HOWNIKAN

Dé'mengises | June 2021

Top photo: A bullfrog rests at a pond near CPN administration.

A LOOK INSIDE

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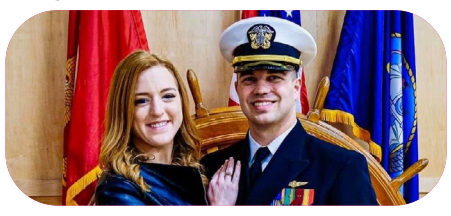

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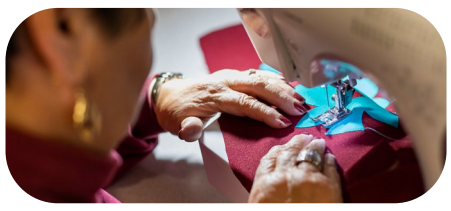

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Walking on

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Largest Tribally-owned national bank acquires The First State Bank

First National Bank & Trust, owned by Citizen Potawatomi Nation, announced it entered into a definitive agreement to acquire MidWest Community Financial Corp. and its wholly-owned subsidiary, The First State Bank. The acquisition represents Oklahoma's largest mergers and acquisitions transaction in banking since 2016.

CPN's First National Bank & Trust Co.'s acquisition of The First State Bank expands the Nation's banking service across central Oklahoma.

"The joining of these two historic banking institutions demonstrates that we live in a land of opportunity," said Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett. "One bank was born in a tiny farming community in western Oklahoma, and the other began in a double-wide trailer on a gravel parking lot. Both share a common trait accounting for their very uncommon success: dedication to providing the best customer service. Opportunity is the doorway to success for a bank and its customers, no matter how small the beginnings."

Bryan Cain, President and CEO of FNB, said the like-minded cultures and missions of the two locally-owned institutions create an ideal alliance.

"FNB specializes in consumer services, and FSB has a skillful team of commercial experts for every sized business," Cain said. "These combined talents will mean greater one-stop financial resources for all Oklahoma communities that we serve. We look forward to expanding FNB's footprint westward and throughout the metro area."

FNB will add FSB's Oklahoma City, Midwest City and Canute branches to its current roster of locations in Shawnee, Lawton, Holdenville, Mangum and Granite, along with its loan production office in Edmond. The combined bank will have assets in excess of $700 million and rank as one of the largest independent community banks in central Oklahoma.

FSB employees, including Chairman and CEO David Durrett and President and CFO Chris Turner, will join the FNB family.

"We have gotten to know the FNB leadership team, and they share a strikingly similar philosophy on banking and serving customers, which will help with a seamless transition," Durrett said.

"This partnership is a win-win for everyone, including shareholders, customers, employees and communities served by both organizations," Turner said.

No budgeted Tribal operating funds were used for the acquisition.

The acquisition is subject to regulatory and shareholder approval and is expected to close in the third quarter of 2021. D.A. Davidson & Co. served as financial adviser and McAfee & Taft as legal adviser to MCFC and FSB. Paul Foster Law Offices P.C. served as legal adviser to FNB.

About First National Bank & Trust

First National Bank & Trust is based in Shawnee, Oklahoma, with branches in Lawton, Holdenville, Granite and Mangum, with a loan production office in Edmond, Oklahoma. Chartered as First Oklahoma Bank in June 1983, it was purchased by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in February 1989 and changed its name to First National Bank & Trust. Located at 130 East MacArthur in Shawnee, Oklahoma, its assets exceed $305 million.

About The First State Bank

The First State Bank was founded in 1902 in Canute, Oklahoma, and is recognized as Oklahoma's oldest continuously operating state-chartered bank by the state banking commission. Specializing in small and middle-market lending, it has total assets of over $408 million and is located at 3030 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City, with branches in Midwest City and Canute, Oklahoma.

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JUNE 23-29

Often overlooked uses for one of the most common "weeds"

Bright yellow dandelions popping up in lawns and fields across North America signifies warmer weather's arrival. While some see these plants as a nuisance, they are from the same family as sunflowers and offer many potential benefits. Every part of the plant has a use, whether it is making tea from the roots, crafting salads from its greens or making syrup and garnishes out of the flowers.

"'Weeds' are only 'weeds' because they're plants that are in the wrong place," said Susannah Howard, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member and graduate student at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. "There's a lot to be said for plants that come up in places we don't necessarily want them, but they're definitely still usable."

Research indicates not all dandelion varieties are native to every part of North America, but the plants now thrive across the continent. While some employ eradication measures, for many centuries, people sought them out as a source of food and medicine. Today, more are becoming aware of their advantages again.

"As we move into this world of food sovereignty and revitalizing cultural knowledge … I think there's a realization that we have to support plants that support us," she said.

Potawatomi believe plants and animals have more knowledge than humans, as they are older and wiser. They also provide specific benefits and play a role in the earth's ecological balance, therefore require respect. Dandelions are no exception.

"It's inspiring how you can learn a lot from plants that are able to survive crazy environments," Howard said.

Thinking outside-the-box for plants that some attempt to eradicate could provide key solutions to food accessibility.

History and benefits

According to the Chef Sean Sherman, "Although it's unclear if dandelion, purslane, and plantain are indigenous, there is some evidence that they may have reached North America in the pre-Columbian era, suggesting that these plants were already being eaten by Native Americans before Europeans arrived."

Sherman is an Oglala Lakota Nation citizen, a chef and cookbook author based in Minnesota. He seeks to utilize traditional, native ingredients in modern recipes and encourages Native Americans and others to return to the land through his work.

The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen noted that preparing dandelion is as easy as mixing it with edible plants that grow in most yards to create a salad that is "delicious and loaded with vitamins. Instead of trying to eradicate these plants in our lawn, we can just eat them up!"

According to *Medical News Today*, the powerful plant can provide antioxidants like beta-carotene, lower cholesterol, regulate blood sugar, reduce inflammation, lower blood pressure, boost immunity, help with digestion and protect the skin.

Dandelions and other "unwanted" vegetation may hold key insight into providing access to nutrients, sustenance and environmental management, Howard said.

"We need the plants that are resilient, and we need the people who are resilient as well," she said. "The plants that grow through the cracks on a sidewalk and the edges of fields that are in fallow, things like that … are useful. They can be edible, but they are also useful for retaining any sort of water and nutrients for other plants and animals."

Foraging

Howard stressed the importance of employing safety when harvesting, as there are many risks involved with foraging.

"There is a serious concern about inadvertently consuming environmental toxins while foraging, coming from any number of sources, like land maintenance run-off including chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, and salt from road maintenance," she said.

Knowing the area firsthand, especially acreages owned personally, mitigates some, but not all, pollution-related concerns.

"If you don't have land or don't have any foraging prospects on your land and want to forage elsewhere, make sure you have permission from the landowner and consider any risks associated with eating food from their land," she said.

Howard said unwise foraging decisions can have negative consequences, and understanding what the area's current and historical uses are could prevent consuming unwanted chemicals.

"It's so hard to find a place that doesn't have any anthropogenic impact related to it," she said. "I don't think it's impossible to find good, safe foraging opportunities, but I think taking prior precautions, like not eating stuff found near roads and washing your greens before eating them are some simple ways to reduce the risk of getting sick."

For those new to foraging, Howard encourages reaching out to those with more experience, whether in-person or virtually.

"Find people who are good at it in your area to mentor you, teaching you which plants are safe to eat, and spend at least a year just getting to know your local environment," Howard said. "Look to the Indigenous people around you who have these foraging relationships with the land. People like Linda Black Elk and Caleb Musgrave are great to follow on social media."

Uses

To create a cleansing tea, harvest dandelion roots, then cut them into small pieces. Roast at a low heat in a cast iron skillet, stirring occasionally to prevent burning. Once they begin to darken slightly and emit a rich smell, remove from the heat. While optional, this step brings out the deep, earthy flavors. Then use one teaspoon per 8 ounces of boiling water, and steep for eight to 10 minutes. Feel free to mix with other herbs, seasonings, sweeteners and flavors.

Dandelion greens, or leaves, have a mild taste when picked before its flowers bloom.

"They're not as bitter," Howard explained.

After washing, the leaves can add depth of flavor to salads. Sautéing them with oil, aromatics, vinegar and bacon can results in a dish that is similar to collard greens, a Southern U.S. staple.

The yellow buds offer beautiful garnishes, or with a little time and effort, can transform into syrup, jelly and more.

Howard found a recipe for dandelion wine during a project researching the role of women in early 20th century Vermont foodways. It was in her non-Potawatomi great-great-grandmother's collection, which has passed down for generations. Although she has not had the opportunity to create it, the experience inspired her to dig deeper into the food culture of her Potawatomi ancestors. She encourages others to reach out to friends and kin to discover new recipes as well.

"A lot of people have a story in their background of lean times and trying to survive off the land and difficult conditions," she said. "There is a potential for people to fall back on that resilience and that creativity."

As a student conducting research at SUNY-ESF, Howard welcomes others who are interested in Potawatomi-related plants to connect by email at susannah.j.howard@gmail.com.

CPN updates dilapidated sign at Tecumseh park

The Charles Martin Park in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, near Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal headquarters, provides a fun, safe space for families to play. The city built it in the mid-1970s as part of a restoration project to improve and update the surrounding neighborhood. Construction began as part of the second large improvement project during CPN tribal member Charles Martin's time as Tecumseh city manager.

"I'm proud of the park, but when I think about it, I think about the rehabs that we did on the homes and really helped those people out," he said. "And this was almost in the center of Tecumseh where we had a dilapidated section that needed attention. And so the housing project was one that drove this whole project."

Former Tecumseh Mayor Newt Copeland named the park after the Burnett family descendant to honor his contribution to the city and the neighborhood.

The Tribe replaced the dilapidated wooden sign with Martin's name on it and unveiled a new, large metal one in April. His oldest daughter, Kim Nootbaar, and CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps noticed the old sign's degradation and wanted to improve it.

"I was proud to be here and am proud to be here, and I was proud of my dad for leading the city the way he did. And I thought it was very sad to watch it just fall into disrepair, and nobody was doing anything about it. And that's why it was important because people need to remember," Nootbaar said

Sponsored by CPN, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Tribal member Charles Martin (center) and Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett stand next to the updated sign at Charles Martin Park as a tribute to Martin's service.

Martin worked hard to improve the quality of life for Tribal members and Tecumseh citizens throughout his 15 years as city manager.

"While Charles was at Tecumseh, our Tribe had just begun to be a major influence in the community. In fact, we were still named the Citizen Potawatomi Tribe of Oklahoma. The City of Tecumseh, too, had begun making important strides under Charles' leadership. I am honored that one of our own Citizen Potawatomi members played a key role in the modern history of Tecumseh," Capps said in a 2018 *Hownikan* column.

In the family

The Martin family's house was adjacent to the park. Nootbaar and her sister Patti Lamle helped maintain it and the other municipal park in town, painting the tennis courts and repairing the nets. While developing the layout, Martin took his daughters to other outdoor public spaces in the surrounding cities for inspiration. They played on the equipment and evaluated the possibilities. The choices later influenced the construction of the park, and Nootbaar remembers those trips fondly.

"It was fun because we got to see so much and do so much," she said.

Martin's goal was to "give kids a place to run and romp, and throw the ball and play basketball. And to get exercise. (It's) wonderful to walk and get exercise. And so I think that's important, where they can get out of the house and do something in the park."

The family's connection to the area goes back generations. Both of Martin's grandparents on both sides resided near Tecumseh. His grandmother, Birdie Josephine, walked from Kansas to present-day Oklahoma as a child when her parents took Tribal allotments in what is now Pottawatomie County.

While Martin currently lives in Altus, Oklahoma, he and his daughters still feel their ancestors' presence in the city and admire their father's service.

"He poured his heart into everything he did, but he loved this town," Lamle said. "So whatever he could do to better that and the families in this community, that's what he wanted to do. He's a good one."

Thanks to the new sign, Martin's mark on the area will remain sturdy and visible for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren for years to come.

"It's a great honor that the Potawatomi were willing to … build a new sign," Martin said.

The Tribe plans to maintain the new structure for the foreseeable future.

VOTE
ALAN MELOT
FOR DISTRICT 1

Paid for by Alan Melot

Bozho jayek

(hello everyone) and hello District 1.

By now, you've read my interviews and hopefully visited my website or checked me out on Facebook. Many of you have emailed, messaged, liked and commented. One or two of you have even laughed at my jokes. *IGWIEN* (heartfelt thanks)

I am asking for your vote to be your legislator. I am a protector, advocate, helper and leader by nature. The CPN Education Department helped me achieve my goal of being a Master's Level Psychologist. I spend my days helping others find peace and healing, meaning and direction. I will bring these qualities, education and experience with me as your legislator.

Vote Melot for District 1!

Alan Melot

Keeping kids safe from abuse online

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

School closings and virtual learning have changed the way our children view the digital world. Increased online presence that comes with new learning norms may put our children at a greater risk of online predators. It's vital that parents, caregivers and educators know how to recognize the signs of abuse online and how to prevent it.

As parents, we generally do everything in our power to protect our children from harm. But what are parents and caregivers doing to protect children from bullies, predators and inappropriate content online? The internet is a large part of our everyday life as well as our children's. Using apps and websites where children interact, predators may pose as a child to gain personal information, such as an address, phone number or school location, or even encourage your child to come and meet them. The National Children's Advocacy Center found that one in five children experience sexual solicitation while on the internet.

If you have not already, it is time to introduce cyber safety to your children. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, parents should discuss red flags that indicate online grooming, or the process in which perpetrators judge how far they can push boundaries and exploit someone's trust. These red flags include:

- Asking to keep the relationship secret
- Sending digital currency called piece balloons or diamonds
- Asking the child to only contact them on certain apps
- Requesting photos from the child
- Sending links to inappropriate images or videos
- Asking about sexual background (for example, if they have been kissed)
- Making suggestive or sexual comments
- Making conditions on their relationship

Not all children have access to a safe home environment where a parent or caregiver is concerned for their safety. The Resource Center on Domestic Violence states, "Nearly 10 million children are exposed to domestic violence each year." These young victims of abusive domestic situations may not be able to inform a safe adult what is happening to them, especially with the pandemic. Many public schools are relying on virtual learning for their students, and it is important educators and other adults learn to virtually spot signs of abuse. Learning these red flags of domestic violence and sexual assault can provide necessary assistance to those victims. These red flags can include:

- Unexplained absences
- Sudden changes in behavior
- Changes in school performance
- Difficulty walking or sitting comfortably
- Withdrawn personality
- Low self-esteem
- Often feeling ill
- Frequent drowsiness

Education is key when it comes to preventing abuse, whether from online predators or even those at home. Parents and caregivers — and even caring adults, like educators, family members or neighbors — should always take a child seriously when they share information about abuse from someone else.

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

Bodéwadmimwen: Potawatomi language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

We are keeping really busy in the language department. We are continuing our work on a series of children's books while teaching Monday-Thursday in the Child Development Center's two facilities.

We have been shooting a number of videos to link to on our online dictionary at potawatomidictionary.com. It was designed in-house by our IT department and has a lot of cool features. More than 7,000 of the 9,600 words have at least one audio file. We eventually should have two example sentences, baseline audio file, historical audio clips of different speakers saying the words, related words, tags or categories, and even a video component.

We have been focusing a lot of energy creating video components for many of the words. For example, there are four main types of verbs as well as several variations. We are making videos for each type that will show how to conjugate those various verbs. That way, a person won't just learn the word but will be able to use the word. We also have done some videos that show things like the process of making maple syrup and how we traditionally use certain plants with the help of Kaya DeerInWater, our community garden manager. We also plan to add some short conversations.

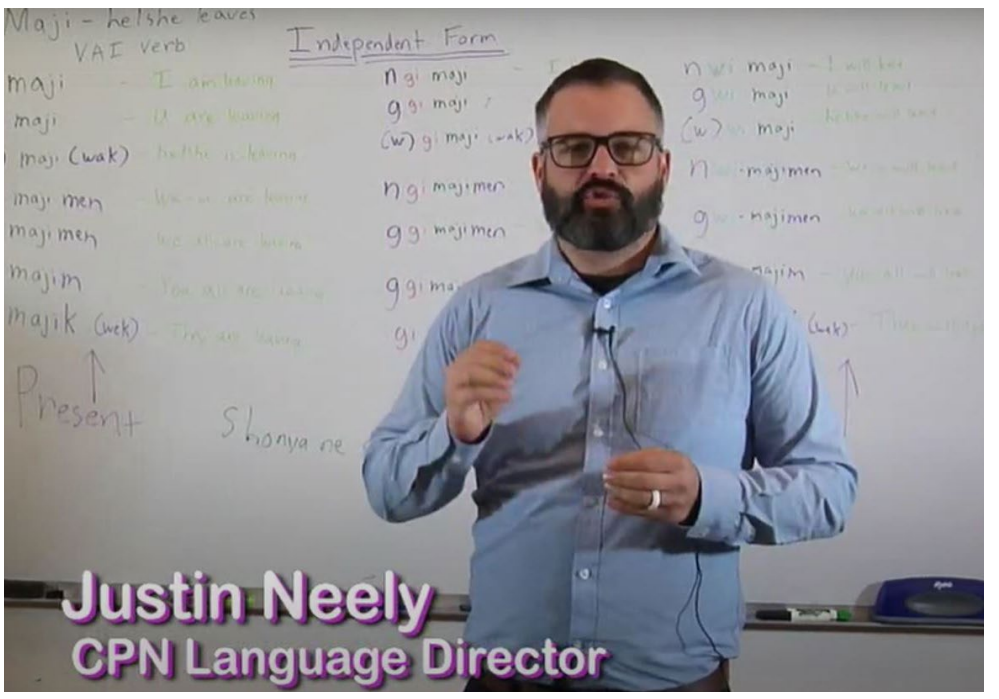
The "Related Words" feature allows us to connect all kinds of words together. So, lets say you look for "cook." You will find "he/she is a good cook," "cook something" in all its forms, the word for "chef" and other words that conjugate in a similar manner.

If you go to the "Tags" section, you can click on different topics like astronomy, clothing, common words, feelings, birds, weather and traditional activities. Once you click on the tag, you will see words associated with this category, such as if you hit "birds" you will see all the birds listed in the dictionary.

The dictionary allows you to search English to Potawatomi or Potawatomi to English. It also allows you from the home page to print a copy either way.

We also are constantly working on new content for our two YouTube channels, which can be found if you search for "Justin Neely" and "Potawatomi language." One is more geared toward kids, and one is geared more toward adults. Each channel has over 150 videos. Just recently, we finished up a Woody Woodpecker cartoon in the public domain. We are planning to start shooting our *Mtek Wigwam* original children's puppet show in the near future.

We are currently working with IT to revamp our Moodle course, one of our online language platforms. It was originally designed over six years ago as a part of an Administration for Native Americans grant. We have had thousands of students take the course. We are also using it to offer the language in high schools in Oklahoma. We currently offer the language in Wanette, Shawnee, Tecumseh and Maud, and we will be adding Seminole High School in the fall. We are certified to offer the course anywhere in Oklahoma, and it will count toward the world language credit required for graduation. So this summer, we will be busy revamping and updating the online Moodle course on a new learning management system platform. In the meantime, we will still have the two courses at memrise.com — *A Day in the Life* and *Conversational Potawatomi*.



We look forward to offering on-site classes again, which will also be streamed live late this summer. In the meantime, we also occasionally will do classes on Facebook in the *Bodwéwadmimwen* group page at cpn.news/langfb.

If we can help you out in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us.

GET THE HOWNIKAN VIA EMAIL!

If you would like your newspaper via email, please send your name and address to hownikan@potawatomi.org and let us know.

Navy pilot trainee lives life to the fullest

Tyler Vinson joined the military partially on a dare. As a senior in high school in Jackson, California, he and his friends were walking across campus to their next class when they saw a Navy recruiter.

"I kind of looked at the paper and then started to walk (away), and my buddy said, 'Man, you won't sign up.' And I was like, 'Oh? Bet.' So I went and signed the paper, and then they started talking to me, and it just kind of happened," he said.

His non-Potawatomi grandfather also served in the Navy as a machinist mate and chaplain, and Vinson felt pride in continuing the tradition. The Tarter family descendant knew college remained in the future for him, if he decided to attend, and the military seemed like a viable option for building a skill set, traveling and gaining real-world experience.

"I think, honestly, when I was 18 and stuff like that, at that point in my life, I didn't want to go to college. If I would have gone to college, I don't even know if I would have made it through. I don't know if I would have been mature enough to do what I was supposed to do," he said.

In his late 20s, Vinson earned his Bachelor of Science in workforce education and development from Southern Illinois University. He wanted to become an officer after spending more than ten years on active duty, and the path fit his future.

"I figured as somebody coming from the enlisted side to the officer side, I would be able to relate to the sailors that work under me and kind of help them understand why we're doing what we're doing and make them actually want to do it. Whereas if somebody just tells you, 'Do this because I said,' it's less motivating," Vinson said.

Naval officer Tyler Vinson and his wife, Allyson, enjoy serving others through the military and medical fields. (Photo provided)

Globetrotting

During the 10 years he spent on active duty, Vinson traveled around the world — Bahrain, Turkey, Qatar, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia and more. He and other members enjoyed observing each place's unique culture and taking part in different highlights of the local flavor. They bought hand-tailored suits in the Middle East at a deep discount, and Vinson got a traditional tattoo while in Japan.

He built up more than 2,000 hours as part of a flight crew on two types of anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft. His position required training on oceanography, Doppler theory, sonar and more, primarily to track submarines.

"It's fun being up in the air," Vinson said. "The crew mentality's a lot of fun stuff too, where you hang out. You become real close with the people on your crew ... because you're doing eight, 10 hours in a plane with them, just kind of hanging out and talking while you're working, kind of thing."

To advance his career, Vinson is preparing for flight school to become a Navy pilot. Years of training lie ahead of him, but his attitude remains relentlessly positive.

"I want to go back and fly the planes that I was already flying on when I was on the enlisted side … but it's not guaranteed. I could end up flying helicopters or whatever else, whatever they need. But I'm excited just to fly. I think it'll be fun," he said.

Enlightening others

Vinson considers himself an extrovert, always willing to meet new people or help someone talk through a problem. In the last few years, he discovered he enjoys teaching as well. That personality trait presents itself as an advantage, especially when working with children.

The Navy's Drug Education for Youth program encourages personnel to volunteer as mentors for youths between 9 and 18 about the dangers of drug use, bullying, alcohol and more. Military members sign their children up to participate in DEFY, and Vinson volunteered with the program while on active duty in the 2010s.

"And then one week, we'd do a summer camp where we'd go to a camp, and we'd teach them, and we'd play games, and we'd do all that kind of stuff," Vinson said.

"It was kind of cool for me to be able to teach kids about drugs and safety and staying away from them and how they can ruin life and stuff like that."

As he moved up in rank, he also began showing new members the basics of the planes' systems.

"If it's something that's important to you or something that you find interesting or something that you like, then teaching is going to be fun. Because when you find that student that they end up really liking it too, and it makes it click for them. … It's just kind of like a cool feeling that you got them to that point," Vinson said.

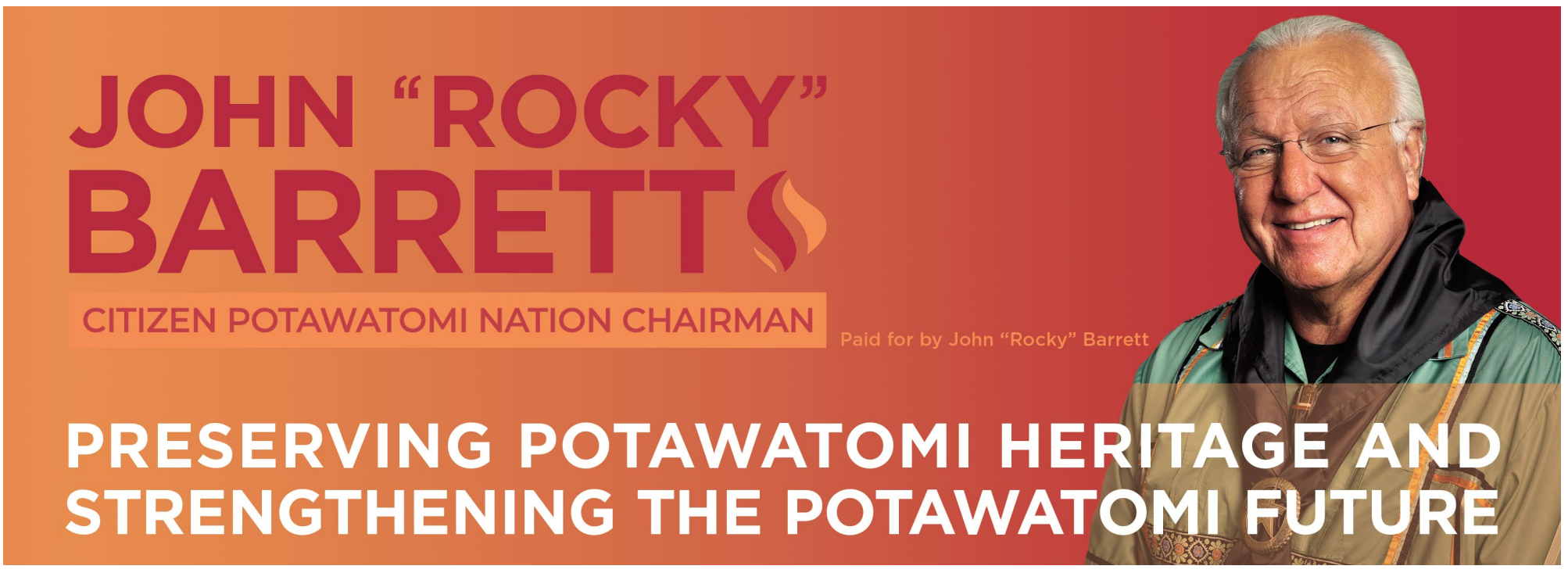
He did not anticipate developing many of the skills he now teaches and credits the Navy with opening him up to new possibilities.

"The military is a really good option for anything that you want to do," he said.

Vinson attends school and training to become a Naval pilot. (Photo provided)

Vinson will begin flight school later this year, and encourages those interested in military service to research options beforehand.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center honors Tribal members who served and places their pictures on the Veterans Wall of Honor. If you are a veteran or active duty military and would like your place on the wall, provide your information at info@potawatomiheritage.org.



Potawatomi tribal history exhibit dedicated at Burnett's Mound

By Tim Hrenchir,
Topeka Capital-Journal

This article was originally published in the Topeka Capital-Journal on April 30, 2021. The story was written by Tribal member Tim Hrenchir.

Skyline Park highlights Potawatomi history and Chief Abram Burnett.

Potawatomi tribal members were forced at gunpoint in 1838 to leave their homes in Indiana and walk a 660-mile route known as the Trail of Death, Jon Boursaw said Thursday.

They then lived in what is now Linn County in east-central Kansas, where 600 members died of cholera and were buried in unmarked graves before the Potawatomi were relocated in the late 1840s to the Topeka area, Boursaw said.

A native Topekan and a Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal legislator, Boursaw was among those who spoke at a ceremony in southwest Topeka to dedicate an exhibit focusing on Potawatomi tribal history.

He stressed that the Potawatomi have been here since before Topeka became a city in 1854 and Kansas became a state in 1861.

Burnett's Mound is named after Abram Burnett, a Potawatomi Chief, who farmed and traded horses and oxen on this property. Contrary to popular belief, he is not buried on this property. Burnett was born November 1812 near Muncie, Indiana, the son of Potawatomi Chief Shau-Uque-Be and Cone-Zo-Quah and named Nan-Wesh-Mah. He attended Issac Mcoy's Baptist missionary school for Indian children in Fort Wayne, Indiana. After his father was killed, he was adopted by his mother's cousin, Abraham Burnett, and took his name.

Boursaw spearheaded efforts to create that exhibit, which features three interpretive signs. It stands at the entrance to Skyline Park at Burnett's Mound, the site of Topeka's highest point.

The signs include information about Burnett's Mound's namesake, Chief Abram Burnett, who owned the land where Skyline Park is located and lived near the mound until he died at age 57 in 1870.

"I'm very proud of this exhibit because it not only tells the Burnett story but it tells how we got here, where we were before we got here," Boursaw said. "It talks about four individuals who were key members of the Tribe while we were here."

About 70 people attended Thursday's gathering at the exhibit, which can be reached by going to S.W. 35th and Gage Boulevard, then traveling about five blocks west and one block north.

Burnett's first wife, Dah-Moosh-Ke-Kaw. They were married by Father Petit in 1838 just prior to the tribe's removal to Kansas. She died in 1842.

Skies were mostly clear and temperatures in the upper 70s as those present heard from speakers who included Boursaw, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, Shawnee County Commissioner Kevin Cook, county parks and recreation director Tim Laurent and Allyson Shove, vice president of marketing for Azura Credit Union, which has teamed up with the county on efforts to improve Skyline Park.

The Potawatomi history exhibit is "just one more compelling reason to visit Skyline Park," Laurent said.

As young man, Burnett was a protégé of Rev. McCoy, who later was involved in the establishment of Indian reservations in Kansas, including the Potawatomi. He served as one of McCoy's principal interpreters during the 1820s and later was an important mediator for the Potawatomi tribe. As the son of a Potawatomi Chief, Burnett was considered a hereditary chief among the Potawatomi. As an interpreter, he signed the Treaty of 1837, calling for the relocation of the Potawatomi. While living among the Wabash Potawatomi, Burnett became close friends with Father Petit, the Catholic missionary in the area.

"There's a lot to be told here, and I encourage you to read the panels," Boursaw said.

Shawnee County Commissioners Aaron Mays and Bill Riphahn and Topeka City Manager Brent Trout were also among those present.

Thursday's ceremony came more than a year after the exhibit was created in March 2020 through a partnership between Shawnee County Parks and Recreation and the Oklahoma-based Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Dedication ceremonies were postponed until this month because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learn more about Citizen Potawatomi Nation history and culture by visiting the CPN Cultural Heritage Center in person or online at potawatomiheritage.com and Facebook @CPNCulturalHeritage.

EXPERIENCE AND SUCCESS

VOTE FOR
JOHN "ROCKY" BARRETT
CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION CHAIRMAN

Paid for by John "Rocky" Barrett

The Tonight Show host Jimmy Fallon shines a light on Nashville musician

After a disappointing 2020, Tribal member Thad Cockrell anticipated the end of his music career. The pandemic halted touring, closed venues, forced reductions in recording studio staff and more. At his home in Nashville in early January 2021, he wrote down his New Year's resolutions. High on the list: find a new job.

The next day, he received a phone call from his manager with a request to be the musical guest on *The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon*.

"I've been able to make music professionally for my entire adult life, which is an incredible gift. And so my thought was like, 'Well, receive all that as a gift, and maybe I've done my part here.' And I was about to move forward, but little did I know that there was this incredible person that heard my song," Cockrell said.

Swingin' caught Fallon's attention one day while he browsed through a hardware store in New York City. Its message of perseverance connected with him. Fallon used an app to identify the song, and soon after, Cockrell got the call from the show.

"Some people call it serendipity. I would blame it on God," Cockrell said.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation CARES Act program also helped the Melot family descendant continue his career throughout 2020.

"Getting financial assistance last year was incredibly helpful," he said. "It helped me stay afloat. It actually helped me make new music, which is really amazing."

"An incredible experience"

After receiving his manager's call, NBC booked him as the musical guest three weeks later, on January 26. The house band for *The Tonight Show*, The Roots, learned Cockrell's song *Swingin'* in anticipation. He called playing with them an "incredible experience."

"I'm a massive fan of The Roots. So hearing from the producer, 'Hey, they've been working on the song this week,' I'm like, 'What is going on? Like, can you say that again? Because I don't think I heard you correctly.' And they just crushed it," Cockrell said.

After appearing on The Tonight Show, Tribal member Thad Cockrell continues to make a career in music despite hardships throughout the pandemic. (Photo provided)

Due to coronavirus restrictions, The Roots and Cockrell connected using a live stream. As they finished, Cockrell shouted, "We did it, Jimmy!"

"What makes him so, so fantastic is when I met him, he was like, 'Man, thank you so much for your music.' And, 'My wife and I, we love your music and this song so much, and the story is helping so many people out.' And what I love about that is that there wasn't an 'I.' He didn't say, 'I like your music.' It was him and his wife. It was like a team," Cockrell said.

As coronavirus cases decline, the show plans to invite him on again for an in-studio performance.

"It's my anthem"

The lyrics of *Swingin'* speak about perseverance, dedication and resisting the urge to give up. Cockrell recognizes the irony of the opportunity to perform on national late-night TV just as he prepared to move on from his music career after two decades and seven studio albums.

Continued on next page

Building bridges, connections through *Bodéwadmimwen*

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Police Department Sgt. Chris Berry makes his way to the Cultural Heritage Center Friday afternoons before his shift for a one-on-one Potawatomi language class with instructor Robert Collins. Berry sees it as an opportunity to challenge his mind and understand more about the Nation and people he serves.

"I am the type of person when I get involved with a community, I want to be involved in everything," Berry said. "I saw things with Potawatomi writing and words on it, and I thought, 'I need to learn what that is.'"

Before accepting his current position, Berry worked as a security guard at the CPN East Clinic where he learned about an in-person class happening three years ago. Wanting to be polite as a non-Tribal member, he asked CPN language aid Randy Schlachtun about attending and began his Potawatomi language journey.

"I just really enjoyed it, and I just picked it up," Berry said. "It has really came naturally to me, and I was able to retain it. I've been trying ever since to just keep learning."

The coronavirus pandemic has halted in-person Potawatomi language courses, but Berry did not want to stop his momentum. CPN language aid Robert Collins stepped up to provide weekly one-on-one sessions.

"It gives me a break from police work," Berry said. "I'm not married and live alone, so I just wanted something productive."

Collins sees the language lessons with Berry and others across the country as an opportunity to hone his skills while helping others grasp *Bodéwadmimwen*.

"That's our relationship — the whole *migwetch* (thanks) right there," Collins explained. "You're giving and receiving, giving and receiving.

"It's great to see how Potawatomi and non-Potawatomi take this."

Passion

Sgt. Berry began his police career at the age of 21, serving municipalities across Oklahoma before beginning his tenure at CPN.

"One thing I do when I'm out on patrol is I drive and think about 'How I should say this word?'" Berry explained. "I'll try to make sentences on my own, then I come in and ask Robert, 'Is this right?'"

He upholds respect and admiration for others in everything he does, whether that includes learning a second language or serving as a CPN police officer.

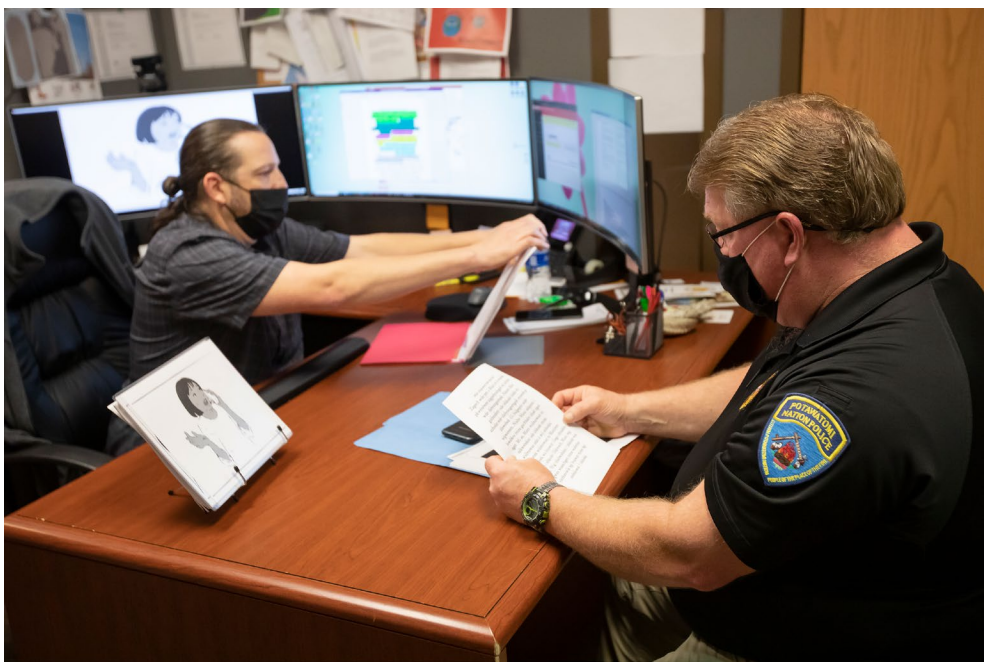
"I don't want to make anybody upset by my saying something wrong. I want to learn how to say it right, and I wouldn't want someone thinking I was insulting them," Berry said.

Listening and writing down new words, phrases and conjugations helps with retention, and using the language with his two Chihuahuas and while on the clock cements the lessons into long-term memory.

"I will say things to the guys at the PD sometimes, and I'll stop and tell them what I said and translate it," Berry said. "I think that's really neat."

Resources

Wanting to improve students' success, Collins and other CPN language staff began incorporating total physical response — a method of teaching oral proficiency — into their lessons with learners of all ages. He also researches prior CPN Language Department projects to keep classes fresh and new for those he teaches one-on-one.



Partnering with CPN language aid Robert Collins (left) allows CPN Police Department Sgt. Chris Berry greater language-learning opportunities.

Collins encourages Berry and others to not rely on traditional Western methods for mastering Potawatomi.

"Don't just use a dictionary to try and translate. You're trying to learn versus just acquiring it. You didn't do that when you were 3 and 4 years old trying to learn English. You just learned English," he said.

Collins highlighted the Potawatomi word *byékkendan* (come to know it) as a good foundational rule for becoming proficient in *Bodéwadmimwen*. He said it stands as an example of the dedication and patience required to be successful.

"Learn something every day. … Our language was given to our people here, on this continent, Turtle Island. That's what gives (Potawatomi) its spirituality and its strength. … It all starts with one word," Collins said.

While he does not want to deter others from success with added pressure, he said each Tribal member has an important role in ensuring the Potawatomi language lasts for generations to come.

"When it gets difficult, think about our ancestors and the suffering they went through when they had (the language) ripped from them," he said.

"We have around seven first-language speakers. It's past the time to have more second-language speakers."

Numerous options exist to learn *Bodéwadmimwen*, including one-on-one virtual or in-person lessons with instructors like Collins, as well as online courses, smartphone apps, videos and more. Find information on available resources at potawatomiheritage.com/language and join a virtual group of learners on Facebook at cpn.news/langfb.

Key to improving Native men's mental health lies in community, culture

June is Men's Health Month. Mental health often goes undiscussed but remains an essential part of holistic care and quality of life. While Native Americans hold a higher rate of heart disease and various kinds of cancer than non-Hispanic whites, suicide and depression rates are higher, too, particularly among young men.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide rates for Indigenous men increased 71 percent between 1999 and 2017. Citizen Potawatomi Nation Behavioral Health Counselor Ray Tainpeah believes community and counseling lie as the keys to success when dealing with trauma.

"Oftentimes, particularly in the Native American community, with the suicide prevalence being high, there's issues that have to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder. And so with all the pain that comes with that, counseling and therapy can explore those things in a safe way where people are open to be able to talk about those things," he said.

Access to mental health services presents a barrier when attempting to treat mental health disorders; however, CPN Health Services prioritizes it and offers various resources to match individual situations. Men sometimes feel apprehension when beginning counseling but find it helps after giving it a chance.

"During the intake, it's just exploring their life situations and life experiences and getting to know them," Tainpeah said. "And when they feel like they're comfortable with a counselor or a therapist, they're more willing to come back. And as they build rapport with their counselor or their therapist, then they feel a little bit more safe to talk about those sensitive issues."

Togetherness as healing

Many Indigenous ceremonies and cultural activities center around togetherness. CPN tribal member Randy Bazhaw feels restored and rejuvenated physically and mentally after a sweat lodge or drumming with others.

"To be in that sweat praying with one another, singing with one another, really letting your heart out and your pain out is an incredibly vulnerable position to be in, especially in what our society historically has said a man should do and say," he said.

Tainpeah knows the power of group therapy, especially for addictive behaviors, and he often suggests it to his clients. Tainpeah calls the ideas and experiences shared in those groups "collective wisdom."

"Through the process of sharing their life stories, they can relate to each other and can connect to each other and come up with some solutions that'll help them to be a better dad, to be a better husband. … It works to benefit each individual when they are able to share with one another about how they're coping and what they're doing to change in order to improve their quality of life," he said.

Traditions as growth

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recommends providers help their Indigenous clients maintain their cultural connections, especially to prevent and treat substance abuse and mental disorders.

"Through reconnection to American Indian and Alaska Native communities and traditional healing practices, an individual may reclaim the strengths inherent in traditional teachings, practices, and beliefs and begin to walk in balance and harmony," the administration said.

5 POTAWATOMI TRADITIONS TO HELP IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH

1. Pray with traditional medicines
2. Drum/sing songs in *Bodéwadmimwen*
3. Attend a sweat lodge
4. Grow *Nishnabé* foods in a home garden
5. Start/attend a talking circle

Tainpeah also encourages clients to explore their heritage and culture to express their emotions, which often presents a struggle for male clients.

"When they go and reconnect or connect for the first time, there's a sense of belonging, a sense of pride, and especially when they begin to participate, whether it's the ceremonial grounds of the Eastern tribes or getting involved in a drum group or beginning the early stages of dancing in the powwow circles," he said.

Bazhaw considers himself an outgoing person. He missed connecting with others during the pandemic, particularly opportunities to engage with and learn about CPN traditions in person with other Tribal members. Bazhaw turned to some traditional Potawatomi ways to cleanse his space as well as connect with *segmekwé* (Mother Earth) and his identity as an Indigenous person. He moved to Oklahoma at the beginning of 2020 to be closer to the Tribe, and the coronavirus kept everyone at a distance.

"Thankfully, I was just like, 'Oh, well, why don't I just bring out some of my medicines, like sage and tobacco, and just have a little smudge right there in my apartment?'" he said. "And having that connection and knowing that whenever I burned the sage and prayed with the tobacco, I'm connecting with these traditions that can still bring me and re-center me to the fact that I know I'm Potawatomi, and this is a part of me."

Despite increased suicide rates and prevalence of anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions among Native American men, Tainpeah sees improvement for the future as society accepts fathers, sons, uncles and others openly discussing their problems and emotions.

"I think there's been a lot of exposure for men to see, both in the media and in the tribal agencies (and) services, that allows them to think differently about their well-being — not just your physical well-being, but with mental health well-being. And hopefully, it allows them to be more willing to get help when they need it," he said.

For more information about Citizen Potawatomi Nation Behavioral Health, visit cpn.news/CPNBH or call 405-214-5101. Find the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255 or suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Cockrell continued...

His most recent, *If In Case You Feel The Same*, features *Swingin'*. Cockrell and ATO Records released it in June 2020 after postponing it for more than a year.

"It just felt like this album was looking for a fight, you know?" he said. "And when it gets one, it's like, 'Well, this is what it's meant to do.' And it came out in the middle of the lockdown, and I couldn't really tour. ... The chances of it of reaching the people that it could reach is narrowed greatly."

Fallon felt the alternative rock song applied to the hard times throughout the pandemic as well. Before Cockrell's appearance, he talked about discovering it with the audience and played it. He said, "It's my anthem."

Since coronavirus restrictions hit the industry hard, Cockrell noticed discouragement throughout Nashville. He said his story and the opportunity from *The Tonight Show* gave fellow musicians hope.

"It wasn't just a win for me. It was a win for a lot of people, a lot of the artist community. It felt like a win for them, which you couldn't want anything more," Cockrell said.

"IF I'M GONNA GO DOWN, I WANNA GO DOWN SWINGIN' I WANNA GO DOWN HARD WITH ALL OF MY HEART."

SWINGIN' BY THAD COCKRELL

"I think that's the most amazing thing about music is that you send it out and ends up having a huge impact on so many more people than you could ever go around and actually meet."

"Private dreams"

The story and Cockrell's music went viral online. Following his performance on *The Tonight Show*, he received more national press. *The Today Show* featured him in late January as part of its Citi Music Series. *People* magazine, *The Rolling Stone* and *American Songwriter* also interviewed him.

"After I did *The Today Show*, the song went number one in the world on iTunes, and the album was number two. And it's really been life-changing. It's opened up a lot of doors of things that I've been really wanting to do," Cockrell said.

Some of the articles also included statements from Fallon, and he requested something from Cockrell. "He's told all of the interviewers for these articles, 'He doesn't need to write me a whole album, but I at least want a song or a dedication.' So I've been working on a song for him," Cockrell said.

Months after his appearance on *The Tonight Show*, he remains grateful for the opportunity.

"Now I'm like, OK, how can I do for other people what Jimmy did for me? Like, how can I 'Jimmy Fallon' people? What does it look like for me to be very aware of the platform that I have and the influence that I have? And how can I leverage that for other people's good?" he said.

Cockrell believes the future remains bright and anticipates releasing more music soon.

"It's like these private dreams that we have that we think that nobody can hear them," he said. "But I believe that God can."

Find Thad Cockrell online at thisisthad.com. He is on Instagram @thad_cockrell, Facebook @ThadCockrellMusic and Twitter @thadcockrell. Watch his performance on *The Tonight Show* at cpn.news/swingin.

Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936 set path for tribal sovereignty

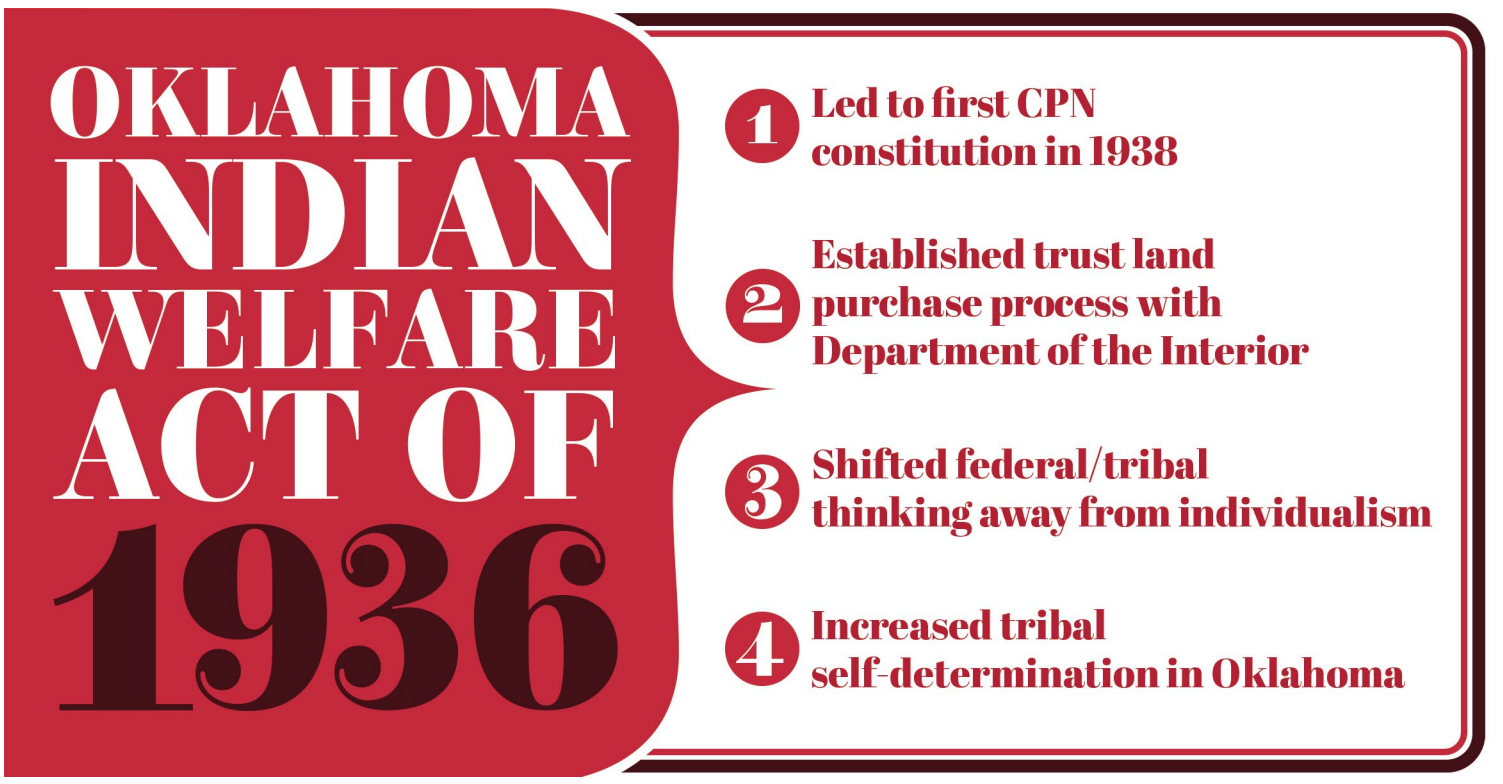
June 26 marks the 85th anniversary of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act's passage. The short and concise law assisted in the development of tribal governments in the state and changed their relationship with the United States.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Commissioner John Collier and Congress developed the law in tandem with the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The law shifted federal policy from a focus on assimilation and allotment to allowing Indigenous nations agency to govern themselves. Citizen Potawatomi National Cultural Heritage Center Director Dr. Kelli Mosteller said its authors felt those relationships required reexamination.

"Everyone recognized that allotment didn't work," she said. "It did not create thriving Native communities that had assimilated easily, and it didn't solve the 'Indian problem' that the federal government was always grappling with."

Amid the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, the federal government sought to relinquish its responsibilities to Native nations across the country. After Franklin D. Roosevelt took office, he appointed Collier as BIA commissioner in 1933. Collier was a proponent of the policy changes and worked with Congress to pass the IRA.

"This legislation allowed for the federal government to have the space to say, 'And we will start to engage with you as a tribal government and tribal community again,' rather than consistently just trying to push that narrative of, 'You're the individual. We only want to deal with you as a U.S. citizen. Your tribal collective, we don't recognize that,'" Dr. Mosteller said.



However, Congress often excluded Oklahoma from the IRA and focused on tribes with large reservations in the Western United States. The Indian Territory land runs in the last two decades of the 19th century allotted much of the tribes' reservations into sections as small as 40 acres. When Oklahoma became a state in 1907, farmers and settlers had founded small communities around existing Native Americans' settlements.

"Of course, if you actually look at what was going on in Oklahoma, there was a lot of variation between the living conditions and the success of allotment or tribes in Oklahoma, but (Congress was) just sort of wholesale including us or excluding us," she said.

Collier then worked with Oklahoma Senator Elmer Thomas to develop the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act for legislation that complimented the area's residents.

Continued on page 13

VOTE KEVIN ROBERTS
Kakingeshi (Grizzly Bear)
DISTRICT 1 LEGISLATOR

COMMUNITY
CONNECTION PROGRESS SPIRIT

ABOUT KEVIN
- Home town - Moberly, Missouri | Current Residence - Normal, Illinois
- Married 37 years to Diana
- Son, Cody (wife Jess and son Beauden) and daughters Emily and Sarah
- 3rd great grandson of Joseph Bertrand Sr.
- Retired, Assistant Vice President, State Farm Insurance Company
- Owner/Operator, Migwetch Mtek Designs (wood decor)

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
I am voting for Rocky Barrett for tribal Chairman and encourage you to do the same.
Kevin Roberts, Candidate Dist. 1

FOLLOW ME
Kevin Roberts Candidate for CPN Dist 1 Legislator
Kevin Roberts Kakingeshi

Paid for by Kevin Roberts

COMMITMENT TO SERVE
DISTRICT 1 AND THE CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

BERTRAND

Christian ministry plans birthday surprise for student

When he turned 21 in early February, Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Paul Ferguson received the birthday present of a lifetime. He is a student at Barnabas Prep, a Christian ministry and collegiate program designed to provide its students with disabilities real-world skills to thrive after graduation.

Executive director Sandy Miller and her administrative assistant Laura Lane often plan birthday surprises for students. Unfortunately, the pandemic presented additional challenges while trying to create a memorable experience.

"We started talking about that (Paul) really likes trains and train depots and that I've seen lots of pictures that his parents have shared with me about him going to various water towers throughout the country. And so I said, 'He told me one day his goal was to go up into the Branson water tower,'" Miller said.

Lane contacted staff at the City of Branson and arranged a tour on his birthday. That morning, they gave him a card.

"It said, 'Since you have been a good student, here's a trip to the visit to the water tower,'" Paul explained in a recent *Hownikan* interview.

When they arrived, city risk manager Bob Smither greeted them and provided an extra surprise. Smither is a trumpeter in his spare time and played a rendition of *Happy Birthday* while standing on

Tribal member Paul Ferguson (center) tours the Branson water tower for his birthday with Bill Smither and Laura Lane. (Photo provided)

a staircase on the side of the tower. Then, they allowed Paul to explore the offices inside the structure itself.

"Not all water towers have offices, office floors, but some do. Most don't. Most just have legs and things to hold water," Paul said.

Miller shared the surprise with Paul and described him as "very knowledgeable" about the towers.

"We were up several stories high where the windows were, and he was able to look out, and he started counting a lot of the Branson water towers that he could see from up there," and showing everyone their locations, she said.

"I saw the pipes and the doors, and I learned that the water flows up and down in them as Bob showed me," Paul said.

Staff also gave him merchandise from the chamber of commerce and chocolate cake to top off the visit.

Paul's love of water towers and train depots, often located near one another, began at 3 years old. He and his parents, Scott and Julie, took a trip to Luling, Texas, to see a water tower painted like a watermelon. Since then, Paul has developed his photography skills and taken pictures of more than 100.

"We often will arrange parts of our trips so we can see certain water towers or whatever," Scott said.

"Paul will get out, take pictures of them," Julie continued. "And we've got quite a few, a collection of pictures."

Julie and Paul are descendants of the Juneau family, and Scott is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. They have traveled to Shawnee and taken pictures of the FireLake water tower that serves Rural Water District 3.

"It's been a pretty interesting journey, this water tower hobby," Julie said.

She and Scott knew about the birthday surprise from Barnabas Prep and the City of Branson; however, they decided to stay home in Sand Springs, Oklahoma, on the big day.

"We probably could have (gone), but I knew it would be so much more special for Paul if he could just enjoy it on his own with his friends, and so we watched from afar," Julie said.

A large part of Barnabas Prep's curriculum helps students develop independence.

"They have a lot of goals, and they want a lot of these experiences that sometimes they just don't ever get that experience," Miller said. "And I know that Paul's parents are super good about letting him have a lot of the experiences that he would like to have."

Paul returns to Barnabas Prep for the third year this fall. The next step in his schooling includes finding a job or internship. He hopes to pursue the possibility of working for the City of Branson at the offices in the water tower.

Either way, the time he spent there celebrating remains unforgettable.

"It was the best birthday surprise," Paul said.

For more information on Barnabas Prep, visit barnabasprep.org.

Tribal election candidates 2021

Chairman candidates

John "Rocky" Barrett - *Keweoge* (He Leads Them Home)

I hope you will consider everything candidates said in their campaigns while giving thought to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's performance over 40 years.

With average annual asset growth exceeding 20 percent for the last 30 years, our Tribe accomplished more than any tribe with such a small territory and local member population. We started with nearly nothing. Our assets now exceed $900 million dollars with a net worth of more than $400 million. This was accomplished through sound management and by choosing experienced leadership. The cooperative management efforts of Vice Chairman Capps, Secretary/Treasurer Trousdale and myself has yielded great returns and progress for our people. We have a great team. Our Tribal Legislature has been forward thinking and diligent in its stewardship of our funds and the shaping of our laws. They have also been masterful in representing their constituents and the Tribe, especially Jon Boursaw.

We have overcome many huge hurdles in our past: vicious opposition from state/local government costing years of expensive litigation, COVID19, a national financial crisis, internal dishonesty and people acting only in their self-interest. The most difficult has been internal political squabbling born of jealousy and envy.

Right now we have the great blessing of a large group of dedicated and capable managers who've devoted the best years of their working lives to our Nation. We also have a Tribal government that has achieved national acclaim for innovation and success.

That is what we have now.

One of my opponents would change all that and add an entire layer of new management, with no current experience at our Tribe. Even riskier is her idea of bringing back people who have been fired, quit, or have a grudge. Please don't let that happen.

For the sake of our Tribe, demand my opponent reveal the names of these secret "Cabinet Secretaries" she plans to put in charge. Who are they? Where have they been? What have they done for the Citizen Potawatomi people? Her Facebook ads say, "It is time for a change." I guess that means she thinks I am too old, since it cannot mean our Tribe is not doing well. It is true that I am not as young as she is, but I am nearly two years younger than the President of the United States and nearly ten years younger than our current U.S. Senator James Inhofe.

Our Tribe has over 2,000 employees and 14 separate businesses or governmental departments with a $550 million budget. Her claim of "26 years of experience" is misleading. In none of those years did she manage people and capital. She is self-employed!

There is an old cowboy saying - "Just because you put your boots in the oven don't make them biscuits!"

We are now achieving the size and financial power to provide new opportunities for our people in jobs, income, medical and elderly care, housing finance, and most important – higher education for our young. We should manage our money well and avoid losing our most experienced people. We will lose them if they have to answer to "Cabinet Secretaries" who know nothing about the Tribe's history of business or government.

We have great opportunities ahead of us. I would be grateful for the privilege of continuing as your Tribal Chairman.

Lisa Kraft

Lisa Kraft for CPN Chairman 2021 - Citizen Potawatomi Nation is We the People!

My run for CPN Chairman 2021 is made possible: by a young campaign team of go-getters, my son who is helping me more around the house, the encouragement of our tribal citizens living in several states and even overseas, support from donors, local and state non-Indian members, and even non-CPN tribal citizens.

I am blessed and humbled by the generosity others have shown me. Our Facebook posts and videos are reaching 1000s of our members. I am confident that a lot of you are seeing my campaign efforts on social media, but I need your help sharing them and continuing to like them. Please talk with your families and ask them to reach out to me with comments and questions. I also need your mailing addresses to receive my direct mailings.

This is truly a team effort!

We are planning a worldwide event over the weekend of June 11-13 to ask our members everywhere to take time to raise money for a charity of their own choosing and in their own communities. We will be walking dogs at Lake Arcadia in Edmond, Oklahoma to raise money for Saving Pets At Risk (SPAR) in Shawnee. SPAR takes unwanted dogs and cats and provides foster homes until they can be adopted.

Please visit CPNchairman.com website and Instagram @ LisaKraftCPN and Facebook at @LisaKraft2021 to learn more as this event begins to take shape.

On April 12, we had a wonderful time in Shawnee talking with tribal members and again on April 30 in Norman. Many members are volunteering their time to help distribute car magnets and soon to be yard signs and banners. Through generous donations, I now have billboards throughout Oklahoma and running radio ads.

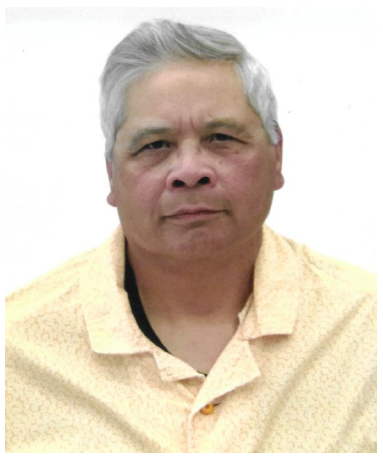
I am working with wise elders to shape my platform, namely, Esther Lowden. Mrs. Lowden is loved and highly respected in our Tribe and in our local community. You may have seen her giving prayer at both of our events. Esther and her family, as well as several large Potawatomi families here in Oklahoma, still practice our traditions and four-day seasonal ceremonies on their allotment lands near Sacred Heart or in the southern portion of our former reservation.

Here, you can hear singing in Potawatomi, attend sweats, feast together, and pray together in a traditional way that fosters fellowship and community. These are traditions that Mrs. Lowden has practiced her whole life. She welcomes all to her Hill where you can learn our ways and meet others who are on their own cultural journey of self discovery.

Please follow our Kraft 2021 campaign efforts on social media, sign up on CPNchairman.com to receive my emails, and please include your mailing address to receive our direct mailings.

A vote for Lisa Kraft on June 26 is a vote for "We the People of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation."

Thank you all so much.
Change is on the way!



Steve Castaneda - *EConOush* (Little Leader)

I majored in law and minored in history when I went to college. I want to make things right for our people. All I am asking for is the opportunity to do for our people and the people of our area. I would like to unite our tribal members with other tribes of Oklahoma in joint projects if possible. Get our members thoughts and opinion in these matters. I have my thought but would like to hear everyone else's as well.

I am not a man that likes to just talk about things but actual do for others. This is why I am running, not only for myself. I am running for all the tribal members.

Thank you
Steve Castaneda (*Econ-Oush*)

SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

JUNE 15 AT 5 PM CT
Apply at portal.potawatomi.org

District 1 candidates

Kevin Roberts - *Kakingeshi* (Grizzly Bear)

Bozho Nikanek & Mezodanek (Friends & Family)

Considering the size of District 1, I realize many of you reading this don't really know me. I wanted to provide a personal glimpse and basis why I want to be your District 1 Legislator.

My wife, Diana, and I are proud parents of 3 adult children, Son Cody (wife Jess & grandson Beauden), and 2 daughters - Emily, and Sarah. I retired in 2018 after a fulfilling 36 year career in executive leadership with State Farm Insurance Company.

I graduated with a BS in Business Admin from Central Methodist University, Fayette, Missouri where I was also captain of the football team and a thrower on the track team. I grew up in Moberly, Missouri and now reside in Normal, Illinois. I am passionate about the outdoors. I love to hunt, fish, trap, canoe, and hike. I also enjoy wood working utilizing salvaged trees.

I am a dedicated student of our Bodewadmimwen (Potawatomi language), studying under Justin Neely & Robert Collins. Through my studies, I have learned so much more about our Potawatomi culture, our community, and the progress journey our tribal nation continues to forge.

I have a sincere appreciation for the 7 grandfather teachings, (Love, Respect, Truth, Humility, Honesty, Wisdom, Courage).

I strive to live by these daily.

We have so much talent, knowledge, & spirit among our tribal members. Many have helped me with family research, regalia crafts, cultural insights, language, and so much more. I have crafted my own moccasins, tobacco bags, pipe & pipe bowl, otter turban, cedar feather box, and I'm currently working on a beaded pipe bag. I'd like to explore the world of loom beading someday.

Having passed before I was born, I never knew my grandfather, Joseph Alexander Richstatter. He was the son of Ignatius & Theresa Effie (Bertrand) Richstatter. I have enjoyed researching my family's history. I however, carry an empty void due to not ever having had the opportunity to talk to & learned from my grandfather. I know he had a very hard, difficult life yet was a very talented individual. I do believe my grand father would be proud of me. I am compelled to lead and I honor my grandfather via my candidacy for the legislator role.

I consider the role of tribal legislator very similar to what I did during my 36 year career. That being, working with the district members & our Legislative/Executive branches, establishing & forging relationships, interacting with the people of the district regularly, solving challenging & important issues, celebrating achieving established goals/results, and helping our tribal members & the Citizen Potawatomi Nation succeed! I am well prepared and ready for the opportunity to serve as your district 1 legislator.

I have offered Tobacco. I have sent my prayers. I have visited with many friends & family members across our great tribal nation. All intended to help me be the very best legislator I can be for District 1. I need, and very much appreciate, your vote!

Igwien (Heartfelt thank you)

Alan Melot

Bozho, I am Alan Melot and I am asking for your vote for Legislator of District 1.

These past few months have been encouraging and refreshing, to see how many Citizen Potawatomi in District 1 care so much about our Nation! To each of you who have taken the time to get in touch with me to voice your concerns, to be supportive, and to teach me what is important to you, *MIGWETCH!*

Here is a recap of what you have told me is important, and what I plan to work on:

- In-person meetings throughout the District. While we have been able to communicate or meet virtually, most everyone has said they want to be together in-person. I agree, and will work with you and Tribal headquarters to coordinate proper District meetings as the Covid-19 pandemic subsides. Additionally, I will coordinate with you to have smaller meetings throughout the district so we can all get to know each other better, share culture and language knowledge and do the things that Potawatomi do.
- Increased transparency in government. You have told me that you want to know what is done with Tribal money, both where it comes from and where it goes. You have told me that you want to know what the Tribe is doing in our name, and be better informed about Tribal affairs. I will increase transparency to the best of my ability.
- Improved access to services. So many of you struggle with access to Tribal services! Whether it is getting a mortgage through our bank, getting medication from our pharmacy or getting health insurance through the ACA Marketplace, just to name a few, I have been surprised at how many of you have reported difficulty receiving what is rightfully yours. I am committed to helping you solve problems and getting you in touch with the Tribal or Federal resources you need.
- Connection to culture, language and our history. We are fundamentally a Great Lakes tribe, moved against our will to central Oklahoma. District 1 is unique, in that it contains our homelands. We have a unique opportunity to maximize revitalization of our language and culture in District 1, on our own ancestral lands. I intend to use every resource available to empower you, so we can make these connections.

Along with these goals, I have my own: restoration of Potawatomi stewardship of Potawatomi land. There is a growing movement of tribes reclaiming stewardship of their ancestral lands, and I believe that we need to prioritize this. Simply put, we need connection to the land of our ancestors.

Thank you for your prayers, your interest and your feedback. You can find more at cpndistrict1.com, email me at asmelot@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook.

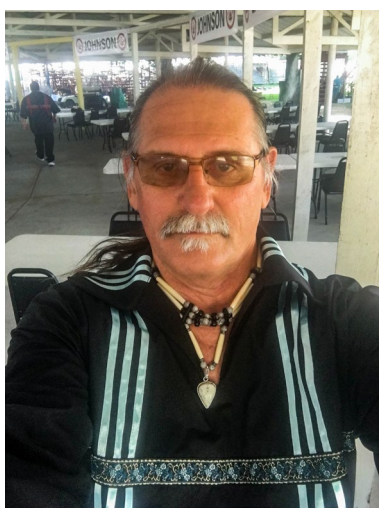
Igwien (heartfelt thanks)

Drew (Jon) Boursaw

I am running for Region One's legislator for one reason: to help my fellow Potawatomi Tribal members. I have been fortunate to receive support and assistance from Citizen Potawatomi Nation and I want to be able to offer that same support and assistance to the tribal members of Region One. As a member of Citizen Potawatomi Nation, there is so much to be proud of. We are a tribe that truly looks after its members. Whether that support is through scholarships, health benefits, or housing assistance, our members come first. I want to advance these benefits and help the tribe grow.

During this campaign, I have seen many of my opponents running for selfish interests. I believe that, if elected, I need to place my personal beliefs second to the Tribal members for Region One. As a legislator, I would represent Region One. With that in mind, it is issues and ideas from the Tribal members of Region One that I will move forward with. This will be accomplished with a thorough communication plan that allows each member of Region One to use different avenues of communication to voice their concerns and ideas.

As I stated earlier, I am running for one reason: to help my fellow Potawatomi Tribal members.



David Slavin - *Gzhiptot* (He's Fast)

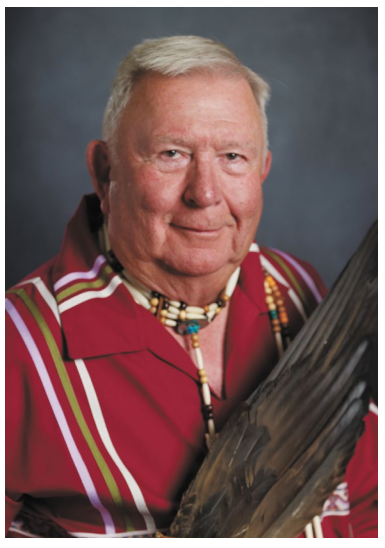
In the past few articles each of candidates where given questions about their thoughts on leadership, engaging Tribal members, what we felt as candidates were the most pressing issues. As well as information about our own personal growth.

As a legislator we have the responsibility to listen to our constituents about question they may have concerning services, education, and traditions. As well as participating in meetings threw zoom or in person.

As stated before, in other articles. My great, great grandmother Theresa survived the trail of death as a child. And was raised and educated by the sisters of St. Mary's. Theresa married James Slavin a Irish immigrant. I am a veteran of the US Navy and served during the Viet Nam war era. My service as well as my father, bother and uncles are part of the Veterans wall along with other veterans. I received my electronics training in the navy. I was meritoriously advanced in rank and receive two letters of commendation. I have a BA in Communication Arts from Park Collage. I taught electronics and robotics at Kansas City Kansas Community Collage. And was the assistant track coach at KCKCC as well. I have worked at Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad for the past 27 years. I am a lead electrician at BNSF as well as part of the first responder hazmat team.

It would be an honor to be district 1 legislator. And to represent the members of district 1.

District 4 candidates



I look forward to serving you for another 4 years, but I need your vote to do it.

Jon E. Boursaw - *Wetase Mkoh* (Brave Bear)

I have had a career of positions that have prepared me to be an effective Tribal Legislator. I am a retired Colonel of the US Air Force where I served on active duty for over 24 years. Most recently I have had 17 years' experience in senior positions in Native American Governments. Originally, I served as the Executive Director for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Mayetta, KS for 6 ½ years where I supervised 32 Tribal Programs. This gave me firsthand knowledge on how tribes are supported by federal funding and grants. This was followed by being asked to take on the position of Director of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Culture Heritage Center in Shawnee, OK for 2 ½ years. My first assignment was to lead the effort in creating the Tribal Veterans Wall of Honor. Finally, I have served as the District 4 Legislative Representative for the past eight years. I have worked extremely hard to make myself available to the CPN members in the District. I have kept them apprised of items of interest, upcoming events, and benefits such as the CARES assistance. As a result of my time in these two positions I am very familiar with the major activities, programs, and projects ongoing within the Nation. Though out all this time I have regularly attended and participated in the CPN Annual Family Reunions and the Gatherings of Potawatomi.

I plan to continue to hold annual District meetings at various locations in the District. I will use my monthly *Hownikan* column to keep the members aware of new developments, upcoming tribal functions and give recognition of individual achievements by CPN members. I will continue to expand my email list of members in the District which allows me to contact members directly about Tribal activities, upcoming events, and other items of interest. Finally, I plan to continue to hold regularly scheduled hours in my office in Topeka. This allows to me to directly assist members.

To me the most pressing issue is the future cost of providing the benefits and services we enjoy today that are funded through Tribal revenue. With the substantial growth of new members over the past couple of years I am concerned about how we are going to fund the increase costs in the future for benefits such as scholarships, mail order pharmacy, health aids, burial fund and even the *Hownikan*. We must continue to expand the Tribe's economic development efforts while ensuring those we have and those in the future are generating lasting favorable revenue for the Tribe.

Finally, I strongly solicit your support for Chairman John A. "Rocky" Barrett for Chairman. I have worked for and with Chairman Barrett for the past several years and there is no one more dedicated and qualified to lead the Nation than him.

Photo by Dave Leiker

Elexa "Amo" Dawson

Bozho, jayek. Amo *ndezhnekas*. I am a mother, a songwriter and working entertainer, a student of sustainable agriculture, a home agriculturalist, and a community organizer. I have to be transparent. This is not a job that I am seeking because I need the work. I would not be asking you for your vote if I just wanted something to take up my time. The reason I am seeking this office is because I feel that culture, language, foods and lifeways, and environments are worth our investment and priority.

If elected, I will proudly do the work to represent the CPN members of Kansas. Potawatomi people, like all other nationalities, are a diverse group of thinkers. I can't possibly represent every viewpoint, so I think it's important that I'm clear about mine. We are in a time, much like other times in our history, that our family is being pulled apart over ideas about our future.

The Hopi prophecy said it this way: You can go with the gold, or go with the green.

My ancestral family, the Ogees and the Beaubiens, have been commerce-friendly since the beginning of contact days. Ogee is an evolved form of Augee, after Michael Augee, who was a French fur trader in the 1500s, who came to Madeline Island and married an Anishinabe woman who is unnamed in our records. The Ogees, since the early Chicago days, were industrious people. They didn't come to Kansas on the Trail of Death. They were affluent enough to go to Council Bluffs.

They operated successful ferries and roadhouses. They were part of the group that all CPN families were part of, the group that favored private land ownership over communal land sharing, which is what separated us from the Prairie Band in Kansas. Robert Allen Ogee was a wealthy inventor and friend of diplomats.

I'm proud of my family's history. I'm grateful for the experiences that led to my life here, in Kansas, today. But I will seek the lessons to be learned. The generations before me made choices, and I'm here to learn from what I know, and make the choices that are honorable for me, honor my ancestors, and honor the generations that will come after me.

So, if I am elected to serve, I will serve in the best interests of the environmental health and wellness of our lands, because what we do to the earth, we do to ourselves. I will serve in the interests of the seven generations that will come after me. I will work hard to restore our language and culture to our people. I will work to build our community in Kansas and beyond, so that we can be more than just descendants, we can be who we really are: Potawatomi.

Migweth to my elders and relatives for your guidance and support. My fire has grown through this process, thanks to my community. *Igwien*.

Indian Welfare Act continued...

"It was adopted and supported and embraced at various levels, depending on the needs of your tribal community," Dr. Mosteller said. "All in all, though, I think for us, for CPN, we can see it as the beginning of a new era for us when we were able to make (our) constitution and really start to redevelop our Tribal government and think about what it meant to govern ourselves."

While some tribes in Oklahoma remained apprehensive of the law and opted not to participate, Citizen Potawatomi Nation took on the responsibilities of self-delegation. The Nation passed its first constitution as a tribal government in 1938 — only two years after the OIWA became law.

"We have since then amended our Constitution multiple times, and we have done things like taking (out) the requirement to have a representative from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, somebody from the office of the Secretary of the Interior, at our meetings. We're taking their controls that they put into those original constitutions out because we are sovereign, and we don't need that," Dr. Mosteller said.

The Tribe based the constitution on a template presented by the federal government following the passage of the OIWA. It created executive positions, including a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary-treasurer, as well as a business committee and a general council.

"I really think that we were the kind of tribal community that really could benefit from this new organization of gathering ourselves together, writing this constitution. Getting back to where we are thinking about and talking about ourselves as a collective, as a tribe, as a unit and not being consistently pushed to only think about ourselves as the individual," she said.

The OIWA also gave power to the Secretary of the Interior to put property into trust for tribes, ensuring Indigenous peoples' ability to regain their land in perpetuity. CPN used the policy to its advantage and began to build its land base after decades of allotment, something Mosteller called "absolutely critical" in the Nation's development.

"Now, of course, in the modern day, we have so many other pieces of legislation that have been passed and different avenues for land acquisition and putting land through the fee-to-trust process," she said. Tribal self-determination in Oklahoma continued to grow throughout the next 80 years.

"Once tribes had the mechanisms by which to fight for and protect their sovereignty in a way that the federal government was recognizing, it kind of knocked down some of those barriers," Dr. Mosteller said.

"I think it set us down a path, but it has been our own initiatives that have continued to push our sovereignty forward."

Find more Citizen Potawatomi Nation history at CPN's Cultural Heritage Center and online at potawatomiheritage.com. Follow the CHC on social media: Facebook @CPNCulturalHeritage and Twitter @cpnheritage.

Educational curriculum for kindergarten through 12th grade

By the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education

Through consultation with local schools, the need for user-friendly lessons concerning the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has become evident. Teachers have expressed a hesitancy to teach Native American history because they are afraid of getting it wrong. As a result, they rely on the same old resources that might not be relevant to the tribes in their area. In response to this, the CPN Department of Education is developing a resource for teachers anywhere who would like to incorporate Potawatomi history into their classroom. We aim to provide ready-made, vetted lesson plans for teachers to use in their classrooms. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center's encyclopedia (cpn.news/encyclopedia) is already a great resource to learn more about the Nation; this will be the source material for these lessons.

Our first lesson will be on the Trail of Death. We will host a session discussing this lesson during Virtual Family Reunion Festival and encourage all CPN teachers to join us. Register for the presentation at cpn.news/vfest23. We plan for this lesson to be adaptable to most grade levels and hope you will join us to help make this project a success. Look for more information about where to find the completed lesson in future issues of the *Hownikan*, or contact college@potawatomi.org with any questions. Find out more about this year's Virtual Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/virtualfest21.

Vote Lisa Kraft
For Chairman

My work in Indian Country

- Over 26 years of experience in Oklahoma Indian Country
- 4 consecutive terms as an elected legislator for the CPN tribe, 2008–2021
- Award–winning grant writer for Oklahoma tribes, raising over 30 Million in HUD and CTAS grants for tribal clients
- BA in Anthropology from OU, and a Masters in History from UCO
- Extensive fee–to–trust land conversion, including 17 tracts for the CPN

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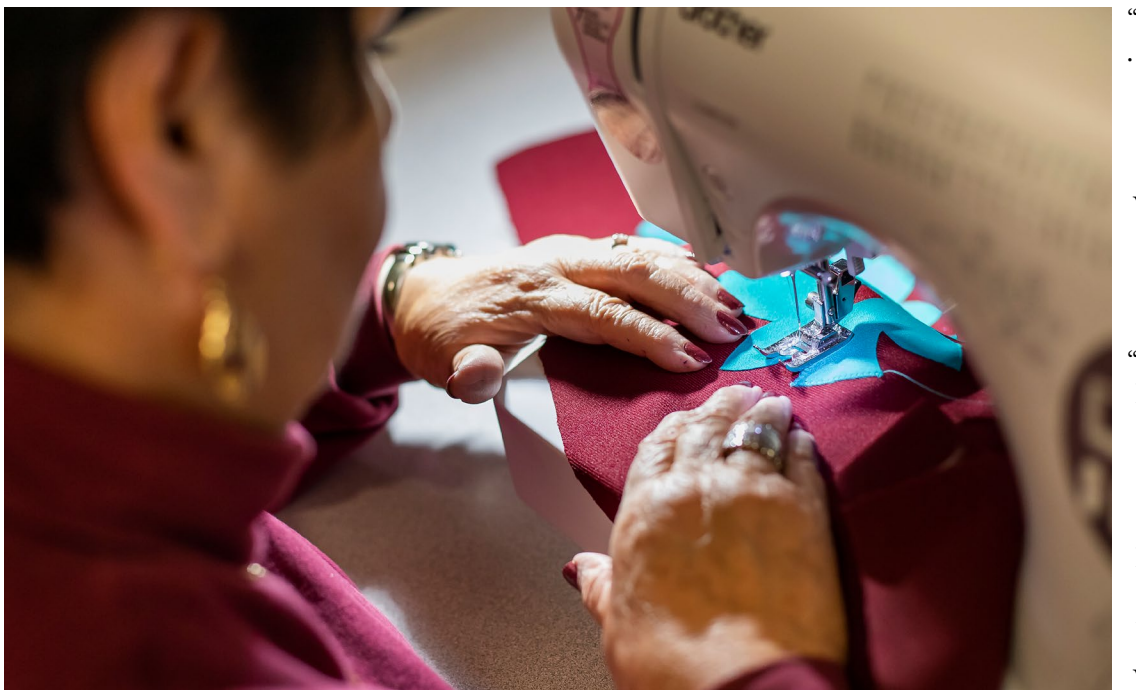
Tips for making regalia

Although Citizen Potawatomi Nation members and their families will not have an opportunity to gather in person for Family Reunion Festival this month, there is no time like now to begin regalia preparations for when it is safe to gather once more. Whitehead and Smith family descendant Reva Wolf spoke with the *Hownikan* about her regalia-making journey and encourages others to make their own.

As a women's traditional dancer, Wolf said, "It's a good way to pray, gift things or show that we're still here making marks with our moccasins so the Creator knows that we're still in existence."

She grew up in New Mexico and lived in numerous areas of the country as an adult, but a few years ago, returned to Oklahoma to care for her father. Since then, Wolf has been able to connect with fellow CPN members and artisans that have assisted with honing her craft.

Moving back "was probably the best thing I have ever done in my life," she said. "I had no direction. I knew my culture from growing up, but I never experienced it."



Creating regalia can provides a connection to heritage and a platform to learn new skills.

Shawls, ribbon skirts, aprons and more usually include some form of applique. Intricate motifs require more sewing skills than utilizing simple shapes, especially when using a machine.

Reva Wolf's steps to success

- Don't be hard on yourself
- Find a design you like without numerous corners — this makes sewing easier
- Keep it simple
- Make the material work for you, not against you

Wanting to make her own regalia to dance at Family Reunion Festival, Wolf began sewing 10 years ago after taking an applique class at the Cultural Heritage Center. She hopes even amidst a global pandemic that others will begin their regalia-crafting journeys, regardless of age.

Getting started

Making a full set of regalia takes time, dedication and patience.

"Don't be hard on yourself, and find a design that you like that does not have too many corners," Wolf said.

Wonder-Under often comes in handy when designing applique pieces for regalia.

"It can get to where you can have a little too many turns and a massive amount of material to manage," she said.

And rather than fighting the material while sewing, Wolf suggests keeping it on the back side of the machine.

"It doesn't get all clumped up where you will run over everything," she said.

Most use Wonder-Under— a fusible web — to connect applique to projects. Wolf said tracing on the fusible web itself can make them easier to complete.

"Some people put their Wonder-Under on the satin and then draw the design on it, but I put my design under my Wonder-Under, draw my design, then I cut my Wonder-Under and put it on," she said.

She utilizes visual inspiration from the CHC, speaking with other Tribal members and images online. Wolf also completes simple free-hand sketches like vines and other natural elements.

For skirts, she cuts fabric into rectangles based on the size of the individual, sometimes creating an A-line. She suggests using patterns for blouses and men's ribbon shirts.

Spiritual connectedness

Since wearing regalia is an extension of spirituality and cultural connection for Potawatomi, Wolf highlighted the importance of creating while in a positive mindset.

She said her work "honors my family and honors my grandparents — my ancestors. That's why I do what I do because I think about them a lot when I'm sewing."

Wolf often allows ideas to come to her organically. She sees it as a way to fulfill Creator's desires, and recently finished a shawl with blackbirds for CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps based on these principals.

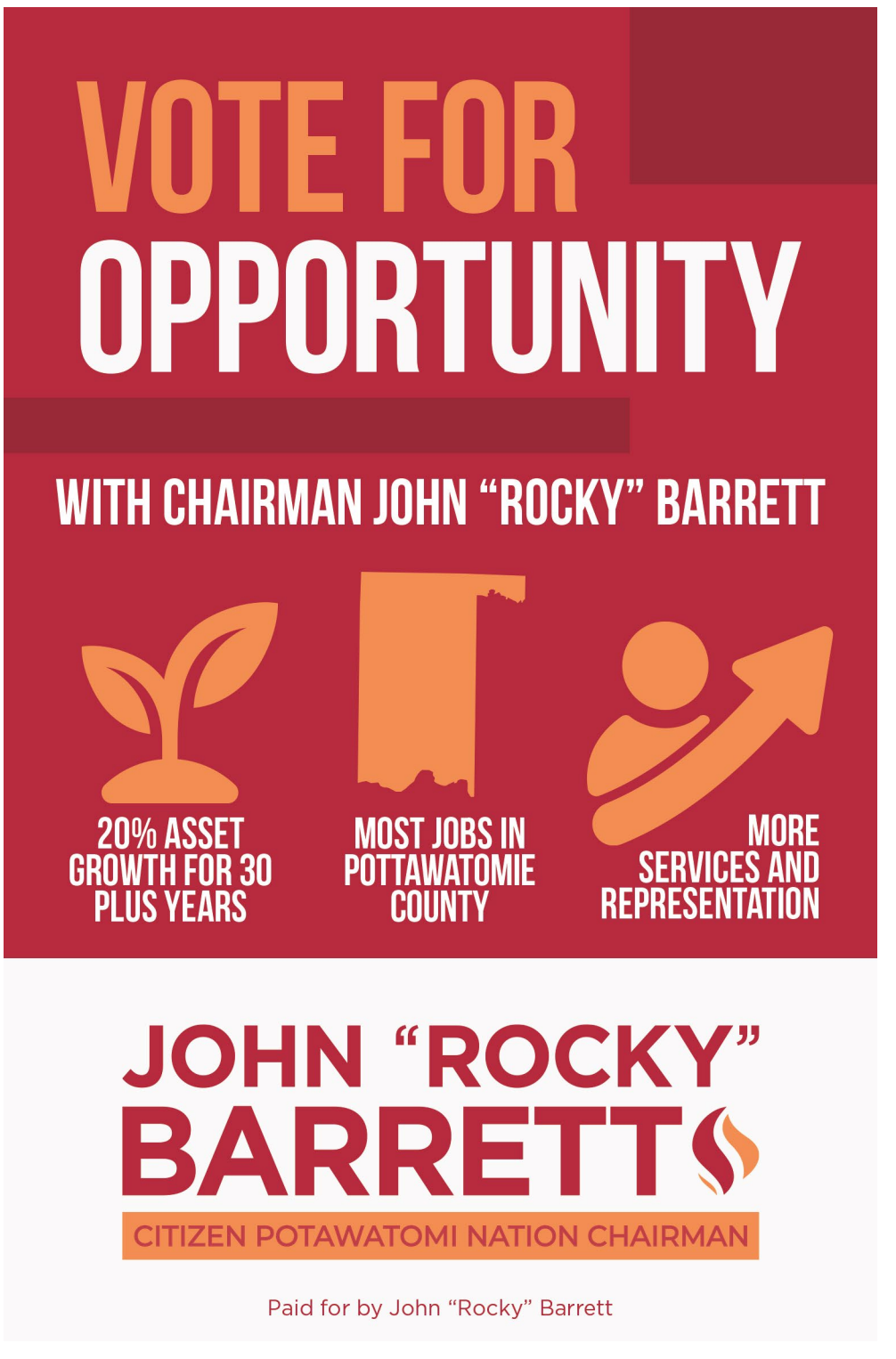
"The Creator kept pushing me. … And wow! It turned out really pretty, and I was like, 'Creator really does have a hand in this stuff that I do,'" she said.

Wolf often receives scraps and material from friends and loved ones, and she attempts to not let anything go to waste.

"It just comes together, and I'll realize that 'Oh, this should go to this person,' or maybe someone sees it and it really speaks to them, and it's like 'OK, this is why I made this,'" she said.

Family Reunion Festival is usually an opportunity for Wolf to sell her creations and make additional income to help with expenses throughout the year. However, the coronavirus pandemic has negatively impacted her ability to connect with others and market her work. She welcomes those interested in commission pieces and more to reach out to her at 405-287-0458.

For pre-made pieces crafted by Wolf, visit Potawatomi Gifts in-person or online at potawatomigifts.com. If interested in learning more, take advantage of craft classes scheduled throughout the Virtual Family Reunion Festival held June 23 through June 29 at cpn.news/virtualfest21.



Darling descendant places at prestigious Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair and Market

Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Ron Striegel, owner of Firehawk Designs, received honorable mention with a one-of-a-kind sterling silver bracelet titled *Shiprock* at the Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair and Market's juried competition in March 2021 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Striegel told the *Hownikan* he felt grateful and privileged to contribute.

"It's probably one of the biggest honors I've ever had, and I was totally shocked by it — just flabbergasted," he said.

"As I saw the other bracelets in the category in the days leading up to the market, I wondered how my work could ever presume to be included among such brilliant artistry."

The Michael Gorman Gallery in Taos, New Mexico, displays Ron Striegel's Center of the Galaxy bracelet, which showcases his silversmithing and jewelry-setting capabilities. (Photos provided)

Beginnings

Before retiring, his career involved business, medical sales and eventually education, but Striegel became inspired to pick up silversmithing after hearing a presentation by Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett in the 1990s.

"One of the things he said was because the Potawatomi were so good at business — that's where we've made our money — the interest in the arts kind of dropped off, so he put out a challenge that if someone was interested in the arts to find a traditional Potawatomi art … so that we could continue that legacy of art in our Nation," Striegel said.

Moved by the statement, Striegel began researching and found the Potawatomi had a history with silverwork. He then set out to hone the craft.

"I was fascinated by it," he said. "They traditionally worked with very, very heavy metal that was very thick, and they would use it to trade with the Europeans."

The Rocky Mountains

Striegel grew up near Albuquerque, New Mexico, and spent time at his family's cabin in Taos in his youth. He enjoyed visiting the Taos Plaza and seeing the Native American vendors and their fine creations. That experience continues to inspire his work today, and he established one of his two studios between the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

"Being in the mountains in Colorado and northern New Mexico, that's hugely inspirational for me," he said. "Taos Mountain is sacred … and that mountain changes every time I look at it. Doing different scenes of that mountain is really, as my generation would say, trippy."

He also has a studio near Lamar, Colorado, where he helps his wife Jennifer train horses and explores the natural beauty that the state provides.

Some of his favorite creations include statement bracelets that bring the outdoors to life with 3D images of iconic scenery.

"It starts with an idea that I get from looking at nature," Striegel said. "I decide which mountain I want to do, and then I either take a picture or I find a picture of the mountain that is in public domain. And then I start working to transfer the mountain scene picture to silver and cut out the mountain pattern."

Striegel uses silver and gold layers and sculpts smaller details to create depth. Since gold and silver require different temperatures to become malleable, using multiple types of metal requires patience.

"I think that the lesson is, whether it's working with horses, working with people or working with silver, if you try to force something, it just never works out," he said.

Stones

Dedicated to finding first-class turquoise, Striegel employs every effort to ensure his pieces include the finest, legitimate stones available.

"Most of the turquoise that's in silver and on the market is color shot, which means there's a plastic color that's forced into the stones and stabilized with a chemical or somehow treated, and only about 20 percent is natural. And of that 20 percent, only a smaller percentage is actually gem quality," he explained.

Striegel works one-on-one with a small wholesaler near Durango, Colorado, to purchase most of his turquoise.

"High-quality turquoise is pretty expensive. It's not cheap, and it's actually more rare than diamonds," he said.

Using a combination of hydrochloric acid and tellurium helps him to create varying colors of sterling silver colors and assess for authenticity.

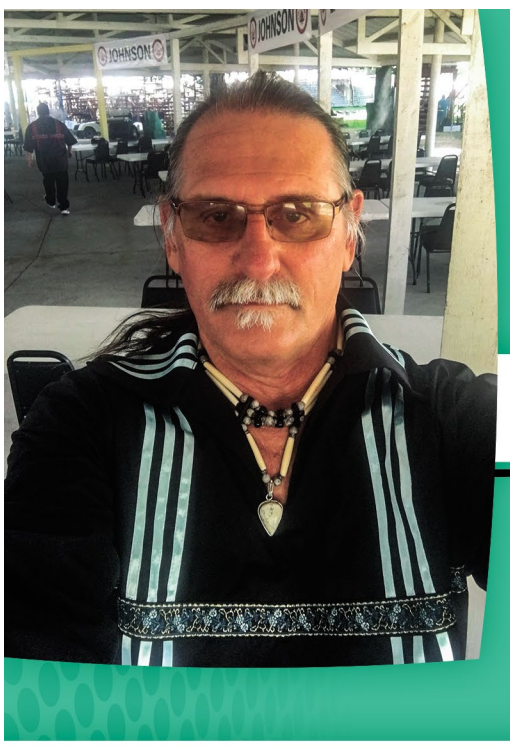
"If it's color shot, the acid bleaches it out so that the stone will actually turn white," Striegel said. "I have bought quite a few stones that were reported to be natural and tested, and they weren't real."

Heritage

Although his work involves Southwestern components, he uses old sketches and paintings of Potawatomi to incorporate *Nishnabé* elements. His art also provides an opportunity for educating others on who the Citizen Potawatomi were and are today.

"I think it's important to celebrate our culture," Striegel said. "Growing up, my dad who passed away when I was very young … he really tried to make sure that we understood something about our culture and were able to stay in contact."

Attending regional meetings and reading the *Hownikan* helps him stay in touch with his Potawatomi roots. He hopes to visit CPN next year during Family Reunion Festival to celebrate with fellow Darling descendants. Until then, Striegel plans to continue enjoying the Rocky Mountains, working with horses and making one-of-a-kind jewelry. Check out Firehawk Designs at firehawkdesigns.com or on Instagram at @FirehawkDesigns.



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CPN HOWNIKAN

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Wheatland, CA
Family: Ogee
California State University
MS in Public Health

Edith Phillips
Shawnee, OK
Family: Rhodd
Cameron University
BS in Accounting

Elise Wood Cohen
Arlington, VA
Family: Juneau
Long Island University
Ph.D.

Victoria Anne Wehrmann
Dallas, TX
Family: Payton
Seton Hall University
Juris Doctor (JD)

Trey Walker Biddy
Weatherford, OK
Family: Frank Smith
BS in Manufacturing
Engineering Technology

Jake Ryne Biddy
Weatherford, OK
Family: Frank Smith
Fort Cobb-Broxton Public School
High School Diploma

Mio Leslie Dykstra
Shawnee, OK
Family: Pambogo
Shawnee High School
High School Diploma

Logan Krivanek
Mustang, OK
Family: LaReau
University of Oklahoma
BS in Psychology

Jillian Uhles
Norman, OK
Family: Higbee
University of Oklahoma
BS in Public Relations

Erin Elizabeth Locke
Lafayette, IN
Family: Burnett
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BA in Professional Writing

Mark Joseph LeClair
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Meredith Brittain
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Family: Tescier
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Technology Management

Paulina Davison
Puyallup, WA
Family: Kennedy/Weld/Ogee
Carnegie Mellon University
MS in Computer Science

Savannah LeForce
Potlatch, ID
Family: Darling
Oklahoma State University
MS in Mental Health Counseling

Koby Wyatt Jack Mitchell
Shawnee, OK
Family: Toupin/Lafromboise
Shawnee High School
High School Diploma

Savannah Leigh Peterson
Norman, OK
Family: Bourassa
University of Oklahoma
Doctor of Pharmacy

Samantha Cox
Wetumpka, AL
Family: Juneau
Wetumpka High School
High School Diploma

Kay Kakendasot Mattena
Salt Lake City, UT
Family: Pierre/Navarre
University of Massachusetts
MS in Archeology

Kira Chenoa Lisle (*Mskobonse*)
Griffith, IN
Family: Lewis
Purdue University Northwest
BS in Psychology

Alexandra Beil
Tampa, FL
Family: Bertrand/Clardy
University of Michigan Law
School
Juris Doctorate/Law Degree

Erin Paige Bennett
Calhoun, GA
Family: Frapp
Southern Adventist University
MS in Social Work

Colton Jayce Slavin
Skiatook, OK
Family: Slavin
Skiatook High School
High School Diploma

Sarah Elaine Marshall
Whiting, KS
Family: Navarre
Jackson Heights High School
High School Diploma

Makaila Cowdin
Topeka, KS
Family: Peltier
Ottawa University
BS in Biology

Caleb Williams
Choctaw, OK
Family: Rhodd
Choctaw High School
High School Diploma

Angelique Williams
Choctaw, OK
Family: Rhodd
Mid-American Christian
University
BS in Business Admin and Ethics

Alexander C. Weishan
San Diego, CA
Family: Vieux/Bertrand/
Navarre/Melot
University of Notre Dame
BA in History and Mathematics

Paul M. Lawless, Jr.
Boca Raton, FL
Family: Lawless
United States Military Academy
2nd Lieutenant
Field Artillery Officer

Luke J. Carney (*Moewe Nikan*)
Olympia, WA
Family: Juneau
Washington State University
Bachelors in Finance

Alanis Barnett
Fullerton, CA
California Pacific Charter Schools
High School Diploma

Will McCullar
Bella Vista, AR
Family: Ogee/Beaubien
Fort Lewis College
BS in Marketing

Sydney Ice (*Deconomaget*)
Lawrence, KS
Family: Boursaw
Baker University
MA in Education

Nathan Perry Fant
San Antonio, TX
Family: Melott
Harlan High School
High School Diploma

Isaiah John Thomas Ahumada
Gilroy, CA
Family: Pappan
San Diego Christian College
BS in Leadership and Justice

Jackson Nikola Newman
North Little Rock, AR
Family: Bourbonnais
North Little Rock High School
High School Diploma

Jacy Ann Durdel
East Peoria, IL
Family: Melot
East Peoria High School
High School Diploma

Peyton Riley Andrews
Blanchard, OK
Family: Vieux
Moore High School
High School Diploma

Sarah Willmett-Whiteman
Shawnee, OK
Family: Willmett/Willmette
Oral Roberts University
BS in Business Administration

Sophia K. Carney (*Obejikwe*)
Olympia, WA
Family: Juneau
Olympia High School
High School Diploma

Kathryn Nicole McClure
Shawnee, KS
Family: Nadeau/Vieux/Bourassa
University of Kansas
BA in Geology
BA in Anthropology

Abigail R. Hill
Gardner, KS
Family: Hartman-Smith
Gardner-Edgerton High School
High School Diploma

Bryce Peltier (*Mnodea Wadase*)
Oklahoma City, OK
Family: Peltier
Peltier Academy (Homeschool)
High School Diploma

Cyla Anice Reed
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX
Family: Levier
Samuel V. Champion High
School
High School Diploma

Terra Galyon
Nickerson, KS
Family: Coupaph
Haskell Indian National
University
BS in Environmental Science

Samantha Alane Banta
Okemah, OK
Family: Nadeau
Oklahoma Baptist University
BA in Psychology

Patience Rose Lewis
(*Bgeshmo Negos*)
Mokena, IL
Family: Lewis
North Central College
BS in Neuroscience

Donald Adam Baker
Lexington, SC
Family: DeGraff/Laub
University of South Carolina
BS in Exercise Science

Ronald Dylan Stone
Earlsboro, OK
Family: Boursassa/Stone
American Public University
BA in Management

Peyton Riley Andrews
Blanchard, OK
Family: Vieux
Moore High School
High School Diploma

Seth Lewman
Sulphur Springs, AR
Family: Bourassa
Gravette Arkansas High School
High School Diploma

Gabriel Owen Gettings Wadman
Milwaukie, OR
Family: Pettifer
Milwaukie High School
High School Diploma

Andrew David Fredell
Colorado Springs, CO
Family: Bertrand
University of Colorado
BS in Business Administration

Heath Steward
Oklahoma City, OK
Family: Trombla
Oklahoma State University
BS in Natural Resource
Ecology and Management

Katherine Taylor Howard
North Thetford, VT
Family: Frigon/Coulter
Vermont Technical College
AAS in Veterinary Technology

Chloe' Williams (*Netagemot*)
Mansfield, TX
Family: Ogee
Mansfield Timberview High
School
High School Diploma

Cole Capps
Dale, OK
Family: Navarre
Dale High School
High School Diploma

Cade Capps
Dale, OK
Family: Navarre
Dale High School
High School Diploma

Carson Capps
Byng, OK
Family: Navarre
Byng High School
High School Diploma

Charles Bryce Ferguson
Sykesville, MD
Family: Krapp
Century High School
High School Diploma

Logan Nathaniel Greene
Mount Vernon, IL
Family: McKee
Frontier Community College
AAS in Automotive Technology

Gavin Richard Greene
Mount Vernon, IL
Family: McKee
Frontier Community College
AAS in Automotive Technology

Austen Roselius
Choctaw, OK
Family: Vieux
University of Minnesota
Doctor of Medicine (MD)
Juris Doctor (JD)

Isaac Benjamin Lebeck
Janesville, WI
Family: Acton
Parker High School
High School Diploma

Bobby "Trae" Trousdale
Tecumseh, OK
Family: Toupin
Oklahoma City University
BA in Mass Communications
BA in Political Science

Alexander Houston
Rossville, CA
Woodcreek High School
High School Diploma

Mia Genevieve Huberty
Elk River, MN
Family: Slavin
Big Lake High School
High School Diploma

Sydney Brack
San Ramon, CA
Family: Vieux
California High School
High School Diploma

Haley Lyn Brown
(*Dokmenojmokwe*)
Rossville, KS
Family: Lafromboise
Missouri Western State University
MAS in Sports and
Fitness Management

Drake Alexander Barrett
Moore, OK
Family: Boursaw
Moore High School
High School Diploma

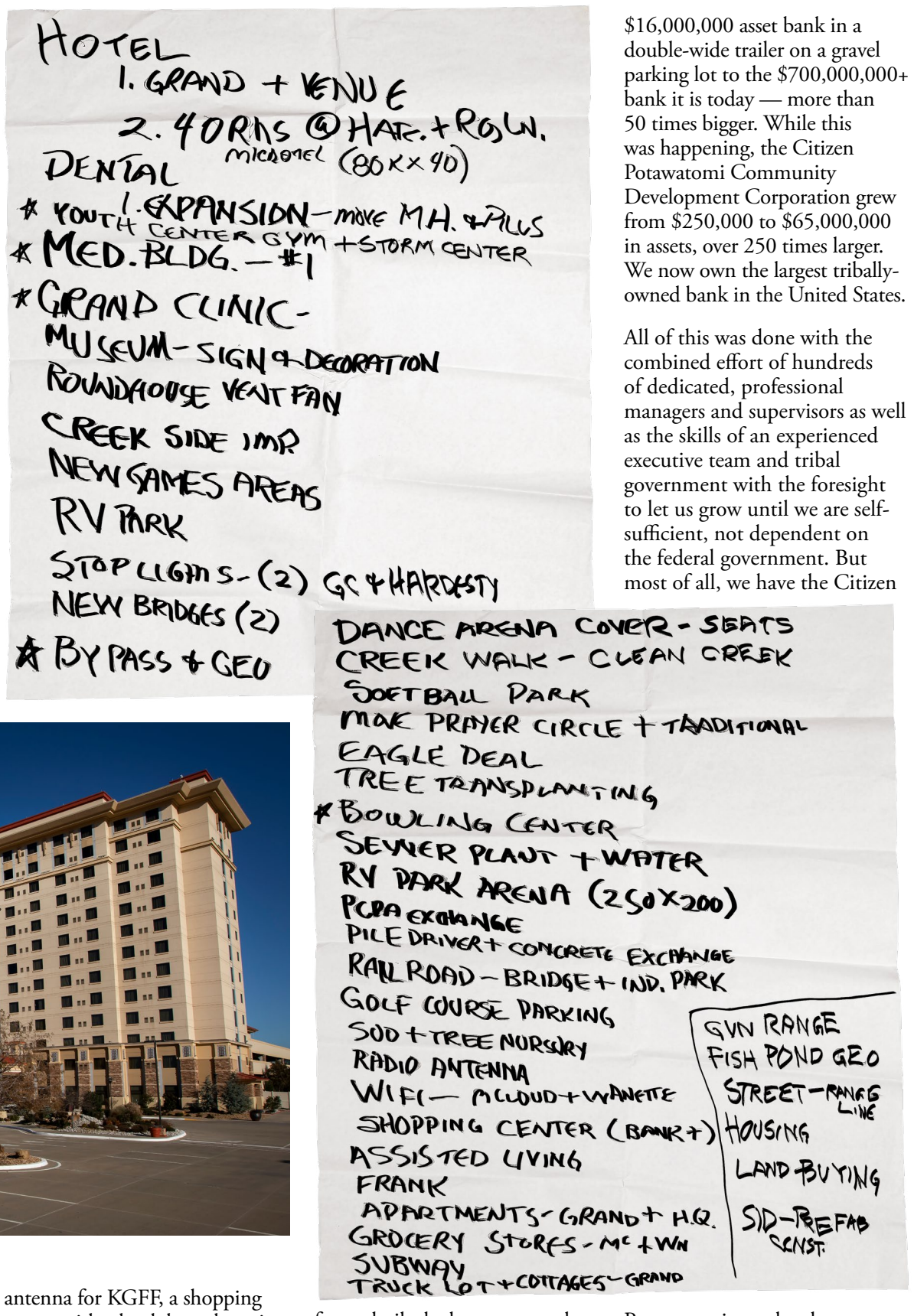
Lauren Veitenheimer
Erin, TN
Family: Bruno
Freed-Hardeman University
BS in Nursing

Tribal Chairman – John "Rocky" Barrett

Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

Something very interesting turned up today. As Jamie Moucka, my invaluable executive assistant for these last 20 years, was going through some old record boxes that were stored in the headquarters building, she found our strategic planning session worksheets from the year 2000. vivid memory. First, we had all survived the "Millennium" — remember the crazy talk about what would happen when the year 2000 came around? People all over the world were predicting all kinds of catastrophe! Even the federal government spent millions of dollars heading off stuff that never happened. Some people even said the world was going to end. So we laughed about that after Jan. 1, 2000, and went ahead with our planning the next month.

We would first gather about 15 of our best and brightest directors and executives in a big room. Then we would tape up large sheets of tablet paper on the walls and assign someone to write what was said. Everyone would then offer any idea they had about an activity, business or need for the Tribe, no matter how wild or big or little. Everyone just let their imaginations go



Grand Casino Hotel & Resort

We have been doing strategic planning for the Nation for over 37 years, starting when I was Tribal administrator in 1984. I attended a training session in Albuquerque, New Mexico, put on by Rob Burpo, then our investment advisor for the 1948 Indian Claims Commission Trust Funds. Strategic planning was a new thing then, an outgrowth of an earlier form of long-term planning called "critical path." This all sounds pretty dull, but it was actually very exciting, and I could see it was a great way to get valuable input into the direction a tribe should grow. Best of all, everyone came away from the Albuquerque training sessions with a clearer idea of how to plan the short, medium and long-range goals of their tribe and how the assets and people the tribe possessed could fit into that plan. I returned home semi-trained, and we started using it in Shawnee in 1985. We have done it almost every year since then, learning along the way. Some years we have simply analyzed how we were doing. We analyzed the projects we had started, if we were doing all we could do at the time.

So here is how it worked in the year 2000. It is such a

and offered something. Vice-Chairman Capps would help keep the ideas from overlapping, and Rhonda Butcher would determine if any federal money could be obtained for a project.

Then we took each idea and did what is called a SWOT analysis of the idea. "SWOT" stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The group would break into groups of three to five and team up to write down on a new set of sheets the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of each idea that was hanging on the wall. Then we would all talk each idea through using the analysis.

Now, here is the amazing part. The final result sheets from the planning session of the year 2000 included the following projects: the dance arena cover, the "creek walk" along Squirrel Creek by the dance grounds, a softball park, the naming prayer circles, the eagle rescue facility, a tree nursery for transplanting, a bowling center, a sewer and water plant, an RV park and arena, a commercial water system, a new railroad bridge across the Canadian River, an industrial park, new golf course parking, a sod and tree nursery, a new radio antenna for KGFF, a shopping center with a bank branch, assisted living for elderly, purchase of the Hardesty Grocery building, apartments for the Grand Casino and headquarters employees, a new grocery store in McLoud, Subway restaurant, a truck lot and cottages for the Grand Casino truck stop, a gun range, a new street on Rangeline Road, a geothermal pond with fishing, new housing units, the Grand Casino Hotel and Resort on I-40, a new dental department at the clinic, a youth center, gym, storm shelter, a new clinic near the Grand Casino with a storm shelter, a new medical building, redecorating the Cultural Heritage Center, new stoplights, two new bridges over Squirrel Creek, a storm water bypass north of Hardesty Road, new games area for Festival, and air and heat for the roundhouse. Out of the entire list, we accomplished all but two of these goals in 20 years, more than $500,000,000 worth. That is an amazing success for one planning session!

In addition to this, with later strategic planning, we built the elder housing projects and council house at Rossville, Kansas, developed more than 400 acres of commercial sod farms, built the largest ground-source geothermal heating project in Oklahoma, reclaimed and remodeled Mission Hill Hospital, paved Hardesty Road into five lanes of concrete for over a mile, built a huge 250x250 geothermally-cooled arena building, expanded FireLake Grocery into a wholesale and retail giant — the largest stand-alone grocery store in Oklahoma — and we completely rebuilt FireLake Golf Course.

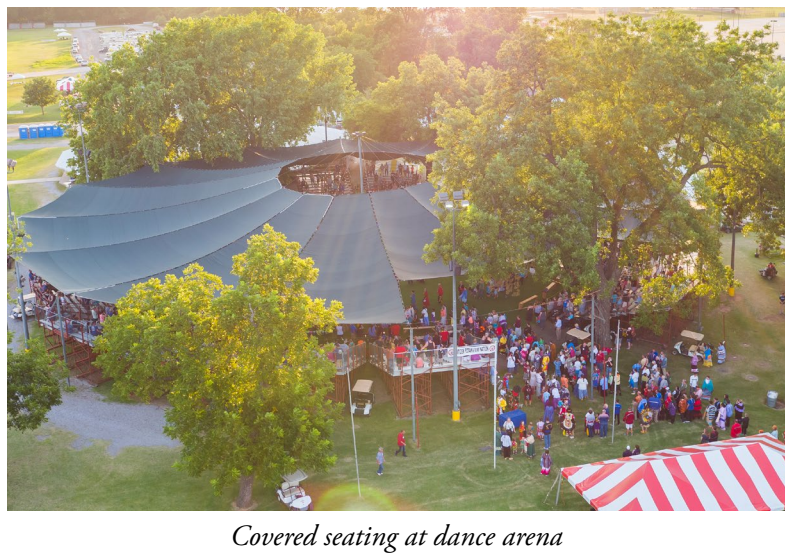
All of this was accomplished since 1989 as we began to build our financial capability to help our people. First National Bank & Trust Co. grew from a little $16,000,000 asset bank in a double-wide trailer on a gravel parking lot to the $700,000,000+ bank it is today — more than 50 times bigger. While this was happening, the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation grew from $250,000 to $65,000,000 in assets, over 250 times larger. We now own the largest tribally-owned bank in the United States.

All of this was done with the combined effort of hundreds of dedicated, professional managers and supervisors as well as the skills of an experienced executive team and tribal government with the foresight to let us grow until we are self-sufficient, not dependent on the federal government. But most of all, we have the Citizen Potawatomi people who are smart and insightful enough to realize that our future success depends on the seeds we plant now becoming a bounty for our future as a Nation.

I am deeply honored to be your Tribal Chairman and be a part of a team of leaders like no other Indian Tribe in this country has working for them.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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



Covered seating at dance arena

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps

Bozho
(Hello),

For those of you who have had the pleasure to travel through the Flint Hills in Kansas, roughly from Wichita in the south to Topeka in the north, you are familiar with the beautiful landscape. I love that trip, whether I am by myself or with family. I enjoy the countryside tremendously. I call it "Jon Boursaw territory" because in about 2014, he gave a Potawatomi history presentation at the Topeka Symphony Orchestra's annual event in the Flint Hills. I wish I could have attended. Legislator Boursaw has done a superb job of teaching Citizen Potawatomi history throughout Kansas. He is like the Energizer Bunny when it comes to accepting appointments for Tribal history presentations within Kansas.

Both Chairman Barrett and I were able to attend the dedication at Burnett's Mound on April 29, 2021.

Pictured, from left, Jerry Meens, Jane Meens, Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, Judy Boyles and Leonard Boyles.

Pictured, from left, Legislator Jon Boursaw, Peggy Boursaw, Joe Wulfkuhle, Joan Atkins, Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Lyman Boursaw.

What a delightful ceremony it was with approximately 70 in attendance. To my surprise, our own Tribal member, Tim Hrenchir of the Topeka Capital-Journal, reported on the event. He wrote an excellent article for the occasion, which can be found at cpn.news/tpjbm. Several CPN tribal members attended, along with officials of Shawnee County, the City of Topeka, Shawnee County Parks and Recreation and even the State of Kansas. The Nation paid for the plaques designed by Jon Boursaw and erected at the exhibit in southwest Topeka. This has made the Tribal members in the area very proud of the exhibit.

Prior to the dedication, there was a reception in Topeka that Jon Boursaw planned. About 25 people attended the reception. A local catering service provided the refreshments, including macaroon mounds for Burnett's Mound and chocolate hats for Burnett's hat, among other delicious pastries. The reception was an excellent time for introductions and visiting, which was truly appreciated. The Burnett's Mound plaques are positioned just as you enter Skyline Park, located southwest of Topeka. Both the Chairman and Jon Boursaw were among the speakers at the ceremony.

There is more information about Burnett's Mound in an article within this edition of the *Hownikan*.

Pictured with this article are some of the Tribal members that were in attendance.

As usual, I appreciate the opportunity to be your vice-chairman.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

LINDA CAPPS
SUPPORTS A
PROVEN
LEADER

- His vision appears throughout CPN territory.
- His record stands on its own.
- His mission is to serve the people.
- Cast your vote for an icon.

JOHN "ROCKY" BARRETT
FOR CHAIRMAN

GREAT SEAL OF THE CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
NISHNABE
PEOPLE OF THE PLACE OF THE FIRE

Paid for by Linda Capps

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney

Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends)!

FEMA assistance

Please accept my deep sympathy if you have lost a family member or friend to COVID-19. I want to be sure that you know that, if you have incurred COVID-related funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020, FEMA is providing financial assistance. The application process opened April 12. One must apply by phone — there is no online application. The numbers to call are 844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585, Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. EST. A FEMA representative will help you complete the application over the phone.

Answers to frequently asked questions about the application process are posted on FEMA's Funeral Assistance FAQ page: cpn.news/FEMAfuneral. Please take note of the fraud alert posted to the main page: "We have received reports of scammers reaching out to people offering to register them for funeral assistance. FEMA has not sent any such notifications and we do not contact people before they register for assistance." I hope readers will share all this information widely so all who are impacted can benefit and no one is scammed.

Readjusting to "normal" life; upcoming travel to Shawnee

In mid-April, my husband Alan and I took our first plane trip together since 2019. We traveled to the Boston area to visit with our daughter, who we hadn't seen since December 2019. It was fantastic to see her and to return to some sense of normalcy. I was grateful that the flight was non-stop and that everyone we encountered and all businesses we visited were adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols. I'm sharing a photo I took during the trip — it's of a captivating mural (*May the joy of sunlight & the patience of herons & the resilience of the human heart & the transformation of the moon be yours today*, by Wes Sam Bruce) on an outside wall of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. You can take a 360° online tour of this artist's fascinating work, installed as the PEM exhibit *Where the Questions Live*, at cpn.news/bruce.

I will be traveling again soon, this time to Shawnee to attend our annual Tribal General Council meeting on Saturday, June 26, and take the oath of office to continue in service as District 2's legislator. I also will participate in a legislative meeting on Monday, June 28. I am nervous about the Shawnee trip, as it will require me to make connections in a couple of different airports, but I am excited at the prospect of visiting with Tribal members and other folks in town. If you'd like to get together over that weekend, please send me a note!

I am hopeful that by later this fall, I'll be able to resume my practice of hosting meetings across District 2.

Please vote

Since I'll be in Shawnee during in-person voting on Saturday, June 26, I'll bring my absentee ballot with me, hand it in and vote in person. Please don't forget to complete your voting ballot and return it in time for your vote to be counted. All CPN elections are important, but those held in years when

the position of Chairman is on the ballot are critical — please take the time to vote.

NK360°; virtual field trips

If you haven't visited the National Museum of the American Indian's Native Knowledge 360° site (cpn.news/NK360), you are in for a treat. NK360° is resource-rich — it provides educational materials, virtual student programs and teacher training that incorporate Native narratives, more comprehensive histories and accurate information to enlighten and inform teaching and learning about Native America.

NK360° is also a portal for taking virtual, interactive field trips over Zoom, led by museum educators. The field trips are free, but advance registration is required. If you are an educator, you'll want to check them out — a minimum of 10 students is required to register for one of these interactive programs, which focus on Indigenous histories, cultures and contemporary lives centered around specific topics. Trips are geared by age, ranging from kindergarten through college. You can learn more at cpn.news/NK360VFT.

Please reach out

I offer you my best wishes and continued prayers for your and your family's health and security as we continue to wrestle with the challenges posed by these unfathomable times. Please reach out to me if I can be helpful. It's my privilege to represent you.

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe (Blue Bird Woman)
Representative, District 2
5877 Washington Boulevard
PO Box 5591
Arlington, VA 22205
866-961-6988 toll-free
ecarney@potawatomi.org
evamariecarney.com

District 3 – Bob Whistler

Bozho Ginwa
(Hello everyone),

Most dangerous animal in Texas

Many of us don't really stop to think about what is the most dangerous threat from nature where we live. I was just reading about this and found it interesting that in Oklahoma, there are a number of tigers that have escaped from zoos or were private pets that have escaped that may present a serious threat. The dangers vary by state with some having a history of dog bites being the greatest threat. Before I get to Texas, let me mention the state I lived in before Texas, which was Virginia. I was cutting the lawn one spring and accidently ran over an underground nest of wasps. The sting I received was severe, and I had to get medical attention. The doctor then prescribed a drug that I carried around in a syringe to use if I was stung again. I bring this up because I was surprised to learn that in Texas, our greatest threat from nature is fire ants. They are subterranean, and they have nests of soil that may be built on the outside wall of your house. If not destroyed, the dome of their nest can get up to six to ten inches high. A sting from one of these is probably not of any great consequence. However, if you irritate a colony of fire ants, they have been known to swarm, and you may be covered with them and receive many bites. This can cause serious medical issues. So, look around your yard, and if you see a mound of soil or on the side of a wall, it is time to get rid of it. You can start by spraying the nest with a solution of basic liquid dish soap. If that doesn't get rid of them, you may want to call a pest control firm.

District groups

In the April *Hownikan*, I wrote about having received requests from several members to setup small groups in District 3. The purpose is to help generate more interest in our Nation. So far, we have two individuals willing to be the coordinator in their immediate area.

Leander area
Joshua Walters
713-823-2644
Jewalters31@gmail.com

Argyle - Denton/ Dallas-Ft. Worth area
Rozanne Montrelli
562-507-5278
montrellir@gmail.com

When we get back to being able to hold our face-to-face district meetings, I will ask these two individuals if there are any topics that members in their area would like to discuss. If you live in a different area and want to put together a group there, please let me know, and I will place your contact information in the *Hownikan*.

Website

In the last several issues of the *Hownikan*, I mentioned that I now have a website, which is cpndistrict3.com. You may use it to reach me directly as well as to provide me your email address. As my site says, my mission is to be your voice to the Nation. So, please contact me if you believe that I may be able to assist you with a question about any service or benefit that CPN offers.

In closing, I am honored that you have elected me to represent you for District 3.

Nagech
(Later),

Bob Whistler
Bmashi (He Soars)
Representative, District 3
112 Bedford Road, Suite 116
Bedford, TX 76022
817-282-0868 office
817-229-6271 cell
817-545-1507 home
rwhistler@potawatomi.org
cpn3legislator@yahoo.com

District 4 – Jon Boursaw

Bozho
(Hello),

Dedication ceremony for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation history exhibit on Burnett's Mound in Topeka

On April 29, I was joined by Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps to participate in this ceremony. About 70 people attended Thursday's gathering at the exhibit, which is located near the entrance to Skyline Park on Burnett's Mound. Skies were mostly clear and temperatures in the upper 70s as those present heard from speakers, including Chairman Barrett, Shawnee County Commissioner Kevin Cook, County Parks and Recreation Director Tim Laurent and Allyson Shove, vice-president of marketing for Azura Credit Union, which has teamed up with the county on efforts to improve Skyline Park, and myself. The Potawatomi history exhibit is "just one more compelling reason to visit Skyline Park," Laurent said. The other two Shawnee County Commissioners, Aaron Mays and Bill Riphahn, and Topeka City Manager Brent Trout were also among those present. Also in attendance was Jennie Chinn, director of the Kansas State Historical Society, and Vicky Henley, executive director of the Kansas Historical Foundation. Thursday's ceremony came more than a year after the exhibit was erected in March 2020 through a partnership between Shawnee County Parks and Recreation and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Dedication ceremonies were postponed until this month because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Dedication of the buffalo sculpture in Rossville

The following morning Chairman Barrett, Vice-Chairman Capps and I conducted a brief dedication ceremony to acknowledge the placement of a buffalo sculpture mounted on a limestone base near the flagpole in the parking lot of the CPN Community Center in Rossville. A plaque has been placed on the stone base that reads:

A Diminished Presence
Artist: Roberet Heintzelman
Donation date: June 11, 2020
Dedication date: April 30, 2021

This piece is intended to be a statement about the elimination of the vast herds of Plains bison to near non-existence. An estimated 30 million were killed for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the importance of the animal to the Native Americans. A once huge presence on the land was diminished almost completely.

Carissa McAfee, CPN member, receives her Master's degree

I received the following from Janet McAfee, mother of Carissa: "Just thought I would share a picture of Carissa with her cap and gown and her CPN stole. Carissa is graduating from Emporia State University on May 14, 2021 with her Masters in Instructional Design and Technology. She completed her Master's in one year while working a 40 hour a week job. In May 2020, Carissa graduated from ESU with a double degree in Business Management, Marketing, and a Minor in Entrepreneurship. She earned these degrees in 4 years."

I had the pleasure a few years ago to give Carissa her Indian name, which is *Wiskepto* (Strong Runner). She is the daughter of David and Janet McAfee and a descendant of the Bourassa/Ogee families. Congratulations, Carissa.

Google call presentation of my Citizen Potawatomi Nation history

Several weeks ago, I was contacted by an individual associated with a church in Indiana asking if I would be interested in giving my CPN history presentation via Google Call, which is similar to Zoom. At first, I wasn't sure about doing it as I have never given my presentation by this method, but I thought, "Why not?" and agreed to do it. It was to a Church of the Brethren group in Eel River, Indiana, which apparently had recently learned that their original church was built in the fall 1838 on what had been Potawatomi land shortly after the Tribe's forced removal. They were interested in what the Potawatomi encountered during their removal to Kansas and how they have survived since the removal. My presentation lasted about 35 minutes, and then there was over an hour of questions and discussion, and I was the only one answering the questions. I understand there were over 30 individuals, including three college professors, participating in the meeting. One woman asked if they could donate to our scholarship fund. I suggested that they consider establishing a local scholarship for an enrolled Native American youth of any tribe. There was strong support for that idea from the rest of the group. Eel River is about 30 miles east of Rochester, home of the Fulton County Museum, which coordinates the Trail of Death caravan from Twin Lakes, Indiana, to Sugar Creek in Lynn County, Kansas.

July Elders Potluck in Rossville

The July Elders Potluck will be held on Friday, July 9, at noon in the CPN Community Center in Rossville. Tracy and Brenda have asked that you RSVP if you plan on attending. Their number is 785-584-6171. You are asked to bring a side dish or desert.

CPN member selected as American Indian College Fund Student of the Year

Haskell Indian Nation University recently announced that CPN member Autumn Wano was selected the American Indian College Fund Student of the Year. She grew up in Lansing, Kansas, and graduated from Haskell in May with her Bachelor of Science in business administration. Autumn had made the President's Honor Roll for eight consecutive semesters. She was a member of the student government association as the director of academic affairs and was an academic tutor for the Haskell Student Success Center. Autumn plans on moving to Shawnee, Oklahoma, to work as a records manager and archivist for the Nation.

Honored to serve you

It is an honor to serve you as your district representative. I appreciate hearing from CPN members in Kansas, whether in the form of a letter, email, phone call or in the office. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to you. If you are not receiving emails from me, it is because I do not have your current email address or what I have is incorrect. All you need to do is send me your email address, and I will enter you into my District 4 information file. My contact information is listed below.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Jon Boursaw,
Wetase Mkoh (Brave Bear)
Representative, District 4
2007 SW Gage Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66604
785-861-7272 office
785-608-1982 cell
jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
Office hours:
9-11 a.m. Tuesdays
3-5 p.m. Thursdays
Other times: please call

Hownikan
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Questions: hownikan@potawatomi.org or 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

District 5 – Gene Lambert

Bozho
(Hello),

Hope everyone is doing well, and I am happy to announce that things will be opening up soon. The requirements for the coronavirus have lessened, but we still want you to do all you know to do to stay safe.

Virtual district meetings are taking place. Perhaps next year we will be back to our in-person meetings.

It will be wonderful to get to visit with everyone and hear all the family stories that have taken place in the meantime.

We normally have our legislative meetings via Zoom just because of the distance between legislators and Tribal members.

Since it is June 2021, we all know what that means. It is time to vote. Be sure your voice is heard by being counted.

Should you have questions regarding an in-person vote, feel free to contact your representative to get help.

In the meantime, please take care of yourselves and stay in touch.

Always thinking of you.

Eunice Imogene Lambert
Butterfly Woman
Representative, District 5
270 E Hunt Highway, Ste 229
San Tan Valley, AZ 85143
480-228-6569
euniceilambert@gmail.com

District 7 – Mark Johnson

Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

One of the things that is most fundamental to life in America is to have your voice heard through your power of the vote; I hope that you will use that right with our Tribal elections this month. Too often over the last few years, national politics has digressed into the game of "let me see what kind of a story I can make you believe," and "if I tell you there is a problem long enough and loud enough maybe you will believe it." My father taught me a life lesson long ago; none of us are perfect, and you only have one soul, and you are the only one who should own it. And the adage, "Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones." I strongly believe we need to stay the course we have been on for many years, think long and hard about how far we have come as a Tribe and the recognition we have received for our stable, well-run government, and then vote.

On April 24, Rande Payne and I hosted a District 6 and 7 Zoom meeting with Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps. Thank you to all of you who joined us; we all look forward to having in-person meetings again, and I believe that if the trend continues in the downward direction, Rande and I will again host the fall festival in person this year, possibly in late October or early November. We also enjoyed a language lesson from Justin Neely and a tour of the new functionality of the Cultural Heritage Center website with Dr. Kelli Mosteller. Please visit them at potawatomiheritage.com.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your 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 available Tribal benefits. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and district.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Mark Johnson,
Wisk Mtek (Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611
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District 8 – Dave Carney

Bohzo nikan
(Hello friend),

This June feels different than many in our Potawatomi past; however, one important thing remains the same — it's election time! Like many of you, I received a second absentee ballot request that made me a bit confused, but the important thing is that you received one or put your hands on a request through email or the *Hownikan* and turned it in. It's important that you exercise your vote — especially this year with the Chairmanship on the line.

There's a lot of information out there, and a lot of misinformation. Unfortunately with the dominance of social media, the civility factor is way down. The last resort of an in-person discussion (being nasty, using inuendo, twisting facts and using foul language, etc.) seems to be the opening salvo in modern political races. I promised myself a long time ago not to engage in political battles on Facebook because they are impossible to win, exhausting and generally nasty. If you weigh in, you're damned, and if you don't weigh in, the falsehoods rule the day. There are some folks in that forum that seem to have unlimited time and a desire to settle old grudges. So far, I have been able to have the self-control to not comment.

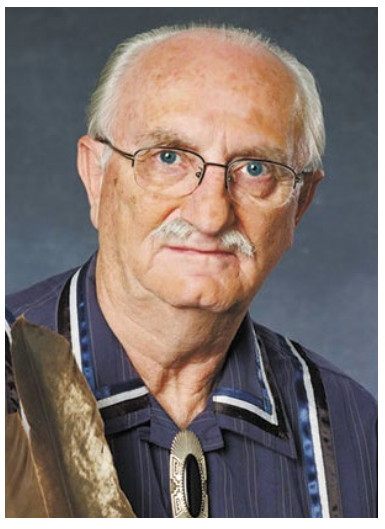
There's been internet chatter regarding the legislative meetings that have been online for several years that categorize the legislature as only voting "yes" (or *konege* in Potawatomi) for proposed legislation. The very simple fact is that the vast majority of resolutions are approving grant proposals to obtain federal funds for the Tribe, requiring little or no financial match from the Nation's resources; resolutions to put land into trust with the Federal government to secure our future land base; or to enroll new members meeting the prescribed criteria on to the Tribal rolls. I will gladly stand behind all of those *konege* votes.

One heavily debated topic in which there were many "no" votes (or *cho* in Potawatomi) was the attempt to change the Tribal marriage ordinance form a union between a man and a woman to a union of two persons. I was in support of this change; however, based on my generally libertarian/live-and-let-live approach to social issues, there were not enough votes to alter the marriage ordinance and make it more in-line with the law of the land. If that is a significant issue to you, I'd advise you to inquire from your legislator how they voted.

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

Dave Carney
Kagasghi (Raven)
Representative, District 8
520 Lilly Road, Building 1
Olympia, WA 98506
360-259-4027
dcarney@potawatomi.org

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

World War I and Oklahoma Potawatomi veterans

We have relatively good historical information about our WWII Citizen Potawatomi Nation veterans, but information is sparse about our WWI CPN veterans.

World War I was the first global war originating in Europe, which lasted from July 28, 1914, until Nov. 11, 1918. It was "The Great War to end all wars." Eight and a half million combatants were killed and 13 million civilians.

Out of the 4.7 million Americans that served, more than 116,500 were killed and 320,000 were sick and/or wounded. Many patriotic Native American soldiers served the nation, which treated them as second-class citizens. Actually, 40 percent of Native Americans were not citizens until 1924, though more than 12,000 served in the U.S. Army during WWI. Native Americans have always served in wars in higher percentages than others.

If you have lived the 73 years that I have, you would have experienced the remnant of WWI veterans die away as have virtually all of our WWII veterans. These patriots must never be forgotten. They saved the world for peace — for liberty. Therefore, we honor these Oklahoma Potawatomi men who fought for their nation in World War I.

Do you recognize your relative? I recognize mine.

Lee Burnett
Emmett Bowles
Clarency Bradley
Joseph Bruno
John Cryer
Alex Curley Preston
Goulette George Haas, Jr.
Louis Hale
John A. Hardin
Joe Kime
Edward LeMotte
Charles Lybarger
George Lybarger
Thomas Lybarger
Benjamin Megah
Edward S. Muller
Stephen W. Negahnquet, Jr.
James O'Marra
John B. Pambego
Patrick A. Tierney
Elijah Tyner
Nicholas Vieux
Asa Wall
William Wano

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft
Naganit (Leader)
Representative, District 9
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District 10 – David Barrett

Bozho
(Hello),

I want to share some information that I gathered from an article on the national debt written by Kimberly Amadeo for the website thebalance.com in 2021.

The U.S. debt reached a new high of $28.1 trillion as of March 31, 2021. The U.S. Treasury manages the U.S. debt through its Bureau of the Public Debt. The debt falls into two categories: intragovernmental holdings and debt held by the public, according to thebalance.com.

Most headlines focus on how much the United States owes China, one of the largest foreign owners. What people don't know is that the Social Security Trust Fund, also known as your retirement money, owes most of the national debt.

The national debt was $28.1 trillion as of April 2021 and is broken down as 22 percent ($6 trillion) belonging to intragovernmental holdings and 78 percent ($22 trillion) belonging to debt held by the public.

Why would the government owe money to itself? Some agencies, like the Social Security Trust Fund, take in more revenue from taxes than they need. Rather than sticking this cash under a giant mattress, these agencies invest in the U.S. Treasury bonds. This transfers the agencies' excess revenue to the general fund, where it is spent. Then when these agencies needs the funds, they will redeem the Treasury notes. Thus, the government will have to either raise taxes or issue more debt to raise the cash.

Which agencies own the most Treasury bonds? Well, Social Security by a long shot at $2.9 trillion. Then the Office of Personnel Management Retirement at $955.1 billion; Military Retirement Fund at $1.01 trillion; and Medicare at $304.4 billion, with the remainder of approximately $723 billion in cash on hand, totaling around $7 trillion.

Now we are going to look at the $21 trillion of public debt, with a total of $7.07 trillion of foreign debt, including $1.28 trillion owned by Japan and $1.06 trillion China-owned of the U.S. debt. Federal Reserve and government has $10.8 trillion; mutual funds has $3.5 trillion; state and local governments (pension funds) has $1.09 trillion; and other holders — private pensions, insurance companies, U.S. saving bonds, individuals, brokers, banks, and corporate and non-corporate businesses — have the remainder of $3.5 trillion.

The reason the Federal Reserve owns treasuries is because of the quantitative easing that stimulated the economy by keeping interest rates low and infusing liquidity into the capital markets.

The Federal Reserve purchased Treasuries from 2011 with only $1.6 trillion to March 23, 2020, of $7 trillion. Did the Fed monetize the debt by buying treasuries from its member banks using credit that it created out of thin air? It had the same effect as the printing of money.

Many people believe that much of the U.S. debt is owed by foreign countries like China and Japan. The truth is most of it is owed due to Social Security and pension funds. This means U.S. citizens, through their retirement money, own most of the national debt.

So when we are considering all the proposed spending from the government in the future, there has to be a cap on spending.

If you add the debt held by Social Security and all the retirement and pension funds, almost half of the U.S. Treasury debt is held in trust for your retirement. If the United States defaults on its debt, foreign investors would be angry, but current and future retirees would be hurt the most.

The Treasury breakdown on who holds how much debt is in the monthly *Treasury Bulletin*.

"We the people" not "we the government" need to evaluate how the government is spending our money and hold them accountable. We can't allow all this spending to land on our grandchildren. Even if they say the money is "paid for," it only means it will eventually come from the productive private sector where those people will pass on to the non-productive government spending.

It goes without saying, thank you for allowing me to represent you and our great Nation.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

David Barrett
Mnedobe (Sits with Spirit)
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District 11 – Andrew Walters

Bozho
(Hello),

If you haven't already guessed, I kind of like old sayings. The tradition we have in the Tribe that elders have much to give in the way of experience has always struck me as the right way. Most of these old sayings carry a lot of truth in small understandable packets. Some are silly, but even those touch on meaningful things.

- "Leave the gate like you found it."
- "She didn't have nothin' under her hat but hair."
- "It was so dry the bushes followed the dogs around."
- "He's richer than possum gravy."
- "All hat and no herd."
- "She lies so well a man would be a fool not to believe her."

The one that has struck me lately is "The truth ain't as much fun." It means that gossip and such talk is more entertaining than hard facts. Kind of makes for better clothesline talk.

A lot of what's going on right now before this Tribal election is an example. Seems like folks can't always get their facts straight, but like the saying goes, "It ain't as much fun." Allegations and hurtful words have been made by some that the Tribe is filled with thieves, onery men, embezzlers, card sharks and Charlatans. That the legislators are all "feathering their nests" (good old saying but not true). Some openly say that Tribal members should all be getting a ton of "Indian money" from the Tribe because it's owed them. Why? "Because the Tribe is floatin' in money." And a lot more. Crazy stuff from folks that for the most part know "about as much as a hog knows about a bathing suit."

Truth is, the Tribe is well-run, efficiently operated and managed by some of the finest folks I've have had the honor to work with. Ain't a crooked one among them. They all take pride in their jobs and their heritage. From the Chairman on down, all the staff takes meticulous care to service the Tribal members in a caring way. To impugn their honesty, to insult their honor, to imply that even one of them would "cover up" a criminal act… well… is "uglier than a new sheared sheep." Linda Capps would be what you'd have if you took kindness, goodness, compassion, intelligence, honesty, integrity, and grace, mixed it all up good, and put it in a bottle. She would not stand for the occurrences such accusations imply. Nor would any of the legislators or the Chairman himself.

As far as money allocations, where's that supposed to come from? All the businesses the Tribe operates are profitable and self-supporting. It's the programs that provide services to our folks that eat up that profit.

Medical clinics spread outside the reservation? The IHS funds programs for each tribe. Our Tribal clinics are thus funded. Theoretically, you should be able to go to any IHS-funded clinic and receive care, but it doesn't always work out that way. When my mother was dying, I tried to get the Tigua Indian Clinic to service her health needs only to be told they did not support other tribes' needs. Our clinics do. We support tribal members of other recognized tribes throughout the area. We also support our own members. Here you can get health care, dental, vision and other medical needs such as pharmaceuticals. The catch there is that you have to come here. I guess on that note, I'm a little biased. I moved from Houston to Shawnee to participate and receive services from the Tribe. We have members that come into Oklahoma and visit at other clinics in the state that reciprocate with our Tribe.

It's easy to sit in your chair, wave your arm, say something profound, act like you could do it and then openly wonder why someone else hasn't. Running this ranch is a little harder than that. It takes commitment, intelligence and a business eye. It's truly awesome (a greatly overused phrase) to see it all come together. Until you can see actually how it works, it's incomprehensible. Add to that the personalities, and Lord we have some, and the nuances of dealing in the Native American community, and you'll find that heading up the Tribe is only for those uniquely suited to the endeavor.

Before I "climb down from my soap box," let me say one more thing. I'd mentioned it before in this article but didn't expand, expound or pontificate on it. That concerns my comment about participating. Only a small fraction of folks vote in the elections. I'd say way under 10 percent. Most of the time, you can tell when there's a "bone to pick" and someone is "ticked off" by the way the vote goes. But you know, there's a bunch of us who never vote. Never see the need to. Things seem to be going OK, or we just don't care and let our vote not count. When the CARES Act funds were available, we had many hundred applications for citizenship come in. Some appear to have been from folks who, until a check had their name on it, hadn't seen reason to apply. Participation is what makes us a Tribe, not the amount of money we think we can get. Honestly, and only you can judge that, when's the last time you participated in our Tribe? When is that last time you attended a regional meeting? When's the last time you came to Shawnee? When's the last time you voted? Now, I know that there's some folks out there that'll take that comment and run with it. Cuss me up one side and down the other, say I'm this and that, but the truth is, it's only a question. A question only you can answer. Not pointing fingers. Truth is "I've got my own chickens to feed." Y'all take care.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Andrew Walters
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nibwemko@gmail.com

Legislators are not able to retrieve your contact information from Tribal Rolls

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

WALKING ON

Mary E. (Cody) Cox
Vieux Family

Mary E. (Cody) Cox was born on Dec. 18, 1934, in Hominy, Oklahoma, to Andrew (A.J.) and Evelyn (Bruno) Cody and passed away at St. John's Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on March 4, 2021, at the age of 86.

She was a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Hominy after having been baptized in January 1935.

Mary began her education at Hominy Public Schools until transferring to Chilocco Indian School near Newkirk, Oklahoma. She returned to Hominy High School for her senior year, graduating in 1953.

On Feb. 9, 1954, she was united in marriage to T. H. Cox in Fairfax, Oklahoma, and they made their home west of Hominy.

Two daughters were born to this union — Maria Sue Cox Biard and Cynthia Cox Whitton. In 1962, they built their home in Northern Heights, where she resided until her death.

After both of her girls were in school, Mary began her career with the Hominy Public Schools system, retiring after 34 years.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, A.J. and Evelyn; her husband, T.H.; daughter, Cynthia (Cindy); son-in-law, Noel (Jerry) Whitton; sisters, Zelda Hale and Connie Dyer; and brother, Andrew. J. Cody.

Mary is survived by her daughter, Maria Sue Biard; granddaughters, Marial Biard and Rachel Whitton; grandson, Jared Biard; sister-in-law, Mary Lou Cody; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

A memorial Mass was celebrated on March 20, 2021, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Hominy.

Donations may be made in her name to the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 586 Hominy, OK, 74035.

Melba Schencks
Willmette Family

Melba Lee Schencks (Sinor) was born on March 9, 1934, in Pryor, Oklahoma, to George and Alta Sinor (Cargill) of Pryor. After an extended illness, she accept the Lord's invitation to join her heavenly family on Jan. 1, 2021. She grew up in Pryor and graduated from Pryor High School in 1952. She then attended College at Northeastern State University, where she received a master's degree in education. She was part of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society while attending NSU and after. She went on to teach in several states, holding teaching certificates in Kansas, Maine and Oklahoma. She ended her career in Oklahoma after 24 years of teaching at Chouteau Elementary Public Schools. Even after retirement, she went on to mentor the next generation of teachers by observing and helping in the teacher's certification process.

Melba was married to Frazure Scheneks in 1958 in Salina, Kansas. They moved all over the United States due to Frazures' career with the United States Air Force. Finally returning home in 1976, they settled and made their home in Chouteau, Oklahoma. They raised two children together, Alta and George Schencks.

She was a proud Citizen Potawatomi Nation member. She enjoyed reading about the history, learning the language and knowing the solidarity of her Indian family. She was part of the Willmette family.

She is survived by Alta Schencks of Tulsa, daughter; and George Schencks of Pryor, son; several surviving members of her family include grandchildren, Anthony Schencks, Brian Schencks, Joshua Schencks and Talyiah Schencks; great-grandchildren, Hailey Schencks, Curtis Schencks, Sawyer Schencks and Sage Schencks; sisters, Judith Washam, Nora McManus and Lora McHenry; and one brother, Jon Sinor.

Preceded in death by her loving husband, Frazure Schencks; mother, Alta Sinor; father, George Sinor; and her sister, Georgia "Lucy" Link.

Jesselyn Jo Morrison
Melott Family

Jesselyn Jo Morrison (Flynn), age 73, passed at her home in Algonquin, Illinois, on Resurrection Sunday, April 3, 2021, due to an accident. Jesselyn was born on Aug. 24, 1947, at Oklahoma City General Hospital to Wilmot Paul Flynn of Oklahoma City and Mary Lou Flynn (Melott) of Drumright, Oklahoma. Through her mother's maiden name, Melott, she was an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The Potawatomi people prehistorically dwelled in the Fox River Valley, near Jesselyn's home in Algonquin, the village bearing the name of the subfamily which the Potawatomi language comes from. She graduated – at 16 – from Putnam City High School in Oklahoma City in 1964. On a full scholarship, she earned a Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma, in 1968, with a major in English. In 1971, she married Mitchel Q. Morrison of Ardmore, Oklahoma, in Texas. As a credentialed teacher of English, she worked for the Oklahoma State Board of Regents for Higher Education (1974-75), Moore Public Schools (1976-77) and First Southern Baptist Church of Del City (1978-81). She completed graduate coursework in English at the University of Oklahoma and studied divided selves. She moved to Virginia Beach, where her husband worked for the Christian Broadcasting Network. A survivor of ovarian cancer and endometriosis, Jesselyn gave birth to a son, Mitchel David Morrison, in Virginia Beach in 1986, a miracle. Her husband passed in 1995, preceding Jesselyn in death. She is survived by her son Mitchel David (34), daughter-in-love Tina Maria (34), and granddaughter Maria Joy (22 months). Her sister Laura Tinsley of Fairhope, Alabama, also survives her. A polymathic bibliophile, Jesselyn is honored as a kaleidoscope of self-expression, wielder of authentic wit, and person of profound spiritual perception for the loving Light of Christ.

Rachel McPherson
Johnson Family

It is with great sorrow to announce the walking on of Rachel H. Wall McPherson (*KnoKwe*) on Feb. 12, 2021, at 94 years old — sorrow for the loss of a much loved, valued mom and friend. Yet, gratitude and love for all that she offered simply by being herself, which enriched the lives of those who knew her.

Her joy of life, quick wit, unparalleled memory, humor and laughter remained strong throughout her life. She relished family and friends, travel, Potawatomi gatherings, ka-chinging and marveling at nature, to name a few.

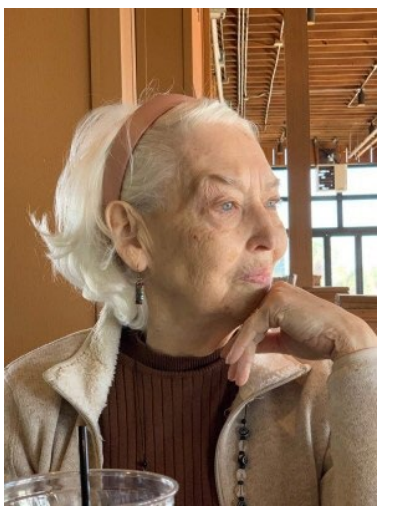
For 54 years, she was married to Alexander "Mickey" McPherson until his death in 2000. They had three daughters — Sandi (died in 1995), Deb in New York and Val in Georgia (spouse Jim McClure) — that they thoroughly enjoyed and taught how to live and enjoy life with their own choices. Through the years, Rachel and her siblings (survived by Betty (Bob) and Bob (Pat), and predeceased by Asa Jr. (Dot) and Joyce (Tony)) spoke with love, respect and admiration of their parents, Asa E. Wall and Inez C. Wall. That bond and those stories will remind family of abundant blessings.

Survivors also include grandchildren in Georgia, William (Alyssa), Kate "Katesby" (Zach) and Jake (Katie); great-grandchildren, Archer, Sayler, Everly and Abram; sister-in-law, Sylvia (Tom); numerous people who considered her their "mom"; nieces and nephews, who have wonderful stories of their dear aunt; cousins as well as other relatives and friends. (You know who you are!)

Everyone who knew Rachel knew she loved unconditionally, accepted and encouraged them, and that there would be a good laugh! She was loved greatly, and she greatly loved! The family thanks all who loved and enjoyed her. She will be missed but lovingly recalled.

Those wishing to contribute in her honor can contribute to their favorite Native project or to the Sandi McPherson Memorial Scholarship. (Mail to Radford University Foundation, P.O. Box 6893, Radford, VA 24142)

Barbara Ella Hamman
Lewis Family



Barbara Ella Hamman, 83, widow of the late Floyd Hamman, died April 3, 2021, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital. Born in Kingman, Arizona, she was a daughter of the late Omer C. Lewis and Lucille Simpson Lewis. She was a retired escrow assistant with Transamerica Title Company. She is survived by three daughters, JoAn Risdon (Cliff) of Phoenix, Arizona, Gina Gardner (Buddy) of Sumter, South Carolina, and Darla George (Sonny) of Smithfield, Texas; a sister, Donna Moody of Phoenix; 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by a brother, Russell Lewis.

Submitting obituaries

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

hownikan@potawatomi.org

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

For more information, please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email cclark@potawatomi.org.