



# HOWNIIKAN

Kchemkogises | January 2020

Top photo: *Bbon* (winter) makes its appearance across CPN.

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## Citizen Potawatomi Nation gives back for the holidays

As the largest employer in Pottawatomie County, Citizen Potawatomi Nation recognizes the need to give back to the community during the holidays.

In November 2019, one of CPN's biggest community partners, the Salvation Army, awarded Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and the Tribe with the Doing the Most Good award. They presented it at the kickoff of the Christmas season's Angel Tree program for Pottawatomie, Lincoln and Seminole counties, hosted at CPN's First National Bank building in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

"Early on in my husband and I's arrival here in Shawnee, we realized that CPN played a crucial role in the ministry of the Salvation Army here in Shawnee, through your generosity, through your in-kind donations, through so many other ways that CPN blesses us," said Salvation Army Captain Stacey Connelly during her presentation. "I would hate to think of how we could remain open without CPN."

Enterprises, employees and several departments across the Tribe collect and supply food and gifts through other programs in addition to the Salvation Army every fall.

### Food

FireLake Discount Foods remains one of the Nation's most charitable enterprises. The staff and leadership work with numerous local organizations and donate to those otherwise unable to afford a holiday meal.

They have partnered closely with the Salvation Army throughout the last decade, offering storefront space to ring their signature bells as well as providing between 300 and 600 bags of holiday groceries each year during their drive.



The Salvation Army and Citizen Potawatomi Nation Vice-Chairman Linda Capps host the organization's annual Angel Tree program kickoff at the First National Bank.

"We've always had the phrase that we want to make a difference in our community, and this is really the main way we do that is by giving back," said FireLake Discount Foods Director Richard Driskell. "And a lot of times, it's not giving back in the form of donations. It's giving back in the form of our time."

The store encourages employees to volunteer with charities and community organizations, including CPN Workforce & Social Services. The department coordinates its own Thanksgiving and Christmas program that provides 200 food baskets to families in the area on both holidays. Intensive and Social Service Counselor Gina Bundy led the drive for the seventh year in 2019.

"Everybody that works here is so great because they support everything we do as far as community-wise goes. They

want us to help the community," she said. "They don't want us to stop with just one project. It's, 'Let's do this. Let's see how many people we can help.'"

Workforce collects donations largely from CPN employees, but community organizations and individuals provide groceries as well. Volunteers organize baskets with everything for a feast, including meat, potatoes, milk, butter and more.

Bundy feels a special connection to the project. About a decade ago, she received a basket before working at the Nation. Now, she enjoys giving back.

"I did really need some help. Single mom, kids at home. Holidays. You can do the math on that. You don't want to admit it. I was working three jobs," she said. "And then I end up coming to work here and find out what this is all about; I had no idea all this help was here."

### Presents

In addition to the Salvation Army Angel Tree, FireLodge Children & Family Services and FireLake Discount Foods sponsored similar programs — a way for children and elders with limited funds to receive Christmas gifts from those with the ability to give.

FireLodge connects CPN employees with wish lists for Potawatomi foster children in Oklahoma Department of Human Services or Tribal custody. This year's 30 kids named specific items and toys they wanted, and the department distributed the wrapped packages across the larger Oklahoma City metro area in time for Christmas.



Volunteers organize more than 200 Thanksgiving baskets as part of the CPN Workforce & Social Services' annual food donations.

Continued on page 5

# May selected to lead Indian Child Welfare department

Citizen Potawatomi Nation FireLodge Children & Family Services Director Ashlee May bases her career on servant leadership. She held several roles across the Nation, including positions at FireLake Discount Foods and House of Hope, before accepting her current role as director of CPN's Indian Child Welfare department.

"I've always known that I wanted to be a social worker, and I wanted to help families and children," May said. "Just having that knack and urge that God put me on this earth to be a social worker — I've never really wanted to be anything else."

May joined the CPN workforce as a 16-year-old at FireLake Discount Foods. After graduating high school, she accepted two Tribal internships within the domestic violence and ICW departments during college.

"I feel so privileged that I got to do both of those internships. A lot of fellow students didn't have that opportunity, especially that first one that I did in domestic violence," May said. "I really feel like it helped me be more definite in my decision and be able to say, 'Social work is for me.' I always lingered on that line of being a domestic violence worker and being in child welfare. Getting those two experiences before I was actually an employee somewhere allowed me to weigh my options."

May accepted a full-time position with the Nation as a domestic violence advocate in 2013. She served the House of Hope — CPN's domestic violence department — in several capacities until December 2018 when she transferred to ICW as an administrative officer.

"I still have a little bit of that advocacy side of me now, even as a child welfare worker, even though they're completely two different jobs. I am so grateful that I had those opportunities," she said.

Shortly after college, May worked for the State of Oklahoma, serving children and their families through the Department of Human Services. Although she enjoyed

the experience DHS provided, the large nature of the department and its service area makes May appreciative of the Nation's approach to assisting Native Americans in need. Having almost all facilities and Tribal departments within a small area shows CPN's dedication to aiding clients and helps remove some potential barriers to success.

"What we can offer Tribal members is amazing. Being able to do everything in-house here, that is a huge benefit," May said. "It can really help families if they take advantage of that, no matter if they are a victim of domestic violence or if they're having issues with child welfare — everything is really a one-stop-shop because we have behavioral health, we have workforce, the domestic violence program, the child welfare program and more."

The close-knit environment at CPN across all departments means May and her team can entrust clients will receive the highest level of care.

"We have to remember that most of the time, we're meeting these people on one of the worst days of their lives; whether they've been a victim of domestic violence or whether their children have been brought into care for some reason," May explained. "We have to treat that with sensitivity, and being able to say, 'I know this person will take care of you. Let me refer you to them,' is really nice for them to hear."

For some, sharing traumatic experiences and stories multiple times to multiple agencies causes extra stress. The robust resources CPN provides decreases that number while still offering individualized care.

"I've been with victims of domestic violence, and I've been with our children when they're going through these hard times, and just being able to help them not relive it, that's really nice to us," May said.

However, serving CPN members and children across the nation remains a key component of CPN's ICW department,



*Caring for CPN families and children inspires Ashlee May and her staff to go above and beyond their call to service.*

and May and her team strive to keep up-to-date on potential assistance wherever CPN members reside.

"We always try to find tribal resources that are close to them so that they can go and maybe get free health care or something that can help take that monetary burden off of them," she said.

The ICW department recently began sending CPN foster care children boxes filled with information on their Potawatomi heritage. The packets provide foster families the opportunity to teach CPN foster children about their culture with information on Tribal history, programming, language resources and more.

"It just allows them to feel like they matter," May explained. "They want to read about it, you know, because some of those out-of-state schools, they're not taught any Native American history. So they literally know nothing. We try to send them these boxes, and we've gotten amazing feedback."

#### Departmental achievements and goals

"I feel incredibly blessed and honored that administration and Janet Draper, the

previous ICW director, really allowed me to be such a huge part in rebuilding the ICW team," May said. "It gives me chills still to think about that. Being the director is actually my dream job, so being able to be a part of this and just see this department get to where it is today, sometimes all I can say is, 'Wow.'"

Since accepting the role, May has recruited employees with a vast array of skills and numerous years of on-the-job training.

"They all just bring this invaluable experience to the table that I think is so amazing," May said.

She strives to always be available to her staff, lending aid when and where needed while also continuing to represent CPN children in court, process casework, attend home visits and more.

"I never want to sit behind a desk all day, so I still try to be involved," May said.

In addition to her day-to-day work, May regularly reminds her employees of how important their work and efforts are to Potawatomi children and families.

"This is a really hard job — a very hard job. We are making decisions for other people — for other families, for our children," May said. "Sometimes it can be a very stressful situation, but I always tell them and I tell myself, 'We're doing the right thing, and that's all we can do.'"

While some days are difficult, helping improve family dynamics and providing oversight and care for CPN foster children nationwide inspires each ICW staff member.

"We want our clients to know that the Tribe is here for you," May said. "You're a member of this Tribe, and we care about you."

For more information about FireLodge Children & Family Services, call 405-878-4831 or visit [potawatomi.org/firelodge](http://potawatomi.org/firelodge). 🔥



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## New Lease Purchase Program prepares Potawatomi for home ownership

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department oversees a wide variety of responsibilities in its mission to provide Native Americans living in the Tribal jurisdiction with decent, safe and sanitary housing. Staff under Director Scott George operate low-income housing properties while also managing programs that provide either down payment or closing cost assistance for eligible members.

In that spirit, the CPN Housing Department recently rolled out a new home ownership program aimed at putting eligible Citizen Potawatomi on the path to owning a new home. This strict three-year leasehold with the option to purchase will get the applicant into a house sooner so they can experience all of the accompanying responsibilities.

“We want to prepare them for home ownership,” George said. “A lot of the members we work with can’t go from situations where they have poor credit or few monetary resources to putting money down on a new home. There needs to be some transition time and support, and this new Lease Purchase Program can assist with that.”

“We want to increase the applicant’s financial awareness and help families improve their chances of owning their own home,” he added.

The homes will be new construction and energy efficient, in hopes of lessening some of the cost burden for the eventual tenants. The first round of the program will produce five homes that are three bedroom models created by the Anishinabe Design firm out of Norman, Oklahoma.

George has more than two decades of experience working in tribal housing programs, witnessing the efficiency and inefficiencies of different housing programs over the years. One largely failed policy is providing housing for someone not prepared to financially and materially care for their home. CPN Housing Department Home Ownership Manager Sherry Byers worked closely with George and other staffers to craft a workable, useful program that adheres to federal and tribal housing requirements.

“This isn’t a fast track to buying a home or even a guarantee that once they’re enrolled, the applicant is going to own the home. But if they follow the program and work on their financial literacy and reducing their income-to-debt ratio, they will get to that home ownership goal faster than waiting for the chance to win the lottery,” Byers said.

The Lease Purchase Program’s design helps teach the skills of owning a new home by making the tenants meet a series of responsibilities over the course of the three-year agreement. Income proof and ongoing financial education courses are two main program requirements, while residents will largely be responsible for the day-to-day upkeep of their properties.

“If it’s a large scale fix, like plumbing, electrical, construction, the housing department can help,” George said. “But it’s good to have the residents understand they need to do their own maintenance, whether that’s changing air filters for HVAC or making small fixes like any other homeowner.”

### Eligibility

Program entrance will be determined by:

- Tribal citizenship
- Income eligibility
- Credit, bankruptcy and rental history
- Provable employment security

### Income and credit evaluation

CPN Housing Department will run a credit report to evaluate the applicant’s readiness to enter the program. The applicant will be informed of their immediate status and eligibility for the program.

### Life Cents

Life Cents is a personal financial education program designed to understand and improve the applicant’s financial health and well-being. Tribal housing will monitor the program and ensure the applicant completes the required components and are referred to a credit counselor. Failure to complete this program could result in removing the applicant from the waiting list.



### Waiting list

Once determined eligible and creditworthy, the applicant will be placed on a waiting list and assessed a point value based on several contributing factors:

- Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member
- Member of another federally-recognized tribe
- Highest-ranking credit score

### Client Action Plan

When determined program eligible, the applicant will enter into a Client Action Plan that outlines the applicant’s financial goals, identifies all debts and refers the applicant to a counselor who will assist them to create a debt reduction plan and provide financial counseling.

### Financial counselling

After the evaluation period and within the Life Cents financial education program, the applicant will receive a prompt to contact a credit counselor with the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation who will assist the applicant with a plan to map out how the applicant will reduce their debt load and increase their credit score.

### Credit repair and monitoring

Throughout this process, the applicant will be repairing their credit by making the necessary life adjustments they need to pay down their debts

to a manageable amount while doing their best not to incur any additional debt. The applicant will be in contact with the credit counselor and CPN Housing Department office to report their progress.

### Lease purchase occupancy agreement

When the applicant is well on their way to achieving their financial goals and the eventuality of creditworthiness is within a few years of fulfillment, the applicant may qualify for CPN’s Leasehold Mortgage Program. This may be possible before the original calendar is set if they are within the three years of qualifying for a loan and a home is available for purchase.

### Homebuyers’ education

After an applicant enters into the Lease Purchase Agreement with the housing department and is closer to their goals of becoming creditworthy, the applicant will enroll in a homebuyer’s education class.

### Conventional loan

At any time during this program, the applicant has the option to apply and obtain a loan. Should all the factors align that would qualify the applicant for a mortgage, the applicant may skip through the process.

To learn more, contact the CPN Housing Department at 800-880-9880 or visit [cpn.news/housing](http://cpn.news/housing).

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# Stitches through time

Once a month, Higbee family members gather at a Citizen Potawatomi Nation-owned restaurant to discuss their heritage, Potawatomi culture and build camaraderie.

“We call the group ‘the cousins’ because we’re all cousins,” said the head of the Higbee family, John Dragoo.

After the October 2019 Higbee cousins meeting, they gathered at the Cultural Heritage Center where Dragoo unveiled a quilt handed down through the family for decades that features an in-depth Higbee family tree.

“We have a history of togetherness with the Tribe through common culture and history, and I don’t mind reliving it and restoring it and taking care of it,” Dragoo said.

Although the Higbees once met around the Noble, Oklahoma, area for family reunions, it has become harder over the years to organize annual gatherings. After receiving the title as head of the Higbees, Dragoo began looking for ways to get everyone together on a regular basis. Since several Higbees reside in the Tribe’s Father Joe Murphey housing, meeting near CPN headquarters makes it easier for elders to participate.

“It’s something that we’ve enjoyed a great deal. And for me, it just put me on a course of learning, or trying to learn, more about our family history,” he added.



*Decades after its creation, the Higbee quilt offers a unique look into the family’s past.*

## Patching history

CPN member Gladys Moeller’s lifetime of research helped the Higbees develop their family tree, which Elwanda Higbee Moyer used to create the quilt more than 40 years ago.

“They worked on it several years at family reunions when we were holding them down at Purcell Lake,” Dragoo explained. “There’s a community building down there that we had a lot of family reunions. Elwanda would come down, and they would work on

it with new people as they came in and tried to fill in and update what they had. That was back in the mid-‘70s.”

To raise funds for get-togethers, the Higbees auctioned the quilt and other hand-crafted items every year. Organizing the annual family reunion became too difficult, and the quilt’s whereabouts were unknown until recently. Today, they are able to use it as a reference once again.

“Seeing a physical piece of my family history was absolutely breathtaking,” said Ragan Marsee, Higbee descendant and

CPN language aid. “I was able to point out my father and many other relatives on the quilt. That was so powerful to me.”

The quilt also serves as a reflection of the Higbee’s dedication to maintaining relationships with one another.

“As for my family and I, we have always been very close. I actually live on a farm with a large majority of my family, all of them Higbees as well,” Marsee explained. “We all bring different talents and blessings to each other, and every day I am reminded of how proud I am to be a Higbee.”

## Festival 2020

The Higbees will display the quilt during Family Reunion Festival 2020. As an honored family, they will also have a meeting during Festival to build connections and fellowship.

“We plan to show the quilt as well as some of the other things that we’ve been working on. The family bought me a new walking stick, and we’ve got several family members that are working on shawls and different things,” Dragoo said. “We want to see what people have done.”

Organizers plan to post specifics on the Higbee meeting during Festival to their family Facebook group at [cpn.news/higbee](https://www.facebook.com/cpn.news/higbee). For more information on Family Reunion Festival 2020, visit [cpn.news/festival](https://cpn.news/festival). ♡

# High schooler gains courtroom experience at Harvard

In mid-November, Peltier descendant Tyler Brassfield attended the Harvard Mock Trial High School Seminar Program in Massachusetts. Mock trial is one of his favorites of the many clubs and organizations he participates in at Ada High School in Oklahoma.

“It’s definitely not an easy task going in and arguing a side of a case and proving what exactly you’d like to do,” he said. “And it’s also the procedure. A courtroom is very formal, and learning how to navigate it is not the easiest thing.”

One of less than 20 students from his school attending, Brassfield received a scholarship from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education to help with the registration and travel costs. His parents, in particular, appreciated the support.

“They were really, really excited that I had the opportunity to go there because they know I’m really passionate about mock trial and law,” Brassfield said. “So, I think they’re more excited almost than me that I get to go.”

He began mock trial as a freshman, which uncovered his niche in roles as both prosecutor and defense attorney.

“I’ve always had like an attraction to proving the rights out of a case, doing things like that, and thinking quickly on my feet in a courtroom,” Brassfield said.

He also enjoys environmental science, which he picked up last year while

taking an Advanced Placement course on the subject. He now believes in the importance of studying and understanding the rampant changes in the earth’s atmosphere and ecology over the last 200 years. Brassfield plans to become an environmental lawyer.

“I am super passionate about protecting the environment and also learning how the environment changes and evolves over time,” he said. “But on the law side of it, I’d like to do my best to prevent the deterioration, obviously, of our planet and the climate changing. ... I’d like to figure out how to live without purging on (animals’) environment and degrading their life.”

He hopes to complete his bachelor’s degree in environmental science at the University of Oklahoma and continue into law school. Part of mock trial’s appeal comes from presenting the facts in front of practicing attorneys and judges.

“They give us a lot of tips on how to actually prepare the case and build and make arguments,” Brassfield said. “So, I believe it has helped me get an extra step on where I would be by the time I got to college and law school.”

One of his main career goals revolves around using that practice to change others’ mindsets about their impact on the environment, including companies, organizations and individuals.

“I really just like finding out whether in proving my side, the defendant



*Tribal member Tyler Brassfield (bottom, far right) and his classmates explore the greater Boston area to practice their skills in the courtroom and see history.*

or whoever committed a crime, just making sure that they understand the consequences. ... I want to try to make the most difference I can,” Brassfield said.

The trip included the chance to explore the East Coast and visit new places, such as Salem, Massachusetts, where the Salem Witch Trials took place — combining law and history.

“Getting to see historical sites that I’ve gotten to learn about over my high

school career, like *The Crucible*, it’s really just like a cultural shock,” Brassfield said.

As part of the first mock trial class from Ada making the trip to Harvard, he thanks CPN for the opportunity to attend. For more information on the CPN Department of Education, visit [cpn.news/education](https://cpn.news/education). ♡

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## Foster Feet helps others walk easier

Children in the foster care system often arrive at their new foster home with everything they own in one trash bag, usually just a few pieces of clothing. During the winter, they sometimes receive donated coats, but shoes are often not as easily secured. As children outgrow them at an extremely rapid pace, many foster children only own shoes too small for them.

Tribal member and Oklahoma State University student Lauren Anderson took matters into her own hands to help others in worn out or ill-fitting shoes and started the nonprofit Foster Feet. Anderson's maternal grandmother and Tribal member donated the first pair of shoes to Foster Feet. Based out of Enid, Oklahoma, the organization collects and distributes new pairs of shoes to children across Garfield County

Foster Feet gained nonprofit status in 2015 when she was a high school sophomore at Oklahoma Bible Academy. To date, the institution has handed out more than 3,000 pairs of shoes and has grown from serving kids in the foster system to anyone in need, mostly through its annual back-to-school shoe drive.

"It's really crazy," Anderson said. "I forget sometimes that Foster Feet has not been around very long. The organization has been such a huge part of my life."

The Ford family descendant serves as the founder and president of the organization. When she started college, others throughout her community became board members and volunteered to fill requests and plan events.

"I feel really humbled by being able to say that I started this, but it is honestly not just my work," she said. "It's the board members and the community that really took it on, and I myself could not do it alone."

Foster Feet receives requests every week via social media or email.

### Pink boots

At the end of Anderson's freshman year in high school, one of her teachers became a foster parent. Anderson met the 5-year-old girl, who arrived at her new foster home with few possessions and only one pair of shoes.

"What surprised me most was that she wore these bright pink, nice pair of boots, but they were two sizes too small. I believe it was June, and they were thick winter boots," Anderson said.

"(My teacher) told me the story about how she took her foster child to Payless (ShoeSource), and she told her she

could pick out any shoes she wanted. She picked out these light-up tennis shoes and just spent an hour running around the store because she was so excited to have a pair of her own."

Anderson wondered if this commonly occurred among foster kids, and she visited the Oklahoma Department of Human Services office of Garfield County to find out. She quickly noticed a shortage of shoes and clothing.

"There's really no inventory for when a kid comes into the system for them to be able to have their own bag of items," Anderson said. "They showed me their storage, and there was probably about four or five pairs of shoes for 250 children in the foster care system for Garfield County."

That Christmas, Anderson organized a shoe drive as a competition at school for grades six through 12. Each grade brought different sizes, and the administration bought an off-campus meal for the middle school and the high school class that collected the most. The students donated around 250 pairs — one for every child in the foster system.



*An event hall filled with over 1,000 pairs of shoes empties out during Foster Feet's back-to-school drive.*

"After that, churches started contacting me, asking if they could do a similar Christmas project for Foster Feet. Ever since, it's really just become something that the whole community has grabbed a hold of and supported," Anderson said.

She did not anticipate the program's expansion.

"I definitely did not think that in my junior year of college I would still be doing Foster Feet. I thought, maybe one Christmas project, and then that's it," she said. "And here I am, but it's really amazing that Foster Feet has grown so much."

### Grandmother's love

Anderson's grandparents are proud of Lauren and her compassion

FireLake Discount Foods provided space for an Elders Elves tree and collection site as well. FDF Cash Office Manager Melanie Wren worked with the organization to include more than 300 names and wish lists from elders in central Oklahoma. This is FDF's fourth year participating.

"I'm very excited about getting to help with dispersal this year, especially incorporating the CPN elders," Wren said. "Getting to give back to them, because they let us do this in the first place; they let us go with this idea, and it keeps getting bigger."

to help others. They enjoy seeing Foster Feet grow into a community effort and are proud of their granddaughter for taking on such a large project at such a young age.

Her paternal grandmother passed away at the end of 2016.

"She really had a heart for service and encouraged me to make Foster Feet what it is today," Anderson said. "She was one of my biggest supporters throughout it all, and everywhere she went, she would tell her friends all about it."

Instead of flowers at her funeral, Anderson's grandfather asked for donations to Foster Feet, which expanded its stock. Their church, Central Christian Church, donated space for the charity's inventory and now serves as its home base. It runs the annual back-to-school drive each August.

"We get to honor my grandmother in this way and watch Foster Feet grow," Anderson said. "Honestly, good comes from something bad, like when you lose a loved one; but something like this that



*Foster Feet Founder and President Lauren Anderson works alongside family and friends to provide new shoes for children across Garfield County.*

to happen, it has to be you.' I think that's probably given me the most confidence to go on," Anderson said.

### Full circle

Word of mouth remains the most impactful way people learn about the organization, either to reach out for help or to donate. Besides the church, school counselors let others know about its services the most.

"They can refer students to us that may only have flip-flops, preventing them from participating in P.E. So, we are able to provide them with some tennis shoes so that they can participate in P.E. with their classmates," Anderson said.

During the most recent back-to-school drive in August 2019, Foster Feet distributed its entire stock to children in the Enid area, approximately 960 pairs of shoes.

"I think it really shows that people want to help, and they want to care about other people," she said. "It has really been inspiring to me to see how many people want to give their time, make a donation, or volunteer."

The same month as the back-to-school event, Anderson's efforts came full circle. She received a photo of the foster child who sparked the idea, showing off her new pair of pink boots that fit.

"Stories like this foster child, who is now adopted, are very meaningful because I know that kids who need shoes can get them, and it is impacting someone's life," she said. "It's not just a shoe closet. It really is something that is much, much more."

Visit Foster Feet on Facebook at [cpn.news/fosterfeet](https://www.facebook.com/cpn.news/fosterfeet) for more information. ♡

### Holiday giving continued...

Foster care and adoption manager Kendra Lowden says the gifts show those in the system the Tribe cares and remembers them. It also supports foster families who took the children into their homes.

"Plus, it's fun," she said. "It's fun to see them open gifts and see them smile and be happy because all the kids we work with have been through traumatic situations. So, to see them be able to just be a kid and be in that moment, it's really rewarding for us."

Elder Elves sends the presents to those in retirement homes and care facilities across the greater Oklahoma City metro. Many of the participants ask for basic, household goods such as laundry detergent, socks, deodorant, stamps, sandwich bags and more.

"Just everyday necessities that we take for granted — that's what they're needing. And that's all they ask for at Christmas," Wren said.

Many customers and employees come into the store and grab a cart as soon as the tree goes up. They shop immediately and quickly fill the boxes in the lobby.

"There's absolutely no stopping us when it comes to who we're going to help. It doesn't matter who you are," Workforce's Bundy said. "Nobody is going to say, 'Oh, we can't help you because of whatever reason.' It's, 'Yeah, we're going to help you because you need it.' It's that simple."

Visit FireLake Discount Foods online at [firelakefoods.com](https://www.firelakefoods.com) and on Facebook at FireLake Discount Foods. Find more information about Workforce Development & Social Services' programs at [cpn.news/workforce](https://cpn.news/workforce) and FireLodge Children & Family Services at [potawatomi.org/firelodge](https://potawatomi.org/firelodge). ♡

# Thyroid: the body's activation center

By Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton

Like many Natives, Kristie White has an endocrine system that is not quite firing on all cylinders.

Spoiler alert: her pancreas is fine.

A Choctaw and Comanche resident of Ponca City, Oklahoma, White started noticing an internal shaking feeling, coupled with an almost non-existent libido and her heart constantly pounding. As a new single mother working full time, she initially chalked it up to the stresses associated with parenthood.

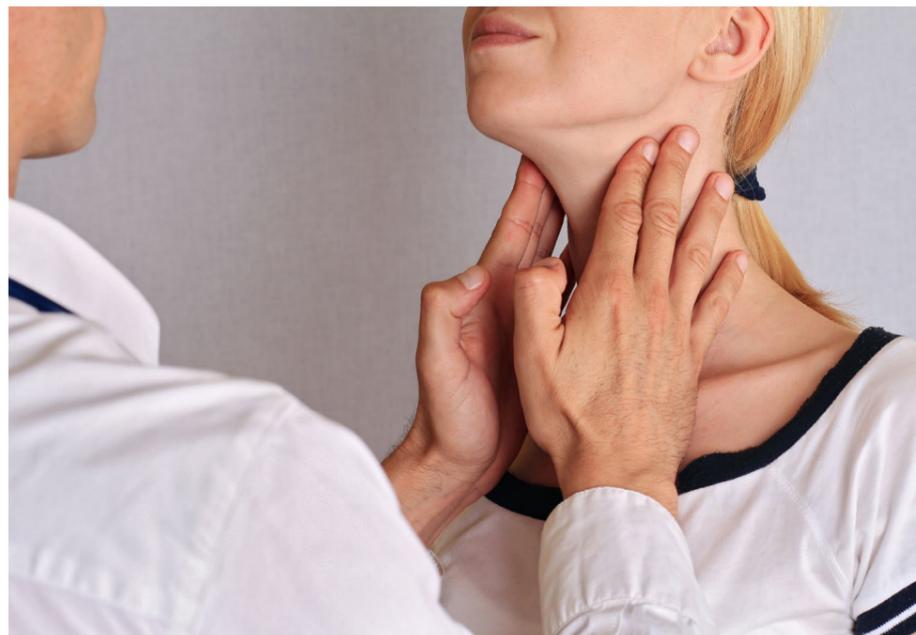
Originally screened for panic attacks and depression, White received her underactive thyroid diagnosis in March 2013.

The thyroid is a brownish-red, butterfly-shaped gland found below the Adam's apple in the front of the throat. It produces multiple hormones that act throughout the body, influencing growth, development, metabolism and the ability to regulate temperature.

With many of the symptoms of improper thyroid function mimicking those of other conditions, blood tests are needed to confirm whether the body is producing the right amount of T3, T4 or thyroid stimulating hormone, also known as TSH.

Dr. James Choe is an endocrinologist based out of Del City. A graduate of Yale and the University of Oklahoma, he regularly receives contract health referrals from Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services.

"The thyroid impacts the body the way caffeine does," he said. "Having one cup of coffee is like having a regularly working thyroid. Drinking a full pot of



coffee is like having hyperthyroidism, and going through caffeine withdrawal is like having hypothyroidism."

Hyperthyroidism results in an overactive thyroid producing excess hormones. Frequent symptoms include nervousness, irritability, increased sweating, heart racing, hand tremors, anxiety, difficulty sleeping and weight loss due to an accelerated metabolism.

The most common form is Graves' disease, an autoimmune disorder when naturally occurring antibodies bind to receptors on the thyroid's surface and force it into hormone production overdrive. If left untreated, it can cause pregnancy issues among women, osteoporosis or heart disorders. According to the U.S. National Institutes of Health, an estimated 1 in 200 people across the United States have Graves' disease.

Although the condition can run in families, Graves' disease can be further

exacerbated by regular commercial tobacco use due to its negative impact on the immune system.

"The biggest thing someone can do to help themselves if diagnosed with Graves' disease is to stop smoking or just not start altogether," Dr. Choe said.

Conversely, hypothyroidism is when the thyroid does not produce enough hormones, slowing down the body's processes. That leads to some of the more common symptoms, including weight gain due to a sluggish metabolism, fatigue, memory issues and depression.

An estimated 4.6 percent of Americans age 12 and older have hypothyroidism. It is more common in women, especially those 60 and older. The wide range of causes includes family history, autoimmune disease, radiation treatments for other conditions, or at least outside of the United States, having consistently inappropriate iodine levels.

Statistical data on the incidence of hypothyroidism among American Indians is scant. However, diabetes and autoimmune diseases, which disproportionately impact Indigenous communities, are risk factors for developing hypothyroidism. Additionally, if left unchecked, hypothyroidism can increase the risk of developing diabetes.

With a family history of thyroid cancer, White was specifically diagnosed with Hashimoto's disease. A form of hypothyroidism, Hashimoto's is an autoimmune condition where the thyroid is chronically inflamed, thus impairing its ability to produce hormones and a decline in overall functions.

There is not a cure for hyperthyroidism, but it can be treated with daily medication. However, as Dr. Choe noted, it needs to be taken by itself at the same time every day in order to be truly effective.

"That medication is very sensitive to trace minerals in other pills or in food," he said.

Meanwhile, White is keeping close tabs on not only her thyroid health but that of her children as well. After an extended period of taking Synthroid, or levothyroxine, with other pills, she regularly takes her medication by itself in the morning. She has also joined a gym in an effort to lose the weight put on while her metabolism was off-kilter, but it has been slow going.

"I have to force myself to take my medication daily," she said. "I discovered I was taking my medication wrong. After separating it out and making sure I don't eat for at least 30 minutes, it has helped my energy levels." ♡

# Online Potawatomi language courses: the thread that holds us together

By Marisa Mohi

*The following is part of a series by CPN tribal member Marisa Mohi who is learning about the various ways Citizen Potawatomi can learn and connect with the Nation.*

As an adult, it's hard to imagine not being able to communicate. I can read. I can write. I can speak a language that those around me speak. This language is the key to my understanding of the world around me, and this language fundamentally informs my understanding of western culture.

But a problem I often run into when it comes to researching my heritage is that there's a linguistic disconnect.

I'm sure this is something that a lot of Citizen Potawatomi feel. The language isn't something that a lot of us hear each day, and for many, we've only ever read some of the words in the *Hownikan* but aren't sure of pronunciations. Distance from the Cultural Heritage Center can seem like an immense barrier that prevents access to Tribal knowledge and heritage.

But that doesn't have to be the case.

The online dictionary, at [potawatomidictionary.com](http://potawatomidictionary.com), is a great place to start learning more about the Potawatomi language. There is a word of the day on the front page, and users can peruse the dictionary in either Potawatomi or English, translating between the two. And the best part? There are audio recordings of the pronunciations of the Potawatomi words so you can actually hear the correct way to say it.

But, as a writer, I believe language is nothing without story, and luckily, there is a link to cultural teachings on [potawatomi.org/language](http://potawatomi.org/language). There are videos about Potawatomi folklore, traditional stories, learning how to bead, Potawatomi cosmology and so much more.

Justin Neely is the director of language with the Tribe. According to Neely, things like stories, song, dance and recipes make us Potawatomi, "but the language is the thread which holds it all together."

For me, creating the connection is all about becoming the next generation of ancestors. I want to be able to research more effectively, and this



Photo by Kathryn Trattner

can mean following the genealogical lines and understanding the different names of the people that came before me. It also means learning the stories and how to tell them.

But language can also be a tool for determining tribal sovereignty. One of the questions that the federal government used to determine whether a tribe should be recognized was if the tribe had a unique, spoken language. Neely said, "In some ways, our very sovereignty as a nation is dependent on us having a language."

It can be hard to create a cultural connection with your heritage when you don't feel like you have access to it. Traditions are shaped by the way stories are told, and being able to use the language to tell those stories is key.

To Neely, "The language is like a window into the past. It shows what was important to our ancestors, shows our values and beliefs today, and it shows what will be important to us as Potawatomi people in the future."

*Marisa Mohi is a member of the Nadeau family and is a writer and writing instructor at the University of Oklahoma. You can follow her on Facebook or Twitter @themarisamohi. Her writing can be found at [marisamohi.com](http://marisamohi.com). ♡*

# Videographer Jonathan LeClair recognized for work with Choctaw Nation

Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Jonathan LeClair won two Native American Journalists Association awards for his work as a multimedia content producer at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The Mann family descendant received two television category awards — second place in best feature story for *Why We Ride* and third place in general excellence for *Code Talkers*.

“It was a great honor by such a prestigious and unique organization; and it makes me proud not only as a Tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation but as an associate of the Choctaw Nation to continue to share those bits of culture and history and tell those stories,” LeClair said.

*Why We Ride* documents the Choctaw Bike Team as they follow the Trail of Tears from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Durant, Oklahoma — more than 600 miles over one week. The group took off between 4 and 5 a.m. every morning, covering between 50 and 100 miles a day. LeClair enjoys a challenge, a fast pace and has a keen ability to keep up with consistent changes.

“It was an experience of retracing their path and seeing them revisit their families’ journeys, and everything was really inspiring; one of the quotes in the video is, ‘It’s only one thing to hear stories. It’s another thing to go out there and walk the same trail, to see the same trees, to breathe the same air,’” he said.



CPN member Jonathan LeClair tells stories of the Choctaw Nation as a multimedia content producer for the tribe. (Photo by Deidre Elrod)

*Code Talkers* highlights the history of the Choctaw code talkers who served as special communications units during World War I. They used the Choctaw language to send and receive battlefield messages that the opposing forces never deciphered. LeClair used his animation and graphic design skills from previous jobs to highlight photos and other documentation of WWI to tell the code talkers’ story.

“With every project I take on, it’s an opportunity to do something better. Anybody can just cut, edit, make a video,”

he said. “You got to do something to make it special, and that is challenging yourself in order to grow. And that was definitely the case with these two videos.”

LeClair began working for the Choctaw Nation in December 2016. While producing media and interviewing others, he learns about the tribe’s culture as well as witnesses its strengths and growth.

“It feels good to be in such a unique place that values faith, family and culture,” LeClair said. “I don’t think you can get that at any corporate-type environment.”

His work at the Choctaw Nation matches his interests; short-form storytelling captures his love of quick turnarounds and making a polished product from a mostly unstructured environment. It also reminds LeClair of his grandfather.

“He would always have fish tales. ... He was never a stranger. He knew everybody in his small town. And he always had a good story to share with me and my family,” LeClair said. “And that’s what kind of inspired me to kind of go out and make my own stories.”

LeClair learned about multimedia production and the rest of his skills with on-the-job training and no formal education. After nearly eight years in the industry, he knows he made the correct career choice. Receiving his first national award makes his family proud.

“From my very humble beginnings and a lot of hard work, I feel proud to be working for a tribal government and giving back to my own heritage in some way by the stories that I share,” LeClair said. “And to be recognized by NAJA just confirms that I’m doing the right thing. I’m in the right place. And I’m with the right people.”

Watch *Why We Ride* at [cpn.news/whyweride](http://cpn.news/whyweride) and *Code Talkers* at [cpn.news/codetalkers](http://cpn.news/codetalkers). ♡

## Language update

**By Justin Neely, Director of the CPN Language Department**

It has been a busy busy season for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Language Department. Our new online dictionary, at [potawatomidictionary.com](http://potawatomidictionary.com), has been getting over 100 unique views daily. The dictionary is downloadable in the Google App store. We are also working on developing a PDF downloadable version.

We recently started a Potawatomi Youth Choir. We have currently about 12 kids participating. They have been learning different Christmas songs in the language. They have been working on *Silver Bells*, *Frosty the Snowman*, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* and *Let It Snow*. We shared some of the songs on our Potawatomi Language Facebook group around Christmas. By the time this comes out, the kids will have performed at the Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner, the Oklahoma Indian Education Conference hosted at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort as well as Christmas caroling with our adult language class at elders housing and Citizen Place North. As part of our caroling, we also collected canned goods to be added to the Tribe’s annual Christmas boxes for those less fortunate. Later in the year, we are going to teach the kids different traditional songs and modern hits in Potawatomi. If you are interested in

getting your child involved, it’s never too late. We also plan on taking them to the Oklahoma Native American Language Fair at the University of Oklahoma in April.

We just wrapped up a three month Potawatomi Beginner Class. We had a great turnout, topping out at about 30 folks. We will try and offer our next beginner class on-site at the Cultural Heritage Center around March. This February, we will be hosting our annual Winter Storytelling event where we share several stories that we can only tell in the wintertime. We haven’t picked a date but are leaning toward Feb. 24 or 25. Watch the CPN Facebook page and event calendar at [potawatomi.org/events](http://potawatomi.org/events) for the event announcement.

The children in the Child Development Center did an excellent job with their Christmas program. The 3-year-olds sang *Frosty the Snowman*, the 4-year-olds sang *Silver Bells*, the afterschool participants sang *Let it Snow*, and for the first time, the 2-year-olds sang *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

Another exciting project we wrapped up was *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* in Potawatomi. The movie is in public domain, so we were able to put the entire 50 minute movie into Potawatomi. View it on our Facebook page: [cpn.news/langfb](http://cpn.news/langfb).

The language department also participated in the Angel Tree event at First National Bank, singing several Christmas songs with *Dewegen Kwek*, the Potawatomi ladies hand drum group.

Our men’s drum group — *Sengo Zibiwes* — made our first public performance, drumming the *Flag Song* and *Veteran’s Song* to lead our veterans in for posting the colors. This was a very historic and awesome moment. We have been working hard on a number of songs and hope to be able to do some at this upcoming Family Reunion Festival. If you are interested in drumming, we have been working on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. at the CHC.

The Shawnee Board of Education approved the offering of our Potawatomi language high school course in the Shawnee school district. It is currently available in Wanette and Tecumseh, and we have had interest from Maud as well as the University of Oklahoma. If we can get it offered at OU, it would give us a new collegiate partner since the closing of St. Gregory’s University. We currently have the ability to offer the course anywhere in Oklahoma. It will count toward a world language credit, which is needed for graduation. So, if your child would like to see it offered

in their high school, let your school administration know it’s available, and there is no cost to the district.

We have a number of projects we are currently working on, including some books in Potawatomi and English, the transcription and analysis of Joseph N. Bourassa’s medicinal journal as a cooperative effort with Kaya DeerInWater, and then with the assistance for a museum exhibit with the Tribal archive department and Blake Norton. Our dictionary is growing daily in the number of audio files, example sentences, cultural information, images, and words themselves. When we first launched it, we had about 8,400 words. It has grown to more than 9,000 and changes weekly.

I just want to acknowledge and say *migwetch* (thank you) to my awesome staff who makes our many projects possible. Robert Collins (Delonais family), Shelby Hobia (Curley family), Ragan Marsee (Higbee family), and Michael Kelehar, our awesome part-time video guy.

Look for our upcoming Winter Storytelling event in February; it’s always a good time had by all.

*Migwetch jayék*  
(Thanks everyone) ♡

**Get the *Hownikan* via email!**

If you would like your newspaper via email, please send your name and address to [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org) and let us know.

# Women build community through drumming

When people think of Native American drumming, a picture of men sitting around a large drum 2 to 3 feet in diameter often comes to mind. Tradition allows only men to play these drums, whether it's at a powwow, ceremony or social gathering. However, tradition encourages women to play smaller hand drums, roughly a foot in diameter or less, either on their own or with the men. Every week, several Citizen Potawatomi Nation women gather to practice.

*Nishnabé* people considered drumming the heartbeat of *Segmekwé*, or Mother Earth. As one of the founders of the Tribal women's drum group, *De'wegen Kwek*, Jayne Fleischfresser senses that connection through the music and language.

"When you're drumming, you can feel that heartbeat. And it just kind of — I don't know if transcend would be the right word — but it just puts you in a good state," she said.

Nearly a decade ago, the group started as a talking circle, a safe space where participants speak for themselves, uninterrupted as turns move clockwise from person to person. Some of the members felt hesitant about speaking the language and learning traditional songs when they decided to add another activity to their time.

"It was kind of a little intimidating because it's stuff you don't know about, and then you're not sure about pronouncing some of the words. But then just over time, we got past that," Fleischfresser said. "But my sister Czarina, she'll find songs for us to do, and then we'll work on them for a while until we get them down. And then if we're lucky enough to perform them, then we'll perform them."

During a recent practice, the members ranged from founders like Fleischfresser to those who started drumming less than two weeks before. Tribal member Pam Vrooman already felt a sense of community despite it being her second practice.



*The women of De'wegen Kwek meet weekly and talk about their lives while practicing both ceremonial and social songs.*

"Women are very connected, and I think we bring that connection into the drumming. It's a different sort of drumming than the men do," she said. "And I like the fellowship; I like the learning. There are stories swapped, and little nuances of things that you didn't know before that you are suddenly a part of. And that's a pretty incredible feeling."

Donna Bernard began attending practice five years ago after she happened to see a Facebook post about it. She thinks *De'wegen Kwek's* existence makes it unique.

"There are a lot of tribes that don't have a women's drum group, and if you go to any powwows or events, a lot of times you'll see the big drum, and you don't always know that there might be some drummers that drum on the small drums," Bernard said. "I can tell that all the people in our group really enjoy what they're doing, and it gives us a real sense of pride in our Potawatomi heritage."

As the women sat in a circle at practice, they talked about their drums and rattles.

Many of the women made their own as they became more comfortable playing.

Bernard creates one-of-a-kind drums at different events such as the annual Potawatomi Gathering, including one with a turtle. Native Americans often refer to North America as Turtle Island, named so in the *Nishnabé* people's flood story. Above the picture, she painted "*Bodewadmi*," the traditional spelling of Potawatomi.

"I have three (hand drums) now. Since I am an artist, I enjoy painting them also," Bernard said. "So, we decorate them with Native designs. I painted two with eagles on them, more of a silhouette. And then I painted some feathers on a couple more."

#### Music with others

Over the years, many institutions and organizations have asked *De'wegen Kwek* to perform at functions and ceremonies. That includes the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Tulsa and several educational facilities. However, Fleischfresser holds time with the CPN Veterans Organization in particular close to her heart.

"When the veterans do their Christmas party, they always ask us to sing. And now, we feel like a part of their family," she said. "And they'll feed us and they include us and everything. Very honored to be a part of that."

The women play both social and ceremonial songs at events, whichever is appropriate. As a new member, Vrooman already looks forward to passing on what she learns at practice.

"The other day, I was sitting in a restaurant with my granddaughter who's 4. And I've been playing a lot of the drum songs in my car as we travel and exposing them to her. And she was singing the *Humble Song*. And I loved that, it just did crazy things to my heart," Vrooman said. "I love the idea that that's going to be part of who she is growing up."

Fleischfresser learned about Potawatomi culture as an adult. However, she wishes she could have been connected during her youth. She appreciates the bond the women have now and said they laugh and cry together.

"We're just like a little family. And sometimes we don't always see each other but once a week. So, we'll practice, but a lot of times, sometimes we'll see what everybody's been up to for the week and then get caught up on that," she said. "We take ourselves serious, but no so serious that we can't have a good time."

Bernard finds practice fun as well. She describes herself as "not a musician" but continues playing. She doesn't think apprehensions should stop anyone else either.

"It's not so difficult that you can't learn a song in even the first session. Try it out, and you'll probably like it," she said.

*De'wegen Kwek* meets Thursdays at 5 p.m. at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center. They invite anyone who wishes to drum or sit in on a session to attend. Extra drums and rattles are available to borrow for practice. ♡

## Citizen Potawatomi Nation member John V. Anderson recognized by Oklahoma Bankers Hall of Fame

The Oklahoma Bankers Hall of Fame inducted its 2019 class — its second ever — on Dec. 5, 2019, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. John V. Anderson, with F&M Bank; the late Clark and Wanda Bass, with First National Bank & Trust Co., in McAlester; Oklahoma State Banking Commissioner Mick Thompson; and the late Morrison Tucker, a longtime prominent Oklahoma City-area banker, made up the 2019 inaugural group.

One 2019 inductee, John V. Anderson, is a Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member.

He has been chairman emeritus and a director at F&M bank in central Oklahoma since 2011, and has served in various capacities with the financial institution since purchasing it in 1972.

Born in 1927, Anderson grew up during the Great Depression. After graduating from Choctaw High School in 1945, he enlisted and served in



*John Anderson*

the U.S. Navy for a year at 17 years old. His father signed the papers that allowed him to enlist. He served as a seaman on the USS Siboney from June 1945 until August 1946.

Upon his return, he attended night school at Oklahoma City University and began working at Liberty National Bank & Trust in Oklahoma City as a messenger and bookkeeper.

He worked with Liberty in various roles for the next 26 years. After a position in the teller line, he spent 16 years in auditing and became assistant vice president in 1969 followed by senior vice president in charge of Liberty Operations by 1973. During his time there, fellow inductee Morrison Tucker became a valued mentor.

He eventually purchased what was then Farmers & Merchants bank in Crescent in 1972, not taking over as president and CEO until 1980 in order for the bank to retain his salary. Anderson instead worked in leadership positions at other banks in the larger Oklahoma City metro.

Besides Liberty National Bank and F&M Bank, he has also served as the organizer, president and CEO of American Heritage

Bank in El Reno as well as senior vice president and president of United Bank Advisory Services for United Oklahoma Bank in Oklahoma City.

Under his leadership, F&M Bank grew from \$5 million in assets in one location to \$480 million and nine locations in nearly five decades. He continues to work at the main location in Crescent, Oklahoma, as chairman, emeritus and director of F&M Bancshares.

He served on numerous banking, administrative and philanthropic boards during his career, including the Oklahoma Bankers Association's board of directors in 1981-82 and a term as president of the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the Bank Administration Institution. Anderson is also a deacon at First Baptist Church in Crescent.

In 2017, he received recognition for his service during WWII as the honored veteran at the Family Reunion Festival. He is a member of the Anderson family. ♡

# Citizen Potawatomi Nation completes two bridge rehabilitation projects

Tribal officials and employees gathered at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort to open a new steel truss bridge at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Vice-Chairman Linda Capps was joined by Tribal Legislator David Barrett and employees from the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort, Grand Travel Plaza, housekeeping, cement batch plant, and roads and construction departments.

The opening completed a huge infrastructure undertaking for the Nation, which stemmed from the 2019 spring storm season that saw record rainfall in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Climatological Survey noted, "Tornadoes and flooding battled it out for Oklahoma's top weather headline during May 2019, with both combatants bringing mayhem and misery to the state."

Pottawatomie County had its share of such weather; Governor Kevin Stitt declared all of the state's 77 counties in a state of emergency at some point during the month. At CPN, the impact was most evident along the waterways that border and bisect Tribal jurisdiction.

Deer Creek, which drains from Wes Watkins Reservoir located west of McLoud, runs by the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort complex. The creek borders the Grand's north parking and hems in the Travel Plaza, but the swollen reservoir resulted in high, swift moving water downstream, which washed out the existing low-water crossing behind some of the Nation's most frequented enterprises.

Tribal Environmental and Roads Department Director Art Muller received



Citizen Potawatomi Nation Vice Chairman Linda Capps, other tribal officials and employees cut the ribbon on the new Grand Casino Hotel Resort and Grand Travel Plaza bridge.

a call about the washout, and he sought a quick solution to reopen the creek crossing before the end of the year.

This bridge is based on a design like others that are planned for Hardesty and Harrison roads near the CPN's FireLake complex.

A few days after the May 22 washout, construction work began on the new bridge. First, workers drove foundation pillars at least 40 feet into the ground, as measured from the water line, to ensure only something as extreme as a thousand-year flood could result in another washout.

"We don't have bedrock right under the surface here in Oklahoma, so you drill

down until you reach a point where it becomes too difficult to go any further. Then you set the foundation," Muller said.

Construction continued throughout the summer. Crews cleared the old high-water crossing bridge debris away before stabilizing and adjusting the creek channel. Concrete and foundational materials were sourced largely from the CPN-owned batch plant, providing some cost savings for the Tribe.

Four cranes from U.S. Steel set the prefabricated truss bridge superstructure into place in the fall before the crew continued on to the curbs, street and bridge surface finishing work. More than 1,200 pieces of rebar hold it into

place along with hundreds of tons of concrete. The steel infrastructure will last well into the future, covered with a thin film of rust made to weather out potential imperfections.

"It's a newer kind of finishing that allows you to save on maintenance down the line," Muller said. "There's no need to paint it, sand blast it or anything. It's basically self-repairing."

Opened during the ribbon cutting on Dec. 6, the new bridge received a rating for up to 100 tons, providing stability to one of the Nation's busiest enterprises. A fully loaded semi-truck typically weighs 40 tons.

"There would have to be about 3 feet of standing water in the fields and parking lot by the bridge as it now stands for it to be flooded again," Muller said.

Just a few hundred feet upstream, the Nation completed another bridge crossing Deer Creek near the Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3 pumping station, giving cars numerous options to enter and egress the Grand complex.

As for the bridge planned for Harrison and Hardesty roads near Iron Horse Industrial Park, Muller noted its installation will begin soon. Travelers along Hardesty will notice the bridge's steel infrastructure is currently sitting on the side of the road.

"We've been given the directions from Tribal leadership to help improve our community's roads, and that's what we are always looking to do," Muller said. ♡

## Tribal election notice for 2020

Tribal election season will soon be underway as Citizen Potawatomi Nation voters prepare to elect candidates for two Oklahoma legislative seats — Districts 9 and 12. CPN members will cast their ballots during the election on June 27, 2020, that takes place during the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Family Reunion Festival near Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Candidates must be 18 years old prior to Election Day. Legislative Districts 9 and 12 are located in Oklahoma but have no geographic boundaries within the state. When applying, candidates must select one specific seat they wish to run for on their filing form. They must also have lived in that selected district for at least six months prior to Election Day.

Declarations of candidacy must be mailed through the U.S. Postal Service and in the CPN Election Committee's hands no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020. Request filing forms via email at [elections@potawatomi.org](mailto:elections@potawatomi.org) or by calling 405-275-3121 and requesting the CPN Election Committee.

Current incumbents are District 9's Paul Wesselhöft and District 12's Paul Schmidlkofer.

Tribal members will also vote on the budget that manages the Nation's

### ELECTION NOTICE

**2020 election for District 9 and District 12**

**Legislator**  
Legislator filing form and fees must be mailed by U.S. Postal Service and be received by the CPN Election Committee by Jan. 8. Candidates for Legislator must be at least 18 years old upon being sworn in on June 27, 2020, and must have resided continuously within the district they would represent for at least six months prior to the election.

**Applications will be available after December 1, 2019. Request the application at [elections@potawatomi.org](mailto:elections@potawatomi.org).**

trust earnings. No principal from the fund is spent, but the budget pays for national service projects and the executive branch of the Tribe.

CPN members who are at least 18 years old on Election Day will be eligible to vote. All eligible Tribal citizens living in Oklahoma can vote for each

individual candidate for legislative seats 9 and 12 as well as the Tribal budget. CPN members around the country can cast ballots for the Tribal budget. ♡

# January is Stalking Awareness Month

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope Prevention Specialist

It is the beginning of a brand new year, the big 20, and if you haven't caught the new second season of *You* on Netflix, which was released the day after Christmas, most will say you are probably missing out. This is Netflix's latest psychological drama that follows a charming bookstore manager, Joe Goldberg, who falls for one of his customers, Guinevere Beck. He becomes obsessed with her and begins stalking her.

The show was one of the most successful offerings to date for the streaming giant and was viewed by over 40 million households in its very first month on air. However, the big controversy that most find in the show is that it sensationalizes stalking, making it feel like a normal part of dating. The show even includes a romantic twist with Joe's actions toward Beck. It calls the viewer to be sympathetic of Joe with the constant depiction of his childhood throwbacks. It teaches young women and girls that this type of behavior is acceptable and attractive — that this is what real “true love” looks like. Some girls posted comments on social media after the first season aired, saying they fantasized about Joe “kidnapping them” and expressed their love for the character.

This is not how stalking victims feel in reality.

The month of January is focused on stalking awareness, and our main objective here at the House of Hope is to educate the public about the reality of stalking and how it effects victims. Stalking is defined as “any person who, willfully, maliciously and repeatedly follows or harasses another person in a manner that would cause a reasonable person to feel frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed or molested.” According to the Bureau of Justice, more than 7.5 million people are stalked each year in the United States, and over half of those victims indicated that they were stalked before the age of 25. This puts teens and college-age students at a much higher risk.

So, what does a stalker look like? In the first season of *You*, Joe often followed Beck without her knowledge. He broke into her apartment and stole items. He



hacked into her social media accounts, and he even tracked her whereabouts by GPS. These are very common forms of stalking, but other forms include:

- Sending persistent unwanted gifts
- Seeking information about a person through public records or online searches
- Damaging property
- Sending unwanted texts and emails
- Posting personal information about the victim and spreading harmful rumors
- Creating or manipulating situations to make contact with the victim
- Putting the victim in a challenging or harmful situation to play the hero
- Waiting outside the victim's home, school or place of employment
- Persistently asking for a date

Stalking is considered a crime in all 50 states. Oklahoma classifies a first stalking offense as a misdemeanor punishable by either one year in jail and/or a fine of \$1,000. The second offense, within a 10-

year period of prior conviction, is classified as a felony punishable by imprisonment in a state penitentiary for a term that does not exceed five years and/or by a fine of not more than \$2,500. Unfortunately, stalking is a highly underreported crime because it is difficult to prove when someone is being stalked, and victims are often not taken seriously because of the current misconceptions from society.

Victims are deeply impacted by the effects of stalking. They not only lose peace of mind, but often they deal with physical ailments like fatigue, fluctuations in weight and dizziness. Many times, victims lose sleep and begin to deal with depression, anxiety and even suicidal thoughts. It can also put a victim at financial risk. A survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice stated that “more than half of stalking victims lost 5 or more days from work,” and in many cases, the stalker vandalizes the victim's property or assets.

Some stalking myths include:

- Only celebrities are stalked
- If you ignore stalking, it will go away

- Stalking is annoying but not dangerous
- You can't be stalked by someone you are still dating
- If you confront the stalker, they will go away

House of Hope can help those who may be dealing with a stalker in their life. We assist anyone seeking safety by locating emergency shelters along with safety planning for the future. We have resources to put into place a victim's protective order as well as court advocacy to follow through with placement of the VPO. Our advocates are trained in address confidentiality to help protect the location of the person affected by stalking. We can also provide many tips to help with the situation and to help get it under control.

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

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## Potawatomi heritage fuels Kate Anderson's calling

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Public Relations Director Kate Anderson relies on her ancestral, Citizen Potawatomi Nation traditions to educate the public on the Agua Caliente people past and present.

"We come from people who have always been storytellers, and we pass our stories down from generation to generation," Anderson said during a phone interview with the *Hownikan*. "To pursue that as a career path, it's already in there in your heart. You just have to find it."

### Early inspiration

Although Anderson lives in California, she stays connected to her Potawatomi roots by attending Family Reunion Festival and regional meetings in California as well as reading the *Hownikan*. Her CPN ties as a child helped motivate her career in communications.

"We'd get the *Hownikan*, and as a kid, I would read it and was like, 'I want to work for this paper someday,'" Anderson said.

She began attending regional meetings the first year they began and has fond memories of her experiences.

"I can remember talking to Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and even as I was growing up, I was having conversations with them and learning from them," she explained.

Anderson is the youngest of five, and her father's military career moved the family around, mostly on the West Coast during her youth. Her heritage as an Anderson descendant helped provide a sense of grounding, and she became the first in her immediate family to attend and graduate from college.

"I have always loved journalism, writing and taking photos; so in college, I earned a degree in communications and a minor in political science," she said. "After college, I became a journalist for about 12 years. Then after I started my family, I decided to change career paths a little bit."

Anderson switched focuses from journalism to public relations, marketing

and communications, and accepted her job several years ago as the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indian's public relations director in Palm Springs, California.

"What my position does is focus on truly educating the community and the greater community about the tribe and the tribe's history — the tribe's heritage and culture and its existence in the modern day," she said.

During the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Conference in September 2019 held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tulsa in Oklahoma, researchers revealed 1 in 3 international tourists want to experience authentic Native American culture.

"We know that there are so many people traveling the world for those very specific experiences," Anderson said. "So, part of my job is focusing on that and opening up the opportunities for that kind of tourism."

The Agua Caliente Tribe seeks every opportunity to build connections with Palm Spring visitors while uplifting Indian Country as a whole. Because of the tribe's dedication to this mission, they began building an Agua Caliente Cultural Plaza set to open later this year.

"It is a beautiful, 14-acre site, and we're building a 48,000-square-foot museum as well as a 45,000-square-foot spa," Anderson said.

The museum serves as a foundation to celebrate the history, traditions, culture and modern-day Agua Caliente people.

"It will also have the opportunity to share other Native American stories as well, or even Indigenous stories from around the world," she said.

Part of the tribe's history is on display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.

"It's a story of the original reservation boundary and some of the trials and tribulations that occurred on that property over time," Anderson said. "That exhibit was actually created



*Kate Anderson's lifework revolves around helping the public build a greater understanding about Indian Country. (Photo provided)*

here in Palm Springs but has been on display in Washington D.C."

The partnership with the Smithsonian offered the new Agua Caliente museum the opportunity to incorporate temporary exhibits. Trips to D.C. on behalf of the tribe provided Anderson the chance to experience the Potawatomi Trail of Death gallery at the NMAI.

"I'm just so proud that it's our Tribe being represented there," Anderson said. "It's clearly a very traumatic time in our history as a Tribe, but to be able to share that story and present that story in the Nation's capital I think is so important."

### Education

As an extension of Anderson and the Agua Caliente's desire to bridge connections between Natives and non-Natives, the tribe and the Palm Springs Public School District worked together to create third, eighth and 11th grade curriculum.

"It's the only partnership that we know of where the school district and a federally recognized tribe have come together to co-create a

school curriculum that meets state educational standards and has now been implemented in the schools," she said.

Last year, a pilot program tested the third grade curriculum, and this year, teachers will expose more than 1,800 third graders to the Agua Caliente people.

"It's 10 different lessons in the classroom, and it's mandated by the school administration," she said. "So every single third grade class teacher is required to teach that curriculum."

After piloting the eighth and 11th grade curriculum, Anderson said the project will lead to incorporating lessons within nearly every grade level.

"It plays into our museum as well because the museum will be a successful educational venue — particularly for the local schools," she said.

Anderson's staff and tribal leaders also attend teacher trainings to ensure students receive well-rounded lessons and that the teachers are comfortable instructing their students.

"And that has been really important because two of my tribal council members here at Agua Caliente literally go to the training and have a very important role in the training itself," Anderson said. "We are face-to-face with many of the teachers who are going to be taking this curriculum and putting it into their classrooms."

She is thankful for her career and the opportunity it affords her to inform the public on the vast and varied history of Native America as well as her ties to the greater Native community as a Citizen Potawatomi.

"Staying connected to your culture and passing it along to our children is a meaningful part of life, especially when you're Native American, there's just so much in your heart that allows you to celebrate that part of your ancestry," she said.

To learn more about Agua Caliente's upcoming projects, visit [visionaguacaliente.com](http://visionaguacaliente.com). ♡

**Mia Acker**  
Family: Clapp  
Maitland, FL  
University of Florida  
BS in Botany/Botanical Research

**Deanna Kay Pahmahmie Andereg**  
Family: Pahmahmie  
Tecumseh, KS  
Haskell Indian Nations University  
BA in Indigenous and American Indian Studies

**Tara Marie "Wabnokee" Bell**  
Family: Bourassa/Curley  
Kansas City, MO  
Graceland University  
BSN

**John Robert Carmichael**  
Family: Nadeau  
Bixby, OK  
University of Oklahoma  
MBA

**Brenton Scott Cooke**  
Family: Slavin  
Hutchinson, KS  
Pratt Community College  
Associate of Applied Science



**Amanda L Chappell**  
Family: Bertrand  
Georgetown, TX  
Texas Tech University  
MS in Nursing

**Michael Ross DuPree**  
Family: Ogee  
Bayfield, CO  
Fort Lewis College  
BS in Business Administration

**Elaine Rose Gomez**  
Family: Evans  
Punta Gorda, FL  
Charlotte High School  
Diploma

**Peyton Elizabeth Gould**  
Family: Emmett  
Easton, KS  
Emporia State University  
BS in Business Accounting

**Zachary Taylor Huff**  
Family: Burnett  
Purcell, OK  
East Central University  
BS in Environmental Health Science

**Melody Alaine Lester**  
Family: Savory  
Hutto, TX  
Texas State University  
Bachelor of General Studies

**Matthew Garton Morris, Jr.**  
Family: Edwards  
Jacksonville, FL  
University of North Florida  
BS in Biology

**Kaylee Anne Morrison**  
Family: Anderson/Whitehead  
Canyon, TX  
University of Northern Colorado  
MA in Dance Education

**Robert H. Denton - Nimkiins**  
Family: Mars/Peltier  
Lapeer, MI  
University of Michigan  
Master's in American Culture

**Madison Rezac**  
Family: Bertrand  
Topeka, KS  
Washburn University  
BS in Elementary Education

**Victoria Marie Schroeffer**  
Family: Schroeffer  
Cabot, AR  
University of Central Arkansas  
BS in Psychology

**Carl Leslie Ziegler, Jr**  
Family: Mtegmesh  
Chattanooga, TN  
Trevecca Nazarene University  
Ed. D. in Leadership

# FireLake Casino's Megan Cobb named "Most Valuable Performer"

One day in late October, FireLake Casino Revenue Audit Manager Megan Cobb entered through the building's double-doors to the sounds of people cheering. With a confused look on her face, she watched as her co-workers and others chanted "MVP" as she approached them.

KFOR-TV and Oklahoma City-based Express Employment Professionals recognizing her as their "Most Valuable Performer" for November 2019 came as a complete surprise. She had never heard of the program before.

"I saw all those people, and I was like, 'Wait a minute. What?' ... So, it was a shock," Cobb said. "They kept chanting 'MVP,' and I had no idea what they were doing."

OKC's NBC affiliate station and the staffing agency teamed up in early 2019 to recognize some of the best employees in the metro. Each month, they select one outstanding employee from a pool of nominations.

The day they named Cobb "MVP," a fellow employee tricked her into leaving the lobby. They set up the area for the news cameras and festivities. The news team stayed with her for about half an hour to film a segment. She had never been on the news or recognized for this kind of award.



*KFOR-TV and Express Employment Professionals gift FireLake Casino's Megan Cobb with a check and a plaque as well as the title of "Most Valuable Performer."*

"They wanted to follow me around, watch what I do. And I kept staring at the camera. They're like, 'Don't look at the camera.' It's kind of hard, but it's right here in my face," she said and laughed. "But they were all super nice people, and I love that they do that for people."

The award includes a \$5,000 check from Express Employment Professionals, a personalized plaque and a parking sign

labeled "Most Valuable Performer," which now marks Cobb's spot inside her garage.

The day went by quickly but ended with fond memories.

"When I went home and kind of sat there and thought about it, I really teared up a lot," she said. "Just thinking of how much I mean to someone else or more than one person."

The casino's cage manager, Chris Campbell nominated Cobb for her resilience throughout the last year, which included balancing numerous family health issues. He said she comes to work with a positive attitude and accomplishes whatever falls in front of her. Most importantly, she still prioritizes helping others. However, if you ask Cobb, the strength comes naturally.

"(The award) means a lot. I mean, I'm just doing what I think everybody should do: going to work, doing their job. They keep telling me that I'm so strong," she said.

"Of course, there's days when I can't control it. But for the majority, I still come to work and act like nothing's happened at home, even when life is throwing tons of curveballs."

Her favorite thing about working for CPN is the people. Cobb says it feels like small, close-knit family. While the award recognizes her accomplishments, she remains grateful for those around her every day who show their compassion and helped her through tough times.

"Just thank you for everything," Cobb said.

To see the KFOR segment featuring Megan Cobb accepting the award, visit [cfn.news/cobbmvp](http://cfn.news/cobbmvp).

## Legislative update



On Dec. 4, 2019, Citizen Potawatomi Nation representatives convened the final meeting of the Tribal legislature for the calendar year. All officials were present except District 6's Rande Payne and District 7's Mark Johnson.

Legislators voted to authorize a request for fund disbursements from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Nation before passing a resolution authorizing the chairman, vice-chairman and secretary-treasurer as appointed representatives of the Tribe with regards to business with the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. They then approved the Tribe's request for funding under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Title V, Part A and Part C programs.

Two grant-funding resolutions were approved by unanimous votes, the first for the Citizen Potawatomi Community

Development Corporation's application to the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institution Fund. The second was to the Tribe's application to the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Invasive Species Program.

Representatives then voted to update CPN's Long Range Transportation Plan, requesting the BIA implement the changes. A following resolution updating the Tribal Transportation Program Transportation Improvement Program with the U.S. Highway Administration also passed.

Conditional relinquishment of citizenship requests were granted to Aidan Tobias Bearshead, Anastasia Cheyenne Coyle, Ariel Mariah Coyle and Tracy Ann Tripp. Voluntary relinquishments for Bobbie Nicole Jordan and Onis Franklin McHenry were also approved, while legislators enrolled 357 applicants into the Nation by a unanimous vote.

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## Veterans report



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

First things first, the CPN Veterans Organization had one of the best Christmas/Thanksgiving dinners that we have had in several years. We had 52 people attend; the food was great, and the fellowship was the best. We had two

special presentations recognizing Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and Richard Driskel from FireLake Discount Foods for their continued friendship and support of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization. They have had a positive influence on our color guard and honor guard in representing the Tribe throughout the state of Oklahoma and the United States. Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett supported us by providing a meeting place and recognizing our efforts to keep the CPN Veterans Organization growing. We had the largest attendance of seniors that we have had in many

years. We have a new year ahead of us that promises to be exciting with growing interest in the nation and tribes of our active duty and veterans' welfare. We will continue to work to keep the spirit of a free nation and a proud military alive. God bless us all.

Remember, the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi powwow grounds. All CPN and spouse veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Daryl Talbot, Commander  
[talbotok@sbcglobal.net](mailto:talbotok@sbcglobal.net)  
405-275-1054

CPN VA Representative:  
Andrew Whitham

CPN Office Hours: 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month  
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

918-397-2566 ♠

# VETERANS WALL OF HONOR

The Veteran Memorial serves to honor and exhibit the sacrifices our *Wédasé* (warriors) have made by telling the story of what it meant to be a Potawatomi warrior. It is a living monument to our proud Citizen Potawatomi Nation veterans and active duty members. Currently, the memorial commemorates more than a thousand veterans and warriors and is continually growing. We invite all veterans, active duty and their families to submit to the memorial.

If you are a veteran and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and would like your place on the Veterans Wall of Honor at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center, please contact us at 405-878-5830 and ask for KeAnne Langford or Blake Norton or email [keanne.langford@potawatomi.org](mailto:keanne.langford@potawatomi.org) or [bnorton@potawatomi.org](mailto:bnorton@potawatomi.org).

**Many of the veteran records we preserve at the Cultural Heritage Center do not have an accompanying military portrait for display. Please see the list below of those veterans we have records for but need portraits of:**

Michelle Abiri  
Benjamin T. Acre Jr.  
Hubert L. Adams  
James T. Anderson  
Ronald Anderson  
Cecil Baird  
Walter L. Baker  
Robert W. Barrett  
Bruce I. Bazhaw  
Ingram H. Bazhaw  
Ralph H. Bazhaw/Bergeron  
John T. Bergeron  
Thomas M. Bess  
William B. Bivens Jr.  
Charles D. Blair  
Robert G. Bogle  
Douglas E. Bourassa  
Freeman Bourassa  
Jerry D. Bourassa  
John A. Bourbonnais  
Joshua J. Bourbonnais  
Edmund F. Bowles  
Andrew E. Bradford  
Emery A. Bradford  
Lawrence R. Bressman  
Charles R. Bromley  
James F. Bromley  
Carolyn S. Brown  
Andrea L. Broyles  
Everett D. Brunt  
David A. Burnett  
Leo Burnett Jr.  
Stephen R. Burnett  
Joseph H. Burns  
Tilden J. Byler  
Michael D. Cavender  
Mary-Ellen Clinton (Vieux)  
Eugene Albert Coder  
Adam B. Coe  
Michael E. Conner Jr.  
Larry O. Cook

Wayne E. Cook  
Roy L. Coon  
Thomas E. Cooper  
Albert W. Copeland  
Michael S. Cory  
Daniel Crumbo  
David A. Cryer  
Harvey J.L. Curtis  
Dan Dansenburg  
George Dansenburg  
Lloyd B. Denton  
Lloyd C. Denton  
Marvin Derryberry  
Forrest J. Desmit  
Charles E. Dewitt  
Gary E. Dewitt  
J.B. Dewitt  
Travis G. Dick  
Jimmy R. Dike  
Richard G. Dike  
Dennis D. Dockery  
Beverly L. Dodd  
Lawrence A. Dodd  
Willie O. Dodson  
Thomas N. Doyle  
John W. Edwards  
Charles M. Ellis  
John E. Feliciano  
Sharold N. Ferris  
James B. Fisher  
Jerry L. Fitzgerald  
Mary J. Foster (Spaulding)  
Michael D. Fox  
Christina D. Franklin  
Murray S. Frapp  
Russell W. Frizzell  
James M. Gardom  
Paul E. Gardom  
Horace D. Gillespie  
John C. Gillmore  
Glen A. Goodwin

Rolan J. Goyer  
Dustin M. Gross  
David H. Guinn Jr.  
Clenard O. Haas  
Marion L. Haas  
Mickey E. Haas  
James M. Hale  
John Hall Jr.  
Larry E. Hammack  
Richard L. Hammack  
Jack E. Hancock  
Leon L. Hancock  
Michael S. Hardesty  
Daniel L. Harvey  
Gary L. Helberg  
Henry P Hernandez  
Edward T. Hey Jr.  
Averett W. Higbee  
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Daniel L. Hollingsworth  
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Edwin A. Howard  
Kevin M. Hubble  
Arville L. Hull  
Johnny I. Hull  
Davina C. Hyers  
John Immenshuh  
Jeffrey D. Johnson  
Larry S. Johnson  
Frank Kennedy  
Mark W. Ketterman  
William G. Ketterman  
Charles B. Kimes  
James T. Kirk  
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Vernon W. Meade  
Stephen C. Negahnquet  
Stephen H. Negahnquet  
Adam A. Nocktonick Sr.  
Ralph E.B. Nocktonick  
Ronald K. Nocktonick  
Robert J. Nourie  
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Phillip S. Ogee Jr.  
John B. Olsen  
Randall W. Olsen  
Wilbur C. Osborne  
Donnie R. Owens  
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Thomas K. Pyeatt  
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Gregory L. Quinn  
Stephen L. Quinn  
Everett J. Rachels  
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Leonard P. Rhodd  
Stephen E. Rhodd  
William J. Rhodd  
Henry B. Richard Jr.  
Raymond U. Roberts  
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Alexander Rhodd  
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William M. Roberts III  
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Jerry L. Tarter  
Elton B. Tinney  
Jack R. Tipton  
Joshua Tipton  
Thomas Tomey  
Clarence J. Trousdale  
Joseph C. Trousdale  
Tommy Upton

# Wadasé Zhabwé's telemetry stuns experts

By Bree Dunham, CPN  
Aviary Assistant Manager

Winter is finally here, although looking at the forecast here in Oklahoma, you might not know it. The first week of winter brings a welcome warm spell with temperatures in the high 60s. That may sound unusual, but it's on par with the rest of the year. Spring gave us more than our total yearly rainfall in one season; summer's green hung around well into fall; and fall seemed to just skip right into winter. Our winters here rarely bring us picture-worthy snow. But this time of year does bring migratory birds of all kinds, and it signals breeding season for raptors, including eagles. This year's winter in particular is the winter we have waited on since we started sharing *Wadasé Zhabwé's* story six and a half years ago.

Like a broken record, stuck on repeat, we kept saying, "One more season of her telemetry data, and we will know where she nests." In fact, there's a worn spot on the corner of our desk where we superstitiously knock on wood during tours when we talk about how long she's worn her GPS telemetry backpack. According to all the raptor experts that write the books, eagles mature and should begin breeding at 4 to 5 years of age, so we were positive she would nest last winter. However, *Wadasé*, like the true modern woman, is taking things slow. This spring she will be 8. When eagles should have been laying eggs last winter, she was off touring some of her favorite spots around the Washita and North Canadian Rivers. One thing that we are absolutely sure of after all this time is that eagle's do not read the books. Every expert we consulted with when we released her said she would most likely go right back to Florida. They said we would be lucky if she wore the GPS backpack six months to a year. They all reminded us of the mortality rates of juvenile eagles in the wild. But at each critical juncture, she has proven them all wrong.

*Wadasé's* last visit to the aviary was the first week of September. True to her pattern over the last few years, she visits late fall or early winter, briefly, as if to just



*Wadasé patiently waits during her GPS fitting prior to her 2013 release.*

check in. Since then, she has been down along the Washita River just northeast of Verden, Oklahoma. This area is just a few miles of where we expected her to nest last year. In the early morning on Nov. 11, I went to the office to check telemetry. When I downloaded the telemetry, it was incomplete. I told myself it was just a glitch with the ARGOS satellite or just too early and to give it a while. By late afternoon, it was clear *Wadasé's* telemetry had stopped transmitting. Her last point was in flight along the banks of the Washita, midday on Nov. 9, and then there was nothing. We always knew this day was part of our journey with her. We had about a thousand questions and fears all at once. What did that mean for *Wadasé*? Did the backpack battery wear out? Did it just fail? Did it fall off? Did the frayed antenna prevent it from transmitting data? With limited daylight hours, we planned to gather local landowner information and leave the following morning to get to her last transmitted GPS location. We called local game wardens and rehab facilities to be sure no eagles had been found or reported injured. We also contacted Rob Domenech from Raptor View Research in Montana, who fitted her

with the GPS, hoping he could share some insight about the lack of data.

No eagles had been reported. The game warden reminded us about deer season, so there are more hunters out in areas where she might be spotted if something had happened. Rob reminded us of the unpleasant areas to check, such as power lines and wind turbines in the area, but he felt like the telemetry was most likely in the river, like *Mko Kno's*, because the data had been consistent and then the next hour there was nothing. At a certain depth in the water, the telemetry data could not be transmitted.

The next morning's car ride to Verden was a very long hour and a half. Once we got to the area of the river where she had been, it was pretty clear why she chose that particular place. The road disappeared at a hairpin curve in the river that had flooded recently. We followed a trail through the field to avoid getting stuck or ending up in the river. All around us was open pasture and a sod farm. There were only a few houses in each mile section. Looking toward the river in the direction of her last GPS, there was just untouched wilderness. We gathered our camera and gear and headed off to search the area on foot.

Jennifer spotted a juvenile bald eagle as it crossed above us from down river. When the juvenile was out of sight, I lowered my binoculars and movement caught my eye along the river. A large adult bald eagle landed just ahead of us. A quick look through both camera and spotting scope couldn't rule out the bird having a band. We moved to the tree line for cover and worked our way closer, looking with the scope again but with no luck. It was windy and cold, and the bird sat with feet tucked under its feathers until it flew away just as we both looked down to find footing in the muddy field. We continued to search the area, and although we never spotted another adult eagle, we did find a nest that was much too large to be a hawk's. Was that *Wadasé*? Could this be her nest?

While we still have so many questions, we have answered one of the most important questions. We found nothing to indicate *Wadasé* is doing anything but thriving in the wild. Landowners we spoke to were excited to learn about eagles around the area, and we have recruited several of them to keep an eye out for eagles. We will continue to monitor the nest site we found and others in and around the area. Our best chance of locating her will be nesting season, and with all the data collected over the years, we can hopefully narrow down a search area. Six and a half years, a total of 2,398 days, or just shy of 79 months does not sound all that long. But we've collected over 57,000 GPS points across a third of Oklahoma's counties.

As this year comes to an end, we look back and count our blessings and hope for those yet to come. We have been incredibly fortunate to share *Wadasé's* journey with you all for so long, and we hope to continue to do so with a little luck this winter season. We encourage you to keep your eyes out for *Wadasé* if you are near any of the areas she frequents. For more information about CPN's Eagle Aviary or to read previous updates, visit [potawatomiheritage.org](http://potawatomiheritage.org). Share your encounters with *Wadasé*, *Mko Kno* or any other eagles or migrating raptors in Oklahoma or wherever you may be with us at [aviary@potawatomi.org](mailto:aviary@potawatomi.org). *Migwetch* (thanks). ♫

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## News around Potawatomi country

Take a look at happenings in other Potawatomi tribes across North America.

**1 A Union City, Michigan,** luncheon was a festive occasion for seven Michigan veterans organizations this year as the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi donated \$48,300. The NHBP Veterans Committee 2019 Chief Moguego Veterans Golf Outing raised the funds for the seven organizations who each received a check for \$6,900. The money was distributed in November to help veterans and their families pay wintertime utility bills, house those without shelter and buy food. Read more at [cpn.news/nhvet](http://cpn.news/nhvet).

**2 The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Mayetta, Kansas,** received recognition in December for its efforts to help protect area youth at the Kansas Safe Kids Coalition. The tribe was recognized as the Safe Kids Kansas Coalition of the Year for outstanding contributions in reducing unintentional injury to Kansas children. The coalition of tribal departments, local schools and other entities raised awareness about healthy sleeping and heatstroke prevention, along with providing car seat check lanes throughout Jackson County. The coalition also sponsored a bike derby and provided free bike helmets. Read more at [cpn.news/kssafe](http://cpn.news/kssafe).



**3 Dowagiac, Michigan,** now has a new tribal justice center for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. In addition to housing the Pokagon Tribal Court and a Peacemaking Center, the new facility will also serve as the new Pokagon Tribal Police headquarters. The new police facility can house up to 20 officers with dedicated space for training, evidence storage, interview rooms, holding cells, conference space and changing areas. The facility blends traditional elements including an outdoor peacemaking circle, an indoor healing

fire room, and a circular courtroom. Read more at [cpn.news/pokagonjustice](http://cpn.news/pokagonjustice).

**4 The Potawatomi Hotel & Casino in Milwaukee, Wisconsin,** kicked off the holiday giving season with a massive donation to the Heart of Canal Street Charity drive in late October. The casino is an enterprise of the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe, and this year raised \$1.2 million through the campaign that supports children in southeast Wisconsin. Since it began in 1994, more than \$19 million in

donations have supported hundreds of local children's charities. Learn more by visiting [cpn.news/canalstreet](http://cpn.news/canalstreet).

**5 The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi** recently unveiled their own online language course on the Mango Languages application. The first portions of the *Bodwéwadmimwen* Potawatomi language course are now available on both Apple and Android devices. According to Tribal Chairman Matthew Wesaw, users initially learn conversational language, including phrases and sentence structures, to help them communicate in real-life situations. Then the application expose users to emphasis, sounds and tonal fluctuation. Read more about the course at [cpn.news/potmango](http://cpn.news/potmango).

**Three Potawatomi tribes in Michigan** are amongst six in the state who are doing more to promote healthy lifestyles and food access in tribal communities. Two years after its creation, the Michigan Tribal Food Access Collaborative is making progress. The project enhances the nutrition landscape in tribal communities, and the Hannahville Indian Community joins the Pokagon Band and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi as main participants along with three other Native Nations. Learn more at [cpn.news/michigan](http://cpn.news/michigan).

For all things **Native.**



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI  
**GIFT SHOP**

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LOCATED INSIDE THE CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER

## Nation extends road infrastructure in Pottawatomie County

While material costs for paving continues to rise, historically low-taxed Oklahomans remain cautious about increasing taxes that might offset the funds associated with much needed road repairs. According to a recent survey from Consumer Affairs, the state ranks sixth in its list of the United States' worst roads.

Some of this is due in part to years of underinvestment, but Oklahoma's wild weather can also play a part. Extreme heat in the summer and below-freezing temperatures in the winter and early spring can lead to asphalt buckling, potholes and erosion on the state's roads and bridges. Tribal jurisdictions across Oklahoma — mostly in rural, lower trafficked areas of the state — often have been neglected by the state and counties.

However, in the last two decades, tribal governments began playing a more pronounced role at the local level. Using revenues derived from tribal gaming operations and other enterprises, many Oklahoma Indian Nations meet federal cost share requirements to secure grant funding opportunities specifically designated for transportation infrastructure.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation has successfully utilized this tool to develop



(L-R) Tribal Police Major Mike Hendrickson, Aidan Muller, Art Muller, Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Shawn Howard, Zach Davis, Jeff Tompkins, Lexi Freeman and Rob Potter.

road, bridge and rail improvements in its historic jurisdiction in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma.

Just before Christmas, Tribal officials and staff held a formal ribbon cutting to commemorate completion of the new Ohio Street Extension project near the FireLake complex. Funded through the

U.S. Department of Transportation's Tribal Transportation Program at a cost of approximately \$320,000, the new roadway will improve interconnectivity, alleviate local traffic and provide infrastructure for future development.

Currently, the offices for housekeeping and information technology departments

are the area's only residents. However, the road's completion connects it with a north-south road next to Shawnee Outdoors, a local retailer. Future prospects for the area could include a housing development or commercial enterprises. 🔥

## CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT



### TRIBAL SCHOLARSHIPS

#### FALL 2018

1,308 FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS	\$2,616,000
245 PART-TIME STUDENTS	\$183,750
1,553 TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS	\$2,799,750

#### SPRING 2019

1,158 FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS	\$2,316,000
270 PART-TIME STUDENTS	\$202,500
1,428 TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS	\$2,518,500

#### SUMMER 2019

265 FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS	\$530,000
337 PART-TIME STUDENTS	\$252,750
602 TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS	\$782,750

#### OVERALL TOTAL

2,731 FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS	\$5,462,000
852 PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS	\$639,000
3,583 TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS	\$6,101,000

### GRADE LEVEL DISTRIBUTION

CONCURRENT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT (92)
UNDERGRADUATE FRESHMAN (713)
UNDERGRADUATE SOPHOMORE (793)
UNDERGRADUATE JUNIOR (697)
UNDERGRADUATE SENIOR (699)
GRADUATE (654)
OTHER (12)

### GENDER BREAKDOWN

FEMALES (1091)
MALES (811)

### ADVISING

183 SESSIONS

### RECOVERED FUNDS

\$213,000

### INTERNSHIPS

#### FALL 2018

4 PART TIME INTERNS

#### SPRING 2019

10 PART TIME INTERNS

#### SUMMER 2019

19 FULL TIME INTERNS

#### OVERALL TOTAL

33 INTERNS

### STOLES

SOLD 71 STOLES FOR \$3,550 PROFIT

### VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

56 STUDENTS TOTALING \$93,878.77

### COLLEGE FAIR

779 STUDENTS

36 DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOLS | 54 BOOTHS

### TOP 10 UNIVERSITIES

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA-NORMAN CAMPUS (130)
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA (112)
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY-MAIN CAMPUS (113)
OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (74)
SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE (65)
ROSE STATE COLLEGE (60)
EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY (60)
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY-OKLAHOMA CITY (49)
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS (46)
SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY (46)

### TOP 10 STATES

OKLAHOMA (1168)
TEXAS (396)
KANSAS (385)
CALIFORNIA (330)
MISSOURI (127)
COLORADO (88)
WASHINGTON (87)
FLORIDA (80)
ARIZONA (79)
ARKANSAS (74)

### TOP 10 MAJORS

NURSING (221)
PSYCHOLOGY (158)
ACCOUNTING (79)
BUSINESS (78)
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (71)
COMPUTER SCIENCE (64)
BIOLOGY (60)
SOCIAL WORK (56)
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (49)
GENERAL STUDIES (47)

## Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello, my friend),

I hope all of you had a joyful holiday season. It was fun to watch football these last two weeks, if for no other reason than to watch the Citizen Potawatomi Nation member, Peltier family descendent, and starting center for the Oklahoma Sooners this year,

Creed Humphrey, who played in the playoff game against Louisiana State University. Creed is an outstanding student and will graduate early. He has been honored many times and will go high in the NFL draft, if he chooses.

In addition to being named a Walter Camp Foundation and AP Second-Team All-American and Rimington Trophy finalist, the 6-foot-5, 316-pounder earned Big 12 Co-Offensive Lineman of the Year, first-team All-Big 12 honors and was a first-team midseason All-American by ESPN. Off the field, he's an Academic All-Big 12 Second Team honoree.

We are proud of you, Creed.

For those of you who do not have access to Oklahoma news, our dispute with the governor of Oklahoma over his



*Creed Humphrey*

efforts to illegally renegotiate the Tribal gaming compact continues to go well.

Here is basically how it is going: the compact negotiations are at an impasse until Jan. 1, 2020. At that time, the compact automatically renews. The governor has no basis for denying the automatic renewal

or even the ability to stop it. The compact was approved by the Oklahoma Legislature and then voted in by the people. That is the way it would have to be amended or supplemented, and that will not happen. Gov. Stitt has also threatened to open the state up for non-Indian gaming. This will not happen.

No large commercial gaming operations will enter this market. Besides the flood of tribal litigation they would face, the Oklahoma market of less than 4 million people is saturated with more than 140 casinos. The publicity campaign for the tribes is working well, and the people of the state support us. The statements by Gov. Stitt about our exclusivity payment rates being the lowest in the Nation are simply untrue. As for the terms of the compact, everyone who has seen him on

TV can see he is misquoting the compact wording.

Whatever the outcome, we should not disturb our business model. Even if Gov. Stitt is successful in raising the rates, we still have satisfactory profit margins. We have a contractual obligation to our lenders to operate and invest back into the casino. It is just plain smart business to maintain our market share with facilities we can be proud of.

It is an honor to serve as your Tribal Chairman.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

John “Rocky” Barrett  
*Keuweoge*  
(He Leads Them Home)  
Tribal Chairman

## Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

The holiday season brings many opportunities for receptions, parties and get-togethers at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. My first Christmas party this season was for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, which was held at the Cultural Heritage Center. The program included presentations, dinner, and then a visit from Santa, after which Christmas presents from under the tree were opened. Every child received at

least one present. Big Brothers Big Sisters is an excellent community-based mentoring program for youth ages 6-18 from predominantly low-income, single-parent households that are matched with mentors. These volunteers are typically young and well-educated adults.

The youth's parent/guardian applies for his or her child to be matched with a mentor through a written application and a child/parent interview. Potential mentors are screened by a Big Brothers Big Sisters caseworker through a personal interview and home visit. A criminal background reference check ensures that the volunteer is safety-risk free and likely to form a positive relationship with the youth. Parent approval is integral to the process, as the youth and guardian(s) meet with the potential mentor before a match is made. The mentor and youth typically meet two to four times per month for a year or more. During the visits, they engage in activities of their choosing,

like playing sports or attending sports activities, studying and cooking. Their time together usually lasts three to four hours, depending on the activity.

This is a wonderful program for both the youth and for the volunteers. CPN has helped sponsor the Bowl for Kids' Sake annual fundraiser for many years. The fundraiser is the uppermost source of funding for the program. Many community leaders and volunteers attended the Big Brothers Big Sisters Christmas, and I had the honor to accept the 2019 Taylor Prince Memorial Award for outstanding support of Big Brothers Big Sisters the evening of the event. The award is given to an individual or organization within Pottawatomie County that has made long-lasting, positive impacts on the local Big Brothers Big Sisters program. CPN is a proud sponsor, and we are also proud of our employees that help with the program. Mary Belle Zook is a Tribal member and communications coordinator



*CPN Vice-Chairman accepts Taylor Prince Award on behalf of the Nation.*

for CPN's Public Information Department as well as chairman for the local Big Brothers Big Sisters resource board.

For more information on volunteer opportunities or inquiry on the program, visit [bbbsok.org/shawnee](http://bbbsok.org/shawnee).

I appreciate the honor of being your Vice-Chairman for another year. CPN did great

things in 2019, and the future looks even brighter for 2020.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

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



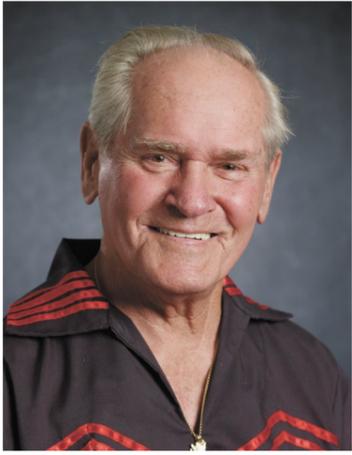
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Native American tribes are an integral part of Oklahoma, with roots that are deep and permanent. Tribal nations make a critical, positive difference across the entire state.

Join the conversation at [unitedforoklahoma.com](http://unitedforoklahoma.com)

## District 1 – Roy Slavin



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

Hope everyone had a merry Christmas, and I want to wish all a happy new year. We are beginning a new year, and it's time to make plans for 2020.

It is not too early to prepare for the Festival. Whether

you are staying at the hotel (they fill up early), arriving in a RV, or camping, make your reservations early.

The honored families in 2020 are Bruno, Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Lewis, Nadeau, Slavin and Smith. If you are one of the honored families, please let the members of your family know of this honor.

I would like to reminisce a bit for the year 2008. My family was one of the honored families. We decided to have everyone who could attend to have a red T-shirt. We had the logo from the Tribe on the front and our Slavin name and year on the back. Little did we know when we started this how many would come. We were surprised when the group filled one section of the bleachers. It was a beautiful



*Slavin family pose for a picture at the 2008 Family Reunion Festival.*

site to see our family come together to be honored. On Saturday evening when the families were being honored, the announcer (Tim Tallchief) remarked that everywhere you looked, you could see a Slavin in a red T-shirt.

We have started contacting our family to advise them we are to be honored in 2020. We

asked FireLake Designs for help in 2008 with ordering and making the red T-shirts. We will use them again this time. They do a great job, and I am sure will help if asked. Also, we have started preparations for meetings, but dates and locations have not been determined.

I will close this article, as always with a plea for your contact

information. If you do not receive an occasional email from me, it is because I do not have your email address. Due to privacy standards, Citizen Potawatomi Nation cannot provide it to me.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your representative.

Roy Slavin  
*Netagtege* (Forever Planting)  
Representative, District 1  
816-741-5767  
888-741-5767  
[rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org)  
[rjslavin@gmail.com](mailto:rjslavin@gmail.com)

## District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

Greetings for the New Year!

### Fall Feast 2019 overview

For our traditional Fall Feast this past November, some 70 of us gathered in Arlington, Virginia. Attendees travelled from New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and all parts of Virginia. Our wisest attendee was my neighbor from Arlington, Virginia, 95-year-old Walterene (Mimi) Scarborough. Our youngest attendee was Odin, son of Stefani Klein, from Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. Our farthest-travelled attendee, Josh Pratt, flew from Georgia to be with us. I've included a group photo, showing a good portion of those who attended.

During the Feast, Lana Ball (Bergeron family, from North Carolina) gifted us a prayer she was given by Justin Neely, CPN citizen and our language director. This summer, Lana's son Josef Ball was called up for active duty from the U.S. Army National Guard for North Carolina. She needed to send him off in a good way and asked Justin for a ceremonial prayer for him. Josef's family held a ceremony for him before he departed; during that ceremony, the following prayer was said and Lana provided Josef with an eagle feather that he could carry with him on his journey. Josef currently is deployed as a heavy equipment engineer and mechanic. *Chi migwetch* (many thanks), Lana, for sharing this with us during the Feast and for also agreeing that I could share it in the *Hownikan*. *Chi migwetch* (many thanks) to Justin for providing this prayer. Blessings, Josef, during your deployment; your people are proud of and grateful to you.

Justin recorded himself saying the prayer — you can listen to the recording at [cpn.news/soldierprayer](http://cpn.news/soldierprayer).

### Prayer for a soldier

*Nwi-madmo.*

(I am going to pray).

*Migwetch jak she gego ga gishtoyen mine mno gishget.*

(Thank you for everything you have created and this good day.)

*Mamogosnan kowabem ode Ogichida epich pabmadzet nekmek shena.*

(Creator, watch over this warrior as he travels here there and everywhere.)

*Ewi ndodaskeygo mteno mno bmadzewen mine jitmagoswen.*

(We ask only for good health and help.)

*Nishokmo o shemagneshi wa je giwet gaga mine emno bmadzet.*

(Help this solder so that he can return soon in good health.)

*Iw.*

(Amen.)

### Fall Feast crafting

For our craft, we began work on medicine bags as part of our dance regalia. Districts 1 and 2 supplied the materials, including leather, needles, seed and pony beads, sinew, and sacred medicines (for putting in the bags). All the crafters worked diligently while also visiting and enjoying each other's company. Folks took the project home to



*Eva Marie Carney along with other women leaders receive awards for their service at the Reykjavík Global Forum.*

finish — I'm hoping to see some of the bags in the dance arena at upcoming Family Reunion Festivals. My favorite craft-related memory is hearing Jacqu Barnett, who is 5, show off her completed bag to everyone (she worked from a kids' no-sew, decorate-with-pony-beads-kit), telling us she had used "the pattern of patterns" on her bag. The pony beads she'd directed her dad Josh Barnett to put on the fringe on her bag were a wide variety of colors and order — hence, "the pattern of patterns." It was adorable; I wish I had a video or photo to share! Other activities included a raffle of children's regalia and other regalia and similar items donated by, among others, my *nikanek* (friends) Laura Hewuse and Theresa Adame. We also played heads and tails

and voted on best *mkesinen* (moccasins) — Steve Klein's moccasins were the peoples' choice. Everyone contributed delicious dishes, and I do believe that everyone had a great time.

### Fall Feast gratitude

I owe a huge gratitude debt to *Shaweno* (Bob Richey) and Karen Richey, who a few years ago moved down to Tennessee from Virginia, yet continue to be the backbones of our Fall Feast. *Igwien* (heartfelt thanks)! For years now, the Richeys have provided invaluable input when I muse to them about a craft I'd like to share. They've allowed me to impose on them to test drive the craft. While they've moved farther south, they continue to come early on our Feast day to help me set up, and then teach the craft during the Feast. I stand back and watch them — then run off to make more coffee and begin heating up food contributions for the lunch that will follow our crafting. They are dear and generous people.

I also want to give a shout out to my son Marshall Cohen — *Wasmikas*. My husband Alan Cohen typically spends the day of our Fall Feast in abject service to Districts 1 and 2. This year, Alan's bluegrass band had an out-of-town engagement later in the day so Alan "only" was able to help with set-up and food pick-up/delivery. Marshall



*Fall Feast 2019 group photo.*



*Fall Feast 2019 mkesinen contest.*

came early and stayed late, stepping up to do whatever needed doing throughout the event. *Igwien, Wasmikas!* (Heartfelt thanks, *Wasmikas*).

### CPN representation abroad

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation was represented at the Reykjavík Global Forum — Women Leaders, in late November. I attended the forum to receive the forum's "Power, Together" award, for my work with The Kwek Society. The award was presented to 22 organizations,

including The Kwek Society, that are working to end the stigma of menstruation that still plagues society. The award was conferred at the close of the forum, which featured two days of thoughtful conversations among female world leaders and gave me exposure to ideas and solutions to not only end period poverty among Native students but also to address a wide range of other issues confronting civil society. Spending time in Iceland was an experience of a lifetime — I saw the Northern Lights, ate fermented shark,

washed down with brenevvín, at Café Loki (not to be repeated), and met many current and former female heads of state and young women who will soon run our world, including a young Inuit woman who I hope to partner with on period poverty issues in the new year. I also networked with some amazing women who will be instrumental as we grow The Kwek Society. To learn more about the forum, the award we received and the attendees, please visit [cpn.news/reykjavik](http://cpn.news/reykjavik).

### Building community; receipt of a holiday gift

Please send me your email address so I can send you email updates! Also, if you are in District 2 and want to receive a CPN-themed magnet as part of my holiday mailing, I will need you to confirm your current mailing address (to avoid costly USPS returns of misdirected mail). Please send me an email or leave a message with your current mailing address for this purpose. I will furnish one magnet per requestor, so

if your older children want magnets, they should send me a request (that will get me their contact details).

*Migwetch* (thank you) for the honor of representing you,

Eva Marie Carney  
*Ojindiskwe* (Blue Bird Woman)  
Representative, District 2  
2200 N. George Mason Drive  
PO Box #7307  
Arlington, VA 22207  
866-961-6988 toll-free  
[ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org)  
[evamariocarney.com](http://evamariocarney.com)

## District 3 – Bob Whistler



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

First, my apology for having to cancel the Dec. 14 meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas. We only had two replies and could not justify the expense with so few attendees. I will setup another date and place in a couple of months in the south Texas area.

### PBS Native American Heritage Month specials

If you recall, November was Native American Heritage Month. PBS had a number of specials that were very interesting. They had a website that carried valuable resources and creative elements to celebrate and remember our ancestors. Watch the PBS specials you might find interesting online at [cpn.news/pbsspecials](http://cpn.news/pbsspecials).

Last month, I wrote about the forthcoming U.S. Census that will start in March and run for quite a few months. If you are looking for a part-time, good paying job with flexible hours, give the 2020 U.S. Census a look. You may apply at [cpn.news/censusjobs](http://cpn.news/censusjobs).

### Microsoft Edge script virus

For those of you that use the Microsoft Edge browser, you may encounter hacking advising you to call Microsoft because your computer is going to be locked up, and if you don't call,

there will be a \$200 charge to your account. A new villain has entered the picture, and your machine is infected with what is called a script rather than a virus or malware. This script cannot be prevented or recognized by either a malware program or anti-virus software such as Norton or McAfee. I have had this situation develop and have reprogrammed my laptop thinking the problem would go away and my antivirus would protect me. Unfortunately, this script can get onto your machine whether you have an antivirus or not. All you need to do if you're using Microsoft Edge is click on one of the several news article photos that are generally on your screen before you sign-in to your email.

I have spoken to a Fry's IT person who is very knowledgeable, and he advised the easiest way to avoid this script is to use Chrome or Firefox as your browser. They

are not prone to being infected, where as Microsoft Edge is. If you do not have Chrome or Firefox on your computer, it is very easy to download. Go to [ninite.com](http://ninite.com), and they will offer not only these two programs but a number of others that are free. When you take your machine to one of the IT firms or persons to get rid of a virus and they are to reload your programs, this tends to be one of the sites they use. It also carries a free antivirus software from AVG Technologies, which is fairly good. In the event you encounter this script situation, simply shut your machine down. Then restart it, and go to your preferred search engine and type in the [ninite.com](http://ninite.com) URL to change your browser from Microsoft Edge to Chrome or Firefox.

Like my fellow representatives in the other districts outside Oklahoma, I do not have access to the records that has all of your

contact information. In order for me to send information that is not submitted to the *Hownikan*, I use email. If you have never heard from me, it is because I don't have your contact information, and I would appreciate receiving that from you.

I am always very honored and proud to serve as your elected representative, and I thank you very much.

*Bama mine*  
(Until later),

Bob Whistler  
*Bmashi* (He Soars)  
Representative, District 3  
112 Bedford Road, Suite 116  
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817-545-1507 home  
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[cpn3legislator@yahoo.com](mailto:cpn3legislator@yahoo.com)

## District 4 – Jon Boursaw



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

### A New Year ahead

First, Peggy and I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. The Nation achieved a burst of substantial economic growth this past year, particularly with the signing of the contract with Pro-Pipe USA, LLC, which resulted in the ground breaking for the first manufacturing facility on the Iron Horse property. We are confident that the Nation will continue to see similar economic expansion in 2020. As we enter this new year, please know that I will continue to do what I can to best serve the CPN members in Kansas.

### Put these on your calendar

District 4 Meeting in Rossville at the CPN Community Center

Tentative Agenda: 10 a.m., Saturday, March 28, 2020, with a catered lunch at noon

- Presentation by James Ralston on research he has done on the old stone house east of Silver Lake of US-24, also known as the Ogee House.
- Presentation by Tesia Zientek, director of the CPN Education Department, regarding the services and activities of her department.
- Eagle demonstration by the CPN Eagle Aviary staff.
- Presentation by Maria Hrenchir on her experiences as a 2019 Potawatomi Leadership Program student.

District 4 Meeting in Wichita at the Mid-America All-Indian Center, 650 N. Seneca St.

Tentative Agenda: Start with a catered lunch at 1 p.m., Sunday, March 29, 2020.

- Presentation by Tesia Zientek, director of the CPN

Education Department, regarding the services and activities of her department.

- Additional presentation or activity to be determined.

2020 CPN Family Reunion Festival will be held in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on June 26, 27 and 28. This year's honored families included the Bruno, Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Lewis, Nadeau, Slavin and Smith.

2020 Gathering of Potawatomi will be hosted by the Hannahville Potawatomi, located in the south-central section of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Tentative Dates are Wednesday, July 29 to Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020.

### Elders January Potluck

The Elders January Potluck at the CPN Community Center in Rossville is scheduled for noon, Friday, Jan. 10. The menu will be various soups. Come join us, and bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Tracy at 785-584-6171 if you plan on attending.

### Elders February Potluck

The February Potluck will be held on Friday, Feb. 14.



*CPN veterans at the Veterans Day Parade in Topeka, Kansas.*

### CPN students on scholarship

Chairman Barrett has made the following statement: "We can always hire specialists and the right technical staff. We can't hire leaders. Our leaders come from our youth, and it is our responsibility to prepare them." The Nation has supported this goal through its scholarship program. Over the years, hundreds of CPN members have received scholarship assistance from the

Nation, and 2019-2020 is no exception. This fall, 113 CPN members are attending the major colleges and universities in Kansas with assistance from the CPN scholarship program. This number does not include those students attending the numerous small colleges in the state, nor does it include those students attending institutions outside of Kansas. The following is a breakdown showing the number of students at each of the major schools in Kansas who are receiving CPN Scholarships:



Leah Hudson

Washburn University: 16  
Wichita State University : 9  
Haskell Indian Nation  
University: 12  
Emporia State University: 8

REMINDER: The final day for submission of scholarship applications for the 2020 spring semester is 5 p.m. CST, Feb. 15, 2020.

For more information contact the CPN Department of Education by email at [college@potawatomi.org](mailto:college@potawatomi.org) or by phone at 405-695-6028 or 1-800-880-9880 and ask for the education department.

#### CPN member competes in National Junior Horticultural event

Leah Hudson, a senior at Rossville High School, recently traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska, to compete in the National Junior Horticulture Convention. Leah was part of the four-member

Shawnee County team, which took second place at the national event in in the 4-H division. Leah garnered 10th place in the National Individual Standing. The Shawnee County Team had placed first at the Kansas State 4-H Horticulture competition in August 2019 to allow them to represent Kansas at the national competition. There were three main parts in the judging competition: plant identification, quality judging and a written test. In the earlier state competition, the members needed to know flowers and ornamentals including trees, vegetables and fruit, from primarily the state of Kansas. However, the national competition challenged the team members to learn plants found outside their own region. The national list included many new plants and specimens from across the United States. Leah, a member of the Navarre family, plans to attend Kansas State University in the fall to major in agronomy.

#### Burnett's Mound exhibit

It has taken longer than expected. I am pleased to report that at the time I was preparing this article, the Burnett's Mound exhibit panels were being manufactured, and delivery was expected before the end of December. After coordinating with the staff at the Shawnee County Parks and Recreation Department, we decided to tentatively make Friday, March 27, the target date for opening the exhibit. The county folks still need to pour some concrete pads before the exhibit can be installed, and Kansas winter weather is not the most idea time to be pouring concrete.

#### Veterans Day Parade in Topeka, Kansas

We participated once again in the Veterans Day Parade down Kansas Ave. in Topeka. Three "old" CPN veterans rode in the back of a restored 1969 GMC pickup driven by

a younger CPN veteran, Lee Atkins. The veterans in the back included Joe Wulfkuhle, my brother, Lyman and me. We are all four members of the Bourassa/Ogee families.

Finally, it has been a pleasure to serve as your legislative representative this past year, and I am looking forward to the coming year with enthusiasm.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Jon Boursaw,  
*Wetase Mkoh* (Brave Bear)  
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Kansas University: 26  
Pittsburg State University: 10  
Kansas State University: 22  
Ft. Hays State University: 10

## District 5 – Gene Lambert

Bozho  
(Hello),

2020 will be an exciting year, no doubt. Some of us are thrilled to see 2019 leave in the hopes next year will be illuminating by comparison.

This is the time of year when we get a new start. Hopefully we have said goodbye to any negative experiences. With a little thought, we can view those as lessons we have learned. We can then file away memories of those things we cherish.

Families are growing apart, and some are leaving home under various circumstances. New generations uproot and take over while the world

springs into action, and it will with or without us.

We're still trying to figure out technology when our grandchildren are designing new computer programs.

We now know that technology is both beneficial and problematic. It is, educationally, a friend. Yet, it can be detrimental to our security as we now know moving forward. Keep the faith! As we progress with new vision, undoubtedly there will be bumps along the way. We will find the answers to any situation when the highways show their faces. Every answer always creates additional questions we didn't know to ask before. Isn't this exciting! We are always learning.

I am sure I mentioned it before, but my great-grandfather would tell stories about how his generation went from covered wagons to jets in the air. Imagine the mental spiraling given such an expansive life.

We can accept it, learn about it, and move forward or stagnate in the pool of yesterdays, if we so choose. As wonderfully provided by the spirit, it is our choice.

The new world brings with it insecurities and fascination

of how far we can go and have come. It shows us the things that are possible.

While sitting in front of the radio as a child, listening to the science fiction stories of people flying to the moon or hearing about a television that has color, the idea it could really happen wasn't even a second thought. It was fiction.

We have now surpassed even my great-grandfather's life experience, and it is moving faster than ever before.

The Kennedy era and some of the public speeches motivated movements of equality in every sense of the word.

"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country!" — President John F. Kennedy.

"Some men see things as they are, and ask, 'Why?' I dream of things that never were, and ask, 'Why not?'" — Robert Kennedy

While those times are of the cherished memories for me, that very motivation that has brought us this far today.

We now have space shuttles taking off to the moon regularly. The first manned shuttle

was launched in 1969, thus requiring a fully manned space station. I believe it launched in November of 1998. Actually, it was way before that, but for reasons unbeknownst to me, this is what Google says.

The first space station was actually launched in 1971, but it was from the Soviet Union.

We have flying and on the ground cars, which don't even require a driver.

There are 12-year-olds starting their own online businesses and doing very well, thank you.

It isn't unusual now for people to live to 114 or more, when reaching 100 years was touted as an accomplishment in awe before.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has not been stagnant while all this is and has been going on. We too have moved along to new heights as Native American communities take back their spirit, which had been suppressed for so many generations.

I remember when we didn't have a grocery store, a casino or two, businesses on Native land, printing companies, a gift shop, a cement company,

health care, crops, an eagle aviary, banks, event arenas, restaurants, a hotel, community development, on and on.

I have had meetings where three and four generations proudly attend and share in the history and our future.

If you take a moment, you will see the growth, progression and future dreams of your own families. You will be amazed at your own growth professionally, spiritually and in every sense of the word.

This is who we are as a people — constantly growing, changing and aspiring.

Who I was isn't who I am or who I can become. The dream is ours!

Dream the very highest for 2020. We can do this. Love and best wishes to you all for the New Year and always.

Your legislator,

Eunice Imogene Lambert  
Butterfly Woman  
Representative, District 5  
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## District 6 – Rande K. Payne



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and best of luck with any New Year's resolutions you may have made. The holidays provided an opportunity to spend quality time with my kids and grandkids. All of the elders in my family are gone now, so it's up to my generation to organize and host the family gatherings. The older I get, the more I appreciate time with family.

Amidst all the busyness at work and the holidays is my birthday. This year's birthday came with a little added anxiety, as it was a driver's license renewal year. I have possessed a commercial driver's license since I was 16, and even though I don't use it anymore, at age 63, I feel like I want to hang on to it as long as I can. So, I passed my DMV physical with flying colors, filed the doctor's report with the DMV, filled out my renewal application online, and made my DMV appointment to go in and get a new picture as part of the renewal this time

around. I have never had an at-fault accident or even been involved in an accident for that matter. My one and only moving violation (ticket) was a speeding ticket when I was in high school. I think it was for 40 in a 35 mph speed zone, if memory serves me. Big whoop! Because of my clean driving record, no tests were required, just a visit to the local DMV to update my photograph.

But things did not go the way I thought they would when I showed up at the DMV to get my picture taken for my new license. The first thing the clerk said was, "You have a commercial license. You'll have to upgrade to a Real ID." I said, "But, I don't want a Real ID." The clerk replied, "Sir, the law now requires all commercial drivers to have Real ID." So needless to say, I didn't get my picture taken that day.

Long story short, I am currently in the process of obtaining a passport so I can renew my driver's license, upgrading it to be Real ID compliant. After two previously failed attempts at obtaining a passport, it has come to this. I feel like my citizenship in this world is being called into question simply because I was born north of a boundary line to parents born on the south side of that same line. My standard Canadian birth certificate doesn't list my parents, so the U.S. won't accept it for passport purposes. In order to get my Canadian long form birth certificate, which lists my parents, I must provide a guarantor (someone

who can attest to my identity) on the request. The guarantor must be a Canadian citizen of prominence. Someone who would qualify as a guarantor might be a doctor, lawyer, public official, bank president, etc. The only reason I was born in Canada was because my dad was an airman working at a U.S. Air Force radar installation in Sioux Lookout Ontario in the 915th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron. My family left Canada shortly after I was born when the radar installation was turned over to the Royal Canadian Air Force.

I wasn't able to attend the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations, neither in 2017 at Walpole Island, nor in 2019 at Wasauksing First Nation because of the lack of a passport. Desperately thinking about how I could get my long form birth certificate, I looked again at the list of people who could be a guarantor, and chief of a First Nation tribe popped up. The light went on! I've met Chief Warren Tabobondung from Wasauksing First Nation at Gathering of Potawatomi Nations events in the U.S., so I gave him a call. I explained my situation, and he was more than willing to be my guarantor. It was a great conversation. The requirement is to know the person at least two years and list how many years the guarantor has known you. Chief Tabobondung said we are family since time immemorial. Let's put down some *sema* (tobacco), pray and trust that this will work out. My anxiety was gone in a flash as my citizenship

in a family that knows no boundaries was affirmed. *Igwien* (heartfelt thanks), Chief Tabobondung, for your humility and the peace you bestowed on me. I am forever grateful!

Ironically, Sioux Lookout derives its name from a local First Nations story. Sioux Mountain was used by the Ojibwe as a perch to watch for Sioux warriors with intentions of ambushing the nearby Ojibwe camp. From Sioux Lookout, a sharp eye could see the sun reflecting off of the Sioux's birch bark canoes. The early detection allowed the Ojibwe to evacuate the women and children, and Ojibwe warriors could intercept the invading Sioux on the water.

If you're thinking about attending college this spring, please remember that the Tribal scholarship application period closes Feb. 15th. I would also like to remind anyone considering an MBA program, Citizen Potawatomi Nation partners with Oklahoma Baptist University. The program is mindful and accommodating for working adults, and the program provides for a unique, 100 percent online environment. For more information on these and other education assistance programs offered by CPN, contact the Education Department at 405-275-3121 or [college@potawatomi.org](mailto:college@potawatomi.org).

### Benefits and Services

I am proud of all the services and support provided by the Nation to benefit all Tribal members, including the educational services and

support provided through the Nation's Department of Education. As noted above, the spring scholarship deadline is Feb. 15. CPN full-time students are eligible to receive up to \$2,000 and part-time students \$750 for the spring, summer and fall semesters. Addition to scholarships, staff provide individualize college advising, internship information and more, regardless of age or location. Learn more by watching a video at [cpn.news/cpnedu](http://cpn.news/cpnedu).

Potawatomi Phrase of the Month: *Mno gishget* (it's a nice/good/beautiful day).

Wisdom from the Word: "You have increased the nation, O Lord, You have increased the nation, You are glorified; You have extended all the borders of the land." Isaiah 26:15

*Migwetch! Bama pi*  
(Thanks! Later),

Rande K. Payne  
*Mnedo Gabo*  
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## District 8 – Dave Carney



*Bozho, nikan*  
(Hello, my friend),

2020 is here!

I once saw a standup comedian entertaining the audience with his childhood story about going to the 1962 Seattle World's Fair with his grandmother. He was excited to see all of the

displays of futuristic technology, ranging from individual jet packs to flying cars. He marveled at the Space Needle and the ultra-sleek monorail.

As he became an adult, he reflected that the dream of flying over traffic like Buck Rogers was still just that — a dream. He observed that the city of Seattle's focus was on bicycles and adding bike lanes throughout the city. He exclaimed in an exaggerated manner, "We had bikes in 1962!" The lesson here is that sometimes the promise of technology doesn't meet the hype.

On the other hand, through the proliferation of technology, we are able to easily connect with family and friends like never before. A treasured picture of a common ancestor

can be shared with countless individuals and preserved for future generations instead of wasting away in an old shoe box.

The Nation has leveraged technology in some powerful ways, not the least of which are online language classes. Our director of the Potawatomi Language Department, Justin Neely, has done a wonderful job of making classes available through various platforms on the internet. An online Potawatomi language dictionary is also now available. These are uses of technology that our ancestors would approve of. Check it out here: [potawatomidictionary.com](http://potawatomidictionary.com).

Happy New Year!

In western culture, Dec. 31 is the New Year's celebration and Jan. 1 is the start of the

new year. In many Native cultures, it is more closely related to the solstice. In Hopi and Zuni cultures, Dec. 22 is the last day of the year. Ceremonies are conducted for renewal and purification.

According to an article I read on an NPR-related website, the Umatilla tribes of eastern Oregon celebrate Dec. 20 as New Year's Day. The celebration is called kimtee innmewit. It is a time of year to celebrate with sacred first Native foods. The first foods were salmon, deer and bitterroot.

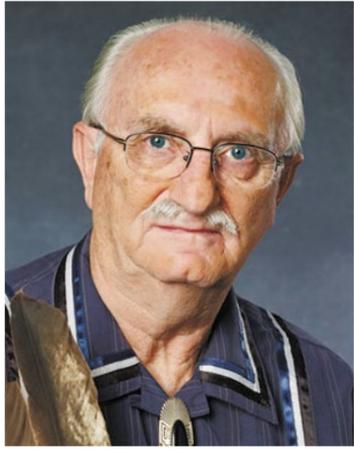
However you celebrate the changing of the calendar, be gentle on yourself with the New Year resolutions. Don't provide your debit card to the local gym for automatic monthly payments, and don't

buy that Bowflex equipment advertised on late night TV. Resolve to do incremental and manageable changes you can stick to like walking more and making better food choices. That's just my advice.

As always, it is my honor to represent you in the legislature,

Dave Carney  
*Kagasghi* (Raven)  
Representative, District 8  
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## District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello friend)!

My great friend and former colleague, Lisa Billy, has resigned in protest! She was

the first cabinet Secretary of Native American Affairs for the State of Oklahoma. I know Lisa to be a wonderful wife and one of the best parents that I have ever known.

Lisa and I served 12 years together in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. We were and are best of friends. Together, along with Shane Jett, we organized the first Native American Affairs forum at the capitol, which was successful at uniting the many tribes in Oklahoma and showcasing their contributions to the state.

Secretary Billy sent a letter of protest to Governor Kevin Stitt. She resigned in

frustration over the governor's challenge toward Native American tribes concerning gaming compacts. Governor Stitt wants to renegotiate the compacts, meaning he wants to extract much more money from the tribes.

Billy wrote that the governor is causing "an unnecessary conflict that poses a risk of lasting damage to the state-tribal relationship and our economy."

She continued, "You have dismissed advice and facts that show the peril of your chosen approach and have remained intent on breaking faith with the tribes, both by refusing to engage with the compact's

language and, more recently, by suggesting you would displace our tribal partners with private, out-of-state commercial gaming operators. Your actions have shown that my continuing in service on your cabinet is unnecessary to you and impossible for me. I must accordingly resign, effective immediately."

I applaud the principled resignation of the secretary. I know her to be a dedicated public servant, not only to her state and the tribes but also to her Chickasaw Nation.

We thought the governor, being a tribal citizen himself, would increase the bonds between

the tribes and the state, but he has done the very opposite to our disappointment. Lisa tried to work within this division and heal the situation, but ultimately had to resign the job she was born for and loved out of protest. Let's hope this governor absorbs the message from her and us!

Lisa Billy, you go girl!

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft  
*Naganit* (Leader)  
Representative, District 9  
[pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org](mailto:pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org)

## District 11 – Lisa Kraft



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

Very happy New Year 2020 to our Citizen Potawatomi family and friends everywhere.

Thank you for taking the time each month to read this amazing newspaper, assembled and published by our Public Information Department, under the direction of Jennifer Bell. Her staff of professionals range from editors, writers, journalists, researchers, media specialists, photographers and graphic artists. It takes a production staff to produce the *Hownikan*. This monthly paper has been in existence for more than 40 years, since 1971, and continues to be the artery of information for our Tribe. Many thanks to those who report on and deliver our Tribal news so fluently.

\*\*\*

I have been working with tribal governments since coming to work for our Tribe back in 1996. Back then, our Tribe was just beginning to pursue self-governance (going from contracting with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health

Service for federal program dollars to compacting status). Compacting is having the ability to reprogram and redesign old federal programs into new programs to better meet our community needs. Compacting with the federal government also means getting federal program money lump sum (in theory), rather than reimbursed by the government as tribal services are delivered or projects implemented. Having a compact with the government also means negotiating an annual funding agreement. That agreement is much better than waiting to receive grant or contract money quarterly or as expensed.

When a tribe goes self-governance, it has proven internal capability and capacity to deliver large federal services to the public. I am fortunate in my career that I get to work alongside a handful of Oklahoma tribal leaders and business committees to help them build their visions for progress — one grant at a time. My greatest returns, professionally, are watching ideas develop in consensus around a planning table and become highly competitive grant proposals, learning something I proposed will get funded, working with professionals to design and construct tribal buildings, and seeing people in those buildings.

Learning that your grant is awarded is like a bolt of lightning energizing you to think, "OK, what can I go after next to build on the momentum?"

In fact, I am over-the-top happy as I start this new year. I learned recently that a U. S. Housing



*The Bear Room inside the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort is one of the safe rooms built using federal funding opportunities.*

and Urban Development grant I wrote for the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma was awarded. They will receive \$3 million to build 20 elder homes up in the far northeast corner of Oklahoma where housing is sorely needed. Only four awards were made in Oklahoma.

My work typically continues after the grant award. Many times, I am hired to help tribal leaders strengthen their internal processes and policies, manage construction projects, and develop vision plans for future development. I work alongside tribal attorneys, procurement departments, accounting, self-governance, environmental, construction contractors, federal funding agency administrators, the U. S Army Corps of Engineers, and tribal program and enterprise directors.

When a tribe is able to build its federal grant and program efforts, it receives more contract costs — or indirect (operating) costs — on top of direct project costs. The more grants a tribe gets, the more federal funding a tribe gets for

indirect costs. These extra federal dollars are what the tribe uses to build its indirect cost pool: that is, the employees that support the tribal government and allow us to administer federal services in the first place. All CPN employees, in one way or another, become CPN community representatives, and some become Citizen Potawatomi advocates, advancing our standing among federal programs, agencies and departments. When a tribe successfully manages a federal grant project, it is easy to build a rapport with the federal government and apply for larger federal opportunities. One of our very own Tribal member employees at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation happens to be one of these ambassadors.

CPN Emergency Management Director, Tim Zientek, is one of the most well-known tribal emergency managers in the entire country. Tim was in the thick of things in 2013 when tornadoes struck the CPN jurisdiction; the closest tornado missing the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort

by a mile. Soon after, Tim was on a mission to find funding for a large safe room. The Grand is our largest enterprise and asset, in terms of concentrated employees and patrons as well as financial investment.

Tim, working with staff from CPN Self-Governance, accounting, construction, the Grand and emergency management staff, developed a high-scoring grant application to the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program. This effort was rewarded in a \$2.5 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. CPN pledged 25 percent of the project costs. Less than a handful of these awards are offered each year. It is cause for celebration that so many of our CPN employees give their professional time to build our community, from handshakes at conferences to safeguarding our community through building efforts.

The next time you visit the Grand, please ask to see the Bear Conference Room. You would never guess you were in a two-story FEMA safe room. The entire space is 20,000 square feet and can hold 4,000 people. My thanks go to all those who played a role in making our community safer.

As always, I am thinking Potawatomi.

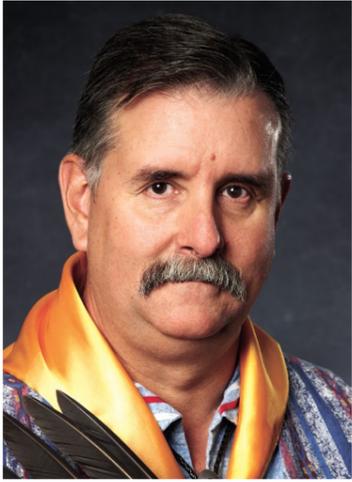
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## District 12 – Paul Schmidlkofer



*How nikan*  
(Hello friend),

I was sitting here thinking about our culture, and it hit me again; the key to our culture is still through our

language. If you study it, many of our words are a story.

This got me to thinking about our language department. At this point, I realized all the opportunities we have now to learn our language. Over the past few years, they have developed multiple options for us. I know there is a Memrise app for your smartphone available. The Pokagon Band recently had our language created on the Mango app. There is an online dictionary with thousands of translated Potawatomi words and phrases with audio.

I have participated in a couple of classes by the language department at the Cultural Heritage Center. I have enjoyed them immensely. Justin Neely

taught two of them and Randy Schlachtun taught one of them. The department typically has at least one Potawatomi Word of the Day on their Facebook group and often shares the Gun Lake Tribe daily word too. They usually monitor this group and are available to answer questions. This reminds me; they also have videoed most of the on-site classes on the same page so members outside Shawnee could watch and learn. I think they posted a language textbook there too. Find the group here: [cpn.news/langfb](https://www.facebook.com/cpn.news/langfb).

Search the Nation's webpage ([potawatomi.org](https://www.potawatomi.org)) for the language department, and you can find learning tools there also. I know there are videos and YouTube available. I remember

Moodle courses being available too. I have been by the CPN Child Development Center and saw them teaching language to the kids; this always makes my heart swell. Be sure and keep an eye out for the language page because I think you may get to see a video of them singing Christmas carols soon. I am sitting here thinking I forgot a couple of other tools available to us and most certainly have.

I hope that you will be inspired to take advantage of these options. We had come so close to losing this and other parts of our culture. Our Language Director Justin Neely often says, "You are never too old or too young to learn." I do wish to thank our Cultural Heritage Center and our language department for their

tireless hours they have dedicated to preserving our history.

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday break last month and had the opportunity to celebrate your family. Also, I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and happy holidays and a safe New Year's Day.

In closing, thank you once more for the honor to serve you.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Paul Schmidlkofer  
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1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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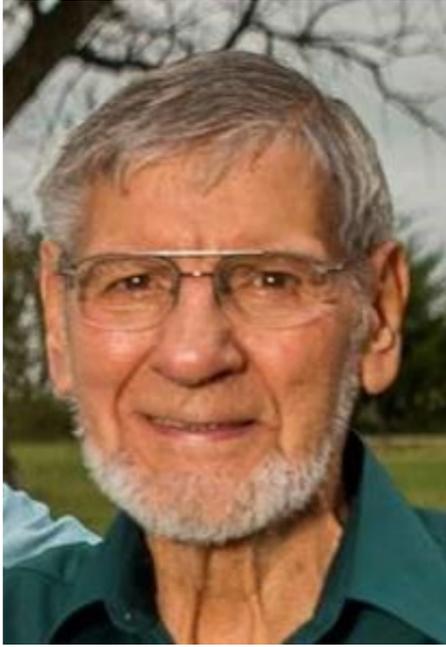
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**Charles D. McCall**

Charles D. "Chuck" McCall, 85, passed away Monday, Nov. 11, 2019, in Topeka, Kansas. He was born July 30, 1934, in Topeka.

Chuck served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, honorably discharged Oct. 17, 1957. He worked for 32 years as an elevator technician and was known about town as "the elevator man." He was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia "Pat" McCall; son, Darrin L. McCall; daughters, Tricia (Bryce) Decker and Lana McCall; and grandchildren, Connor and Gabrielle Stotts, Drake McCall, and Darrin, Nickolas, Braydn, and Issak Decker.

He was preceded in death by an infant son, Gary McCall; his parents, Walter and Glendola (Rude) McCall; and siblings, Leslie McCall and Mary Applegate.

Today, I say goodbye to the greatest father a girl could ask for. My dad lived a great life, served his country, made a good living and lived by his own rules.

His family was his religion; he believed in us deeply and had all the faith in the world in us. We always came first, above *all* else.

He had a deep kindness within him — a kindness to animals and a giving generosity to people. He helped strangers all the time and spoiled his family rotten. Just a good person.

I will miss him forever, but he is no longer sick and confused. He died a good and dignified death, and I could not ask for more.

Even with my broken heart, I can see what a lucky girl I have been.

I love you, Daddy!

**Donna Riggs**

Donna Kay Riggs, 58, of Amazonia, Missouri, passed away Friday, Nov. 29, 2019, at her home in Amazonia. She was born Oct. 7, 1961, in St. Joseph, Missouri, daughter of Virginia and Donald Riggs. She graduated from Lafayette High School, class of 1980, and later from St. Joseph Beauty University. Donna owned/operated Hair Port for many years. Her hobbies consisted of coloring and her dogs. Donna was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

She was preceded in death by her father, Donald Riggs and mother, Virginia Riggs. She is survived by her brother, Michael (Lynn Golden) Riggs of Amazonia, Missouri; brother, Charles (Terri) Riggs of Stockbridge, Georgia; sister, Belinda (Micheal) Bricker of Camden Point, Missouri; and several nieces, nephews and extended family. She was cremated under the direction of the Rupp Funeral Home, and a memorial service was held shortly afterward. Memorials are requested to the Friends of the Animal Shelter.

**Richard Nourie**

Richard Nourie passed away Sunday, Oct. 27, 2019. Richard (Dick) was the son of Sherman Chester Nourie and Stella Mary (Arseneau) Nourie. He was a descendant of the Bourassa family by way of his father.

Born at home in Papineau Township, Iroquois County, Illinois, on April 7, 1921, he was the first born of three brothers. He was a Marine combat veteran of World War II, having enlisted in 1939. He served in the Pacific Ocean theater and in the assault on Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands. Discharged as a sergeant in January 1947 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, he went 35 miles up the road to Silver Spring, Maryland, where he trained for and became a licensed optician. He worked initially for the Mayflower Optical Co., and eventually opened his own business until his retirement.

On April 5, 1947, he married Louise A. Shephard who predeceased him on June 1, 1995. They had no children. Richard was a lifetime resident of Silver Springs, Maryland, and a member of the American Legion. For many of his last years, he was graced with the loving friendship of Ms. Janice Vossler. He is survived by Ms. Vossler and one brother, retired USMC Major Robert J. (Bob) Nourie.

Rest in peace, my brother, until we meet again. Semper Fi.

**Geraldine Helen Howells**

Helen Howells was born on Sept. 4, 1933, to Clarence and Norma Leonard in Los Angeles, California. She passed away from this life in her home on Oct. 30, 2019, in Seal Beach, California.

On Jan. 20, 1951, she married her husband Chester William Evilsizer, and together they had two daughters. After her husband's passing, she again married, George William Howells, and together they had a son in 1960.

Helen loved working as a nursing aid and enjoyed her employment at Downey Hospital for 40 plus years. When she retired, she loved babysitting her three grandchildren and later, great-grandchildren.

Tribal heritage was very important to Helen, and she took pride in being a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is a descendant of the Pettifer family, and she enjoyed learning about her heritage and sharing stories with her children. She enjoyed many things in life, including quilting, crocheting and working puz-

zles, but the most important thing in her life was spending time with her family.

Preceding Helen in death are both husbands, Chester Evilsizer and George Howells; all her siblings, Margarite Erickson Stanhope, Earl Leonard (killed in WWII), Virginia Harris Graham, Lela May Hughey, and her twin brother Harry Leonard. Left behind to mourn her passing are her three children, Rozanne Montrelli of Argyle, Texas, Karen Sitler of Vail, Arizona, and George Howells III of Signal Hill, California; along with three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and a great-great granddaughter.

Mom and Nana was loved and will be missed!

**John R. Paine**

John R. Paine, known as Jack, passed away Nov. 24, 2019, at the age of 99 in Tucson, Arizona, just 37 days short of his 100th birthday. Jack was married to the love of his life, Marie, for 71 years, before she passed away seven years ago. Also preceding him in death was his only son, Jim.

Jack served in the Army Corps during World War II, stationed on Guam working on B-29s. He had a long career with Otis Elevator Company, starting in Honolulu in 1954, before transferring to Los Angeles in 1967 and retiring as district manager of the Los Angeles office in 1980.

Jack joined the Pasadena, California, Elks Lodge in 1941 and after his move to Hawaii in 1954, joined the Honolulu Elks Lodge. He became the Grand Exalted Ruler of that lodge in 1965. Jack joined the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association in 1972, becoming an honorary member in 1985. In Jack's retirement, he was a very active volunteer at the Arcadia, California, Methodist Hospital.

Jack was an avid Dodgers fan for many years and was so disappointed they could not win the World Series this year.

He was most proud of his family and Native American heritage. He is survived by his daughter, Arline (Tom); daughter-in-law, Anne; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He will be missed for his kind spirit.

Aloha, Jack.

**Submitting obituaries**

To submit an obituary, please send a word document with **no more than 300 words**, a 300dpi photo and a contact phone number to

[hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org)

**CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls**

The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.

**Please note:** Once a CPN tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.

For more information, please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email [cclark@potawatomi.org](mailto:cclark@potawatomi.org).