well," she said. "Some of these kids have had teachers who are exhausted and have bad days, and it just takes one bad incident

"I had no idea what the first class was going to be like. I thought it was going to be really intense," she said. "But it's warm and it's just like coming home."

Mdamen organizers hope to eventually grow the Tribe's next generation of leaders, but not just within government. Leaders are needed in every aspect of tribal life, Higdon said.

"You can be a leader in so many different things. You can be a leader in passing knowledge on to your children or helping other people learn the language or helping other people make regalia," she said. "It's life changing. It's really great."

Learn more and apply at portal.potawatomi.org. Email kym.coe@potawatomi.org with questions or for more information. 🔥



Sarah Garrison, center, holds her 2023 Elementary Teacher of the Year award. With her are her children, Avery Garrison, age 11, and Gabriel Garrison, age 13. (Photo provided)

for a kid to get a bad taste in their mouth. It's an uphill battle to get their mindset to change."

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CPN assists in tornado recovery

When severe weather struck the Shawnee, Oklahoma, area on April 19, 2023, Citizen Potawatomi Nation was there to help with recovery.

"There were five confirmed tornadoes within our jurisdiction," CPN Director of Safety and Housekeeping Tim Zientek said.

Zientek estimated that 1,000-1,500 emergency response vehicles were in the FireLake Arena parking lot following the storm. He said if he had to guess, there were nearly 100 different agencies that responded the first night.



Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, left, meets Shawnee Mayor Ed Bolt, right, to discuss tornado recovery efforts in the Shawnee area.

"The close network of first responders, and their willingness to come out on a dark and stormy night to assist any way they can, from local fire departments, search and rescue teams, Oklahoma Task Force," Zientek said. "It was an amazing sight to see the entire parking lot in front of the arena full of emergency service vehicles."

In the days following, CPN partnered with the American Red Cross, using CPN's North Reunion Hall to provide shelter and assistance for a time. Later, those services were moved to another location.

"Workforce and Social Services was cooking meals and delivering to a lot of the folks that had no power but could still stay in their home," he said. "The Grand Casino supplied a lot of meals, working with the Salvation Army. They would fix the meals, and the Salvation Army would pick them up and distribute to anyone affected, including the response teams."

CPN also offered powerline restoration companies a space to set up and bring equipment, as well as allowing Oklahoma Gas & Electric to use the primitive campgrounds.

"They erected this giant tent, and that's where they housed themselves," Zientek said, explaining that the power companies contracted with a chain restaurant to supply meals for contractors. "We just gave them a place to park. At one time, we had probably close to 4,000 pieces of equipment on property."

He said CPN also donated \$100,000 to the United Way to be used for recovery, and that the Avedis Foundation matched that donation. One way that money was used was to help homeowners — such as assisting those who had a weatherhead damaged and couldn't afford to get it fixed to turn the electricity back on.

In the weeks following, CPN also partnered with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe and Feed the Children. In two hours, volunteers at FireLake Arena passed out boxes of non-perishable food, hygiene items, books and comfort kits to 800 families.

Zientek added that once there was no longer a need, the Tribe passed on donated items to other Tribes and municipalities. These items included food, cleanup kits, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies and even medical cots.

"We've distributed those around the state to different Tribal entities, different counties, so they'll have them in case they have an emergency," Zientek said.

Damage at CPN

CPN also suffered some damage, though Zientek said the Tribe was lucky not to have sustained more damage than it did.

Between tornados and windstorms in the months of April, May and June, he said there was an estimated \$4 million in damage just for CPN.



The former Hardesty Grocery Store suffered major damage following the April tornado.



Thousands of emergency response vehicles gathered at the FireLake Arena parking lot, which was used as a staging area.

Damage included downed trees and awnings, roof damage to several buildings, fences knocked down and the destruction of one building.

Zientek said repairs could take a while, but explained that at the end of August, the Tribe received insurance approval to start repairs.

Recovery

Recovery efforts continue in the area, and Zientek said the city of Shawnee is nearly finished with curbside debris pickup.

“There are still numerous people that have no way to move debris from their yards out to the curbside,” he said. “Lots of them have no insurance, or they’re underinsured. It has really been havoc on Shawnee.”

In addition to help from CPN, he said other agencies and tribes also worked to help area residents.

“During the response phase right after the tornado hit, there were at least seven different tribes on property here to support and offer what services they could,” he said.

Some of those services included the use of side-by-side UTVs to transport food into impacted housing additions and flying drones to track the damage path.

The Choctaw Tribe brought an emergency operations center, and the Chickasaw Tribe and Muskogee Creek Nation sent arborists to remove trees from tribal homes.

“We set up a system where if a tribal member called Social Services, they would put them on the list with the name and address and where to send the arbor service,”

Zientek said. “They would go there and work all day, whatever the address was. And it didn’t matter what tribe they were affiliated with, and even our employees.”

Zientek said it will be a “long, drawn out process” and that complete recovery will take years. However, he spoke highly of everyone who came together to help.

“I can’t say enough about our partners,” he said. “We are very close partners with Pottawatomie County Emergency Management, Absentee Shawnee, and being the chairman of the Intertribal Emergency Management Coalition, partnered with nearly every tribe in the state of Oklahoma.” 🔥



Employees cleared out the heavily damaged former Hardesty Grocery Store following the tornado.

Tribal member serves a higher calling, local community

Peltier family descendant John Henson said it was a calling from God and a love of serving his fellow man that spurred him to pursue religious ministry.

The Shreveport, Louisiana, resident has completed a year-and-a-half long process to become an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church.

A calling

Henson first thought about ministry when he was at a church youth camp. It wasn't until finishing college that Henson decided how to answer the call. He became an ordained Baptist minister in 1994.

"It's kind of been an ongoing work that I feel God has done in my life," he said.

As part of his hospice chaplain duties in Fort Worth, Texas, he ministered to many patients of the Episcopal faith. Curious about the history of the Episcopal Church, he learned more about the Book of Common Prayer. Henson eventually purchased a copy of his own and "fell in love with it," he said.

"(The prayers) became so meaningful to me and I've always loved the liturgy and the tradition of the Episcopal Church and the inclusivity," he said.

However, as a Potawatomi, he wanted to be certain the church acknowledged the historic harms done to Indigenous people. That meant confronting the sometimes-traumatic experiences Indigenous people have had with organized religion, from abuse perpetrated by church leaders to the pain of being forced to attend religious boarding schools.

Henson learned the Episcopal Church had disavowed the Doctrine of Discovery in 2009. The Doctrine was issued by the Catholic Church in 1452 and provided a framework for Christian explorers to seize lands uninhabited by Christians. The Catholic Church did not denounce the Doctrine until 2023.

"I wanted to know how the Episcopal Church had dealt with that and they had been making some reparations and things of that nature," Henson said. "That increased my interest even more in wanting to take that step, to become a member of the Episcopal Church and also a priest."

Henson said he has relatives and friends who survived a traumatic experience at a boarding school. Part of his Potawatomi family is related to Jim Thorpe, who attended the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. Recently, the remains of 186 Indigenous children were



Rev. John Henson has completed a year-and-a-half long process to become an ordained Episcopal priest. (Photo provided)

discovered there, far from their families and ancestral homelands.

Becoming a priest

The process to become ordained in the Episcopal Church usually takes between three to five years. For Henson, it took a year and a half. Since he had already received a Master of Divinity at a Baptist seminary and had a Doctor of Ministry, the process was quicker.

Henson became a postulant, which is a period of discernment with the church. The second step is to become a deacon. That period is followed by a minimum of six months until he could become ordained as a priest.

"I guess mine was a little faster track than most, but it still was a long, long process. There's psychological evaluations, a very exhaustive background check. That takes time as well, and just different periods of training that go along with that process," he said.

Henson said remaining patient during this time was a challenge.

"I had to grow a lot in my patience. (I had to) remember that this is what I really feel God has called me to do and that it would certainly be worth the wait," he said. "I can learn about myself and learn about God and learn about what it is that I'll be doing as a priest."

During this period, Henson also continued to serve as pastor of his Baptist/interdenominational church, Church for the Highlands in Shreveport, Louisiana. Remaining engaged in church activities helped his focus.

"Most of the people that are going into priesthood are either in seminary or they are out of seminary and just going through the process. But I was able to continue to be engaged in all my ministry activities," he said. "Our church has always used the *Book of Common Prayer*, so it wasn't a radical shift for them."

Reflecting

Ultimately, the time spent reflecting was rewarding. Henson wrote what are known as Ember Day letters, sharing his spiritual growth, what he learned or ways he could improve. He also educated himself on the history of the Anglican Church, its sacraments and his role first as a deacon, then later as a priest.

He understands how today, younger generations are exploring their faith more fully. It is not uncommon for young people to see their faith as belonging

to their parents, and they may search for ways to take ownership of their faith as they mature.

"That is a key part of being young, kind of deconstructing your faith as you get away from home and you're in college, trying to figure it out," he said. "It's okay to ask questions and to even doubt and to try to figure out 'What is it that I really believe?'"

Having gone through a personal family tragedy and leaning heavily on his own faith, Henson has advice. He and his wife Jinny's 12-year-old daughter died in 2009 following a church bus accident.

"As a result of that, (I was) continuing to question my faith and saying, 'God, I've done all this for you and how could this happen?' I think God is okay with that. That's what I tell people who are going through those things is that God can handle our doubt, our anger and our confusion and enable us to grow from that," Henson said.

He encourages people examining their faith to remember that God will remain constant as they search.

"I certainly don't believe God caused that to happen to my daughter, but God can bring good out of something very bad," he said. "People going through (personal tragedy) need to know God will work with you, even as you deconstruct your faith a bit or as you try to sort it all out."

Indigenous values

In addition to his religious faith, Henson also finds strength in Potawatomi culture.

"Within our Potawatomi heritage, there is a deep spirituality, recognizing Creator and the spiritual energy and the spiritual forces that exist. I think that's helpful as well, how God speaks to us (within) different traditions and different cultures," Henson said. "God is always willing to show us more and to help us learn more about who we are and what we're to do in this world."

He knows some Indigenous people may experience difficulty at times, when religious teachings may conflict with Indigenous values. Henson believes navigating those challenges helps him relate to other faiths.

"It has been a part of my journey as well, asking how God's presence in reality transcends our cultural understandings of God," he said. "That helps me to relate more to people who don't have the same religion that I do, whether they're Hindu or Buddhist or Jewish or Muslim, that God is at work in our creation."

Henson recommends the book *Native: Identity, Belonging and Rediscovering God* by Potawatomi author Kaitlin B. Curtice, which explores her life as a Potawatomi woman growing up within a Christian church.

"She talks about the balance between two worlds, and she does a very good job of that," he said.

Serving his community

Henson's Episcopal bishop has allowed him to stay at Shreveport's Church for the Highlands and appointed him to serve as a priest there, a church that serves a largely inner-city congregation. Many of his parishioners are facing significant economic challenges. The church also tries to help the area's unhoused and immigrants who are new to the area.

"My work continues in that way, and it becomes an even more special thing, I think, in terms of being a priest and being able to take the love of God to people, even if they never step into our church," Henson said. "We do things in the community to provide food and clothing and we do meals every week for people. We are applying the gospel into the lives of the people who are most vulnerable in our community."

Henson is also serving as the Missioner for Racial Reconciliation in the Diocese of Western Louisiana, which covers everything in the state but Baton Rouge and south to New Orleans. He is planning to lead a new state group, Sacred Ground, to bring people together to examine the history of race in America and how racism has affected minorities.

As he begins navigating his life as an ordained Episcopal priest, he's focused on the work that needs to be done in his community and among his parishioners.

"It's work that's always needed, even more these days when people are saying you can't teach about racism. We need to say, 'This is history, like it or not,'" he said. "I think that's where healing can begin as people begin to understand. We need more people loving their neighbors and being able to participate in a society that is good."

He hopes that by focusing on community, society as a whole can return to a more empathetic place. By including the voices of often-marginalized people, like Indigenous, African American, Asian American and LGBTQ+ people, understanding can grow.

"You can develop commonality and empathy just by people telling their stories. That breaks down a lot of the barriers and helps people to understand what it's like to grow up Black in Louisiana what it's like to grow up Native," he said. "It helps for people who don't have a sense of understanding of that to develop empathy. And we need more of it, right?"

Connect with Henson on social media: Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Threads. Follow Church for the Highlands on Facebook. 🔥

Workforce & Social Services presents panel on scam prevention

Tribal members gathered at the CPN Elder Center in August to learn more about scams and how to avoid them.

"The elders in our community are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals seeking to exploit their trust and financial security," CPN Workforce & Social Services Safe and Stable Families Counselor Jamelle Payne said.

Four professionals were on hand to present the information: CPN Postal Service Manager Tammy Phelps, David Dinsmore with Arvest Bank, Greg Arbuckle with Sovereign Bank and Daniel Lee with Legal Aid Service of Oklahoma.

"Scams are not just money. It's not just phone calls," Phelps said. "There are a lot of postal scams that you need to be aware of."

She explained that many scams can come through the mail, sometimes in the form of scammers offering items for free or offering free items with a purchase.

"We all know nothing is for free," she added.

She recommended not opening items from strangers, and especially ignoring any requests for personal information. If in doubt, she said it's always best to talk to a friend, neighbor or other trusted individual to get advice.

"They've got good sales pitches," she said of scammers. "They know you're vulnerable. Most of you are pretty feisty, and I know you can take care of yourself. But trust me, they're good salesmen."

Arbuckle added that scammers often play on emotions — everything from fear to excitement.

For example, he said they might try to play on a person's fears by pretending to be a family member in a bind who needs money, or they might try to get a person excited by offering money or prizes.

One way to combat this, he said, is to control who can see personal information.

"How many of you are on Facebook?" he asked. "If you have not set your social media to private, they can troll just like anybody else and look up what kind of family you have, who's in the area, and they can use that to make contact with you."

Dinsmore added that in addition to playing on emotions, scammers also urge immediate, secretive action. Anyone who wants a person to act quickly and without telling anyone else what is happening, especially if they try to make a person feel ashamed, is a red flag.

"Never be embarrassed," he advised. "We see it all the time. Anyone can fall victim. They're very convincing.



David Dinsmore with Arvest Bank, middle, talks about how elders can avoid becoming a victim of a scam.

But if they insist on immediate action and they insist on secrecy, then you should call it into question."

Another red flag, Dinsmore said, is anyone asking for payment that is hard to trace, such as cash or gift cards.

Speaking from the legal side of things, Lee quoted the old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

"Once the money has left the bank account with your permission — even if you were frauded, even if they lied to you and it was criminal — there's not a lot you can do with that," he said. "For the most part, once it's gone, it's gone."

While a person can try to sue scammers to get their money back, Lee said there are many problems with that, such as knowing who to sue.

Once money has left a person's bank account, Lee said Legal Aid's ability to get that money back is very limited. However, he did list some circumstances for which they can help.

"If someone takes out loans or things in your name, we can help with that," he said. "If anyone is supposed to be handling your money and misusing it, we can help with that as well."

He also added that they can help with bad business practices, such as contractors who agree to do work after a storm. However, he suggested caution with these encounters as well.

"Think about the things you need to sue somebody and make sure we have that," he said. "Do you know where they're at? Can we find them?"

And, he added, if in doubt, Legal Aid is available to all Tribal members and can give advice as well.

"We don't just represent people in lawsuits. We also give advice," he said. "If this feels sketchy, you can contact us just for advice. Everyone talks about them trying to play on your emotions, shutting down rational thinking ... If they're not going to give you time to talk to us, it's not worth it."

Ultimately, if someone does get scammed, several of the presenters emphasized the importance of reporting the information quickly.

Teacher of the Year continued...

Teaching in her hometown, Garrison sees different challenges, especially in a rural school where everyone knows everyone else.

"That can be a good thing or a bad thing, because everyone has your phone number," she said. "I've had to learn to set boundaries. I want to answer that phone call at 9 or 10 at night, when I should not. I feel obligated to do that, and I've had to learn to say no on a few things."

Rural schools also have different resources, especially regarding technology. And, when it comes to professional development, teachers in rural areas often have to drive long distances to attend workshops.

She said teaching is definitely a calling and not a field someone gets into for the pay.

Garrison said she wanted to teach from a young age, and she was inspired by her grandmother and a favorite teacher.

"Learning was always hard for me, so it was always a little bit difficult," she said. "I wanted to help other kids, like how my own teachers made me feel and didn't give up on me."

Hearing from students who tell her she made a difference is one thing that helps Garrison through the difficult times in teaching.

"The most rewarding thing is when you have students that will check back in with you that are older, and they remember certain things you did in the classroom, or they tell you that you were the only one that really heard them," she said. "It just makes you feel like you're doing something right. There's so much going on in the classroom that it's easy to feel defeated and easy to feel overwhelmed. It just makes you want to push through."

Garrison is a Navarre family descendant with many memories of traveling to Shawnee, Oklahoma, each summer, staying at the Cinderella Motel and meeting family from all over at the Family Reunion Festival.

"The more you can bring to light, the better off you will be," Dinsmore said. "The sooner you can bring it to light, the more protected you will be."

"If you've had two bank statements and you still haven't caught it, there's a good chance you're not getting it back," Lee said. "The longer you wait, the harder it is to get your money back."

After speaking, the presenters met one-on-one with elders to answer individual questions.

Payne said he tries to put on events such as this one from time to time, especially around the holidays, as a reminder. For more information about Workforce & Social Services, visit cpn.news/wfss. 🔥



Sarah Garrison helps one of her students with an assignment. (Photo provided)

She still attends Festival as often as she can. Along with enjoying the opportunity to see some familiar faces, she appreciates how much Citizen Potawatomi Nation does to help educate and retain the culture.

She added that she has benefited from CPN in her teaching career as well, explaining that when she was teaching in Choctaw, they received money from the Johnson O'Malley Program and funds from CPN.

Garrison said she still has several years of teaching ahead before retirement, so she doesn't know exactly what lies in store. And while she said teaching seems to become more difficult every year, good coworkers make a big difference.

"It's so important to have good coworkers to help you through those bad days and to have a little bit of comic relief," she said. "Only teachers get it. You might have a bad year and the next year be the best one you ever experienced. Every class is so different. I learn something new about myself or other kids every year." 🔥

Tribal member tackles 4,000 mile charity bike ride

A recent University of Texas graduate participated in a 70-day bicycle ride to support the fight against cancer.

Alicia Rusthoven, a Lewis family descendant, rode from Austin, Texas, to Anchorage, Alaska, last May. The Texas 4000 was started to cultivate student leaders and engage communities in the fight against cancer, according to their website. It is the longest annual charity bike ride in the world. Teams raise funds for cancer research and share hope, knowledge and charity throughout the continent, the website said.

Rusthoven was part of a team that rode the Ozarks route, which was added to the program in 2013 with the goal of reaching more people across the American Midwest and Canada. The route went through east Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and British Columbia and the Yukon Territory before reaching Alaska.



Alicia Rusthoven and teammates cooled off in a stream during the ride. (Photo provided)

Training

Rusthoven first heard about the Texas 4000 from a high school teacher who had completed the ride.

“He told us he biked to Alaska when he was in college, and everyone thought he was joking, but he showed us the newspaper articles and it just looked so cool. I just saved it in my memory. When I was a (college) freshman I said, ‘I’m going to make sure I do that before I graduate,’” she said.

In addition to raising funds for cancer research, Texas 4000 is also a leadership development program. Participants must do much more than just physically train for the ride. Volunteering and fundraising begin a year and a half before the ride.

“Over the summer you start working out. In the fall, you get your bike, and you start cycling. We try to log 2,000 practice miles before the summer begins,” she

said. “You’re (trying) to fit bike rides into your school schedule and into the spring, and then in May you’re off.”

Preparing for the ride while earning her degree in environmental science, Rusthoven rode an average of about 90 miles a day in the summer and then 150 miles a week when school resumed in the fall.

“It definitely taught us all that you’re capable of doing so much if you really want to work for it,” she said.

The ride

Fortunately, she didn’t sustain any injuries during her trip, but a few of her teammates did.

“As a group, we had some significant accidents that were definitely mentally taxing on everyone as well as physically taxing to the people who were affected,” she said. “We were trying to find the strength to get back on the bike while understanding that what we do is very dangerous.”

Rusthoven also found time to appreciate the outdoors, something she has always enjoyed with her family.

“I found life on the road to be pretty easy. I love the outdoors. A lot of my peers didn’t like camping as frequently as we did,” she said. “I found it very exciting. I think my thoughts were always, ‘How could I keep doing this?’”



Alicia Rusthoven visited the Cloud Gate (The Bean) sculpture in Chicago, Illinois. (Photo provided)

She bonded with her teammates each day as the group discussed how grateful they were for the experience.

"We had a tradition of saying what we're grateful for and who we are riding for that day. And on our last day we just kept talking about how those 22 people make us better every day" Rusthoven said. "They're the most special people. And definitely now, like family. (It was) such a privilege to get to be with them every day."

Support, inspiration

Along the journey, Rusthoven and her teammates met people whose lives had been touched by cancer, heard their stories and were inspired by their strength. One woman from the northern Yukon Territory in Canada made a lasting impression on Rusthoven.

"She had a hard time speaking about her daughter, but just the way that she spoke about her family and her daughter, the way she liked to live life and the strength she had to keep going after losing her child," Rusthoven said. "I like the way she still lives her life so beautifully. It just really touched me. Getting to be in her presence was something I don't ever want to take for granted."

Rusthoven's family has been touched by cancer as well. Her mother lost a sister to cancer. Rusthoven did not have the chance to get to know her aunt, but family stories have helped her feel connected to her mother's sister.

Memories

The journey also provided impressive scenery along the way.

"When you get to Alaska, you see all of the wildflowers with the mountains in the background, and (you're biking) next to your friends and hear their stories with such a good view," she said.

Rusthoven recalled a sometimes-emotional journey, especially as the ride concluded.

"I think my favorite memory is our last gratitude circle. When we all told each other why we loved everyone, it took like three hours. It normally takes us 15 minutes and then we do what we call the 'cinnamon roll hug,' you just roll in and everyone gets one big giant hug and a squeeze. It felt really magical."

As the group neared the end of the journey, Rusthoven deeply appreciated what the trip meant to her.

"I think I was used to having all these people who became my family around me all the time. I could see



Alicia Rusthoven found time for enjoyment during the Texas 4000 bicycle ride. (Photo provided)

the finish line coming up, (I felt) a lot of dread because I didn't want to imagine my life not surrounded by those people all the time," she said.

Funds raised

Rusthoven wants to keep the momentum going, continuing to camp, bike and possibly begin hiking.

"I think this summer proves that I can basically do anything I've extended my mind to. I'm not really a traditionally athletic person, but now I've realized that it's something that I can actually do. I want to make sure I keep it a priority and pursue that as I get older. Maybe once I've had a little bit of rest," she laughed.

She also plans to continue to support those affected by a cancer diagnosis. Rusthoven's team ultimately raised

more than \$450,000. Since the Texas 4000 began, the organization has raised more than \$6 million.

She gives credit to her teammates, donors and her family for the accomplishment.

"My mom's definitely been my biggest supporter through all that. She's obsessed with the team, and she's just so wonderful," Rusthoven said.

For more information, visit the texas4000.org. 🔥



Rusthoven and her teammates at the Alaska state line. (Photo provided)

New cookbook celebrates Potawatomi food, culture

A new cookbook celebrating Indigenous food and the life story of an award-winning Potawatomi chef is now available.

Corn Dance: Inspired First American Cuisine was written by Chef Loretta Barrett Oden, with contributions from Beth Dooley.

In her first cookbook, Oden shares personal stories of growing up near Shawnee, Oklahoma, among a group of “grandmothers and aunties,” who taught her about Potawatomi cooking and “using the fruits of the forest, stream or plain,” according to a press release announcing the book.

“I am so delighted that this has finally come to fruition,” Oden said. “This cookbook is really geared towards the home cook. So, it’s not complicated restaurant recipes. It’s just simple, straightforward.”

Color photography by Metta Nielsen and Ethan Stewart accompany the recipes and illustrate Oden’s deep love and respect for Indigenous cooking. Presentation is an important part of a meal, just as much as the anticipation of the first bite, Oden said.

“That has been something that I preach from the outset, from day one in my kitchens,” she said. “We do feast with our eyes before we ever pick up that fork and take that first taste. Eating should be a whole sensory experience.”

The publishing process, from signing the contract to printing, took about two years, Oden said. It was often a labor of love, as she revisited food and cherished experiences. Oden and Dooley met across Dooley’s kitchen table, talking for hours and working on the recipes.

“I was sifting through those many years of experiences to tell my story and working with my coauthor, Beth Dooley, who’s based in Minneapolis. (She is) quite an extraordinary cookbook writer. And she really helped the process along.”

Journey into history, culture

Oden is also a food historian and ethnobotanist. She has worked to educate the public and the food industry about the importance of Indigenous people reconnecting with the foods they used to gather, grow or hunt. She hopes Native people can reduce their reliance on unhealthy products like overprocessed flour, added sugar and fat which can lead to chronic health conditions like obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

It is this kind of historical knowledge that Oden has carefully researched and observed in Indigenous communities across North America. She is proud to pass this history along to the next generation of cooks and aspiring chefs, hoping to inspire more people to adopt healthier habits.

A well-known example of this type of dish is the Three Sisters & Friends Sauté. Currently offered at Thirty Nine

Restaurant at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City, the dish features corn, squash and beans, which are known in Indigenous communities as the Three Sisters. When planted together, the corn stalks act as a trellis to the vines of the beans. The bean roots hold nitrogen and provide stability while receiving protection from the wide squash leaves that shade the ground and keep the soil moist.

Oden’s journey learning about Indigenous foods began near Shawnee. As a young child, she did not fully realize the impact her elders and the community would have on her life. Simple tasks such as helping in the family garden would spark her quest for more knowledge.

“Having grown up in Oklahoma, I guess the learning process started as a wee kid, with my family, with my grandma, my great-grandma, my aunties and my mom, of course. The way I grew up, back in the day everyone had a garden. Learning how to plant and grow was just stuff that I’d heard all my life,” she said.

It was when she traveled outside Oklahoma that her curiosity grew. She crisscrossed North America, visiting Indigenous communities and absorbing the history those communities shared.



Braised bison short ribs (Photo provided)



Loretta Barrett Oden (Photo provided)

“When I did leave Oklahoma and it just dawned on me that this is something I would love to pursue and gain more knowledge. When the bug hit me, it hit me hard, and I wanted to know more and more and more. So, I did a lot of traveling, reservation to reservation, woman to woman, fishermen to hunter,” Oden said.

Her journey would eventually lead her to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she and her son, Clay Oden, opened the successful Corn Dance Café in 1993.

A mentor and advocate

Oden is proud to be a part of a renaissance of Indigenous foods. She recalls a time when that wasn't the case.

“In this country, you can have everything from Mongolian barbecue to Thai to Brazilian to whatever. But nothing (Indigenous) had ever been available prior to the 90s. You didn't see anything that came close to being Native American cuisine,” Oden said. “When I first opened in Santa Fe, we had restaurant listings in the phone book and they would have listings by Italian, Mexican, French, what have you. But there was never any Native American and in Santa Fe, of all places. So, I pushed until I got the phone company to put that category into the dining segment of the Yellow Pages.”

Indigenous cuisine has come a long way since that time. Oden can remember being asked to share her recipes on national television, but only on

Thanksgiving Day. Today, she's gratified to see Native American cuisine receiving attention year-round.

“Now, it's really a different story. I've worked for so many years with groups like Slow Food and the Intertribal Bison Cooperative, and we just did so much all over the country and bringing in young Native chefs,” she said. “And now, by golly, I think it's finally stuck. And it just absolutely makes my heart swell with pride, seeing what so many of these young chefs are doing today.”

Many of the young chefs Oden has mentored, like Sean Sherman (Oglala Lakota) and Crystal Wahpepah (Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma), have gone on to open their own restaurants as well. Both Sherman and Wahpepah have offered praise for Oden's book.

Reviewing Oden's book, Sherman called Oden a “role model and inspiration,” and Wahpepah said Oden “has blazed a trail for Indigenous women like me.”

Oden hopes the book will appeal to new generations of food enthusiasts.

“I'm hoping that it will pique their interest to the point that they say, ‘I want to learn more about this.’ I'm hoping someday that (Indigenous food) is a food category and there will be places where chefs can go and train and learn from people like me. I'm hoping that they can go on and pursue their own career paths.”

She believes food can be a key to greater understanding between cultures.

“That is my motto. I think food is the key to fixing everything, you know, from governmental problems to social problems to illness to mental health, to everything. If we could just build one great big old table and all sit down around it, I think we could solve most of mankind's problems,” she said.

Oden is a member of the Bourassa and Peltier families. She is a chef consultant at Thirty Nine Restaurant at First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City. Previously, she owned the acclaimed Corn Dance Café in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Oden won an Emmy Award for hosting the 2006 PBS miniseries *Seasoned with Spirit: A Native Cook's Journey*.

Dooley is a James Beard Award-winning food journalist and holds an endowed chair at Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. She is the author of eight cookbooks, including *The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen: Best American Cookbook* and *Savoring the Seasons of the Northern Heartland*.

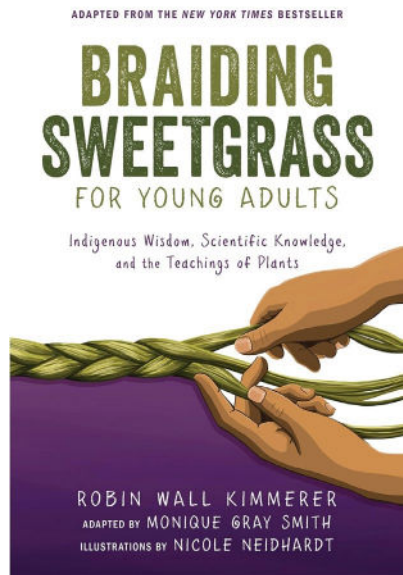
Corn Dance: Inspired First American Cuisine is available in bookstores, online and through [oupres.com](https://www.oupres.com).

For more information about Chef Loretta Barrett Oden, visit Instagram. 🔥

Add Potawatomi titles to reading lists for literacy month

November is National Family Literacy Month, when families are encouraged to read together and foster a love of literacy and learning.

This month, consider adding books with Potawatomi ties to reading lists. Here are just a few.

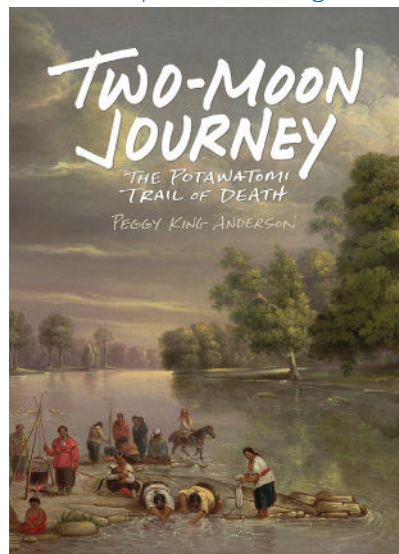


***Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, adapted by Monique Gray Smith**

CPN tribal member and botanist Robin Wall

Kimmerer published *Braiding Sweetgrass* in 2013, hailing plants and animals as our oldest teachers and celebrating a reciprocal relationship between humans and the natural world. Last year, Kimmerer's book was also adapted into an edition aimed at young adults, which includes illustrations, definitions and questions for readers to think about.

The book is available in multiple formats, including ebook, at cpn.news/sweetgrassforya.



***Two-Moon Journey: The Potawatomi Trail of Death* by Peggy King Anderson**

Originally published in 2018, this young adult novel tells the story of *Simu-quah*, a young Potawatomi girl, as she and her family are removed from their village in 1838 and forced to

march on what is now known as the Trail of Death.

The book is available at cpn.news/andersonbook.

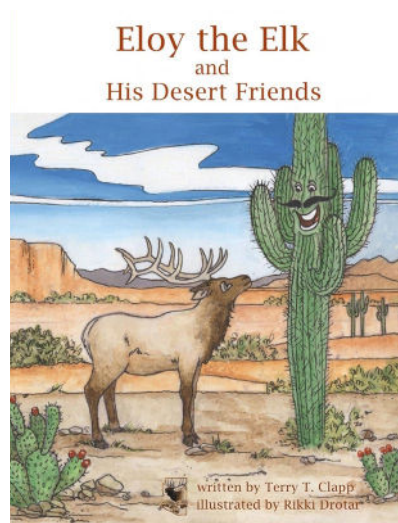


***Winter's Gifts* by Kaitlin B. Curtice**

Written by Tribal member Kaitlin Curtice, *Winter's Gifts* tells the story of a Potawatomi girl named Dani and the way she and her family celebrate

the Winter Solstice. The book, which includes Potawatomi words as well as illustrations by Gloria Félix, just released at the end of October.

Winter's Gifts can be ordered as an ebook or hardback from cpn.news/wintersgifts.



***Eloy the Elk and His Desert Friends* by Terry Clapp**

Tribal member Terry Clapp wanted to teach children about nature and conservation, which prompted him to write a children's book for the Arizona Elk Society in 2009. *Eloy the Elk and His Desert Friends* takes children on a journey where they can learn

about desert ecosystems and the Sonoran Desert.

Find Clapp's book, on Kindle or in paperback, here: cpn.news/eloy.



Books from the CPN Language Department

There are 12 books available through the CPN Language Department, all with QR

codes to access an audio file of the book being read in Potawatomi. Books include Potawatomi retellings of stories such as *Chicken Little* and *The Red Raincoat*, as well as a book based on the language department's puppet show, *Mteka Wigwam* (Tree House). For more information about the Language Department, or to contact them about the books, visit cpn.news/language. 🔥



Interim Director of Education Charles Lee and Specialty Clinic Operations Manager Angela Rose help load boxes of donated books.

Library system donates books to CPN

Thanks to community members logging millions of minutes reading, Citizen Potawatomi Nation benefited from a donation of 2,128 books.

Representatives from the Pioneer Library System (PLS) arrived in front of CPN’s WIC building on Oct. 2 with a truck full of boxes that were distributed to CPN clinics.

“The Pioneer Library System’s generous book donation provides age-appropriate reading materials for our pediatric patients,” CPN Clinical Operations Director Lauren Bristow said.

She added that the donated books will be given to children with appointments at CPN clinics.

“This gift provides a twofold benefit for our patients and their families,” she said. “Initially, the book may reduce anxiety often associated with a clinic visit by offering a positive distraction. Secondly, as the book is the child’s to keep, it provides the opportunity to read at home, which supports literacy development.”

Each year, the Pioneer Library System engages local communities in a Summer Learning Challenge, encouraging people of all ages to log the time

they spend reading or learning over the summer months. Each minute equals one point, and participants are encouraged to earn 1,000 points.

In addition to individual goals, there is also a goal for how many points the community can earn collectively.

“When the community goal is met, Pioneer Library System donates books to children ages 0-5 enrolled in WIC programs across our three counties: Cleveland, McClain and Pottawatomie. This is made possible by a generous donation of the Pioneer Library System Foundation,” Aiden Street, director of community engagement and learning for PLS, said.

Street said last year, the community blew past the goal of 7 million minutes with a total of 17 million minutes. This year, the community doubled its goal of 11 million minutes by logging more than 22 million minutes.

For more information about the Pioneer Library System and its programs, visit pioneerlibrarysystem.org.

For more information about WIC, visit cpn.news/WIC, or to learn about the clinics, go to cpn.news/health. 🔥

FireLake Wellness Center celebrates 20 years

FireLake Wellness Center celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. Its doors opened on Oct. 3, 2003, with the mission to “provide professionally designed and responsibly supervised physical fitness activities for Native Americans.” FireLake Wellness Center makes a difference in the lives of Native Americans and Citizen Potawatomi Nation employees every day.



The FireLake Wellness Center staff recently celebrated the facility's 20th anniversary of providing wellness services to the community.

Services

FireLake Wellness Center offers a variety of services and fitness programs, ranging from free personal trainers to fitness classes to physical therapy and more. The convenience of services and programs draws in many Native Americans and CPN employees.

Sherry Byers and Reda Pitts, who work in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department, shared their experiences at FireLake Wellness Center.

“The variety of equipment provided, the pool and walking track, is a plus,” Byers said. “There are so many options for anybody that comes in, and you can do pretty much any workout without having to wait on a treadmill or bike. You can do any work out that you want at any time.”

“The convenience is so important to us because we can leave our office, get here and do a 30-minute workout during our lunch break, and get back to the office,” Pitts said.

Byers and Pitts describe FireLake Wellness Center as a “blessing.”

Holistic wellness

When it opened, its original name was FireLake Wellness and Fitness Center. Leslie Cooper, Director of FireLake Wellness Center, said Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett envisioned a place where senior Native Americans have a safe and welcoming space to work out. Cooper mentioned the word “fitness” feels like an intimidating word. However, the name change to FireLake Wellness Center offers the idea of a welcoming environment.

“There is so much more to being a well person than (being) physically fit,” said Cooper. “Individuals who come to the gym not only get strong physically; their mental and emotional wellness improves also.”

Leslie Collyer, a transitional trainer at FireLake Wellness Center, echoed Cooper’s sentiments.

“We look at the overall wellness of a person. The overall wellness includes the mental and emotional aspects, not just physical,” Collyer said. “We try to reach out to people on all levels.”

FireLake Wellness Center focuses on holistic wellness for the entire Native American community, from young adults to elders.

Success story

Brandon Edwards, head trainer at FireLake Wellness Center, still remembers one of his clients from 13 years ago who lost 100 pounds in 10 months.

“She stuck to it: lifting every day, cardio and an eating plan,” he said. “That story is one I always vividly remember in my head and is my favorite one to share.”

Supervisor/personal trainer Jessie Whitney trains some clients who have been with him consistently for more than four years.

“Even with COVID, they may have missed training sessions because of sickness, but as soon as the doors were back open, they were here,” he said.

Fitness instructor Shelley Holliday shared a piece of wisdom.

“The hardest part of working out is walking in the front door,” she said.

Holliday explained that once you enter FireLake Wellness Center, you have that incentive to work out or utilize the services.

“It just has to become a lifestyle,” she said. “It doesn’t matter what you look like. It doesn’t matter (what size) you are. There’s equipment for everybody, and you see all shapes and all sizes. It just makes my heart happy to know that people are utilizing our equipment and services to be healthy.”

FireLake Wellness Center is a valuable resource for the Native American community. Over the past 20 years, it has helped many people improve their health and well-being. The center continues to provide high-quality health and wellness services to the community, and the staff hopes to for years to come.

Learn more about FireLake Wellness Center at cpn.news/FLWC. 🔥

From the executives

John “Rocky” Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bozho nikan, (Hello, my friend,)



I look forward to Thanksgiving each year because our focus turns away from our work and other distractions to our families and friends.

Even if it is only to take a break from the hustle and grind of everyday life, Thanksgiving gives us time to reconnect with loved ones and remember the times we shared in the past.

Our ancestors in the Great Lakes region saw the wintertime as a period of rest after the fall harvest and hunting seasons. Often living with family inside their wigwams and longhouses, and long before everyone was plugged into a computer or their phones sharing posts on social media, they spent the cold winter months entertaining and growing closer with one another by telling our peoples’ stories.

It is with that in mind that I encourage you to follow their lead on these holiday occasions where you see friends and family, whether you visit with them regularly during the year or not. For the younger ones, tell them the winter stories of our people. Those tales provide a look back at the history of our Potawatomi ancestors prior to their removal. If you don’t know them, our CPN Cultural Heritage Center and Language Department have developed a wealth of online resources to learn from. Visit them at potawatomiheritage.com or cpn.news/stories.

In addition, while our cultural heritage is important, it is equally vital that you share old family stories with younger generations. Your history is the history of our Tribe. Those stories are key to our Tribal identity. We honor our ancestors by remembering them and passing along their stories, personalities and actions to the next generation who will likely need guideposts for their own lives.

What may seem like a dull story to you about how you grew or interacted with your elders as a young person may provide light for someone treading their own path today. This is a wonderful time for family, food and celebration, so take advantage of it while available.

At the Tribal government level, your Nation continues to succeed. Despite challenges, our commercial and governmental sectors continue to serve customers and Tribal members alike. You can be proud that we are one of the leading service and infrastructure providers in the communities that overlap with our jurisdiction. Together, our Nation continues to thrive and grow, and in this Thanksgiving season, I am thankful for the honor of serving as your Tribal Chairman.

Megwetch (Thank you),

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



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



Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

“Sticker shock” at the supermarket continues to plague Americans. Food prices remain high, and shoppers are having to change their spending habits. Why are U.S. food prices so high? According to a recent study by economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, prices for processed foods are on the rise because of the labor market. Economist Francisco Scott has found that for each dollar spent on food, 45 cents is attributed to salaries and benefits of workers across the food supply chain. I was surprised to see this figure knowing that as salaries increase, the cost of food will increase also.

In the meantime, the factors affecting grocery prices are having an impact on the prices at restaurants.

Still, the demand for eating out remains high.

What about pricing going forward? Is any relief in sight?

The economists say “Yes,” for two reasons. One is that there are signs of loosening in the labor markets.

The supply of workers has increased, and demand for labor has softened. Some of this might depend on location. Secondly, there are examples of food prices that have increased sharply and then come back down. A recent example is egg prices. The price of eggs went sky high across America during 2022. By the end of 2022, the price of eggs was as high as \$5 a dozen in some areas. In May of 2023, the average price of a dozen eggs was less than \$1. It proves that eggs have caught up with the demand after millions of egg-laying chickens had died from the avian influenza in 2022.

I appreciate the articles in *Ten Magazine*, a quarterly publication of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City focused on the connection between the bank’s research and the Tenth Federal Reserve District. *Ten* features articles on the Federal Reserve’s history, structure and operations. The article on “Sticker Shock” was written by Andrea Gallagher. “Tight Labor Markets Have Been a Key Contributor to High Food Inflation” is the title of a May 2023 Economic Bulletin article by Scott, Cowley and Kreitman, which is available at [KansasCityFed.org/research](https://www.kansascityfed.org/research).

I suppose one reason I am so fond of *Ten Magazine* is I served six years on the Community Development Advisory Council at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and three years as a board member of the Oklahoma City Branch Bank of the Kansas City Federal Reserve. I am very proud of the time I spent with the organization. One benefit from that experience is having access to an abundance of valuable economic information from the Federal Reserve. Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Wyoming; 43 counties in western Missouri; and 14 counties in northern New Mexico comprise the makeup of the Tenth Federal Reserve Area, of which Kansas City is headquarters.

The topic of food cost is of importance to all of us ... especially those that have several members of their households. CPN is highly interested in the cost of food because of our three grocery stores in Shawnee, McLoud and Tecumseh. All the stores are under the general management of Richard Driskell, close to a 24-year employee. I visited with Richard recently to get his take on food pricing. Richard is also the director of our two facilities that sell gasoline; therefore, he is knowledgeable on pricing for both food and fuel. He says there is a close correlation between the two. As fuel prices rise, which they have done recently, food costs rise. This is especially true with perishable foods. Richard believes that some non-perishable foods have stabilized in price. Meanwhile, whatever the prices are, Richard does his best to keep them as low as possible. Not only are his prices competitive, but his stores are very attractive. Shopping at CPN grocery stores is a pleasant experience, even when unavoidable prices of some items create “sticker shock.”

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share with our readers.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



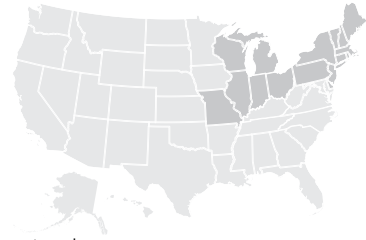
From the legislature



Alan Melot District 1

Happy holidays everyone!

I got a letter from one of the wisest citizens in District 1 last week, and it was just full of gratitude. How perfect! Their appreciation for our Nation was palpable, with shout-outs to our mail-order program for seniors and scholarship program for students. It is that time of year, so here's more about gratitude:



- Gratitude is linked to reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety, leading to better overall mental well-being.
- Expressing gratitude can strengthen relationships by fostering a sense of appreciation and connection with others.
- Grateful individuals tend to experience higher levels of happiness and life satisfaction.
- Gratitude can lower stress levels and help individuals cope with challenging situations.
- Gratitude has been associated with improved physical health, including better sleep and a stronger immune system.
- Grateful people often exhibit greater resilience when facing adversity and setbacks.
- Gratitude can boost self-esteem and self-worth, as it focuses on recognizing strengths and positive qualities.
- Practicing gratitude can foster a more optimistic outlook on life.
- Grateful individuals tend to be more empathetic and compassionate towards others.
- Gratitude can motivate individuals to work towards their goals and engage in prosocial behaviors.



From left, Joe Wulfkulhe, Lyman Boursaw, Alan Melot and Kevin Roberts met in Olathe, Kansas, for the Trail of Death caravan.

If you're wondering about how to grow in this area, keep reading!

- Keep a Gratitude Journal: Write down things you are thankful for regularly, whether it's daily or weekly.
- Express Thanks: Tell people you appreciate them and why you are grateful for their presence in your life.
- Reflect on Positive Moments: Take time to reflect on positive experiences and relive the feelings of gratitude associated with them.
- Mindful Gratitude: Practice mindfulness by focusing on the present moment and appreciating the beauty and blessings around you.
- Random Acts of Kindness: Show gratitude through acts of kindness, such as helping someone in need or surprising them with a thoughtful gesture. I don't mean buying coffee for the person in line behind you, either, I mean being a genuine help to someone in need!



Tribal member Dan Witt flew the CPN flag at the Deerfield, Michigan, Sesquicentennial parade.

In keeping with this, I want to share my gratitude for the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association for their hard work and very successful caravan. We had citizens from the District and all over the continent join at different places and share in the journey, and were also joined by Legislators from Districts 3 and 4, Bob Whistler and Jon Boursaw. Many pictures and stories were shared in person and online, all as a result of the dedication of a handful of people. This is a fabulous way to get involved, and I would strongly encourage all of you to figure out how you can become active with this legacy of ours. George Godfrey has led this group to become an independent and healthy grassroots organization, and I am excited to look forward to many years of collaboration with them as they continue their good work. Here's a photo of Joe Wulfkulhe, Lyman Boursaw, myself and Kevin Roberts at the Heritage Park in Olathe, Kansas, where our ancestors passed through. Joining the caravan was a powerful personal experience, and I hope each of you get a chance to participate in the future!

Also, here's a picture of Dan Witt at the Deerfield, Michigan, Sesquicentennial parade. Dan said, "This is a picture of the first iron horse our family farm owned with me driving it. I felt great pride in flying the Citizen Potawatomi Nation flag in recognition of the Algonquin people that called southeastern Michigan their home." Very cool, Dan, thanks for sharing!

It's a privilege to be able to serve you. I still have some Jim Thunder books. Get in touch if you'd like one!

Until next time, *bama pi* (until later)!

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),

Bodewadmi Confederation of Tribal Nations

During our September meeting, the Legislators, in an executive session, heard from our Tribal attorney and discussed my proposal that we sign on to the Articles of Confederation presented at the Potawatomi Gathering of tribal leaders meeting this summer. The consensus view was not to sign on at this time.

I continue to think we should participate now so that we can help shape the confederation and set priorities. I am hopeful that we will join in the future, as the confederation evolves.

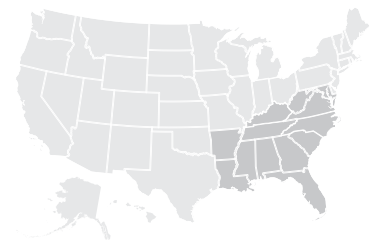
Report on Public Law 477 Workgroup Meeting

At the invitation of CPN citizen and our Workforce and Social Services Department Director Margaret Zientek, I attended the annual meeting of federal partners and Tribal 477 Workgroup Under Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 2017, held in September in Washington, D.C. Margaret serves as the 477 Tribal Workgroup Committee chair. Margaret has been vital to the progress made to date in bundling federal funds to provide needed services in Native communities, including CPN.

Twelve federal agencies are now subject to Public Law 477. This means that grant funds from these agencies are consolidated, and CPN and other participating Native nations are required only to submit a single plan, budget and report to the Department of the Interior to receive the bundled funds. There have been issues with agencies' adherence to the requirements. Margaret addressed these with authority, while ensuring that other Nations' representatives had their say, too. It was good to see these efforts to ensure that tribes, not the federal government, set their own priorities on receipt of federal funds. *Migwetch* (thank you), Margaret.

Fall Feast 2023

Please RSVP to attend the District 2 Fall Feast on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2023, in Arlington, Virginia. This will be a family event, with a craft, feast and traditional hand games and giveaways. We will honor all veterans who



**CPN District 2
Fall Family Feast**
Saturday, November 11, 2023 | 10:30AM-2:30PM

**Little Falls Presbyterian Church Social Hall,
6025 Little Falls Rd, Arlington, VA 22207
703-538-5230 | littlefallschurch.org**

Drinks and entrées provided. Please bring a side dish to share.
Activities include making dreamcatchers, honoring our veterans, prize drawings,
and traditional hand games. Children welcome. Free parking (handicap accessible).

Please RSVP by November 6
to evamariecarney@gmail.com,
or call the D2 voicemail number at 1(888)849-1484. Please include contact info,
and names of attendees (including children and their ages).

attend. Children are welcome and may be able to complete the craft with adult assistance. Please bring a dish to share for our feast. Our wisest, youngest and furthest travelled will be celebrated. See the postcard invitation included here and my D2 website calendar for full details at evamariocarney.com/calendar.php.

In a first for District 2, we'll also have an art contest, with three categories: Fine Arts, Arts + Crafts, and Under 12. Please bring your art! Our wisest and farthest-travelled attendees — if they are willing! — will choose the artist to receive the prize in each category, and those selected will be invited to talk about their work.

Rock Your Mocs 2023

Rock Your Mocs Day is Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. You can choose that day or the whole month of November to wear your *mkesinen* (moccasins) — the idea is to celebrate with and to honor our ancestors and Indigenous peoples worldwide. To participate, wear your *mkesinen*, take a photo or video, add the hashtag #RockYourMocs and upload to social media. You'll be helping to create an online photo album for the world to see and enjoy, and that will underscore that #WeAreStillHere.

Native American Heritage Day 2023

In 2009, the Friday after U.S. Thanksgiving Day each year was designated permanently, by public law, as "Native American Heritage Day." This year we celebrate on Nov. 24. Please spread the word and celebrate! I'll be doing my part. In my role with The Kwek Society (kweksociety.org), I've arranged to have 3,500 flyers about the holiday (and The Kwek Society) stuffed in everyone's Arlington Turkey Trot race bags, and will participate in the race!

Take care and let me hear from 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 ginwa (Hello everyone),

August 12 meeting

Our meeting on Aug. 12 in Bryan, Texas, went very well! We had 45 in attendance, 20 of whom were children running in age from about 14 months to 15 years old.

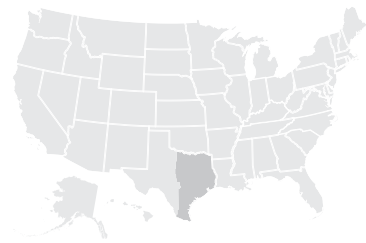
Based upon the number of children who planned to attend, I was accompanied by a friend who loves to sew doll clothes. She gets dolls at very low prices and then makes clothes for each. All of the dolls are about 15 inches high.

We started the meeting with introductions. Then my friend had each child come up to a table display of about 20 dolls and roughly 60 to 80 sets of clothes choices.

Each child selected their doll and three or four outfit changes.

I began my presentation at this point with a review of The Potawatomi Gathering as well as covering some of our Nation's current events. The children were occupied with their new dolls, resulting in a quiet audience.

After the initial presentation, we had a short break. I then held the recognition of the wisest and eldest Tribal member present, coupled with the youngest and who had traveled the furthest. Leroy Copeland is our wisest and was presented with a blanket. Ace Cahill was our youngest enrolled child and was presented with a small blanket that had bison. The 14-month-old present had paperwork submitted but it had not yet been approved by the Legislature for enrollment. Beverly Pecotte had driven over from San Antonio, which made her travel the furthest. She was presented with one of our large CPN blankets custom made for our gift shop.



Young Tribal members play with dolls given out at the meeting.



Whistler (far right) stands with Beverly Pecotte (left), Ace Cahill and Leroy Copeland, the farthest traveled, youngest and wisest members present.

I hadn't known about my friend's intent to provide dolls for this meeting and in my planning had secured one of the 2023 Family Reunion Festival back packs for each child. So, right after the recognitions and before my planned craft classes, my friend and I gave a backpack to each child.

With the children involved with the dolls, clothing options and backpacks, we started classes for adults and older children.

The adult class consisted of peyote beading a 3-inch aluminum portable medicine container with key ring attached. It is bullet shaped and the end opposite the key ring has a cap that can be screwed off. Each adult was provided with a paper plate and a quart size plastic bag. The bag contained the medicine container with a pre-threaded needle with the needle fastened to the container by the thread wrapped around both. There were also five different sets of colored beads in the bag. Since the beading would have presented a challenge for the children, we had about eight choker sets available for the older children (10-15 years old) as a craft.

The beading is very time consuming, so I knew it would be a challenge to have a finished item by the end of the meeting. A brief printed copy on peyote beading was given to a few interested attendees. I

offered to send a copy of my program to anyone who wished to have it when they worked on their item afterward.

As we neared time for the meeting's end, I issued a raffle ticket for each adult so everyone could take something home. Each adult selected an item from a table display.

Time permitting, there may be one or two more meetings before year's end.

I am honored to serve as the elected representative for District 3 and thank you for this honor.

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

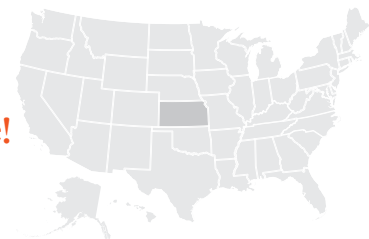
Bozho (Hello),

Fellow CPN Veterans, thank you for your service!

I would like to extend my personal thanks and appreciation to all CPN veterans and to those CPN members currently serving their country. Take pride in being a veteran on Veterans Day and every day. It is an honor to serve you as your district representative.

Recognizing the 185th Anniversary of the Potawatomi Trail of Death

On Saturday, Sept. 23, I participated in an event in Olathe, Kansas, welcoming the travelers on this year's Potawatomi Trail of Death (PTOD) Caravan as it entered Kansas on its way to what had been the Sugar Creek Reservation, the Trail's final destination. The event was hosted by the Johnson County Parks and Recreation Commission. In addition to several members of the Johnson County Commission, the event was attended by approximately 30 members on the caravan, another 30 local CPN members and family members and a very sizeable number of local Johnson County residents. I was joined by Alan Melot, CPN legislator from District 1, and Bob Whistler, legislator from District 3, when



we accepted a proclamation sent by U.S. Congresswoman Sharice Davids, representing the 3rd Congressional District in Kansas. Representative Davids is an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation. After describing the tragedies and hardships encountered during the Tribe's removal, she ended her proclamation (pictured right) with: "As this year's march continues, let us never forget those that came before us, their legacies and the sacrifices they endured."

Last Chance Store

Recently, it was my pleasure to represent the Nation at an event in Council Grove, Kansas, recognizing the reopening of both the Kaw Mission and the Last Chance Store. Both buildings are historical sites in Kansas, operated and maintained by the Kansas Historical Society. The Kaw Mission had originally been a boarding school for the Kanza or Kaw children. The Last Chance Store, built in the 1850s, was originally located on the Santa Fe Trail. Shortly after I arrived, I was sitting alone having a cup of coffee when a gentleman from Delaware stopped and struck up a conversation. As it turned out, he was also retired Air Force and we discovered we had both been at several of the same locations, but never at the same time. But the most interesting subject in our conversation dealt with his great-great-grandparents. They had travelled the Underground Railroad to escape from slavery in Virginia and eventually reached Council Grove where they were allowed to hide in the basement of the Last Chance Store for several months, waiting for the end of the Civil War. After obtaining their freedom, they eventually homesteaded just south of Council Grove. Later my friend was honored by being the first visitor to enter the store's basement following its restoration. Needless to say, it was a very emotional moment for him as he stood on the top step.

Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

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

November 17 **Traditional Thanksgiving Feast**
(Turkey and mashed potatoes)

December 8 **Traditional Holiday Feast**
(Ham, mashed potatoes and corn)

RSVP by the 14th

RSVP by the 5th



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

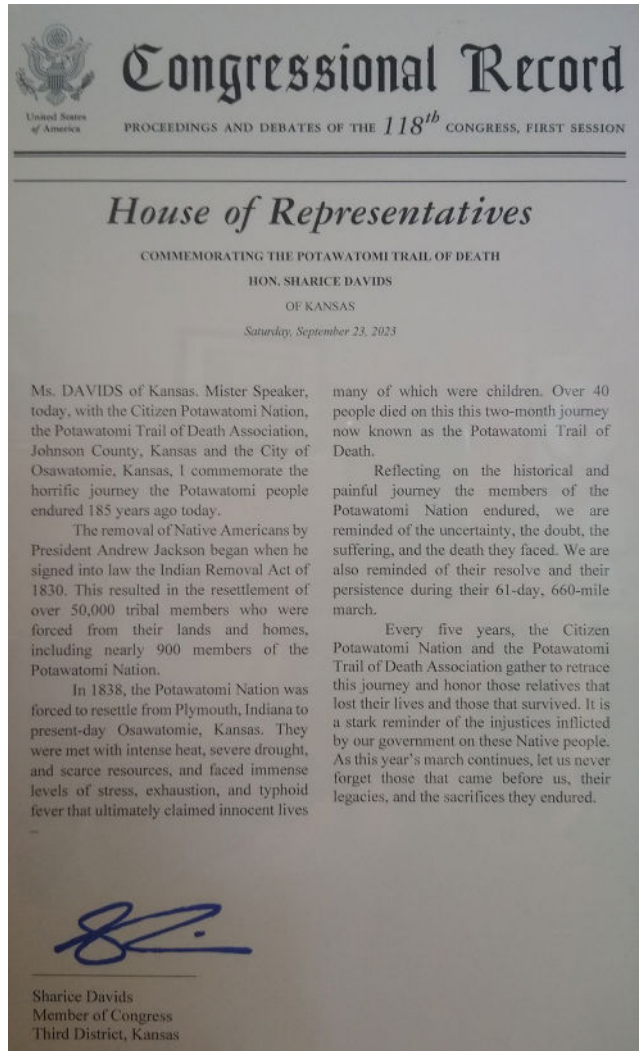
Abram Burnett's Burial Site

I am very pleased to announce that the work on Burnett's burial site in Topeka has been completed.

Peggy and I want to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Megwetch (Thank you),

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





Gene Lambert District 5

Bozho (Greetings),

The month of November and through the end of the year celebrates one holiday after another, continuing on through February with Valentine's Day.

We bring holidays in to remember and acknowledge special things and times in life. While they have become very commercial, let's not let go or forget the original purpose of these special days set aside so they do not blend one day into another. Looking back at days before today, we reminisce and enjoy our memories.

What if some of these holidays were brought about originally to hide truths and dissuade?

I had always celebrated the 4th of July and the Declaration of Independence since that was my birthday, not knowing what was hidden in that declaration.

We are continually referenced as savages and the 10 Indian laws you wouldn't want to go against. It could bring about imprisonment and/or withholding food to maintain control of the Native communities. (You can fact check that by reading the declaration at cpn.news/declaration). I never realized because that isn't what we were taught.

This subject matter brings up the next upcoming holiday "Thanksgiving." Please don't think for one minute I am suggesting you not enjoy your families on the special day. We always thought it was a day in which you were appreciative of your loved ones and all the blessings the Creator bestowed on you. This is true in your heart.

However, it was officially established November 1863 during the Civil War by President Abraham Lincoln.

According to Dr. Kelli Mosteller, former director of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center, it was brought about attempting to create unity between the north, south and tribal nations.

Just one year earlier a mass execution had occurred, taking the lives of over 400 Dakota Sioux, causing a retaliation in 1862. President Lincoln thought establishing a Thanksgiving holiday would bridge the gap and eliminate dissention.

"It just disregards (the centuries of brutality) against Native Americans and chooses to take this one tiny snapshot, and in the world of social media, it puts all the pretty filters on it so that it doesn't look the way it truly did," said Dr. Mosteller.

Regardless of how you feel about our history it is imperative we insist and support truth. No one wants to remember the ugly truth in our history.

Should it be wiped out or significantly altered, it leaves the opportunity to repeat itself in the future.

We can see in current headlines attempting to defuse the genocides of the Jewish people in Germany.

We know it happened yet there is an attempt to create an "alternate truth."

The same is currently gently parading through the world of Indigenous people. Did I say gently? It is as gentle as a semi running through your living room in the middle of the night.

Thanksgiving has become a wonderful family time to share and come together.

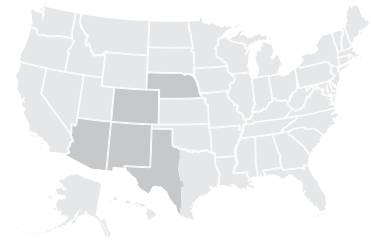
This year let's keep in mind and acknowledge the truths in observing the day.

Never forget our ancestors and what they endured that we might be here today as a Nation.

Have a great holiday remembering to be thankful.

Love you all,

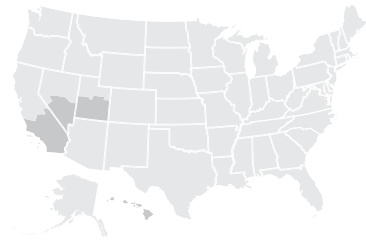
Gene Lambert (Eunice Imogene Lambert) | Butterfly Woman | glambert@potawatomi.org
270 E Hunt Highway Ste 229 | San Tan Valley, AZ 85143 | Cell: 480-228-6569 | Office: 480-668-0509





Rande K. Payne District 6

Bozho Nikanek (Hello friends),



It was nice to see some of the Tescier family history published in the September *Hownikan*. I'm a proud Tescier family descendant from my mother's side. Clara Louise, listed as John Isadore and Alice May Smith Tescier's firstborn, is my grandmother. Her allotment sits along the west side of Triple X Road up against the North Canadian River. The house is still there and sits up on a knoll. The front porch of that house is where my grandpa Lane would play his fiddle and banjo when family members from all along Triple X Road came to gather as mentioned in the *Hownikan*. My mother once said she didn't know they were poor because she was too busy having fun with her siblings and the many cousins who lived nearby.

Betty Josephine Lane Payne would have turned 100 years old in October this year. October of 1923 was an incredible month for rainfall near Oklahoma City. So much so that there were great concerns that the dam at Lake Overholser would not hold the water and, in fact, a levee near the dam was breached and caused a new channel in the North Canadian to be created. Meanwhile, downstream near Choctaw, the knoll my grandparents' house sat on had become an island surrounded by the river as my grandmother was about to give birth to my mother.

As the water continued to rise and fears mounted that Overholser Dam might break, my grandmother was moved to higher ground to my great-grandparents' (John and Alice May) house along NE 23rd Street (Hwy 62) near the intersection of Triple X Road. It was in that house on Oct. 16, 1923, my mother was born. My mother's brother Elton teased her as a young girl that they got her when they pulled her out of the North Canadian River as she came floating by on a frog's back. She said she believed that for the longest time!

Across Triple X Road from my grandparent's house near the old bridge, a pond formed with water from the North Canadian River that came to be known as Tescier Lake (pronounced Tasee). That's where everyone learned to swim and where all the cousins would gather on those hot summer days. I go up to Tescier Lake every year during Family Reunion Festival to visit the home place and sit at Tescier Lake for a while. I always recall the story my mother told of the time she almost drowned trying to swim across the lake to her sister and her sister's boyfriend as they laughed thinking she was faking it. Fortunately, her sister's boyfriend realized she was in trouble and swam out to help her to safety.



Betty Jo Lane Payne

The photo of my mother is her having fun with friends on the old Triple X bridge. That bridge, unfortunately, was taken down and replaced with a new bridge.

The new bridge came to be known as the John Isadore Tescier Memorial Bridge. My cousin Bud Maritt worked diligently with the help of his friend Bubba Dean Brumley to have the bridge named after my great-grandfather. Sadly, my mother passed away in January 2009. The bridge was dedicated later that same year.



The John Isadore Tescier Memorial Bridge

For those interested, I should point out that in the *Hownikan* Tescier family history article, it was Anthony Tescier, Sr. and Elizabeth who had daughter Rose Ann, not John and Elizabeth.

I'm not sure how it happened but my late brother Bobby's obituary appeared in the September *Hownikan* along with the Tescier family history article. I'm sure he would be pleased.

I'm blessed with a rich family history and I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve the members of our tribe. I'm thankful to be part of the family of Potawatomis that is Citizen Potawatomi Nation *Jagenagenan* (All my relations).

Wisdom from the Word: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and His courtyards with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His faithfulness is to all generations." Psalm 100: 4-5

Happy Thanksgiving!

Nagetch (Later),

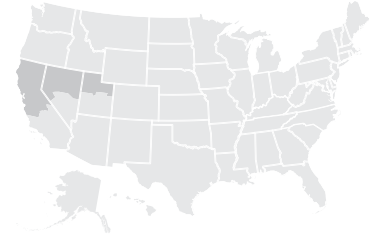
Rande K. Payne | *Mnedo Gabo* | rande.payne@potawatomi.org | 31150 Road 180 | Visalia, CA 93292-9585 | 559-999-5411



Mark Johnson District 7

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends),

November is Native American Heritage Month. This is a time to celebrate, not just our Tribe, but the rich history, culture and contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Native Americans have lived in North America for at least 12,000 years. We have a diverse range of cultures, languages and traditions. Native Americans have made many contributions to American society, including in the areas of art, medicine, science, sports and government.



Use Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to learn about Native American history and culture. Use it as a time to reflect on the challenges that Native Americans face today. Native Americans continue to experience discrimination and poverty and, on the whole, we have higher

rates of poverty, unemployment and homelessness than any other racial group in the United States.

Native American Heritage Month is also a time to take action to address at a local level the challenges that Native Americans face. We can do this by learning not only our Tribe's history, but about Native American history and culture in general, supporting Native American-owned businesses, and, if you get a chance, advocating for policies that benefit Native Americans.

Here are some ways to celebrate Native American Heritage Month 2023:

- Visit a museum or historical site that focuses on Native American history and culture.
- Read books, watch movies or listen to music by Native American artists.
- Support Native American-owned businesses.
- Attend a Native American cultural event or gathering.
- Learn about the challenges that Native Americans face today and take action to address them.
- Spend time looking at the resources available through our Cultural Heritage Center at potawatomiheritage.com.

By taking these steps, we can help to ensure that Native American history and culture are celebrated and preserved for future generations.

Taking the time to learn more about our Tribal history will also make you an active participant in your Tribe. You will see where we have been and the struggles we have gone through to get to where we are today. You will also see how fortunate we have been to have the long-term leadership and vision in place with our Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

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 to you. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and District.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



Dave Carney District 8

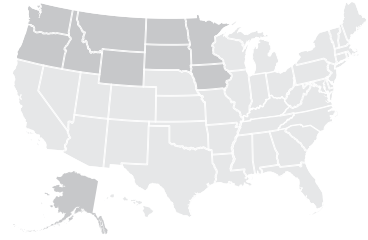
Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

At the time of writing this column, I am preparing presentations for the annual Fall Feast. This year, we are having it in the Duwamish Longhouse in Seattle.

Last week, I took a road trip and drove to the venue to meet the caterer. This was a good idea, since I discovered that there had been a change of personnel at the venue. That was the apparent reason for a disruption in communication. Things quickly got back on track and will hopefully be smooth the day of the event. I live between Seattle and Portland and the traffic was typically brutal — an hour and a half there and two and a half home. It should be a good gathering and, from the RSVPs, well attended. I've learned through the RSVPs that

there will be several members who have never been to a CPN event before, either in Oklahoma or in the district. It is amazing and rewarding to bring people together with their Potawatomi heritage and each other. It is not unusual for attendees to meet cousins or other extended family members for the first time at an event like this.

This year's craft was coordinated with the help of Leslie Deer, cultural activities coordinator at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center. Many members have known Leslie throughout the years as she has worked with us in crafting, traditional dancing, building regalia and you name it. She and I discussed making something practical, unisex and Potawatomi — and of course that could be made in a relatively short amount of time at a gathering. What we came up with are these grocery tote bags with woodland/Potawatomi designs.



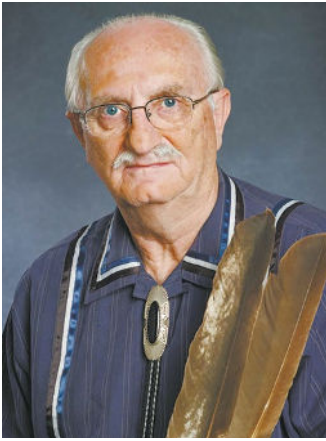
So, basically, we will be tracing woodland patterns from templates onto fabric, cutting them and adhering them to cotton totes in an aesthetically pleasing way. There will be scissors, hot irons and a variety other ways one can hurt themselves — so I will be there with a first aid kit on hand.

For anyone interested in doing this project who isn't in the district or can't attend the meeting, please e-mail me at dcarney@potawatomi.org for the templates for the designs and simple instructions.

Please enjoy the fall and all the beauty it brings.

It is my honor to serve as your Legislator,

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



Paul Wesselhöft District 9

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

Native American Naming Ceremony

Traditionally, "Potawatomi believe that when a child is born, the Creator cannot see their face. To show the child to the Creator, the tribe would have a ceremony and the child was given a name" (cpn.news/namingceremony). In a wonderful and spiritually enriched ceremony, I was honored with a new name, *Naganit* (Leader), by Vice-Chairwoman Linda Capps.

It's evident in talking with our members attending the Family Reunion Festival that most Potawatomis have not received a Native American name. It's your right and honor to have a name bestowed on you that is meaningful to you as a Native American.

The process is not complicated. First, you simply need to ask a fellow Potawatomi to sponsor you. Elders would be good. They will be at your ceremony and serve as a kind of godparents.

Secondly, find a Potawatomi friend or, better yet, an elder. Offer a gift of tobacco to him or her and ask the member if they will name you. Every Potawatomi member is qualified to bestow a name, as well as you after you receive your name. If the person giving the name is not that acquainted with you, it would help them to know about you so they can formulate your name. Your new name, unlike your birth name, should reflect who you are as a mature or maturing person. In my case, Linda knew that I have been a leader most of my life, so she formulated *Naganit*.

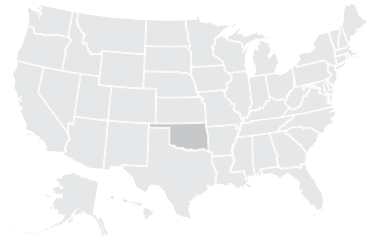
At the ceremony, the person giving you a name will smudge all attending if they wish. You may invite your friends and family. It's not necessary for all attending to be Potawatomi. The ceremony takes place in a circle with a fire burning in the center, and all enter the circle from the east. Tribal members may offer tobacco with their left hand as you and they walk clockwise around the circle. They can offer prayers to you, and you can offer a prayer as well.

The person giving you a name will tell something important and interesting about you. They will offer a prayer to the Creator. Then they will bestow a new name on you and place an eagle feather across your chest. They will speak your new name toward the east, west, north and south. As the ceremony ends, all leave the circle from the east.

Now, you have been honored with a Native American name. Bear it with pride, love and good deeds.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department is requesting that any Tribally or Native American owned businesses interested in bidding on future work projects submit the following documentation:

- A statement of intent
- Articles of organization or articles of incorporation
- Partnership agreements
- Verifying documents identifying 51 percent Native American owned and operated

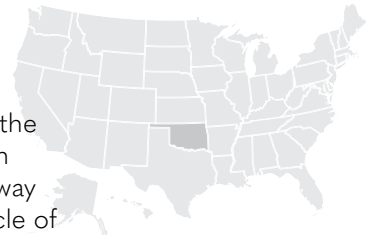
- Tribal membership cards
- Driver's license
- Social Security cards or federal tax ID
- Current trade licenses
- Work resumes

These documents may be submitted to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department at 44007 Hardesty Rd. Shawnee, OK 74801. Please contact Cindy Anderson, CPN Development Assistant, at 405-273-2833 for more information. This request is pursuant to Indian Preference/Tribal Preference requirements of 24 CFR sections 1000.48, 1000.50 and 1000.52. There is no deadline for submission; however, untimely submissions may not be included on future bidding contact lists.



Andrew Walters District 11

Bozho (Hello),



It's hard to imagine on a day like today, a day in late summer when the sun beats down on Mother Earth, how it will be in November when you read this article. By then, winter will have pushed the autumn away and cold will permeate the land. The circle will begin again. The circle of seasons, within the circle of years. Some of us in later life understand that our world is made of circles, joined together, interconnected. And we see the magic spinning around us, the mad whirling of life, but have become so accustomed to the reoccurring miracles, the magic of the everyday, that oftentimes we forget. Although the dominate culture views this month as one of Thanksgiving, we as Natives view it differently. The beginning of winter. The cruelest of times for our ancestors. They lived in a world where life was measured not in years spent in toil, but rather in winters endured. Their only solace was, and for us still is, the belief in a Great Spirit, God, *Mamogoshnan*. So, in the spirit of the season, please accept this prayer for each of us, our families and *jagenagenan*. May your winter be mild, your fires warm, food plentiful and your family near. May the magic never escape your eye, nor your heart.

*Oh, Great Spirit,
Whose voice I hear in the winds
and whose breath gives life to all the world.
Hear me! I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes
ever hold the red and purple sunset.
Make my hands respect the things you have made
and my ears sharp to hear your voice.
Make me wise so that I may understand
the things you have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden
in every leaf and rock.*

*Help me remain calm and strong in the
face of all that comes towards me.
Help me find compassion without
empathy overwhelming me.
I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,
but to fight my greatest enemy: myself.
Make me always ready to come to you
with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when life fades, as the fading sunset,
my spirit may come to you without shame.*

- Translated by Lakota Sioux Chief Yellow Lark in 1887

Bami pi (Until later),

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



Chief District Judge Philip D. Lujan, left, swears in CPN legislators Bobbi Bowden (District 13), David Joe Barrett (District 10) and Andy Walters (District 11) following the June 2023 election.

Walking On

Fred Hubble Peltier Family



Fred Hubble, age 75, of Tuttle, Oklahoma, passed away Aug. 6, 2023. Freddie Jene Hubble was born on Feb. 8, 1948, in Seminole, Oklahoma, the fifth out of six children born to Melvin Alfred Hubble and Ruby Estella (Peltier) Hubble. Due to his father's career in the oil field, he spent the majority of his younger years in Roundup, Montana. Eventually, the Hubble family decided to settle down in Purcell, Oklahoma. He attended Purcell High School and graduated with the Dragon Class of 1966.

One of his biggest accomplishments in life was becoming a proud father to his three beautiful children: Mark, Ron and Melanie. They shared countless memories that will forever be cherished.

Fred was an adventurous man who lived in several different places, including Michigan; Anchorage, Alaska; Alvin, Texas; Lake Charles, Louisiana; and Norman and Prague, Oklahoma. He worked in the construction industry for several years, later as a pipe inspector, and more recently as a wholesale distributor. He truly was a jack of all trades.

In May of 1992, he met a young lady named Marsha Ann Emery. The two quickly fell in love and were married on July 3, 1993. The rest, as they say, is history.

Fred enjoyed anything outdoors from hunting and fishing to golfing. He loved it all. He could be ornery at times, but deep down he was just a big teddy bear. He had a colorful personality and language, and he was the best storyteller. More than anything, Fred was a family man. He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He was always extremely generous with his time and gifts and would do just about anything to make them smile. He truly cherished every moment with them, especially attending their sports and activities. He will be dearly missed!

He was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Ruby Hubble; sister, Revena Robson; and brothers, Alfred Hubble, Harold Hubble and Jerry Hubble.

Fred is survived by his loving wife, Marsha Hubble of Tuttle; his daughter, Melanie Smith (Michael) of Tuttle; sons, Mark Hubble of Whittier, North Carolina, Ronnie Hubble (Kristi) of Newcastle, Oklahoma, Kwinsi McKee (Kris) of Norman, and Reed Shelton of Tuttle; brother, Dennis Hubble

(Virginia) of Oklahoma City; 10 grandchildren, Kieran, Logan, Bryan, Easton, Aiden, Cale, Kennedy, Magnus, Ella, and Ryder, two great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, and a host of other family and friends.

Graveside services were Thursday, Aug. 10, at Hillside Cemetery.

Audrey Lucille **(Buchanan) Kambiss** Castlebury Family



Audrey Lucille (Buchanan) Kambiss, age 94, of Crestview, Florida, passed away on Tuesday, July 18, 2023.

Audrey was born on Jan. 19, 1929, in Konawa, Oklahoma, to Irvin and Edna (Castlebury) Buchanan. On Nov. 7, 1946, Audrey married the love of her life, Theodore (Ted) Kambiss. Audrey and Ted were happily married for 64 years until Ted passed away in January 2012. They enjoyed their children and grandchildren

and had such an amazing zest for life. Friends and family were always welcome at the Kambiss home. Audrey was so positive! She would answer her phone saying, "Hello! What's the good news?" always, with a joyful voice. She loved to swim, yodel and sing — sometimes at the same time. She was a special woman.

She was so proud of her Native heritage and did everything to share it with family. She would light up a room with her smile and a great story. She was also a fierce bingo player and enjoyed art. She had a great spirit that will be missed.

Audrey is survived by her devoted and loving daughter, Kathy Kambiss Naumann, and her wife Lynn Phillips, of Crestview; four grandchildren, Johnny White Jr. of Los Angeles, Jacqueline (White) Henderson of New Port Richey, Florida, Karen (Kambiss) Vinter, of Chicago, Illinois, and Tammy (Kambiss) Moreland, of Noblesville, Indiana. She was also blessed with the legacy of six great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

Audrey was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Theodore Kambiss of Palm Harbor, Florida; along with their children, Peter John Kambiss of Illinois; Beverly Wagner of Hammond, Indiana; Georgia Sroka of Epworth, Iowa; and Thomas Christopher Kambiss of Holiday, Florida.

May their memories be forever eternal.

A celebration of life was held on Sept. 2, 2023, at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens, Palm Harbor, Florida.

Donald Frederick Ratliff
Burnett Family



Donald Frederick Ratliff was born on Aug. 18, 1943, in Ponca City, Oklahoma, to Euel and Mary Jane (Burnett) Ratliff. He passed from this life Thursday, July 20, 2023, at his home in Jenks, Oklahoma, at the age of 79. He was raised and educated in Ponca City. He served in Vietnam in 1966 with the U.S. Army. He had a love for cars and music and had the opportunity to play with most of the legends of the 50s, 60s and 70s.

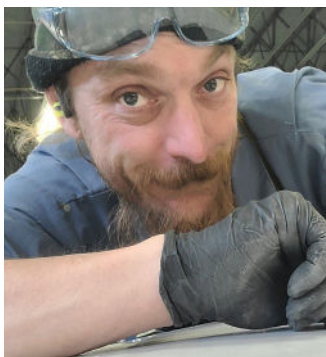
Don was married on June 16, 1972, in Miami, Oklahoma, to the love of his life, Joan Dean Winters. They had two children, Scott and Shelby. He spent most of his work life in retail, largely in the bowling business having different shops over the years, including the first shop at Rose Bowl of Tulsa in 1961. As a bowler, he competed at the highest levels, achieving 34 300 games between 1963 and 2011. He was inducted into the Tulsa Area United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame in 2012.

Those he leaves behind that hold many cherished memories include son, Scott Winters and his wife, April, of Tulsa; daughter, Shelby Woodward and her husband, Larry Joe Swaggerty, Jr., of Tulsa; brother, Jeff Nance and his wife, Casey, of Hominy; six grandchildren, Kyle Sherrill of Tulsa, Ryann Woodward of Jenks, Afton and Avery Shell (Winters) of Broken Arrow, and Addison and Robby Winters of Tulsa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Euel Ratliff and Mary Jane Nance, and his wife of 48 years, Joan.

A come and go visitation was held July 30, 2023, at Main Street Tavern in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, with military honors and a presentation of the flag.

Jim Riley Goodin III
Lazzelle Family



Jim Riley Goodin III died Aug. 4, 2023, after being critically injured in a motorcycle accident in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, where he was temporarily working away from his home and family in Basin, Wyoming. The loss occurred just seven days after his paternal grandmother passed away.

Jim was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico,

on Sept. 13, 1983. He lived there until he joined the U.S. Navy, where he learned the basic skills he used in his primary career as an aviation sheet metal mechanic

(AE-6B while in Navy). While in the Navy he received the following medals: Global War on Terrorism Service, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and National Defense Service. He was honorably discharged (AMAN E-3), whereupon he attended schools such as WyoTech, where he picked up skills he later applied to working on automobiles, both as a job and his favorite hobby. His true work passion was aircraft sheet metal mechanic, and he worked in this trade in various locations around the U.S., including New Mexico, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Montana, Arizona, Louisiana and Minnesota.

He had a very close bond with his son, and they enjoyed doing many activities together such as snowboarding, motorcycling and 4 wheelers, bicycles, working on cars, music and many others. His son misses him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Jim and Virginia Goodin, and his maternal grandparents, Max and Meredith (Moss) Holloway.

He is survived by his son, Jim Riley Goodin IV; his father, Jim Riley Goodin II and stepmother Amy; four sisters and their spouses/fiancés, Mandi (Eric) Rockwall, Cassandra (Will) Maennena, Margaret (Christian) Couch and Hannah (Tyler) Goodin; two stepsisters and their husbands, Sarah (Peter) Nance and Rachel (Evan) Asbury; numerous nieces and nephews; and his partner Audrey and her two daughters.

Charles "Larry" Miser
Nadeau Family



Charles "Larry" Miser, 72, passed away Sunday, June 4, 2023, in Arkansas City, Kansas.

Services were held June 12 at Trinity Baptist Church in Arkansas City.

Larry was born in 1950 in Arkansas City. He graduated from high school in 1969 and was drafted into the U.S. Navy. He served from 1973 to 1976.

Larry was a loyal employee of the Rubbermaid Company for 30 years. He enjoyed spending time at the lake, windsurfing, playing softball with the happy crew and watching the Kansas City Chiefs. He was loved by all, but especially by his wife, Gloria.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Hazel and Lawrence Miser, and Rosemary (Smith) Honer; father, Virgil Miser; sister, Sherry Kelly; and brother, Jim Miser.

Larry is survived by his wife, Gloria Miser (England); his stepchildren, Rusty (Cherie) Millirons, Richard (Amy) Millirons and Charithah Pricer; grandchildren, Aurora, Lillith, Ivy, Jillian, Ulrich and Gage; great-grandchildren, Loki and Esme; and many nieces and nephews who were loved.

Jordan Austin Powell
Ogee Family



Jordan Austin Powell passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 5, 2023, on his way to work in a tragic traffic incident caused by another driver. A member of the Ogee clan, he was born in Austin, Texas, on Jan. 8, 2001.

He was an amazing young man who lived life on his terms and had big plans for his future. He was an accomplished welder who worked for Travis Materials Group and also performed custom welding services under his own name. He

loved working with his hands and his passion for his craft was evident. He graduated from Round Rock High School in 2019. Although he participated in baseball and football, he loved to ride his BMX bike in skate parks and on pump tracks. He was a gun enthusiast and he loved upgrading his Jeep and outfitting his work truck. He was the best at giving hugs and was loved severely by his family. At the age of 5, he acknowledged that Jesus died on the cross for his sins and the saving grace that was now freely given to him. Our only consolation is that his journey is complete, and he is rejoicing now in Heaven.

He is preceded in death by grandfathers, Bill Powell and Chuck Knesel, as well as uncle Gary Powell and aunt Gaye Tenoso.

He is survived by his parents, Julie and John Powell; his three brothers, Jackson, Joshua and P.J.; and his grandmothers, Marilou Powell and Sherel Knesel. He is also survived by uncle Marc Powell, his wife Karen, their children Daniel Powell (Carrie) and Katie Sears (Cody and children Slate and Ari), aunt Marcia Powell and her daughter Missy Cook (Russ and children Riley and Kace) and aunt Joy Fries (Ron and children Amanda and Mark).

Marcella Marie Johnson Marcella Marie (Roberson)
Spencer Family Johnson, 85, passed
away peacefully on Aug.

7, 2023, at the Circle of Life Hospice in Bentonville, Arkansas. Since November 2017, she had resided at a number of care facilities in Rogers, Arkansas.

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

She grew up in Harrah, graduating from Harrah High School in 1955. She attended Harrah Church of the Nazarene, where she married Robert C. Johnson, Jr. (deceased, 2017) of Wellston on June 12, 1955. They moved

to Midwest City, where they raised two sons, Myron (Ron) and Alan. She was able to stay at home in the early years, volunteering and serving at church and her sons' schools.

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

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

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

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

Gary Bergeron, Sr.
Bergeron Family



Gary Bergeron, Sr., age 76, of Blanchard, Oklahoma, passed away on Oct. 8, 2023, at his home. Gary Don Bergeron was born to Delayne Alexander Bergeron and Rachel Bernice Bergeron (Poe) on Feb. 16, 1947, in Shawnee, Oklahoma. He grew up in the Spencer area and attended school there, graduating with the Bobcat class of 1965. Between his junior and senior years of high school, Gary enlisted in the United States Navy and completed boot camp. After graduation, he was

stationed in San Diego and served aboard the U.S.S. Braine. Gary served in Vietnam, left active duty in 1967 and exited the reserves in 1970. He was a true patriot and was very proud of his time in the Navy. After leaving the military, he visited an employment office in search of a new job. It was suggested that he become a jeweler's apprentice, and so he did. Gary spent his apprenticeship with Treasures, Inc. During his more than 50 years as a craftsman, he worked as a master jeweler for both Treasures, Inc. and B.C. Clark. When he wasn't putting a polish on precious metals, he was putting a shine on his favorite hot rods. Over the years Gary enjoyed working on his prized vehicles, including a 1929 Pontiac Chief and his

1958 Panhead Harley Davidson. He spent time outdoors taking in nature and working in the yard. Gary was always busy working on his next project, whatever that may be, and the soundtrack to his hard work was usually Motown or the blues. He was a beloved brother, father and grandpa who will be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Delayne and Rachel Bergeron, and his wife Terry Bergeron.

He is survived by his siblings, Rick Bergeron of Mustang, Oklahoma, and Fran Bergeron of Washington, Oklahoma; and his children, Gary Bergeron, Jr. and wife Chrissy of Edmond, Oklahoma, Gina Smith of Moore, Oklahoma, Adam Mitchell and wife Chrissy of Germany, and Jason Bennett and wife Jen of Stafford, Virginia. Gary also leaves behind eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Oct. 12, 2023, at Newcastle First Baptist Church, with burial following at Newcastle Memorial Garden. Send online condolences at wilsonlittle.com.

Barbara Kay Leverett
Beaubien Family



Barbara Kay Leverett was born to Frank and Daisy (Mullins) Beaubien on Jan. 10, 1945, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She finished her earthly journey in Duncan, Oklahoma, on Thursday, Sept. 6, 2023, at the age of 78.

Barbara graduated from Marlow High School with the class of 1962. She attended Central State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree. After college, she did missionary work with the Spanish American

Evangelistic Ministries for six years. She then worked for The Duncan Banner for over 20 years. On April 3, 1991, she married Bob Leverett in Marlow, Oklahoma. She loved to quilt, crochet, knit and take care of her flowers. Barbara was a member of the Oklahoma Extension Homemakers. She was a very active member of Elk Avenue Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Bill Frank Beaubien.

Survivors include her husband, Bob; sister-in-law, Fairy Beaubien of The Colony, Texas; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and many dear friends.

Family visitation was held Sept. 14, 2023 at Whitt Funeral Home. A funeral service took place Sept. 15 at Elk Avenue Church of Christ with Wayne Spradlin and Robert Teague officiating. Interment took place

in Duncan Municipal Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Whitt Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Barbara's memory to: The Berean Children's Home at 1180 Berea Trail SE, Bogue Chitto, MS, 39629.

Online condolences may be made at whittfh.com.

Robert Gregory Cartwright
Boehner Family



The family of Robert Gregory Cartwright sadly announces his passing due to cancer on Sept. 22, 2023, in Sacramento, California. He was 51 years old.

He was the youngest of five children born to Robert Edwin and Katherin Olga Cartwright on Oct. 4, 1971, in Norco, California. Growing up, he was known as Greg to his family, and then Robert as he became older. His wife, Lina, whom he married in 2017,

affectionately nicknamed him Gregbert; they were the loves of each other's lives.

Robert found his calling as a winemaker. After graduating from the University of Washington, he worked for 22 years at wineries throughout California. His talent earned him many accolades throughout his career, but his proudest achievement was being a father to Gabrielle, who inherited his gallows humor and love of dad jokes, puns and pizza.

Robert enjoyed other interests besides winemaking. He volunteered for the Sacramento Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), made his own limoncello and whiskey, earned his ham radio license and was an avid reader. His music playlist included heavy metal, rap and Dolly Parton.

There was nothing Robert wouldn't do for his wife, daughter, siblings and friends. His siblings will always remember him as loving, funny, light-hearted and outgoing. They are all devastated by his sudden death and miss him beyond words.

Robert is preceded in death by his parents, Ed and Kathy. Robert leaves behind his wife, daughter, and siblings, Scott (Brenda), Christopher (Beverly), Joseph (Marie) and Melanie (Steve); eight nieces and nephews; three grandnephews and a grandniece. Robert's loyal dogs, Felix and Champion, look for him every day.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks friends to consider donations to Hearts for Paws animal rescue in Davis, California, or to the Yolo County Animal Services Shelter in Woodland, California.

Nicholas Colby Sandoval
Rhodd Family



Nicholas Colby Sandoval was born June 24, 1987, in Los Angeles, California. He passed away peacefully at his home in Mesa, Arizona, on April 27, 2023, at the age of 35.

In 2005, he graduated from Marcos de Niza High School in Tempe, Arizona, where he wrote for the school newspaper, and simultaneously attended Mesa Community College on scholarship.

Nicholas had a passion for skateboarding growing up and the outdoors, where he loved to camp and fish. He was also an avid music lover and a collector of vinyl records. He was known for his quick wit, infectious smile, and his kind and compassionate spirit. Nicholas was just one of those people that lit up the room.

Nicholas leaves behind many cherished memories and loved ones. He is greatly missed by his mother, Marcie Rhodd and her husband, John (Eichman); his two beautiful daughters, Ameilia (age 10) and Avere (age 7); his paternal grandmother, Virginia Sandoval; and his fiancée, Kimberly Stilson.

Nicholas is preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Nick; his father, Nicholas "Patrick;" his maternal grandmother, Nancy Alberg; and many other relatives that have walked on.

A celebration of life was held Oct. 14, 2023, in Mesa, Arizona.

Ralph Jerome Martin, Jr.
Martin Family

Ralph Jerome Martin, Jr., "Jerry," age 86, of Loganville, Georgia, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023. A funeral service was held on Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023, at Corinth Christian Church. Minister Don Hardison officiated. Interment followed at Corinth Memorial Gardens.

Jerry was a tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He was also a member of Corinth Christian Church and was a veteran of the United States Army.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph Jerome and Bertha (Skidmore) Martin; brother, Richard Martin; sisters, Roma Collins and Jackie Martin; and nephew, Jimmy Wyatt. Surviving are his loving wife, Denise Martin of Loganville; children, Tambra Martin of Holton, Kansas, Victoria Bickford and Firooz Nahai of Atlanta, Robin and Duane Rieschick of Holton, Jennifer and Daniel Davis of Monroe, Georgia, Gregg and Heather

Martin of Oxford, Georgia, Jerry (J.C.) and Diana Martin of Covington, Georgia, Matthew and Kati Martin of Loganville; 18 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; brothers, William Martin and Rusty Martin, both of Kansas; nieces, Crytal Wyatt of Conyers, Georgia, and Jill Day of Pennsylvania; nephew, Ricky Martin of Gainesville, Georgia.

Please sign the online guest registry at stewartfh.com.

Rhonda Sue Brown
Higbee Family



Rhonda Sue Brown, age 68, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023. She was born Dec. 24, 1954, to Ronald and Sue Higbee and was a lifelong resident of Norman and of proud Citizen Potawatomi Nation heritage.

Her father worked primarily as a food salesman her entire life. He hitchhiked home from an Army camp to be with Sue as she gave birth to their firstborn, Rhonda. In her younger years, Rhonda performed as a dancer of all

types such as jazz, tap and ballet, along with competing in gymnastics. For 60 years, she continued to confess her early hobbies gave her bad knees and feet. Although that didn't keep her from competing as she performed in the follies as a young adult. Rhonda graduated from flight attendant school in Kansas City. However, she was never able to use this skill as the energy crises of the 70s kept her from being hired. She went on to become a Miss Liberty in Oklahoma City, working at the then Liberty tower.

Rhonda raised her two sons as a single mother, doing everything she could to attend as many of their activities as possible. To help support her children, Rhonda worked in real estate and property management around the Norman area, as well as part-time positions at Dillard's. She spent over 30 years working for the University of Oklahoma, where she retired in 2017. At OU, she worked in administration, athletic photographer, student life, Stephenson Research Center, Price College of MBA and OU School of Law. But, her most fulfilling was working in the athletic department for Joe Washington. Rhonda took a brief break from OU and worked at Logix Communications, where she met and eventually married Anthony Brown. During their life together, Rhonda enjoyed and involved herself with all the activities the OU campus offered, from rush week for freshmen to artistic performances of her OU "kids," but nothing compared to her love of college sporting events. She made the time to attend most of them, especially OU football and basketball. She loved spending time at the lake house and taking boat rides, especially during sunset. The time spent with

her grandchildren was precious to her, and she especially loved having fashion shows with her granddaughters.

Rhonda was preceded in death by her mother, Sue Higbee, and her son, Blake Baldwin, along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. She is survived by her husband of 23 years together, Anthony Brown; son, Tommy Sturdivant; father, Ron Higbee; brother, Scott Higbee and his wife, Debra; niece, Cori Delay and her husband, Dallas, and their kids, Devin and Dylan; two step daughters, Leslie St. Clair and her husband, Jeremy, and Brandi Graham and her husband, Sean; and five grandchildren, Emmalynn St. Clair, Lillian St. Clair, Arlo Graham, Eleanor Graham and Lyla Graham.

Visitation was held on Sept. 6, 2023, at Havenbrook Funeral Home in Norman. Funeral services were held on Sept. 7, 2023, at the funeral home. Interment followed at Noble I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

Online condolences may be shared at havenbrookfuneralhome.com.

Zoa Annabell Spencer Ross
Wilmette Family



Zoa Annabell Spencer Ross, 96, of Floral, Kansas, passed away Saturday, June 10, 2023, at her home.

Born Sept. 11, 1926, in Choctaw, Oklahoma, she was the eighth of thirteen children born to Jesse Leorn and Alice Viola (Bourlon) Spencer. As a child, she lived in Oklahoma on a farm and moved with her family to Kansas in the 1940s. She was united in marriage to Melvin W.

Payton on Aug. 21, 1943, in Douglass. The couple made their home and raised their four children in the Douglass area. The couple later divorced.

Annabell worked at House Hardware in Douglass before working in the aircraft industry in Wichita at both Cessna and Beech Aircraft. In 1987, she moved to Winfield and began selling Avon in 1990. She remained with Avon for many years, winning many awards, until retiring in 2006 at the age of 80.

Her family includes her daughters, Sonya Draper and husband, Earl, of Wichita and Maureen Ingram of Winfield; her daughter-in-law, Janice Payton of Wichita; and her 13 grandkids, 19 great-grandkids, 18 great-great-grandkids, 20 nieces and 16 nephews.

In addition to her parents, Annabell was preceded in death by two children, Leorn Payton and Alice Foust; a granddaughter, Jana Lea; and two grandsons, Jared Lyon and Nolan Kebert.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at Douglass Baptist Church. Interment followed at the Douglass Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in Annabell's name for the COPD Foundation. Contributions may be made through Miles Funeral Service, 4001 E. 9th Ave., Winfield, Kansas, 67156.

Clarence Earl Trousdale, Jr.
Toupan Family



Clarence Earl Trousdale, Jr. (aka C.E. Trousdale) went to play in the "angel's band" on Sept. 5, 2023, at the age of 94. C. E. was born May 23, 1929, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, to parents Earl Trousdale, Sr. and Agnes (Maytubby) Trousdale. He lost his father in 1931, and his mother remained single while raising and supporting C.E. and his younger sister, Patricia, by teaching in Native American

schools across the state. He was always proud of his Potawatomi, Chickasaw, and Choctaw heritage.

In 1942, the family moved to Pawnee where he completed his high school years, graduating in 1947. He loved playing sports, accomplishing 4 letters in basketball, 4 letters in track, and 3 letters in football. As there was no baseball team in school, he played for Pawnee American Legion teams. He still holds the Oklahoma State record for 200 yd low hurdles for 1947 because, after that year, the event was discontinued.

He met his future bride in 8th grade, Ellen Jane Smith. They were a couple all through high school and married after graduation in March 1947. Immediately, C.E. accepted employment with Continental Oil Company of Ponca City, Oklahoma, as a "helper" on a seismograph crew and moved to Casper, Wyoming. From there his work took the couple to nine states all west of the Mississippi River, living in different towns in several states. Along the way, they had 2 sons and 2 daughters. In all, there were 33 moves in 30 years. C. E. retired from Conoco in 1977 after 30 years. In 1978, he began working for Ladd Petroleum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and retired after 10 years. He and Ellen enjoyed living at Lake Keystone, near Cleveland, Oklahoma, and their love of music was shared by many as they "picked and sang" the old country songs of Bob Wills & Hank Williams.

C.E. was preceded in death by his parents, Earl & Agnes Trousdale, and his wife, Ellen Jane Trousdale. He is survived by his 4 children and their spouses, 9 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren, who called him "Boompa," and sister, Patricia Tremain.

Jerry B. Barnes
Rhodd Family



We lovingly honor and commemorate the great patriarch of our family, Jerry B. Barnes.

Jerry passed away Aug. 6, 2023, in Gainesville, Texas, at the age of 91.

Mr. Barnes was born Aug. 29, 1931, in Oklahoma City to J. B. and Dolly Evelyn (Little) Barnes.

Jerry grew up in an oil field family. He continued his family's business into his adult years until he retired. He co-owned and operated two businesses: Barnes Bros. Well Servicing and Indian Oil Company.

Mr. Barnes met his wife of 65 years, Sharon Wood, in 1956. They knew each other less than a month before they were married. After returning home from a school dance, Sharon's father greeted them both with a gun. However, instead of staying to face the consequences of keeping Sharon out too long, they jumped back in the car and headed to Arkansas where they secretly eloped. They were married for 64 years, until the passing of Sharon in 2020.

Jerry and Sharon converted to Catholicism not long after they married. He continued to be a devout Catholic for the rest of his life. He was very active in the church as a Sunday morning lector and was also a member of ACTS.

Mr. Barnes was very proud of his five children and loved his family very much. He loved to travel, snow ski, ride his bicycle and work on his farms. He was a voracious reader of all literature and his passion for watching football was his life. He was the life of every party and his knack for storytelling was unmatched by anyone. He will forever be remembered in all of our hearts.

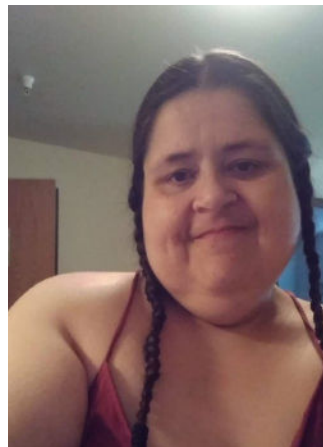
Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law, Lynn and Charlie Haverkamp of Gainesville; daughter and son-in-law, Jana and Dan Fisher of Lindsay, Texas; daughter, Kris Brown of Richardson, Texas; son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Niki Barnes of Denton, Texas; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; sister, Ina Lu Francis of Homosassa, Florida; and special friend, Larry Cox.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Sharon D. Barnes; daughter, Carol Ann Marler; son-in-law, Everett Marler; and sister, Barbara Abbey.

A memorial mass was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Aug. 18, with Fr. John Pacheco officiating. Inurnment followed in the Fairview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Catholic School, 931 N. Weaver, Gainesville, TX 76240, or smsmustangs.com, or donate to Meals On Wheels, P.O. Box 1235, Gainesville, TX 76240, or mowot.org.

JoAnna Castaneda
Burnett Family

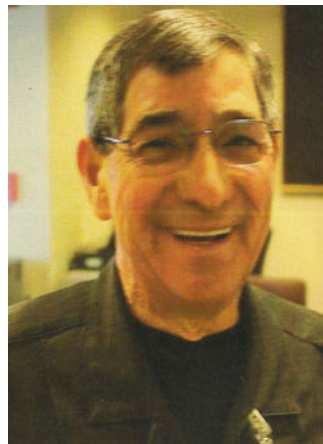


JoAnna Castaneda, born Dec. 6, 1973, returned to the stars on July 28, 2023. She is the youngest child born to Frank Castaneda and Judy Farley-Castaneda. She is the great-great-great-granddaughter of Chief Abram B. Burnett (*Nan Wesh Ma*) on her paternal side.

She is survived by her sisters, Deanna and Lisa, and her niece, Misty.

In her memory, we ask that people support lipedema/lymphedema research and wolf re-entry to the wild.

Albert L. Nocktonick
Nagdonuk Family



Albert L. Nocktonick, 82, of Holton, Kansas, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023, at his home in Holton. He was born Jan. 18, 1941, in Holton, the son of Joseph and Louise Catherine (Tork) Nocktonick. He graduated from Topeka High School in 1959. Albert earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Washburn University.

Albert retired from the Prairie Band Casino, where he worked in the environmental services department. He was member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma and he served in the United States Navy.

Albert is survived by his wife of 34 years, Beryl Ann (Martin) Nocktonick; a daughter, Sarah Nocktonick of California; two step-daughters, Sally Lempp and Lesley LaFile, both of Kearney, Nebraska, and a step-son, Erik Dahl of New Jersey; three brothers, Joseph E. Nocktonick, Richard Nocktonick and Louie C. Nocktonick, all of Mayetta, Kansas; four grandchildren, Bailey Stofer, Braden Dahl, Gavin Dahl and Richard Dahl; two nieces, Margaret and Megan, both of Mayetta, and a nephew, Joseph Nocktonick of Mayetta.

Albert is preceded in death by two sisters and a granddaughter, Jessica Lempp.

Albert's wishes were to be cremated, and a service will be held at a later date. Cards of condolences may be sent to Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436. To leave Albert's family a condolence, please visit mercerfuneralhomes.com.

Norma Jeanne Davis
Thurber Family



Norma Jeanne (Wade) Davis, age 83, of Dayton, Ohio, passed away Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, at Vienna Springs Health Campus.

Norma was born in Ogden, Utah, to the late William F. Wade and Irene Countryman Wade. Jeanne graduated from Ogden High School in 1958 and Westminster College in 1962.

She married Wilmer L. Davis on April 1, 1966, in Sacramento, California.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her grandson, Brayden Scott Davis.

Jeanne is survived by her loving husband, Wil L.; sons and daughters-in-law, Scott and Laurel, and B. Eric and Jennifer; grandchildren, McKenna and Colin; sister, Pamela Papazian; and brother, William Wade.

A funeral service was held Aug. 12, at Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church, Huber Heights, Ohio. Interment was at Peninsula Memorial Park in Newport News, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church in Jeanne’s memory.

Peggy Joyce Gurski
Boehner Family



Peggy Joyce Gurski, 89, was born in Bethany, Oklahoma, on March 23, 1934, growing up in Oklahoma and attending Bethany Nazarene College. Peggy has been the loving, caring matriarch of her family by guiding her children in their Christian walk. Over 20 family members prayed around her bedside as she was tearfully but joyfully given to His loving arms. Peggy went to be with the Lord on one of her favorite holidays, the 4th of July, a time when she hosted many family gatherings at her lake house.

Peggy and Jim live in Anna, Texas, and attend Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church in Anna.

Peggy was preceded in death by her parents, Fred Hoover and Velma Bullock; brothers, Duane Hoover and Mike Hoover; and son, Tobin Cory.

Peggy is survived by her loving, dedicated husband Jim Gurski; sisters, Cathy Womack, Marsha Carter and

husband, Greg, and Jane Schlubach; children, Buzz Corey and wife, Cheryl, Kim Bownds and husband, Barry, Brett Cory and wife, Becky, Tyler Cory, Yvonne Gurski, Jessica Hoover, and Josh Gurski and his loving wife, Ashley.

Peggy is also survived by a wonderful host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren – too many to list! This proves the promise from God “and showing mercy to thousands who love Me and keep my Commandments” (Exodus 20:6).

Family night was July 6, at Scoggins Funeral Home in Van Alstyne, Texas. Funeral services were July 7, at Scoggins Funeral Home. Pastor Matt Wood officiated along with Pastor Derek Cory (Peggy and Jim’s grandson).



Hau ndenwémagnek
Ho my relatives

Ébyé yak shote gnom
We have come here today

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

Ngom she épam sét ode
Today he walks

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

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

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

Iw énaj moyan
That’s all I have to say

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

By Don Perrot

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

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

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