Coronavirus Relief Fund formed to help Tribal citizens and businesses

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has set aside funding received from U.S. Congress as part of the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act to support Tribal citizens and Tribal-owned businesses. While the CARES Act was enacted on March 27, 2020, tribal governments did not begin to receive payments until May, which was later than the deadline established by Congress and after states began to receive distributions.

"Once we received the funding and guidance from the U.S. Treasury on how the funds may be used, we immediately began working on a plan to use the funds to respond to COVID-19, protect the stability of the Tribal government and its enterprises, and help our Tribal citizens who have been impacted by the virus," said Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett.

The amount set aside for the program will be supplemented when CPN receives its second CARES Act distribution. The U.S. Treasury Department calculated and issued the first distribution based on population data within the Tribe's Oklahoma jurisdiction obtained from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Treasury has not determined the funding formula for the second distribution. The additional amount CPN will receive is unknown at this time.

CPN's allocation will assist individual Citizen Potawatomi and CPN member-owned businesses. Individuals and businesses must apply for the assistance. In order to receive funding, individuals and businesses must show a financial impact due to COVID-19 and other qualifying factors imposed by federal law, and the businesses applying must have a controlling stake held by an enrolled CPN member.

The Tribal Legislature adopted a resolution creating the COVID-19 Crisis Compliance Department to facilitate adherence to the complex rules required by the federal government. The Tribal Legislature also established a maximum payment of up to $1,200 per qualifying individual and up to $5,000 per qualifying Tribal member-owned business.

"In order to ensure the Nation meets the legal obligations established for the use of these funds as set by the United States Congress and the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Tribe is required to keep a diligent accounting of all funds used during this time," said CPN Tribal Attorney George Wright.

The funds received from the CARES Act may not be distributed as per capita payments. Distributions will be made to qualifying Tribal members if they are able to demonstrate they have been financially impacted by COVID-19. There may be other qualifying factors imposed by federal law. The National Congress of American Indians and the Native American Financial Officers Association have both expressed concern about tribal governments issuing per capita payments from these funds. These organizations have warned that per capita payments may lead to an investigation by the Inspector General for the tribal government and an IRS audit of the recipient tribal members.

In addition, CARES Act funding will be used to help ease the financial burden created by the Nation's response to COVID-19. In a letter from the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development to Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, economists noted that states and regions risk losing more than $127 billion in annual spending on goods and services, more than 1.1 million jobs, and more than $49.5 billion in wages and benefits for workers.

Several CPN enterprises suspended operations in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, already leading to a more than $15 million decrease in gross revenue for the Tribe. The full financial impact of COVID-19 will not be known for some time, as several enterprises have not reopened at full capacity and likely will not do so before the end of the year.

"CPN relies on Tribal-owned businesses to generate the revenue necessary to provide services and programs in our community and for our Tribal members," Chairman Barrett said. "Many of our government programs have seen an increased demand for services because of COVID-19. The Nation has been preparing for and responding to the virus since February."

The CPN Cultural Heritage Center, FireLake Bowling Center, FireLake Arena and both gaming establishments temporarily suspended operations in mid-March. Other Tribal programs began to limit in-person interaction; the child development center at the administration building closed, and three restaurants began offering to-go service only under new restrictions. CPN's remaining eight restaurants were forced to close. Beginning in April, Oklahoma began its phased re-opening plan. In contrast, CPN took a slower approach in easing restrictions on the advice of CPN Health Services leadership.

"Our public health experts were ahead of the game in preparing for this in late February, before Oklahoma even had its first confirmed case, and I am thankful for their leadership during the COVID-19 response," Chairman Barrett said. "We listened to them when they advised us to temporarily suspend operations in March, and we now trust their guidance on how to protect our staff and customers as we safely reopen."

As of June 1, 2020, all Tribal enterprises have re-opened in some capacity. Both the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort and FireLake Casinos have limited hours and guest capacities, among many other new regulations.

"As CPN businesses cautiously reopen, we will continue to be vigilant and do our part in slowing the spread of COVID-19," said CPNHS Medical Director Dr. Adam Vascellaro. "The safety of CPN staff, customers and our community remains our utmost concern, and we urge everyone in the facilities to follow all necessary precautions to keep our community healthy."

Once the application is available, Tribal members will be notified on the Tribal website and social media channels as well as by mail. Tribal members should contact Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or 800-880-9880 to update contact information. Tribal members can register to receive an email when the application is available at potawatomi.org/covid-assistance.

For more information on how the Nation has responded to COVID-19, visit cpn-news/COVID19. 
Life lessons as sweet as cookies

By Kendra Lowden, CPN Indian Child Welfare Foster Care and Adoption Specialist

For many families involved in the child welfare system, accessing family support services and navigating court processes requires determination. Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s FireLodge Children & Family Services is involved in every child welfare case involving Citizen Potawatomi children across the United States. We answered some common questions to help those impacted by foster care and adoption.

What is ICWA?

ICWA stands for the Indian Child Welfare Act, which is a federal law passed in 1978 in response to the alarmingly high number of Indian children being removed from their homes by both public and private agencies. The intent of Congress under ICWA was to “protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families” (25 U.S.C. § 1902). ICWA sets federal requirements that apply to state foster care, guardianship, termination of parental rights, and adoption proceedings involving a Native American child who is a member of or eligible for membership in a federally recognized tribe.

How do I know if ICWA applies to a case?

Native American children involved in state foster care, guardianship, termination of parental rights or adoption proceedings are covered by ICWA. Custody disputes between parents, juvenile delinquent proceedings and cases heard in tribal court are not subject to ICWA.

What happens in an ICWA case?

States have to make several considerations in ICWA cases. These include providing families active efforts to prevent removal of children, promoting reunification efforts and finding culturally appropriate placements for children. They must also notify the child’s tribe and family while fully involving them in the court proceedings.

What can a person do if the state is not following ICWA?

Concerned parties should contact the child’s tribe. They should share relevant information about the family to ensure the tribal child welfare worker is fully informed of the situation. Remember — tribal child welfare programs make recommendations to the court but may not be able to change case decisions. Those in need of legal advice should contact a private attorney or a legal aid service.

Can children be returned to their parents after being placed in foster care?

Parents who become involved with the child welfare system often demonstrate incredible survival skills in their efforts to provide for themselves and their children, despite serious traumas and negative generational family patterns. Child welfare case goals are almost always to reunite children with parents, and many families successfully reunify. Parents are assigned a case worker to guide and support them through the process. They are provided access to the tools and services they need in order to be successful. Common goals that must be achieved before considering reunification include stable income, safe housing, substance use assessments, maintaining sobriety and completing parenting classes. With new support is offered, parents also have to be advocates for themselves and for their children.

For more information about FireLodge Children & Family Services, call 405-483-1220 or visit facebook.com/CPNfirelodge.

Tips for Native families navigating the child welfare system

Marri Roberts’ book, Cookie Jar Devotions, combines life lessons, prayers and memories in a small collection of Christian devotions, which revolve around the classic baked good.

“I thought about my mother’s cookies, and I thought, ‘You know, there’s a lot to be said about cookies,’” Roberts said. The Bergeron family descendant wrote the devotional in June 2019 and spent each warm summer morning with a spiral notebook, positioning her thoughts pen and paper before typing them up on the computer. She and her husband Bill, who moved around the globe as missionaries and English teachers for decades, edited the devotional.

Later in the summer, Roberts sent a draft to Christian Faith Publisher for consideration, not knowing what to expect. The agent who bought her book for publication called Roberts’ work “super cute.”

“She said, ‘I am an agent for a lot of people through this company. And I don’t buy all the books, but I’m buying this one,’” Roberts recalled.

Inspiration

The idea for the book came to Roberts while in bed one morning, waiting for her alarm to buzz.

“I was laying there. And I was thinking about how God has given me so many experiences in my life, and I’ve been to so many countries,” Roberts said. “And my family and some of my closest friends said, ‘Marri, you should write about it.’”

While considering her stories and the messages she wanted them to convey, her husband was reading an old devotional gifted to them after Marri’s mother passed away. Bill lamented the fact that the gifted devotional reiterated the same points, which made it predictable and boring.

“So, I remembered that when I wrote my own,” Roberts said. “Let’s have a different point. Switch it up, so people don’t say, ‘Oh, here we go again. Love life. Be happy.’”

The theme reminds her of different times in her life, including meeting new neighbors in Japan and her son in pre-kindergarten. While she hopes many people around the world will read her book, her family and friends are her target audience, and Roberts considers the book a legacy to her children and grandchildren. She molded the stories around what she wanted to teach and pass on to the next generation.

“Roberts’ daughter, who works for a large publishing company, compared Marri’s outlook on life in her 70s with those of younger authors looking for fame.”

“She said, ‘But mom, you probably have more to say because you’ve lived a longer life, and you’ve learned a lot that the 35-year-olds don’t know yet,’” Roberts said. “And I got to thinking about that. I’ve always wanted to write a book, but I didn’t think I was ready. I had not lived life and learned from it enough to have a lot to say. So now I feel I’ve got something to say.”

She researched the Bible verses she included, ensuring they matched what she wanted to convey. Roberts’ friends, many of them at the CPN Elders Center, inspired her to write a prayer with each devotion as well.

“We want to share relevant information about the family to ensure the tribal child welfare worker is fully informed of the situation,” Roberts said. “We want to make sure that the tribe is not being represented in a negative way in the court proceedings.”

Roberts began baking at an early age and continues today. Much like her mother, a dozen cookies is still one of her favorite gifts to give. Her new book pairs perfectly with a freshly baked tin of snickerdoodles or oatmeal chocolate chip.

“Even as 93 years old, (my mother) was still making cookies and giving them to the grandchildren for Christmas,” Roberts said. “And so I was telling my family. ‘When you read this little book, you’re going to see yourself all through it.’”

She collects recipes, and several of the ones included at the end of Cookie Jar Devotions come from her mother’s old 3x5 index cards, including one for her grandmother’s lemon cookies. Roberts hopes everyone takes something from her work, even the recipes at the back.

Drive-thru book signings

In spring 2020, Roberts planned on meeting readers and selling copies at book signings around the greater Shawnee area, but the COVID-19 pandemic put gatherings of 10 or more people on hold. Attending worship services in her church’s parking lot inspired her to plan drive-thru book signings.

“When one day, I was driving through my bank. And I thought, ‘You know, we can drive through to get food, drive through to get our banking done. Why not drive through to sell my book?’” she asked.

Roberts held two signings at churches — one in early April and another a month later. Everyone stayed in their cars and wore masks. Roberts signed the books beforehand and talked to customers for a couple of minutes. Many copies became Mother’s Day gifts.

“I thought it was great. I enjoyed seeing people I hadn’t seen for a long time,” she said.

Cookie Jar Devotions is available in paperback and as an e-book with Amazon and Barnes & Noble. It is also available at Living Word Christian Bookstore at the Shawnee Mall in Shawnee, Oklahoma.
In March 2019, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Trae Trousdale became the first Native American to hold the position of Oklahoma City University Student Government Association president in the school’s history.

“It was a great honor to find out that I had won,” he said. “I was sitting in the parking lot of my fraternity house, heading into an executive meeting. Sitting there, watching the sunset from my car by myself when I found that out is one of the greatest memories I have.”

Aside from breaking barriers of diversity, the Tuscarora descendant spent the first half of his term in the 2019-20 academic year restructuring the entire organization — from the construction to beginning long-term projects that reset the university’s standards of serving students.

From the ground up

As a member of SGA since his freshman year, Trousdale watched two previous administrations and how they led the organization prior to running. As president, he decided to redefine, rebrand and revitalize the association.

“I noticed that SGA was beginning to lose a sense of purpose and trust from the student body,” Trousdale explained. “And that’s something that can be taken away in bolstering throughout the coming year.”

He attempted to retrain that trust and authority by spearheading a complete rewrite of the OCU SGA constitution, bylaws, standing rules and election rules. They cut executive overreach by rethinking the vice president’s dual role as the president of the student senate and member of the executive cabinet. The new governing documents shifted elections to a ticket system and created new executive cabinet positions with clearly outlined responsibilities.

“There was language that was unclear that we were able to clarify,” Trousdale said. “We were also able to make that presidency more accessible to individuals outside of SGA by removing a limitation of how long you had to be serving in SGA before even running for president. If there’s anything going on within SGA that our student body does not agree with, we don’t want that to stand in the way of progress on campus.”

Under his leadership, the organization also created unified SGA branding, reducing the number of logos used across campus from five to one. Trousdale’s renewed passion for OCU’s future following his election has driven the changes and updates.

“Being elected was something that made me really think twice about what it meant to be a student at Oklahoma City University and now … what it meant to represent all of the student body,” he said.

Diversity and inclusion

With a student body that is 60 percent white and only 3 percent Native American, Trousdale focused on diversity and inclusion as one of his major presidential initiatives. During his tenure, OCU has experienced incidents of cultural insensitivity from faculty and students.

In September 2019, members from an OCU fraternity and sorority used a racial slur as a recruiting event on campus. University President Martha Burger issued a statement saying it was “profoundly disappointed.” Trousdale, working with his advisory multicultural coalition, brought the issue forward to the Student Senate, which called for the suspension of the fraternity and sorority chapters. They continued to operate on campus, but Trousdale used the opportunity to create recurring one-on-one conversations between Burger and the student body president.

“That’s something that’s never been really institut ed at OCU, and I think it has proved extremely effective in not only student voices being heard but also the university and the student body being seen as working together rather than splintering on issues,” he said.

During the creation of new executive cabinet positions, he made sure to include a secretary of diversity and inclusion. This role oversees roundtable discussions between the university president and the new multicultural coalition, a collection of leaders from each minority organization on campus.

“As an individual of color in a primarily white institution, it is extremely easy to feel like your voice isn’t being heard or that your voice isn’t being valued in more abstracted institutional conversations that are being had,” Trousdale said.

“SGA can help lead the way for OCU to become more receptive to those individuals, and more of a welcoming and equitable environment for students from all different backgrounds.”

He also led the P.A.T. initiative to provide pads and tampons in bathrooms across campus after women attending OCU presented the lack of feminine hygiene product access to the SGA’s attention. The organization also worked with OCU departments to make that happen, including counseling services, dining services, housing and residence life, and more to improve students’ experiences at the university.

Your role in protecting children

By Darian Young, Family Preservation Coordinator, FireLodge Children & Family Services

In a time of social distancing, a result of the global pandemic that is COVID-19 this year, children who have been abused and neglected might be rising. Child care centers temporarily closed, and school and church services have gone virtual. There is record unemployment and financial struggles, food insecurity, families in constant commerce with one another, and high stress or anxiety. Therefore, there are more stressors on families than ever, and children are also isolated from others who care outside the home.

Reports indicate child abuse and neglect referrals are down drastically nationwide, approximately 50 percent in Oklahoma. But history tells us that in times of crisis, child abuse and neglect spikes, and many child welfare programs are left feeling anxious that children in their communities are at risk with no one reporting.

Additionally, the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children conducted a nationwide study in March in the midst of this pandemic. It produced alarming results that showed the majority of Americans are, in fact, not willing to report excessive physical punishment to the police or child protective services. The majority of adults would not be very likely to have a direct conversation with a parent they knew, approve of physically punishing their child, and the majority of adults are not very likely to call 911 or report to the police if they saw a stranger excessively spanking or physically punishing a child.

In Oklahoma, as in most states across the nation, every adult is considered the “mandated reporter.” What that means is that if you were to suspect or be knowledgeable of a child being abused or neglected, it is required by law that you take a step in and contact the authorities or a child welfare agency to make a referral. In Oklahoma, the OKDHIS Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline is 1-405-522-3511 and is available 24/7. Typically, referrals come in from mandated reporters such as educators or childcare workers, who are now unable to make those referrals because they are not seeing their classroom full of children each day.

Mary Pulido of NYSPCC stated, “If what you see in public is enough to even make you think about calling the authorities, think of what that child could be enduring at home, behind closed doors.”

FireLodge Children & Family Services urges everyone to reach out and make connections through this difficult and times and times still to come, whether that is checking in on your neighbors, family members and friends, or maybe going out of your comfort zone and offering a helping hand to strangers around you. It is also vital that you in the community are reaching out to vulnerable families who you know were already dealing with struggles prior to COVID-19, such as poverty, domestic violence, child maltreatment, substance abuse or mental health.

To the families who might be struggling in these difficult times, please know there are many programs in your community that are willing to help. For Native American families, FireLodge Children & Family Services is completely dedicated to providing services to the child welfare system, please understand.

FireLodge Children & Family Services and the Child Welfare Preservation Program is here to help support you through this journey. If you have questions related to the Family Preservation Program, please contact our office today at 405-878-4831 or email Darian Young at darian.young@firelodgeok.com. There is absolutely no shame in reaching out for help. We continue to serve during this pandemic. To stay up to date on our program, visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/CPSatFireLodge.
Zoryan Institute features Citizen Potawatomi artist

Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Director of Tribal Rolls Charles Clark — Kiktode — recently received recognition for his artistic abilities. The Zoryan Institute, a Canadian-based nonprofit, selected Clark’s painting What is Aleppo for its publication Forces Factors.

Clark’s inspiration for What is Aleppo came while watching a news segment in 2016. A reporter interviewed then Libyan presidential candidate Gary Johnson, asking him about his thoughts on the bombings of Aleppo, Syria. Although the news reported widely on the conflict, Johnson responded, “What is Aleppo?”

“So, I thought I’d do a painting of Aleppo,” Clark said. “It happened that later on during another news program, they showed people putting a kid in the back of an ambulance, and he was just covered in dust and bleeding. So, I just decided to paint him.”

What is Aleppo showcases Clark’s affinity for creating beautiful art out of the world’s darkness by bringing to light the gravity that issues such as warfare, genocide, politics and more have on cultures and individuals.

The Zoryan Institute chose his painting for its Forces Factors publication as part of its mission to raise awareness of universal human rights, genocide, and diaspora-homeland relations.

“It’s nice to be in on this little bit of recognition. Even though they’re not selling it, that’s awesome to be a part of that. It’s a good institute,” he said.

Background

By day, Clark heads the Nation’s tribal rolls department, but after work, he passes time painting, mostly around what he calls a “contemporary dystopian” theme.

“The artists that I try to emulate or respect the most are the ones that kind of recorded their history at their time in artwork, and that’s just kind of what I’ve turned out to be,” he said.

While an elementary student at the University School in Norman, Oklahoma, Clark’s talents caught the attention of his art teacher, Ms. Clements.

“She kind of kept a special eye on me because I had a talent that she recognized, but I never did anything with it until recently,” he said.

After grade school, Clark’s interest pulled him away from art. He completed a few projects sporadically over the next few decades, but never really devoted his full attention. In the late 1990s, he began creating regularly before taking another break. Finally, in 2006, Clark set out to hone his craft.

“And I’ve been doing a lot of it since then,” he said.

Style and inspiration

Outside of Ms. Clements’ instruction, Clark has no formal art education.

“I’ve just learned over the years what I’ve turned out to be,” he said. “Art, you know, is trial and error,” he said. “You learn as you go along the way. And if you pay attention to what you’re doing, then you know how to make an improvement on the next painting.”

Experimenting with acrylics for What is Aleppo allowed him to utilize a variety of techniques that develop texture and depth.

“It certainly is different because it dries real quickly,” he said. “But what I found is that you can do several layers in a day.” However, he usually uses oil-based paints.

“What is Aleppo by Charles Clark.

Instead, he relies on personal experience and preference.

“Art, you know, is trial and error,” he said. “You learn as you go along the way. And if you pay attention to what you’re doing, then you know how to make an improvement on the next painting.”

Clark has no formal art education. While researching potential economic development opportunities, he learned that a painting gets done when it gets done,” he said. “And it doesn’t matter how much time it takes.”

While completing a tour in Korea, Madison said they were borrowing,” he said.

“paid for the service, charged interest and then asked for the money back.”

“We're involved in the schools. We're involved in helping entrepreneurs start or improve their business. We're helping people who have a challenging background get work,” Madison explained.

“so, why join this board? Because my experience in Iraq told me that if it’s needed there, if people need to be introduced to each other there, they need to be introduced to each other here.”

Chick-fil-a’s Madison to serve on Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation board

Community leader and owner/operator of the Shawnee Chick-fil-A, Jeff Madison, was recently selected to serve on the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation board of directors.

Madison has called the greater Shawnee area home most of his life. He graduated from Harrah High School and East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, where he began his military career in ECU’s ROTC program. Upon graduation, he became a commissioned second lieutenant in the Army and retired after 26 years as a colonel.

“I served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel, Egypt, Germany and Korea,” Madison said. “It is a pretty dynamic career, but it seemed like all things were pointing (my family) back here.”

The opportunity to open a Chick-fil-A franchise made moving back to Oklahoma possible, and in February 2015, Madison opened the restaurant’s first and only location in Shawnee.

“I wanted a community that we kind of call our own,” he explained. “I didn’t want to be in a big city where the lanes were blurred. I can look at Shawnee and I can wrap my arms around it. You know this is our town. We can invest here. We can plant ourselves here.”

After completing a tour in Korea, Madison received an MBA from Syracuse University and utilized his education to help restart economic opportunities in war-torn areas of Iraq.

“I wanted to put my MBA to use, so that’s why I was brought in to do economic development. Now, what did I end up doing? A whole lot more,” Madison said.

He assisted with identifying barriers and worked to forge connections amongst Iraqis to increase chances of long-term success.

“I helped the government grow their capacity to lead in the absence of Saddam Hussein and his centralized government process, empowering people, civic society development, programs for women, health and education,” he explained.

While researching potential economic opportunities in the area, Madison realized a lack of access to capital was a major factor that hindered business development, and market shortages led to clashes amongst the Iraqis. He saw microloans as a potential solution and began building access to capital for Iraqi businesses. Issuing small loans inspired new industries, helped re-open old businesses, and because the funds had to be repaid, business owners were more focused on long-term viability. The interest, or fees, also allowed the funds to continue and grow.

“We determined $2,500 was what was good, and then we had an occasional $25,000 loan. We had a 99 percent payment because they had loan officers that went out and checked on the loan every week to make sure that they were spending the money on what they said they were borrowing,” he said.

“They had a backlog of over 300 loan applications of people waiting to get the loans as they were being paid back.”

Charging interest is not culturally acceptable in Islam, so Madison and other U.S. officials had to work with local leaders on developing an acceptable fee model that supported economic development while ensuring the funds revolved without charging traditional interest.

Madison witnessed the success and community building the microloans provided, and he looks forward to leveraging his background and experiences to help the CPCDC and the greater community to succeed and thrive.

“All the things I did (in Iraq) are similar to the things I’m doing here in Shawnee. We’re involved in the schools. We’re involved in helping entrepreneurs start or improve their business. We’re helping people who have a challenging background get work,” Madison explained.

“So, why join this board? Because my experience in Iraq told me that it’s needed there, if people need to be introduced to each other there, they need to be introduced to each other here.”
By Tesia Zientek, Department of Education Director

During this period of uncertainty and distance, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education has focused our efforts on creating widoktadwen (community) among our Potawatomi students. We continue to administer Tribal scholarships for the summer semester through the June 15 deadline and provide individualized advising. We have also started to host weekly Zoom gatherings for our students to connect virtually.

On April 6, 2020, we hosted our first ever virtual talking circle. More than two dozen Citizen Potawatomi students from all over the United States joined us to share their experiences and thoughts. Because we interact with several students primarily through email and phone, it was an incredible opportunity to put names with faces and watch connections being made between students. After this successful gathering, we sent a survey to our current students asking for their feedback on hosting future virtual events. Based on that survey feedback, we scheduled a nine-session weekly series entitled Bodewadmik Kendasot Mawijeshnowenen (Potawatomi Student Meetings). Our survey responses suggested that students were interested in three types of gatherings: talking circles, educational presentations and fun game activities. We have scheduled a variety of sessions to meet these needs.

On April 23, 2020, we hosted another talking circle. Will McCurley, Potawatomi Leadership Program alum and current Haskell student, explained and demonstrated smudging. CPN Education Department Director Justin Neely gave a brief language lesson, and then we hosted an emotional talking circle. On the following Thursday, April 30, 2020, five bright, successful Citizen Potawatomi students — Alyssa Frey, Nick Smith, Heath Steward, Elian Pochedley and Paulina Davison — presented on the Cobell Scholarship, Indian Health Service Scholarship, Bureau of Indian Affairs Pathway Program, the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and the GEM Fellowship. We streamed this Zoom live on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Facebook page, so you can watch the recording there. Students can also log on to portal.potawatomi.org for a link to the recording.

We look forward to the remainder of this series and hope that students continue to join us as their schedule allows. All students should receive the Zoom links via their email associated with the portal, but if anyone is not getting that correspondence, we invite them to contact us for that information. Although this period has been stressful and scary, we are grateful for the creative ways we have been able to connect and be inspired by our students who have persevered through this difficult time. If anyone has any questions for the CPN Department of Education, we welcome contact at college@potawatomi.org or 405-695-6028.
COVID-19 changes French way of life for Tribal member

In 2018, France was the No. 1 international tourism destination in the world, according to the World Tourism Organization of the United Nations. Tribal member Melissa Brown lives in downtown Paris, a stone’s throw away from the Seine River, in the region with the most confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country.

“We’re near Notre-Dame. We’re in a very touristy area. But right now, obviously, there are zero tourists. So we don’t see really anyone out and about,” Brown said.

Brown has lived in Paris for two and a half years with her husband, Assan, who is French, and their daughter, Zoe. The government put the city on lockdown beginning March 17. At the end of April, France had the fourth-highest number of cases worldwide. At that time, Brown and her family had been in quarantine for 45 days.

Paris

Almost a year before the COVID-19 pandemic, a large fire consumed one of the most recognizable religious sites in the world — the Notre-Dame Cathedral. Construction crews began rebuilding the cathedral located near Brown’s home in 2019; however, progress halted for nearly a year before resuming at the end of April.

“I was glad when I realized, ‘OK, no one’s working on it.’ And that’s a good thing. They’re at home with their families. … I don’t think construction workers should have to work during confinement,” she said.

The government requires residents to fill out a form, on either a paper or a smartphone app, stating their destination and intention before leaving their house. Anyone stopped by police and unable to produce this information faces the consequences. However, in Brown’s experience, they are stricter in some communities.

“In another neighborhood, we heard that a lot of people were out and about, which here, we don’t see. Maybe we see one person walking down the street at a time, but in another district, people are out and about walking around with families,” she said.

Life in the French metropolis is much quieter. The Nadeau descendant and her family hear birds chirping throughout the day, unimpeded by the rumble of traffic.

“It sounds like the countryside when you wake up, and you open the doors because usually, we hear buses and cars all the time. We hear the ambulance going up and down the street, but that’s it,” Brown said.

French culture, especially in Paris, includes spending the majority of time outside in nature; a picnic with a bottle of wine and a walk through the park constitutes a normal day. Before the stay-at-home orders, Brown and her husband longboarded through the city, snapping pictures of street art as inspiration for future endeavors.

“Usually people walk along the river, the Seine. People are constantly just walking around and sitting at cafes or going to restaurants. … It’s like we’re in this city that’s meant to be enjoyed around the river and the parks, and we’re not allowed to do those basic things,” Brown said.

The government instructed people to stop “la bio,” a common greeting with a kiss on either side of the face while touching cheeks. It often signifies friendship and familial love.

“They even think that maybe we won’t do it anymore. And I thought, ‘Oh, my god!’ That’s such a big part of daily life in France is when you see someone, even your colleagues. … For me, it was very uncomfortable because it just seemed so personal, but for them, it’s a sign of respect. It was very surprising in the beginning, but now, it’s just to be very safe,” Brown said.

The sweetness of home life

With the park gates locked and the riverbanks empty, Brown and her family find moments outside on their small patio. They open their doors, thanks to the lack of cars. However, they struggle spending all their time inside.

“It seems just really unnatural to be at home all day and just sitting and not moving and not exercising, just all the daily movement that we’re used to,” Brown said. “So that’s probably the biggest and hardest thing. But at the same time, we’re healthy, and we’re grateful to be healthy.”

She and her husband try to remain positive for themselves and their 6-month-old daughter. They are thankful, however, to spend extra time with her while working from home.

“We get to see her roll over for the first time and do a lot of things that we probably wouldn’t get to see firsthand,” Brown said. “So, that’s been a huge blessing.”

She works as a teacher, instructing English as a foreign language to students around the world. Brown’s students live in Paris, Hong Kong, Israel, California and Korea. She feels comfortable working from home, and she always “dreamed of doing online classes.” It allows her to keep in touch with colleagues and previous students who otherwise would have transferred when she moved.

“Now with COVID, I definitely have been enjoying teaching online because it gives me a sense of fulfillment that I’m doing my job,” Brown said.

“I ask my students what their experience is. But we try not to focus on it too much, you know, especially for kids. … It’s been very interesting to see that we’re all in the same situation.”

In addition to work, Brown and her husband began their dream side business — Zôzotte, named after their daughter. They bought a sewing machine to produce handcrafted textiles from beautiful fabrics that show a piece of each of their backgrounds, whether that’s Melissa’s Potawatomi heritage or Assan’s Malian ancestry.

“His goal is to eventually sell clothes, but right now, we’re partnering with basics, more like decorative stuff,” Brown said.

“And I make jewelry. So eventually, I want to incorporate jewelry and beading into the pillows and the table runners.”

The business provides a productive way to focus their energy and fills their apartment with bright colors, providing a “creative outlet” while the vibrant life of Paris is paused. Brown hopes they continue the business for years to come, but the unknown makes foreseeing impossible for her family and the streets around them.

“It’s hard to imagine the city bustling again,” Brown said. “It’s going to feel really weird, but I don’t know what to expect.”

Keep up to date on COVID-19 response and information from the Tribe at cpn.news/COVID19.

Veterans report

Bezhé (Hello),

This has been a very unusual year so far, and it is continuing to affect our Tribe, our community, our state, our nation and the world. There has been some easing of restrictions, but the threat is still present and real. Taking precautions is the best way to fight this pandemic affliction. Be aware!

Here are a few “myths vs. facts” that might help your decision-making:

Myth — Homemade cloth masks are not effective as public protection.

Fact — A homemade face mask may not prevent a healthy person from getting the virus, but masks can prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others. Infected people may not show symptoms but are still contagious; so, it is safer for everyone to wear a face covering when in public.

Myth — Any material that covers my mouth will work for a cloth mask.

Fact — Cloth face coverings should cover both the nose and the mouth when in public settings. Cloth coverings should:
• Fit snugly against the side of the face
• Be secured with ties or ear loops

• Include multiple layers of fabric
• Allow for breathing without restriction
• Be able to be laundered without damaging or changing shape

Myth — I’m immune to the stress and uncertainty that the COVID-19 national emergency may bring.

Fact — Stress and uncertainty related to COVID-19 can affect your emotional, mental and physical well-being as well as your productivity. Learn ways to reduce stress.

Myth — Resources to help children cope with the COVID-19 pandemic are limited.

Fact — The Defense Health Agency continues to promote online programs that support the health and well-being of kids. Your PBS station broadcasts numerous programs for this purpose.

Remember that our CPN Veterans Organization has suspended our monthly meetings and activities until further notice. Stay healthy and safe.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Daryl Talbot, Commander talbot@beehiveworld.net 405-275-1054

CPN VA Representative: Andrew Whirham

CPN Office Hours: 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

918-397-2566
HOWNIKAN

CPNHS COVID-19 pandemic update

By Dr. Adam Vassellaro, D.O.,
CPN Chief Medical Officer

Hello all,
I would like to share an update regarding the coronavirus/SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis is real and has dominated its way to Oklahoma, including Oklahoma City, Pottawatomie County and really to Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services. We have been serving a few COVID-19 patients since March of 2020. Most were evaluated and diagnosed in mid-to-late March, but their symptoms had started to appear in early March, meaning COVID-19 was in Oklahoma even as CPN and CPNHS began their preparative precautions.

Again, CPNHS was well prepared to handle COVID-19 patients in the safest way possible. Our safety protocols for patients, employees and coworkers have proven highly successful and are still in place. This includes COVID-19 pressured tents, requiring all that enter our clinics wear a surgical/cloth-type mask, continued telehealth, drive-thru pharmacy pickup, screening and temperature checks at the doors, restrictions on visitors, multi-layered social distancing, increased cleaning and disinfecting protocols, drive-thru Title VI meal pickup and many other measures.

CPNHS has a relatively small sampling of COVID-19 patients, around two per 1,000, but it has been enough to make it palpable, educational and eye opening. I have personally talked and continue to have a dialogue with all our COVID-19 patients that I am aware of. It has impacted mainly CPN tribal members and their families. One early observation that is clear is when one member of a family or house- hold gets infected, many members of the household get infected as well. Due to this and the federal concern of “contact tracing,” CPNHS has started offering lab testing to not only patients but also their first-degree contacts in the household, usually family, who are eligible. This includes initial and follow-up COVID-19 nasopharyngeal polymerase chain reaction testing. An algorithm using the two tests is applied to get a reasonable determination of susceptibility, early infection, late infection and immunity. It’s not perfect. There are too many unknowns still, but it is the best we have at present.

Typically, COVID-19 patients I’ve spoken with have shared the history of flu-like illness: fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, scratchy throat, bad headache and chills. A few get gastrointestinal symptoms, including vomiting and diarrhea. Some just get a mild cold or allergy symptoms. Loss of smell and taste has become a hallmark symptom of this disease. If you are a CPNHS patient with the previously mentioned COVID-19 symptoms or are at high risk, contact your provider and let them know.

Most patients have been treated symptomatically at home, but we have had a handful hospitalized and a couple need ventilator assistance. We have had a couple develop pulmonary emboli (blood clots in their lungs) after infection. Due to this increase in risk of blood clots, CT imaging studies with contrast are now indicated sooner if you develop shortness of breath in the recovery phase of the disease. Many patients have had a residual shortness of breath, fatigue, sleeplessness and mental confusion even after entering recovery from a lab perspective. Any diagnosed patients that develop worsening shortness of breath must go to the hospital for probable admission, close observation, and/or symptomatic treatment including oxygen and breathing assist devices. CPNHS has not had a confirmed primary COVID-19 patient death.

Although things have been constantly changing, progressing and dimming since February, recently the Light has started to shine through, and needed hope is growing.

Symptomatic, primarily respiratory, support is working for most patients and local hospitals, and ICUs and their ventilators have not been saturated with coronavirus patients. COVID-19 nasopharyngeal PCR testing has improved to the point of real time, in-house results if symptomatic and two to three days for those non-symptom- atic. COVID-19 IgG antibody testing has been a valuable addition, but it is best used in combination with PCR testing. Gilead released the promising intravenous medication Remdesivir, which is not in Oklahoma yet, but it will soon make its way to regional hospitals for use on the sickest patients. Convalescent plasma transfusion is gaining traction for early use after hospitalization. Vaccine development and clinical trials are happening at a breakneck pace with a huge positive announcement by Moderna on May 19, 2020, indicating the probability of an effective, safe and mass-deployable COVID-19 vaccine by the first of next year.

CPNHS has formulated its “Gating Criteria and Phased Comeback” plan under the leadership of Dr. Kassi Roselius, medical professional director and public health coordinator. These are the plans to taper off COVID-19 safety and get to a “new normal” currently estimated for Aug. 1, 2020. Once we get there, things will stay that way until herd immunity to COVID-19 is reached either by 80 percent of people becoming infected or getting immunized. The latter is much preferred and the probable route. My estimation for herd immunity to this coronavirus and getting back to a true normal is January of 2021.

I will end with how proud I am of over 200+ dedicated CPNHS employees who are taking real risks at work but still working hard and safely during this crisis. Most are still working on the front lines in the clinics and the rest are supporting telework from home. Thus far, no CPNHS employees have contracted COVID-19 while performing their health care related duties at CPNHS. My initial fear of the coronavirus pandemic has turned more to a healthy concern. I’ve prayed more than usual these past few months. Many of our patients have let us know they are praying for us. We are very thankful, and I ask you to please continue to do so.

Language update: June 2020

By Justin Neely, CPN Department of Language Director

Make sure you are taking advantage of the online language sources we have available during this time at home. CPNHS has two YouTube channels with hundreds of videos. We have a Facebook page where we post Friday Zoom class and other classes throughout the week. These are also posted on the site. Find the page at cpn的语言. We also have two courses on memrise.com. Also, check our language.potawatomi.org for our online courses with Beginner I, II, and Intermediate. Our online dictionary is available at potawatomidictionary.com.

Take this time to make a commitment to learning your language. You will never regret this decision.

Some words for this uncertain time:

Gégo dagnakén o kekyat. Don’t touch that elder.
Gégo dagneshikén. Don’t touch that elder.
Gshatgen! You all stay home!

Doskwen mteno. Be careful what you are doing.
Nasena gishpen Gde-zhya odanek. Be careful if you are going to town.
Nasena gishpen Gde-zhya odanek. Be careful if you are going to town.

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Tribe Candidate Q&As

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft (incumbent)

"I’m not sure what my opponent’s platform is. However, I have a worthy opponent. I will not allow the question to force me to cast any dispersion on him. Through my years as a legislator in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, I had worthy and unworthy opponents who campaigned against me negatively. I’m a positive person and refused to campaign in that manner.

"I’ve researched my opponent and admire his accomplishments. My fellow candidate has stepped up and given back to his community and our Tribe. That’s not easy, and I would like to say thank you.

"One of the major differences in my candidacy is the key initiatives. My platform is held up by the key initiatives of culture, economic prosperity, education, elders, the environment, healthcare services, tribal alliance, and our youth. These initiatives were laid out from the beginning of my candidacy and this has not changed. These initiatives will continue to be in focus for every decision made and every opportunity sought on our Tribe’s behalf.

"I’m asking for your trust and support in serving you again as your representative of Oklahoma in the national legislature of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. I live to serve; that’s who I am."

Candidate closing statement

"As a young man, I decided to dedicate my life as a servant to God and His humanity. My first public service was volunteering for the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. 58,220 American soldiers were killed in that war including some of my friends. Every night on TV, I watched soldiers being wrapped in body bags. As things turned out, I was not sent to Vietnam. My specialized training was more suited for Europe than Asia.

"My second public service was joining the Army as an ordained Chaplain, in the rank of Captain. In the chaotic world we live in, when one serves a career in the Army, you know it’s likely that you will be involved in a war. That war came in the first Persian Gulf War. I served in combat as a brigade Major Chaplain in both Desert Shield and Desert Storm with four battalion chaplains working for me.

"Another public service was working for a nonprofit organization targeting pornography and sex offenders. These initiatives were laid out from the beginning of my candidacy and this has not changed. These initiatives will continue to be in focus for every decision made and every opportunity sought on our Tribe’s behalf."

District 9 – Jay Laughlin (challenger)

"I’ve researched my opponent, and I admire his enthusiasm for the community. However, I have a worthy opponent. I will not allow the question to force me to cast any dispersion on him. Through my years as a legislator in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, I had worthy and unworthy opponents who campaigned against me negatively. I’m a positive person and refused to campaign in that manner.

"Wow, how things have changed since I filed for candidacy of Legislative District 9. I think back and at the time there’s no way I would have thought we would have been facing a pandemic, an oil crisis, massive unemployment and an economic crash all at the same time. Now as I look back and see all of the current changes and uncertainties that we’ve faced and continue to face, it makes me wonder how and why history continues to repeat itself. Is it that we forget, is it that we don’t prepare, is that we believe it won’t happen to us?

"We have been faced with so much over the last few months on a personal level, as family, and as a Nation. I know some are fighting to survive, some are fighting to feed their families, some are fighting to save their homes, and some are wondering why. I can tell you we will make it through this together and when we come through this together, we will be stronger.

"I challenge you to focus on the good and prepare for the future. Prepare for the generations to come. Once elected as your District 9 Legislative Representative, I will focus on our future, our survival, and our economic prosperity."

Candidate closing statement

"I respectfully request that you vote. It means a lot. Absentee ballots are available, and you can contact 800-880-9880 for assistance. Your absentee ballot must be returned and be in the hands of the election committee no later than June 27, 2020 at 10 a.m.

"If you did not receive an absentee ballot request, you can still request one. You may download a request for your ballot at potawatomi.org/2020-ballot. You may also request a ballot by mailing a letter. Absentee ballot requests must be postmarked no later than June 6, 2020.

"I look forward to seeing you soon, Jay."

District 12 – Paul Schmidlkofer (incumbent)

"This election, I did not receive an opponent. That, along with my long history of service to the Nation, led me to not populate the Hownik with advertisements or articles. I would like to take this last opportunity though to express my appreciation for your support. Being raised near the Tribal headquarters, I experienced much of the progress we have achieved over the past roughly 50 years. None of it came without dedicated effort of the leadership through those years. One of the key elements of our success has to have been the continuity of leadership during much of this period. A shared vision and effort allowed for positive, steady growth for us. I am proud to have been part of that during my 23 years as an elected official of the Nation. It has been a privilege and an honor. Thank you again for your support.

Appointment Desk (405) 878-4693

East Clinic 2307 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. Phone: (405) 273-5236

West Clinic 781 Grand Casino Blvd. Phone: (405) 964-5770
Voters to decide legislative, judicial and budget elections on June 27

Amidst the coronavirus pandemic, Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s 2020 Tribal elections will continue as scheduled through in-person and absentee ballots, despite the cancelation of Family Reunion Festival.

Three votes will take place this year, including the Nationwide vote on the annual Tribal budget.

The budget, if approved, manages the Nation’s trust earnings. No principal from the fund is spent, but the budget pays for national service projects and the executive branch of the Tribe.

Secondly, Oklahoma members will vote to select at-large legislators for districts 9 and 12. These are Oklahoma-based seats that represent all Tribal members residing in the state. In District 9, incumbent Paul Wesselhoff and challenger Jay Laughlin are running, while in District 12, incumbent Paul Schmidlikker is the only candidate.

All CPN voters, regardless of location, will be able to vote to reconfirm Justice Jennifer Luminard for a six-year term on the CPN Supreme Court. She was nominated by Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett and confirmed by Tribal legislature at its February 2020 meeting.

Because of the health concerns associated with processing physical ballots and request forms, the election committee is researching ways to process them.

2020 General Council meeting

In accordance with the Tribal Constitution, CPN will hold a General Council meeting at FireLake Arena on June 27 at 3 p.m. The Nation will enforce social distancing measures inside the Arena to provide as safe an environment as possible while meeting Constitutional obligations as a government. This includes temperature checks at the door, social distancing inside the arena and mandatory masks for attendees. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided at the door. For those travelling from the locations listed below, you will be required to comply with a 14-day quarantine in Oklahoma before entering Tribal property. This list may be updated as developments unfold.

- New York
- New Jersey
- Connecticut
- Washington State
- California
- Louisiana

District 1 seat to be appointed

In late April, longtime District 1 Representative Roy Slavin walked on, leaving the seat open. In accordance with Article 15, Section 1 of the Citizen Potawatomi Constitution, the seat will be filled by an appointment from the Tribal chairman with the approval of a majority of the legislature.

As of now, Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett has not indicated who that appointment will be. Watch for updates in future editions of the Hownikan.

Lasting effects of COVID-19 on cybersecurity

By Greg Arbuckle, First Nation Bank & Trust Co. Vice President & Compliance

The COVID-19 pandemic caused us all to pivot economically and socially, but it’s important to look at financials through a coronavirus filter as well. Unfortunately, scammers often use crises to take advantage of people who aren’t properly protecting their personal and financial information.

First National Bank & Trust Co. is here to help guard against cybersecurity threats. As FNB’s vice president and compliance officer, I have a few tips to share to help keep your data out of the wrong hands.

Recognizing fraudulent websites

There are several thousand fraudulent COVID-19 websites related to medical information, charities and even economic relief measures. Fraudsters are getting more sophisticated, and oftentimes, a fake website will almost exactly mirror a legitimate website.

First, look out for grammatical and syntactical errors. A majority of phishing scams are generated in other countries, so the wording may seem off. Second, if you receive a link in an email or anywhere else, always hover your mouse over the link to view the URL. If it’s not something you’re familiar with, don’t click on it.

Creating a secure password

A secure password is the first line of defense against security threats. In fact, I recommend people use a “pass phrase” rather than a password to make it even more difficult to crack. Use at least 12 characters, and mix those up between letters, numbers and special characters. Try substituting “@” for “a,” and use the numeral 3 instead of the letter “e.” Changing your password every 30 to 60 days is the best way to protect your financial information. Bonus points if you change it up more frequently!

Limiting what you share

The less information you post on a public forum — including social media — the better off you’ll be. You shouldn’t share your social security number, of course, but also refrain from sharing your address, phone number and birthday. Even seemingly innocent pieces of information such as your anniversary or pet’s name could be compromising if you use it in passwords or security questions. At FNB, we try to go beyond basic security questions like “What’s your mother’s maiden name?” for additional security.

Safeguarding against fraudulent activity

Check your bank account daily for unauthorized transactions, and review credit card statements at least once a month. You never know how quickly someone can compromise your information and start opening up lines of credit and bank accounts in your name. If you spot an unauthorized debit card charge on your account, you should contact the bank within 48 hours to dispute the charge. Staying informed is incredibly important, so be sure to get in touch with your bank regarding additional, necessary steps to limit your liability.

With FNB, you can be completely confident we’re following security measures to protect your accounts, online banking and privacy. We employ the highest standards and cutting-edge technology, such as layers of the strongest encryption available, to ensure FNB establishes and maintains a secure banking environment.

Most of all, we want you to remember the safest place for your money is in the bank. If you have questions about cybersecurity and data protection, please reach out to us by calling 888-640-8934 or visiting fnbokla.bank.
Senior programs sustain Potawatomi elder traditions

Like most Indigenous cultures, the Potawatomi hold a special reverence for elders. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation serves Native American elders through numerous departments and programs, including Title VI, Workforce & Social Services and the CPN Housing Department.

“I think elder programs are important, especially within our Tribe,” said CPN Language Department Director, Justin Neely. “A lot of times, the elders tend to be the fabric that holds the family together.”

CPN Elder Center

“Our goal is to help the elders age in place — to help them have their best life in their home if at all possible,” said Senior Support Coordinator and Elder Center Director, Tami Fleeman. The CPN Elder Center is located at 2307 S Gordon Cooper Drive. And although it has been closed to hosting its regular activities, staff have served to-go lunches to elders throughout the COVID-19 pandemic for $1. For information, call 405-214-5111.

The center also houses CPN’s Senior Support Network and Caregiver Program, all of which are open to citizens of any federally recognized tribe within CPN’s jurisdiction.

“We know the majority of people that come here, this is their meal of the day,” Fleeman said during a Hownikan interview in February. “There’s always a mad rush for leftovers, but we’re aware that this is a very important meal for them. They are welcoming to come to home whatever we put out.”

Clients look forward to the center’s return back to normal, including daily bingo games.

“You don’t mess with that. They take (bingo) very seriously,” she said, then laughed. “The same elder calls every day.”

Along with daily lunch, the center serves as a community hub. Many take advantage of the Nation’s wellness center and diabetes program, located within the same building as the Title VI program. Elders can also utilize the center’s quiet room to watch TV, craft, fellowship, use the public computer and enjoy the comfy, plush chairs. Its lending closet also provides elders access to walkers, wheelchairs, bedside commodes, toilet rails and more.

“Some people have had surgery and might need them for three or four months, and then they’ll give them back to us. We’ll clean them up and keep them in our lending closet until they’re needed again,” Fleeman said.

Elder services, like so many programs under the Nation’s umbrella, is an extension of its dedication to the greater community.

“Natives, of course, are the people we’re going to serve, but we help so many people,” she said.

When non-Natives contact the program for assistance, they often provide referrals and contact information. The department works with area nonprofits to make sure nothing goes to waste.

“I love working here, and I had no idea the impact the tribes have. I mean, I have lived in Shawnee all my life pretty much, and I didn’t know they were building roads and bridges; it’s not something they tout their own born about a lot — the rural water, all those things that they’re doing, it helps all of us, not just Natives,” Fleeman said.

Caregiver program

“The Caregiver Program is respite care for people who are having to take care of someone, and one of them has to be Native American — either the caregiver or the person receiving care,” Fleeman said.

Qualifying clients receive $600 over a three-month contract that allows for assistance, they often provide referrals and contact information. The department works with area nonprofits to make sure nothing goes to waste.

“Some people we will see weekly, and some people will say, ‘Oh, you know, just once a month, but then if I get to needing it more often.’ That’s kind of how we get our foot in the door,” she said. On at-home visits, staff check vitals and assist with other tasks as needed, such as vacuuming, and they work hand-in-hand with CPN doctors and health professionals to provide well-rounded care.

“If we’ve seen somebody for no telling how long and all of the sudden we notice a change, their blood pressure is up or their feet are really swollen that day, we can put in a note to their doctor,” she said. “We can keep their care monitored, even when they don’t have doctors’ appointments.”

Transportation to medical appointments is another key service within the Senior Support Network.

“We have a policy that we’re the transporter of last resort,” Fleeman said. “Most of them have vehicles but are not safe to drive in the city, and that’s where we transport the majority of our people is to specialty appointments.”

Fleeman has seen the program help clients decrease their stress levels and combat burnout that caretakers often experience.

“You have no idea how much it helps, and it just gives them a release that they know they’re going to get every week,” she said.

Senior Support Network

Several medically-trained staff members oversee the Senior Support Network and visit clients’ homes to assist and assess their current needs.

“We want to keep people safe in their home as long as possible,” Fleeman said.

Home visits vary depending on the client’s needs.

“Some people we will see weekly, and some people will say, ‘Oh, you know, just once a month, but then if I get to needing it more often.” That’s kind of how we get our foot in the door,” she said.

On at-home visits, staff check vitals and assist with other tasks as needed, such as vacuuming, and they work hand-in-hand with CPN doctors and health professionals to provide well-rounded care.

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Continued on page 13
HAS THE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID CRISIS AFFECTED YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW? YOU COULD BE COMPENSATED FROM THE PURDUE PHARMA L.P. BANKRUPTCY.

FILE YOUR CLAIM BY JUNE 30, 2020
PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED.
PARA INFORMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL, VISITE EL SITIO WEB.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
If you think you've been hurt by Purdue Pharma L.P., a U.S. limited partnership, its general partner and its subsidiaries, including Imbrium Therapeutics L.P., Adlon Therapeutics L.P., Greenfield BioVentures L.P., Avrio Health L.P., Rhodes Technologies, and Rhodes Pharmaceuticals L.P. ("Purdue"), or Purdue prescription opioids, like OxyContin®, or other prescription opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue, you can file a claim for compensation in the Purdue bankruptcy proceeding. The deadline to file a claim is June 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

WHAT IS A CLAIM AND WHO CAN FILE?
A "claim" means a right to seek payment or other compensation. You must file a Proof of Claim Form so it is actually received by the deadline. It can be filed by you, by a legal guardian, by survivors, or by relatives of people who have died or are disabled. All Personal Injury Claimant Proof of Claim Forms and any supporting documentation submitted with those forms will be kept highly confidential and will not be made available to the public. You do not need an attorney to file a proof of claim for you. Additionally, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, trusts, governmental units, and Native American Tribes may also file a proof of claim against Purdue. Go to PurduePharmaClaims.com to find a complete list of instructions on how to file a claim. You will also find a list of the opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue. You may file a Proof of Claim even if a settlement is contemplated in the Purdue bankruptcy so that your claim can be considered as part of any settlement.

WHO DOES THIS AFFECT AND WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?
If you think you’ve suffered harm from Purdue or its prescription opioids, you have the right to file a claim even if you may also have received reimbursement from insurance. Examples of claims that may be filed in the Purdue bankruptcy include death, addiction or dependence, lost wages, loss of spousal relationship benefit for things like child-rearing, enjoyment of life, etc., or Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (sometimes referred to as "NAS"), among others. The deadline to file a claim is June 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. If you do not file a claim by the deadline, you will lose the right to file a claim against Purdue, and you will lose any right to seek payment or compensation you may have had. Proof of Claim Forms, a list of opioids produced, marketed or sold by "Purdue," and instructions for how to file a claim are online at PurduePharmaClaims.com. You can also request a claim form by mail, email or phone:

Purdue Pharma Claims Processing Center
c/o Prime Clerk LLC
850 Third Avenue, Ste. 412, Brooklyn, NY 11232
Email: purduepharmainfo@primeclerk.com - Phone: 1.844.217.0912

WHAT IS A CLAIM AND WHO CAN FILE?
A "claim" means a right to seek payment or other compensation. You must file a Proof of Claim Form so it is actually received by the deadline. It can be filed by you, by a legal guardian, by survivors, or by relatives of people who have died or are disabled. All Personal Injury Claimant Proof of Claim Forms and any supporting documentation submitted with those forms will be kept highly confidential and will not be made available to the public. You do not need an attorney to file a proof of claim for you. Additionally, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, trusts, governmental units, and Native American Tribes may also file a proof of claim against Purdue. Go to PurduePharmaClaims.com to find a complete list of instructions on how to file a claim. You will also find a list of the opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue. You may file a Proof of Claim even if a settlement is contemplated in the Purdue bankruptcy so that your claim can be considered as part of any settlement.

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Purdue Pharma Claims Processing Center
c/o Prime Clerk LLC
850 Third Avenue, Ste. 412, Brooklyn, NY 11232
Email: purduepharmainfo@primeclerk.com - Phone: 1.844.217.0912

THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION.
Is Purdue out of money? No. For more information concerning Purdue's bankruptcy, Frequently Asked Questions, Proof of Claim Forms, examples of personal injury and other claims that can be filed, instructions on how to file a claim, and important documents including the Bar Date Notice, visit PurduePharmaClaims.com, or call 1.844.217.0912.
Economic Development Department offers tariff paperwork expertise at Iron Horse

The COVID-19 pandemic will remain a challenge for the global economy. When the threat of further outbreaks subside, businesses from an array of sectors will attempt to make up for lost ground. Amidst this, Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Iron Horse Industrial Park offers significant cost-saving opportunities for those utilizing its Foreign-Trade Zone designation. In recent months, the Tribal Economic and Planning Department that oversees the park’s services to help customers and tenants as the global economy works past the pandemic.

“Iron Horse offers a unique opportunity for businesses trying to find a way to manage tariffs,” said CPN Economic Development Director James C. Collard, Ph.D. “While the pandemic is definitely problematic for the economy, we can help companies who are tied to the global supply chain succeed in these times.”

Senior programs continued...

Fleeman often receives calls from CPN members outside of Oklahoma. Although CPN’s services are not available out of CPN’s tribal jurisdiction, many nationwide services exist. She suggests utilizing the U.S. Administration on Aging’s Eldercare Locator to find services across the United States at cpn.news/eldercare.

CPN’s Workforce & Social Services Department also offers additional elder resources, including community services, general assistance, training to lower utility bills, referrals and more.

CPN Housing Department

The CPN Housing Department’s Elder/Disabled Repair Programs provides funding to build or renovate portions of clients’ homes to increase accessibility including ramps, rail, door extensions and more.

“To qualify, they need to be an elder, which is 60 and older. They need to own their own home, and it needs to be free and clear of more than one lien and no reverse mortgage,” said Scott George, CPN Housing Department director. Those with disabilities become eligible at age 55.

The program serves Native Americans from any federally recognized tribe that lives within CPN’s jurisdiction. Other requirements include current homeowner insurance and up-to-date tax payments.

The house must be the client’s primary residence. Additionally, their annual income must be within the 80 percent national household limit, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Median Family Income Limits. For Potawatomi County, Oklahoma, that equates to a maximum $40,850 annual income for a three-person household.

“It is basically to assist elders in maintaining the integrity of their home. And when we talk about integrity of a home, we’re talking mainly about the infrastructure of the roof, floor, walls and things of that nature. It is not used for cosmetics, so we don’t come in and paint, and we don’t come in and replace carpet just because they’d like to have new carpet,” George said.

Before beginning any project, staff evaluate each home to determine what repairs can help keep elders in their home and self-sufficient longer.

“Our main goal is to make sure they have a good roof, they have heating and air conditioning, adequate plumbing and water,” said CPN Housing Development Coordinator, Gary DeLonais. Staff work with client’s insurance companies to ensure every dollar goes further.

“Because maybe the insurance company can pay to repair the roof, and we can pay the deductible, whatever we can do to help stretch that dollar amount we have set aside for them,” said CPN Housing Development Assistant, Tia Stewart.

For repair projects over $2,000, a lien will owe no money back, regardless of amount, as long as the client does not sell or transfer the home’s ownership within the allotted period.

“We also do handicapped accessibility along with the repair program, so if they’re finding themselves in a wheelchair, we’ll widen doors, change things out in the bathroom and give them a walk-in shower,” George said.

Affordable rental units through the department’s Low-Income Elder Housing Program also offer residences options in Shawnee at the Father Murphy complex, Citizen Place North duplexes in Tecumseh or the CPN Elder Village in Rossville, Kansas. For those who live outside of CPN’s jurisdiction, staff encourage reaching out for service recommendations.

“We definitely want to help, and we encourage them. We don’t say, ‘Oh, I can’t help you. Sorry.’ We always try to refer them out,” Stewart said.

CPN tribal elder resources

Workforce & Social Services

1549 Workforce Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801
405-878-3854
800-880-9880

cpn.news/workforce

Title VI

2307 S. Gordon Cooper
Shawnee, OK 74801
405-214-5111

cpn.news/elders

Housing Department

44007 Hardesby Road
Shawnee, OK 74801
405-273-2833
800-880-9880

cpn.news/housing
Climate change causes drastic, unpredictable weather with blended seasons and extreme patterns. In Oklahoma, that has resulted in more days over 105 degrees in the summer, greater occurrences of severe weather in the spring, shorter autumns and warmer winters than previously recorded.

Like many pollinators, the monarch butterfly’s population has decreased in recent years due to those changes, specifically severe temperatures. Monarchs use Oklahoma and the Midwest as a crucial part of their migration, traveling as far north as Canada for the summer and back south to the mountains of Central Mexico for the winter. It takes four to six generations of butterflies to complete the cycle, covering as many as 3,000 miles. Many people fondly remember monarchs in their yards and gardens.

“My uncle would stick out his index finger, and the butterfly would land on his finger. And it would just kind of stay there and walk around. And everyone else put out their fingers, and it never landed on their finger,” said environmental anthropologist and Tribal member Yancey Orr, Ph.D. “And considering their lifespan, it could not possibly be the same butterfly. It just happened summer and summer and summer.”

Orr studies human environmental knowledge at the University of Maryland. In a time of easy access to information and advanced technology, people generally view knowledge in terms of educational and advanced institutions and facts. Orr said lived experiences and physical interaction also provide crucial learning opportunities.

“Things that people are surrounded by every year or every day that they ignore is not just important for how people experience the world, but it’s also very important about what we collectively decide to do or not to do regarding being stewards of the natural world or one another,” Orr said.

Despite a population decrease of up to 90 percent during recent years, monarchs are not listed as a threatened or endangered species.

**Awareness and significance**

Orr researches human perception, including a disconnection from the natural world perpetuated by increases in screen time throughout the last three decades.

“We’re finding that when people interact with the online world, their perception and what they learn is skewed according to existing beliefs,” Orr said. “And it’s really difficult to shake those beliefs out of people so that they actually see what is being presented in the world.”

Many Indigenous cultures place importance on a correlation with the earth, including Great Lakes region tribes such as the Potawatomi. Nishnabé people passed down those beliefs for generations, ensuring their survival through colonialism and forced removals.

“One tradition, both in American Indian communities or American Indian culture and also in the early history of evolution, was the important role that sort of very small creatures had in actually creating the world around us. So we can think in some ways about European views of nature preference to larger animals, game animals, etc., while ignoring, sort of, insects,” Orr said.

Pollinators and other arthropods, including monarchs, play crucial roles in our larger ecosystems. However, modern humans often perceive them as contributing less based on their physical size. Due to their migration patterns, monarchs fly thousands of miles throughout the year and spend a few weeks in their reproductive destinations along the way. They reside the longest in Mexico for a few months between October and the beginning of March, depending on weather patterns. Although ephemeral, during their short lifetimes, they pollinate plants across North America and CPN land, making them a keystone species.

“These things have been pushed to the margins of survival by processes that are much bigger and more indifferent to them,” Orr said. “And so in some ways, those monarch butterflies finding refuge in Potawatomi Country on their migration patterns, it’s something that we could relate to as people who had to migrate for generations and generations, due to the indifference of others.”

**Action**

In 2016, Citizen Potawatomi Nation partnered with the Tribal Alliance for Pollinators to plant and preserve milkweed at the CPN Eagle Aviary. Milkweed provides a critical source of food for larvae before they form a chrysalis, turn into butterflies, and continue on their path. Orr said the Tribe’s work carries weight for several reasons.

“One is the ecological importance, both in their function of the ecosystem, but also in the fact of how old they are and their right to exist, which is independent of how long they spend with us or how much of a part of our life those things may be.”

Recent record-setting temperatures in Oklahoma disrupted the narrow reproductive strategies monarchs have evolved to complete the life cycle. In 2015, The Washington Post reported the monarch’s population declined 970 million in 15 years, and their numbers reduced to 30 million across the continent.

Orr finds the swift reduction due to both pesticide usage and climate change alarming, especially since participation in a digital world provides an easy avenue to ignore monarchs’ disappearance.

“How do we make that kind of virtual world that we created augment or care for the real world? That’s a big question that we have to answer. And I don’t know if we have that answer right now, but it’s a curious and significant place to be sort of historically within our worlds,” he said.

While individual efforts to reduce pollution and use of greenhouse gases collectively make a difference, significant impact as a society requires large-scale, conscious decision making. In August 2014, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Center for Food Safety, Xerces Society, and Lincoln Brower, Ph.D., filed a petition with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for protection of the monarch butterfly under the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS delayed the appeal for an additional 18 months in June 2019, moving the deadline to December 2020.

Read more about the Tribe’s efforts at cpn.news/pollinators.
Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett

Bezo ho nikan (Hello, my friend),

Many of you know by now that Tribal Legislator Roy Slavin has walked on. He served District 1 since 2007 when our constitution changed to allow proportional representation for our members across the country. The Slavin family is one of the largest CPN founding families, and Roy’s great-grandmother was a survivor of the Potawatomi Trail of Death. His uncle, Jim Slavin, was with the original settlers who came from Kansas to establish what is today the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Oklahoma. Roy was a U.S. Army veteran, and his status led him to be a regular member of the CPN Color Guard, presenting the U.S., Tribe and POW-MIA flags at the Potawatomi Gathering, Family Reunion Festival and many other events.

He and his wife Julia organized events throughout their district. They were always regularly involved in event planning and our Family Reunion Festival and often traveled to the Potawatomi Gathering as well. I will personally miss his enthusiasm for our Nation, his family and our mission as members of the Tribal legislature.

Our constitution calls for the legislative seat to be appointed for the remainder of the term by the Tribal Chairman and confirmed by the Tribal Legislature. For District 1, the next election is June 2021. Filling Roy’s shoes will not be easy. He served the 2,763 Citizen Potawatomi in District 1 with distinction for more than a decade in office. I hope those of you with an interest in Tribal government will contact me and send your personal information for consideration.

We need an individual who can serve the people of the district by answering questions about Tribal programs and services and advocate on their behalf. Every Tribal legislative district outside the state has unique circumstances compared to those of us in Oklahoma. The job requires attending our quarterly CPN Legislative meeting that take place via teleconference from your home or office. All equipment is furnished by the Nation. They also need to be willing to host events throughout the district so the people will have personal connections with their representative.

If there are interested parties in taking up the mantle of legislator for the district, please reach out to me at 405-275-3121.

Another issue we as a Nation have been working on is the financial support from the U.S. Congress as part of the federal response to COVID-19. CPN’s allocation will be used to help our Tribal enterprises, government and citizens respond to the pandemic and economic fallout. Please look for more information soon.

As mandated by the Tribal Constitution, we must have an annual General Council meeting. It will be held inside FireLake Arena, near Tribal headquarters, at 3 p.m. on June 27. All COVID-19 precautionary measures will be in effect, including social distancing and masks. Tribal medical personnel will do temperature screening at the door. Voting will take place at the arena from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 27 as well. If you have an absentee ballot and wish to vote in person, you must bring the absentee ballot with you. The Governor of Oklahoma has ordered that all visitors from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Washington state, California, and Louisiana be in quarantine for 14 days immediately after entering the state of Oklahoma.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your Tribal chairman.

Migewetch (Thank you),

John ‘Rocky’ Barrett

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps

Bezo (Hello),

Citizen Potawatomi Nation is certainly busy trying to comply with all the rules and regulations that have developed since COVID-19. Some of our businesses and programs have now re-opened under the guidelines of a three-phased approach to open Oklahoma’s economy, with the third phase beginning June 1. The Wellness Center will be open June 1 for Tribal employees. Directors of most re-opening programs must adhere to protocols for social distancing and face coverings. Some programs and enterprises will also take temperature checks as individuals enter facilities. It is my belief that the people of our communities and of Potawatomi County, in general, have complied with the rules and regulations set forth by local programs and enterprises.

Many people have chosen to continue to follow Oklahoma’s safer-at-home guidelines if they are 65 years of age or have vulnerable health conditions. Potawatomi County has maintained under 60 cases of COVID with four deaths for numerous weeks. That is very good compared to many counties in Oklahoma. All in all, I am very proud of CPN and the people of the surrounding areas.

One thing that is on many Tribal members’ minds these days is the Coronavirus Relief Fund. CPN did receive relief funds from the United States Treasury, and the funds are certainly synonymous with the name. Our Tribe, like most of the 574 federally recognized tribes across the United States, has been in a bind since the COVID-19 season arrived on our normalcy. The CVRF has significant oversight regulations, which were delivered on April 22, 2020, with a follow-up of Frequently Asked Questions on May 4, 2020. These rules were mainly for state and local governments with a lot of guess work for tribes, which have later been further clarified due to research by our self-governance, public information and legal departments.

You can be assured that our Tribe will use the money within the Treasury’s guidelines. Costs of equipment and supplies to fight the virus must have occurred from March 1 through Dec. 1, 2020. Some of the breakdown for CPN is employee classification such as public health and public safety workers dedicated to mitigation of/or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Also, health care and human resources. Those are categorized as Class I government employees. There are Class II government employees and enterprise employees. In addition, there are small business interruption grants. Certain expenditures for these classes of employees can be covered by the CVRF.

To get to the main question for Tribal members, there is funding for them. The Tribe is in the process of determining exactly what that means and the guidelines for eligibility. The Tribe has formed a COVID Committee consisting of CPN attorneys, our chief financial officer and director of human resources as well as members of the office of self-governance, administration and public information departments.

The committee meets on a regular basis. All final decisions will have to be approved by the Tribal legislature.

Hopefully, by the time you receive this message, there will be more decisions made toward spending the CVRF. We are certainly thankful and appreciative that we have funding to help with relief from COVID-19. There is one thing that I want our Tribal members to know for sure — CPN has wonderful employees. The COVID committee that I have been a part of these last few weeks consists of some of the most capable professionals within their job titles that any one could ever imagine. CPN is very fortunate to have such accomplished, talented employees in all our departments. My praise is now and forever for the CPN legislators, workforce and leadership of our entire organization. A “thank you” seems inadequate, but it is pure and true.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve our Tribal members and CPN as a whole.

Migewetch (Thank you),

Linda Capps

Sgenakwe (Black Bird Woman)

Vice-Chairman

405-275-3121 work
405-650-1238 cell
lcapps@potawatomi.org
A man of many you know, we lost a dear Tribal elder and thoughtful, committed leader in April when CPN Legislator Roy Vern Slavin walked on. Roy and his wife Julia have become good family friends of my husband Alan and me, traveling together to various CPN events and meetings that Roy and I typically co-hosted. Roy and I collaborated on meeting agendas, and the four of us shared fun side trips together, including a trip to the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee, and a visit to downtown Burlington, Vermont, which we fit in during weekends of district meetings and naming ceremonies in those cities. I miss him and want to express my deep sympathy to Julia and the Slavin family for this great loss, and my deep gratitude to Julia for all of the work she has done for our Nation, side-by-side with Roy as he worked hard to represent his constituents in District 1. Igwien (heartfelt thanks), Julia.

District 2 survey
I sent out a survey to District 2 citizens 10 years ago at this time. It seems a good time to do so again. Making up revenue lost during the months-long, COVID-19-prompted closure of our casino, hotel and entertainment venue will certainly be top of mind during the CPN Legislature’s fall discussions about the executive team’s proposed budget for 2020-21. I hope that you will provide your thoughts on what our priorities should be for the coming years so that I can share them with the Chairman and others on the executive team as they work on the proposed budget. When we are able to meet together again safely, I will also plan future events in our very large District 2 (13 states and the District of Columbia). I want and need your ideas and feedback — and local, on-the-ground help — on these, so I’ve included survey questions that cover this topic too.

Find the survey form at cpn.news/dist2. The information you provide is for my use as your legislator in understanding constituent priorities. I will do my best to share, and be responsive to, the needs/priorities you identify. I will not share your personal information. If you don’t like completing surveys, you can send me an email or give me a call with your thoughts. I can send you a copy of the survey questions by email, on request, if that would be helpful.

Please complete the survey or provide your feedback, on the survey questions by the end of July. Thank you for your time in doing so!

District 2 contest entries and prize winner
The latest District 2 contest concluded April 15. The contest called for stories about successful use of our CPN tribal identification cards. The randomly selected winner of the prize blanket is District 2’s Bill Anderson of Carrollton, Georgia. (Only District 2 residents were eligible for the prize). His entry is below:

This was several years ago. I had filled out the paperwork requesting Eagle feathers from the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Chairman Bucky Barrett had signed the form, so I went to the Atlanta office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I presented the paperwork and showed My CPN ID card. This office had never had a Native American come in for any type of business, let alone requesting eagle feathers. They treated me so well, walking me around to a couple of the other offices so I could meet other officials. It was a great feeling knowing that there are still some areas of government where we are viewed in such an important way. Respect and courtesy returned always makes the situation better. And here’s another great entry, submitted by District 1 resident Sharon Hoogstraten:

I just read your column — and here is a good ID story: My mom (Lula Jo Prickett Hoogstraten) was very stubborn about only using her Potawatomi ID at the airport. We were traveling together when a TSA agent wouldn’t accept her ID. He kept insisting she show her driver’s license and she refused. Finally, he thought he had her, saying “I can’t accept this ID because there is no expiration date.” She looked at him in astonishment and said “Why would it have an expiration date? I’m not going to stop being Potawatomi?” In frustration he waved her through. Right behind her, I folded like a cheap suit case and gave him my driver’s license. Bless her heart :-).”

Here’s one last entry to share, from Kay Evans:

This story isn’t all mine: My daughter went to get her Texas driver’s license when we moved here recently from Arkansas. She had either lost or packed her birth certificate and couldn’t find it. We went to the DMV anyway, and she presented the DMV with her Tribal ID card and her Arkansas license. They were a little hesitant at first. But then I told them we were a federally recognized Tribe. That worked. DMV accepted the Tribal ID in lieu of a birth certificate and gave her a Texas driver’s license, thank goodness!

Thank you to all who participated — keep using your Tribal IDs! I hope these stories encourage more of us to use our Tribal cards as formal identification.

Kwek Society update
Chi migwetch (many thanks) to all of you who have been assisting The Kwek Society’s efforts to win a rebrand in the GiveABrand campaign; it began on May 1. For those of you who aren’t already participating in the rebranding contest and are reading this before June 12, I would sure appreciate your votes for The Kwek Society. You can vote at thinkso.com/giveabrand, once a day, every day!

We were one of 130 nonprofits that competed to be finalists in this competition. Now, we are one of five nonprofits vying for the most votes to win rebranding services from ThinkSo, a New York City-based creative agency. Give a Brand! is an exercise in “extreme branding” — the winning nonprofit will be announced on June 24, and on Aug. 7, the entire Thinklo team, and some of its sponsors, will devote the day to developing new branding and marketing communications for the Give a Brand! winner. If we win, and social distancing restrictions are lifted by then, I’ll be in Arlington, VA 22207 866-961-6988 toll-free ecarney@potawatomi.org evamariescarney.com

ThinkSo offices as its client-for-the-day. All the running around and finalizing of logo designs, marketing materials, etc. will be broadcast via a live web stream.

We need to win! Winning would give us a new logo, website, and marketing materials, and allow us to raise awareness and new funding that I’m certain we otherwise can’t achieve. Please help us broaden our reach in addressing period poverty in Native American communities by jumping in now to take us over the finish line with the most votes!

Eva Marie Carney Ojibwelooka (Blue Bird Woman) Representative, District 2 2280 N. George Mason Drive PO Box #7307 Arlington, VA 22207 evamariescarney.com
**District 3 – Bob Whistler**

With Family Reunion Festival canceled this year. If you still have your absentee ballot, please get it mailed in. I also want to remind you that if you haven’t completed a 2020 U.S. Census form, it still needs to be done. If you haven’t been contacted and need information, please contact me, and I will get you the needed contacts.

Roy Slavin

On April 21, we lost District 1 Legislator Roy Slavin. Roy was the original elected legislator for District 1 and served us well for the last 12 years. At our regular legislative meetings, Roy sat directly to my left and was always seeking more benefits and services, not only for all the districts but as a special voice for the veterans as well. He was a member of our veterans’ color guard and represented CPN at many events in addition to presenting the American and Native American flags at all Family Reunion Festivals and Potawatomi Gatherings. I will miss Roy along with the wisdom and experience he brought to our Nation. It has been an honor to serve with Roy, and I thank the Creator and his family for sharing him with us.

**The Kwek Society**

There have been several mentions in the Hownikan about this project that was created by District 2 Legislator Eva Marie Carney where she is supplying personal hygiene items at more than 40 locations for the female needs of Native American teenage girls and women who do not have the money to buy the products they really need monthly. As a result, they may miss school or need to stay home from work. The Kwek Society is currently in competition for a $50,000 award in branding services from a New York ad agency with four other groups. The winner will be determined based upon the number of total votes cast for each group by the public. You may vote daily between May 1 and June 11. The ending date is near, and we need for everyone to vote. Please go to thinkko.com/givebrand. I have been voting every day since I was advised of the contest. These funds would be a great addition to what Eva Marie has been able to generate on her own. So, let’s pull together and continue the good work of the Kwek Society a winner but with more funds to do the work so badly needed. Again, the website is thinkko.com/givebrand.

**CARES Act**

As a part of the CARES Act, the government has modified the rules on required minimum distributions as well as early withdrawal of dollars from your retirement funds because of the coronavirus pandemic.

1. If you need access to your funds and you haven’t reached 59.5 years of age, the 10 percent early withdrawal penalty has been waived. The income tax related to the funds can be paid over three years and/or the funds can be repaid over three years.

2. If you are required to make a RMD from your IRA and don’t need the funds, the RMD requirement has been suspended. You should contact the firm that oversees your IRA and advise them you do not want the distribution in 2020. In the event an RMD has been made and it is less than 60 days old, it may be returned. You will need to contact the firm handling the IRA on how to handle the transaction. This suspension rule also applies to IRA beneficiaries. For more information on this, go to cpn-news/CARESAct.

Please keep in mind; I am simply passing on information I read on the site, and I am not a trained tax attorney or consultant. You should check with whoever does your taxes and/or handles any retirement account to determine what you may qualify for under the CARES Act.

I hope that by the time June gets here we will have many businesses open and those of you that have been away from work are able to return to your job. I am thankful for being able to represent you and am here to assist where possible for any questions you may have relative to our benefits and services that may be available to you. So if you need me, just give me a call.

Bama pi (Thank you),

Bob Whistler

Bmashii (He Soars)

Representative, District 3

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cpn3legislator@yahoo.com

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**District 4 – Jon Boursaw**

Most of you have probably heard that Roy passed away a few weeks ago. Roy and I, along with my brother Lyman, participated together as the CPN Color Guard over a span of 15+ years. We have proudly carried the colors in countless Grand Entries at Family Reunion Festival and Potawatomi Gathering powows, endured the heat during several Massing of Colors ceremonies held in late May in Topeka, Kansas, participated in the annual Rossville Tall Corn Festival parades, and represented the Nation at numerous events, big and small. It has been my pleasure also to have served with Roy on the CPN Legislature for the past seven years. In addition to our participation in Legislative sessions, Roy and I conducted several joint district meetings in the greater Kansas City area. Roy was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army. But most important, I am pleased that Roy was a friend. The caissons go rolling along...”

CPN graduate honored by Emporia State University

Carissa McAfee received two awards from Emporia State University last month. Carissa was named a Dwight and Ida Newburg Distinguished Senior for 2020, and she also was the recipient of the Outstanding Senior in the School of Business award. She worked hard and dedicated many hours during her four years at ESU, enabling her to earn two degrees. Upon her graduation, Carissa received a Bachelor of Science in marketing and a second degree in business management with a minor in entrepreneurship. Carissa, Wechippe, is the daughter of David and Janet McAfee and a descendant of the Bourassa/Oge families.

Pakistani Fulbright scholars

I have been extended an invitation to give my CPN history presentation to a group of approximately 150 Pakistani graduate students who are pursuing master’s and doctorate degrees at universities and colleges throughout the United States on Fulbright scholarships. The group is being hosted at a three-day conference by the Kansas State University Department of International Programs. My presentation will be part of one day of the conference dedicated to diversity in America.

Kansas Potawatomi Youth Program

Remember last year when I asked the question, “What did you know about your Tribe when you were 10, 13 or even 18?” We followed that with a one-day program for approximately 12 Tribal youth, which from all indications, was very successful.

Those who attended learned about Tribal history and a little about its culture and traditions, received an introduction to the Potawatomi language, had the opportunity to drum, and completed a simple craft project. If we have the opportunity, I want to hold the second Kansas Potawatomi Youth Program this summer in the CPN Community Center in Rossville. It will depend on whether or not we are permitted to return to some level of normalcy that allows us to hold group meetings and programs. We should know by the end of May if the restrictions will be lifted in time to hold this program.

My hope is to be able hold this one-day program on Thursday, July 23. This program is free and open to any enrolled CPN youth 10 years of age and up. There is no maximum age limit. The program is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided. Enrollment forms are available at the CPN Community Center, at my office, or by contacting me by email or phone. Our ultimate goal is to expand in the future into a two-day program by offering Native American dance, increasing the language portion, and adding other related topics and activities.

**CPN Family Reunion Festival and the Potawatomi Gathering**

The 2020 CPN Family Reunion Festival and the Potawatomi Gathering hosted by the Haskellville Indian Community have been canceled.

**Summer school scholarship applications**

The deadline for submitting applications for CPN scholarships for the 2020 summer school session to the CPN Education Department is 5 p.m., June 15. For more information, visit cpn-news/education.

**June Elders Potluck in Rossville — status update**

A decision as to whether or not to hold the Elders Potluck had not been made at the time I submitted my article. As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your legislative representative.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Jon Boursaw

Wetase Mikh (Brave Bear)

Representative, District 4

407 SW Gage Blvd.

Topeka, KS 66604

785-861-7272 office

785-808-1980 home

jon.boursaw@potawatomiong.com

Office hours:

9-11 a.m. Tuesdays

3-5 p.m. Thursdays

Other times: please call
The virus has taken over the
Additionally, politics have
First of all, do not lose family
will be left disgruntled, and the
relationships may never repair
misinformation is running rampant. This is not a disease
affecting only the elderly. The middle aged and young have been hit just as hard, if not more so in some cases.
By the time this article is released, the quarantines will have been lifted, no doubt. Understandably, there are those anxious to get back to work. The economy is taking a beating alongside the epidemic. Lives are No. 1, but I don’t think we want to be out in the street with our families either.
Please, please, please proceed with caution, doing all you know to do to stay safe as you get back out in the world. We love you and want to keep you here.
Now, how about all the new things you have learned to do while you were in lockdown? (Hahaha.) What have you been doing to keep busy and productive?
Me? Let me see; I have gained five to ten pounds, as I have spent a lot of time in the kitchen. I stay away from the scales. My plants are trimmed down to the nub and watered until they are afloat.
Facebook for me has been cut off. I cannot be trusted. The voice texting obviously moves faster than my brain. Before you know it, all my frustrations have spilled all over the page and posted. You can’t take it back. A very nice lady posted how silly it was to argue on Facebook. She is so right. You do a lot of things when you are desperate to occupy your mind with something besides politics and pandemics.
Maybe the truth is just getting to know you. Darn, I wasn’t ready for that!
Now since Facebook wasn’t a good idea, I started puzzles and playing solitaire. Do you know how many different versions of solitaire there are out there?
Emails, texting, FaceTime, telephone all come in handy when you live alone and are anxious for human contact. My two Shih Tzus are pretty fed up and clearer than they want to be, and they are probably saying, “Oh my Mom, don’t drag out the puppy clothes!”
Nails need to be done; then a hair cut and pedicure will be next on the list.
Those trips to the grocery store you used to dread have become the most exciting thing on the agenda. Moving on.
Given that we write the articles one month prior to publishing, I need to apologize to all the mothers out there who give all they have on a daily basis to everyone in the household. I say thank you.
There was a time when I had the opportunity to buy for and appreciate my great-grandmother, grandmother and mother. I was blessed to have known several generations. Now that they have all walked on, this year, I acknowledged them for the wisdom and love they shared over the years. They are our beginning as with all things.
This is why the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has profound respect for women. All things come from a mother, as Chairman would say.
That being said, we need to recognize the fathers on Father’s Day for their contribution to the family as a whole and the partnering it takes to raise a child today. The role of a father remains the same, but we need to recognize the difference between a father and a dad. Today’s dad is much more involved with the emotional support of a child.
Thank you to all the dads out there for your contributions to the well-being of the up-and-coming adults of the future.
Our leadership has had a lot of difficult decisions to make during the shutdown of all non-essential businesses in Oklahoma. It affects employees and members alike. We will survive this, but please be patient with everyone, as they are doing their very best and are parting in overtime.
I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to John Barrett, Chairman, Linda Capps, Vice-Chairman, Dwayne Troadles, Secretary Treasurer, and all the departmental leadership, including employees, for their over and above performances during a difficult time for us all. They are on the firing lines every day. We are fortunate to have such great and steadfast leadership.
In the meantime, again take care of yourself and your families. We love you.
Warmest thoughts and prayers,
Eunice Imogene Lambert
Butterfly Woman
Representative, District 5
270 E Hunt Highway, Ste 229
San Tan Valley, AZ 85143
480-228-6569
eunicelambert@gmail.com
District 7 – Mark Johnson

Bozho nikanek (Hello friend),

The devastating events of the last few months were more than any of us have ever planned on having to deal with. Our families across this nation have been impacted in ways that were unimaginable as little as four months ago. As our country starts to reopen and moves closer to whatever our “new normal” will look like, rest assured that our Tribal nation will be as proactive as possible in the protection of our Tribal members, and to that end, June’s Family Festival was canceled due to the many unknowns. This was the right decision to make, but it was also devastating to many who plan their summers around attending. I cannot remember the last time I was not in Shawnee the last weekend in June. I know we will redouble our efforts to make next year’s Festival the greatest yet but will miss meeting with you all at home in Shawnee.

On April 21, the other legislators and I were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of fellow legislator Roy Slavin. I have known Roy and his loving wife Julia for many years. Roy was one of the kindest people who you would ever meet. It was a joy to work with him in the legislature and to know him as a person. You would be hard pressed to find anyone who cared more about the people of our Tribe than Roy. He will be deeply missed by all who were lucky enough to know him. Just a couple of days prior to his passing, I received a wonderful mask that Julia had sewn and mailed to me. But that was Roy and Julia; always thinking of others and reaching out their caring hands during a time of need.

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

District 8 – Dave Carney

Bozho nikan (Hello friend),

Typically, I’d be preparing for my annual journey to the Family Reunion Festival in Oklahoma at this time. Of course, the world has changed, and almost all of our normal patterns have been significantly disrupted. I will really miss seeing members and employees of the Tribe this summer.

I am very hopeful that District 8 will be able to meet in October at our Fall Feast in Portland. Of course, we will only do this if it is safe to do so.

As you may be aware, Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s legislature has been meeting virtually for over a decade on a quarterly basis and in person as a body only at the end of June, immediately after the General Council. Initially, the Tribe used an expensive and proprietary hardware and software system to connect those of us outside of Oklahoma with the legislative chamber in the Nation’s administration building. These days, we utilize a software that is very much like the Zoom software we are all becoming so familiar with. If you are ever curious and would like to see one of these sessions, please go to cpn.news/legislature.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the loss of District 1 Legislative Roy Slavin, who walked on in mid-April. I am proud to call Roy my friend. He was a kind and gentle soul with a go-getter personality, and a warm personality. Roy and his wife, Julia, were a team, and their contributions will be missed by all he touched.

As represented by the executive branch, these are tough times for the Nation’s enterprises, but we will persevere through wise resource and fiscal management. Just as in my office, and probably yours, the Nation’s employees are adapting and keeping essential enterprises running. Every effort will be made to keep supporting Tribal members.

District 9 – Paul Wesselhoff

Bozho nikan (Hello friend),

A nation divided

The terrible division over the coronavirus in America troubles me. One would hope that when faced with a national crisis of such magnitude, Americans would unite around a great cause. Unfortunately, this is not the case. We can’t even unite against the ugly face of a pandemic!

Of course, we are in a climate of a presidential election, and we have come to expect some level of divisiveness. Whoever wins, one side will be exquisitely exuberant: the other, clinically depressed. However, we have come to expect this divisive turmoil every four years.

The division I speak of is different than a presidential race. We seem to be in a no-win dilemma. If we open up the economy, more people will get sick. If we keep the economy closed longer, people will lose their jobs, go hungry and become sick. If we open up the economy, more people will die.

If we keep the economy closed longer, people will die. Many will lose their jobs and lose the business they have invested sweat, tears, years and money into.

As a baby boomer, I lived during the Vietnam War and served in the U.S. Army during that era but not that war. The nation then was terribly divided as it was during the civil rights movement of the same era.

Again, this current division is different. We have a deadly, common enemy invisibly attacking us in most cities and in every state. This enemy preys on our elders and those with weakened immune systems. In my last column, I wrote how devastating this disease is to Native Americans.

As I write this article, there are 1,417,398 cases of the coronavirus in America, and 84,141 people have died from this plague. By the time you read this article, those numbers will probably escalate. Most of these people died in isolation without the touch of their family’s hand and certainly not a farewell kiss on their face.

Reading history books and watching black and white newreels from World War II, we learned that America unified against an evil and superior military, a common enemy on two fronts determined to conquer the world. Before that war, many Americans were isolationists, desiring nothing to do with another world war on a foreign continent. The unexpected and surprise attack on Pearl Harbor dramatically altered that sentiment. For years, we were a united country.

Also, after 9/11 we were united for weeks and months but not years. I hope I live to see another era when America is united. Hopefully it will not take something on the scale of a major terrorist attack or a world war to bring us together.

All of us should simply exercise grace, meaning we should accept the fact that there are many people who disagree, some seriously so, with our opinions. We may be wrong in our opinions. Because one disagrees with us, ignorantly or knowledgeably, does not mean that they are evil. We should give them the benefit of doubt. Let us extend grace.

Jesus said, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to destruction, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.”

Abraham Lincoln said, “A house divided against itself, cannot stand.”

Let’s hope some level of unification is in our future. A severely divided nation does not serve us well and pretends on the brink of desolation and possible destruction.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Paul Wesselhoff
Representative, District 9
pwesselhoff@potawatomi.org
Kenneth W. Paslay

Kenneth W. Paslay, 89, of Topeka, passed away Thursday, March 12, 2020.

He was born July 15, 1930, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, the son of Roy and Lillian (Kelly) Paslay. He graduated with his degree in pharmacy from the University of Kansas.

He was crazy about all cars. He was very involved with the Topeka Car Club, as well as a couple of MG Car Clubs. He showed off his 1956 MGTD during shows around the country. He started driving on Route 66, starting in Chicago.

He and his wife were world travelers, traveling to Europe, Hawaii and Alaska.

He was a proud Native American, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He attended numerous gatherings and meetings.

He was a pharmacist in Topeka at the Topeka Medical Center.

He was an avid golfer after retirement. He was stationed in Oklahoma City with the United States Air Force where he worked at the medical unit.

Kenneth married Lila Paslay on June 27, 1952, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She preceded him in death on Dec. 20, 2012. Survivors include a son, Mark Paslay; grand-daughter, Mandy; and brother, Jack Paslay. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, son, Randy Paslay and Kevin Paslay; brother, Roy Paslay; and sister, Lila Kinsey.

Scott Gregory Miskovsky

Scott Gregory Miskovsky was born Sept. 19, 1972, to Thomas Bill Miskovsky and Linda Ruth (Hey) Miskovsky in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He passed away on Dec. 5, 2019, in Oklahoma City at the age of 47.

Scott was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church from birth. He worked construction and maintenance at La Quinta Hotel in Moore, Oklahoma.

Scott was a disc golf player in the Professional Disc Golf Association. He loved fishing and hunting. He also loved his family. He was a loving uncle to eight nieces and nephews and one great-niece.

He survived by one brother, four sisters and his mother. He was very proud of his Native American ancestry. He was also an organ donor.

Scott will be missed by all who knew him.

Jean Alene Hightower

Jean Hightower was born in Wainette, Oklahoma, to Fred and Sophia Laminard. She passed away on April 23, 2020, and claimed her place with her Heavenly Father. Jean married the love of her life, Hubert Hightower, on Sept. 10, 1949, in Oklahoma City, where they made their home for over 70 years, raising six children with a laser light of love and guidance, and providing the same intense devotion and care to her grandchildren. She loved to laugh and have a good time. Devout Catholics, Jean and Hubert were founding members of St. James Catholic Church. She was also a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Jean was a proven professional as a tax auditor for the State of Oklahoma for 16 years.

Her family was her pride and joy. Sunday dinners and unspoken packed cars signaled to the world that multiple generations of a large, loving family were inside. She was the best wife, Mamma, sister, aunt, and “Nene” to all the grandchildren, making everyone feel special as the tenth of 11 children. She is survived by her husband Hubert; her children, Susan (Larry) Bisk; Patty (Bob) Frakes; Stephanie Hightower (Donatau Okwema); and Gregg (Karen) Hightower; her grandchildren, Jeff (Lydia) Bisk; Jennifer (Robert) Bunch; Tim (Tammy) Frakes; Allin Acock; Jessica (Jesse) Leland, and Dean (Andi) Hightower; numerous great-grandchildren, sister Mae Combs; and brother Loy (Ann) Laminard.

She will be profoundly missed, but she joins her beloved children, son Alan Hightower and daughter Diane Hightower; her parents, and siblings, Fred Laminard, Dave Laminard, Myrtle Close, Elmore Laminard, Irene VanSchuyver, Evelyn Miller, Serena Laminard and Linda Dike, who left us too soon.

Private mass of Christian burial was held at St. James the Greater Catholic Church with a burial following at Resthaven on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

Wilbur Leland Whisenant Jr.

Wilbur Leland Whisenant Jr. entered the Lord’s rest on April 7, 2020, in Kansas City, Missouri. He was born on Oct. 6, 1946, a descendant of the Tessey family. He graduated from Choctaw High School and married his sweetheart Glenda Sexton. Lee joined the United States Air Force in 1964 and served one tour in Vietnam. He was stationed at Da Nang with the 366th T.F.W. “Gushighters.” Lee served in the U.S. Air Force until his retirement in 1986.

Lee continued to serve his country in a civilian capacity until his second retirement in 2008. Lee enjoyed being involved with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation while living in Oklahoma. Lee is remembered by the Tribe for his military service along with his father who served in World War II and son, Eli, who recently returned from the Army. Lee was given the Potawatomi name M’ahwehbi-keh for his dedication.

He was devoted to studying the Bible and dedicated much of his time to his church in Butler, Missouri. He liked to travel with his wife, Glenda, and loved to spend holidays with his family and bowl on the weekends. He had a keen wit and was always ready with a clever wisecrack or a good joke. He took great pleasure in his place in the country and his little dog, Jarvis.

Lee was preceded by his parents, Wilbur Sr. and Betty Whisenant, and his sister, Lucille Miller. He was survived by his wife, Glenda; siblings, Roy and Florence; daughter, Kimberly; son Eli, and grandchildren, Alex, Skyley, Mia, Ella and Kellan.

William Anderson Sr.

William Edward “Ed” Anderson Sr. died Tuesday, April 7, 2020, in Blackwell, Oklahoma. He loved his family, ice cream, his puppy dogs and classic cars. He was a fan of the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Mariners.

He was an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and was very proud of his Native American heritage. Each year, he celebrated his Tribe and family by participating in the Tribe’s annual Family Reunion Festival and powwow. He studied and spoke the Potawatomi language. His Potawatomi name is Namantwoot, which means “The Land Cloud, and it was given to him by his teacher Don Petrom, the last heritage fluent Potawatomi speaker for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

He was born on Thursday, Oct. 13, 1938, in Wichita, Oklahoma, to Herman Edward Anderson Jr. and Mary Edith Smith. He was the eldest of 12 children and grew up working on farms with his parents in Oklahoma and Kansas. He graduated from Deerfield High School in 1957.

He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1958, and while stationed at Hamilton Air Force Base, he met the love of his life, Rae Marie Anderson. They married on Oct. 1, 1960, in Sonoma, California, and had five children. The Vietnam War veteran retired in 1978 as the rank of Tech Sergeant from the Air Force after 20 years of service, traveling the world as an aerospace mechanic and flight engineer. He traveled to every country in the world except China and Russia. Some of his favorite places he traveled to included Hawaii, Korea, Thailand, Japan, Germany, Italy, and Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. But, he was always happy to travel back to his favorite place in the whole world: home. He then worked as a welder for Ryerson Steel and then Boeing for 15 years until he retired in 1993.

In his retirement, he enjoyed family reunions, working in his garden and playing horseshoes and croquet.

He was a wonderful husband, father, papa and friend to all. He is pre-deceased in death by his beautiful wife of more than 50 years, Rae Marie Anderson. He is survived by many loving family members, including his mother, Edith Smith Anderson; his children, Bill, Matt, Cynthia, Frank and Kate; and many grandchildren, including Derek, Raquan, Aaron, Max, Ben, Nick, Sam, Molly, Amy, Franki Lynn, Brian, Michael, Tyler, Shelby, Madeline and Jack; as well as many great-grandchildren, Nathan, Cadence, Zachary, Kayce, Rae, Stella, Mia, Avi, Liam, Nona, Aria and Evangelie.

Thomas F. Wade, Sr.

Thomas F. Wade, Sr., 93, Silver Lake, Kansas, was born and passed away Sunday, April 12, 2020.

He was born June 13, 1926, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wade. He graduated from Silver Lake High School. He was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving in Okinawa, Japan, and was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Tom was a former mayor of Silver Lake and also served his community by volunteering for the local fire department for many years.

He was employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in Topeka, Kansas, retiring after over 35 years of service. Tom’s favorite pastimes included camping and fishing with friends; vacationing in places like Michigan, Las Vegas, Colorado, and California; and spending time in his yard with his wife, Katie, tending flowers and mowing.

On Sept. 20, 1947, he married Katherine Hoener. She preceded him in death in 2011. He was also preceded in death by his son, Fred and daughter-in-law, Judy Wade.

Survivors include a son, Tom Wade Jr.; four grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Private services with military honors were held at Silver Lake Cemetery.

The $2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance 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 clarkk@potawatomi.org.