



HOWNIIKAN

Kchemkogises | January 2022

Top photo: Snowfall reflects off the top of the FireLake Golf Course pond.

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Walking on



Area school district receives FireLake Wellness Center equipment donation

Student-athletes at a Pottawatomie County high school will enhance their competitive edge, thanks to a donation from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation FireLake Wellness Center.

As staff prepared to replace the weight equipment at FireLake this fall, they wondered what to do with the soon-to-be surplus items. Coby Lehman, certified personal trainer, said he had an idea who might benefit the most.

Lehman graduated from a small-sized school in the county. From his experience as a student, he knew that expensive items such as weights are often in short supply but necessary for student-athletes.

"I reached out to a couple of small schools because I knew they had a few items but not that much," he said.

Lehman connected with Wanette Public Schools in southern Pottawatomie County.

Tyler Thetford, the Tigers' boys basketball coach and athletics director, learned of the equipment's availability and was surprised by the Tribe's donation.

"I can't explain the feeling," he said. "Shock. Beyond anything we could have imagined."

FireLake Wellness Center gifted several items, including a leg press, bench press, shoulder pulldown and cable crossover machines. Wanette staff helped disassemble the equipment at CPN's gym and transported it to the school on Nov. 27.

"Before, we had to use our equipment one person at a time, and other kids were waiting to take their turn. Now the entire team can be in there working out, and nobody will be waiting," Thetford said.



Wanette High School athletic director Tyler Thetford discusses how to use the new equipment with a student.

"With this donation, we 100 percent feel like we've hit the lottery. The administration is excited, the school board is excited," he said.

Thetford estimated that if the school district had purchased the equipment, the cost likely would have exceeded \$60,000.

"We never could have raised enough money for all this equipment," he said. "We might have been able to raise enough for a small machine or weights."

The school has never had a dedicated weight room or permanent weight

lifting program for its student-athletes, he added. In the past, some coaches brought their personal workout equipment to the school.

Wanette High School had an empty classroom that was being used for storage. Thetford said school staff moved everything out and re-assembled the equipment there.

"It's something we've been lacking forever," he said. "Two or three kids have walked by and peeked in during the assembly and had looks of awe and amazement on their faces."

He explained the benefits for all of Wanette's teams. For cross-country, using the leg machines will make them more explosive off the line. It will also help athletes in track and field, basketball and softball.

"Our kids have a lot of heart and they work hard. They will put in all their effort, and this will help them reach even higher for their goals," Thetford said.

"We are speechless. The impact is priceless, completely priceless."

During the 2020-21 school year, Wanette Public Schools had 115 students enrolled, according to the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Find the district online at wanetteschools.org.



Wanette High School student-athletes test out the new gym equipment donated by CPN.

Hardin descendant named first Michael John Kennedy Scholarship recipient

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation awarded the first Michael John Kennedy Scholarship to University of Wisconsin-La Crosse junior Jozie Arenz in fall 2021. Last year, CPN's Department of Education accepted applications for the memorial scholarship, funded by the estate of Army veteran and CPN member Michael Kennedy.

"I'm very honored and very thankful to have been awarded this scholarship," Arenz said. "I have been working towards my biology degree for the past three years, and being recognized for the effort that I have put in is such a great honor."

Open to college juniors and seniors, the scholarship welcomes children and grandchildren of veterans to apply. Arenz's mother, Tondra, served in the U.S. Navy for almost two decades, retiring as a senior chief petty officer. The application required an essay about the modern or historical Potawatomi warriors' impact on the Tribe, and Arenz interviewed her mother.

"It was really inspiring because even though my mother experienced discrimination and sexism in the service, she still chose to proudly identify as a Potawatomi Native American service member. She wore that label with pride as she achieved her goals and moved up in rank," Arenz said.

Her essay combined her discussions with her mother with the history of the French and Indian War she learned through visiting the site of the Battle of Tippecanoe in present-day Indiana and some research. CPN's Cultural Heritage Center online encyclopedia provided vital information.

"I led into the paper discussing the French and Indian War, the Potawatomi's involvement, and how their spirituality and community was a major contributor to their victory," Arenz said.

Her father, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family members also served in the Navy, Army, Marines and Air Force. Arenz sees the connections between this long tradition and her gratitude for the educational opportunities assisted

by the Tribe. She encourages young Tribal members to talk to their families about their time in the military.

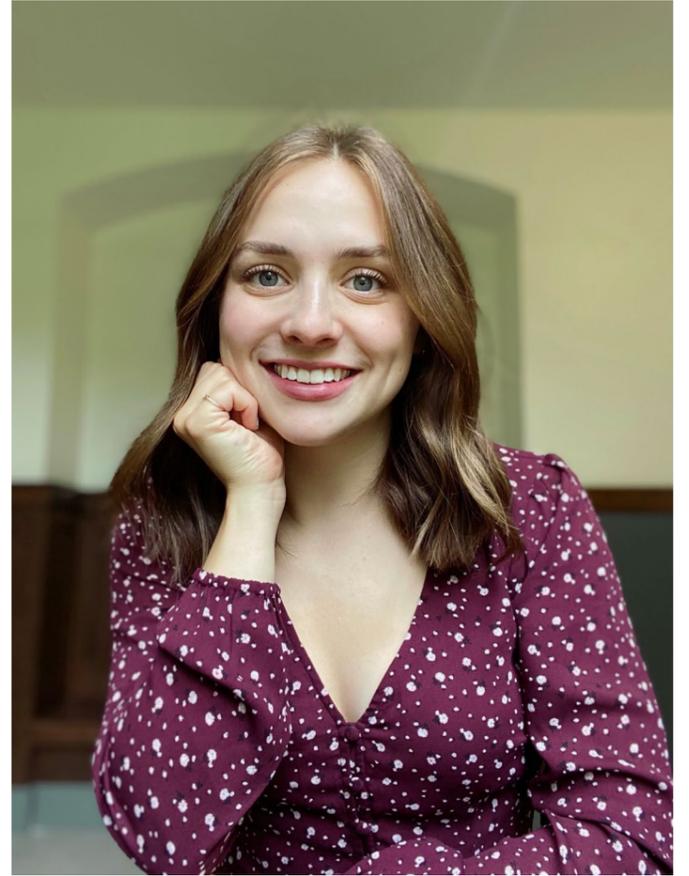
"Their dedication, perseverance and sacrifice can inspire us to pursue our dreams, education and future careers. We've had so many people fight and even give up their lives for us so that we could have these opportunities. That definitely pushes me every day to keep on going," Arenz said.

She plans to earn her bachelor's degree in biology in fall 2022 and then begin physician assistant school. Her mother became a nurse following Naval Hospital Corps School, and Arenz wants to care for others in the same way.

"As I'm heading towards a career in medicine, I really want to give back to the people who have helped me get here," she said. "So whether that's with Native American populations or if that's with veteran populations, I would really like to put my passion and expertise into the communities that have helped me get to where I am now."

Arenz was a member of the Potawatomi Leadership Program class of 2021 and felt more connected to the Nation afterward. She felt applying for this scholarship provided a similar opportunity.

"To have been able to learn more about Citizen Potawatomi Nation and their involvement in the military was a great



Potawatomi Leadership Program alumnus Jozie Arenz attends the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and hopes to become a physician assistant. (Photo provided)

opportunity. I'm thankful to have been awarded this scholarship, and I hope my research and writing inspires others to learn more about their connection to our Tribe and the military," she said.

Apply for the Michael John Kennedy Scholarship at portal.potawatomi.org. Read more about the Potawatomi Leadership Program at plp.potawatomi.org. Find Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center online encyclopedia at potawatomiheritage.com. ♡



Arenz (center right) enjoys celebrating her family's long history of military service with her sister, Tessa; mother, Tondra; and father, Ed. (Photo provided)

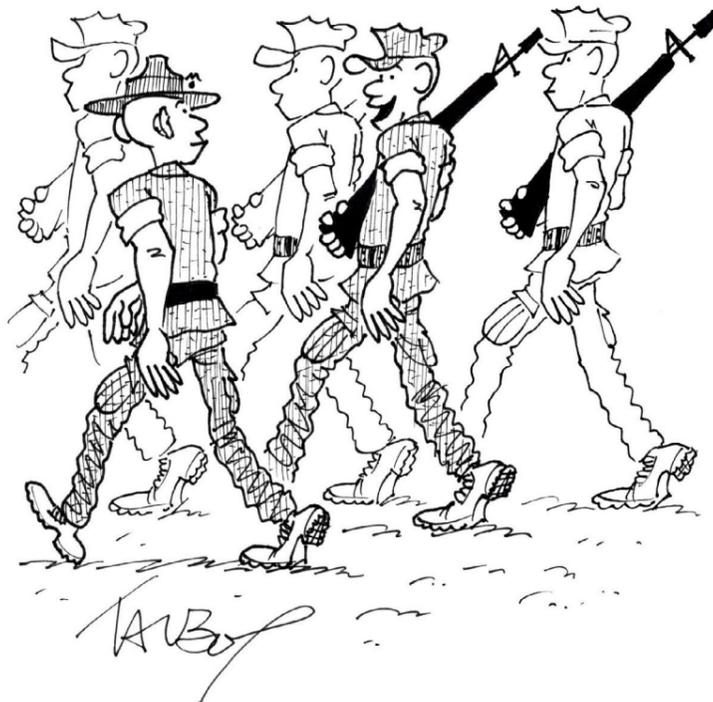
Veterans report



Bozho
(Hello),

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization wishes everyone a great New Year! It will be a very interesting 2022 with the pandemic, China, Russia and the Middle East dark cloud covering our world. These blemishes on the new year heighten our awareness for the military and security needs of our Tribe and nation. The nation has begun to recognize and appreciate its veterans and active military personnel for their past contributions to these goals.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization has taken on the task of adjusting to the needs of our members in these trying times. We have two goals in our organization: first, to create a socializing environment for veterans



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to be with other veterans. Second, to actively represent the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to the public by presenting the colors (flags) at various events with the color guard and our honor guard being present when a Tribal member walks on. We at present have seven active members for this honor: Daryl Talbot, Daniel Castaneda, David Barrett, Bill Wano, Galen Greenwalt, Kenny Reed and Kenny Talbot. We have had other veterans express an interest in joining our mission. We have a new vice commander, Daniel Castaneda. It promises to be a very exciting year.

Remember, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization has its meetings every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there). All CPN Veterans and spouses and families are welcome. We meet in the North Reunion Hall located at the Tribe's powwow grounds.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Trail cameras provide a unique view of CPN

Youth programs during summer 2021 provided an opportunity for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to purchase and place trail cameras across its jurisdiction. The images help connect students to Mother Nature and open dialogue around conservation and land stewardship. The Nation now extends access to trail camera images through potawatomiheritage.com.

“Part of our traditions as Native Americans is to respect the world around us. Nature is important, and if we can help others see that and capture somebody’s interest, then that’s a great thing,” said Margaret Zientek, CPN Workforce Development & Social Services assistant director.

The project began in 2021 with a STEM camp through Workforce, which introduced students to educational and career opportunities tied to science, technology, engineering and math. During one lesson, participants received a trail camera that they set up near their homes, capturing wildlife, insects and more. They later discussed their observations and experiences as a group. Expanding on this, the Nation decided to set up trail cameras across CPN and make the images available for Tribal members, educators and the public.

“The whole idea of this is showcasing wildlife and encouraging others to be good stewards of the land,” said CPN Eagle Aviary Manager Jennifer Randell.



White tail deer enjoys grass near the CPN Eagle Aviary. (Photos provided)

Departments across the Nation, including the CPN Eagle Aviary, Department of Education, Cultural Heritage Center, Workforce Development & Social Services and the Department of Real Estate Services collaborated on the project.

“Everyone has been so excited and just ecstatic about this,” Zientek said.

The Department of Education encourages educators to use the images and sees them as an opportunity for greater Native American inclusion in classrooms across Oklahoma and the United States.

Many of the 37,000 CPN members across the world have never had a chance to visit the Nation’s

headquarters. The trail cameras also serve as a way for Tribal members to connect to the flourishing wildlife and lands across CPN jurisdiction.

“We have pictures that show all kinds of animals at different times. Some were in the daytime, some are in the twilight, some in the night, and the system is set up to capture them at all times,” Zientek explained.

Throughout the past few decades, efforts to protect bald eagles and other birds of prey have supported a growth and resurgence in key predator species across the United States.

“We could see numbers go down again because we do things that we don’t realize

are harmful. So if we can educate people and expose our young people, even just picking up a piece of trash or fishing line, itty bitty things can make a huge impact on our wildlife,” Randell said.

Aviary staff hopes outreach, like the trail cameras, will help with conservation efforts for generations to come.

“It is important that we are intentional about everything we do out there — that we leave things the way we found them. That’s going to have a ripple effect positively on our animals and our land,” Randell said.

Find images and specially-curated curriculum through the Cultural Heritage Center’s website at potawatomiheritage.com/classroom.

Virtual Tribe portal streamlines information collection and management

The Virtual Tribe portal allows Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members to take greater control of their personal information and experience a more enriched environment for family history research.

CPN’s new portal is a single access point for members to submit or update their personal information and research family connections.

According to Christopher Abel, director of information technology, the idea began with the belief that people prefer to manage their personal information in a quick and convenient format. IT determined Tribal members needed the access and ability to submit their information electronically through the Nation’s online portal, which stores all the information in one central location.

“Being able to change their information online is the way the world is moving,” Abel said.

The team envisioned a program that would allow Tribal members to update all their personal information in one place, rather than contacting different individuals in several departments.

“Tribal members can verify it was changed in front of them on their screens,” he said. “It empowers them to manage those changes.”

Dr. Kelli Mosteller, CPN’s Cultural Heritage Center director, said IT has been working on the concept for years with other departments. Initially, Abel and his staff created a portal for education scholarship applications so Tribal members could apply, upload their documents and track their information.

These department portal pages became more prevalent during the coronavirus pandemic as CPN began accepting applications for CARES Act and ARPA funds online. Applying this concept to the CHC seemed like taking the next natural step, Dr. Mosteller said.

Josh Michael and Nathan Hawkins, both web developers, as well as Jonathan Cervone, who is a software developer, played instrumental roles in creating the portal.

“They’ve worked to make the program as secure as possible, so that information is not at risk,” Abel added.

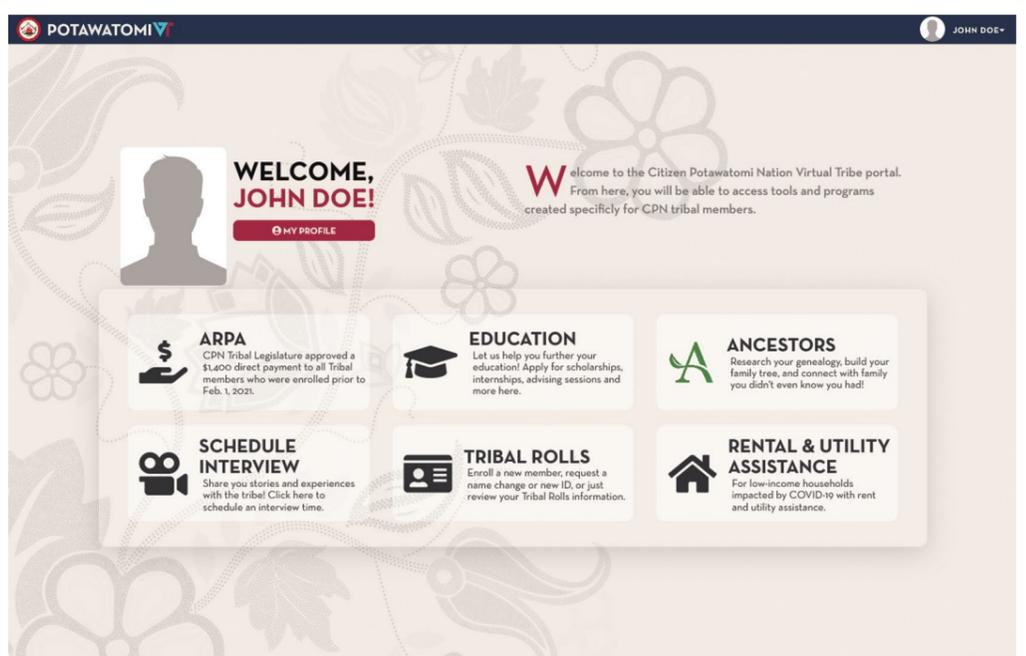
Cervone said while developing other department portals, the team strived to make everything easier and streamlined several different processes for everyone, from Tribal Rolls to Workforce Development & Social Services.

They envisioned giving Tribal members peace of mind, knowing their information is correct and they have control over it, Cervone added.

Ancestors

The CHC *Ancestors* portal assists Tribal members with family research, and provides information and documents about historical Potawatomi relatives.

“If you’re looking up your great-great-grandmother and you have a photo, you can upload that photo and others can see the information,” Dr. Mosteller said.



By accessing the Virtual Tribe portal, Tribal members will have more control over their personal data and experience an enriched environment for family history research.

A challenge for the CHC came in dealing with information regarding non-living Tribal members. If *Ancestors* users find missing or conflicting information, it is not possible to contact that person for corrections.

“If government records such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the military have a birthdate listed differently, you can’t just call that person for the right information. Deep genealogical research is needed. We might have to seek out resources we don’t have,” Dr. Mosteller said.

However, the portal’s greatest benefit lies in making information formerly available only on paper accessible in a digital format.

“We’re very visual learners,” she said. Having those records digitized “has enriched the quality and quantity of family research.”

During a recent *Howinkan* interview, Dr. Mosteller expressed excitement about *Ancestors*, because it not only stores information in a central location but is user friendly, for Tribal citizens at home and CHC staff.

Access the Citizen Potawatomi Nation portal at portal.potawatomi.org. Find *Ancestors* under the “Resources” tab at potawatomiheritage.com.

Research reveals clues to Potawatomi community's past

The once-bustling Potawatomi reservation settlement of Uniontown in present-day Kansas is today a small cemetery. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation have rich histories tied to the area that was the center of the tribes' universe in the mid-19th century. Stories passed down for generations about the community located along the Oregon Trail inspired recent geological research from experts in the state.

Dr. Blair Schneider, associate researcher and science outreach manager from the University of Kansas, and Robert Hoard, Kansas state archeologist, worked closely with Jon Boursaw, CPN District 4 legislator, to learn the oral history of Uniontown and formulate research plans.

"I care intensely about restorative justice, and I care intensely about being able to give back to communities who have been historically excluded before. It's honestly an honor to get to work with Jon and everyone on this project," Dr. Schneider said.

"This isn't about me. This is about *your* history, and I just want to be able to help contribute."

History

During the 1800s, Westward migration along the California and Oregon trails brought 300,000 travelers through present-day Kansas. Uniontown served as a stop for emigrants before crossing the Kansas River. Many Potawatomi utilized the influx to establish a variety of successful businesses, including trading posts, ferries, saloons and more.

At its height, Uniontown boasted 60 structures, and thousands of Potawatomi Tribal members traveled to the town to collect their annuity payments. However, disease proved problematic for the community. A cholera outbreak in 1849 caused the Potawatomi to burn Uniontown to mitigate its spread. The community bounced back, becoming the largest settlement in present-day Kansas by 1852. However, a second outbreak at the end of the year caused more death and devastation.

Today, a large cottonwood tree stands strong on the cemetery's southwest corner. Oral traditions indicate that 22 to 35 Potawatomi who perished during this time are buried around the tree.

"It has been said that they were all buried in a circle with their heads pointed to the tree," Boursaw said during a 2018 *Hownikan* interview. "Many more, possibly hundreds, are thought to be buried in the fields that surround the tiny cemetery."

Research

Part of Dr. Schneider's goals include finding scientific evidence that may help support the historical accounts.

"We couldn't do this without the historical knowledge. We couldn't do this without the stories and the background information that I've gotten," Dr. Schneider said.

They decided to utilize ground-penetrating radar and magnetic readings to uncover clues regarding the community's past.

"I love (ground penetrating radar) because it provides the best resolution



District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw at Uniontown Cemetery during 2018 Potawatomi Gathering of Nations.

— really high detail as opposed to other methods. ... And then a magnetometer because ... we might be somewhere where Uniontown was burned down, so if there were any burned features, that would show up really well, or if anyone was buried with something metallic, that can also give us a pretty good signature," she explained.

In late summer 2020, Dr. Schneider and fellow University of Kansas staff began collecting and studying the data.

"I've spent a lot of time over the past year, just looking through these files and being like, 'Where could this mass burial be?'" she said.

Dr. Schneider separated the cemetery's property into five sections. One of the largest included the area surrounding the cottonwood tree.

While the data did not provide concrete evidence that may support a mass grave existing right next to or under the tree, she does not completely rule out the possibility.

"I kind of have a zone of uncertainty around the tree because the roots are pretty extensive," Dr. Schneider said.

Because the current cottonwood replaced the cemetery's original tree, it is possible the location moved during planting. She indicated this could explain the interesting readings GPR picked up in grid one.

"What stands out to me is this high-amplitude anomaly," she explained while pointing to grid one. "It's about 2 to 3 meters across, running in a north-south direction, and it's probably about 3 1/2 feet deep, which actually matches the dimensions of what I would expect for a mass burial."

Dr. Schneider then ran four electrical resistivity tomography lines, which use electrodes to create images of sub-surface structures.

"This is a commonly used method for archeology and also can be used to find graves," she said. "It's really useful because some materials will be more conductive versus more resistive, so it helps us pick up some features. If we have bone underground, dry bone is highly resistive."

While the possible grave is not as deep as normal, the soil's makeup and man-powered digging may have contributed.

"It was a cholera outbreak. They were burying people very quickly, and it was really hard to dig through (clay)," she explained. "So actually, the majority of burials that I'm picking up in Kansas right now have been incredibly shallow because it's clay everywhere."

Future

Dr. Schneider plans to continue research on Uniontown Cemetery, focusing on collecting more data under the cottonwood tree itself, in grid one's area of interest, and inside the stone wall enclosure that is the final resting place for many Bourassa family members.

"If we can, I will go out there with the radar and ERT and collect data over the area to find out where these burials are within the enclosure because a lot of the headstones have fallen over," Dr. Schneider said.

Although student involvement has been minimal, she hopes more will show interest, especially Potawatomi and other Native American students.

"If you have students who are interested in doing work like this, my FAST geophysics program is open to any student who wants to work with me, even if you're not here in Lawrence," she said.

Find Dr. Blair Schneider's published research on the Uniontown Cemetery at cpn.news/uniontownKU, and find her contact information at cpn.news/KUG.



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Hardin family history

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

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

Laframboise foundation

Theresa Laframboise Hardin Watkins Beaubien — *Chee Chee* — and her family removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, before making the journey to the Potawatomi reservation in Kansas. Theresa was the daughter of Chief Joseph Laframboise and Therese Peltier. Joseph held a standing as one of the Chicago Chiefs, along with Chief Wabunsee, Chief Thomas "Billy" Caldwell or *Sauganash*, and others. These leaders became involved in treaty negotiations across the Great Lakes region.

Understanding they faced losing their homelands, Joseph and his brother Claude fought in the Black Hawk War alongside *Sauganash* in an attempt to build rapport with the federal government and hold onto Potawatomi lands. Black Hawk surrendered on Aug. 27, 1832; however, the Potawatomi did not receive any special treatment for their efforts. Two months later, the United States demanded Potawatomi-owned land, and drafted a treaty that ceded all the Tribe's acres south of the Grand River in Michigan in exchange for two small reservations within their homelands. Yet, this still was not enough, and the federal government laid claim to nearly all Potawatomi land just little more than a year later. On Sept. 26, 1833, the Treaty of Chicago established the United States' rights to the reservations in exchange for five million acres in present-day Iowa.

Joseph and his family, including daughter *Chee Chee*, removed to Council Bluffs in 1835. She married Thomas Watkins in the mid-1830s, and they had three children: Madaline, Joseph Howell and Louisa Marie.

Hardin-Potawatomi line

Chee Chee then married Allen Hardin, helping establish the Hardin family's legacy among the Potawatomi. *Chee Chee* and Allen had three children: Mary, Theresa and Peter. After Allen

passed away, she married Medard (Madore) Benjamin Beaubien.

Allen and Theresa's daughter Mary wed John Riley and had two children, Elizabeth and Alice. She then married David Bostick, and they had seven children: Harry, Joseph, Harriet, Lilly, Ella, Frank and George.

According to family records, Theresa passed away before the Potawatomi received allotments, and Peter died due to an accidental gunshot wound at age 16.

The Hardins are further connected to the Laframboise family through *Shawwenoquah* and Claude Laframboise's daughter Margaret (Marguerite) Laframboise. Before removal, Claude worked as a trader and bootlegger as well as a boatman with the American Fur Company. He eventually served as an interpreter for the Prairie Band Potawatomi.

Margaret, who removed to Council Bluffs alongside the other Laframboise family members, married John Hardin. John was the second child of Davis and Elizabeth Hardin of Missouri.

While in present-day Iowa, John and Margaret had four of their seven children: Elizabeth, Davis, Thomas and Julia.

The Hardin and Laframboise families remained in Iowa until after the Potawatomi signed the Treaty of 1846. This agreement established a reservation near Silver Lake, Kansas, for all of the Potawatomi west of the Mississippi. After the move, John and Margaret had three more children: Narcis, Roseann and Mary Louise.

Due to continued pressure from white settlers, the railroad and federal



Elizabeth Hardin with grandson, John boy Anderson.



Julia McEvers, Julia Anderson and Dave McEvers.

government, the Potawatomi signed the Treaty of 1861. The treaty separated the Potawatomi in Kansas into two groups: one remained living communally on an 11-square-mile reservation while the other opted for each member to receive allotted plots of land and the opportunity to become U.S. citizens, including the Hardin family. Those who remained living communally are known as the Prairie Band, and those who took allotments became members of the Citizen Potawatomi.

John and Margaret's daughter Elizabeth married John Anderson, and their children included: Elizabeth (Madole), Charley, Tom, John, Minnie (Bursch), Rosette (Sims), Maggie (Smith), Julie McEvers, Mary (Daniels) and Sophia, who died young.

Their other daughter Julia married John's brother Pete Anderson, and Thomas wed Lizzie Rhodd.

The Treaty of 1861 was not successful for most Citizen Potawatomi, so the Tribe signed another treaty in 1867 that allowed for the purchase of a reservation in Indian Territory where the Nation's headquarters remain today.

John and Pete Anderson's families joined five other Citizen Potawatomi families to settle the Tribe's new reservation in present-day Oklahoma.

After John Hardin passed, Margaret married John Clinton.

At the age of 31, Julia (Hardin) Anderson passed away during childbirth,

and Margaret Hardin-Clinton and Mary Hardin helped raise Pete and Julia's children for some time.

According to family record, Pete and Julia's daughter Isabelle wrote:

"My grandmother (Margaret Hardin-Clinton) acted as a midwife to our neighbors. If any of us or our neighbors were sick with colds or pneumonia, she doctored us with an ointment made of skunk oil, quinine and coal oil, mixed good and rubbed over our chest, lungs and throat, then heated a red flannel cloth and placed it over the greased parts. If we coughed much, she put a little sugar in a teaspoon, dropped about three drops of coal oil on it and we swallowed it. Every spring we had to take a tablespoon of Sulphur and sorghum for about a week. Grandmother heated Jimson weed leaves to draw inflammation out of sores or boils. She used peach tree leaves made into a poultice for locked bowels. She had a remedy for all our ailments."

Shortly after getting established in Indian Territory, John and Pete Anderson as well as Davis Hardin were active Citizen Potawatomi leaders.

Davis Hardin eventually served as the Tribal secretary and held other roles throughout his lifetime. Fluent in Potawatomi and Kickapoo, Davis helped serve as an interpreter in many dealings. He married Hannah Goodboo, and their children included Rosa, Peter, Minnie and Annie (Anna).

Approximately six years after the death of Julia, Pete passed away tragically in the line of service within hours of becoming a deputy. Some of the children attended Scared Heart Mission for some time, and eventually Joseph W. Daniels — husband of Mary Anderson — became the children's legal guardian.

Hardin and Anderson descendants have continued upholding their families' legacies as Tribal leaders, both volunteer and elected, through military service, trades and more.

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Bodéwadmimwen now offered to Shawnee Public Schools sixth graders

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Language Department began offering Potawatomi classes to public school systems in 2017 after the curriculum met Oklahoma state standards for a world language credit. Four school districts in Pottawatomie County near Tribal headquarters now offer the high school course, including Shawnee Public Schools.

The department expanded to Shawnee Middle School in 2021. At the beginning of the academic year, it presented sixth graders the option to take Potawatomi as a 9-week elective course.

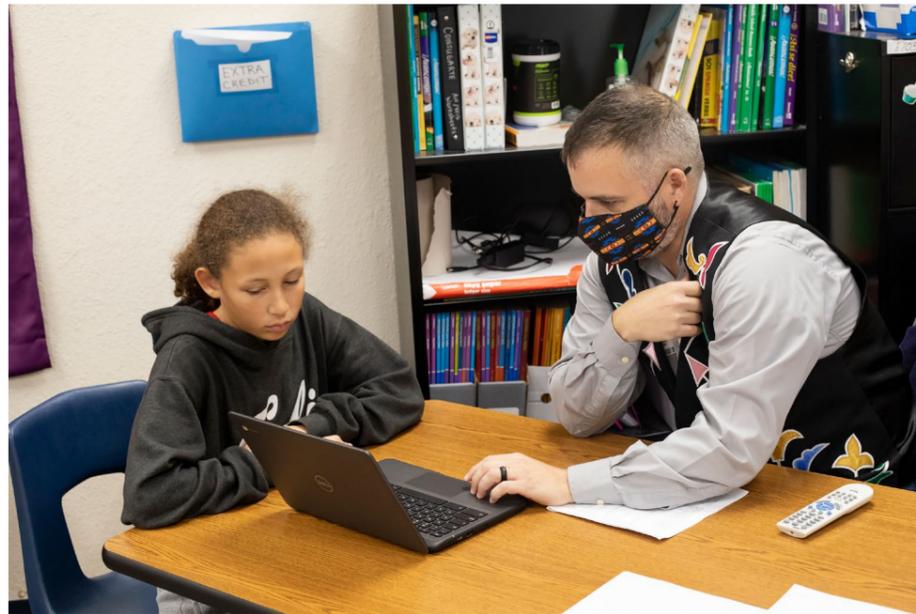
"It's unique because it's the first time we've been able to reach the secondary level to be in the middle school," said CPN Language Department Director Justin Neely.

Last summer, the district had difficulty hiring a Spanish teacher for the same age group. When time ran short, and with no language course, staff approached Neely and CPN about providing something new to their students. The language department took on the task of putting together curriculum in only a few weeks.

"It's one of those things where when opportunity knocks, you just got to open the door sometimes," Neely said. "You just got to say, 'Hey, they're in need. We can fill that need. We can get our foot in the door with them and make this into a productive future endeavor with them long down the road.'"

The course combines some aspects of the high school course with other content created for elementary-aged students. The lessons serve as an introduction to *Bodéwadmimwen* and CPN culture.

"They don't get into too much conjugation or large verbal patterns or anything like that. But they definitely have a sampling of things like animal terms and weather terminologies



CPN Language Director Justin Neely assists a Shawnee Middle School student with a Potawatomi language lesson.

and numbers and basic, common words and things," Neely said.

Students enjoy playing flashcards and matching games, watching videos and listening to audio dictation. The digital course costs the school nothing, only requiring computers or tablets and someone to monitor participation. So far, Shawnee Middle School averages 20 students per Potawatomi language class and reaches more than 160 throughout the year.

"We have a lot of Potawatomi that are in school in Shawnee, and I think it's nice to be able to offer one of the local languages from the communities around here to the kids. ... What better language to offer than ours? I'm happy that we're given that opportunity," Neely said.

However, he also believes Indigenous students from other tribes and non-Native students gain experience while taking the course.

"They learn a little bit of culture ... that may actually open up their own interest within their (tribal) culture as well. Or educate (students) that are non-Native to be a little more understanding or knowledgeable about the people that are right here that have been here for a very long time — since before Oklahoma was a state. And I think that's definitely a positive thing," Neely said.

The department hopes to continue bridging the gap between teaching elementary school students in its after-school program and high schoolers, especially in districts that already carry *Bodéwadmimwen*.

"Once you develop something like this, it's now something that we can use with any middle school, really. Just like with the high school course, it's a self-paced type thing. They can then pick this up in a different middle school if they wanted to and offer it as an elective or as an introductory type course," Neely said.



*Neely visits Shawnee Public Schools where *Bodéwadmimwen* is now offered for language credit at both the middle and high school.*

The State of Oklahoma accredited Neely to offer a world language credit, meaning any public school district in the state can carry it. The next step requires approval from an individual district's school board before it becomes an option for students.

"I just hope that people will take advantage of the numerous resources that we have available to learn the language, whether they have students that are of the age that could take some of these courses or also that folks will reach out to their own school districts because sometimes that's all it takes," Neely said.

The CPN Language Department consistently develops new and expansive ways to reach all ages groups wanting to learn *Bodéwadmimwen*. Find out more at potawatomiheritage.com/language.

CPN Quarterly Legislative Meeting minutes

December 2, 2021

Present: Chairman John A. Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale and Representatives David Barrett, Jon Boursaw, Bobbi Bowden, Dave Carney, Eva Marie Carney, Mark Johnson, Gene Lambert, Alan Melot, Rande Payne, Andy Walters, Paul Wesselhöft and Robert Whistler.

Absent: Paul Schmidlkofer.

Guests: Jason Smalley, Gary Bourbonnais, David Bourbonnais, Greg Quinlan and Jamie Moucka.

Call to order: Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. followed by the invocation.

First item of business: Minutes from the previous legislative meeting held on September 9, 2021. Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Second item of business: Minutes from the previous legislative meeting held electronically from October 25 through 26, 2021. Motion to approve the minutes as read was

made by Representative Bowden and seconded by Representative Melot. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

5:43pm Recess (Executive session Election Committee)

7:28pm Reconvene

Third item of business: Resolution 22-18-R&G: A resolution approving the rescheduling of the Quarterly Meeting of the Tribal Legislature from Thursday, November 25, 2021, to Thursday, December 2, 2021. Motion to approve Resolution 22-18-R&G was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Walters. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fourth item of business: Resolution 22-19-J&PS: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's funding allocation under the Administration for Children and Families, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, American Rescue Plan Grant Program – Survivors of Sexual Assault. Motion to approve Resolution 22-19-J&PS was made by Representative Eva Marie Carney and seconded by Representative Wesselhöft. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fifth item of business: Resolution 22-20-J&PS: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's funding allocation under the Administration for Children and Families, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, American Rescue Plan Grant Program. Motion to approve Resolution 22-20-J&PS was made by Vice-Chairman Capps and seconded by Representative Whistler. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Sixth item of business: Resolution 22-21-Ed: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services fy 2022 Native American Museum Services program. Motion to approve Resolution 22-21-Ed was made by Representative Bowden and seconded by Representative Payne. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Seventh item of business: Resolution 22-22-ED&C: A resolution authorizing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's/ Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation's proposed 2022 CDFI Grant Assistance Program grant application offered through the United States Department of the Treasury – CDFI Fund. Motion to approve Resolution 22-22-ED&C was

made by Representative Johnson and seconded by Representative Lambert. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Eighth item of business: Resolution 22-23-LCoE: A resolution enrolling 491 applicants into the membership of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Motion to approve Resolution 22-23-LCoE was made by Representative Payne and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Ninth item of business: Resolution 22-24-NR: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs fy 2022 Invasive Species Program. Motion to approve Resolution 22-24-NR was made by Representative Wesselhöft and seconded by Representative Whistler. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Tenth item of business: Adjournment: There being no further business before the Tribal Legislature, motion to adjourn was made by Representative Dave Carney and seconded by Representative Lambert. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent and 0 abstaining. The meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Higbee family history

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

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

Higbee-Potawatomi beginnings

The Higbee's Potawatomi roots begin in the 1800s with the marriage of Julia Justine Bertrand and Alva Higbee. Julia's parents, Madeline and Joseph Bertrand, were successful fur traders and business owners near Lake Michigan. Madeline was the daughter of Daniel Bourassa I and an unknown Potawatomi woman. Her mother was most likely a member of Potawatomi communities in the St. Joseph River Valley, whose villages were led by Chief *Topinabee*. Julia, born May 25, 1823, also grew up along the St. Joseph River in Michigan near the township named for her father.

After the Potawatomi signed the Treaty of Chicago in 1833, the Potawatomi lost millions of acres through land cessions, and many were forcibly removed west. However, Julia stayed in Michigan and received an education at the Carey Mission and a local, private school run by the Bertrand community postmaster named Squire Daniel C. Higbee. There, Julia met Daniel's brother Alva, who became her husband. They married in Bertrand on Oct. 4, 1848, before moving to the Potawatomi reservation in present-day Kansas in 1850.

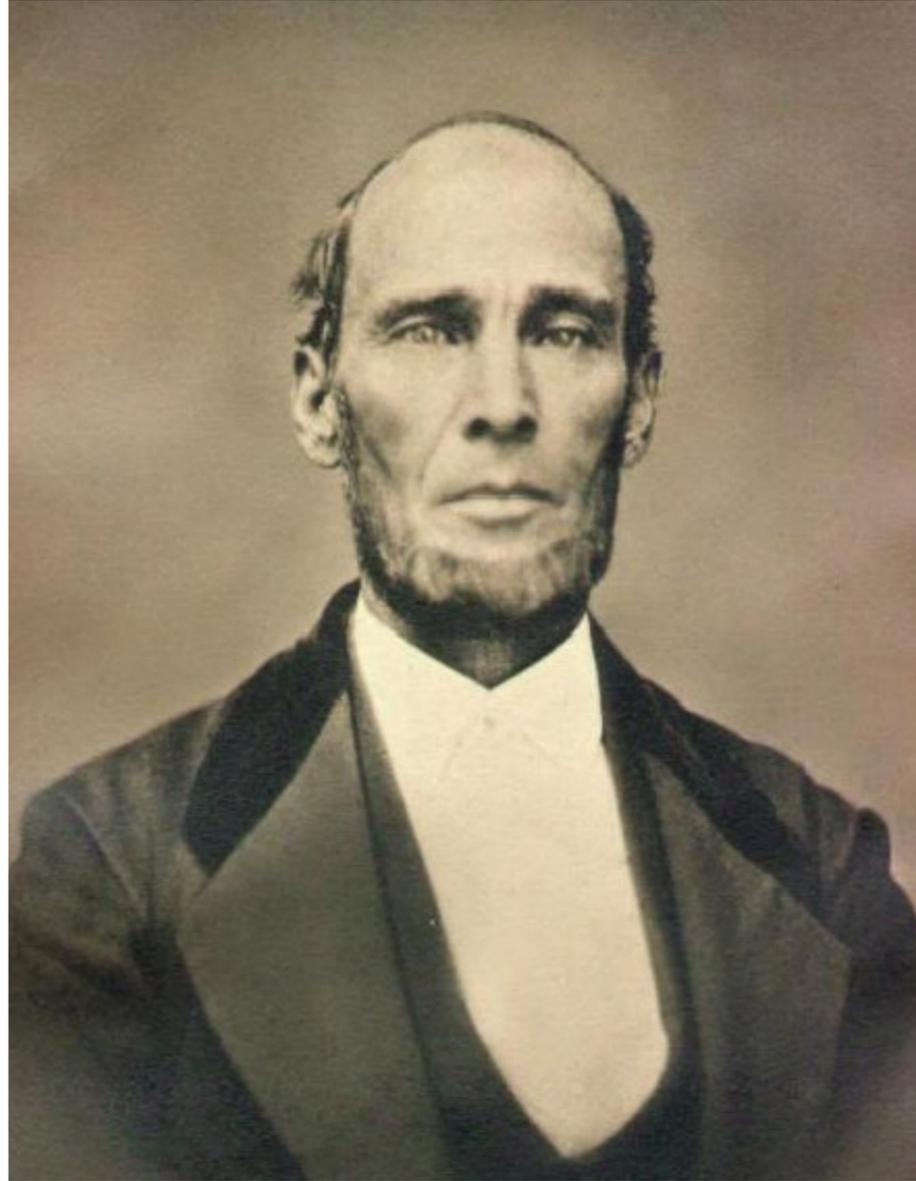
Julia and Alva

Julia and Alva had nine children: Josephine L., Mary Anastasia, Joseph Bertrand, Lewis B., Robert A., Lucy, Irving, Arthur and George. Alva worked as a carpenter, and the kids attended school at the St. Marys Mission.

Due to the Kansas reservation's location along the California and Oregon trails, the Potawatomi faced increased pressure by settlers, business and the federal government. This led to the Treaty of 1861, which separated the Potawatomi into two distinct groups. The treaty provided them an opportunity to receive a land allotment and potentially become U.S. citizens or remain living communally on an 11-square-mile reservation. The former became the Citizen Potawatomi and the latter the Prairie Band. The Higbees decided to receive allotments and become members of the Citizen Potawatomi.

Julia passed away in 1866 due to pneumonia. One year later, the Citizen Potawatomi signed the Treaty of 1867, which provided the opportunity for Tribal members to sell land and in return, purchase a new reservation in present-day Oklahoma.

Alva then married Agnes Elizabeth Cox, and they had three children: Wilhelm, Edwin and Edith Elizabeth. Family records state Alva and Agnes had a quarrelsome marriage, and they divorced. He married once



Alva Higbee

more to Margaret Barton in South Bend, Indiana. Their relationship also suffered, and Alva returned to Kansas.

When St. Marys incorporated as an official town in 1869, Alva became the town's first official mayor. Later he served as the police chief, and on Dec. 18, 1884, he perished in a burning building.

An article published in the *St. Marys Star* titled *Alva Higbee, a Prominent and Highly Respected Citizen, Loses His Life* stated, "While the excitement was at its height, and brave and tireless workers were remaking superhuman efforts to subdue the flames and rescue property from its devouring grasp, a ... explosion occurred in the store in which the fire originated, and the whole front came crashing to the ground, ... covered from sight in the debris was the bravest worker of them all — honest, generous, kind-hearted Alva Higbee!"

Higbee children

Alva and Julia's daughter, Josephine, married Irishman Thomas Mainey, also spelled Maney. Mainey had moved to the United States in 1861. Before coming to St. Marys in 1863 or 1864, he worked for the quartermasters in Fort Leavenworth. He and Josephine wed on Feb. 23, 1868, in the earliest Catholic cathedral in Kansas. They settled on a farm two miles west of St. Marys for many years before moving the farm to south of the river in Wabaunsee County. After many years of farming, Josephine and Thomas moved to St. Marys to retire.

According to family records, Josephine's obituary said, in part, "A charity worker in early days, Mrs. Mainey was educated in St. Marys by the Madames of the Sacred Heart, now long departed. She was a woman who

had well learned what Christian charity meant in its largest meaning. Her kindly ministrations to the sick in soul and body will long be remembered, and many that are now gathered to their fathers no doubt had reason in their last hours to thank this kindly woman for moments of life made easier by her love in doing the master's work."

Higbee records also contain Thomas' obituary, which said, "A pioneer among pioneers, Thomas Mainey came to St. Marys seventy years ago when the Mission was struggling with its earliest experience and the old Kansas Pacific was still a Lincoln dream."

Julia and Alva's daughter Mary Anastasia wed Joseph LaReau in St. Marys on July 25, 1871, and all seven of their children were born around the St. Mary's Mission in Kansas. In 1896, the family moved to present-day Oklahoma near Wanette.

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

Lewis Higbee moved to New York at the age of 16. He stayed there for six years before heading to Bertrand, Michigan, where he met and married Carrie Swain. They then moved to St. Marys where they had several of their children. In July of 1893, they settled on his 240-acre allotment on the Potawatomi reservation in Indian Territory near the current border of Pottawatomie and Cleveland counties. There, he established the community originally named Higbee. A few years later, he sold a portion of his allotment to James P. Corbett, and the town changed its

name to Corbett, Oklahoma. Lewis also served as deputy sheriff for a few years.

According to Lewis' obituary, "Mr. Higbee was one of the sturdy pioneers of this part of the state and of Cleveland county."

Joseph Bertrand Higbee married Jenny K. Fuller and eventually settled in Lexington, Oklahoma. According to family records, they adopted a young girl who sadly passed away at the age of 20 during childbirth. Joseph had a passion for serving his country, and an April 21, 1928, article published by the *El Reno Daily Democrat*, stated that Joseph became the oldest volunteer from Oklahoma in the U.S. Army during World War I. He served two years at Camp Meigs with the 16th Company, Quartermaster Corps.

Robert Higbee and Ida Swearingen married in Kansas before moving to Indian Territory near Okmulgee in the late 1890s, and they had eight children.

Lucy Higbee wed John Louraine, and the two settled on her allotment near Lexington, Oklahoma. In 1908, she remarried Gates Angel, and she served as a nurse in the Lexington area for many years.

According to the *Lexington Leader* published on May 26, 1905, the Higbees had a role in bringing telephone lines to the rural areas of CPN's jurisdiction. "The Canadian river rose while they were stringing up the lines, and one of the Higbees took off his clothes and swam the river to the Rosedale side with a telephone wire, to get it across."

Higbee family oral traditions indicate Arthur Higbee was the individual who swam across the river, and his efforts caught the attention of Christene Elizabeth Friend. They married two years later, and she later served as the telephone operator.

George Albert Higbee married Lydia Eliza Shoemaker Smith in Oct. 1891, and they spent most of their lives in Indiana. George sought to move away from St. Marys, Kansas, after attending boarding school. Together they had 11 children: Raymond, Luella, Hazel, Francis, Lillian, Marie, Ada, Genevieve, Celia, Alvin and Glenn.

Throughout the last two centuries, the Higbee family has continued to grow and expand, building lives throughout Oklahoma and beyond. During the Great Depression, many Citizen Potawatomi sold their allotments and belongings to seek a new life out West, including numerous Higbee descendants. Today, the family continues the Higbee legacy, serving as teachers, medical professionals, CPN employees, Tribal leaders and more.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives and family interviews. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830. Schedule interviews online at portal.potawatomi.org. Learn more about the Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/festival, and find research resources online at potawatomiheritage.com. ♡

PLP alumnus serves Indigenous nations as forester

Trombla family descendant Heath Steward faced many challenges while earning his bachelor's degree. As a first-generation college student, he switched schools and majors several times. Still, with the help of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education, Steward built opportunities and a rewarding career for himself. He now enjoys giving back to Indigenous peoples and the land while working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Regional Office in Nashville, Tennessee.

"My connection with the Tribe kind of is the reason why I was able to be successful because the education department was able to offer me the support that I didn't have," Steward said.

He was disconnected from the Nation and his heritage in his youth, but his high school drama teacher encouraged him to apply for Tribal citizenship his senior year. Steward then decided to apply for the Potawatomi Leadership Program in 2015.

"It was a really great opportunity to sort of get a look at what the Tribe was because you see a lot. That is for sure. So I got a lot of exposure through there," he said.

The program inspired a new way of thinking and new priorities.

Gardening to forestry

After he began college, Steward struggled to find his footing and goals. He attended the University of Oklahoma and eventually transferred to St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, Oklahoma, which closed during his time there.

"Going to a small college after going to a big one, it's so different. You walk from one side of campus to the other, which is a whole, I don't know, 2,000 feet, and you've seen 40 people, and you said hello to every single one of them," Steward said.

The CPN Department of Education helped him through the transitions, and he worked as an intern at the nearby



Heath Steward and CPN Department of Education Director Tesia Zientek (Photo provided)

CPN Community Garden. As a biology major at St. Gregory's, the opportunity fit his goals. He stayed with CPN for a year.

"The garden internship that I was participating in was a huge opportunity for personal development due to the garden's participation ... with Monarch Watch to plant 4,000 milkweed plants and 5,000 nectar-bearing wildflowers," Steward said. "And I got to learn really cool field techniques like stratification of seeds for nursery production, seed gathering, and ... it was really, really cool."

After returning to OU as an environmental sustainability major, he discovered the Bureau of Indian Affairs Pathways Internship Program. It combined his connection with the land and desire to study it to give back to Indigenous nations.

"Honestly, I couldn't believe that I got accepted because it just seemed like a

really cool opportunity. And whenever you get like a scholarship opportunity or something like that, you kind of just tell yourself, 'I'm probably not going to get this, and it's probably going to be a waste of an hour to throw together all the stuff to do this.' But I got it. It was pretty crazy. It was very exciting," Steward said.

Pathways only supports a small number of degree options, and he chose forestry. Steward transferred to Oklahoma State University, the only college in the state that offers a bachelor's degree in the major. He graduated in May 2021.

"It kind of was really weird. I remember not feeling like it was official until I had the paper in my hands," Steward said.

Climate change and trust obligations

Steward's first summer internship in the Pathways Program was with the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma's Wildlife, Park and Recreation Department. It participated in the same monarch habitat restoration project as CPN.

"(I) managed some tribal trust land for recreation. I also got to see the grant reporting that those programs were doing. So it was a really cool opportunity. I learned a lot there, a lot of continuing some of the skills I developed at the garden," Steward said.

His desire to combat climate change gave his work and major purpose. While searching for a field of study, he remembered how frightened the proposition and effects of a warming world made him as a high schooler.

"I see climate change happening around me. I see that it's this existential threat sort of looming over us every day, and it was crazy how it felt like we were doing absolutely nothing about it," Steward said.

Forestry combined his desire to begin a career contributing to a cause he believed in while sustainably cultivating a renewable resource and giving back to Indigenous communities.

"Trees do sequester carbon. They are a renewable resource. Planting trees can get some carbon out of the atmosphere. Now, is that our most effective way to handle things? Not necessarily. But what I appreciate from learning about forestry was I got to learn some of the earth sciences side of climate change. The carbon cycle, things like that," Steward said.

After several internships and hands-on work opportunities, he now reviews timber sale contracts and assists tribal forestry programs. Steward collects data and assists in fulfilling the federal government's trust obligations to 34 tribes throughout the 27 states in the region.

"I could do the most drudgerous (task), just going through a bunch of old documents and pulling data from them and entering them into Excel, and I can just do that because, at the end of the day, I can think, 'I helped the bureau fulfill its trust obligations. I'm helping tribal communities.' I can connect my duties to actual change in the world, and that's so cool. And that's really fulfilling," he said.

Steward attributes his success to hard work, help from the Tribe, the Pathways program and a renewed sense of purpose.

Find out more about the CPN Department of Education at cpn.news/education, and apply and read about the Potawatomi Leadership Program at plp.potawatomi.org. Learn more about the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Pathways program at cpn.news/BIAPathways. ♡

Vi Kiernan Mikah Kinsman
Weatherford, OK
Family: Lingle
Southwestern Oklahoma State University
BS in Psychology
BA in Communication

Gabrielle Martinez
Kansas City, MO
Family: Smith
Rockhurst University
BA in Nonprofit Leadership

Stephanie Lynn Hawk
Shawnee, OK
Family: Navarre
University of Oklahoma
BA in Integrative Studies

Melissa Scott
Bixby, OK
Family: Pettifer
Oklahoma State University
BS in Business Administration



Carson Cotrino
Tomball, TX
Family: Melot
Texas A&M University
Doctor of Medicine

Margaret Lujulia Goodin
Oklahoma City, OK
Family: Lazelle
Oklahoma State University
BS in Industrial Engineering

Jessica Kitchens
Springdale, Arkansas
Family: Smith
Southeastern Oklahoma State University
MBA

Tracie Quine
Newalla, OK
Family: Castlebury
Oklahoma Wesleyan University
BS in Organizational Leadership

Rachel Pecotte
San Antonio, TX
Family: Anderson
Texas Woman's University
MS in Library Science

Justin Fox
Norman, OK
Family: Beauvien
MS in Commercial Aviation
Delta State University

Lindsey Caitlyn Snell
East Helena, MT
Family: Milot
The University of Montana
BS in Social Work

Alexander Heaton Alders
Dallas, TX
Family: Ogee
Texas State University
BS in Economics

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High schooler wins four titles at 2021 Oklahoma State Fair

Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member and National FFA Organization member Helen Spears showed two cattle at the 2021 Oklahoma State Fair. Throughout the weeklong competition, the Lamirand family descendant won four titles with two heifers.

In the junior show, judges named Spears' heifers division champions, with her bigger calf, Fancy, named the breed champion — the highest honor she won that day. In the open show, Spears won both reserve division champion and division champion with each calf. The day ended with handfuls of ribbons, banners and buckles for her achievements.

"Butterflies, just straight butterflies. The good ones, not the scared ones. Just that moment of relief, where you're like, 'Oh my gosh, I finally did it,' you know?" Spears said.

At 14 years old, she competed at the state fair once before, with the 2020 competition canceled. Spears began showing cattle three years ago at 11. Making friends and meeting others with similar interests remains her favorite part of her FFA membership and the competitions.

"They're probably some of the nicest people I've ever met or any people in agriculture, in general," Spears said. "They are ... generally positive, and they're just uplifting. If you've got something you need help with, they're going to be there to help you, no matter what it takes."

Family affair

Most of her family saw her achievement in person, including her mother, grandfather, uncle, father, stepfather, brothers and cousin. Spears' grandfather began teaching her about cattle showing and breeding as a young child. He rarely misses a show; however, Spears said getting ready for a competition "takes about a village."

"My cousin Jessica and my mom helped me a lot with the show calf part of it,



Spears leads Fancy around for judging during the 2021 Oklahoma State Fair cattle competition. (Photo provided)

but just in general, like the breeding part, that definitely came from my pawpaw. And my pawpaw taught my mom, and he taught my cousin. They definitely helped out a lot," she said.

Spears' mother, Tonya Kitchen, began showing cattle in her youth as well, but the family tradition goes back further. Their livestock lives on their family's land that they have owned for just under a century.

"I heard stories from my great-grandmother about her sitting in the back of the wagon when her dad took the first Shorthorn bull in Pottawatomie County off of the railcar. So we've been doing this for a minute," Kitchen said.

She won many awards herself, but Helen achieved a state award for breed champion with her heifer, Fancy — something Kitchen never accomplished.

"I cannot tell you how happy I was. I think I screamed so loud the people in the next barn probably heard me. But that was an exceptional moment, something that I never got to experience. And for my daughter to get to do it is so much better than me getting it," she said.

Spears hopes to carry on the family tradition and someday pass along her showmanship tips and tricks.

Hard work

Spears describes showing cattle as difficult and time-consuming. Competing and caring for her heifers and pigs built her work ethic and made her practice her leadership skills in FFA. Spears pampers her favorite calf in particular.

"She gets rinsed three times a day. She gets a bath at least two times a week. It's a lot, but she definitely keeps me busy, and (practicing) walking is a thing, too," Spears said.

Overall, the fulfillment outweighs the stress, and Kitchen's pride shines.

"I don't know many other kids who would wake up while it's still dark before school to go out and rinse heifers and feed them and then have to come in and get ready for school, go to school all day, come home, do it all over again when they get home to do it all over again three hours later," she said.

Spears tries to take competition results with a grain of salt, given all of her efforts.



Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Helen Spears and her heifer Fancy participate in livestock shows across the state. (Photo provided)

"You're always nervous just because it's one man's opinion on one man's day," she said. "He could think your calf is the best thing ever. And then the next judge is like, 'Uh-uh. Nope. Get it out of here.' And so you're always nervous about what they're going to say or about how your calf is going to act."

Spears bought Fancy one year ago. Since then, they have spent many hours together working on showmanship and getting to know one another. She finds her pigs and cows adorable and considers them part of her family.

"If I just want to go somewhere and just kind of like be by myself for a little bit, I go over with my animals," Spears said.

This month, the hard work continues as Spears enters the Cattleman's Congress show in Oklahoma City at Oklahoma State Fair Park. ♡

CPN CARE

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is thrilled to announce the launch of CPN Care - a new telehealth benefit offering for you and your family. Starting this month, CPN members gain 24/7 access to doctors, counselors and more via phone, video or our new mobile app - at NO cost to you!

This three-pronged service offers members general telemedicine, life assistance and pharmacy discount services for a whole-body care system:

- General Telemedicine - for doctors who can diagnose acute conditions and prescribe medication, successfully resolving over 90% of calls,
- Life Assistance - for on-demand access to specialists, counselors and social workers for help navigating life's challenges.
- Pharmacy Discount Services - 25-75% discounts for needed medications



You MUST activate this benefit to get started.

Visit potawatomi.org/cpn-care or scan the QR code to activate today!



FireLake Foods offers safety, convenience to state SNAP recipients

Demand for online shopping exploded during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. Customers began ordering via mobile devices to purchase food items and household goods safely and easily without entering a store. However, one group of customers learned many grocery stores in Oklahoma did not accept state food benefits cards online to purchase groceries.

Fortunately, Citizen Potawatomi Nation's FireLake Discount Foods has since removed that barrier. In 2021, the Tribe's store joined a group of Oklahoma grocers that began accepting online purchases through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

"We always wanted to be a part of it," said FireLake Foods Director Richard Driskell. "We were one of the first independent locations in the state when they opened it up."

While FireLake Discount Foods customers already order groceries online, they lacked the ability to make those purchases using SNAP's electronic benefits transfer cards, Driskell explained. Customers either had to use another form of payment or come to the store during a pandemic, potentially risking infection.

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services applied to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees SNAP, to allow recipients to order and pay for groceries online. OKDHS then began working with a small group of independent grocers to accept SNAP's EBT cards online.

"They had a number of (chain) pilot stores during nationwide testing, but they opened it up to allow independent stores to apply (for the program)," Driskell said.

"We are so thankful to FireLake Discount Foods, and all the other Oklahoma



FireLake Discount Foods always looks for new ways to serve its customers, such as including EBT payments with online shopping.

grocers, who have begun accepting SNAP food benefits for online purchases," said Casey White, OKDHS spokesperson. "Particularly during COVID-19, our customers found online purchasing to be an easier and safer way to keep food on their families' tables."

Driskell said FDF first began the process to accept online EBT transactions in July 2020 and started allowing the new form of electronic payment by spring 2021. Many people stayed home during quarantine periods, and FDF began to see a noticeable increase in online grocery orders.

"It really took off during COVID," Driskell said.

With the effects of the pandemic somewhat easing and the demand for online shopping returning to normal levels, Driskell estimated

about five to 10 shoppers a day use the online EBT payment option.

"That number is growing since we've advertised, and we're letting people know in as many different ways as we can," he said. "We have had people who use EBT tell us it's a great resource."

Online ordering with EBT gives people another payment option besides their bank account or credit card. SNAP customers also said they choose online shopping strictly for the convenience factor, Driskell said.

"If you have younger kids, it's challenging for a mother or father to shop and corral the kids at the same time. They're glad it's available," he said.

According to OKDHS, 20,331 individuals in Pottawatomie County received SNAP benefits in fiscal year

2021. During that same period, 9,711 families received assistance in the county.

The Oklahoma Policy Institute reports that 28 percent of county residents receive food benefits, ranking 22nd among the state's 77 counties.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture fully funds SNAP benefits to help low-income families supplement their food budgets, White said. Most recipients are children, older adults and individuals with disabilities, including disabled military veterans.

SNAP applications are accepted online at OKDHSLive.org. Customers using SNAP benefits can set up their online account at firelakefoods.com and download the FireLake Foods app. ♠

Training highlights stalking awareness

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

January is designated as National Stalking Awareness Month. At the beginning of each year, the CPN House of Hope brings education to surrounding communities about the dangers of stalking, and spreading this information is vital.

More than 6.6 million people are stalked each year in the United States. One in six women and one in 17 men have experienced stalking victimization where they felt fearful or believed that someone close to them would be harmed or killed.

This January, House of Hope will be hosting a free event for the public that will focus on the dynamics of stalking and how to work with those affected by this crime. The event will be held on January 18 at 1 p.m. and located at CPN's North Reunion Hall. Jennifer Landhuis, director of Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center, will be presenting at the event. Jennifer has been an advocate and educator on the issues of stalking, domestic violence and sexual assault for 24 years. She began her career working in the anti-violence field in 1997 as an advocate in a rural domestic and sexual violence shelter for 10 years, served as the director of social change

at the Idaho Coalition for 10 years and has been the director of the SPARC initiative since 2018. Some of the topics that will be covered at the training are how to identify stalking behaviors, recognizing the intersection of stalking with dating violence, identifying risk

factors, and applying strategies to assist victims and hold offenders accountable.

Stalking is serious, often violent, and can escalate over time.

If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner violence,

stalking, and/or sexual assault and would like more information, please contact the CPN House of Hope at 405-275-3176, visit our website at cpnhouseofhope.com, or reach out on social media at facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope. ♠

Tribal citizen tailors childbirth experience to each mother

As expectant mothers anticipate holding their new baby, they may assume the entire labor, delivery and recovery process must take place in a medical facility. However, childbirth experiences vary, and can be tailored to incorporate culture and traditions. Kristen Arambula Hernandez, a birth doula and Indigenous breastfeeding counselor in Norman, Oklahoma, seeks to do just that.

Hernandez was in Argentina while expecting her first child, and she came back to Oklahoma before she gave birth. Hernandez listened to advice from other women about hospital delivery. However, she had a different vision and felt strongly about taking guidance from her intuition and Potawatomi heritage.

“Hospital birth never appealed to me; it never even was an option for me,” Hernandez said. “I instantly knew I wanted a home birth. So when we came back to the U.S., I started researching home birth and found the Community Midwifery Services in Norman.”

The Pratt/Quilmette family descendent and mother of three believes her ancestors played a role in helping her during her childbirth journey.

“I think I definitely had someone, an ancestor or spirit, guiding me into that birth space because I know that’s where Maximus (my son) was meant to be and come through, and that’s where I was meant to be,” she said.

Through both her own experience and the friendship she developed with her midwives, Hernandez felt called to learn as much as possible about everything related to pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding.

“My experience with Maximus breastfeeding was textbook 100 percent everything that can go wrong, went wrong,” she said.

Hernandez recalled that it took four months to overcome their problems and gain confidence.



Kristen Arambula Hernandez recently received her Potawatomi name, Idwegishgokwe, which means Both Sides of the Sky Woman. Hernandez is an advocate for preserving and reclaiming ancestral knowledge. (Photo provided)

“Having experienced that really inspired me to learn as much as I could about breastfeeding so that I could help other moms because I knew if I could, sticking it out like that for four months, the way that I did through tears and blood and pain ... I knew I could encourage other mothers to do the same. I would have never have gotten that far if I didn’t have the support that I have, so I knew I wanted to be that support for other women,” she said.

Hernandez emphasizes the importance of reclaiming Tribal knowledge and tradition surrounding birth, breastfeeding and raising children.

“I think culture is just such a huge part of our identity and the practices that surround maternal care and childbirth, infant feeding and the mother’s experience,” she said. “This is a sacred time surrounding pregnancy. ... It’s such a crucial time to nurture our traditional

ways so that we can help mothers and babies start life in a good way.”

Her experiences and training have made her a passionate advocate for increasing breastfeeding rates among Indigenous women, which she noted is statistically low. Hernandez now spends a significant amount of time encouraging Native mothers to breastfeed.

“I just feel so strongly about preserving and reclaiming ancestral knowledge,” she said. “Breastfeeding is medicine. I think so much of that is lost in our culture today, the way that women are treated in pregnancy and childbirth and with feeding.”

Hernandez has trained with other Indigenous breastfeeding consultants who encourage women to focus on sharing their experiences, cultural stories and practices. Two Native American women created and taught one course she took in Arizona — Indigenous Breastfeeding Counselor Training.

While the two instructors were internationally board-certified lactation consultants, the instructors said certification was not necessary for others to share their knowledge. Women in a community offer support and pass down traditional knowledge, Hernandez added.

She said that across Indigenous communities, there has been a renewed focus on the community to support mothers.

“Everyone was involved, not just mom,” she said. “Reviving that aspect of our culture is beautiful and healing. I used to pride myself on being the ultra-independent woman. And I realized very quickly, I need people. I need community. I need help. I need to surround myself with support and love. And we were never meant to go through this life alone.”

Hernandez’s favorite aspect of what she does focuses on actively listening to and affirming mothers.

“They need someone who really cares to listen to them and validate their experience,”

she said. “When women feel safe, we can create trusting relationships with moms.”

The influence of the Seventh Generation has continually inspired her to take a more active and energetic role in her family’s traditions. Hernandez commits herself to further strengthening her connection to her Potawatomi heritage and its influence on what she does.

She recently received her Potawatomi name.

“I was named on the new moon, on December 4th, the day before my 34th birthday. My husband and I worked together to clear a circle on our land for the sacred fire and ceremony. *De’Wegen Kwek*, the Potawatomi women’s drum group, was present, along with Jerod Impichchaachaaha’ Tate and his son Heloha. Jarod is a world famous Chickasaw classical composer and pianist. The drum girls and Jerod and Heloha sang at the naming ceremony. My family and friends were also there. It was such a beautiful and powerful day, especially to occur the day before my birthday.”

Her Potawatomi name is *Idwegishgokwe*, Both Sides of the Sky Woman. Hernandez has been a member of *De’Wegen Kwek* for almost seven years. Her son, Maximus, is involved with the men’s drum group.

Hernandez’s future remains wide open. Her goals include finishing her degree in integrative and cultural studies, acquiring further traditional star knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge, becoming a Reiki master and pipe holder, cacao facilitator and holding sweat lodge ceremonies. Her long-term plans involve creating a retreat and holistic healing center on her family’s acreage that focuses on traditional knowledge and community support.

“I’m still open to it all,” she said. “I feel a strong calling to create this space.”

Hernandez is available to consult at kristen.arambula@yahoo.com. ♠

Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

It’s a busy time in the Language Department as we are finishing up the first semester with our high school students and the third nine-week course with Shawnee Middle School.

Our staff is doing an awesome job helping to manage the online high school content and going into the Child Development Center Monday through Thursday. I was just told today one little one could count to 10. It’s always very exciting to see the growth of our children, not only in their knowledge of our language and culture but also in their Potawatomi pride.

We also have been offering an intermediate course on Mondays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon CST. We have had about six regulars on-site and around three to five join us for the class online. All the classes we teach in Shawnee are also done on Zoom so Tribal members anywhere in the country can join in. We record the classes so that we can place them on our YouTube channel. We have one geared toward children and one

geared toward adult learners. You can find the channels at cpn.news/langyt and cpn.news/childrenyt. We also share the live class in the Potawatomi language group on Facebook.

We are still working on getting our newest self-paced course online using the new Tovuti platform. In the meantime, don’t forget about our two courses on memrise.com and also our online dictionary that we add to weekly.

Another exciting recent project is a frequency word list. In English, you have different word lists, like the Dolch sight word list, which reflect the top 500 or 1,000 words used in the language. The reality is that with most languages, we have around 1,000 or 2,000 total words that are the main words we use every day. So, by identifying those high-frequency words in Potawatomi, it not only allows us to help our students but also gives them a tool to increase their usage of the language.

We are continuing on our children’s book project. We are currently working on the self-publishing aspect as well as finishing different children’s books.

We have done several cartoons and films in the public domain, such as old *Popeye the Sailor Man*, *Woody Woodpecker*, *Superman*, and even longer cartoons such as *Gulliver’s Travels*. We are currently working on an episode of *The Beverly Hillbillies*, which should be very amusing when we finish it. I dream that someday we will be able to do *Star Wars*, *PJ Masks* or even older cartoons in our language. Right now, public domain films with no copyright restrictions are mostly from the 1940s and earlier.

Soon, we will be hosting our annual Winter Storytelling event. We haven’t chosen an exact date, but expect it to be in late February. I hope that this year, with plenty of social distancing, we will be able to have the event live and on Zoom.

I had the honor and privilege to name a 100-year-old Tribal member. It is always an honor to be asked to name an individual, and her granddaughter asked to be named as her one request for her birthday. Ms. Capps helped make the event very special for Edith and her family.

Bbon kedwenen

Winter words

When snow is coming down, it’s *boni*, and once it’s on the ground it is *gon*. *Boni*-indicates a flutter or falling motion involved.

Bonimget — It’s snowing. (Bone eemgit)

Ksenyamget — It’s cold. (Kuh sin yahm git)

Gon — snow on the ground (goen)

Mkomiswen — It’s icy. (muh comb ees win)

Gon nene — snowman (goen nuh nay)

Gonkiwen — snow on the ground (goen key win)

Shkagwnegya — slushy snow (shuh kag wuh nuyah)

Nshiwpo — heavy snowfall (nuh shee oh poe)

Shpagwnegya — deep snow (shuh pahg wuh nuhg yah)

Mcheknebbon — winter with no snow (muh chuck nehb bone) ♠

Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



Bozho nikan
(Hello, my friend),

The recent increase in the size of our Tribe by nearly 10,000 new members was truly a shock to me. The shock was the fact that so many had not chosen to exercise their rights to citizenship in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation for a reason that does not exist. Many that we called concerning their application for CARE and ARPA funds said that they “did not think they were enough Indian blood.”

Over the years many of you have heard my opinion on the despicable, and now illegal, policy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs of requiring “Degree of Indian Blood” cards for services. Percentage of Indian blood beyond the Citizen Potawatomi Indian blood possessed by your descendent on the 1861 or later census rolls of the Tribe is what qualifies you for Tribal citizenship. When our Tribal government votes to admit you to citizenship in the Nation, then you are an Indian. BIA “Degree of Indian Blood” has nothing to do with being an Indian.

The BIA Shawnee Agency superintendent once told me

that the BIA “did not deal with Tribes,” they only dealt with “Indians.” The BIA policy until 1975 was designed to assure the eventuality of the disappearance of Indians and their governments. It is a demeaning, shameful, and, I believe, unconstitutional regulatory interference in the sovereign affairs of Indian nations. It has split tribes and families up. In too many ways, it is all about “*Who gets the money.*”

No other people in the United States are asked to carry around a pedigree like a dog or a horse. What would be the reaction of other races of people if asked: “You don’t look African American, how much black blood do you have?,” “How much Jewish blood are you?,” “What is your degree of Hispanic blood?,” “Are you a full-blood Chinese?”

It is rude, offensive behavior that most Citizen Potawatomi have dealt with all their lives. Here is why it is so wrong.

You are an Indian in two ways – legally and traditionally. *Legally*, you are an American Indian if a federally recognized tribe issues you a certificate of citizenship (your card). In the top 10 largest tribes in America, nine use descendency as the enrollment criteria, including the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. If you are of the blood of our founding families, you are eligible to be a Citizen Potawatomi. *Traditionally*, you are a member of the tribe if you belong to the 41 families that share a common blood, history, language, art, culture, territory, and government since the Treaty of 1861. Notice that

neither of these descriptions mentions, “blood degree.”

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

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

The Bureau of Indian Affairs generated Citizen Potawatomi blood degree “rolls” are now, and have been for over 140 years, criminally incorrect. They are full of fraudulent history. The first Citizen Potawatomi Tribal roll was made in 1861. A bureaucrat set up in a cabin near the reservation in Kansas. Each member of the “Citizen Band” had to come in that summer. As they came through the

door, he assigned them a blood degree based on appearance. If you worked outside that summer and had a tan, and your parents did not, you got more “Indian blood” than your parents. For 50 years our tribe was told that you would be subject to the control of the government if you were above ½ blood degree. The BIA Agency superintendent could declare you “incompetent to conduct your own affairs.” Our people were forced by circumstances to deny their blood.

When I took office in 1971, there were over 3,000 blood degree appeals in the BIA Washington D.C. central office. This number grew until 1985, when I was present at a meeting in which the craziest thing since 1861 was forced on us.

The head of the BIA’s “Tribal Operations” department in Washington decided that the solution to all the Citizen Potawatomi blood degree appeals was to be solved this way: *Any relative on any document in your family history with a “white” name was no more than ½ Potawatomi.*

Can you believe it?! After a century of Christian missionaries baptizing Citizen Potawatomi as quickly as they found them, and giving them European names in the process, the effect was a wholesale unjustified reduction of official BIA blood degrees. In the old days, if you dealt with the white man, you used your white name. If you dealt with your people, you used your Indian name. Most likely, having a white name had nothing to do with your family history from 1800 to 1860, just where you went to church.

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

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

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

For any of you who might be hesitant to apply for a Tribal service because of this kind of nonsense being talked around, please let us hear from you. If you are enrolled, you are deserving of everything we offer to any other tribal member!

You are a 100% member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Tribal Chairman.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION TRIBAL ROLLS

The Tribal Rolls Department is responsible for determining eligibility for Tribal enrollment, burial insurance, and Tribal ID cards, and assists with genealogical and historical research. The department is also responsible for maintaining and updating the computer membership list, utilizing Tribal membership information for various types of census data, and creating the voter eligibility lists in the direction of the Secretary-Treasurer for the CPN Election Commission’s Secretary-Treasurer.

TO ENROLL OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Contact us at 405.878.5835 or tribalrolls@potawatomi.org

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



Bozho
(Hello),

Shortly after the New Year, you can count on seeing first-born baby pictures in many city newspapers. The larger the population of a city, the higher the chances of having more than one baby usher in the New Year. The year was 1988; four babies were born on January 1 in Ada, Oklahoma, hospitals. The first was a girl, born at 12:45 a.m. The second was a boy born at 3:27 a.m., but the day had just begun. Twins arrived later in the day at Carl Albert Indian Hospital. The twins' parents were James Leo (CPN member) and Cathy DeLonais, Jr. James Leo DeLonais III, was born

at 11:01 a.m. He weighed 8 pounds, 5.5 ounces and was 21 inches long. Ashley Lynette was born at 11:03 a.m., weighing 8 pounds, 3.5 ounces and measuring 21.5 inches long.

Today, James Leo DeLonais III, known as Trey, resides in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Ashley Lynette DeLonais Frye lives in McAlester, Oklahoma, and works in Ada as a nurse at the prestigious Chickasaw Nation Hospital. Both twins are proud members of CPN. Ashley has a 6-year-old daughter Riley Rose Frye, also a CPN member, and two children pending membership.

Not only does Trey live in Shawnee, but also, he works for CPN. No doubt, a lot of the graphics that you see in the *Hownikan* have been produced by Trey. He can make magic appear on paper. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of graphic design, Trey has multiple skills in technical and artistic drawing, signage, photography, animation, and video editing, among other fields. We are proud of the quality work that Trey does for our Public Information Department, under the direction of Jennifer Bell.



Twins Ashley Lynette (left) and James Leo DeLonais III.

Happy New Year and happy birthday... to Ashley and Trey!

I would like to think that CPN faces the New Year with hope, faith, and charity. Of course, this is a biblical phrase that can be applied to our everyday life. CPN's charity would be in the form of assistance to our Tribal members. We offer all kinds of assistance. Even as I write the column, we have staff members calling, writing, texting, and emailing in an effort to contact those that have *not* applied for their ARPA funds. We have 30,265 applications in hand with 36,315 eligible Tribal members. The application numbers change each day, but the numbers coming in are dwindling. I believe it shows that CPN really cares about wanting the members to have everything for which they qualify. Other amenities are Adult Protective Services, Health Services, Indian Child Welfare, Office of Environmental Health, Women, Infants and Children, FireLake Wellness Center, Workforce

Development and Social Services, and the list continues.

Our hope for the New Year is that we can begin several of the many construction jobs that we have pending at the Nation. Some will be completed by the end of the year. Our faith is that we can maintain a healthy workplace in which we can continue to fight the various coronavirus variants. Chairman Barrett "stepped to the plate" when he required all CPN employees to be COVID-19 vaccinated. Has he been criticized? Yes, by some, but he has received resounding messages of praise from far and near.

The Chairman's message proclaimed that he cares about the health of our workplace. He cares about our employees. He cares about the citizens of our Nation when they come to interact at our workplace.

My faith for our Nation, too, is that we begin to build the assets of the Tribe so we can produce additional income.

We must have added revenue for the stability of services to our population. Our Tribal enrollment is at 37,581 members, a glorious count but a huge responsibility if we want to continue with scholarships, health benefits, death benefits and other committed services.

With the closing of my article, I want to say that I have prepared the application for submittal to the CPN Election Committee for the Vice-Chairman position. I would be proud and honored to serve another four-year term as your Vice-Chairman. May you have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

As usual, I cherish the opportunity to serve our Tribal members.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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



The DeLonais twins spend the summer of 1991 playing outdoors at their home in Ada, Oklahoma.

2022 ELECTION NOTICE

For Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and Legislators for Districts 5, 6, 7 and 8

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Filing form and fee must be received by the Election Committee no later than 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 12. Candidates for Vice-Chairman must be at least 35 years old upon being sworn in on June 25, 2022, and must have physically resided in Oklahoma continuously for at least six months prior to the election. Each successful candidate for an Executive Office in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation must submit a completed personal information form containing their personal financial information to the Comptroller of the Currency, as required under the Standard Change of Control application form for National Banks, no later than seven (7) days after election results are certified.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Filing form and fee must be received by the Election Committee no later than 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 12. Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer must be at least 35 years old upon being sworn in on June 25, 2022, and must have physically resided in Oklahoma continuously for at least six months prior to the election. Each successful candidate for an Executive Office in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation must submit a completed personal information form containing their personal financial information to the Comptroller of the Currency, as required under the Standard Change of Control application form for National Banks, no later than seven (7) days after election results are certified.

LEGISLATOR

Filing form and fee must be received by the Election Committee no later than 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 12. Candidates for Legislator must be at least 18 years old upon being sworn in on June 25, 2022, and must have physically resided within the district they would represent continuously for at least six months prior to the election.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AFTER DEC. 1, 2021. TO REQUEST, EMAIL ELECTIONS@POTAWATOMI.ORG

District 1 – Alan Melot



Bozho thayék
(Hello everyone),

Nithëna (How is everything?) I hope all is well with you and your holidays went well. As I've worked to learn the language, I've learned that there are several different ways of writing it. None are wrong, as our language was a spoken language and not a written one. Some ways of writing it are better than others, in my opinion. If you look up a word in our online dictionary (potawatomidictionary.com), you will often find different markings over the letter "e." This is

because English phonetics don't work well with our language. It is a different language, so the pronunciation rules are different. Rather than have ambiguous pronunciations, it is better to learn a few extra symbols so you always know how to say a particular letter.

Vowel pronunciations are as follows:
e = ih as in tick
ë = uh as in buck
ê = oo as in book
è = eh as in bed
é = a as in bat
i = ee as in weed
a = ah as in father
o = oh as in boat

There are many resources you can use to get familiar with these, and the easiest for me is the *Bodwëwadmimwen* smartphone app from the Pokagon Band, as they have a section that teaches these basic pronunciations. If you will search for "Potawatomi language" in the app store on your smartphone, you will find the *Bodwëwadmimwen* app and

CPN District 1 Spring Meeting

MARCH 19-20, 2022
ST. LOUIS, MO

LOCATION TBD

MARCH 19
Tour Cahokia Mounds early afternoon, meet for an evening meal and visit with D1 CPN members. Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps are planning to attend.

MARCH 20
Breakfast and travel home

SATURDAY EVENING MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED, LIMITED HELP WITH LODGING WILL BE AVAILABLE.

RSVP REQUIRED BY MARCH 1
to alan.melot@potawatomi.org, or call 1-417-312-3307

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Submit designs to alan.melot@potawatomi.org

Open to District 1 members only. Designs must be submitted by Feb. 15, winning design will be chosen by Mar. 1

the Citizen Potawatomi Nation dictionary. Both are very useful,

and I would encourage you to download and use both apps.

I am planning a spring meeting for District 1 in the St. Louis, Missouri, area and working to solidify a venue. I will update you here and on Facebook as soon as I can. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

As you also see, I am working to get some D1 swag for us to enjoy and show our D1 pride when we get together or are in our communities. I'd like to make T-shirts available for folks to wear when we get together for the Family Reunion Festival this year, so I'm working to make sure our timelines stay on target. Again, connect with me on Facebook or via email, mail or phone if you want to be on my list of folks who would like to get a T-shirt.

Bama pi
(Until later),

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

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends)!

Greetings for the New Year 2022!

Winter stories

With snow and frost on the ground throughout much of Turtle Island, it is time to share winter stories. With help from many, in 2015, I compiled a Winter Stories book that I later posted to my website. Find it at cpn.news/winterstories2015 or on my website, evamariecarney.com, under the "Heritage" tab (write or call if you need the password). I would be honored if you download it and share our stories with family and friends. I believe that doing this is important to ensure we continue to thrive.

One of my favorites — since it reminds me of my household's recent skirmishes with a woodpecker intent on demolishing our house — is the following:

A long time ago, Wiske was hunting in the woods for something to eat. He was very hungry because he had not eaten in several days. He came to the edge of the woods and saw a flock

of ducks on a pond and drew back his bow to shoot one. But then he thought, "If I shoot one, the others will fly away, and I will not have much to eat." So, he took the cord off the bow and dove into the water and swam under each duck and tied the cord to one of the legs of each duck. He then tied the end to his wrist and came to the surface. This surprised the ducks, who flew off in a V shape. Screaming for them to let him go, he managed to get loose and fell headfirst into a hollow tree.

Stuck upside down in the tree, he could only see out of a small hole that had been drilled by a woodpecker. Thinking quickly, he changed himself into a rabbit just as a woodpecker started hammering on the tree. He said to the woodpecker, "If you make the hole bigger you can see how beautiful I am." The woodpecker, not having anything to lose, made the hole bigger, and Wiske managed to squeeze out of the hole, but in doing so, he pulled a lot of his hair out. He thanked the woodpecker for his help and gifted the woodpecker a red tuft of hair for head feathers. As Wiske ran away, the woodpecker said, "That Wiske doesn't look very beautiful to me."

This is the reason that woodpeckers have red heads and ducks fly in tight formations as they think of Wiske.

Traditional foods

This time of year also is great for exploring our traditional foods and recipes. I posted to my website a copy of the illuminating book of traditional Potawatomi recipes compiled by Priscilla Sherard in 1975. You can find it at cpn.news/sherard, as well as under the "Heritage"

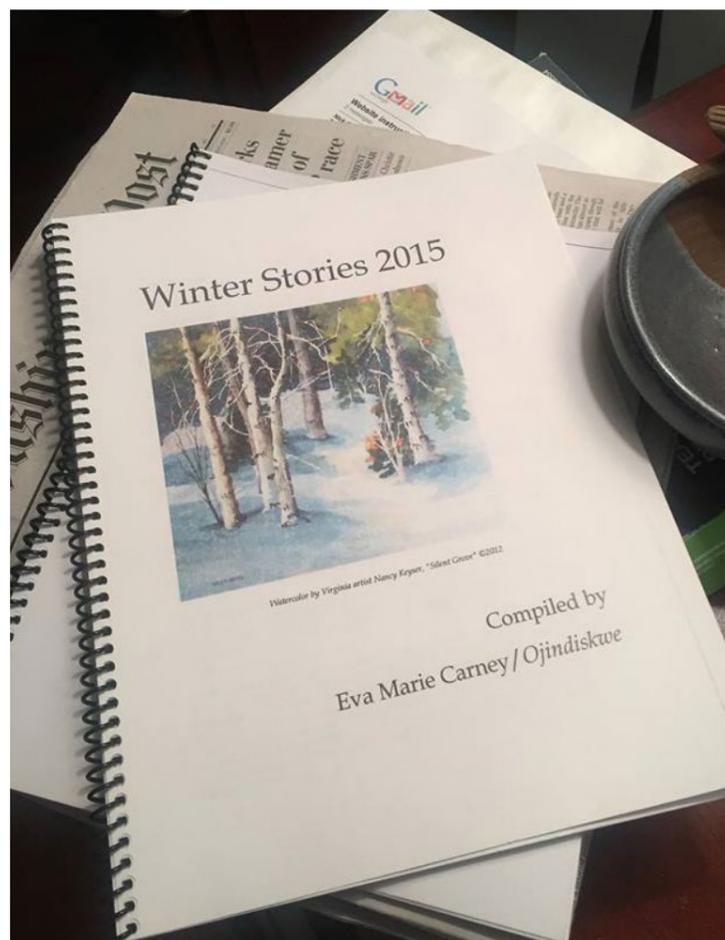


tab at evamariecarney.com. The recipe for *Kotches'uk Ininatig & ba'boan* (Carrots Maple Sugar & Wild Ginger) is a Carney-Cohen family staple. We recommend it! I would love your feedback on other recipes included in Priscilla's compilation.

Fall meeting 2021 overview

District 8 Legislator Dave Carney and I, with initial reluctance (since we both love our respective in-person Fall Feast tradition), overrun by concern for everyone's safety, resorted to an online format for our traditional fall gathering. It worked out great, thanks to our knowledgeable, well-prepared presenters and the professionalism of CPN IT (Caleb Moss) and the Director of CPN Public Information (Jennifer Bell) who ran our Zoom meeting. A definite plus is that CPN IT recorded the meeting — now everyone can watch and learn at their convenience at cpn.news/fallmeeting21. We had more than 50 families participate online from both

coasts and many states in between. Our presenters — Dr. Kelli Mosteller, Cultural Heritage Center director; Justin Neely, CPN Language Department director; Natalie Mitchell-Fuller (OR); Bill Anderson (GA); and Leslie Deer (OK, Cultural Heritage Center) — gave up their Saturday to share their knowledge, highlight the Cultural Heritage Center's resources and initiatives, tell traditional stories and supply craft instruction. If you make one of the crafts, we would love you to share photos and reviews to either dncarney@gmail.com or



Compiled in 2015, Winter Stories offers many traditional Potawatomi tales to share while the snow meets the ground.

evamariecarney@gmail.com. *Chimigwetch* (many thanks) to all who contributed to the meeting.

The video is now posted to evamariecarney.com under the "Heritage" tab and at cpn.news/emheritage. Do feel free to contact me if you do not have the password for that part of the site. (The landing page for the "Heritage" tab information lists the families that will be honored each year with special dances recognizing the families, reserved family meeting areas, family photo shoots and the like during our Family Reunion

Festival during the last week of June in 2022-2027. For 2022, the honored families are Bruno, Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Lewis, Nadeau, Slavin, and Smith.)

Another PSA

Last month I highlighted the "grandparent scam," whereby someone impersonating a grandchild calls and asks for money to extricate themselves from a dire situation.

This time I want to highlight a more general "scam" — when someone asks you, for one

reason or another, to withdraw thousands of dollars in cash, wrap it in foil or magazines, and deliver it by USPS or private delivery services. If you or a loved one EVER are asked to do this, please call me or another trusted adult to discuss in advance of making such large cash withdrawals. IT IS SO LIKELY TO BE A SCAM THAT YOU SHOULD JUST MOVE ON, IF YOU CAN. I am sorry to report the craven nature of folks, especially around the holidays when they seek quick cash. Please do not be sucked in.

Building community; receipt of a holiday gift

Please send me your email address so I can send you email updates! Also, this is a reminder that I am again offering a token CPN/District 2-themed, end-of-year gift to those District 2 folks who write or call me with their physical mailing addresses. I have found this is a terrific way to stay connected and keep my address list updated. My contact information is just below. I will give one holiday gift per request, so if your older children living in District 2

want an end-of-year gift, 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
5877 Washington Boulevard
PO Box 5591
Arlington, VA 22205
866-961-6988 toll-free
ecarney@potawatomi.org
evamariecarney.com

District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho jayek
(Hello everyone),

Wishing everyone a *Mno shke bbon* (Happy New Year) as we look forward to hopefully getting back to a few normal things in 2022, specifically, hosting some meetings. And if it all works out, we may meet this summer for another Family Reunion Festival the last weekend in June.

February 5 virtual meeting

On February 5, Districts 3 and 5 will hold a joint Zoom meeting where we will have the pleasure of having CPN Cultural Heritage Center employee Czarina Thompson and Language Department Director Justin Neely make presentations. Mrs. Thompson is a family history specialist working in the archive and research area. We have asked her to give a presentation on how to use several different search engines on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation *Ancestry* site. It is very interesting, and there is excellent information on our CPN families. I am a member of the Frigon family, which is a branch of the Bourassa family. If you look at my ancestry by

going to the Bourassa area, the link is primarily on just the Bourassa family. However, if you go to the Frigon link, it will take you to the Frigon family members and lead you to the Bourassa family. I believe you will find this very informative and interesting. Justin Neely may present one or more of the winter stories that are only shared during the winter season. I have not heard any of them and look forward to hearing one or more of them. Justin may also be sharing other information about the language department on a new area program under development. A postcard will be mailed out announcing the meeting times and how to log on. We look forward to you joining us.

Apache Joan of Arc

If you may recall a year ago, I wrote about different warriors. The warriors I referenced were those in our families who have fought disease for years and did so valiantly. In the various Native American nations in the United States, there have been many instances where our Native women fought alongside our men and gave them true warrior support. It has been said that when the male warrior went down, standing directly behind him was a woman to continue the battle. I recently read about such a female warrior in the Apache Chihenne band, born in the 1840s in New Mexico who fought against both the Mexican and American forces for 30 years, earning her the nickname "Apache Joan of Arc." Like all Apache children, she was taught survival skills. She earned the name *Lozen*, which

translates to Dexterous Horse Thief. *Lozen* was a warrior, shaman and an excellent skilled rider. She was adept at creeping into the enemy camp at night and stealing all of the horses. Not only could she ride and shoot, but it was also said that she seemed to have supernatural power in being able to locate the enemy. She was the sister of the Apache Chief Victorio. He referred to her as his right hand and a shield to her people. Chief Victorio was killed around 1885, and *Lozen* joined and rode with Geronimo. When she and Geronimo surrendered along with many others, they were taken to prisons in Florida. She was released within a few years and died of tuberculosis at the age of 50 in Alabama. She is honored to this day by the Apache Nation for her bravery and fighting for her nation. For detailed information on *Lozen*, I suggest you read the book *Warrior Woman: The Story of Lozen, Apache Warrior Shaman* by Peter Aleshire. You may wonder why I am bringing you some information about an Apache when we are of the Potawatomi Nation. I think that not only should we know about our Nation, but it is also good to know of the various other tribal leaders in the area where we live. The Apache Nation, like the Sioux Nation of the Dakota region, consisted of many groups, and the Apache were essentially nomads covering what are now several states in our southwestern Plains area. They fought many battles in the state of Texas against both the Mexicans and the Americans. As a Native American living in Texas, I find it good to learn about the different tribes that were the Indigenous people of the area. The Apaches were one of those who rode and fought here.

December 2 legislative meeting

At our meeting on December 2, we passed two resolutions that fell under the Administration for Children and Families, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. Both resolutions provide for grant funds going to this area for a period of five years. Family and child violence is a very large concern of all



was a reminder to me of a program that the Canadian government started several years ago to aid children and family members who might be in distress, danger or, worse yet, confronting kidnapping. They created a set of hand signals that the person in trouble can use subtly to signal that they need help. This set of hand signals consists of three parts, and it was also recently covered on TikTok. I am including photos for reference. But let me go through them. First, put your hand up with the palm side facing out like you are waving but keep the hand still. Ideally, make it look like you just have your hand resting against the window. Second, fold your thumb into the palm of your hand with it still facing out. Lastly, fold all of your fingers down over your thumb. Should the need arise, simply keep repeating the three steps to be sending your "SOS" type of message. For those of you with children, I suggest you teach your children how to use this three-step "help" hand signal. It may hopefully never need to be used, but just like the jumper cables in your car for a dead battery, they will have the knowledge if it is ever needed.

December 11 Corpus Christi meeting

This article is being written before our December 11 meeting will be held. I will include results in my February *Hownikan* article.

As I have stated on my website, I am your voice. So if you need help or have a CPN question, please contact me. I thank you for the honor of serving as your representative.

Bama mine
(Later),

Bob Whistler
Bmashi (He Soars)
Representative, District 3
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Native American nations. We have our share of issues in this area, and fortunately, the federal government has grant programs that we can apply to for monies to fund our programs. Having these two grants on our agenda

**VIRTUAL CITIZEN POTAWATOMI
District 3&5 Meeting**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2021
9am MT & 10am CT

Hear from CPN staff about genealogy and language!

REGISTER ONLINE AT
cpn.news/D35Feb2022

District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho
(Hello),

A New Year ahead

Peg and I hope each of you had a joyful and safe holiday season, and we want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. This past year has been rough in many respects, but hopefully we will see marked improvement in 2022. As I draft this article, there is still a feeling that we will be able to have the CPN Family Reunion Festival in June and attend the 2022 Potawatomi Gathering hosted by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi in Michigan.

CPN student at Washburn University honored

In the Fall 2021 issue of *Washburn Business*, a magazine published by the Washburn University School of Business, it was an-

nounced that CPN member Abigail McCrory was a recipient of the Magnificent Seven Awards for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. This award acknowledges those students who best represent the school's core values — honesty, trust, fairness, respect, integrity and responsibility. Abigail, who is majoring in marketing and entrepreneurship at Washburn, says she learned the skills of managing and owning a business while observing her parents develop a coffee shop in Rossville, Kansas. In addition, Abigail is minoring in leadership studies with an emphasis in social change. She is the daughter of Sarene McCrory and a descendant of the Vieux family.

Opportunity to view CPN Veterans telling their story

As you may have heard, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center has recently initiated a campaign to ensure all CPN veterans have the opportunity to tell their stories about their experiences in the military. I truly support this valuable effort that continues what began 20 years ago. I was one of those who told his story several years ago. Many of our veterans who were interviewed early in the program have walked on, particularly those who served in WWII. Back when I was working in Shawnee, I had the opportunity to view dozens of these videos and sit through a few interviews as they were being recorded.



You would be amazed at some of the stories that were told.

I plan to make several of these videos available at a viewing in the CPN Community Center in Rossville, Kansas, on Sunday, February 20, at 2 p.m. This is a week after the Super Bowl so you shouldn't have a conflict. I plan to show a collection of videos that will include local CPN veterans as well as a few other classic stories.

CPN member again leads his team to state championship

On November 27, CPN member Torrey Horak again led the Rossville High School football team to its second straight 2A state championship and a 13-0 season. In the championship game, Horak, a senior, went 11-16 through the air for 234 yards and three touchdowns and ran

for 33 yards and another score. Over the past two years, the Rossville football team is 26-0. Torrey is the son of Wendi and Terry Horak.

CPN veterans participate in Topeka's Salute to Veterans Parade

Once again, members of the CPN Veterans Organization participated in the Salute to Veterans Parade down Kansas Avenue in Topeka on Saturday, November 6. We rode in a properly identified pickup owned and driven by Joe Wulfkhule, U.S. Air Force, retired. Veterans in the back of the truck were Lyman Boursaw, U.S. Army veteran; Paul McGuire, USMC veteran; and me.

January Elders Potluck

The Elders January Potluck at the CPN Community Center in Rossville is scheduled for noon, Friday, January 14, 2022.

The menu will be various soups. Come join us and bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Tracy or Brenda at 785-584-6171 if you plan on attending. Masks are not required but highly recommended.

February Elders Potluck

The February Elders Potluck at the CPN Community Center in Rossville is scheduled for noon, Friday, February 11. The menu will be chicken pot pie and shepherd's pie. Come join us and bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Tracy or Brenda at 785-584-6171 if you plan to attend. Masks are not required but highly recommended.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Jon Boursaw,
Wetase Mkoh (Brave Bear)
Representative, District 4
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Topeka, KS 66604
785-861-7272 office
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3-5 p.m. Thursdays
Other times: please call

District 5 – Gene Lambert



Bozho
(Hello),

Here is another opportunity to wish everyone Happy New Year for 2022. 2021 holidays were more enjoyable than the 2020's at least. As long as it is progressing, that's a good thing.

I believe the Citizen Potawatomi Nation employees are the reason we made it through this last year. I cannot imagine the stress, pressure and details they had to endure getting us through all this.

Each department had its challenges, but I would have to say the accounting department had to be the most pressed, getting all those checks out for every enrolled Tribal member. I hope that we can show our gratitude for how hard they worked and are

still working. Thank you to each and every one in that department.

I observed there were a lot more holiday decorations out and at a much earlier date than years prior. People are excited to see anything close to the holiday spirit and once again enjoying family.

This is the year of the Tiger! It is considered a very lucky year for those born under that sign from the Chinese zodiac.

The Native American symbol of the tiger represents leadership, physical grace and strength. He is a great teacher. It means a lot of our trials and tribulations have been worked through. While the tiger is not native to this land, it is still recognized. We can do this!

The Chinese zodiac — also known as Shengxiao or "Born Resembling" (Don't ask me how to pronounce it.) — is a repeating cycle of 12 years, and each year represents a different animal. The 12 animals are Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. As the story goes, the Chinese emperor held a race to determine which lucky animals would have the honor of being added to the calendar.

Astrology cycles are followed on a monthly basis and again there are 12: Pisces, Aries, Taurus, Cancer, Sagittarius, Gemini, Leo, Aquar-

ius, Virgo, Capricorn, Libra and Scorpio. These 12 signs are divided into four elements — fire, earth, air and water — as Native American culture acknowledges, practices and respects.

Regardless of your lifestyle, practices or beliefs, you can always count on the fact that somewhere in there it relates back to Native American history, practices and knowledge.

We are all connected to each other, to the world and all it holds.

Animals are considered our kin, as are the earth and water. The animals are a huge part of our history, lifestyle, legends and spiritual identity. There is a sacred reference to many. They are considered guides through our dreams or messages, if sighted during a walk.

The eagle is an absolutely magnificent bird that flies, or I should say, soars, to the heavens and carries our prayers to the Creator. The eagle feather is also one of the highest honors you can receive.

Tobacco is also considered a very high honor.

The coyote is considered in some tribes as a master of disguise, as he can represent ego and negative actions, and yet be a leader in many other areas.

The buffalo is the giver of life as it gives meat for food, hide for dress and horns for weapons. One would ensure to utilize the entire animal, as it is a gift that it gave its life to give.

The turtle is quite significant, as we would not have the very land we live on without him. The story about carrying the dirt on his back created Turtle Island, North America.

The butterfly is recognized as a miracle of transformation. It can survive hurricanes, yet land gently on a flower.

Today as well as throughout history, dogs are known for their protective instincts, loyalty, friendship and unconditional love. We see that many animals and dogs have become part of our families today. While they may have played a role of duty in history, they truly are our family members. They are a true spirit.

I remember as a child on the farm that animals were never allowed in the house. On a rainy day, you would bring them in on the porch to get them out of the rain but still not in the home. Wow! Has this evolved? We now know and better understand the needs and importance of the animal kingdom in this society as the Native American community has always known.

The point of all this is talking about all the likenesses we share in cultures that are not our own. What a wonderful world it would be if the cautious and suspicious became curious and interested. There are so many more likeness than differences. When you are one on one, you can see how much alike we all are.

I am so looking forward to seeing everyone again this year. It seems so long ago since we were able to gather.

District 3 Legislator Bob Whistler and District 5 Legislator Gene Lambert are planning a Zoom meeting on Saturday, February 5, 2022. You will be receiving your invitation and the Zoom connection soon, so watch for it. I look forward to seeing you then.

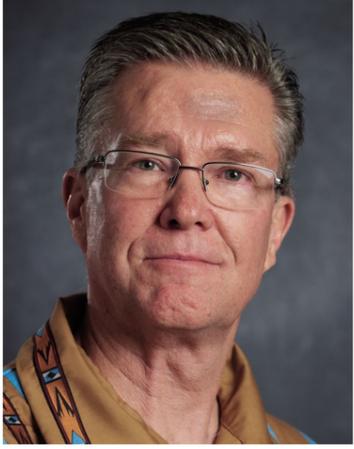
We will be having District 5 meeting starting the last of March and first part of April.

In the meantime, be safe, and stay healthy, while you enjoy the very best year we have seen in many. Let me know if you have questions.

Lots of love to you all.

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



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

Just a few things to cover this month. The start of a New Year seems to come with the hope of positive change and an opportunity to put the disappointments of the

previous year behind us. I am excited about all the things in the works at CPN for 2022.

At our legislative meeting on December 2, the legislature met with Election Committee Chairman Gary Bourbonnais and Vice-Chairman David Bourbonnais to discuss ways to increase voter participation. I shared identity theft concerns voiced by Tribal members at our District 6 and 7 meeting in October. I suggested that requests for ballots come with a postage-paid envelope to conceal the members' signature and Tribal ID number. I also suggested that the ballot return envelopes be made so that the signature could be concealed under the flap and the flap removed without opening the

envelope. I am not sure what changes will ultimately be made, but hopefully, they lead to more of our Tribal members voting in Tribal elections.

In case you didn't notice when you applied for ARPA funds, the portal also provides access to a variety of services and information. For those in need of a new Tribal ID card, you can request it through the portal. You can update your profile and search ancestry information as well. You can even build your family tree. To access the portal, go to portal.potawatomi.org.

Recently, I watched a movie titled *Montford*. Even if you don't like westerns, I highly recommend this film. It is produced by the Chickasaw Nation. It is very well done

and better than just about anything coming out of Hollywood these days. The film is based on the life of Montford Johnson, a Chickasaw rancher in central Oklahoma. Chickasaw Productions has taken storytelling to a whole new level. If the objective is to tell the story of one of their own and weave Chickasaw culture and history into the landscape, mission accomplished.

I'll leave you with a quote from T.S. Eliot: "Where is the life we have lost in living? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information? The cycles of Heaven in 20 centuries bring us further from God and nearer to the dust."

Words of Wisdom: "Their heads may be smart, but their hearts are ignorant." – William Barclay

Wisdom from the Word: "Wisdom along with an inheritance is good And an advantage to those who see the sun." Ecclesiastes 7:11

Word of the Month: *wabek* – tomorrow

Migwetch! Bama pi
(Thank you! Later),

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District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

The arrival of the New Year always gives us all a chance to reflect on the past and to look forward to the future. With the last two years of COVID having been difficult at best, one

bright spot has been the ability to bring much needed support to our Tribal membership, first with the CARES Act funding. Almost \$44 million was distributed to members in the eligible categories. Through the American Rescue Plan Act, over \$40 million has been distributed to members in \$1,400 direct payments. If you haven't applied, please go to the Tribal website and apply online, and check with the members of your family to make sure that they know about this program.

These two programs have allowed the Tribal government the opportunity to put into place programs for our membership that may have otherwise taken years to get to. One of the biggest hurdles to new benefits to our membership is having the funding base in place to sustain

any increase in benefits or to add benefits. That is why I am so excited that we have been able to bring forward the CPN Care program that will allow our member households to have access to medical care. While the access is online or over the phone, you now have someone to talk to and get the help or common prescriptions that you may need. Please follow the instructions and register for this benefit.

Regardless of what you do or where you live, I believe everyone has a responsibility to help make our community, our family and our Tribe better and stronger than it was when we arrived. With that said, I would like to announce that I will be seeking a fourth term as your legislator for District 7. The honor and trust that you bestowed on

me in 2010 and again in 2014 and 2018 by electing me, and re-electing me, is never taken lightly or for granted. I hope I have earned your trust.

I have said many times over the last 12 years that it is refreshing to be a part of a government that works. I believe we have made great improvements toward meeting the current needs of our members and growing smartly to meet the needs of our members in the future. I strongly encourage you to request your ballot and return it once you receive it. We need your participation in our government. That is how you make your voice known.

As always, it's never too early to start planning to attend the Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee from June 24-26, 2022.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Mark Johnson
Wisk Mtek (Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
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District 8 – Dave Carney



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

Welcome in 2022!

Despite recent news of COVID variants, I am hopeful that we will be able to meet in person soon. If not, we will figure out new ways to connect.

As you are aware, we cancelled our District 8 annual Fall Feast due to health concerns and substituted a Zoom fall meeting on November 13. This evolved into a joint meeting with District 2 and my sister, Eva Marie Carney,

who is the District 2 legislator. It was a good, collaborative effort and fun to do something jointly with my sibling. Special thanks to CPN staff in Oklahoma and CPN members in the two districts. We had presentations from CPN Cultural Heritage Center Director Dr. Kelli Mosteller, Language Department Director Justin Neely and Cultural Activities Coordinator Leslie Deer. Volunteers were Leslie Mitchell-Fuller and Bill Anderson. If you'd like to watch the recording, please go to the following link: cpn.news/fallmeeting21

In January 2022, the Nation is rolling out a telemedicine program that is the inspired work of Vice-Chairman Linda Capps. Linda spent untold hours doing research, speaking with company reps and various lawyers reviewing agreements. The monthly charge for those who choose to enroll is picked up by the Tribe. I look at it not as insurance but as access to healthcare providers. My hope is that this is a blessing to many families throughout the country.

I have been contacted recently by several new District 8

members to provide me with their contact information. I really appreciate this and encourage folks to reach out if they are new or just don't get my monthly updates directly.

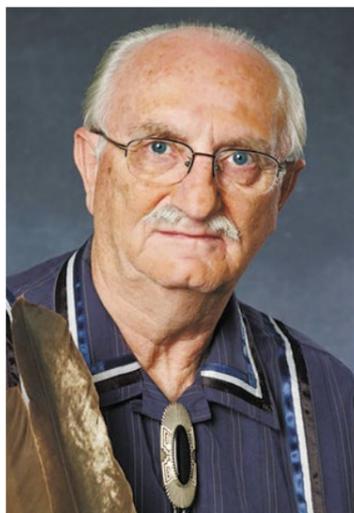
As always, it is my honor to serve as your legislator,

Dave Carney
Kagasghi (Raven)
Representative, District 8
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THE Hownikan PODCAST

Logos for Spotify, SoundCloud, and YouTube are displayed on the right side of the banner.

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Smallpox Blankets

Smallpox was one of history's deadliest diseases. It caused disfiguring scars, blindness and painful deaths. This plague killed many in America, including Native Americans, especially in the 18th and 19th centuries.

It would be seriously inhumane and sinful for anyone to inflict this disease, or any disease, on a people as a biological weapon. British American colonists have been accused of gifting blankets to Native Americans contaminated with smallpox. Growing up, I heard my relatives say that white

people killed many Indians with smallpox blankets.

However, there is only one historical example of smallpox blankets being utilized as a weapon against Native Americans, and this was during the French and Indian War from 1754 to 1763. There are zero excuses for early colonists to use a deadly disease to kill Indians, even if some considered Indians their feared enemies.

The one documented case of smallpox blanketing was reported by 19th-century historian Francis Parkman, "who came across correspondence in which Sir

Jeffery Amherst, commander-in-chief of the British forces in North America in the early 1760s, had discussed its use with Col. Henry Bouquet, a subordinate on the western frontier during the French and Indian War," according to the History Channel's website.

This case has caused outrage, even hatred, through the centuries. There are probably still Native Americans who believe that there were many cases where smallpox blankets were used against their ancestors. Both white people and Indians committed atrocities against each other. Thousands were killed, too many

by shameful means. Both sides spilled a lot of needless blood.

It is most regrettable that a primitive biological weapon was deployed on American soil, even if in our early history. Let us pray that we, or whomever we war with, will never deploy modern biological weapons. We know better. We are better.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft
Naganit (Leader)
Representative, District 9
reppaul@gmail.com
pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org

District 11 – Andrew Walters



Bozho
(Hello),

made it worse by spawning uneducated, unsupported discourse and enmity concerning the vaccine, who got it, who gets it, and who doesn't want it, and what will happen if they do or don't get the infamous "jab." 2021 brought us new twists to the old allegations of racism and social injustice. Most were the same old arguments that have been heard since the 1950s, with trendy catch phrases and buzz words thrown in... along with a few selfies to prove social warrior status. You'd think something would have changed by now. Makes me wonder at times if anyone really wants to change. I fear that it, like a cure for cancer, will never be resolved. Too much money lost to those whose livelihood depends on hate and division.

Police were villainized as a group. Governments bending to the pressure of "progressives" defunded law enforcement. As a result, in most large cities, crime increased dramatically. Buildings burned, shops were looted, and businesses were forced to close. Body counts rose in the streets while families mourned for the loss of their sons and daughters, husbands, wives and parents. Only the media and, paradoxically, gun manufacturers prospered from it all.

The "2021 new-think" proposes to deconstruct the society we have now and then rebuild a utopian replacement with a more efficient, more inclusive government and social structure. Problem is, the advocates of that idea have no plan. In their minds, you tear it down and then "vision" how to replace it. Seems as though we are rushing to simply destroy society with no firm guidance on how to make it better. I guess we figure that out later after we gut the place and burn the furniture. This paradigm is analogous to a monkey swinging from tree limb to tree limb with his eyes closed. Letting go of one limb and hoping there will be another strong enough to support him when he reaches out, with no idea where he's going.

In 2021, the Tribe went through an election cycle that was probably one of the most vicious, name calling, accusatory, goat ropin' events I've ever participated in. You'd've thought someone was gettin' a "die-vorce." The hate and anger were tangible. Other tribes and big money entities came forth trying to influence the election. I truly and sadly became aware of the differing factions in our Tribe. But I must say, with pride, that the voters came out

and made the right decisions. Unfortunately, only about 2,800 members voted out of 37,500 members nationwide. I'm not good with math or conjugating verbs in Yiddish, and I sure couldn't win money on *Jeopardy!*, but that seems to me to be about 7.5 percent of the Tribe. I know, some of the members are young'un's and can't vote, but still, you should get my point. The only proof we are a Tribe is participation. I hope with this June's election more folks live up to the statement, "I am Potawatomi."

The Tribe has made every effort to help members through 2021. The ARPA/CARES funding was received and quickly distributed to members. Both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman worked diligently with forethought and planning to assure our people were taken care of. We Potawatomi, as a group, have avoided some of the issues confronting other minority groups, and society in general by strong leadership and remaining strong to our heritage and beliefs. Standing together, we have reached out and helped other Tribal members and the Native population in need. With unity, we have weathered the storm we called 2021. We came out

a little beaten and battered, but we still stand proudly.

I hope and pray 2022 will truly change our course as a Nation. I long for a time when masks are for Halloween. I miss standing together in groups and talking without fear. I want to go to churches filled with congregants. I want to fly on an airliner with the old larger seats!! I want to be back to normal. Not the "new" normal others incite.... I want my old life back. How we do that is unfortunately up to "fate, chance, kings, and desperate men." But if we stand strong, caring, forgiving, and compassionate, our Nation, our Tribe, will prosper. I believe with all my heart that Creator watches out for each of us, not giving us what we want, but rather what we need.

The whole Walters clan wishes each and every one a happy, healthy, prosperous and loving New Year.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Andrew Walters
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Hownikan

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Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,
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Legislators are not able to retrieve your contact information from Tribal Rolls

Please contact your legislator and update your contact details so that you can receive important information.

**Levi Jeffery Hill
Macon Family**

Levi Jeffery Hill passed away on November 1, 2021, at the age of 25.

Levi was born on January 4, 1996, in Fort Worth, Texas, and grew up and attended school in Azle. During his time in the Azle Independent School District, he played trumpet in the junior high jazz band, competed on the math and science team, and developed a love for and proficiency in welding and metal works.

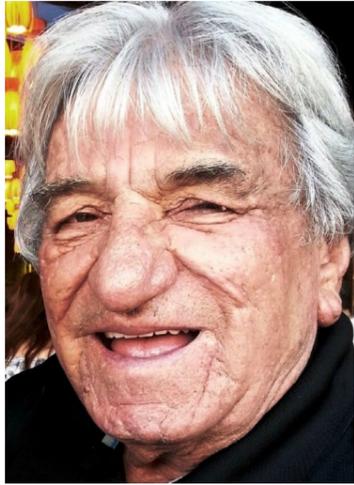
He later moved to Crowley, Texas, where he bought his own home and worked several positions in the aerospace industry. At home, he loved caring for his pit bulls, Princess and Jack, and working on and driving his trucks.

Levi was a talented and proficient prankster who brought laughter and joy everywhere he went. He will always be remembered for his smile and the light that he brought into everyone's lives.

He is survived by his younger brothers, Davin and Havin Hill; his mother and her husband, Pamela and Winston Buchanan of Granbury, Texas; his father and his wife, Jeff and Erma Hill of River Oaks, Texas; his grandparents, Lillian and Eugene Fields of Poolville, Texas; his uncle and his partner, Gene Fields and Sara Clopton; his uncle, Gary Hill and his wife, Neslyn; his aunt, Arleen Vinson; his aunt Gladys Yeakley and her husband, Guy; his cousins, Cheyenne Fields and her significant other, Logan Bacon; Felisha Johnson and her husband, Jeffery; Morgan Tidwell and her husband, Dillon; many cousins from his dad's side; and his own significant other, Rebecca Rivera.

A celebration of his bright life was held Friday, November 12, 2021, at Biggers Funeral Chapel. A service was held on Saturday, November 13, 2021,

also at Biggers Funeral Chapel followed by an internment at at Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park in Colleyville, Texas.

**Donald LeRoy Neddeau
Neddeau Family**

Born in Fort Defiance, AZ (October 1, 1936) to Marjorie and LeRoy Neddeau, Don grew up in Shawnee, OK. He was a proud Tribal citizen of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He attended St. Gregory's High School in Shawnee, OK, obtained a B.A. in Education from Northeastern State College in Tahlequah, OK, and a M.A. in Education from Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ.

Passionate about educating youth, Don dedicated 42 years to teaching. His love of music and teaching were undeniable to everyone he crossed paths with at San Benito Joint Union High School, particularly involving the Baler Band. His life was enriched by the many strong friendships, shared laughs, and fond memories he had with people from the Hollister community.

Outside of work, Don loved fishing and camping with family. He spent many summers fishing the Klamath River for steelhead and salmon and catching up with lifelong friends, whom seasonally made Klamath's Camper Corral their home away from home. Don was also an avid sports fan from an early age. He played baseball and football in his youth, enjoyed assisting his children's sports teams, and regularly followed professional sports. He loved reading and taking daily walks with his devoted standard poodle, Annie.

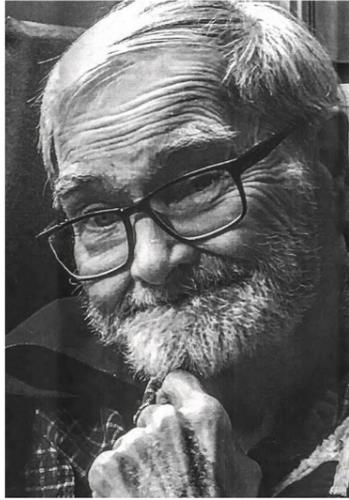
Don is survived by his wife of 44 years (Mandy Neddeau), his children, and their families: Beverly McGinley (Mark),

Perry Neddeau, Gary Neddeau (Susan), Kimberly McGuire (Brandon), Donielle Neddeau, and Browning Neddeau-Alabanza (Mark); grandchildren: Ryan Neddeau, Sayoko Neddeau, Tracey McDonough, William McDonough, Mason McDonough, Riley McGuire, Trevor McGuire, and Colin McGuire; and his great grandchildren: Dominic Caceres and June McDonough. His parents, Marjorie and LeRoy Neddeau, daughter Michelle Neddeau, and sister Sharon Pipestem walked on before him.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to either of the following charities:

Pet Friends & Rescue (Hollister), P.O. Box 1191, Hollister, CA 95024 831-637-1191.

National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, visit npcf.us or call 800-859-6723.

**Dwayne Lyn Patrick
Hurd/Willmetts Family**

Dwayne Lyn Patrick of Topeka, Kansas passed away on Sept. 18, 2020 at the age of 73. He was born July 26, 1947 to George Patrick and Marvis I. Johnson. Dwayne attended school at Highland Park High School in Topeka, Kansas. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was the oldest of four brothers and one sister. Dwayne was united in marriage to his wife Corliss N. Patrick. He is survived by his one and only loving son Shawn C. Patrick. Survivors also include two grandchildren, Marcus C. Patrick and Selene C. Patrick. Mr. Patrick was a proud Tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. His family will miss a selfless and devoted father, grandfather and husband. There is not a day that passes

that my thoughts aren't all about you. Dad, you were the best father and were always there when life was a better memory. As a child I remember all the times you took me out fishing and all the good stories you told me about your life. I want to thank you for all your care and love you gave. I will carry that love in my heart forever till we meet again at the crossroads. I know you are with Mom together up in the sky looking down over your family. You gave all of us the best life ever. I love you, Dad. Services will be at a later date at Memorial Park Cemetery 3616 S.W. 6th Ave, Topeka, Kansas 66606. Extra special thanks to Rolling Hills Assisted Living for all your love and care you provided my father. In love of your memory, Dwayne L. Patrick.

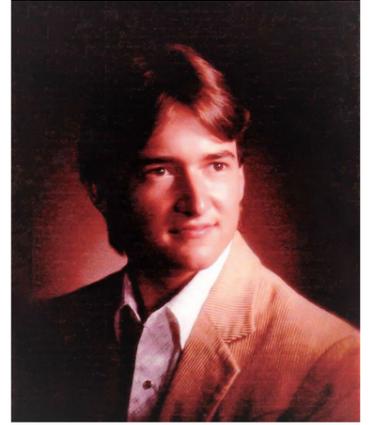
**Virginia Seigel
Melot Family**

Virginia Seigel was one of the most incredible, vivacious souls that I ever had the pleasure to know. She raised me to be strong, be brave and live every day to its fullest, like she did.

She was a captain in the military, a helicopter pilot, a plane pilot, and though unofficial, a pastor. She lived all over the world and played guitar. Virginia loved to play with her grandchildren and teach them all she could. She taught them to fish, camp, start fires and roast marshmallows, just like she once taught me. She led us in worship and love, to accept that this life is not permanent but that there is eternity in love for us. Virginia spent her life truly living it, and I hope to be able to look back on my life and say I lived it as fully as she did. She is missed every day, but I hope to see her again in the afterlife.

Mother, grandmother, hero and friend.

Gone but never forgotten.

**Troy James Lamirand
Curley Family**

Troy James Lamirand, age 53, passed away on October 19, 2021.

Troy was born on March 15, 1968, in Stillwater, Oklahoma, to Thomas Lamirand of Perry, Oklahoma, and Rebecca (Rosser) Smith of Newcastle, Oklahoma. He attended and graduated from Perry Public Schools in 1986. He attended Oklahoma State University and then worked at World Color Press in Stillwater until he moved to Wheelock, Vermont. He worked for NSA steel company until he passed away.

He is survived by his special friend, Sherry Jenkins of Wheelock, Vermont; son, Trevin Lamirand of Perry, Oklahoma; step-daughter, Heather Fisher of Monroe, New Hampshire; father, Thomas Lamirand of Perry, Oklahoma; mother, Rebecca (Rosser) Smith of Newcastle, Oklahoma; brother, Nathan Lamirand of Oklahoma City; brother, David (Vince) Lamirand of Oklahoma City; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Troy was an avid hunter and fisherman, spending most of his time outdoors. When not fishing, hunting or cutting wood, you could find him doing what he loved most — watching Oklahoma State football or basketball. In his free time, Troy could be found cooking on the grill for his friends and family.

Troy was preceded in death by his grandparents, Emmett and Iris Rosser of Perry, Oklahoma; and T.J. and Deloris Lamirand of Shawnee, Oklahoma.

**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

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.