

# HOWNIKAN

Zawbogyagises | September 2023

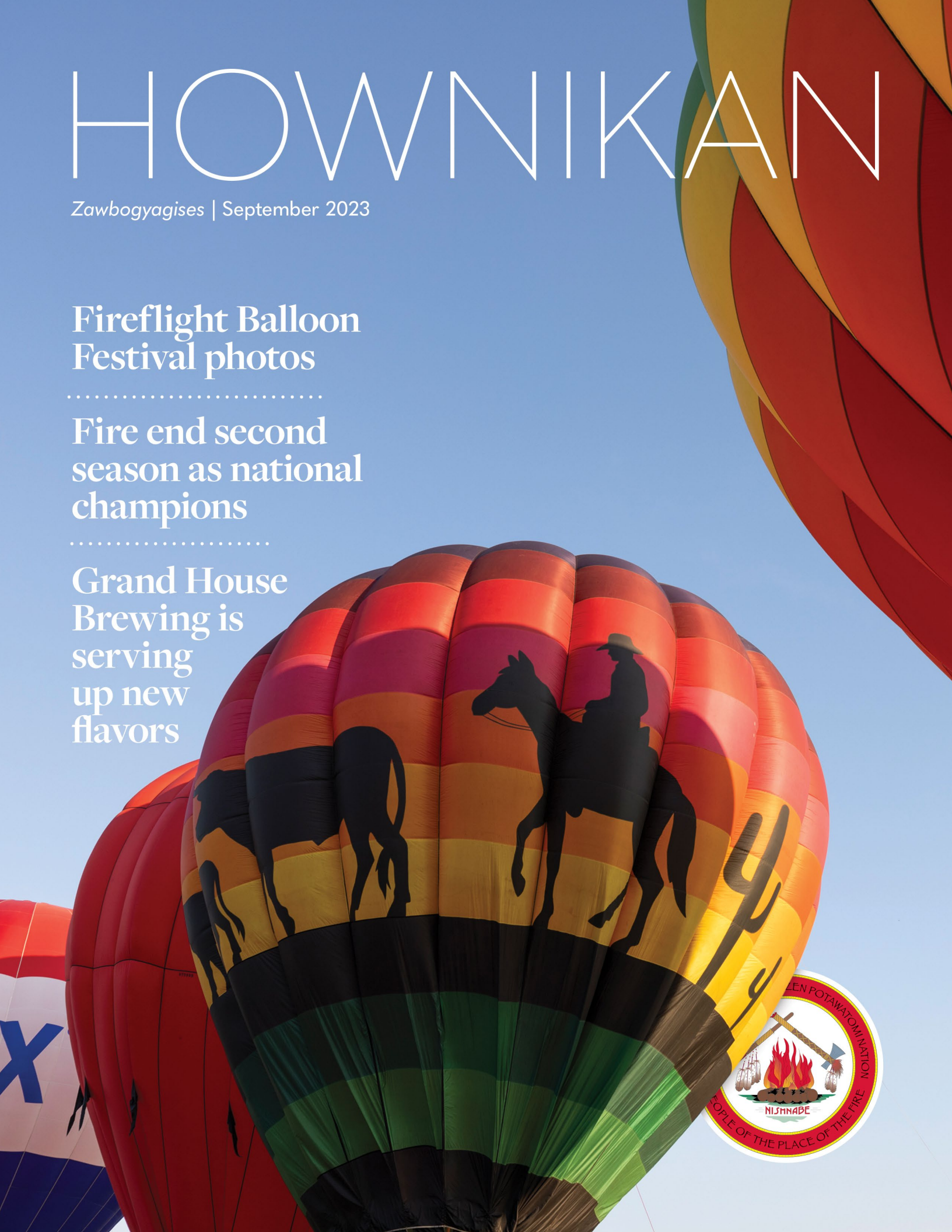
Fireflight Balloon  
Festival photos

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Fire end second  
season as national  
champions

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Grand House  
Brewing is  
serving  
up new  
flavors



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# Housing rights for domestic violence survivors

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope prevention specialist

There are many barriers to safety in an abusive relationship. Leaving is often the most dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence. Not only is the abuser a threat to the victim's safety and wellbeing, but victims also struggle to find basic needs like housing and the financial stability to meet those needs. The lack of safe and affordable housing is often one of the primary barriers survivors face when they do choose to leave.

One way to ease the burden on individuals facing domestic violence in Oklahoma is through the Oklahoma Residential Landlord Tenant Act ([cpn.news/landlordtenantactok](https://cpn.news/landlordtenantactok)) authored by Sen. John Montgomery. It states:

- A victim of domestic violence, sexual violence or stalking may terminate a lease without penalty by providing a written notice and a protective order of an incident of such violence within 30 days of the incident, unless the landlord waives such time period. [41 O.S. § 111\(F\)](#)
- A landlord cannot deny, refuse to renew, or terminate a tenancy because the applicant, tenant or member of the household is a victim or alleged victim of domestic violence, sexual violence or stalking regardless of whether there is a current protective order in place. [41 O.S. § 113.3](#)
- A landlord cannot deny a tenancy or retaliate against a tenant because the applicant or tenant has previously terminated a rental agreement, because the applicant or tenant is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, or stalking. [41 O.S. § 113.3](#)

This senate bill was signed into law by Gov. Kevin Stitt on May 4, 2023, and will go into effect on Nov. 1, 2023.

Along with the difficulty of locating housing, individuals need utilities in the home. Most times when moving into a new residence, individuals are responsible for placing deposits for electricity, gas, water, trash and sewage services. They also must meet certain credit requirements. This can be difficult for someone who has experienced

financial abuse or used what little funds they have saved to flee the abuser.

Another way the state has moved toward assisting victims of domestic violence is House Bill 2242 (Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Bill) authored by Sen. Adam Pugh ([cpn.news/dvassistanceok](https://cpn.news/dvassistanceok)). The bill:

Requires public utilities and municipally owned utility providers to waive the initial credit and deposit requirements for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, or stalking who provide an existing protective order, documentation from a representative of a certified domestic violence shelter or program, or documentation from law enforcement personnel.

"This bill will ensure victims don't stay in a dangerous situation simply because they have bad or no credit or lack the money for a housing deposit. No one's life is worth that, and I'm glad this protection is now law in Oklahoma," Pugh said.

The bill was approved by Gov. Stitt on May 2, 2023, and due to an emergency clause in the bill, the requirements took effect immediately.

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



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RENTING AND THE LAW

### 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



# Grand House Brewing is serving up new flavors

Locally-brewed beer with innovative and unique flavors is now available at the Grand Resort & Casino through its new in-house brewery — Grand House Brewing.

J.C. Aponte, the Grand’s beverage manager, said developing a new product line was intimidating, but it was a challenge the entire staff enjoyed.

“We’ve been playing with recipes since the end of last year,” Aponte said.

The new offerings include Chupacabra, a Mexican-style beer with bold flavors; Third Coast, a West-Coast citrusy IPA; and Highway 102, a light lager with a smooth finish.

Chupacabra, Third Coast and Highway 102 are being sold at the Grand Resort & Casino’s bars and restaurants. The Grand House Brewing hopes their products will soon be available at other locations, including the all-new FireLake Casino that is currently under construction at Tribal headquarters near Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Whether customers are ordering Chupacabra at the bar, trying Third Coast as they attend a concert, or sipping Highway 102 during happy hour, they have embraced the new beverages.

“Chupacabra is now our number one seller,” Aponte said. “It’s doing really, really well.”

The Grand’s newest beverages are half price during happy hour, which takes place from noon to 2 p.m. and again from 5-7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

“That’s so we can encourage people to try it. Then when they try it, now we have tons of people who come out now just to drink those beers. It’s really awesome to see,” Aponte said.

He has been working closely with Grand House Brewer Jacob Kitsmiller on developing the flavors of each product. Kitsmiller has a culinary background and “makes magic,” Aponte said.

“He really takes so much pride in it. I can’t speak highly enough of him, because he’s been amazing throughout this whole process,” Aponte said.

People usually associate a chef with creating unique food dishes, but Kitsmiller’s culinary skills helped Grand House Brewery find the right combination of tastes.

“It’s an art, it really is,” Aponte said. “There are so many flavors that you have to play with. And two things that you may never think go together come in and makes this amazing flavor.”

He compares it to having a meal expertly prepared by a favorite family member.

“You can tell the difference when somebody really is taking their time to make what they make,” he said. “I remember my grandma spending two and a half hours in the kitchen. But I promise you that when you tried it, you could taste every single minute of that.”

## Full of flavor

Aponte described the flavor profiles customers can expect.

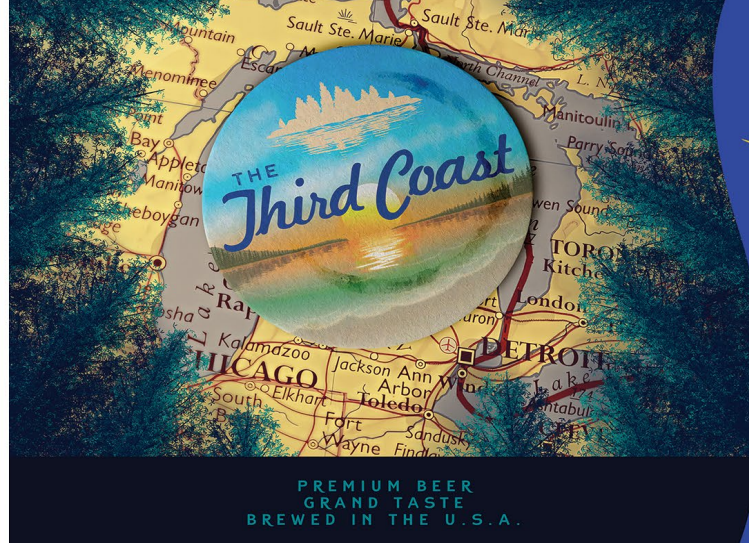
Chupacabra: “It’s low bitterness with a caramel flavor. It’s really good, really refreshing. Wakes up the tastebuds when you first try it.”

Highway 102: “A very pale, highly-carbonated, light bodied, well-attenuated lager with a very neutral flavor profile and low bitterness. Served very cold, it can be a very refreshing and thirst quenching drink.”

Third Coast: “This is a refreshing West Coast IPA with bold, citrusy, hop flavors and a crisp finish. It’s great for beer lovers who enjoy a classic IPA flavor.”

## Challenges

The local beer market can be challenging to break into because many customers tend to stick with products they have consumed for years. However, staff have noticed that more people are requesting locally brewed products.



Aponte said he and the Grand staff were a bit intimidated by the challenge of brewing totally new products.

“You’re like, ‘What am I diving into? What’s going to happen?’ But we have a really good team all around food and beverage that just make it work,” he said. “And when you have people that want something to work, it just kind of comes together.”

One major advantage to an in-house brewery was the cost savings to the Grand, savings that can be passed along to the customer without compromising on the product’s quality.

“There is a big savings in it for us to do it ourselves. All of the beer that we make in the house is cheaper than what we sell all of our draft beers,” he said. “The customer (can save) 50 cents to a dollar on each. If we have a quality product out there that’s affordable for everybody, that’s really where it’s at for us.”

## Seasonal offerings

Aponte said the three flagship products are expected to stay on tap all year. However, the brewery is also planning to introduce seasonal flavors that will be available for a limited time.

“We wanted people to say, ‘Hey, let’s go to the Grand and see what kind of different things they have out now.’ If we have a blend of beers that change throughout the season, maybe you and your friends might want to see what we have on tap. And we are starting to play with the recipes to be able to do that,” he said.

Cucumber-lime, pineapple-mango or pumpkin spice are just a few of the unique flavors they plan to experiment with and potentially add to the rotation as the seasons change.

Small, sample-size batches allow the staff to experiment with flavors and find the right balance that will appeal to customers.

“It really comes down to flavor profile and your palate. People might try a beer and say, ‘Oh, that’s not for me.’ But then somebody will walk up right after and say, ‘Give

me another one,’” Aponte said. “That’s the fun part for us is, ‘Let’s try this,’ or ‘Hey, I have an idea to do this.’”

The Grand House Brewery staff is passionate about consistently delivering flavors that will appeal to a broad customer base.

“If it takes off, then you put it on the menu, but it’s a really fun and rewarding experience” to see customers gravitate toward something the team created, he said.

## Future plans

Aponte expects that Grand House Brewery will look for opportunities for further expansion as well.

“That’s the goal. I’m excited to see us put it out there, what kind of feedback we’ll be getting and then going from there,” he said.

If there is sustained demand, Aponte and the team wouldn’t turn down the chance to see the product on the shelves in FireLake Discount Foods. But for now, they are focused on introducing the beers to as many new customers as possible.

“That’s a fun part of it, making the beer, it’s amazing and it’s great. And then you get to see the rewards when people taste it,” he said. “It’s not a bad thing when you’re selling out. It’s just indicative of how good something is.”

He said some of the Grand’s regular customers have even told him that they only drink the new products. If it is sold out at one bar, they will try other bars until they find it.

The brewing team is enjoying the feedback. They are proud to contribute to the high-quality entertainment and service the Grand provides each day, Aponte said.

“It was just like perfect timing because we have a bunch of people asking for (local beers). There’s a big demand for craft and local beer, so it’s awesome that we have it now,” he said.

For more information about dining and beverage options at the Grand, visit the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort or call 405-964-7777. 🍷

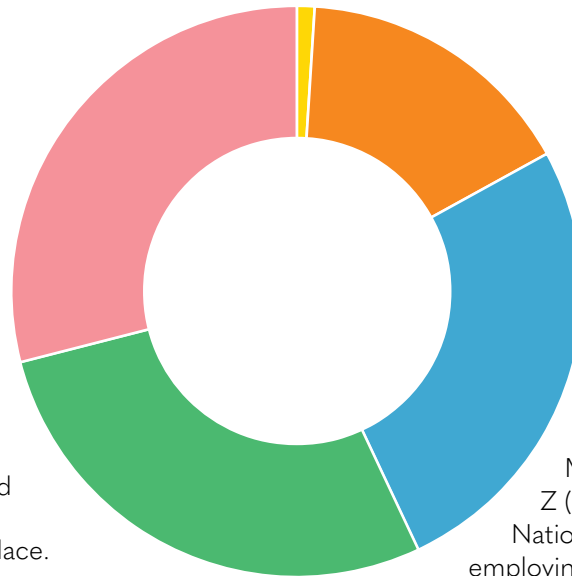
# CPN attracts younger employees

By Richard Brown, Director of CPN Human Resources

Change is inevitable. We all know that. When I started working with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in 2005, our employee population was a staff of gifted veterans. Since COVID-19, I have watched the work demographics of the Nation change right before my very eyes. We've seen major technological advances and heard words like "globalization." While these categories make a difference in the way the work world looks, they are not the only major changes CPN has seen in its workplace.

One of the biggest changes at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation over the last few years has been the change in our age demographic. In 2019, the Nation's staff was made up of more than 50 percent Baby Boomers. That's people born between the years 1945 and 1964. Those numbers have changed, as you can see in the graph above. Today, our fastest-growing class of workers is from the Generation Z population. This group has become the largest group that the Nation now employs with a measure of 29.1 percent of the staff, followed very closely by Millennials at 28.5 percent.

The Nation has a very rich and diverse demographic when it comes to age as we still employ individuals



- Pre Baby Boomers (1900-1944)
- Baby Boomers (1945-1964)
- Generation X (1965-1980)
- Millennials (1981-1994)
- Generation Z (1995-2010)

from five generations. Those generations are Traditionalist or Pre-Baby Boomers (1900-1944), Baby Boomers (1945-1964), Generation X (1965-1980), Millennials (1981-1994) and Generation Z (1995-2010). As you can see, the Nation does not have a problem with employing workers from all age groups.

Across America, the dynamics of the labor force has undergone great change. America is seeing shrinkage in the younger labor force and a rise in the mid-career and older worker generations. CPN has trended opposite of America as a whole. We continue to open our doors to all generations of workers. CPN wants the best-qualified workers, no matter the generation.

As our workforce dynamics change with age demographics, remember CPN embraces workforce diversity, always looks for ways to address age-related biases and hires the best qualified people to always meet the needs of this great Nation. 🔥

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## Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho Jayek (Bozhoe Jiyack)  
Hello, everyone

Ni je na ginwa? (Nee-juh-nah geen-wah)  
How are you all doing?

The summer is moving fast. We finished up our summer master apprentice program. I am very proud of the men and women who joined us for this eight-week, eight-hour-a-day summer program. It was intense, and each person rose to the challenge. Some came into the program with very limited knowledge, and a few came in with a foundation in the language. All that participated grew exponentially. The average increase was over 30%. Some went from a 20% on the initial test to 80% on their final test. It was a great experience for all involved. We started with three paid interns and then three folks who audited the course. In the end, five people finished the course.

We also wrapped up the Family Reunion Festival and headed to the Potawatomi Language Conference. It was a bit of a surreal feeling, as this is the first time in my 20 years of attending and presenting of not having either Billy Daniels or Jim Thunder there. My presentation was about our master apprentice program and other tools that can be used to learn the language. I gave my presentation entirely in *Bodwéwadmimwen* with a translation written on the right side of the handout. Next year's Gathering and language conference will be hosted by the Pokagon Potawatomi.

We are now gearing up for the upcoming school year. We offer the language in any high school in Oklahoma for graduation credit. Currently, we have had five schools offer the language: Wanette, Tecumseh, Seminole, Shawnee and Maud. It is accredited with the state and can be offered in other districts as interest dictates.

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# Notice to Bidders

## INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 212-001.20

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma (herein called the "Owner") will receive Sealed bids for **Citizen's Place North Phase II Expansion of New Construction of Duplexes, to an Existing Preplanned Site at 10:00 AM CST the 25th day of September 2023, at the Housing Department, 44007 Hardesty Road, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Department's conference room.** Bids may NOT be withdrawn for a period of thirty days following the opening of bids without the consent of the Owner.

Description of work includes but is not limited to:

New construction of Nine (9) Housing Structures consisting of Two and Three-bedroom duplexes ranging from 1800 to 2000 + sq ft. This bid is considered as Phase II of a Four – Phase bidding process and will only include the Two- and Three-Bedroom unit floor plans. These residences will include the following:

- Exterior finishes include an option for ownership to change similar materials of lap, batten, and shingle siding, paint colors, and masonry for additional structures.
- Interior finishes that include paint, tile, and millwork.
- Structural and non-structural wood framing, FEMA rated CMU and wood framed structures, foam insulation, concrete slab and foundations and pre-engineered wood trusses.
- Residential exterior and interior LED lighting, plumbing, electrical, mechanical.
- Residential Energy Star appliances and EPA Indoor Air Plus standards for equipment, casework, and accessories for bathrooms, laundry closets, and kitchens.
- Asphalt and/or metal roofing throughout.
- Site work areas of work will occur in designated plots on a pre-planned neighborhood and extend between unit plot lines. These new plots will include the following:
  - Driveways extending to existing curb and gutter. Utilities extending to existing stubbed-out utilities.
  - Pedestrian ramped paving, sidewalks, patios, and vehicular driveways with paver accents.
  - Non-irrigated landscaping, ground cover, plantings, and trees.
  - Signage and accessibility systems and lighting.
- Scopes of work have conditions of work broken down into a base bid and deduct alternates.

Interested bidders will be able to review plans and specifications at the Housing Department, 44007 Hardesty Road, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801 during

and after the pre-bid conference. Please email: [admin@edg.studio](mailto:admin@edg.studio) or [cindy.anderson@potawatomi.org](mailto:cindy.anderson@potawatomi.org) for questions or requests for further information.

Contractors will be able to request electronic PDF versions of the plans and specifications via email at [admin@edg.studio](mailto:admin@edg.studio). Plans and specifications will also be available at Dodge Reports and Construct Connect.

Before the bid conference, bidders are urged to inspect the site where services are to be performed and to satisfy themselves as to all general and local conditions that may affect the cost of performance of the contract to the extent such information is reasonably obtainable. In no event will a failure to inspect the site constitute grounds for withdrawal of a bid after opening or constitute grounds for a claim after contract award.

Bids received more than ninety-six (96) hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, before the time set for opening of bids, as well as bids received after the time set for opening of bids, will not be considered, and will be returned unopened.

A cashier's check, a certified check, or surety bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of TOTAL BID shall accompany the sealed bid of each bidder. Each bid submitted is a legal offer and when accepted by THE CITIZEN POTWAWATOMI NATION HOUSING DEPARTMENT constitutes a FIRM AND BINDING CONTRACT. THE CITIZEN POTWAWATOMI NATION HOUSING DEPARTMENT reserves the right to REJECT ANY or ALL BIDS, AND the right to cancel all or any portion within thirty (30) days from the date of opening of bids, for any reason and at its sole discretion.

The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose base bid does not exceed the amount of funds estimated by the Owner to be available for the base bid construction of the project, subject to any applicable Special Preference requirements. Only bids meeting the entire bid requirements included herein shall be considered for award. In the event that the lowest bidder is not awarded a contract, a dissenting contractor has 48 hours in which to file a written complaint.

Contracts for work under this proposal will obligate the bidder/contractor not to discriminate in employment practices. Also, Contracts are subject to the provisions of Indian Preference/Tribal Preference in accordance with 24 CFR 1000.48. Bidders/Contractors claiming Indian Preference/Tribal Preference will be required to submit proof of 51% Native American owned business. Award of this contract is subject to a determination by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that the contractor is eligible to contract for federally funded activities.

THE NATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS. 🔥

# FireLodge employees work together to help

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's FireLodge Children & Family Services works to protect children and vulnerable adults who are at risk of being abused or neglected, providing services such as court advocacy, investigations, prevention services, parenting education, counseling, foster home approval and adoption. The four programs operated by FireLodge include Indian Child Welfare, foster care and adoption, family preservation and adult protective services.

The *Hownikan* spoke with four FireLodge employees to learn more about what they do and how FireLodge serves the CPN community. Cortney Newell is the Indian Child Welfare comprehensive case manager. Nancy Jasna works as an Indian Child Welfare case manager. Heather Calton serves FireLodge as the family preservation coordinator. Desiree Pickering, "the money lady," is a program analyst who works with three different departments.



**Cortney Newell**  
ICW comprehensive case manager

Cortney Newell is the Indian Child Welfare comprehensive case manager for FireLodge.

"The main thing that I do in my job is protect children," she said.

More specifically, Newell assesses child safety through investigations, attends court

hearings to make sure ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) is being followed and works alongside state child welfare workers around the country. She also helps families, referring parents to services where they can correct the behavior that caused a safety threat in the first place.

Newell is about to celebrate her first year of employment with FireLodge, where she started working in October 2022.

"Working for FireLodge means a lot to me," she said. "I have been able to connect and learn so much. I am so thankful that I am able to use my ability to protect and help others."

She also said she loves coming in to work with caring, helpful coworkers.



**Nancy Jasna**  
ICW case manager

Nancy Jasna started working as an Indian Child Welfare case manager for FireLodge in spring of 2022, but before that, she worked for six years in child welfare for the state of Oklahoma.

At FireLodge, Jasna said the team helps families alleviate crises that could lead to children being placed out of their home, provides support to families preparing to reunify or adopt,

## Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

Good news! I have received word that the U.S. Air Force has new mental health policies under the Brandon Act. Air Force and Space Force members now have more mental health care options, including the ability to request referrals for mental health evaluations. A memo dated July 28, 2023, outlines the specific guidance. Empowering and enabling Airmen and Guardians to seek and receive care when needed is an absolute imperative and key to institutional readiness and operational success. The Brandon Act is named for Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Caserta, who died by suicide in June 2018. Caserta had dropped out of SEAL training following an injury and did not have access to mental health resources. Caserta was found to have been bullied and harassed by a supervisor prior to his suicide. The act passed as part of the 2022 fiscal year National Defense Authorization Act. Under the new policies, any junior enlisted personnel or guardian can request that a supervisor



NOW I GET IT! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS AIM!

Continued on page 14



helps families find services that can support them, assesses child safety, investigates and assesses potential child abuse or neglect, visits children in their homes and home placements, and manages caseloads.

In addition, she said they all have knowledge of the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Codes, and they prepare and maintain reports, case files and program records.

"We provide liaison between Native American clientele, the state DHS and the court system nationwide," Jasna said.

They are also on call at all times for emergency reports of child abuse on CPN Tribal and Trust land.

"In this job, I might not make a difference in the world, but I can make a difference in the world for one family at a time," Jasna said, adding that child welfare is often generational, and she hopes they can break that cycle.

She added that she works with an amazing team at FireLodge.

"I am very proud to work with such an amazing team. Director (Ashlee) May is an extremely admirable leader. I feel each member of our team brings something unique to our unit. We each have our own special way of working, our own little quirks, character traits, and our own personal strengths. This makes our team dynamic enjoyable, strong, close knit and successful," she said.



**Heather Calton**  
ICW family preservation coordinator

Heather Calton signed on to the FireLodge team in February of 2022, and she works as a family preservation coordinator.

"I teach parenting classes, life skills, budgeting, and make referrals for clients to services they are in need of. I also do some

community events throughout the year," Calton said.

Calton is an infant child specialist with a master's degree in family and child development. She comes to FireLodge from a background in the Department of Health Services, where she worked for 20 years.

She said starting work with CPN has been a good change, and she loves working with Native families.

"I love working with families and helping them navigate through the difficult job of being a parent, especially in today's world," Calton said. "Working here, I have the honor of supporting Native families, giving them the tools to succeed, and giving them support as they work toward preserving their families."



**Desiree Pickering**  
ICW program analyst

Desiree Pickering said her job is program analyst for FireLodge, Tribal Court and Adult Protective Services, "or 'the money lady,' as the judge calls me."

Pickering does all check requests and purchasing, plus managing budgets and grants for Indian

Child Welfare, Tribal Court and Adult Protective Services. In addition, she also handles some administrative tasks in those three departments.

She has worked for CPN for 12 years, mostly in ICW, but also for three years in the human resources department.

"I honestly feel like I just started my journey here yesterday, but here I just attended my 13th Family Reunion Festival," Pickering said. "I'm thankful that I have had directors that have allowed me to grow professionally and personally and have always encouraged me to do what was best for myself and my family."

She praised the four directors she has worked under: Janet Draper, Richard Brown, Ashlee May and Judge Lujan. Pickering has loved her time with CPN, in both departments, and has made many friendships and been a part of several committees and experiences she described as wonderful.

"I am also thankful for all the opportunities that I have been given here at the Nation and look forward to many more years," she said.

Find FireLodge Children and Family Services online at [cpn.news/firelodge](http://cpn.news/firelodge) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/CPNFireLodge](https://facebook.com/CPNFireLodge). 🔥



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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# FireLake Golf shows off new improvements

FireLake Golf is ready to welcome new golfers and show off its latest improvements, including a global positioning system, or GPS.

The 18-hole course has a driving range and putting and chipping greens. Players may notice the course's latest redesign, completed in 2017.

Built in 1983, it is Pottawatomie County's only public course. There are 6,335 yards of greens, fairways and rough. Water hazards are on 13 of the 18 holes.

The course still provides challenges, but even beginners should be competitive, provided they can keep the ball in a playable area, said Derron Day, FireLake Golf's agronomist.

## New GPS

The course's golf carts have GPS, which helps players estimate the distance to the green, improves player efficiency and speeds up the pace of the game. The system also helps staff quickly send out alerts in the event of severe weather.

"It also tells the golfer when they're at the correct tee box, and it gives the yardage," said Chris Chesser, FireLake Golf director.

The system also allows staff to limit where golf carts can be driven, which protects tee boxes, greens and other areas where grass must be safeguarded, such as areas that have been seeded.

With the new features in place for about two months, Day said he has already noticed improvement in many areas where grass previously struggled to grow. He is also happy that his staff no longer has to spend as much time directing golfers away from these areas.

"With this GPS, we're able to section off the areas that are off limits," Day said.

If a cart is driven into a restricted area, an alarm sounds and the driver must leave the restricted area before the cart shuts down.

"You feel bad when you have to go and say, 'Hey guys, we're happy you're out here, but you can't drive on the green or on the tee box.' It takes so much time away from us," Day said. "Now the cart just tells you you can't be there. It's already made an enormous difference."

The system is an investment in the long-term health of the golf course. Most of the course's planting occurs during the fall, Day said.

Areas where a dirt path previously existed have now filled with grass.



## Course improvements

"I think what sets us apart from a lot of public courses, we had the support of the Tribe. It just made a world of difference and how the golf course can be maintained," Day said.

Several new catch basins allow the staff to more efficiently move water off the course. Before, the course's flat setup meant rainwater stayed on the course for several days. Golfers could not drive along the fairway to their ball, and golf carts had to stay on the cart path until the fairway dried.

A renowned golf contractor was employed to perform earthmoving. Now, the water drains off the course within a couple of days. Irrigation improvements help move water onto areas that need additional moisture.

"I think that renovation played a huge role in that because the functionality of the golf course improved dramatically," Day said. "A successful golf course has to function so that you're not on cart paths for two weeks."

Day said they noticed that after recent severe weather, clean up only involved clearing away tree limbs. In the past, the course might have been waterlogged for several days. Now, the water efficiently drains, allowing play to resume more quickly.

## Event space

The clubhouse is new as well, rebuilt after a 2011 fire. The current clubhouse features an upstairs banquet room, downstairs meeting room, pro shop and full-service bar and grill.

The larger, second-floor space has hosted weddings, proms and meetings. The smaller, first-floor space has hosted baby showers, birthday

parties and community meetings. Both spaces are also available for golf tournaments.

FireLake Golf hosts about 60 tournaments a year, Chesser said.

## Next generation

FireLake Golf is committed to supporting the growth of the game, making its course accessible to junior golfers in the area.

Golf teams from schools in Bethel Acres, Shawnee and Seminole State College routinely play the course. FireLake Golf also hosts two youth camps.

Several pro stars continue to draw youth to the game, some with Oklahoma ties. Oklahoma State golfers Rickie Fowler, Viktor Hovland and other pros like Rory McIlroy, Jordan Spieth and Brooks Koepka are just a few of the men's professionals that young people follow. On the women's pro tour, Nelly Korda, Lydia Ko, Celine Boutier and Brooke Henderson are just a few of the top athletes.

"There's a lot of kids that idolize a lot of young professional golfers, and that's good for us. It's good to grow the game," Day said.

The team works to make FireLake Golf Course welcoming to all skill levels. Unlike other courses, junior golfers should be able to tackle the FireLake course alongside their parents. There are four sets of tees: men's, ladies', seniors' and kids'.

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### Language continued...

We started a live class in our Facebook group, Potawatomi Language, from 1 to 3 p.m. every weekday. We have had good attendance in our initial classes. The first hour focuses more on beginner students, and then the second hour we build upon what they have been learning. It's good for beginner or intermediate students. The finished classes are saved in the group, so check them out.

We have also started doing a word of the week with example sentences. We will select a word or verb and then build four to five sentences using the word. We then post those on our YouTube channel and in the Potawatomi Language group. We are also finishing up the movie *House on Haunted Hill* in Potawatomi.

*Niben kedwenen* — Summer words (nee-bin ked-win-in)  
*Niben* — Summer, literally means a time of plenty (nee-bin)  
*Gmowen.* — It's raining. (guh-moe-in)  
*Wi gmowen.* — It's going to rain. (week moe-in)  
*Gshatemget.* — It's hot. (guh-shot-dam-get)  
*Mno gishget.* — It's a nice/beautiful day. (mino gish-get)  
*Mbesek nwi-zhyamen.* — We are going to the lake. (mbusuk nuh-weez-hee-yah-men)

"We get a lot of junior golf, in the spring especially, and a lot of them will get summer memberships. And that's our future," Day said.

Junior golfers who are interested in lessons or taking their game to a competitive level against other youth should contact the course to learn more. The Oklahoma Golf Association organizes events for the Oklahoma Junior Golf Tour.

"There are a couple of organizations that do junior tournaments all over the state. We could turn them on to different organizations once they get to that level and want to start playing tournament golf in the summertime," Chesser said.

Junior golfers often find that hitting one or two good shots will draw them into the game.

"Get them going and a lot of times they will take one good shot. They'll say, 'Man, I feel good. I want to do that again,'" Day said. "It's very player friendly for all of us."

Day and Chesser said they are proud that around the state, FireLake Golf is known as a "hidden gem." Whether golfers are new to the sport or experienced, they encourage players to visit, experience the new improvements and enjoy all that the course has to offer.

For more information or a digital course tour, visit the website at [firelakegolf.com](http://firelakegolf.com) or call 405-275-4471. For the latest information regarding play or weather conditions, visit the FireLake Golf Facebook page. 🔥

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*Ni je wa zhechkeyen wabek?* — What are you doing tomorrow? (nee-juh wah zhich-kay-yin wah-buck)

*Nasena!* — Be careful! (nah-sin-nah)

*Ni je ezhewébek?* — What's happening? (nee juh ez-huh-way-buck)

*Wenet.* — It's good/beautiful. (win-et)

*Myanet.* — It's bad. (meya-wnet)

*Zam myanet.* — Too bad. (zahm mee-yawn et)

*Gbekte ne?* — Are you hungry? (guh-buck-tay nay)

*Ngonandem.* — I am starving. (nuh-gon-ahn-dim)

*Nizanet.* — It's dangerous. (nee-zan-zet)

*Nizanze.* — He/she is dangerous. (ne-zan-zay)

*Ni pi je ezhyayen?* — Where are you going? (nee-pee-juh ez-hee-yah-yin)

*Ngoji* — Somewhere (nuh-go-gee)

*Cho ngoji* — Nowhere (cho-ne-go-gee)

*Miziwgemgok nde-zhya.* — I am going to the bathroom. (mee-zee-oh-gum-goke nduh-zhee-yah)

*Nagech* (Later),

Justin 🔥

# Family business guided by integrity, community

Hardin Family Plumbing takes the “family” part of their name seriously. They strive to serve their community as they would a member of their own family.

CPN member Lauren Hardin and her husband, Matthew Hardin, decided to start their own business in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, with the goal of working for themselves and having flexibility. With support from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Community Development Corporation, they are optimistic about the future.

Lauren has a background in business administration and a degree from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. Matthew trained with the Local 344 Plumbers & Pipefitters union in Oklahoma City and worked full-time while completing his training.

The Hardins made the move to open their own business when their children experienced a health challenge. Matthew could only take a certain amount of time off from his full-time job, while Lauren, then a stay-at-home mother, tended to the children’s needs.

“It was so stressful because he’s like, ‘I can’t take off anymore.’ And I’m trying to help the two kids and go to the hospital and try to figure out what’s going on. It was just a mess,” she said.

The stress and exhaustion were difficult. Fortunately, the children have made a full recovery, but the experience convinced the couple to push forward with their dream of opening their own plumbing business.

## CPCDC

They credit the CPCDC’s staff with constant support during the entire process.

“We were working on Hardin’s Family Plumbing and (CPCDC) gets you ready for what it’s going to be like to take on the business loan. You have to have certain things together, like your business plan,” Lauren said.

The Hardins learned about the CPCDC when they first sought a loan at a commercial bank. Their credit score narrowly missed the bank’s requirements.

They were then contacted by Sherry Byers of the CPN Housing Authority. Byers had a new program the Hardins qualified for, and they received a loan.

After building their credit through the home loan, they eventually qualified for a loan for the land surrounding their home. After the land was purchased, the Hardins used it as collateral for a business loan.



CPN member Lauren Hardin, far right, her husband, Matthew Hardin, and their two children in a recent family photo. (Photo provided)

“(The CPCDC) just made everything work easier. They worked step by step and said, ‘We’re going to do it and get you approved.’ And they were competitive with everybody else’s (interest) rates,” Matthew said.

The couple took CPCDC classes that were relevant to their business and received incentives. Those funds could be applied toward their home loan. The CPCDC also paid for two business classes through Gordon Cooper Technology Center and an online provider called Tactix.

## Entrepreneur spirit

Lauren said they have always wanted to own their own business. During her last year in college, Lauren took several business classes while Matthew was starting full-time work. He had been on the job for about a year when they began to seriously consider starting their business in 2021.

“Once he started in plumbing, he was just a natural at it. I took entrepreneurship in college, and it inspired me. I wanted to be my own boss,” she said.

While Matthew was working full-time at another business and simultaneously getting Hardin’s Family Plumbing established, he focused on his goal of being able to take time off when he needed to or go into work a little later so that he could take his children to school.

“That’s what made us really determined (to open the business) is not having me ask permission from people to do stuff and just take charge,” he said.

“Then we started writing our business plan and our model of what we wanted to do and how we wanted to

do it. Because this is really something we want to do. And nine months later is when we opened,” Lauren said.

## Community

Support from the CPCDC has been helpful and multiple staff members contributed to the Hardins’ success. A CPCDC employee even suggested a local tax preparer to help the couple file their business tax returns.

“You can tell like it’s not just a business transaction, they actually care about you, and they care if your business is going to grow,” Matthew said of the CPCDC.

“You feel like they have your best interests at heart,” Lauren added.

The Hardins feel that a community has come together in support, and they hope to be able to give back whenever possible. One group of customers in particular — tribal elders — is close to their hearts.

“It’s something that sticks out so much is when we went to an elder’s housing, and she was probably 80 something years old. (The previous plumber) just took the money and left,” Lauren said.

Fortunately, a tribal official knew the Hardins from work they had previously done for another tribal department. Matthew quickly went to the elder’s home and fixed the problem.

“When Matt went in there, she said, ‘You’re the first contractor to come in and look me in my eyes and



*Hardin’s Family Plumbing is now serving a growing client base, with initial support from the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation. (Photo provided)*

say hi to me.’ It just broke my heart that people are out there treating our elders like that,” Lauren said.

Whether their client is an elder or a single mother, helping those in the community by providing an affordable service has been one of the biggest rewards they have experienced.

“You want to be the business who’s ethical,” Lauren said. “You stick to your word and you’re not charging someone an outrageous price. They’re in a situation that they don’t want to be in.”

Matthew said they both enjoy the moments when they can save a customer a considerable sum on a job or help with preventive maintenance that will save thousands later.

“It’s been really rewarding just helping the community,” Lauren said. “People get to know you and it’s cool to form those relationships.”

For now, they are enjoying how busy they have been. Business has been on an upswing, and like many small businesses, they’re encouraged by improving economic trends.

## Advice

For people thinking of starting their own business, the Hardins have simple advice.

“They say ‘Your day to day always gets in the way of your dreams,’” Lauren said. “If you’re just dreaming about it but you don’t have a timeline of when you’re going to get it done, then it gets put off. Have a plan and tell yourself you’re going to get it done.”

They also advise hopeful entrepreneurs to devote time to research, making sure they’re competitive in their market and the best way to get their name out in front of customers. They are also focused on their social media presence as part of their overall marketing strategy.

“We started just on Facebook, but having a Google page is so important these days, especially if you’re starting a service business. Everybody looks at the reviews,” Lauren said.

For Lauren and Matthew Hardin, everything customers need to know is in their name.

“We’re a family business. I said, ‘I want to put family in there because we want to put our family values into our business.’ So, when someone hears Hardin’s Family Plumbing, then you know that’s truly who we are and that’s what we try to put into our business,” Lauren said.

For more information about CPCDC services, contact them at 405-878-4697.

Contact Hardin Family Plumbing at 918-282-9055 or at [hardinsfamilyplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:hardinsfamilyplumbing@gmail.com). Customers can also connect with them on Facebook. 🔥

# HPV vaccine talk first in series

Citizen Potawatomi Nation led a training session about the HPV vaccination July 19 in the Cultural Heritage Center Long Room.

## Learning about HPV

Dr. Savannah Stumph, Merck's regional medical director for the South Central United States, presented statistics and information about the HPV vaccine to CPN healthcare workers in the morning session.



*Dr. Savannah Stumph, regional medical director for the South Central United States for pharmaceutical company Merck, delivers a presentation on the HPV vaccine July 19 at the Cultural Heritage Center.*

"The HPV vaccine is cancer prevention," Stumph told attendees. "The HPV vaccine is for anyone with skin, because that is who is at risk of contracting the virus. It's not a matter of who, it's a matter of when. Four out of every five people will contract the virus in their lifetime."

The majority of those who contract it may never know, Stumph said, because they have a healthy immune response that causes the virus to clear out over a period of two to three years. However, there is no way of knowing who can do that and who can't, and for those who can't, it turns into a persistent HPV infection that can lead to risk for pre-cancers and cancers.

## HPV risk for men

While HPV has been known for causing cervical cancer in women, Stumph emphasized that it also causes oropharyngeal cancer (cancers of the head and neck) in men and women. In fact, head and neck cancers have surpassed cervical cancers as the most common type of HPV cancer in the United States, and for those cancers, it affects men at a rate five times higher than that of women.

In one study Stumph cited, HPV was found in 88 percent of head and neck cancers, and of the cases within that 88 percent, 80 percent of the patients were men.



*CPN healthcare workers watch a presentation about the HPV vaccine.*

"When you think about head and neck cancers, there is no routine screening for those," she said. "So what that means is that typically when these patients are presenting, it's cancer. And that's unfortunate, because really the only thing we can do to prevent these right now is the HPV vaccination."

## Hoping to raise vaccination rates

The number of individuals who have received the HPV vaccine is lower than those who have received the Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis) and Meningitis vaccines.

Stumph said that's something they want to change because "you are way more likely to contract HPV than any other vaccine-preventable disease we have."

Nationally, only 75.1% of teenagers age 13 to 17 have received one dose of the vaccine, and only 58.6% have completed the series.

Those numbers dip even lower for adults. For individuals between the ages of 19 and 26, only 53% of women and 26% of men have had the vaccine. For those between the ages of 27 and 45, only 16% of women and 4% of men have been vaccinated.

Stumph said part of the reason for this is that the parameters for who can get the vaccine changed in 2018, and the change was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is recommended to get the vaccine early, and those between the ages of 9 and 14 who receive it typically only need two doses instead of the three required for those 15 and older.

Stumph suggested starting the conversation when a patient is 9, not just to lower the number of doses required, but also to help with some other factors that could potentially lower the vaccination rate, such as families being exposed to false information about the vaccine or the misconception that the HPV vaccine is permission for children to have sex.

“Talking about it as the age of 9 can uncouple the conversation from sex and keep the focus on cancer,” Stumph said. “Be the first person to talk about the vaccine, so you get to be the first person having that conversation.”

Stumph said it’s best to get the vaccine as early as possible, before any potential exposure to HPV, but explained that the HPV vaccine is available to all individuals between the ages of 9 and 45.

While it is most effective for those who are young, she said even those in the 27 to 45 age range — whether divorced and dating, immunocompromised, or even those who were ineligible to receive the vaccine when it first came out — might want to speak with their healthcare provider about whether they should receive the HPV vaccine.

## Presentation the first in a series

Markie Carlock, LPN with CPN’s West Clinic, and Fausat Adediji, M.D., FAAP, with the West Clinic, were among those in attendance at the training.

“It reinforces a lot, just gives you a few pearls you can share,” Adediji said. “I think it was a very good presentation.”

Both agreed that it can be a challenge to get patients to put their trust in the HPV vaccine, but said the training gave them ideas for how to start that conversation.

CPN Public Health Coordinator Laney Shutler said the morning talk about the HPV vaccine is just the first of a series, with more topics to follow on a quarterly basis.

“It’s a public health education series. We’re going to be bringing in different subject matter experts to talk about things we’re seeing in our clinics,” Shutler said told attendees. “We want to make sure that you’re set up for success, that you’re comfortable in your position, and that you are safe.”

Find CPN Health Services online at [cpn.news/health](https://cpn.news/health). Schedule a Public Health appointment by calling 405-964-5770 (West Clinic) or 405-273-5236 (East Clinic). 🔥

# HOMEOWNER EMERGENCY MORTGAGE

## ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

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

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

# Author to release children's book in October

Writing is nothing new to author and Tribal member Kaitlin Curtice, but in October, she expects to release her first children's book.

*Winter's Gifts*, available starting Oct. 31, tells the story of a Potawatomi girl named Dani (dah-nee) and the way she and her family celebrate the Winter Solstice.

"Like many of our ancestors before us, Dani wants to experience the gifts of winter and honor her relationship with *Segmekwe*, Mother Earth," Curtice said. "This book is about that celebration of winter."

The book, with illustrations by Gloria Félix, includes some Potawatomi words as well.

"I hope that kids of many cultures and beliefs find joy and curiosity while reading this book, and I hope that for Indigenous kids, they feel seen and celebrated for who they are. I hope it brings adults and kids alike into a better relationship with Mother Earth and Creator," she said.

Curtice has wanted to write a children's book for a few years and said she was very excited to explore her "childlikeness and curiosity" through the writing process.

"Writing a children's book lets you engage with your child self, which can be really emotional and very rewarding," she said. "I have two children, so it was also a way to live through them and remember the things they've been through, as well as healing this relationship to my child self through the words and images."

Before *Winter's Gifts*, Curtice published three other books: *Glory Happening: Finding the Divine in Everyday*

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## Veterans Report continued...

with the rank of E-6 or above provide a referral for mental health evaluation. Service members do not need to provide a reason why they are requesting a referral for a mental health evaluation, and it is on commanding officers and supervisors to make that referral as soon as possible. The number of suicides of veterans and active-duty personnel has become alarming. The reports are daily, and that is unacceptable in a nation with our worldwide influence. I had not planned to write about this issue, but I received this report as I was beginning to write, and I felt it was a message that I was meant to share. I am so relieved that our military has seen the need and acted on it. *Migwetch* and amen!



*Winter's Gifts, about a Potawatomi girl celebrating the Winter Solstice with her family, will be available starting Oct. 31.*

*Places in 2017, Native: Identity Belonging and Rediscovering God in 2020 and Living Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Seeking Wholeness Every Day* earlier this year.

"My second book is about my journey as a young Potawatomi woman, my experiences growing up Southern Baptist, and what I've learned about faith, God and identity along the way," she said. "My newest book, *Living Resistance*, is a book on learning how to care about ourselves, one another and Mother Earth through practicing resistance, kinship and solidarity."

Curtice, a descendent of the Ogee and Weld families, was born in Ada, Oklahoma, and now lives with her family near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

She said much of her work and writing is connected to her Potawatomi heritage.

"I'm so grateful for the stories our ancestors told and left for us, and the stories our elders continue to tell today. Learning to heal from colonization and celebrating who I am as an *Anishinaabekwé* is going to be a huge part of my life always, and because I love words and stories, it will always find its way into my writing," she said. "I'm so grateful for that and I hope it inspires other Potawatomi people and Indigenous people around the globe to tell their stories."

Learn more about Curtice and her writing at [kaitlincurtice.com](http://kaitlincurtice.com) or follow her on Facebook at [facebook.com/kaitlincurticewriter](https://facebook.com/kaitlincurticewriter). 🔥

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Remember, our monthly meeting of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization is the 4th Tuesday of each month, Sept. 26 (unless otherwise notified due to weather or conflicting events) at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the CPN Powwow Grounds. All CPN veterans and spouses and their families are welcome. Membership in the veterans organization is not required; come and visit us and enjoy our socializing. For more information, you can contact Daryl Talbot.

*Migwetch* (Thank you),

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



# Sovereign Bank participates in the AICCO's 2023 The Gathering Business Summit

Sovereign Bank was a proud title sponsor of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma's (AICCO) 2023 Business Summit, The Gathering.

For over 30 years, AICCO has been advocating for the economic growth of Indian Country in Oklahoma. The AICCO is an organization in which American Indian businesses, tribal leaders and other minority-owned businesses can come together with innovative ideas that will promote and enhance the success of American Indian-owned businesses and new business owners. AICCO strives to create a better understanding of issues facing American Indian business owners.

The Gathering Business Summit is the largest event hosted by the AICCO each year. The conference offers sessions that highlight successful business plans of Native-owned businesses, how to seek government contracts, how to obtain financial assistance for your businesses and business matchmaking sessions.

Sovereign Bank President of Tribal Banking James Boggs represented CPN and Sovereign Bank as a key-note speaker during the summit's awards luncheon and as a panelist on a financial discussion breakout. This was Sovereign Bank's second appearance at the summit, and they were met with warm greetings from neighboring Tribal Nations. Owned by the Citizen



From left to right: COO/Sr. Lender Robert L. Crothers, CPN Community Development Corporation; Commercial Loan Officer Felecia Freeman, CPCDC; President of Tribal Banking James Boggs, Sovereign Bank; State President Bailey Walker, AICCO; SVP of Tribal Banking Stacy Beach, Sovereign Bank



Potawatomi Nation, Sovereign Bank is the largest tribally owned bank in the U.S. Participation in the AICCO and their business summit is another step forward in becoming Indian Country's bank of choice.

In addition to sponsoring the event and attending as a representative of the bank, James Boggs was honored with the AICCO Member of the Year Award. 🏆

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# New support group for suicide attempt survivors at CPN Behavioral Health Services

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people aged 10-34 and the fifth leading cause of death for people aged 35-54 in the United States, according to a 2022 National Center for Health Statistics brief. In 2020, there were nearly two times as many suicides in the U.S. as there were homicides, reported the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The highest rates of suicide in the U.S. are among Native Americans (CDC).

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a campaign to raise awareness, shift public perception, spread hope and share resources, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

## Support Group

Linda Swearingen, LADC, joined the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Behavioral Health Services staff in July and will expand the Nation's offerings for those affected by suicide.

Swearingen is credentialed by Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services to facilitate a peer support group for survivors of suicide attempts. This group program will be the first of its kind offered at CPNHS. The group runs in eight-week cycles and is limited to eight participants. The first session will begin October 2, 2023.

"It's a support group, not a therapy group," Swearingen explained. "It teaches the participants skills for addressing the impulse behaviors and helps them develop a prevention plan."

The prevention and safety plan includes internal coping strategies, such as meditation and grounding; external coping strategies, such as putting oneself in safe situations; and identifying people one can ask for help as well as professional resources available.

Swearingen also emphasized the harm reduction aspect of the suicide attempt survivor group.

Whether by offering a safe space to dispose of stores of medication and return guns or by teaching patients techniques like freezing the key to a gun lock in a cup of water to put a barrier between themselves and the weapon, the group helps patients create a safer environment for themselves.

CPN Behavioral Health Services also offers individual therapy.

## Speaking openly

Over the course of her career caring for patients affected by suicide and/or suicidal thoughts, Swearingen has learned the importance of speaking directly about suicide.



There was a time, she said, when she would avoid talking about suicide out of fear of what might happen to her patients if she did so.

However, she says she's "no longer scared to talk about it. It's something that is necessary. I'm not going to be able to talk somebody in or out (of suicide) ... but I can at least give them the skills necessary to help."

With rates of suicide, suicide attempts and suicidal thoughts at an alarming high, providing safe space for honest conversation about the realities of living with suicidal thoughts is imperative.

Swearingen extends the same advice to anyone whose loved one may experience suicidal thoughts: provide an empathetic ear, don't be afraid to speak directly about suicide and don't be afraid to call for help.

Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, race or background.

If you or a loved one is affected by suicide or suicidal thoughts, you are not alone and there are support resources available.

The national Suicide & Crisis Lifeline can be reached 24/7 by call or text at 988 or online at [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org). The Veterans Crisis Line can be reached by calling 988 and selecting 1, or by text at 838255. The Trevor Project offers 24/7 crisis counseling for LGBTQ+ callers at 866-488-7386 or by text at 678-678.

Find CPN Behavioral Health Services online at [cpn.news/behavioralhealth](https://cpn.news/behavioralhealth) or call 405-214-5101. 🔥

# Fire end second season as national champions

The Potawatomi Fire is the only tribally owned basketball team in Oklahoma. This season, they proved they are the best team in The Basketball League.

Their dominance in the regular season and incredible playoff run revealed the team's skills on the court. Behind the scenes, the team owned by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is just as good.



Fire Coach Mark Dannhoff said the organization impressed him last season when he was coaching its rival, the Enid Outlaws.

"We played here three times last year when I was with Enid," said Dannhoff, who was named the TBL Coach of the Year for the 2023 season. "Each time, we were treated as if we were the home team, and they took care of us for every little detail."

Because of that, when Dannhoff was approached about taking the reins of the Fire, he was excited to pursue the possibility.

"Once I discussed the position with (General Manager) David Qualls, I told my wife it's exactly what we thought it was going to be," Dannhoff said. "Everything is run first class."

It is not hard to see what Dannhoff is alluding to when it comes to the Fire organization. In addition to his own postseason accolades as Coach of the Year, the Fire also boasted the league's Defensive Player of the Year with Chuck Guy, who also came over from Enid for the 2023 season. Guy and Deshawn Munson were named the co-MVPs for the TBL Playoffs, and the Fire Girls were named the best dance team in the TBL.

"We carry ourselves as a team," Dannhoff said. "Image is big. Character is even bigger. And the ability to put out a great product and represent CPN and Shawnee and the Potawatomi Fire is so important."

The top four teams in the 49-team league included the Fire but also teams from Albany, New York; Seattle, Washington; and St. Louis, Missouri. However, being the smallest city in the playoffs was not a problem for the Fire. In fact, FireLake Arena is one of the best home

courts in the TBL. The differences in facilities and fans during the playoff series was important to the team and gave them an advantage.

"It's amazing here," Dannhoff said. "It's actually a true pro atmosphere. We had two of the most amazing crowds in those final two games in the championship."

The coach said the crowds that surpassed 2,500 for each of the final three playoff games at home were instrumental in the team's success, especially against the Seattle Super Hawks in the semi-finals.

"We were down 19 in the fourth quarter and came back and won by 10. The crowd had a major impact on our team to help us overcome that deficit and continue to fight. Our fans are amazing. I don't know if there's another place in the TBL like it," Dannhoff said.

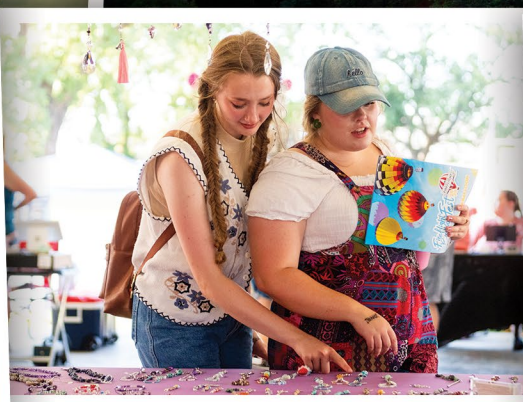
Now that they have won a National Championship in only their second season, the Fire will focus on continuing that success.

"It all starts with our relationships," Dannhoff said. "We're very honest upfront, and we spend a lot of time in that training camp building those relationships. Everybody that I've talked to so far from this previous team has said they want to try to win another one. Nobody's ever won back-to-back (national championships) in the TBL."

No matter what the future brings, he is convinced the Potawatomi Fire will continue to be a premier organization in the TBL.

"It starts at the top with Chairman (John "Rocky") Barrett and Vice-Chairman (Linda) Capps and everybody through the administration. And having a general manager like David Qualls, who's not just all involved, he's really invested in these guys and me and our staff and in producing a product that is number one in the league. Whether we win or not, we want to put forth the best product that we possibly can for everybody."

Find the Potawatomi Fire on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and at [potawatomifire.com](https://potawatomifire.com). 🔥



# Fireflight Balloon Fest 2023

FIRELAKE  
FIREFLIGHT  
BALLOON FEST



# Tescier family history

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

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

## Family beginnings

Antoine (Anthony) Tescier, Sr., was born about 1820 in Canada. He married Catherine Bourbonnais in about 1844 in St. Joseph, Missouri, or possibly Council Bluffs, Iowa. Catherine was born in 1827 in Illinois. She was the daughter of Francois Bourbonnais and Catherine (Catish) Chevalier.

After the 1833 Treaty of Chicago, the family relocated to lands between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Eventually, treaty terms dictated their move to Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Anthony Sr. and Catherine were the parents of Ella, Louis and Anthony, Jr.

Again the U.S. government broke their promises and Potawatomi families like the Tesciers were eventually moved to the new Potawatomi reservation in Kansas. Catherine died in July of 1860 in Louisville, Kansas.

Various U.S. government records reflect several alternate spellings of the family's last name, including Tessier, Tascier, Tascia, Tasee and many others.

A document within the CHC archives states early settlers in Kansas included Anthony "Tacier." Joined by many other Potawatomi families, the Tesciers settled in the vicinity of Cross Creek in 1847-1848. Soon after this, Anthony Tescier, Francis Bergeron and Joseph Laughton (Lawton) "built a bridge across the creek, at a point above the present site of the village of Rossville, on what is now Harrison Street," the document said.

Anthony Sr. was 40 years of age in the 1860 Pottawatomie County, Kansas, census. He later married Elizabeth Catherine Bourbonnais Vasseur, his first wife's niece. They were the parents of John, Harriet, Rose Ann, Clara, Christena, Sarah, Eli, Louisa and Sophia. Elizabeth also had a son named Peter (Pete) Vasseur from her first marriage. Peter was also known as Pete Tescier.

Tescier family members eventually moved to Indian Territory and established farms on their allotments near Harjo, Oklahoma, and present-day Choctaw,

Oklahoma. CHC documents reveal they had come to Indian Territory from St. Marys, Kansas.

It is believed that at some point, Anthony Sr. and Elizabeth divorced, but records do not reveal when. Elizabeth later married Peter Plomondon and accepted her allotment under that name.

Anthony Sr. died Dec. 24, 1891. He is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Choctaw, Oklahoma. Elizabeth died in 1920 and is buried in the Plomondon family plot in the Calvary Cemetery in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

## Anthony Sr. and Catherine's children

The children of Anthony Tescier, Sr. and Catherine Bourbonnais Tescier would help establish many of the communities of what would become eastern Oklahoma County.

Their son, Anthony Tescier, Jr., was born in Kansas in October 1848. He married Clarissa Greemore, a Citizen Band Potawatomi woman in about 1874. Anthony Jr. died April 14, 1925, near Choctaw, Oklahoma. Clarissa was born July 4, 1854, in Kansas. She died Dec. 10, 1892, in Choctaw.

Anthony Jr. and Clarissa's daughters were Katherine (Kate), Rosalie (Rose), Louisa (Lulu), Minnie and Nellie. Their sons were Joseph, Charles and Robert.

Anthony Sr. and Catherine's daughter, Kate was born about 1875 in Kansas. She married Frank Nearn and their children were Elzie (Chief), Grace Margeurite and Clara. Kate was later married to John Pitts. They had a son, Johnny Lee.

Daughter Rose Tescier was born April 16, 1877, in Kansas. She married Rufus Goyer about 1900 and they had David Clay, Hugh Allen, Minnie Anthony, Rufus Lee and Jolly James (Jim). Rose died Dec. 18, 1918, near Choctaw. Her descendants include Charles (Chuck) Goyer, and his son, Ron Goyer, who would both go on to serve in CPN government.

Joseph Clay was born Nov. 11, 1879, and died June 4, 1905.

Charles W. was born Aug. 20, 1891, but sadly, died as an infant on Aug. 30, 1891.

Louisa Josephine (Lula) was born Feb. 16, 1883, and sadly, died at age 8 on Sept. 27, 1891.

Anthony Sr. and Catherine's daughter Minnie Philemon was born in 1890. She married Dale Gardom and together they had James, Zula, Hester, J. Wayne, Charles, Paul and Dale, Jr., James Marshall, Floyd and Francis. Minnie died on April 22, 1984, in El Paso, Texas.

Nellie was born Dec. 17, 1895, in Choctaw and married Frank Schmidkofer on Aug. 22, 1911. They

had Frank, Bernie, Vincent, Leo, Rita, Mary, Paul, Joe, Theresa and Rosemary. Paul Sr. served as CPN chairman for three terms in the 1970s. Paul Jr. has served as a CPN legislator since 2008.

Robert Anthony was born June 16, 1886. He was married in June of 1910. Sadly, he died on Aug. 26, 1910. His marriage announcement stated he had been under a physician's care and was hopeful that he would soon return to good health.

## Anthony Sr. and Elizabeth's children

Elizabeth Tescier Plomondon accepted allotments in then-Indian Territory. She and her children were witnesses to the Land Run of 1889 as reservations were broken up and Indigenous people were pushed from lands promised to them by the U.S. government.

Anthony Sr. and Elizabeth were the parents of Sarah Catherine, Clarissa (Clara), Harriet, John Isadore, Christena Sena, Eli William and Rose Ann.

John Isadore was born Jan. 16, 1860, in Wamego, Kansas. He married Alice Smith, a descendant of the Wilmette and Darling families, on July 13, 1889. They had Clara Louise, Lelia F., Pauline, May Violet, Agnes May, Hattie Margarette, Catherine Elizabeth, John William, Celestine Senora, George Anthony and Eliza Marie.

They had three children who died very young and were buried in the Choctaw Cemetery: Lilia, May and Agnes.

The family enjoyed large informal dances in the loft of their barn. Other family members were proficient in the fiddle, banjo and piano and provided music as well. John's sister Sarah also hosted dances, sometimes charging ten cents admission, in her family's red barn. To this day, Tescier descendants have found old dimes in the barn's yard.

John Sr. died on Oct. 15, 1937, in Choctaw, Oklahoma.

Daughter Harriet Tescier married James Mitchell. Their children were James, Fred, Matilda, Viola, Edna, Rose (Rosie) Lee, Mamie, Edward, David, Thomas and Benjamin (Benny). Sadly, Benny died as an infant. Harriet died on Nov. 4, 1958.

John and Elizabeth Tescier's daughter Rose Ann's birth certificate lists her date of birth in 1860. She is listed on the 1863 roll as a 1-year-old child. Very little information exists. Sadly, it is possible she died as a child.

Clara Tescier was born in 1867 and married Bill Edwards. They had Thelma Elizabeth, Carl T., Truman Harry, Cetiul Tilman and John Clorin. Clara died in 1920 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Christena (Sena) Tescier was born in 1865 in Kansas.

She married George Helms and had a son named Joe.

Sarah Catherine Tescier was born in Kansas on Feb. 8, 1872. She married Joseph Nadeau on Jan. 7, 1894. They cleared Sarah's allotment for farming and had two oxen that they used to pull the wagon, pull stumps and for plowing. Their children were Vincent H., Lillian, William Troy, Ray Aloysias, Joseph (Frank) Francis and Nila Cecilia.



*Frank and Nellie (Tescier) Schmidlkofer Family*

Elias (Eli) Tascier spelled his last name differently. It is not certain when or why the change was made. Eli and his first wife, Cleo Belle Gunreth, had two children named Glen Theodore and Minerva Cornelia. Sadly, Cleo Belle passed away shortly after the birth of Minerva, who also passed a short time after her mother. Eli later married Virginia Gaddy and they had three children named William (Buck) Anthony, Jackson and Catherine (Betty) E.

With incredible fortitude, the Tascier family ancestors were front row witnesses to history and the birth of what would become Oklahoma. They lived through the Land Run, endured the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. Without their devotion to family and hard work, the landscape of eastern Oklahoma County would look very different. The Nation would benefit from the family's leadership as elected officials of the CPN government and holder of cultural teachings over many generations.

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

# From the executives

## John “Rocky” Barrett Tribal Chairman

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



Over the years many of you have heard my opinion on the despicable policy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs issuing “Degrees of Indian Blood.” It has nothing to do with being an Indian. It was designed to assure the eventuality of the disappearance of Indian tribes. It is a demeaning, shameful and, I believe, unconstitutional regulatory interference in the sovereign affairs of Indian nations. It has split tribes and families up. In too many ways, it is all about “Who Gets The Money.”

No other people in the United States are asked to carry around a pedigree like a dog or a horse. What would be the reaction of other races of people if asked: “You don’t look Negroid, how much Black blood do you have?”, “How much Jew are you?”, “What is your degree of Hispanic blood?”, “Are you a full-blood Chinese?” It is rude, offensive behavior that most Citizen Potawatomi have dealt with all their lives. Here is why it is so wrong:

Being an American Indian in the United States has nothing to do with blood degree. You are an Indian in two ways — legally and traditionally. *Legally*, you are an American Indian if a federally recognized tribe issues you a certificate of citizenship (your card). In the top 10 largest tribes in America, nine use descendency as the enrollment criteria, including the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. If you are of the blood of our founding families, you are eligible to be a Citizen Potawatomi. *Traditionally*, you are a member of the Tribe if you belong to the 41 families that have shared a common blood, history, language, art, culture, territory and government since 1861. Notice that neither of these descriptions mentions, “blood degree.”

Your Potawatomi great-great-grandfather who suffered on the forced march Trail of Death in 1838 who had a French father and a Potawatomi mother suffered just as much as the Potawatomi who had both parents of Potawatomi blood. The mixed blood Potawatomi members of your family who lost their land and homes in Kansas and moved to an Oklahoma wilderness suffered just as much, and lost just as much, as those whom the government called “full-bloods.” In fact, mixed blood Potawatomi were often treated badly by both the white people and the other Indians — they probably suffered even more.

Your enrollment card does not grant you a fraction of a tribal membership. You are a 100% member of your tribe. You are the same amount as someone who is trying to say “I’m better than you because I’m more Indian than you.” Your family paid in blood, sweat, tears, farms, businesses, horses and cattle — some even with their lives, for your right to be a Citizen Potawatomi. No one can take that away from you.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs generated Citizen Potawatomi blood degree “rolls” are now, and have been for over 140 years, criminally incorrect. They are full of fraudulent history. The first Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Roll was made in 1861. A bureaucrat set up in a cabin near the reservation in Kansas. Each member of the “Citizen Band” had to come in that summer. As they came through the door, he assigned them a blood degree based on appearance. If you worked outside that summer and had a tan, and your parents did not, you got more “Indian blood” than your parents. For 50 years our tribe was told that you would be subject to the control of the government if you were above ½ blood degree. The BIA Agency Superintendent could declare you “incompetent to conduct your own affairs.” Our people were forced by circumstances to deny their blood.

When I took office in 1971, there were over 3,000 blood degree appeals in the BIA Washington Central Office. This number grew until 1985, when I was present at a meeting in which the most absurd thing since 1861 was forced on us. The head of the BIA’s “Tribal Operations” Department in Washington decided that the solution to all the Citizen Potawatomi blood degree appeals was to be solved this way: *Any relative on any document in your family history with a “white” name was no more than ½ Potawatomi.* Can you believe it!! After a century of Christian missionaries baptizing Citizen Potawatomi as quickly as they found them, and giving them European names in the process, the effect was a wholesale unjustified reduction of official BIA blood degrees. In the old days, if you dealt with the white man, you used your white name. If you dealt with your people, you used your Indian name. Most likely, having a white name had nothing to do with your family history from 1800 to 1860, just where you went to church.

“Blood degree” was set up for the Citizen Potawatomi here in Oklahoma to divide up the money from the 1948 Indian Claims Commission settlements. It decided if you got your “Indian money” check. Because so many blood degrees were wrong, we did away with it in 1989 in our new Constitution.

The real purpose of the “blood degree” invention by the U.S. Government was to set an arbitrary standard that would ultimately let them end their treaty obligations. All tribes have an inherent right to define their membership. It is the ultimate act of self-governance.

Anyone who says that they should get more from our Tribe because of their “blood degree” is denying our history. Anyone who says they are better or more deserving because of their “blood degree” is wrong.

For any of you who might be hesitant to apply for the help you need because of this kind of nonsense being talked around, please let us hear from you. If you are enrolled, you are deserving of everything we offer to any other Tribal member! You are a 100% member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

“Blood degree” is not the policy of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation — and never will be if I have anything to say about it. Thank you for the honor of serving as your Tribal Chairman.

Megwetch (Thank you),

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



## Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

### Tribes enrich Oklahoma culture, boost tourism

Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) is committed to creating a thriving community for our members and for our neighbors.

The Shawnee area is home to our Tribe, where the community knows we establish jobs and economic opportunity through a variety of enterprises, including gaming and manufacturing, as well as vital public services like housing, banking and infrastructure.

However, CPN’s obligations go far beyond roads and buildings. The Tribe plays a key role in providing events and amenities that make Pottawatomie County a great place to live and raise a family.

The FireLake FireFlight Balloon Fest, which returns Aug. 11-12, 2023, is an award-winning hot air balloon festival that has been drawing crowds to the state since 2017. Last year, more than 50,000 people attended, making it the largest balloon festival in Oklahoma.

Besides balloons glows and hot air balloon flights, the festival also attracts families and individuals with free concerts and interactive events, including a 5k run, petting zoo, vendor market and outdoor expo. This versatility ensures there’s something for everyone, especially as the event continues to grow each year.

These special events and other attractions — like the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort, or the Potawatomi Fire, the only tribal-owned professional basketball team — bring thousands of people together each year and keep them engaged.

When people have reasons to come together, they take pride in their community. They get to know their neighbors. They think of ways to work together and move past the divisions that cause conflict and strife.

The heart of CPN’s mission is, of course, providing for our members and protecting our Tribe’s rights as a sovereign nation.

But what we continue to see is how CPN’s growth and success benefit all Oklahomans — not just our Tribal members. We are proud to be Potawatomi, and we are proud to be Oklahomans. It’s why we open our doors to our neighbors, host free events for the community and encourage people to learn about the state’s rich tribal history.

Together, let’s celebrate the vibrant Indigenous cultures that make up Oklahoma, building a stronger state and fostering healthier communities in the process.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



# From the legislature



## Alan Melot District 1

Hey y'all!

Autumn is here! I love the changing seasons and hope you enjoy them as well.

I recently transitioned to a new job as a school-based therapist. I changed jobs for a couple of reasons, and being able to serve you better was at the top of the list. I will be working on a school schedule now, meaning I will have summers free! I plan to spend this time engaged with events like Potawatomi Gathering and district meetings.

How many of you have been to Gathering? This year was my first time attending. I was only there for a few days, mainly for the language conference. I am not a speaker, but it's critical to our sovereignty that our people know our language; our language is the primary carrier of cultural knowledge and establishes a Potawatomi worldview. Without it, our argument for remaining a federally recognized, sovereign Nation is deeply undermined. I strongly encourage you to use as much Potawatomi as you can and to learn more. We have a strong language department, and Justin Neely makes himself available to anyone who wants to learn. There are many resources closer if you live in the north-central parts of D1. I'd encourage you to make those connections. Our language community is small but vibrant!

While at Gathering, I joined D2 Legislator Eva Carney to compete in a *Chopped*-style cooking competition. We prepared an appetizer and an entree before we were eliminated. I thoroughly enjoyed partnering with Eva and was glad to get to know her better. She has a fabulous sense of humor and performs better under pressure than I do. Check out my official page on Facebook for the full story and pictures.

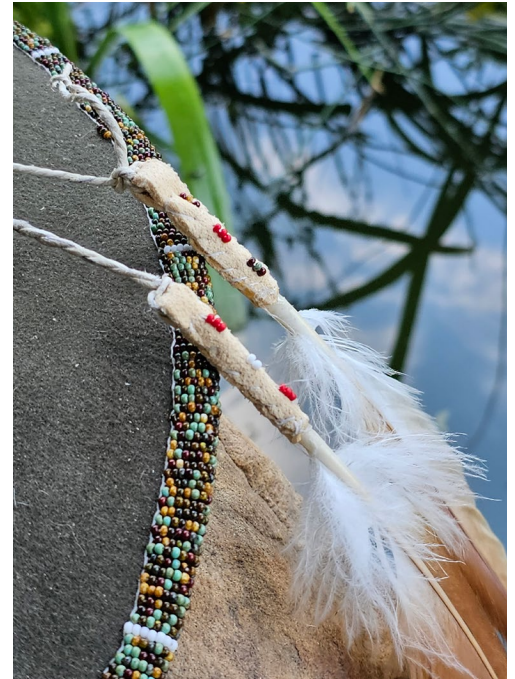
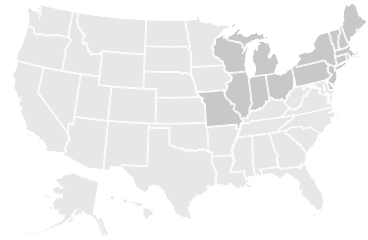
There are so many people who are doing good work, both in our district and beyond. As a relative newcomer to traditions and communities, I have only felt welcomed. Sharon Hoogstraten, author of *Dancing for Our Tribe*, gave a presentation at our Family Reunion Festival. She shared how she was a relative newcomer when she began to photograph Potawatomi in regalia. Sharon learned during her journey that she started when she was middle-aged. What a great thing! If you don't already have a lot of Potawatomi connections, no problem; that is all available no matter your age. Your community is waiting for you to take your place among us.

Sharon said what we do is not a reenactment but a continuation of living tradition. As an example of that, I asked Laura Hewuse to bead a hat for me and was honored when she agreed and produced a beautiful work of art. You'll see me in it next time you see me! *Chi migwetch* (thank you very much), Laura!

Last fall, Melot and Melott went to Canada to go hunting on our ancestral lands. They chartered a small plane to take them into the backcountry to hunt moose. After a week, they managed to bag six! As they were loading the plane to return home, the pilot said the plane could only take four moose. Melot and Melott objected strongly: "Last year we shot six. The pilot let us take them all and he had the same plane." Reluctantly, the pilot gave in. The plane took off with all six. While attempting to cross mountains, it could not handle the load and crashed. Only Melot and Melott survived. Surrounded by moose bodies and wreckage, Melott asked Melot, "Any idea where we are?" Melot replied, "I think we're pretty close to where we crashed last year."

*Bama pi miné gwi wabmen* (Later on I will see you again),

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

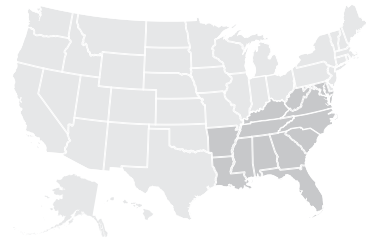


Magnificent bead and leather work by Laura Hewuse that I'm honored to wear.



## Eva Marie Carney District 2

*Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),*



**Ceremony during the Potawatomi Gathering.** It wasn't until Aug. 11, 1978, that the U.S. Congress passed the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. That was when the national ban was lifted on practicing traditional ceremonies, accessing sacred sites, and using sacred objects and materials. I was able to attend morning ceremonies during the Potawatomi Gathering hosted by the Notawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi and am thankful to *Beendigaygizhig* Deleary for guiding us, and to his young son for keeping the fire.

**Bodéwadmí Confederation of Tribal Nations.** During the Gathering, the Bodéwadmí Nations (currently, 11 in total) established, by majority vote of the Nations present during the Tribal Leaders meeting, Articles of Confederation to "promote unity, cooperation, and mutual support among [the diverse network of Potawatomi tribal nations], and to advance the interest and well-being of its citizens and Indigenous peoples." The Citizen Potawatomi Nation legislators attending (including me) abstained from voting as we did not have a quorum of Legislators present to deliberate and vote. The Forest County Potawatomi Community also abstained for lack of a quorum, and two other nations (Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation and Chippewas of Nawash, Cape Croker) were marked "absent," as no representatives attended the Tribal Leaders meeting.

I want to see our Nation add its "yes" vote to the total, and therefore have proposed a resolution to support the Articles. I have asked that it be considered at our next Legislative meeting. I will report on the outcome in a future column.

**Dreamcatcher teachings.** I was able to spend some Gathering time with friend and Wasauksing First Nation elder Lila Tabobondung. Lila is an accomplished artisan and a water protector. This year Lila agreed to teach a group of us to make dreamcatchers. A photo of the participants (minus Lila, CPN D3 Legislator Bob Whistler, and me, not shown in the photo) holding their dreamcatchers is included. I will be sharing Lila's teachings at District 2 Fall Feast – details of which are below!



*Dreamcatcher Artists, Potawatomi Gathering 2023*



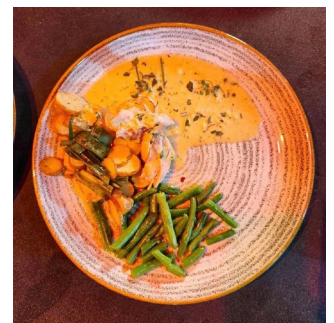
*Potawatomi Chopped CPN Team with NBHP's Nickole Keith*

### **Potawatomi Chopped.**

Another Gathering highlight was competing, with CPN D1 Legislator Alan Melot, in Potawatomi Chopped. The competition featured four teams of elected Tribal leaders; the challenge was to make an appetizer, entrée, and dessert under time constraints, with surprise ingredients, under bright stage lights and to the cheers of an enthusiastic audience of fellow Potawatomi. Alan and I were a great team yet were "chopped" after the entrée round. We look forward to the rematch next year when the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi



*Appetizer*



*Entrée*

Indians host (Pokagon's Tribal Council chair and vice chair took home the trophy).

Here's what we had to work with: appetizer round (20 minutes) – smoked turkey leg, 1 bag sweet potato fries, 1/2 lb. mixed mushrooms and 1/2 cup dried sumac; entrée round (30 minutes) – 2 rabbit thighs, 1 bottle maple flavored root beer and 1 lb. all-purpose flour.

Check out Alan's and my Facebook pages for photos of what we made. *Migwetch* (thank you) to Nickole L. Keith, leader of NHBP's food sovereignty program, for her leadership of the event, and to CPN D2's Jody Gzhadowsot Mattena. Jody worked hard supporting Nickole and helped emcee the event.

**Fall Feast.** Please plan to attend the District 2 Fall Feast on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, in Arlington, Virginia. We will meet in the social hall, Little Falls Presbyterian Church at 10:30 a.m. All details are at [evamariecarney.com](http://evamariecarney.com) under calendar. RSVPs are already being accepted — I hope you and your families can join us to make dreamcatchers under Bob and Karen Richey's direction, share a meal, and visit and learn from each other!

I appreciate the honor of representing you.

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

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



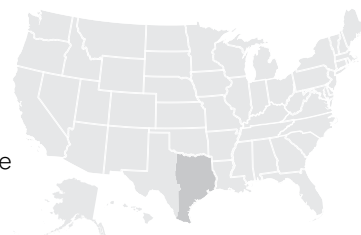
## Bob Whistler District 3

*Bozho Ginwa* (hello everyone),

As I mentioned last month, I will give you a bit of news on this year's Potawatomi Gathering held in Michigan and hosted by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi July 24 through 29.

### Language

I spent the first two of my seven days attending the language meetings. There were a number of methods that were new to me that were very interesting. At one session the presentation was made three times. You were given a packet of cards and needed to group the ones that appeared similar together. Then a verbal presentation was made in Potawatomi. If you really understood Potawatomi, you would lay out four of the cards on a paper, creating a story board. The presentation was made a second time with the presenter making some gestures like charades, but they were minimal. Then the story was told a third time and several members of the teaching team joined in with the pantomime gestures. I was fortunate in figuring out what the three stories were, but it took me until we got to the third reading in three of the four stories.



*Rhian and Susan Campbell*

### Grand Entry

Grand Entry was planned to be held on both Friday and Saturday. It began raining mid-day on Friday, so Grand Entry was moved from the reservation grounds back to the FireKeepers Casino Hotel to their indoor facility with arena-type folding seats on one end. Both Friday and Saturday Grand Entries went very well. The Gathering will be hosted by the Pokagon Band next year.



*Traditional hammock*

### Crafts and Workshops

I attended a medicine bag workshop where I made a small medicine bag that the instructors advised had been designed by our ancestors. The way that it is made, it is difficult for anyone to open very easily. It has four ties that come up through the flap that folds over the front from the back and those four ties are anchored together after the bag is basically finished. It was a little tricky at first when looking at the laid-out leather, but did come together and I was happy that I decided to make this item.

I was able to see our Tribal member Rhian Campbell and her daughter Susan Campbell creating a hair pipe necklace. I have included a photo of the two of them making the item.

## Cradle Board Presentation

A Pokagon member living in Arizona made a beautiful presentation giving the history, use and importance of cradle boards. He held several presentations for groups of about 20 and each of those left with a cradle board and blanket. Dr. Casey Church cited the fact that a child raised using the cradle board will tend to be more respectful and reserved. At the presentation I attended, he also showed how a simple traditional baby hammock can be constructed between two trees using two ropes and a blanket. I took a photo of this. The two females on each end represent the tree. Standing left to right are the photographer, Dr. Church, Kelli Jackson (Hannahville Nation), Alyshia Wootan (CPN), Marianne Almero holding the doll baby (CPN), and Nichole R. Cole (NHBP). To construct the hammock, you drape the blanket from the bottom of each side over the top of the ropes, allowing for enough of the blanket inside ends to fit under the baby when in the hammock. The baby's weight will keep the hammock taut. One of the reasons I really enjoy the Gathering is that there is usually one or more presentations that are very new to me and great to be learned.

As your elected representative for District 3, I am very honored and *Igwien* (thank you deeply).

*Nagech* (Later),

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



## Jon Boursaw District 4

*Bozho* (Hello),

### Potawatomi Trail of Death Pilgrimage Event

Saturday, September 23 | 9-10:30 a.m.  
Heritage Park, Marina parking lot  
16050 Pflumm, Olathe, KS 66062

Breakfast is open to all CPN members and their families. If you would like to join us for breakfast, please let me know not later than 3 p.m., Monday, September 18 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or by email at [jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org).

### Upcoming District 4 Meetings

When: Saturday, October 21 at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served.

Where: CPN Community Center in Rossville

Speakers: Ronnie Wear, the General Manager & CEO of Sovereign Pipe Technologies, CPN's latest economic development expansion, and Blair Schneider, PhD, from the Kansas Geological Survey speaking on her ground penetrating surveys of the Uniontown Cemetery.

RSVP: No later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 17 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or by email at [jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org). You can also call Lyman Boursaw at 785-249-2915. Please identify which meeting you plan to attend.

When: Sunday, October 29 at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served.

Where: Mid-America All-Indian Center located at 650 N. Seneca St. in Wichita

Speakers: Bryan Cain, President & CEO of the Tribally-owned Sovereign Bank, formerly the First National Bank of Oklahoma

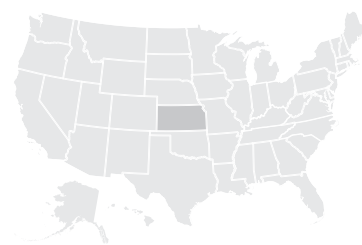
RSVP: No later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 24, by calling me at 785-608-1982 or by email at [jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org). You can also call Lyman Boursaw at 785-249-2915. Please identify which meeting you plan to attend.

## Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

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

September 8	BBQ meat balls & cheesy potatoes	RSVP by the 5th
October 13	Breakfast	RSVP by the 10th

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



## Gathering of Potawatomi 2023

I had the opportunity to attend the Gathering hosted by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, whose reservation is located near Fulton, Michigan, just south of Battle Creek. As this was my third trip there, I was extremely impressed with the expansion of their tribal government buildings and new housing. During the introductions at the Leadership Council held on the first day of the Gathering, I took the opportunity to inform the other tribal leaders that the Potawatomi language will be offered for the first time this fall at Kansas State University. As we took our seats at the Economic Council that was held the following day, Eva Marie Carney, the District 2 Legislator, and I discovered that we were the first tribe to give an eight minute presentation on the Nation's economic development. We quickly put together a list of our achievements and informed those in attendance of the Tribe's accomplishments and briefly described those in the planning phase. Later I heard from the moderator of the council that she and the other attendees were very impressed with what the Nation is doing.

## Email Addresses

Recently, I have sent out several very important emails. If you are not receiving my emails, either I do not have your email address or what I have entered is incorrect or has been changed. If you would like to be added to my email list, simply send me an email at [jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org).

It is an honor to serve as your legislator.

Megwetch (Thank you),

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



## Gene Lambert District 5

Bozho (Hello),

We have all heard the term "Indian Giver" at some point in our lives. I remember the term from the time I was a child and understood it to be negative in its use. But, was it?

Now the search is on regarding its original meaning, where it came from and how we use it today.

As it turns out, a lieutenant governor of Massachusetts, Thomas Hutchison, coined the phrase in 1758. His understanding was that an Indian gift was "a present for which an equivalent return is expected."

So originally it was a simple gift exchange. Then, adding insult to injury, the language and its intent used by our Indigenous people didn't coincide with the Europeans. It was a cultural misunderstanding.

Quoting David Wilton, in his 2004 book *Word Myths: Debunking Linguistic Urban Legends*:

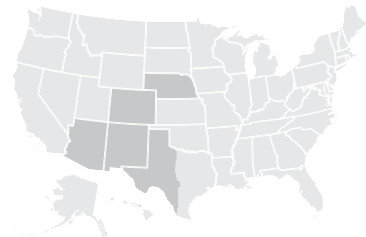
*To an Indian, the giving of gifts was an extension of this system of trade and a gift was expected to be reciprocated with something of equal value. Europeans, upon encountering this practice, misunderstood it, considering it uncouth and impolite. To them, trade was conducted with money and gifts were freely given with nothing expected in return. So this native practice got a bad reputation among the white colonists of North America and the term eventually became a playground insult.*

Hard to believe something coined and identified as far back as 1758 is still being used to define Indigenous practices or intentions today.

It was also stated that John Adams, who later became a U.S. President, took exception to the phrase. Perhaps he held a better understanding of intent.

In the 1900s the term became commonplace in terms of its negativity.

Comedian Louis CK calls the phrase "one of most offensive things you can call someone." However, he goes on to say the Native Americans gave away our land and wanted it back, suggesting some truth to the phrase:



“What it’s meant to be is that someone gave you something and then changed their minds,” explained the comedian. “We equate this to the Indians, because our feeling is that they gave us America and... then they changed their minds about giving it to us, and it’s so offensive when you consider the truth.”

Next, we have a song written and recorded by the name “Indian Giver” for a 1969 album by Bobby Bloom, Ritchie Cordell and Bo Gentry.

It appears there was a resurgence in 2011 when Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries decided to get a divorce and he wanted his two-million-dollar ring back. Kim’s mother told her to not be an Indian giver and keep the ring.

There is a lot of backlash in the usage of the derogatory term.

Jacqueline Johnson Pata, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians, said in a statement about Kris Jenner’s use of the phrase, “The phrase ‘Indian giving’ is wrong and hurtful. The cultural values of Native Americans are based on giving unconditionally and empowering those around them.” (Hollywood Reporter, Nov. 4 2011).

There are many hurtful phrases out there being used every day, and we do not realize the hurt and negativity connected.

Just for fun...try some of the phrases you use often and think about where they came from. Enter the phrase in Google or other search engine and see which culture it came from and why we use it unknowingly today. I was shocked!

In the meantime, stay cool through this heat wave and love and support each other.

Love you all,

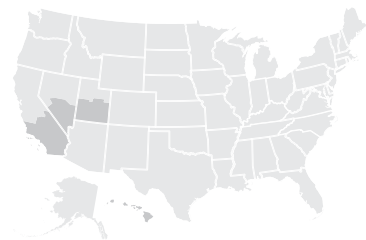
Gene Lambert (Eunice Imogene Lambert) | Butterfly Woman | [glambert@potawatomi.org](mailto:glambert@potawatomi.org)  
270 E Hunt Highway Ste 229 | San Tan Valley, AZ 85143 | Cell: 480-228-6569 | Office: 480-668-0509



## Rande K. Payne District 6

*Bozho Jayak* (Hello everyone),

For the first time since 1991, I drove to the Family Reunion Festival back in June. It was great! And so was Festival! Yes, it was hot, but so what. June is always hot! A surprise thunderstorm cooled things down a bit but presented its challenges for outdoor activities. Our people are resilient and weathered the storm with flying colors. We have so many dedicated and hard-working people who make Festival very enjoyable for everyone else, and I’m very thankful for them. Congratulations to David Barrett, Bobbie Bowden and Andy Walters on their successful re-election campaigns. I’m honored to know them and serve with them.



Meeting the team at Sovereign Pipe and getting to tour the plant validated that our investment in the enterprise will soon be paying big dividends. After a slow start and ultimately shifting to operating the plant ourselves, I’m confident that it was the way it was supposed to be in the first place.

Tribal member Sharon Hoogstraten did a lecture on her book *Dancing for Our Tribe*. Listening to Sharon share her story about how the book came to be and her thought process behind every aspect created a special connection to her work. The quality of the materials used for the book and the amount of detail put into preserving our modern era story is evident throughout the book. I am now the proud owner of an autographed copy. For anyone interested in having a copy of their own, you can find it at [cpn.news/DFOT](http://cpn.news/DFOT).

I was able to attend the 2023 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations in Battle Creek Michigan, in July hosted by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi. The Leadership Summit resulted in the formation of the Potawatomi Confederation of Tribal Nations. The Potawatomi Articles of Confederation state in Article I: General, Section 2: “This Confederation seeks to promote unity, cooperation, and mutual support among Nations, and to advance the interest and well-being of its citizens and Indigenous peoples.” Guest speaker Allison Binney, federal lobbyist for NHBP, presented an update on U.S. federal policies. Allison spoke about issues with our people being able to cross freely between the U.S. and Canada as outlined in the Jay Treaty. It seems that most of the issue lies with a lack of training for border crossing personnel. Work continues so that we can cross into Canada and back using our Tribal ID cards. Allison also spoke about Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) and some of the work being done by the federal government in cooperation with Native American tribes. Bryan Newland, U.S. assistant secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, was also a guest speaker via Zoom from Washington, D.C. Bryan covered a variety of topics outlining the work currently being done in Washington on behalf of Native nations. All in all, it was a very informative and productive Leadership Summit.

Coming next month is the annual District 6 and 7 Gathering. District 7 Representative Mark Johnson and I would like to invite you to join us on Saturday, Oct. 21. Whether you've attended in the past or have never attended, we'll do our best to provide you with a fun and informative meeting. You can register online at [cpn.news/D67Oct21](https://cpn.news/D67Oct21). We hope to see you next month!

Congratulations to Chairman Barrett, who is one of eight honorees selected for the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2023. Induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame is recognized as Oklahoma's Highest Honor.

Potawatomi Word of the Month: *Bnakwi gises* – October

Wisdom from the Word: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" – Psalm 133:1

*Migwetch, bama pi*, (Thank you, until later),

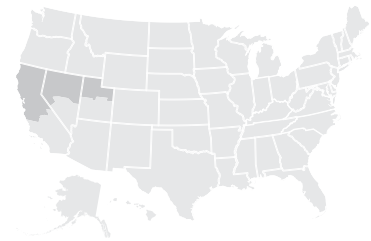
Rande K. Payne | *Mnedo Gabo* | [rande.payne@potawatomi.org](mailto:rande.payne@potawatomi.org) | 31150 Road 180 | Visalia, CA 93292-9585 | 559-999-5411



## Mark Johnson District 7

*Bozho nikanek* (Hello friends),

On Saturday, Oct. 21, Rande Payne and I will be hosting a combined District 6 and 7 meeting and Fall Festival in Visalia, California. You should receive your invitation postcard with instructions on how to register for this event. We normally have around 100 or so members and guests attend, and it is always a great time for information sharing and to gather as a tribal nation as a run up to Native American Heritage Month in November. We always have a great meal, so if you register and then discover that you cannot attend, please remember to cancel your reservation.



In California, the state launched a \$101

million dollar grant program to support California Native American tribes on ancestral land return, nature-based solutions that help combat climate change. Developed with tribal input and backed with funding approved by the legislature, the new tribal nature-based solutions grant program will support tribes in their efforts to reacquire ancestral land, address impacts of climate change on their communities, and conserve and protect biodiversity. Funding can be used by tribes to purchase land, train their workforce, expand and communicate traditional

knowledge, build tribal capacity and build projects and programs to protect culturally important natural resources and protect climate change. The reason that I bring this up is that it shows how far our Tribe is ahead of those California tribes. I am glad that the state is stepping up to help our brothers and sisters in this state, and I am proud that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has been working on all these areas for years now, and just how important it has been for our Nation to be leader in so many of these areas. I hope you are proud too.

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](mailto:mark.johnson@potawatomi.org)

**CPN District 6 & 7  
Fall Heritage Festival**

Saturday,  
October 21, 2023  
10am to 3pm

Valhalla at the Grove  
31150 Road 180  
Visalia, CA 93292

Come join the fun and help celebrate our Potawatomi culture and heritage at the 2023 District 6 & 7 Heritage Festival.  
**Lunch will be provided.**  
The Heritage Festival is a great opportunity to come together in a central location to connect with family and friends.

**RSVP by October 18**  
For the full invitation and registration details,  
see the invite at [cpn.news/D67Oct21](https://cpn.news/D67Oct21)



## Dave Carney District 8

*Bozho, nikan* (Hello, friend),

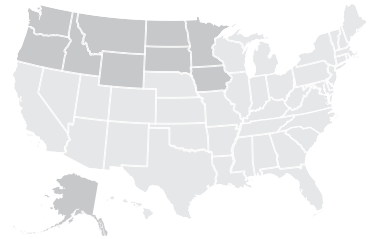
The Potawatomi are powerful people. In fact, we are so powerful that we can make it rain during a two-month dry spell just by having a cookout. That's right — no real measurable rain in the area since May, but a legitimate rain the morning of our Aug. 5 get-together.

A little over 70 members and their guests gathered this Saturday to enjoy each other's company and learn a bit about our history, culture and traditions. Presentation topics were the Potawatomi naming tradition, a challenge for each member present to learn three (new to them) Potawatomi words from a list of over 20, and a talk about the Potawatomi Trail of Death by the author of *Two Moon Journey*, Peggy King Anderson. Peggy stayed around and signed books throughout the rest of the event.

Lunch was fairly standard summer cookout food — hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad and chips — grilled by my adult kids, Luke and Sophia Carney, with the assistance of Marv and Jan Lamascus. Desserts were amazing — all brought by the attending members.

As is our tradition, we honored the member who had traveled the farthest. Generally this comes down to a geography lesson — is North Dakota farther than southern Alabama? At this meeting, there was no question who had traveled the farthest: Cecilia Anderson, who had flown in from Berlin, Germany, the day before.

Our youngest enrolled member was Elizabeth (Lizzie) Paige Kincaid at seven months, and our wisest member was Erma Pozzabon at the age of 93. Both Lizzie and Erma received Pendleton blankets from the CPN Gift Shop at the Cultural Heritage Center.



Erma Pozzabon - wisest member at 93



Lizzie (Elizabeth) Paige Kincaid - youngest member at 7 months

After lunch, our wisest and farthest traveled award winners voted on the winners of the art contest — not an easy task. We had some pretty amazing artwork. All submitted work was created by a Citizen Potawatomi and had a Native topic. The winners were:

Julian Warne dominated in the 12 and under category for a watercolor with the CPN Tribal Seal.

In the craft competition, Julie Jackson took the prize for a flat fan for her regalia that included wrapped eagle feathers, beading and leatherwork.

The fine arts category winner was Sarah Gleaves for a still life oil painting.

The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session and group discussion with topics ranging from CPN benefits, use of the Indian Health Services, historic allotments, COVID funds, the Iron Horse Industrial Park to Tribal rolls.

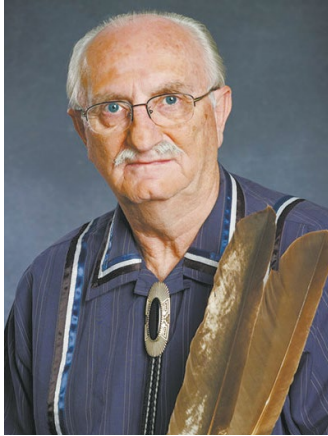
I'd like to thank several District 8 citizens for the honor of naming them the day of the event. They were Renee Biscarret and her brother, Thomas Biscarret, of the Muller Family; Donna Chapman of the Bergeron and Lewis families; and Alejandra Joy Nieves of the Melot family.



Please save the date: I am looking forward to being able to meet in person with District 8 members. The date of the Fall Feast has been set for Oct. 14 and it will be held at the Duwamish Long House in Seattle. It will be a mid-day meal and gathering.

It is my honor to serve as your Legislator,

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



## Paul Wesselhöft District 9

*Bozho, nikan* (Hello, friend),

### Potawatomi Artists

Please check out Potawatomi Artists, a private and active Facebook group where members display and enjoy various art forms such as: painting, photography, music, drama, poetry, short stories, crafts, jewelry and regalia as well as Potawatomi history, culture and language.

The group is for Potawatomi members from the various American and Canadian tribes. We are a North American art colony. Creative works don't necessarily have to be Potawatomi themed, and members don't have to be artists themselves. PA is a place for art lovers.

Potawatomi Artists is not a forum for controversies or selling non-creative works. Advertisements and promotions of creative works are welcome. We are a membership of 3,909. By year's end, we will reach over 4,000 Potawatomi members.

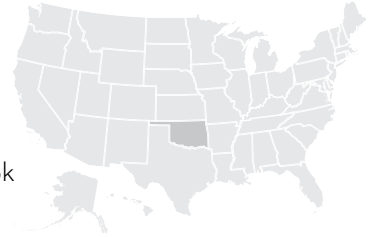
Creative Potawatomis, join us and share your art forms, or simply enjoy great Potawatomi art.

Chairman Barrett appointed me to The Tribal Culture and Art Committee. He wrote, "Dear Representative Wesselhöft: Since you are one of our number that has exhibited an interest, and talent, in art and culture, (particularly fiction, poetry, and drama), I am appointing you to the Tribal Culture and Art Committee. Thank you for your continuing service to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation."

I'm pleased to be a member of this important committee and plan to propose and support resolutions that will enhance our Tribal history, culture, arts and language. Creating Potawatomi Artists is one way to unite our artists and encourage their creative talents.

*Migwetch* (Thank you),

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



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## David Barrett District 10

Bozho (Hello),

We left Oklahoma to go to the Gathering in order to enjoy some nice weather with temperatures in the 80s. The Gathering at Battle Creek didn't disappoint me in that; however, we did have to bring the powwow inside the FireKeepers Casino, which accommodated everyone with ease, for the Friday night grand entry due to thunderstorms. Then for Saturday, we went to the Pine Creek reservation for the activities and grand entries at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi issued food vouchers to the registered guests, which was delicious. From my point of view, the Smoke N Fire casino restaurant was my favorite place to eat due to having excellent food. The food vendors at the Pine Creek campgrounds were very good, and the amount of food given was plentiful, especially the stir-fry and the trout, which they ran out of early. They served the traditional meal on Saturday around 4 p.m. right before the grand entry.

There weren't any glitches until Sunday, when our people were traveling home on the Potawatomi Fire bus when, just after entering Illinois, the belts came off of the bus's motor. What a nightmare. Of course on a Sunday, no businesses are open. Tim Zientek and Margaret Zientek took control and finally got our people home one way or another, some sooner than others, but all made it back by that Friday around 6 p.m.

It has always been an honor to meet with other Potawatomi tribal council members from all of the 11 different tribes. Since I'm a veteran, we

brought in our Eagle Staff and colors at grand entry

according to the number of grand entries the hosting tribe has on their schedule. To see this is amazing and to be a part of it you are overwhelmed with pride.

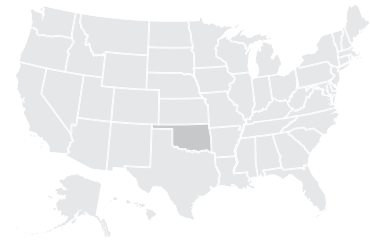
After getting back home, our Citizen Potawatomi Nation veteran group had the privilege of presenting our colors at the 84th annual meeting of the Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative at the FireLake Arena on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023. This is one of the largest venues where our veterans perform since it is very local and Canadian Valley provides utility service to more than 25,000 accounts, including residential, commercial and industrial members.

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

It goes without saying that it is both a pleasure and an honor to serve you and our great Nation. Thank you again for your trust in me for another four years.

Migwetch (Thank You),

David Barrett | Mnedobe (Sits with the Spirits) | [d Barrett@potawatomi.org](mailto:d Barrett@potawatomi.org)  
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. | Shawnee, OK 74801 | 405-275-3121



# Walking On

## Janice Marie Mix Kennedy Family



Janice Marie Mix, 72, passed away June 5, 2023, at her home in Great Bend, Kansas. She was born on June 9, 1950, to Charles "Gene" and Margaret (Gliessner) Mix.

A longtime Great Bend resident, Janice was a parts manager in the oilfield. She was a member of the Prince of Peace Parish at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Great Bend and the Altar Society.

Survivors include four brothers, Larry Mix and wife, Carolyn, of St. John, Gary

Mix and wife, Susan, of Sterling, Colorado, Ronald Mix and Robert Mix, both of Great Bend; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister-in-law, Beverly Mix; and a nephew, Tim Mix.

Memorials have been designated to Prince of Peace Altar Society, in care of Bryant Funeral Home.

## Hester Elizabeth Gardom Tescier Family



Hester Elizabeth Gardom Brunt, born March 8, 1925, in Choctaw, Oklahoma, died at 98 years old on June 26, 2023. She was married to her husband, Charles Wilton Brunt (he preceded her in death). Funeral services were held at Martin Funeral Home East on July 24, 2023.

She was the daughter of Minnie Phileman Tescier Gardom and Dale Marshall Gardom, who both preceded her in

death. She had three brothers, one sister (deceased), and one surviving brother, Paul E. Gardom.

Hester was part of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She graduated in 1943 from Fence Lake High School in New Mexico. She moved to El Paso, Texas, and worked at Fort Bliss for a while. She met Charles Wilton Brunt, and they married in 1944.

Hester had four children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren: Charlotte A. Brunt Jasper (deceased) and husband, Charles E. Jasper; grandchildren, Charles E. Jasper, Jr. (deceased), and

Toni Elizabeth Jasper Kline McCarley, and husband, J.D. McCarley; great-grandchildren, Tyler A. Kline and Brandon L. Kline; and two step-great-grandchildren, Tia L. McCarley and Jonathan D. McCarley; Everett Dale Brunt, wife, Suzanne R. Brunt; grandchild Katherine S. Brunt, Larry Bruce Brunt; grandchild, Marcus W. Brunt and wife, Charlsye Lewis; Charles R. Brunt and wife, Wendi Eldh Brunt; grandchildren Zachary W. Brunt (deceased), Thomas G. Brunt and Abigail R. Brunt.

## Norman Wesley Kiker Bourassa Family



Norman Wesley Kiker, 76, of Shawnee, Oklahoma, entered his eternal home on Sunday, June 25, 2023.

Norman was born to James Virgil and Kathleen Rose (Peltier) Kiker on April 22, 1947, in Shawnee. Norman graduated from Shawnee High School in 1966. He married his high school sweetheart, Claudia Henderson, on July 20, 1968, in Shawnee. He was a barber for 15 years and a sales representative

for several years. Norman was deeply involved with his Tribe, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, from an early age.

He worked for CPN from 1973 to 1976. He was elected vice-chairman of the Tribe for two years and served on the election committee for eight years. He went back to work for the Tribe in 1989. That same year, he was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church after four years of theological study. Shortly after, he became Tribal chaplain. In 1995, Norman became the director of language for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He immersed himself in the study of the culture and the language of the Potawatomi people, traveling to several northern states to work with the elders.

Norman served in the Army National Guard of Oklahoma for six years. He was the first president and director of Shawnee Hospice.

Norman had a passion for drawing and carving canes and walking sticks. He created many beautiful pieces of scrimshaw art and jewelry.

Norman is preceded in death by his parents and many beloved uncles, aunts and cousins. He is survived by his wife, Claudia; sons, Noel and Chad Kiker of Shawnee; grandsons, Justin (Lynn) McRae and their children, Kenneth, Lilly and Zaylon of Shawnee, Nathanael (Emily) Kiker and their children, Daelan, Emilia and Noah of Shawnee, and James Kiker (Jessamyn); granddaughter, Samantha (Dylan) Ricketts and their children, Payton and

Ryan; Tom and Michelle Rucker; Tonya Kiker; faithful friends, Betty Norton, Gerald (LaNell) Montgomery and Larry Young; and many dear cousins and friends.

Norman was a great fisherman who taught Claudia, Noel, Chad and his grandchildren how to fish. The tradition has been carried on by his sons and grandchildren. He and Claudia instilled in all the children a love of music and faith in Christ. Norman's faith in his Savior, Jesus Christ, was evident to all who knew him.

Memorials may be given to Emmanuel Episcopal youth programs or the National Kidney Foundation. Norman's family wishes to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Damera, all the nurses and staff of Heartland Hospice who were so kind to us, Nurse Judy at the Regency, Father Tom Dahlman, Mother Elizabeth Davis, and Deacon Nathan Johnson and his wife, Evaughna, for the many times they visited, prayed, anointed Norman and comforted Claudia.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church with Father Tom Dahlman officiating. Arrangements are by McElyea & Owens Funeral Group.

.....  
**James 'Jim' Earl Rickson**  
Sioux Family



Jim (James) E. Rickson, 54 of Mayetta, Kansas, passed away on April 1, 2023. He was born Nov. 1, 1969, in Topeka, Kansas, the son of Jack and Linda (Westfall) Rickson.

In 1987, he graduated from Silver Lake High School, where he played football, baseball and wrestled.

He married Darci Anderson on March 27, 1999, and they had two sons, Dalton and Davin. Even

though they later divorced, they remained friends.

Jim was a carpenter and building contractor by trade. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and spent many hours doing this with his boys, friends and family.

Jim was preceded in death by his mother, Linda (Westfall) Rickson.

He is survived by his sons, Dalton Rickson and Davin Rickson; former wife, Darci (Anderson) Rickson, all of Topeka; his dad, John "Jack" Rickson of Wichita, Kansas; and his sister, Wendi (Rickson) Horak and brother-in-law, Terry, and their children, Chelsea Williams (niece), Thatcher Horak, Tucker Horak, Torrey Horak and Tayson Horak (nephews).

A memorial service for Jim was held Thursday, April 6, 2023, at the Silver Lake United Methodist Church in Silver Lake, Kansas. Inurnment will follow at Walnut Hill Cemetery north of Silver Lake on a later date.

**Ronald Gentlehawk**  
Ogee Family



Ronald Gentlehawk (Nestell), born March 17, 1942, in Seattle, Washington, walked on Dec. 9, 2022, after prolonged health issues. Starting at an early age, he spent time in a residential school, which had lasting consequences. Ron had many eclectic careers over the years, but the one that brought him the most joy and fulfillment was his many years as a fire station chaplain.

A proud descendent of the Ogee family, his Potawatomi heritage was an extremely important and ever-present part of his life. Later in life, Ron became a born-again Christian, healing many of his past wounds, and became a different and better husband, father and friend. His relationship with his Creator and Potawatomi family meant everything to him.

Ron leaves behind a wife; two stepchildren; children, Marion and Ron Sbardella; two other sons; a daughter; and grandchildren, Sarah and Allison Sbardella, as well as six others; and great-grandchildren, Alessandro and Cadence Sbardella and one other.

His family will miss him greatly until we meet again.

.....  
**Roberta Coleman Howard**  
Fregon/Coulter Family



Roberta (Coleman) Howard, 90, walked on Feb. 19, 2023, in North Thetford, Vermont. She was born Oct. 22, 1932, in Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of James and Charlotte Coulter (formerly of Wanette, Oklahoma) Coleman.

Roberta grew up in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, and attended Girls Latin School, Holy Trinity High School, Fisher Junior College and Northeastern University. In 1950, Roberta's parents purchased their summer home in Vermont, where she met Richard Howard, her dearest friend and future husband. They married in 1962, also making their home in Vermont.

In addition to raising four children, bookkeeping for Richard's excavating business and helping on the family farm, Roberta was a dedicated public servant. She served first as town auditor, and later as assistant town clerk, town clerk, treasurer and service officer. She also generously volunteered as CCD teacher, Girl Scout leader, and member of the North Thetford Library and Thetford Historical Society boards.

Roberta was a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother, and willing caregiver for generations of family. She's best remembered for her faith, resilience and strength, most evident in 2015 when she and Richard lost their home to fire, and in the years that followed. She enjoyed gardening and crossword puzzles and was an avid reader. Roberta was also gifted at the piano, able to play by ear without music. Most of all, she enjoyed gathering with family, who miss her dearly.

Roberta was predeceased by Richard, husband of 54 years; brothers, James Coleman, Jr. and Terrance Coleman; and sisters, Carita O'Brian, Sheila Clark and Linda Coleman.

Roberta is survived by three daughters, Martha Howard, children, Nolan, Neil and Susannah, Melissa Malloy (Mark), children, Carley and Ryan, and Miranda Martin (Andy), children, Drew, Amanda, Lindsey and Zachary; and son, Richard Howard, Jr. (Lori) children, Matt, Kelsi, Tyler and Kate, all of Thetford.

**Patrick Doyle Dockry**  
Slavin Family



Patrick Doyle Dockry, 85, of Anoka, Minnesota, went to his heavenly home on Friday, April 14, 2023, after a prolonged battle with pulmonary fibrosis.

Patrick was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who always had a smile, a joke and an encouraging word for everyone that he met. Spending time with his 14 grandchildren brought him his greatest joy in life. His

Christian values and faith were an example to all who knew and loved him. Pat and Rita were supported throughout his journey by family and their Christian community, People of Praise, which they have been members of for over 40 years.

Patrick was born on March 20, 1938, to Patrick and Genevieve Dockry in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He attended St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, where he met the love of his life, Rita Aksteter, at the College of St. Benedict. They married on June 17, 1961.

Patrick's mother, Genevieve, was born in St. Marys, Kansas, the daughter of James and Mary Slavin Doyle. Their Native American heritage was an important part of their life. Pat was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and joined the 2003 Trail of Death Caravan. At one of the many annual Family Reunion Festivals he attended, he received his Potawatomi name, *Shpa Gishek* (High/Ascending Sky) at a naming ceremony.

He was preceded in death by parents, Patrick and Genevieve Dockry; sister and brother-in-law, Mary Ann and Tom Harty; and brother, Michael Dockry.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Rita Dockry; children, Patrick (Katie), Kevin (Christine), Colin (Kim), Sean and Kara (Jerome); grandchildren, Alex (Becca), Jesse, Mike (Maddie), Sam, Maddie, Kelsey, J.D., Kevin, Mia, Callan, Jack, Kelli, Kaitlyn and Teddy; great-granddaughter, Eloise; brother, Dennis (Bonnie) Dockry and sister-in-law, Eleanor Dockry; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Patrick's beautiful life was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Anoka, Minnesota. His smiles and his hugs will be greatly missed by all.

**Wanda L. Goodnow**  
Juneau Family



Wanda L. Goodnow, 86, of Grantville, Kansas, passed away on June 27, 2023.

She was born on March 29, 1937, to Harlan and Laurene (Juneau) Williams in Topeka, Kansas.

Wanda graduated from Seaman High School. She worked for Bell Telephone Company as a secretary, Santa Fe Railroad, as an LPN, and numerous other jobs. Her favorite job was being a homemaker. Raising her children and spending

time with them was her greatest accomplishment.

On July 29, 1972, Wanda married Gilbert "Gil" L. Goodnow.

Wanda was a member of an independent Christian Church. She loved to garden and take care of her fur babies. Wanda loved nothing more than to spend time with her family and spoil her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Wanda is survived by her children, Randall (Staci) Currie, Gregory (Linda) Currie, Angelee (Kurt) Grimmatt and Daryl Goodnow; grandsons, D.J. Goodnow and Garrett (Ali) Currie; granddaughters, Amanda (Matt) Zajic, Lindsay (Jim) Seichepine, Jayme (Craig) Painter and Jenna (Josh) Johnson; 11 great-grandchildren with one on the way; and two brothers, Stan (Bev) Williams and Myron (Jan) Williams.

Wanda was preceded in death by her husband Gil; grandson, Zachary Currie; and both of her parents.

A Christ-centered funeral was held on Sunday, July 2, 2023. Visitation followed with a lunch and gathering. Private graveside service took place at Rochester Cemetery.

Family requests that any memorial for Wanda be sent direct to persons they know that have financial needs. Let the blessing of Wanda's passing be a blessing to someone. May each know the one that needs and be generous.

**Zaine Allan Johnson**  
Holloway Family



Zaine Allan Johnson, 22, of Austin, Texas, and Loxley, Alabama, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 14, 2023, in Austin. Visitation was held at Bethel Baptist Church on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, from 9 until 10 a.m. Zaine’s celebration of life service followed the visitation. Burial was in the Bethel Baptist Cemetery, Robertsdale, Alabama.

Zaine was born on Oct. 13, 2000, to Allan and Jody Johnson in Monroe, Louisiana, on Friday the

13th during a full moon. He was homeschooled and graduated through the BCHEA in 2019. He was very involved with Bethel Baptist Church and the BBC youth group growing up. Zaine played many years of baseball, travel baseball, football and some soccer. Even in his free time, he gathered friends and cousins to play some kind of ball game. He also loved playing disc golf, cornhole, etc. He was adventurous and loved exploring the outdoors. He recently bought a membership to the McKinney Falls State Park and was enjoying rock climbing, hiking and exploring. Zaine dreamed of a career as a gaming streamer and was just getting started. He moved to Austin, Texas, almost a year ago to pursue this dream because Austin is the gaming capital of the world. He had plans to move back home to Loxley at the end of the year.

Those who are left behind to cherish Zaine’s memories include his parents, Allan and Jody (Young) Johnson of Loxley; his two older siblings, Jurie Johnson of Loxley and Kipper Johnson Williams (Ray) of Foley, Alabama; and younger sibling, Cade Johnson of Loxley; his paternal grandparents, Howard and Kathleen Johnson of Calhoun, Louisiana; his maternal grandparents, Loren and Donna Young of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

.....  
**Robert L. Payne Jr.**  
Tescier Family



Robert was born Nov. 12, 1944, in Oklahoma City to Robert and Betty Payne of Fresno, California. He accepted the Lord’s invitation to join his heavenly family on Feb. 5, 2021, in Fresno.

In 1962, Robert’s father told him the family was moving to California, and Robert and his dad would be driving the family RV, a black 1937 Oldsmobile dual purpose hearse/

funeral car, to Bakersfield, California. On the way west, at daylight, his dad would tell him to take down the piece of carpet in the broken front passenger door window. Dad would say, “We look like the *Grapes of Wrath* settlers heading to the land of milk and honey!”

After graduating from high school in 1964, he decided to pursue a career in the petroleum distribution business and operated a fuel delivery tanker truck for Exxon and Shell oil and natural gas companies. In his successful almost 40-year career, he was proud that he drove over 2 million miles with no accidents, receiving safe driving awards from Bakersfield to the Los Angeles area gas stations. He retired in 2005 and moved to Fresno.

A proud Potawatomi, every year in June he would say, “It’s time to go back to Shawnee and dance with our people at the Family Reunion Festival.” In 2009, thanks to Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and some family members, they were able to get the new bridge built across the North Canadian River near Choctaw, Oklahoma, named after John Isadore Tescier, his great-grandfather. When it was dedicated, it was the only bridge in Oklahoma to honor a Citizen Potawatomi Nation descendant.

Robert was married twice and was blessed with four children and several grandchildren.



*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

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# HOWNIKAN

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