



HOWNIIKAN

Nmėbnegises | March 2021

Top photo: *Mnokme* (spring) makes an early appearance at CPN headquarters.

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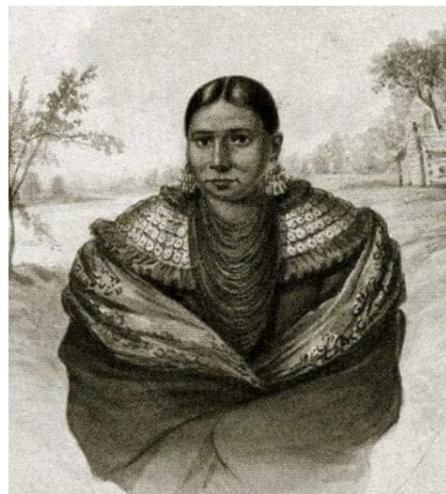


Remembering impactful Potawatomi women during Women's History Month

Throughout Potawatomi history, women have contributed to *Nishnabé* communities in innumerable ways. Some prominent female leaders since the 1800s include *Massaw*, *Watseka*, *Mary Ann Benache*, *Joyce Able*, *Beverly Hughes* and more.

"Women have always had a central role in our life. ... Our societies are structured differently than most Euro-American cultures historically were. Our society did not have the same Western understanding that men are at the top. While women may have different roles, it doesn't mean they had to be subservient," said Dr. Kelli Mosteller, Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center director.

Massaw



George Winter's sketch of *Massaw* features her signature fashion.

As the daughter of Potawatomi Chief *Wassato* and wife of a French fur trader, *Massaw* was a respected individual within Potawatomi communities.

"She may have been from an esteemed family, but she was the one who secured her place within powerful circles," said Blake Norton, Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center's curator.

She had a reputation as Tribal *ogema* (headman or headwoman) and prominent entrepreneur near Lake Keewawnay in Indiana.

"She was a woman of her time," Dr. Mosteller said. "She absolutely saw the world around her and understood the kind of business that would make her successful. ... She understood what the people and the circumstances of her time and place needed, and she made the most of that."

Before the Potawatomi forced removal on the Trail of Death, *Massaw* ran a successful business out of her two-story home and had the same ranking as men during numerous treaty negotiations and signings.

"*Massaw* could read a room," Dr. Mosteller explained. "She could read the writing on the wall, and she was

going to do what she needed to help herself, her family and her Tribe."

While women have always held equal importance in Potawatomi society, the cultural customs did not always translate to political and legal dealings with other countries and entities. But, her cunningness and economic approaches opened the door for her to receive political standings other women at the time could not achieve.

"It's just speculation, but this may be why she was noted as a man on the first two treaties she signed," Norton said. "Women did sign treaties, but this would come a couple of years later as more land was being sold and reserved."

Massaw presented herself in fine clothing. In English artist George Winter's diaries, he noted her dark, smooth hair and bright-colored clothes adorned with ribbon applique and silver brooches and stately earrings.

"The appointment of her dress were expensive, including her moccasins, which were neatly made and handsomely checkered," Winter wrote.

She also enjoyed playing card games, and many knew of her expertise.

"She understood the person who she was doing business with, whether that was at the card table, doing a transaction for goods or getting somebody to pay up. She was not a shrinking violet," Dr. Mosteller said.

Fight for representation

Massaw's keen mind and understanding of Tribal affairs made her an important signatory during the Treaty of 1861 and its 1866 amendments. Although she had signed treaties in the past, four other women also had a role, including *Totoquah*, *Otter Woman*, *Mary Jutions* and *Pnah-zuea*.

"For the 1861 treaty, I think it's critical that women were signatories because it was such a shift with land ownership becoming the new basis for authority and power," Dr. Mosteller said.

The Treaty of 1861 laid the groundwork for Potawatomi to receive allotments and the opportunity to become U.S. citizens or remain living communally on 11-square-miles. It separated the 2,170 Kansas Potawatomi into two distinct groups, with 1,400 choosing allotments. Each Tribal member received parcels of land based upon their community and family standings.

During this time, Potawatomi women, represented by *Massaw*, *Totoquah*, *Otter Woman*, *Mary Jutions* and *Pnah-zuea*, petitioned for the ability to receive head of household recognition.

"Because these Potawatomi women were the ones who were eligible for land allotments, not their white husbands, they understood that they needed to have a seat at the table," Dr. Mosteller said.

Although their requests did not make it into the 1861 treaty, they continued pushing for their rights.

Because of these efforts, "we had the amendment of 1866 that came back in and changed the treaty to say that Potawatomi women could be the head of the household and that she should be able to get a full allotment — not the 80 acres or 40 acres, whatever it may be, as a dependent," she said. "She is not dependent of anybody. She is the head of her household, and her relationship to her white husband had nothing to do with it."

Although not all of the five women had officially signed treaties in the past, they had experience with prior negotiations.

"They understood what this process was about, and they understood that making this decision to change their Tribe's relationship with the federal government was one that was going to impact them just as much as it was the men," Dr. Mosteller said.

Because of their standings and Potawatomi cultural traditions, men across the community supported the women and their requests. The five female signatories' tenacity forever impacted Potawatomi women's ability to receive the same recognition and power as men through the federal government.

Watseka



The City of Middleport's name change to *Watseka* continues her legacy for generations to come.

Watseka — *Watcheke* — (Overseer) was a prominent Potawatomi woman during the 19th century. She was the daughter

Continued on page 3

Oklahoma middle schoolers' work lifts off into outer space

As sixth graders, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Addison Taylor and her science partner Mayzie Burke won the chance to send their experiment to the International Space Station. The two became friends after teaming up in class at Summit Christian Academy in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Their STEAM teacher Stephanie Bradley focuses on curriculum that brings together science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. She encouraged her students to enter the annual Tulsa Research Kids competition. In 2019, the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance worked with the DreamUp organization to offer three Oklahoma teams the opportunity to send their projects to the ISS.

"It was the chance of a lifetime," Bradley said. "Not many times can you watch students release something into space. We do projects all the time, and sometimes you're like, 'OK, put it in the trash.' And this time, we get to say, 'OK, put it on a rocket. We're going to shoot it to space,' and I'm so glad."

Port to port

Taylor and Burke both share interests in science and outer space and decided to enter the contest. Taylor's father works at the Port of Muskogee off the Arkansas River in Muskogee, Oklahoma, where semi-trucks, barges and trains load and unload. One day, they were discussing a product he often uses called WearFlex — a synthetic rubber compound.

"If something goes wrong, he uses WearFlex, and it helps fix cracks, leaks and holes, and tires and belts and all sorts of stuff," Taylor, a Bertrand family descendant, said.

The students spoke with the company that produces WearFlex to learn the product's chemical makeup and more. Company representatives supported the duo by attending some of their demonstrations, and they remain in contact today.

She and Burke chose WearFlex for its potential practical application in space. They won several competitions in a row with their idea and advanced to the finals in their age group. After presenting their project for the final time on Dec. 6, 2019, the girls found out they won in January 2020.

Burke looks forward to the chance to see "how (WearFlex) formed in space compared to how it formed down here, to see even if it dried."



Burke (left) and Taylor prepare their experiment for its trip to the International Space Station. (Photo provided)

NASA initially scheduled the flight for the summer of 2020; however, the pandemic delayed it several times throughout the year. On Dec. 6, 2020, the experiment launched on a Falcon 9 rocket as part of a service mission to the International Space Station — a full year after the Tulsa Research Kids event.

"When we first found out we're actually going to space, we were so excited. And then over time, we just got more excited to finally go," Taylor said.

She, Burke, their families and Bradley all saw the rocket launch at the Kennedy Space Center outside of Orlando, Florida.

"As soon as it actually happened, I was like, 'Wow, we're really going!' because as soon as we drove to the airport, it was hard to believe that we were actually going because of all of the times it got pushed back," Burke said.

Now in seventh grade, the students enjoy their success but remember the bigger picture.

"We mostly want our project to help astronauts in space," Taylor said.

Growth on earth

The trip to Florida also marked Burke's first time on an airplane, a trip to Universal Studios, time at the beach and much more. Due to the launch's numerous postponements, the group became better acquainted.

"I thought our families kind of (became) like one big family kind of together, even Miss Bradley," Taylor said.

Bradley and both girls' parents helped them prepare for each competition, which included repetition of their presentations to improve their public speaking skills. Six judges oversaw the final round and decided whose experiments went to space.

"Whenever we first got up there, at first (I) was nervous," Burke said. "And then once you just get into it, and then everyone is just used to you. You are used to just talking."

Practicing helped Taylor as well.

"It felt more calm, like I know what I'm doing and won't get stumbled up, and ... I have Mayzie to help support me," she said.

Both Bradley and Taylor's mom, Chanda, felt they watched the duo become more outspoken throughout the year. Taylor somewhat overcame her shyness while learning how to present in front of a panel.

"To see how much these girls have grown, even how their faces have changed. ... You can just tell they're more mature, the way that they speak from beginning to end. They have grown so much. It's amazing to see," Bradley said.

Taylor and Burke believe in hard work and positivity.

"You have to use your critical thinking skills to figure out stuff that you can put together that is helpful," Burke said.

"You can do it anywhere, and even how old you are; you can always



Aerospace engineer and NASA astronaut Col. Paul Lockhart presents Tribal member Addison Taylor (right) and Mayzie Burke medals for winning the Tulsa Research Kids competition in January 2020. (Photo provided)

think outside the box," Taylor said. "You can do it, no matter what."

The girls received their experiment back at the end of January 2021, and it showed positive results for how the substance performed at the space station.

"We hope WearFlex will be a product NASA will purchase and be able to use in the future," they said.

As they continue their project, their eyes remain on the skies. Taylor hopes to contribute to discoveries in outer space.

"We haven't explored all of it, and you never know what's out there," she said.

To view footage of the rocket launch from Kennedy Space Center from Summit Christian Academy, visit cpn.news/falcon9. 🚀

Hownikan

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Potawatomi Women continued...

of *Monashki* and Potawatomi/Ojawa Chief *Shabonna*. During the War of 1812, *Shabonna* (Built Like a Bear) was an ally of *Tecumseh* and *Tenskwatawa*. He joined Potawatomi leaders *Waubensee*, *Winamac*, Main Poc and others.

Watcheke was born around 1810. Records indicate her birth happened during a bright star. Chief *Shabonna* raised her in a Potawatomi village, and she held a reputation for both her brains and looks. After the Potawatomi signed the 1833 Treaty of Chicago, she removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1837.

Once she moved west of the Mississippi, *Watcheke* continued yearning for her homelands, and she often traveled by foot back and forth to the Great Lakes region. Some estimate she walked more than 6,000 miles during this time.

Watcheke was one of the very few to live in the Great Lakes, experience removal and eventually settle on the reservation in Indian Territory. Her influence in the Great Lakes region remains today with the city of Watseka, Illinois, near the Indiana border derived from her name. According to *Daily Journal*, community leaders renamed the city in 1865 from Middleport to Watseka to honor her kindness toward settlers. Today, a large mural in town features *Watcheke*, serving as a visual reminder of the community's past.

Mary Ann Benache



English artist George Winter's 1842 drawing of Mary Ann Benache.

Mary Ann (Anne) was the daughter of the fierce warrior and leader *Segnak* or *Benache*. *Segnak* held a high standing in the Milwaukee Potawatomi villages as a headman, and he was invited to discuss tribal affairs with President Thomas Jefferson.

He fought alongside Potawatomi and other Native Americans during the War of 1812 and signed eight treaties. He assisted fellow Potawatomi with receiving claim to land and developed real estate businesses through partnerships with important traders like Alexis Coquillard, who became the founder of South Bend, Indiana. *Segnak's* daughter Mary Ann wed Coquillard's business partner Edward McCartney.

Due to these connections, *Segnak* and his family avoided removal. Mary Ann

divorced McCartney and eventually married a Potawatomi warrior named *Peashwab*. After *Segnak* passed away, Mary Ann inherited his land and became one of the most prominent landowners in Kosciusko County, Indiana.

"She inherited a lot of her gumption from her dad, who was a fierce warrior and brilliantly negotiated the politics of his time," Dr. Mosteller said. "Often women, if they inherited land and they married, then the ownership transferred into their husband's name. That did not happen in this case."

Mary Ann employed numerous efforts to ensure her family's land remained under her domain.

"I think she adopted a lot of things from her father, including his warrior spirit," she said. "He was feared on the battlefield, and I think she is an example of how you can be absolutely a woman of your time but also refuse to let those things that have been handed down to you pass into other hands."

Mary Anderson Bourbonnais



Mary Anderson Bourbonnais' lasting impact on the Nation remains today.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Citizen Potawatomi overcame many obstacles, including relocating to Indian Territory and maneuvering the ever-changing relations with the federal government. One of the leaders who rose to the challenge at this time was Mary Anderson Bourbonnais.

Bourbonnais understood the Potawatomi battles were no longer in the hills, forests and fields surrounding the Great Lakes but rather in the halls of government. She began letter-writing campaign efforts that formed a foundation for how the Citizen Potawatomi Nation continues operating today.

"She worked the system," Dr. Mosteller said. "First, she went to the Indian agent, and if he didn't give her the answer she wanted, she would go to the commissioner of Indian affairs. And if he didn't give her the answer she wanted, she brought it to the president."

Bourbonnais and her husband Antoine were among one of the first Potawatomi families to make the trek from Kansas to the Pleasant Prairie community in present-day southern Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma. After arriving, she became involved in the Quaker church and eventually served as the first Sunday school superintendent. Most knew her as "Aunt Mary," and she also helped others in the territory as a midwife and doctor.

Although Bourbonnais had a caring touch, this did not undermine her tenaciousness. Instead of backing down in the face of adversity,

Bourbonnais and other leaders during this time pressed forward.

"She is a good example of this unwillingness to take the answers they don't want to hear at face value," she said. "And her descendants — you had other Andersons — who would eventually hire attorneys and go to Washington and argue on behalf of the Tribe."

The Bourbonnais family eventually moved further north, and their cabin remains standing today next to the Cultural Heritage Center. It serves as a reminder of the lasting impact she had on the Nation, which continues to uphold her legacy by petitioning for sovereignty and Tribal rights through Congress, courtrooms and more.

"We don't sue because we love to sue," Dr. Mosteller explained. "We are litigious, and we file lawsuits and participate in lawsuits because we have learned that if you don't fight for every bit of sovereignty you are due, it will be seized. And, they will keep coming."

Joyce Abel



Joyce Abel's work provides greater access to medical care for all CPN members.

Bourbonnais descendant Joyce Abel was born on Nov. 1, 1936, and passed away Sept. 5, 2011, but her mark on CPN continues.

She had a profound impact on Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services. Abel's CPN career spanned more than 30 years, during which she designed and directed the first health clinic and FireLake Wellness Center. She also established the Health Aids Program.

"I look at our health clinics and the advancements that have come from those endeavors — the Wellness Center and the Health Aids program — and see lasting programs that do exactly what she wanted them to do in helping people," said CPN Information Technology Director and Joyce's grandson Chris Abel.

"I cannot help but smile when I use the services that I am allowed that she had a hand in creating or improving."

Many remember her contagious energy and ability to make work enjoyable, no matter the task.

"She made me believe that as a Tribal member, I could come back and do something positive for my community," Dr. Mosteller said.

Abel understood in the importance of service to community as well as encouraging future generations of Potawatomi to find their role in the Nation.

"She had that sort of healing spirit, and I think for those of us wondering if all the years of school and efforts to become a professional can be used to help my community, she is a shining example of that absolutely, yes I can," Dr. Mosteller added.

Beverly Hughes



Beverly Hughes' lifetime of service to CPN lives on today through the Nation's name, the *Hownikan*, Tribal seal and more.

At one point in the Nation's not so distant history, the Tribe operated out of a small trailer, and volunteers oversaw daily operations, including Bruno-Rhodd-Bourbonnais descendant Beverly Hughes.

Hughes served as the Secretary-Treasurer on the Nation's Business Council in 1970. During this time, tribal self-governance provided Native nations greater independence. As part of this, Hughes received the duty of designing a Tribal seal and had a role in selecting an official name.

"They said they were going to spell it the same as the county, but I told them that we were separate from the county. We were an entity unto ourselves, so we made it Potawatomi," Hughes said in a 2013 *Hownikan* article.

"That was absolutely Beverly, as she would look at the circumstances and say, 'We need this.' And she would just do it. Did she always have the training? No, but she would get it done," Dr. Mosteller said.

Seeing the need to inform CPN tribal members about federal funds, Beverly Hughes created the *Hownikan*.

"All I was trying to do was give people an update on what we were doing and what services we provided," Hughes explained. "It seemed pretty popular, so from then on we tried to produce it every quarter to keep our members informed."

The *Hownikan* remains today and reaches thousands of Tribal members every month.

"As I go through the archives, her signatures are all over everything. She was where we needed her to be. She took on things that the community needed, and when a call was put out for help, she was always there," Dr. Mosteller said.

Hughes had a resilient spirit, like so many Potawatomi women who came before, but she also approached life filled with love and hope.

"I don't think I would have felt confident making a lot of the decisions and feeling like I deserved the position I'm in without (Beverly) and women like her," Dr. Mosteller explained. "She loved her Tribe deeply, but she was not hesitant to be critical when she felt criticism would make us better."

While each of the women mentioned left lasting marks on the Citizen Potawatomi people, throughout time, countless Potawatomi women have risen to the challenges and kept the Nation strong and prosperous. Learn more about these leaders as well as others by visiting the Cultural Heritage Center or researching online records, including the archives and encyclopedia featured on the CHC's website, at potawatomiheritage.com. ♡

Protecting the world's most valuable resource

Across the globe, people recognize March 22 as World Water Day. It began in 1993 as a celebration and raises awareness of those living without access to clean, safe water. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation employs efforts within its jurisdiction and incorporates traditional methods to remove contaminants, clean and restore Tribal waterways to benefit the Nation and community at large.

Lexi Freeman, CPN environmental coordinator, oversees much of the Nation's work to monitor local water systems. As a Tribal member and Rhodd descendant, Freeman sees her work as necessary to upholding CPN traditions and safeguarding them for generations to come.

"I think it's one of those things that every Native American community can relate to — that water is life," she said. "Even in Oklahoma, it's important for the tribes to protect what's ours and what we have jurisdiction over."

According to the United Nations, 2.2 billion people have contaminated drinking water, which increases the risk of contracting diseases. The U.N. World Water Development Report released in 2015 said, "Water is at the core of sustainable development. Water resources, and the range of services they provide, underpin poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental sustainability. From food and energy security to human and environmental health, water contributes to improvements in social wellbeing and inclusive growth, affecting the livelihoods of billions."

CPN efforts

As a Great Lakes tribe, the Citizen Potawatomi have always relied on waterways to procure food, travel and more. After removal west to the Great Plains, access to freshwater decreased, but the resource's importance remains. Because of this, CPN monitors 10 sites across Pottawatomie County using a multiparameter water quality sonde — a small, easy to transport piece of



Regular water monitoring determines trends and helps the Nation prioritize conservation projects, like the wetlands project north of the CPN Eagle Aviary.

monitoring equipment with multiple sensors — and collects water samples, to test for dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and other water-related factors.

"I sample 19 parameters at each sampling location monthly to establish a baseline. It helps us figure out changes; for example, is our water quality improving or declining? Then we report that to the EPA every year. Based on those results, we decide what we want to do," Freeman said.

Her research indicates whether the waterways meet designated use, such as agriculture and primary body contact recreation.

"The waterways around the Tribe are typically high in nutrients, which isn't the best thing but (is) common for rural, agricultural and livestock-heavy operations," Freeman said.

In addition to the runoff from farming and ranching operations, she has noticed municipal-related pollution as well. An unnamed tributary near CPN headquarters is downstream

from a sewage plant, and occasional leaks cause contamination.

"That tributary feeds into Squirrel Creek, which then feeds into the North Canadian, and that's what runs by the aviary and then down to the river," she said.

Because of this, the Nation decided to use grant funds to create a wetland enhancement project north of the CPN Eagle Aviary.

"The stream runs through the wetland, which works as a sponge. It works to filter through the increased E. coli, nitrogen and phosphorus and total dissolved solids exceedances (that) we typically see at Squirrel Creek and allows it to settle and filter through the natural vegetation before it joins the North Canadian," Freeman explained.

The two-phase project utilizes native plants to help remove toxins, and engineered channels decrease flooding and erosion.

"Using water data gathered at Squirrel Creek, exceedances to designated uses

throughout phase I of the wetland enhancement project were analyzed. E.coli and total dissolved solids exceedances have decreased, and now Squirrel Creek at the outlet to the North Canadian River is considered 'fully supporting' for the designated uses of primary body contact recreation and agriculture. In previous years, these designated uses were not considered supporting at that area," she said.

Since beginning the wetlands project, CPN Eagle Aviary staff have noticed the return of wildlife, which they deem as a key indicator of success.

"The eagle aviary is very important and sacred to us, so protecting that from flooding and improving the water quality so that ceremonies can happen is critical," Freeman said.

CPN is currently working toward the final phase, which will help further control flooding, and the goal is to eventually incorporate walking trails to teach the public about native plants, wildlife and the importance of protecting water quality for generations to come.

"I think what we're doing is really important, and I think it's nice to see our self-governance working to improve what's around us," she said. "Definitely, seeing improvements is really gratifying and shows we're making progress."

Freeman said everyone can play a role in protecting our water systems. For those working in agriculture, extension agents can offer resources and best management practices to decrease farm and ranch-related runoff.

"Also, pick up your trash, and make sure you're not dumping into creeks and rivers," Freeman said. "Doing things like that make a difference, too. I think it's just educating yourself and being aware of what your impacts are to the water."

Find more information on CPN's efforts at potawatomi.org. 🔥

House of Hope connects online to combat stalking

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

The House of Hope hit the ground running in 2021, getting great information out to our communities despite the drawbacks of the coronavirus pandemic. Prevention education looks quite a bit different this year due to concerns about spreading the virus, which means staff have to get creative.

January was National Stalking Awareness Month, and prevention specialist Kayla Woody hosted three different webinars to both Pleasant Grove Middle School and Shawnee High School classes. The House of Hope partnered with the Stalking Prevention Awareness Resource Center and Community Renewal of Pottawatomie County to provide

much-needed information about signs of stalking and ways to prevent stalking. This information is extremely important because 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men will experience stalking in their lifetimes.

It is so important to speak to teens because stalking normally affects those under the age of 25, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey. It is important that we educate these kids at a young age before they encounter this type of situation. Without education on the matter, the outcome would be far worse for them.

Not only is the prevention information about stalking important to these classes but the webinars also provided a way for the organization to build relationships with middle school and



high school classes to provide other types of prevention topics like teen dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, bullying and tech safety. The House of Hope is planning more webinars on these topics and hopes

to incorporate them monthly at these schools and also other schools and organizations around the community.

To set up a webinar for your classroom, organization or business, please feel free to reach out to our prevention specialist Kayla Woody at 405-275-3176 or by email at kayla.woody@potawatomi.org. This is a free service that can provide education and resources to your students and co-workers, and possibly safe lives.

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

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ONLINE**



Natural, sweet gifts of the Maple Sugar Moon

The *plink plink, plink plink* of maple sap dripping into metal buckets every spring sings a sweet song to Barbara Wall's ears.

"It's just one of those feelings, you know?" Wall asked. "After a long winter, you've got the warm sun on your face, and you can hear the sap drip into the buckets. It just makes me want to dance."

Wall is a descendant of the Vieux family and is currently finishing her Ph.D. in Indigenous studies, while holding a tenure-track position in the Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.

Late winter into early spring during the Maple Sugar Moon is one of her favorite times of the year. Wall bundles up and heads to the bush to tap maple trees, collect sap and transform it into *ziwagmedé* (syrup) and *zibakwet* (maple sugar). The *Nishnabé* people use the thirteen moons of the seasonal cycle as guideposts, yet because of the varied ecosystems and weather conditions across *Nishnabé* communities, some may recognize each moon at a different time. For many, the *Zibakwotoke Gises* (Maple Sugar Moon) begins on February or March's new moon.

"From my teachings, when the sap runs, that's the beginning of the new cycle of the seasons and the *Nishnabé* new year," Wall said during a phone interview with the *Hownikan*.

Wall grew up in northern New York and has enjoyed maple trees throughout her life. She often spent her youth in the woods behind her family's home, letting the maples provide guidance to her adolescent woes.

"I've always had a connection to maple trees and appreciated their beauty," she said. "As a teenager, I'd go out, and sit, and even lay on my back on the ground and look up through the maple trees, and they'd kind of bring me peace."

For the past 10 years, Wall has called Ontario home, and the sugar bush season has been a mainstay for her every spring.

"You really get to know the trees. And you get to understand their cycle, their seasonal cycle, and how they look. And not just the leaves, but how the bark looks. And how the bark looks just before the sap runs is different from what the bark looks like in the deep part of winter," Wall said.

Maple's gifts

According to Wall, as winter comes to a close, maple sap is the first nutritional gift from the earth, and it is used as a sacred medicine and cleanser.

"Thinking back to when we really lived off the land rather than living out of grocery stores, toward the end of the winter, the supplies might be running low," she said.

During winter, *Nishnabé* diets were comprised mostly of meat and *mnomen* (wild rice) in wild ricing communities.

"So, the sap would clean us out and prepare our bodies to start eating more plant-based foods," Wall explained.

According to Justin Neely, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Language Department director, oral traditions surrounding maple vary from community to community. One in particular, *Nanabozho and the Maple Trees*, notes that a long time ago, syrup



Ziwagmedé (Maple Syrup) Roasted Carrots

INGREDIENTS

2 lb. medium carrots, cut diagonally into 2-3 inch pieces
6 Tbs. melted butter
1/3 cup granulated maple sugar
1/3 cup maple syrup
Dash of salt

DIRECTIONS

Mix the salt, melted butter, syrup and granulated maple sugar together in a large bowl. Toss the cut carrots in the mixture, then place evenly on a foil-lined baking sheet. Pour any excess mixture over the carrots, and bake at 400°F for 45 to 60 minutes, tossing the carrots every 20 minutes, until tender with golden edges.



ran from the trees in the spring, not sap. The *Nishnabé* people were not tending to their duties, rather spending all their time under the maple trees, consuming the rich, sweet syrup. Seeing this, a powerful spirit — *Nanabozho* — decided to pour water into the trees, which diluted the sap and required hard work to enjoy its sugary bounty once more.

"The story has varying teachings inside, when you think about it," Neely explained. "It's telling you that you have to take care of your priorities. You can't just fixate on one thing. You have to do these things when the time arrives."

In some *Nishnabé* communities, women are the ones who oversee the sugar bush because of maple sap's connection to water. Care and protection of water are key responsibilities for *Nishnabé* women, yet harvest and processing requires everyone's involvement.

"Having maple sugar camps is very common where everyone kind of comes together, and always, as a community, we believe in sharing and helping those that are maybe less fortunate," Neely added.

Before colonization, *Nishnabé* families returned to specific sugar bushes annually, and for those who are able, the traditions continue today.

"And it was also a time when the community would start to come together, whether it's extended family that's working the sugar bush or several families getting together," Wall said. "It's a time of coming back from the isolation of winter to being back in more of a social environment."

While the moons provide guidance or instruction for when to begin tapping, Wall also looks for signs from the animals and the maple trees themselves.

"The crows fly south in the winter — ravens are here all winter, but the crows leave — and when they come

back, they start to gather; that's when you start to pay attention to the maple trees," Wall said. Squirrels will also break off small branches, and woodpeckers pierce the trees to ingest the sap.

Wzhek'ge (to tap a tree)

Before tapping a tree, it is an important practice to ask for permission and place *sema* (tobacco) down as an offering.

"Some people will do this at every tree they tap," Wall explained in a video produced at Trent University for the National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education. "Others will just do it at the first tree that they tap. But it's a small gesture of reciprocity — of giving thanks to the tree for all that it's giving to us as *Anishinaabeg*."

Many use their left hands in making *sema* offerings, as the left arm and hand connect directly to the heart. "This is where you speak the truth — your left side and through your heart," she said.

Tapping a maple tree in a traditional manner requires using an axe or another similar tool to make shallow cuts into the bark of the tree trunk. The initial cuts create a V shape before crafting a horizontal indentation at or near the bottom of the V.

The last cut is "parallel to the ground, but it's at an angle so that the sap will run down," Wall said. "The size of the cut isn't necessarily as important, in my opinion, as the angle."

After making the three cuts, harvesters place a cedar spile; the spile directs the flowing *zibakwatabo* (maple sap), letting it run down into a folded *wigwas* (birchbark) container — *wigwas nagen*. This method usually results in debris like twigs and leaves entering the sap, but the outcome is sweeter than using modern techniques.

"It's gentler on the tree because it doesn't go as deep as the metal spigots," Wall



Maple sap drips into a container before it's heated into syrup or maple sugar. (Photo provided)



A wood-fired stove helps transform sap into golden maple sugar. (Photo provided)



After heating the sap, stirring and cooling with wood spatulas turns the liquid into maple sugar crystals. (Photo provided)

said. "Also, people who work in sugar bushes have shared with me that the sugar concentration of the sap is higher closer to the outer bark of the tree than towards the inside of the tree."

Filtering the sap before placing it in another container more suitable for travel eliminates contaminants. Wall said harvesting birch bark happens during the winter when the dormant trees' bark becomes thicker.

After filtering the *zibakwatabo* (maple sap), some then utilize a yoke placed around their necks to carry the birch bark buckets full of maple sap out of the bush.

Modern tapping utilizes a power tool to drill, which creates a hole to hammer a metal spigot into.

"The tree will heal, but the old style tapping is a more sustainable type of

Continued on page 7

CPN Language Department receives \$200k grant

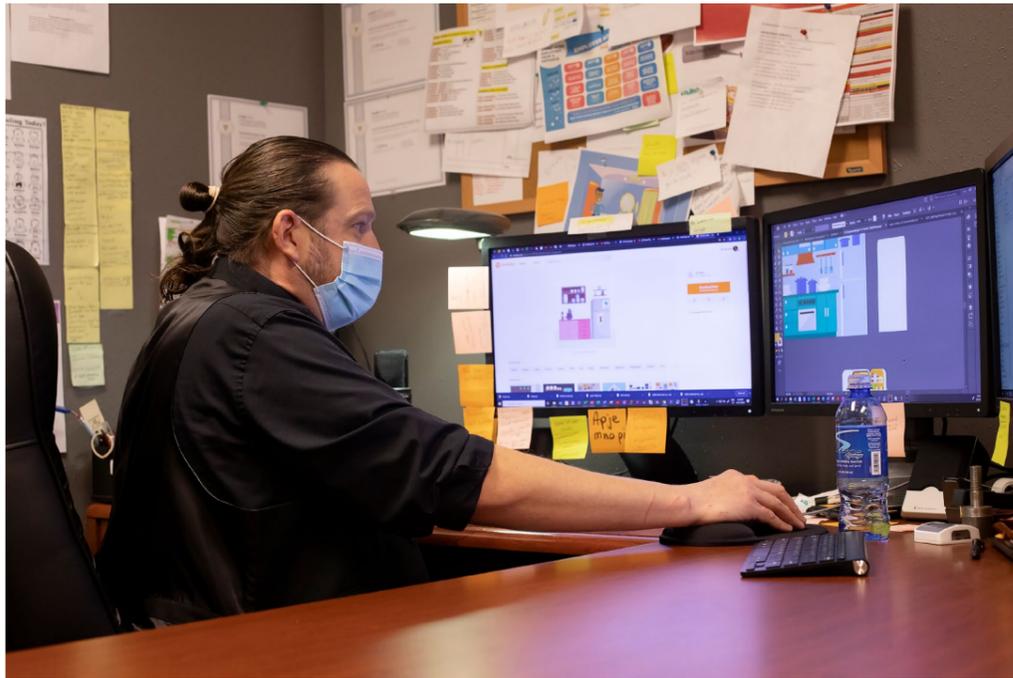
The United States Department of Interior's Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development awarded \$3 million as part of its Living Languages Grant Program. Eighteen tribes across the country received funding, including approximately \$200,000 to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, which will extend its language learning resources.

"We got the top amount awarded, which is pretty exciting," said CPN Language Department Director Justin Neely. "So, it'll help fund the department as a whole, and it'll help fund staff to create these books. ... We have a pretty talented crew right now of folks, which I'm really pleased by."

They now have \$200,066 to begin writing Potawatomi children's books. The one-year grant will assist in the creation and publication of two series for use and distribution in the CPN Child Development Center classrooms and beyond. Staff teach infants through fifth graders in the daycare and after school programs.

"I think that when it comes to kids, I mean, they're obviously our next generation of speakers. If you can get to kids early on and really light that fire, light that desire, to have more of an interest in our culture and our language, it's definitely something that's going to carry them through in life," Neely said.

Language staff plans to write 12 books, six for infants to 3-year-olds and six for 4 to 6-year-olds. While the characters and storylines remain in the air,



With the help of a large federal grant, the language department creates content to better serve the students they teach in the CPN Child Development Center.

Neely believes in the department's talent and abilities. Their ideas include large easel pieces, a series based around specific characters and ones that focus on vocabulary sets. The funds will allow them to purchase materials able to withstand time and frequent use.

"This particular crew is very creative and good with art and creating content, videos as well. And I think that because of the nature of this crew that I have, (this project) has become a possibility. I don't think it's something that I would have necessarily tried to

do seven years ago or five years ago just because we didn't really have the right people in place to make it happen. The timing is right now," he said.

While the department has focused on digital content and online learning tools, books remain uncharted territory. Neely recognizes the importance of having reading materials available for schools and families, which meets the grant's requirement of awarding a program that "would revitalize the language by preventing intergenerational disruption."

"It's nice to be able to have that physical (piece), where a parent can have a book that they can sit down, and they can read to their kid in the language as they're learning it, as their kid's learning it with them," he said.

But Neely said learning the language serves a larger purpose.

"I think it has a positive impact on Indian communities," he said. "It helps with societal problems. Having that sense of identity helps with things like domestic violence, drug use. There are so many things that having a sense of roots and cultural connections can really help within Native communities."

The grant lasts through the end of November, and the department hopes to distribute the books through the CDC

and to additional families at no cost after design and publication.

"I'm a big advocate of giving the language away, if at all possible, especially to our Tribal members," Neely said. "It's our language, and ... it's nice to be able to give those or make those available."

Learn more about the language department and online tools at potawatomiheritage.com. Visit the Potawatomi Gifts for other books, craft supplies and cultural art at potawatomigifts.com. 🔥

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Potawatomi Leadership Program alumna explores her Indigenous identity with installation exhibits

Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Christina Foster's artist portfolio shows her growth and self-discovery gained throughout her education. Much of her work centers around self-exploration and displays both her artistic process and final results.

The Schrepfor family descendant graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in studio art from the University of Central Missouri in December 2020, working on her final projects and classes from home amid a global pandemic. Most art emanates on a physical process dependent on time in a studio, dance hall or ceramics workshop, and Foster focuses on painting, installation art and dancing. Her final studio class provided a more rounded experience by including in-person portions of instruction.

"My painting professor would walk around, and he would look at our paintings, and then we'd talk about them. And he'd give a little bit of critique or ask questions about where it's going to go from there or talk about some different techniques and stylization that I could experiment with. So that was really nice, but it's been weird," Foster said.

Symbolism

She created an imitation art gallery called *Museum of Contemporary Mixed-Indigenous Experience* for her senior showcase that highlighted her work from the past several years. It ran at the end of 2020 at UCM's Gallery 115. The installation piece encouraged people to consider how museums present Indigenous cultures, history and art as they walked through Foster's satirical representation.

"The low lighting and the way that they're talked about makes the culture seem like they're something of the past or something that doesn't exist anymore, whereas these cultures are still existing, but they're just more modernized and contemporary than they're often displayed in the museums," she said.

One prominent symbol throughout the exhibit was *mdamen* (corn). *Nishnabé* people rely on corn as a dietary staple



Citizen Potawatomi Nation artist Christina Foster's *Museum of Contemporary Mixed-Indigenous Experience* displays work from throughout her collegiate career. (Photo provided)

and essential part of a Three Sisters planting method composed of corn, beans and squash. Foster used the vegetable to represent Potawatomi people and their ability to maintain their culture and overcome obstacles.

"Corn is a very dependent plant," she said. "It's not going to produce much if you just grow a single stock. It is a resilient plant, the way that it retains water and stuff like that. And it's a strong plant, but it's not going to thrive unless you have a lot of them."

Bags of popcorn painted white lined her project's walls. They become fuller and fuller as viewers move deeper into the exhibit, showing Foster's journey in finding her Potawatomi heritage.

"That is kind of a metaphor for mixed Indigenousness, because then once they're popped, you can kind of see the color of the bag, and their kernels have been popped and are flourishing and stuff like that. But they still have the white front, which is like a mixture of different cultures ... but being able to thrive," she said.

However, Wall prefers to use observation rather than a thermometer. "It'll go through stages where (the heated syrup) foams up, then it will quiet down. Then the bubbles will get bigger, and it'll foam up again," Wall explained. "It requires a lot of patience and observation."

Cooking the syrup evaporates additional water, and once it reaches the optimal consistency, Wall pours the molten sugar into a *bis'égéwágen* (sugar trough). Then she begins to move the mixture back and forth with wooden sugar paddles that help with the cooling process. The movement and manipulation of the molten sugar alters its physical form.

As it cools, "it changes from the molten liquid to more of a runny mud and then a fudgy kind of material," Wall said. "And then you keep working it, and then you end up granulating the sugar. If you do it right, you'll end up with granulated sugar that's just as fine as the white sugar that you buy in a store."

The popcorn also invites attendees to explore Indigenous cultures for themselves and encourages them to gain more knowledge as they move through the installation and look at other displays. Foster believes installation art gives attendees a full experience with a range of emotions rather than one piece to view and consider.

"I've had actually a lot of people tell me that I have inspired them to learn more about their Native side or learn more about just Native cultures or heritage in general, which ... means a lot to me, and I'm really glad that I have had that impression and that impact on people," she said.

Finding *Yabwe Kwé*

In 2017, Foster attended the Potawatomi Leadership Program, a six-week immersive summer internship at CPN for high school seniors and college freshman with a year or less of post-secondary class credits. Participants learn about the Tribe's history, culture, government, businesses and more. It also includes the annual Family Reunion Festival and a

Before the *Nishnabé* had access to glass, plastic and other materials to store maple syrup, they primarily created granulated sugar that they placed in naturally-made containers.

"It was a major trade product between communities, but also, once the fur trade started, a lot of maple sugar was shipped over to Europe. It was a source of sugar for the queens and kings in Europe," Wall said.

Future of maple

Although colonization has created limited access to maple for *Nishnabé* — especially the Citizen Potawatomi whose land base in Oklahoma does not provide suitable growing conditions for sugar maple — it still serves as an essential connection to *Nishnabé* culture. Maple sugar is incorporated into dishes for feasts and is a key component of many ceremonies.

Wall enjoys the ancestral connection that she finds out in the bush while making syrup and sugar.

naming ceremony, and Foster was given the name *Yabwe Kwé* or Dreamer Woman.

While she knew about her Potawatomi ancestry and tried to participate in Tribal culture as much as possible in her youth, the program opened up a door to a new set of knowledge and experiences. Her artistic possibilities also grew and took on a new meaning and message.

"That was also when I felt like I could actually start making work about (Potawatomi culture) because I felt like I didn't know enough before. ... And so just continuously educating myself and staying in contact with other people from the PLP and just with the Tribe in general and trying to stay connected has really helped me find my voice, I guess, in my art," Foster said.

She presented the *Museum of Contemporary Mixed-Indigenous Experience* as a collaboration between Christina Foster and *Yabwe Kwé*, representing the two sides of herself and her art.

"Whenever I'm making pieces that are more like Indigenously themed, I'm going to use *Yabwe Kwé*, whereas if it's more like Westernized or not necessarily talking about those subjects or it just falls into this more conceptual art realm, then I use Christina Foster. The ones where they kind of mix, I like to make them collaborations," she said.

It also started conversations about her multiple identities and led viewers to consider their own defining characteristics.

"I just feel like I am growing from it, and it just has inspired me to learn more about both sides of everything. ... I'm always thinking about the way things are going to be perceived by other people and the way that I'm dealing with appropriation in the opposite way," Foster said.

For more information on the Potawatomi Leadership Program, visit plp.potawatomi.org. ♪

Maple Sugar Moon continued...

tapping," Wall said. The *shenamesh* (maple tree) heals more quickly from a shallow axe cut than a drilled hole.

Process and storage

After harvesting, boiling the *zishakwátabo* (maple sap) evaporates the water, concentrating the sap. This also helps develop the deep, rich flavors synonymous with *ziwágnedé* (maple syrup). To make syrup, often a wood *shkode* (fire) is kept going under pans or pots of raw sap.

"Depending on the season, it takes a ratio of 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup, and then it's almost a 1 to 1 ratio on the syrup to the sugar," Wall said. Typically, sugar is larger than the volume of syrup.

Making *zishakwet* (sugar or maple sugar) requires heating the syrup in a *mkek* (pot) until it reaches the thread stage, which is approximately 223 F to 235 F.

"I know there's a sugar rush, but it's almost a reconnection rush that happens too," she explained.

However, environmental changes are negatively impacting sugar maple populations across North America. Sap flows best when air temperatures reach around 40 F during the day and below freezing at night.

"As the climate warms, we might not have that specific range of temperatures, so maybe the sap will no longer flow in the amounts needed for production of syrup and sugar," Wall explained.

While access is still available, Wall encourages all Citizen Potawatomi to try real maple syrup or sugar themselves.

Consuming maple syrup and sugar is "a move forward, but it's also a move backwards and a reconnecting with ancestors. It's reconnecting to what our bodies remember," Wall said. ♪

Tribal election candidates 2021

Chairman candidates



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

My Grandfather was Oliver Peltier, my grandmother was Ozetta Bourassa Peltier

Shawnee, Oklahoma

Education

Princeton University 1962 to 1965, Oklahoma City University 1965 -1967. BS in Business (Marketing and Management), Oklahoma City University Graduate School of Business – 1967-68. Honorary Doctorate of Commercial Sciences – St. Gregory's University – 2003.

Running for Tribal Chairman is important to me to grow and personalize the progress the tribe has made the past 32 years. We have just gone through one of the toughest periods in our history. It is vital that Citizen Potawatomi Nation continue to play its' role in helping our people to recover and come out of this pandemic with our faith in each other and our belief in our Tribe intact. We have experienced a miracle in growth in the last 32 years in our ability to serve our people – like no other tribe in the United States. We must not fall victim to the negative, especially since the negative it is simply not true. We have accomplished the creation of the most unique tribal governmental form in the United States - a "virtual Tribal Legislature" that provides elected representation for every member, no matter their home location. With this has come an outpouring of help and access to opportunity never seen before in our history. The completion of this development as the leader of a team of experienced, talented, and dedicated servants of the people of our Nation is my dream. It will be my greatest honor to be allowed to continue this for and with you.



Lisa Kraft

Shawnee, Oklahoma

Education

BA in Anthropology, University of Oklahoma, and Masters in History, University of Central Oklahoma.

I am running for Chairman because I want to see us better aligned to achieve our potential as a people. With over 26 years of experience in Oklahoma Indian Country, assisting leaders in strategic planning, development projects, and nation building, and after 4 consecutive terms as an elected legislator for the CPN, it is obvious to me that we have an opportunity to rekindle the fire of our great nation.

My platform includes a focus on our heritage and culture, revitalizing our connections through language, ceremony, and art. We also need better transparency at leadership levels, and I am putting forward plans for expanding healthcare, education, and economics policies and practices. We need a higher level of integrity as to how we govern, and a stronger vision for how we execute our activities as a nation.

Join me, help me unite our nation, and become a part of this historic campaign.



Steve Castaneda - *EConOush* (Little Leader)

Shawnee, Oklahoma

My name is Steve Castaneda, I am running for Chairmen so I can give the people of the tribe their voice back. That way all members can feel that their input matters in all tribal endeavors. The tribe should be about all members not just the select few that rise above all.

All tribal endeavors should be paid back to the members since they have paid for these to become what they are today. Things such as the casino, store, and resort would not be if it were not for the members. It is my mission to increase Senior Housing, expand medical care and education benefits for all members.

District 1 candidates



Drew (Jon) Boursaw

Topsham, Maine

Education

BA Communications/Public Relations: California State University, San Bernardino
MA Education: University of Southern California

I am running for Region One's legislator for one reason: 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 thought scholarships, health benefits, or housing assistance, our members come first. I want to advance these benefits and help the tribe grow.



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

Kansas City, Missouri

Education

Park Collage, Bachelor of Arts Communication Arts

Military

US Navy, honorable discharge 1973-1977

My great, great grandmother Theresa survived the trail of death as a child. She was raised and educated by the Sisters of St. Mary's. She married James Slavin an Irish immigrant. Roy Slavin my dad gave me my Potawatomi name, Gzhiptot meaning He's Fast. My dad gave me that name because I was a fast runner for both my high school and collage track teams. As a lead electrician, a teacher and first responder for a hazmat team on the railroad. Communication has always been very important for all these skills. As a legislator I will bring these skills to the constituency of district 1. I will listen to their concerns, Ideas as well as share mine. To help build, protect and secure our sovereign nation.

District 1 candidates continued



Kevin Roberts - *Kakingshi* (Grizzly Bear)

Justin Neely gave me my Neshnabe name

Normal, Illinois

Education

I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Central Methodist University, Fayette, Missouri.

I also earned & hold the following professional designations;

- CPCU - Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter
- ChFC - Chartered Financial Consultant
- CLU - Charter Life Underwriter
- CIPP/ US - Certified Information Privacy Professional - United States
- FLMI - Fellow Life Management Institute

My grandfather was directly impacted by assimilation, which in-turn limited the family & cultural information that was passed down. My mother always reminded us that we were Potawatomi however she was never able to provide broader detail to our questions. From a very young age, I hungered to learn more.

I have been fortunate in my lifetime to have lived in Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois. This afforded me the opportunity to be near ancestral lands, family, and tribal history which has aided in my ongoing research and studies.

Over that past 30 years, I have also developed a heartfelt appreciation for the resources, services, and spirit of community CPN has provided to me & my family. I aspire to be a better, altruistic CPN tribal member & leader. I am a candidate because I want to contribute to our Nation's continued success and progress while strengthening our community connection & Spirit.



Alan Melot

I am a descendant of the Melot and Bergeron families.

Joplin, Missouri

Education

I graduated from the Bossier Parish Community College with an Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration in 1997. I was a store manager for Fastenal Company for nearly 15 years and completed coursework at the Fastenal School of Business. I transitioned back to university in 2015 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology with minors in Psychology and Cultural Anthropology from the Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, MO. I recently completed my Master of Science in Clinical Psychology at the Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, KS.

I am running for office to be a servant of the people and to lead with the purpose of empowering our people. I will advocate for my district, will host events to build relationships with those in my district, will cultivate cultural leadership and support cultural leaders, and will learn about Tribal programs and services so I can help those in need. This is a difficult time for many of our people, with the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting incomes, lifestyles, and relationships. As we move out of this crisis, I want to maximize connection to each other and to Tribal resources. I have a heart for service and am uniquely equipped to serve my district.

I would enjoy connecting with you on Facebook or email at asmelot@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing your concerns, interests, and ideas. Please keep me in your prayers, and I would appreciate your vote.

District 4 candidates



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

Topeka, Kansas

Education

- Bachelor of Business Administration, Washburn Univ
- Air Force Command & Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL
- Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL
- Numerous other Executive Leadership/Management Courses & Seminars

It has been my pleasure serving as your Legislative Representative for the past eight years. I have had the unique opportunity to meet and assist many of you personally. I have enjoyed the association I have had with those of you who have attended the numerous District meetings I have held. I estimate I have participated in over a hundred namings, each giving me a feeling of esteem honor for being asked to create and give an individual their Indian name. As I our enrollment continues to grow, I am committed to work with my fellow Legislators to maintain a strong financial position to protect your benefits, including the scholarship program, mail order pharmacy, health aids and burial fund,. It would be with my sincere appreciation to be selected as your Representative for another four years. I cannot do that without your support. Please encourage eligible family members to vote.



Elexa "Amo" Dawson

Chandler, Oklahoma *ndoch bya*, Kansas *mshkode ndeda*

Education

Current student of Johnson County Community College, Sustainable Agriculture

Bozho, I'm Elexa "Amo" Dawson. I'm descended from the Ogee and Beaubien families.

I was born at Mission Hill and raised in Chandler, Oklahoma. I moved to Chase County, Kansas in 2005 where I've worked as a musician, teacher, and bartender. As a musician, I have honorably represented our people internationally. I have prioritized Potawatomi identity in my work and life.

If elected District 4 legislator, I will host multi-generational cultural events on a monthly basis. It is only through our language and culture, which is practiced in community, that we can identify ourselves as Potawatomi.

Financially, I believe we should be seeking full transparency from our companies, and investing in the success of all our people. I believe we can be simultaneously prosperous and strong in our values.

I love Kansas and our Nation. It is time for us to walk forward in a way that is unmistakably Potawatomi.

Photo by Dave Leiker

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KGFF serves central Oklahoma with programming, news for 90 years

Classic Hits KGFF's long history spans from the Golden Age of Radio to the present day. Since 1930, it has broadcast music, news, community events, sports, extreme weather coverage and more. Citizen Potawatomi Nation purchased the station on Jan. 1, 1999, and now houses the studios inside FireLake Discount Foods.

"They maintain that community standard and that sense of public service that I find really important," said general manager Mike Askins. "That's one of the things that when (Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps) made me manager, we talked about that. I said, 'My first service will be to serve the community and the city of license.' And they said, 'That's what we want.'"

Askins is a staple of local radio in Pottawatomie County. He first took to the KGFF airwaves as a 16-year-old in 1976, making him a part of station programming and staff for 45 years. In addition to general manager, Askins serves as program director, chief operator, director of engineering, producer and host of *Mike in the Morning*, the weekday drive-time show.

Beginnings

Changes in pop culture, multiple owners and the dawn of television resulted in many iterations of the station throughout the last century. Its first studio was at the top of the Hotel Aldridge in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Programming premiered with the *KGFF Devotional Hour* on Dec. 10, 1930, at 9 a.m. The day also included *Shopping Suggestions* to highlight local merchants and *Luncheon Music* live with Chic Haynes and His Hotel Aldridge Orchestra — to name only a few shows.

Much of the music, news, and dramatic and comedic programming were live and local for decades. Radio was the dominant source of information and entertainment in the early and mid-20th century. KGFF records from general manager Maxine Eddy recount plans for covering D-Day during World War II in June 1944.

"To give listeners and readers warning that the news for which we are all waiting has come, KGFF has made arrangements with the O. G. Harp Poultry and Egg Company and the Rock Island Railroad Company for a whistle signal to extend for three minutes. This simultaneous whistle blast will be notice to Shawnee residents that KGFF will return to the air immediately," Eddy's station memo stated.

Askins went to the KGFF studio with his father for the first time in the mid-1960s. He was an ordained minister, English teacher and disc jockey at the station.

"To me, it was magic and, you know, electric lights and sparkly everything, and ... it was just so cool. And so listening to him on the radio, I just found something fascinating about that," Askins said.

Inspired by *Saturday Night Live*-style sketch comedy, he and a friend began performing routines at local open mic nights, where the KGFF program director heard them.

"We were just pretending to be two news anchors, and we were doing corny, silly, strange, dumb jokes about local personalities and places, and ... we



Dennis Ladd hosts KGFF's *The Morning Company* in 1977.

made up an entire fictitious series of places," Askins said. As he got older, his part-time comedy routine turned into a full-time disc jockey job in 1979.

"The joke is that I've stayed in radio because I can't get a real job," he said and laughed. "So that's what I tell people. But the truth is, I've always enjoyed the creativity in radio. There's a lot of theater of the mind going on there, and I enjoy that level of theater."

In the early 1990s, Askins began hosting the drive-time program *Mike in the Morning*, bringing his sense of humor, news and music to Shawnee and the surrounding area.

"I enjoy comedy. I like a good laugh, and I think the world gets too serious sometimes. And people throw on the radio, and all they hear is bad news, and I want to make them giggle," he said.

Localism

"The original charter by the (Federal Communications Commission) for radio stations was to serve the public interest," Askins said. "It wasn't to play the best music or have the biggest contest or have the biggest ratings. It was to serve the community you're licensed to, and we've been licensed to Shawnee since 1930."

The station began broadcasting local sports when it took to the



The station broadcasts music, local shows and news from the Shawnee Country Club in 1964.

or different organizations, all these different things that they do in the way of giving money to programs. We also are here to give voice again to those programs and as a voice for the Nation and a voice for the other folks in the community," Askins said.

During *Mike in the Morning*, he honors a "Working Person of the Day," someone nominated for a gift card and other small presents from local businesses. It started as "Working Girl of the Day" in the 1970s to pay tribute to secretaries and other women who kept offices and businesses running. Askins expanded the program, and during the pandemic in 2020, the calls increased dramatically to honor frontline workers.

"At one point, I think we had about a three or four-month waiting



KGFF general manager Mike Askins celebrates 45 years with the station in 2021.

airwaves. It carried Oklahoma Baptist University's first Oklahoma Collegiate Conference football championship in 1940, St. Gregory's University's first state junior college basketball tournament finals in 1964, and the Shawnee High School Wolves' first state football championship in 1973.

Askins enjoys working for a smaller station. He believes KGFF provides resources and information to people and businesses that remain unavailable anywhere else. CPN's purchase in the late 1990s matched the Tribe's desire to focus on the surrounding towns.

"Citizen Potawatomi Nation, in addition to being the largest employer in the county, they still maintain that community service, whether it's giving to schools or program

list ... because of the number of people who were just (saying), 'Hey, don't forget to salute my friend here, my friend there.' And we just had a deluge of them," he said.

KGFF also provides local weather coverage. The station reports on the rural areas in CPN's jurisdiction, which Oklahoma City metro stations often skip. During spring 2012, a tornado touched down in Tecumseh near many of the Tribe's businesses. While sirens wailed as the storm approached, Askins remained on the air and kept track of its movement.

"I got a phone call three days later from a lady who said, 'I didn't know what was going on, turned my radio on, and I heard you tell me where the tornado was.' She says, 'I literally stepped into my cellar the second it hit my house because you said, go to your cellar now.' She goes, 'You saved my life, thank you,'" Askins said, tearing up.

She hung up before he got the chance to ask her name.

"That made 40-something years telling bad jokes worth it, right there."

KGFF has proved itself an asset and an essential part of the larger Pottawatomie County community for nearly 100 years, and shows no signs of slowing.

Tune in to KGFF at 1450 AM and 100.9 FM or listen online at kgff.com. Find the station on Facebook, Twitter @1450kgff, and Instagram @kgffradio. ♡

Election committee upholds mission for an accurate, secure Tribal election

Every year, five Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members work diligently to uphold fair and precise Tribal elections along with maintaining the election ordinance throughout each of the committee's processes.

Adopted in August of 2007, the ordinance is a part of the CPN Constitution and establishes the official rules and procedures for conducting Tribal elections. The committee includes a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, assistant secretary and marshal. Each member takes an oath to protect and "defend the Nation's Constitution and Laws of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and will cause the elections of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to be conducted fairly, impartially, and in accordance with the laws of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation."

CPN member Gary Bourbonnais holds the title of chairman, and although he has served on the committee for 35 years, his passion to uphold the Nation's Constitution remains.

"It's very important to me that we can offer our services to help ensure that every voter gets to vote," Bourbonnais said.

Duties and responsibilities

Bourbonnais's role as chairman requires him to preside over each member and holds responsibility for all of the Election Committee's activities.

David Bourbonnais has served on the committee for 34 years and currently serves as its vice-chairman. In this role, he assists the chairman with conducting elections and presiding in his absence.

With 20 years of serving on the committee, secretary Carrie Kieffer records and maintains minutes for all meetings and discussions pertaining to an election as well as files records with the CPN Secretary-Treasurer within two days of a committee meeting. The assistant secretary, Jenny Affentranger, has volunteered for 14 years. She maintains Kieffer's duties in her absence and helps conduct the elections.

As marshal, Julia Floyd's role includes preserving order at the polls as well as enforcing all election laws. On Election Day, specially-appointed clerks keep separate records of the CPN members voting, which the committee's chairman frequently cross-checks. This year, she celebrates 13 years of service on the committee.

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

ELECTION FACTS

- ▶ **ALL CPN MEMBERS 18 YEARS AND OLDER ON ELECTION DAY ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.**
- ▶ **ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JUNE 6, 2021.**
- ▶ **IN-PERSON VOTING IS AVAILABLE FROM 7 A.M. TO 2 P.M. ON JUNE 26, 2021.**
- ▶ **ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED DURING GENERAL COUNCIL AT 3 P.M. ON JUNE 26, 2021.**

Voting and absentee ballots

This year, Tribal members nationwide have an opportunity to cast their votes for Chairman and the annual budget as well as confirm CPN Supreme Court justice nominees for 3 and 7, and those residing in Districts 1 and 4 will select legislative representation. To ensure each legislator has approximately the same number of constituents, the population of Citizen Potawatomi within an area determines jurisdictional boundaries. When deemed necessary, legislators vote on redistricting. The most recent changes occurred in March 2017.

The committee partners with the CPN Tribal Rolls Department to access Tribal member information, including addresses, and then sends out voting information to every eligible Citizen Potawatomi member. For details on updating addresses and contact information, visit potawatomi.org/citizenship.

In-person voting occurs on the last Saturday of June from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., as detailed in the CPN Constitution. This year's Election Day is June 26. CPN members 18 years and older by Election

Day are eligible to vote, and can request an absentee ballot by mailing their correct address, roll number, birthdate and legal signature of the requestor to:

CPN Election Committee
PO Box 310
Tecumseh, OK 74873

Procedures

Requests for absentee ballots must be post-marked no less than 20 days prior to the election. Additionally, the election committee must receive the absentee ballots before 10 a.m. on the last Saturday of June.

If a CPN member did not complete their absentee ballot and wishes to vote in-person on Election Day, they must bring their unused ballot to the polling place. Officials will then confirm no ballots have been received and issue a new one for the voter to fill out in-person.

Additionally, candidates can designate one poll watcher. According to the ordinance, each poll watcher must be a CPN member and at least 21 years old, and they cannot be a convicted felon, tied to any crimes involving election

laws of the Tribe or "ever found civilly or criminally liable for breaching a fiduciary or contractual duty to the Tribe."

Candidates must turn in their poll watcher selection to the committee in writing, no less than one week prior to Election Day. The ordinance states, "Poll Watchers may not interfere in any way with the conduct of the election, but may observe only. Any poll watcher interfering with the election or attempting to electioneer in any way may be ejected from the poll area by a marshal or law enforcement officer."

Any voters in line at the polling place at 2 p.m. on June 26 will still have the chance to cast their vote. To receive a ballot, the ordinance requires CPN members to present an official Tribal ID and sign the voter register acknowledging they received an unused ballot.

For those who are physically unable to cast their vote, the committee can approve that they obtain assistance.

The ordinance outlines that committee members transport all election materials to a designated counting room where they unlock the ballot box, remove ballots and count the votes. Electronic votes made via a machine are tabulated as soon as an individual inserts their ballot "or as soon as reasonable possibly thereafter."

To close the election process, each committee member ensures no ballots remain in the ballot boxes. They also check the total votes for absentee ballots for each candidate; transcribe the totals, including rejected, spoiled and unused ballots as well as total ballots printed; provide written signatures to certify the election results; present the certified abstract to the public; and deliver copies of the certified abstracts to the CPN Business Committee, Tribal court clerk, and election committee file in the CPN Secretary's office.

The committee presents election results during General Council, which begins at 3 p.m. the last Saturday of June.

"Our main goal it to make sure everybody has a chance to vote, and we maintain everything we can to make sure everything is up to date and that elections are conducted fairly," Bourbonnais said.

To learn more about the committee and CPN elections, visit cpn.news/ordinance. 🔥



THE Hownikan

PODCAST





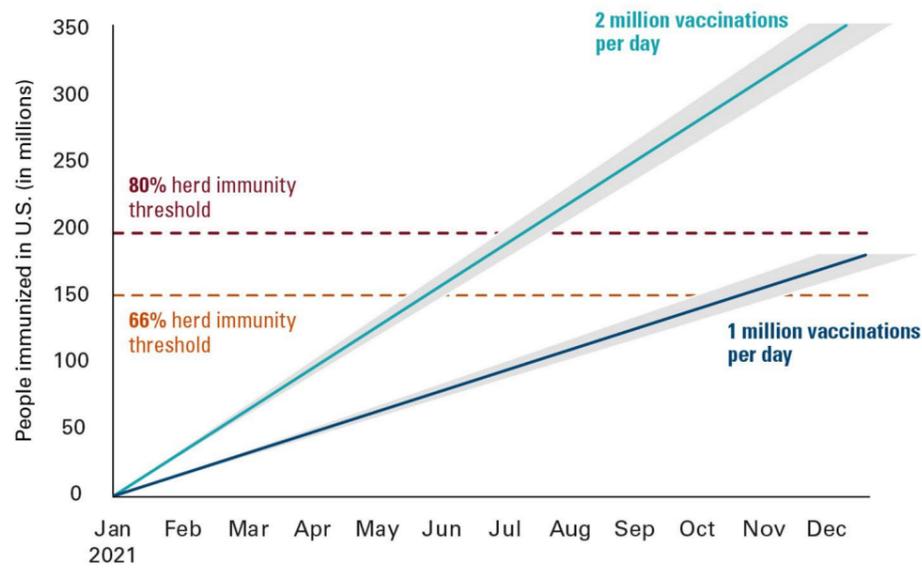


COVID-19 uncertainty leads to Family Reunion Festival cancellation

The 2021 Family Reunion Festival will not be held the last Saturday in June for the second straight year. The cancellation comes on the advice of CPN Medical officials as the coronavirus pandemic continues across the United States.

“When we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 festival, I never imagined that this pandemic would cause us to cancel another,” Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett said. “We have shared the same experience of distancing from family and friends and canceling travel plans for more than a year now. While we are beginning to see hope with the vaccines, there is still too much uncertainty to host a large gathering.”

Tribal officials and medical professionals from Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services met to discuss what hosting Festival in 2021 could look like. Considerations for canceling the event included the number of people



Source: Vanguard, cpn.news/vanguard

traveling from out of state, the ability to social distance and wear masks, and the likelihood of the United States reaching herd immunity by that time.

“Based on the current number of COVID-19 cases and the vaccination rollout, we don’t believe that the United States will reach herd immunity until

late summer or early fall,” said CPNHS Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Adam Vascellaro. “When you consider that people will be traveling from other states, most of which have lower COVID-19 vaccination rates than Oklahoma, that there will be times when social distancing isn’t feasible, and that we will have partially vaccinated elderly and unvaccinated youth populations in attendance, it becomes clear that it is still too risky to host a large event.”

In-person voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 26, 2021. Citizens will be required to wear a mask and maintain social distancing while voting. Citizens can also vote absentee.

As required by the CPN constitution, there will also be a General Council meeting on June 26, 2021. The meeting will begin at 3 p.m. There will be limited seating and social distancing and masks required for the meeting. ♪

RE-ELECT
JOHN “ROCKY” BARRETT
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Paid for by John “Rocky” Barrett

RE-ELECT
JON BOURSAW
BOURASSA/OGEE
DISTRICT 4
LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

I AM COMMITTED TO;

- ✂ Continue to be responsive to the questions, concerns and needs of the CPN members in District 4.
- ✂ Strive to maintain a strong financial position to protect your benefits, including the scholarship program, mail order pharmacy, health aids and burial fund.
- ✂ Continue to host District meetings in various locations across Kansas.
- ✂ Keep District members informed of significant legislative issues and decisions.
- ✂ Proudly continue to represent the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as a member of the Kansas Historical Foundation Board of Directors Executive Committee.
- ✂ Continue to tell the history of the Citizen Potawatomi people and their contributions to the early history of Kansas through presentations and exhibits.
- ✂ Continue to support and publicize Tribal member owned businesses and recognize the achievements and accomplishments of our tribal youth.
- ✂ Maintaining availability in the Topeka Office.

I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SOLICIT YOUR SUPPORT FOR CHAIRMAN JOHN “ROCKY” BARRETT AND DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE JON “DREW” BOURSAW IN THEIR ELECTION.

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FRYBREADTACO

RE-ELECT

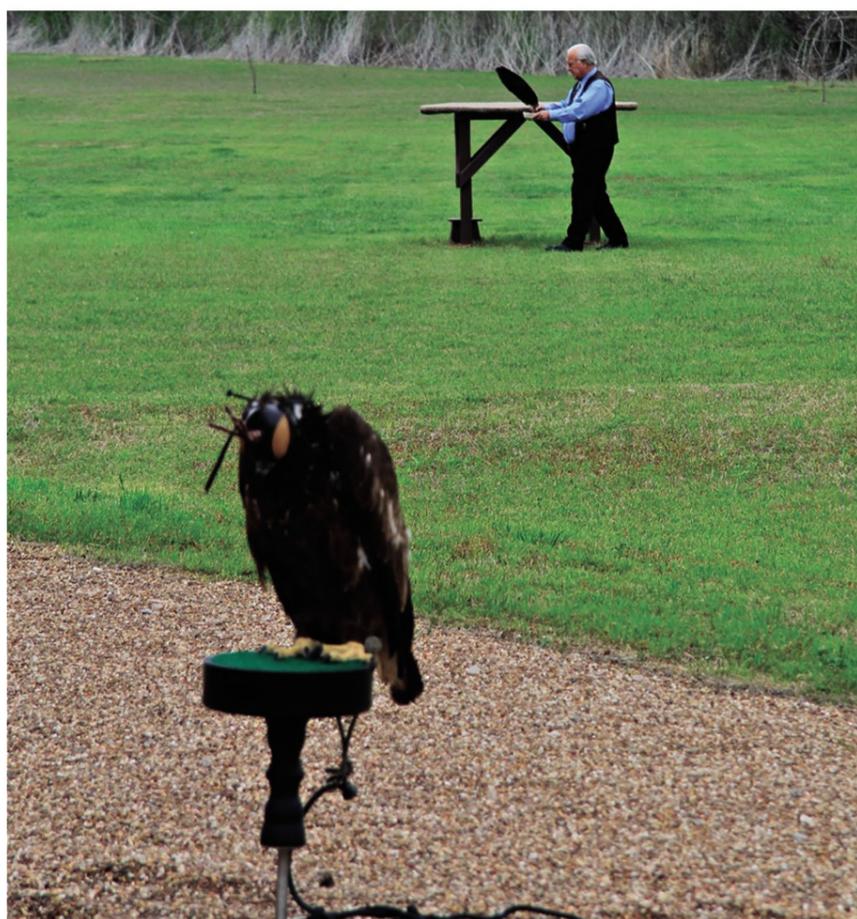
JOHN "ROCKY" BARRETT FOR TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Preserving culture for all Citizen Potawatomi Nation members.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation opened the Cultural Heritage Center in January 2006, and after renovations, it revealed 11 new, immersive galleries that show who the Citizen Potawatomi were, are and will be in the future.

Protecting our prayer messengers.

Since opening in 2012, the eagle aviary has become a place for tribal members to rekindle ceremonies and traditions. Aviary staff manages and distributes eagle feathers to CPN tribal members for use in ceremony, prayer, and on regalia while providing a forever home for our prayer messengers.



Improving access to government and culture for all tribal members.

Chairman Barrett spearheaded the 2007 constitutional reform in order to provide a more representative government for Potawatomi tribal members and give them access to more information and history about the tribe. He has supported bringing ceremony and traditional activities to tribal members across the United States.

Preserving Potawatomi language for future generations.

Under the leadership of Chairman Barrett the language department has expanded to offer language courses online, in-person, and through multiple academic settings.

We must continue to rekindle our ceremonies, traditions, and language for future generations. It has been my honor to support these initiatives and to serve as your Tribal Chairman.

Rekindle The Fire



Lisa Kraft

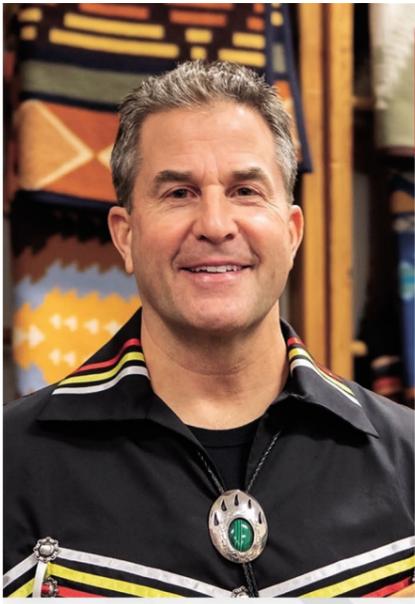
I am running for Chairman because I think we can do better for our members, and work together to achieve more for our people. With over 26 years of experience in Oklahoma Indian Country, assisting leaders in strategic planning, development projects, and nation building, and after 4 consecutive terms as an elected legislator for the CPN, it is obvious to me that we have an opportunity to rekindle the fire of our great nation.

Lisa

Learn more at cpnchairman.com

Join me, help me
unite our nation,
and become a part
of this historic
campaign.



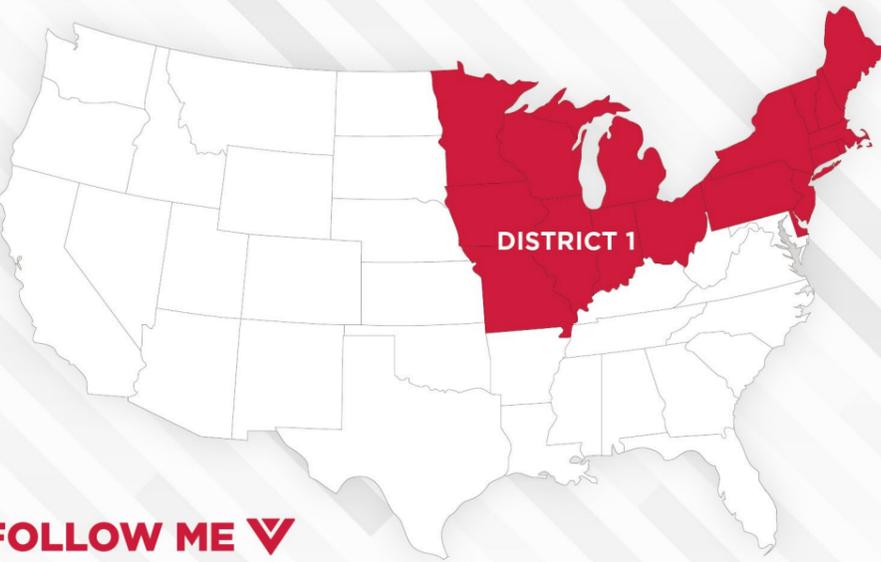


VOTE KEVIN ROBERTS

DISTRICT 1 LEGISLATOR

ABOUT KEVIN

- Married 37 years to Diana
- ◀ Son, Cody (wife Jess & son Beauden) & daughters Emily and Sarah
- Neshnabe name: Kakingeshi (Grizzly Bear)
- ◀ 3rd great grandson of Joseph Bertrand Sr.
- Retired, Assistant Vice President, State Farm Insurance Company
- ◀ Owner/Operator, Migwetch Mtek Designs (wood decor)



FOLLOW ME ▼

Kevin Roberts Candidate for CPN Dist 1 Legislator

Kakingeshi

COMMUNITY

- CONNECTION
- PROGRESS
- SPIRIT



BERTRAND

1 REGION ONE

DREW BOURSAW

High School Teacher M.A. - Education

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- Economic Development
- Maintain and Expand Benefits
- Support Education
- Conduct Regional Meetings

drewboursaw@gmail.com



ELECT DAVID SLAVIN

GZHIPTOT

VIETNAM ERA VETERAN US NAVY
BA IN COMMUNICATION ARTS
ELECTRICIAN 27 YEARS BNSF RAILWAYS

DISTRICT 1 LEGISLATOR

TO HELP BUILD,
PROTECT AND SECURE
OUR SOVEREIGN NATION
WOULD BE AN HONOR.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE.



Vote Melot for District 1

| Integrity | Connection | Service |

Representative Eva Marie Carney



Representing the Nation at the 2015 White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C.

Dear Fellow Potawatomi:

I did not draw a challenger for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation District #2 legislative seat. This means I will take the oath again in June and start another 4-year term, representing in our Legislature the CPN citizens living in the 13 mid-Atlantic and southern states and the District of Columbia.

I plan to keep doing what I've been doing while remaining open to new ideas -- so, fellow citizens, please stay in touch and let's keep talking about what's best for our Nation and its citizens. And let's keep building community. In 2008 I received my Potawatomi name, *Ojindiskwe*, from Chairman Rocky Barrett. It means "Bluebirdwoman." This blue and red bird, I believe, symbolizes the optimism and lively nature of the Citizen Potawatomi. As Potawatomi we traditionally designate our first born children as "blues," second born children as "reds", etc. and for games and contests we traditionally divide into blue and red teams. Drawing on that theme I will continue to strive to work with all of you to build our community of blues and reds, to assist all who need my help, in District #2 and beyond, and to bring us together through Zoom and in-person meetings (when these once more are safe).

You can reach me by the following means:

Mail: 5877 Washington Blvd., #5591, Arlington, VA 22205

Email: ecarney@potawatomi.org OR evamariecarney@gmail.com

Phone: 1.866.961.6988 (toll free)

Please visit my website, www.evamariecarney.com, where I keep an updated calendar of all-Nation and District #2-specific events, including dates for our annual Family Reunion Festival, the annual Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations and upcoming District #2 meetings and meetups.

It is an honor to serve you.

Chi migwetch (many thanks), and please stay safe and healthy --

Representative Eva Marie Carney/*Ojindiskwe* (Bluebirdwoman)

Paid for by Eva Marie Carney



Posing with CPN Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and CPN Dist. #2 citizen Dell Chalk/Migwekwe during the 2019 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations hosted by Wasauksing First Nation, Parry Sound, Ontario (Canada).



BOB WHISTLER | *BMASHI* (HE SOARS) MEMBER OF THE BOURASSA FAMILY | DISTRICT 3

I am running for district three because I believe that I add the diversity needed within the legislative body to ensure that our nations growth in services, and benefits continues for our Texas district three's constituents as well as others throughout the nation. CPN has grown very dramatically compared to other nations and has a multitude of benefits, services, enterprises, and grant applications. It is important that we have a legislative body that is as diverse as possible for our continued growth, prosperity, and future. I have a broad range of experience in over eight different industries in management, service, customer service, corporate staff, and sales, plus approximately nineteen years of government legislative service. In summary, I will be the voice for district three to work directly with and challenge where necessary the Executive and Legislative branches of our nation in the various areas where needed.



RE-ELECT
JOHN "ROCKY" BARRETT
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Paid for by John "Rocky" Barrett

**It's
time
for
change.**



Paid for by Kraft for
Chairman 2021.



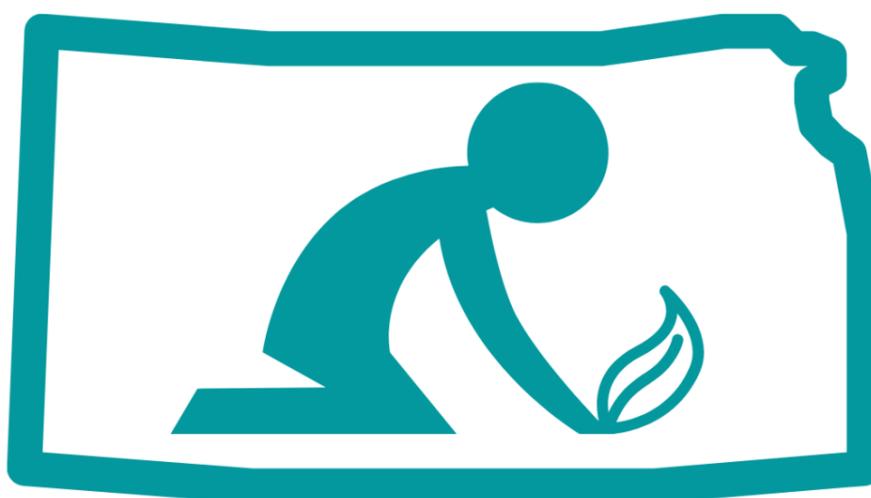
Nibwemko (Standing Bear)
Andrew Thomas Walters

District 11 Legislator

I retired after 45+ years as a Texas Peace Officer. Through those years I served as an Emergency Management Director, Emergency Services District Commissioner, Chief of Police, Fire Marshal, and as Director on the Boards of the Montgomery County Women's Center and The Council on Ageing Adults. Of those 45+ years, 20 were as Chief of Police of a suburb of Houston. I feel my experience in government issues and desire to serve qualify me for this position. My Wife Cora and I moved here after retirement to give back to the Tribe in a meaningful way. I feel this is my path to that end, with your blessing, support and help.

Elexa Dawson

District 4 Legislator



- Seasonal, Multi-Generational Cultural Events in Kansas
- Investment in Potawatomi Language, Community Values
- Expanded Services in District 4
- Transparency & Accountability

Facebook.com/DawsonCPN4

Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



Bozho nikan
(Hello, my friend),

At the end of February, I joined elected officials from the Sac & Fox Nation and Kickapoo Tribe for a tribal leadership forum with Shawnee Forward and the Chamber of Commerce of Shawnee, our nearest town. It

was the second year hosting such an event. It was a good opportunity to hear from our fellow tribal governments in the local community. They described a tumultuous year, much like what we experienced ourselves. We discussed our shared experiences of trying to distribute CARES Act money to our members while being aimed toward failure by regulations we had to follow from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Those who spoke at the event recounted the challenges of getting the funds out the door by the end of 2020, only to have Congress easily change the deadline as part of an end of the year piece of legislation. What I took away from the remarks from my fellow elected tribal leaders was that while the deck was largely stacked against us, most tribal nations did what

we have learned to do when the federal government falls short of its stated purposes of supporting us as “dependent sovereigns of the United States.” We adapted, innovated, and got the funds out to help our people.

It was useful to discuss this with leaders from Shawnee and discuss the contributions tribes made to our shared communities throughout the past year. For every COVID test we’ve run, every vaccine we’ve administered, every patient our health services has treated, that is one less test, vaccine or patient utilizing services in our county’s rural health care facilities. If you thought the hospitals and urgent care clinics were overwhelmed at the height of the outbreak, imagine the chaos if tribal health care services were removed from that mix.

This is the often-unrecognized impact that tribes bring to the non-Native communities inside our tribal jurisdictions.

The forum was a welcome reminder that things in Pottawatomie County are changing for the better. In Shawnee, a new day has dawned in civic leadership that understands the positive role Indian tribes play as job creators, service providers and partners on projects benefitting everyone who lives and works here. It was so gratifying to have the opportunity to share the microphone with my fellow tribal leaders and tell that story to a receptive audience. I look forward to continuing this in the future.

We continue to make progress and recover from the hardships

of last year. Don’t forget to request your absentee ballot forms and vote in our upcoming Tribal elections. Remember: it is our responsibility to exercise our right to vote and govern ourselves as a sovereign nation. It is vital we continue this with your active participation as a Citizen Potawatomi.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



Bozho
(Hello),

From Feb. 9 to Feb. 19, the management of Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3 became somewhat of a nightmare. The problem was not necessarily retrieving water from the source; it was customers losing water as pipe breaks occurred on private land throughout southern Pottawatomie County. Oklahoma’s infrastructure is not designed to endure extremely low and subzero temperatures for long periods of time. Along

with the arctic chill, thousands of homes and businesses across the state experienced water pipes freezing and bursting. In addition to water woes, our state also experienced power blackouts in various locations, including Pottawatomie County. The arctic blast resulted in financial loss, property damage and anguish to those that were without water and/or heat for several days.

I am proud to say that the water district and our emergency management team came to the rescue of many people and several organizations within our jurisdictional area during the frigid spell. Thankfully, CPN owns several tanker trucks and trailers that can carry non-potable water. Altogether, we have the capability to supply about 16,000 gallons of non-potable water by about seven different methods. In addition, there are a couple of tanks that can be sterilized inside to provide potable (or drinking) water. The water district and our emergency management department

supply communities with water for various reasons, including providing help to fight fires.

Recently, there have been several internal requests of Tribal rolls for demographic information of our Tribal membership, especially the breakdown of ages. Many of our grant applications need this information, and I believe it is quite informative for all to know. Presently, we have 36,001 Tribal members enrolled. We have 7,415 under 17 years of age and 28,586 over the age of 18. Just by glance, I can think of several issues with these numbers. Many Tribal members of 18 years and over are possible candidates for higher education scholarships and/or vocational scholarships. Many members 17 years of age and under are attending pre-kindergarten through high school. Those under pre-kindergarten include children that are either home with a parent during the day or are in childcare facility while their parent or guardian works. I am reminded of the tremendous needs of Tribal members of all ages. The price of daycare, the cost

of public and/or private schools, the pressing needs for those in higher education, the dire needs of our general population, food, shelter, clothing and transportation — the list goes on.

As Tribal leaders, we consider ways to help our membership. We know that we cannot be everything to everyone. Even though we provide several important services to Tribal members outside of our jurisdiction, we cannot provide the same services that our Tribal members within our jurisdiction appreciate. This is a daunting dilemma for our legislative members. We would like to give across the board, but that is an impossibility due to services designated for government grants, compacts and contracts on eligible trust lands. We constantly are thinking about ways to help all Tribal members. Our legislators have continual questions on how to help members of their district. It is forever on our minds.

Our education department was recently asked why the

CPN scholarship program has begun to diminish scholarship allocation for advanced degrees. I believe as we look at the numbers of our Tribal population, it is easy to understand. We want to make sure that we have scholarship funding for those members 18 years of age and older, while keeping an eye out for the 17-year-old students and under that will emerge on the horizon. In my belief, it is quite fair. With few exceptions, we promise our regular scholarship funding for at least a bachelor’s degree.

It is a great pleasure to serve you as Vice-Chairman. By the time you read this article, I hope you have some fine March weather to enjoy.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Virtual Potawatomi Leadership Program

The virtual six-week Potawatomi Leadership Program educates a group of promising Tribal students from around the world about the government, culture and economic development of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Where else can you get a crash course on CPN? After your time in the PLP, you’ll be empowered with the knowledge and tools to be an engaged leader of the Tribe. Must be a CPN member, 18 to 21-years-old and have a 3.0 GPA.

TO LEARN MORE OR APPLY, VISIT PLP.POTAWATOMI.ORG

Application CLOSING ON MARCH 10



POTAWATOMI
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

Election update

Because I did not draw a challenger, I will take the oath in June 2021 and serve as the District 2 legislator for another four years, God willing. I am excited about the opportunity to continue my work for District 2 and for Citizen Potawatomi Nation as a whole. There's still much to do to continue building our District 2 community, and I am eager to get back out to visit fellow Potawatomi on their home turf! While there won't be a vote for District 2 legislator, the position of Chairman is on the ballot. I encourage everyone to request your absent ballot once the request form is mailed to you and/or printed in the *Hownikan*, and then to mark and return the ballot in time for it to be counted in June. I hope you will agree that voting is a key responsibility for CPN members.

Reminder about upcoming Zoom meeting

Please take note of the date and time for our upcoming meeting — and the Zoom link — in the invitation included here. Even if you can't make the meeting, you may find useful the following genealogy resources: a family history research tools and reference guide, an ancestral chart, and a family group record

at cpn.news/D2tools shared by District 2 citizen Dennis Johnson (Clardy family). Dennis will have the floor during part of the meeting to share practical tips on how to use genealogy as a tool to capture one's family story. Meetings on Zoom are as close as we can get to being together right now, and I hope you can join us.

Winter story

CPN citizen Ralph Bazhaw was a great friend and storyteller and an advisor to me until he walked on in 2018. Ralph would travel from North Carolina each year with many Bergeron family members for the District 2 Fall Feasts; he shared this story during one of our Fall Feasts, and it's included in the compilation of Winter Stories you can find at cpn.news/emcws.

Hokshilah

When the Great Spirit looked down on His creation, He saw that He had created the mountain lion who must work at night and the owl who must work at night and the two-legged one who must sleep at night but He had created no night.

So He took a giant buffalo robe and He spread it over us and He took a sharp stick and punched holes in the buffalo robe. Our brother the sun peeks through the holes in the buffalo robe, they are what we call the stars. And the way the Great Spirit made the holes in the buffalo robe they tell stories and one of those stories is about Hokshilah.

Now when Hokshilah was born there was something wrong with his leg and he could not run and play as the other boys and girls could. But Hokshilah grew up to be a warrior and a great warrior.

One day when the warriors were returning from a hunting party, they found the women of the village weeping. The warriors asked the women what was wrong and the women told them that



Walterene Scarborough being honored during the 2018 District 2 Fall Feast.

while they were gone a great bear came into the village and killed several children. So the warriors picked up fresh weapons and began to track the bear.

After several days the warriors could not find the bear and some warriors began to talk among themselves. They said that maybe they should go back to the village and wait for the bear and kill him there. But Hokshilah knew that if they did not track down the bear and kill it now that the bear could come back to the village again and kill more children.

So Hokshilah continued after the bear. For you see Hokshilah had a true warrior's heart — he would live his life for his people, and he would give his life for his people. After several days Hokshilah found the bear where he was living. Hokshilah and the bear engaged in battle and during the battle both Hokshilah and the bear were both killed. And as their spirits rose to walk among the stars their blood flowed back to earth and changed the colors of the leaves of the trees.

Even to this day, if you look up into that part of the sky in the summer you will see Hokshilah and the bear facing each other. As the summer wanes Hokshilah gets closer and closer to the bear until the bear lies down and Hokshilah is standing over him and again their blood will flow to the earth and change the colors of the leaves of the trees.

In our stories and in our songs and even in the written pages of history there are many stories of people who lived their lives for their people, who gave their lives for their people. Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy are only a few. But there is one story that was told before the beginning of time, and that is the story of Hokshilah.

Robin Wall Kimmerer lecture

CPN citizen Robin Wall Kimmerer, an acclaimed writer, professor, scientist and dear person, will give the 2021 Kenneth A. Spencer Lecture, hosted by The Commons, University of Kansas.

Robin's lecture will be broadcast live at 7 p.m. CST on April 1, 2021, and can be seen via this link: cpn.news/RWKatKU

If you have not read Robin's book, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants*, published in 2015, I strongly encourage you to buy or borrow a copy and get to it! An audio download of her first book, *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*, accompanied me during gardening work this past summer and also is a delight — especially the last chapter, *Straw into Gold*. Robin has received numerous teaching awards, and I am so looking forward to tuning in to her lecture.

Condolences

Perhaps our wisest Potawatomi in District 2, Walterene "Rene" Brant Scarborough, 97, of Arlington, Virginia (but born in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma), died of complications of COVID-19 in late January 2021. I'm writing this after reading this accomplished woman's obituary in *The Washington Post* at cpn.news/rene. I extend condolences to her family members. It was always a treat to have Mrs. Scarborough with us, surrounded by caring family, at District 2 meetings.

Please stay safe and well, and reach out to me to visit or if I can be of help.

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

CPN District 2 Family Meeting with Rep. Eva Marie Carney

March 13, 2021 · 11-12:30pm

Join us to learn about researching our Potawatomi lineage from CPN Family History Specialist Czarina Thompson



Follow this zoom link to join:
cpn.news/d2meeting

Meeting ID: 813 1043 6316 | Passcode: 951681



Ralph Bazhaw with his wife, Lois, and grandson, Randy Bazhaw, at the 2017 District 2 Fall Feast.



ARE YOU GRADUATING IN MAY?

SEND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO GRADUATION@POTAWATOMI.ORG BY MAY 15 AT 5PM

FULL NAME, HOMETOWN, POTAWATOMI FAMILY NAME, HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE, AND DEGREE TYPE AND MAJOR

District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

By now you have read that the period to register to run for office for our June 2021 election has closed. I will be running unopposed. So those of you in Texas need to focus on candidates that you are eligible to vote for and the budget item. I may provide my thoughts in those areas as we get closer to the election. For now, I have a few other things to address.

COVID-19 vaccine

For Texas CPN members, here is the latest I have regarding COVID-19 vaccine. CPN has no vaccine facility in Texas. It is limited to administering vaccines through our clinics near CPN Tribal headquarters. Occasionally, CPN Health Services has had the capability of opening up vaccine distribution to CPN members. Watch CPN's Facebook page at facebook.com/citizen-potawatominations for updates.

However, the Dallas Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas

does have the vaccine, and you need to register as a patient in order to get the vaccine.

Listed below is the link for the new patient intake that will need to be filled out before you can be added to their schedule. Please upload your CDIB or Tribal membership ID, driver's license or social security card, and if you have any insurance, the front and back of the card. For anyone under 18, they will need a birth certificate, shot record and parent ID also. If you have any questions or concerns, call 214-941-1050 and then press 9.

New patient packet:
cpn.news/txnewpatient

Eligibility documents:
cpn.news/txeligibility

If you live close to the Oklahoma border and have been a patient with either the Choctaw or Chickasaw hospitals in Durant or Ada, you may call them to see if they will offer you a vaccine. For other areas of Texas that are too far away from either the Dallas Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas or Oklahoma, you may want to call your local health department to see if they can refer you to a location for the vaccine. For those of you for whom I had an email address, I was able to send this information out the week of Jan. 25. For any of you that hear of any other Native American program here in District 3 that will vaccinate our members with the COVID-19 vaccine, please send me an email, and I will forward that information out by email.

Second language

Several months ago, I recall writing about the difference in ethnic birth rates. In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau listed the Latino population in Texas at about 38 percent. Through 2017 alone, it has grown by an estimated 18 percent or to roughly 45 percent of our population. For those of us that speak a single language, we will find that not speaking a second language will be a severe disadvantage. In 1996 when I needed to leave where I was located before deciding upon the Dallas area, I had several members of my own staff at that time inquire about transferring to our Miami, Florida, location. In checking with personnel at that time, anyone transferring to Miami had to either speak Spanish as a second language or become proficient within 18 months, and the company would pay for instruction. Based upon what I see on the TV, our government is planning to allow for unlimited crossing of our borders. No doubt there will be an even larger growth of Spanish-speaking citizens in the U.S.

There are a number of programs out there to learn Spanish. For children in school, they need to consider taking the course. For those out of school, you can purchase numerous programs for your computer. Memrise, a website and phone application, offers many languages including Spanish as well as our own, Potawatomi.

Another way to learn the language is to do what many Spanish-speaking people did to learn English: they watched TV programs in English. We have several TV channels that offer programs

entirely in Spanish. It would be very easy for you to turn one of those on for an hour or two each day to pick up the language. A very easy way to learn is to look for an old movie that you saw years ago and then see it shown in Spanish. Since you already know the story, it will be easier to pick up the language. I offer this suggestion to learn Spanish since you will find others around you more frequently speaking Spanish, and it would be nice to understand what is being said.

Potawatomi

Along the same line in learning Spanish, our CPN Language Department Director Justin Neely has a whole variety of choices to learn our language. As already mentioned, there is a program on Memrise. There are several adult and child programs on our Tribal website, potawatomi.org. Justin has also created a number of short YouTube videos that make language learning very easy, and most last from about a minute and a half to four minutes. Check them out at cpn.news/langyt or cpn.news/JN.

These are just examples of some of the techniques Justin is using to help address learning our language. It becomes much easier if you have several members in your family wanting to learn the language. Speaking back and forth reinforces the learning and retention.

Scams

Just a quick note on a new scam. They will call and ask if you use AT&T as a bundle.

If you do, and reply yes, they will advise you there is a new special rate. The rate offered will be in the \$88 per month range. When you decide to take it and ask to be charged, they will say it comes with a three-month prepayment. Be on guard! AT&T is not offering the rate, and these scammers are simply wanting your credit card number to make excessive charges. So, simply hang up.

Before closing for this month, I am again asking for your email address. At the beginning of this article, I mentioned I was able to get vaccine information for COVID-19 out to District 3 members whose email address I had. I do not send out many emails. However, if you wish to get this kind of information as soon as it is known, please send me your email address at CPN3Legislator@yahoo.com.

I am proud, honored and humbled in being allowed to be your elected representative. Please either email me or call my cellphone for any help with CPN matters or for CPN information. I am your voice!

Bama mine
(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
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rwhistler@potawatomi.org
cpn3legislator@yahoo.com

District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho
(Hello),

COVID financial assistance report

In late January the CPN Legislature was provided the summary report of the final overall expenditures of the CARES relief funds. Over \$40 million dollars were disbursed to Tribal members through this program. I am pleased to report that the members of District 4 responded very well to various announcements and submitted 3,487 applications for assistance from the various programs. District 4 had the highest percentage of individuals over 18 served with 62.2 percent, which is the highest of the districts outside of Oklahoma by 8 percent. A total of over \$3.5 million dollars

were disbursed to District 4 members, with \$1.1 million from the Related Expenses Program and \$694,600 from the Elders Food Program. I want to thank all those who helped in getting the word out, and in particular, Tracy Kinderknecht, the Senior Support Network staff RN in Rossville.

Update on the Potawatomi Baptist Mission reopening

I recently with met the director of the Museum and Education Division for the Kansas Museum of History to discuss my recommended changes to the script for the video that will be available for viewing upon entering the Potawatomi Baptist Mission after it reopens later this spring or early summer. A significant portion of the video tells the early history of Citizen Potawatomi Nation, including our forced removal to Kansas. The video will then depict the establishment of the Mission by the Baptist Church. This occurred shortly after the Tribe's relocation from the Sugar Creek Reservation in Linn County to the new Pottawatomie Reservation on the Kansas River in 1847. It will describe what happened to the building following the closure of the Mission shortly after the beginning of the Civil War. Basically, it was first purchased by a private individual and converted into a stable and later

into a barn. The state of Kansas purchased the property consisting of the Mission and 81 acres in 1974. The purpose of the purchase was to restore the historic building and use the grounds for the construction of the new Kansas Museum of History. I will let you know when the reopening of Mission will be, and you can come hear the full story and enjoy the renovated Potawatomi Baptist Mission.

Social media

I thought a clarification of a recently established Facebook group was needed. A private group of Tribal members was created called "CPN District 4" to communicate their thoughts and opinions. I just wanted to be clear, this private Facebook group has no official connection with the Nation, nor to me as your District 4 legislative representative. I am not opposed to the creation of groups or pages where CPN members can interact, but the only official government Facebook page for the Nation is facebook.com/citizenpotawatominations, and as for District 4, we do not have an official Facebook page or group at this time. Any communication I have with you will be either in my monthly *Hownikan* article or by email from boursawdist4@aol.com. If you are not receiving my emails, simply send me an email

at that email address, and I will add you to my distribution list.

Closing costs/down payment/mortgage refinancing assistance

With the extremely low interest rates currently on home loans, it appears to be a favorable time to purchase a home or to refinance an existing mortgage. The CPN Housing Department can assist you in obtaining a financial grant of up to \$2,125 to assist Tribal members in either making a down payment, covering their closing costs, or refinancing their existing mortgage to a lower interest rate. This is a one-time-only grant. Mobile homes are not eligible, and felons cannot reside in the home. Applications must be submitted at least three weeks prior to closing or no later than 30 days after the closing date. For more information on this program, contact Sherry Byers in the CPN Housing Department at 405-272-2833 or 1-800-880-9880. You can also email her at sbyers@potawatomi.org.

Member-owned businesses

If you own a business or know of a Tribal member who does, I would like to highlight that business in one of my *Hownikan* articles. Please furnish me with a

brief description of the business, member's name, location of the business and contact information. Please support our own.

Email addresses

Recently, I have sent out several very important emails. If you are not receiving my emails, either I do not have your email address, or what I have entered is incorrect or has been changed. If you would like to be added to my email list, simply send me an email at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org or boursawdist4@aol.com.

Finally, it has been my pleasure to serve as your legislative representative, and I am looking forward to continuing to serve with enthusiasm. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns or requests.

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

District 5 – Gene Lambert



Bozho
(Hello),

Hope everyone out there is ready for spring. This is the time of new beginnings. We can plant our gardens, our flowers and trees knowing new life is on the way. It just takes a little nurturing, and Kokopelli is on his way. You do remember Kokopelli, right?

Apparently, this is a new time in politics. I hope that we can have some new life as well.

Now that we have a new administration, you can't help but wonder what that means to Indian Country.

Given that concern, I started researching the Biden/Harris platform for Native Americans.

Should the promise hold true to the actions, will we carry forward as a successful existence without overbearing governmental controls? Now notice I did not say without government controls. That has always been there since time immemorial. However, we have made some major breakthroughs as we progress.

The present attitude of acceptance has been long overdue and welcomed.

The self-governance should be stronger than ever.

Legislation and laws can be passed subject to interpretation of the administration.

Have you ever noticed laws being passed and active legislation being voted on again and again with each governmental administrative change?

We wouldn't need more laws if what has been established were followed or enforced. For instance, women and equal pay. We know that has been addressed again and again. It is simply not enforced.

I recall the Obama recognition of the aforementioned legislation as if it has never been discussed. Each administration does the same and everyone goes 'YEA,' seemingly not recognizing it has been voted on many times for generations.

I think this statement covers it all: "All men are created equal." Where do you need to go from there?

On the lighter side, I have summarized the Biden/Harris Administration plan from their website going forward for the 574 federally recognized tribes. It looks like this, according to their posted commitment on joebiden.com/tribalnations:

- Strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationship
- Provide reliable, affordable, quality health care and address health disparities
- Restore tribal lands, address climate change, and safeguard natural and cultural resources
- Ensure Native communities are safer and tackle the crisis of violence against Native women, children, and the elderly
- Expand economic opportunity and community development in Native communities

- Invest in education and youth engagement
- Meet obligations to and commemorate Native veterans
- Ensure Native Americans can exercise their right to vote
- Nominate judges who understand federal Indian law
- Appoint Native Americans to high-level government positions
- Strengthen self-governance
- Immediately reinstate the annual White House Tribal Nations Conference and strengthen the White House Council on Native American Affairs
- Ensure fulfillment of federal trust and treaty obligations including by working to address chronic underfunding of unmet federal obligations to Indian Country
- Defend the Indian Child Welfare Act
- Increase and ensure stable funding for the Indian Health Service
- Deploy telehealth throughout Indian Country
- Make it easier to place land into trust
- Restore Tribal Lands, Address climate change, and safeguard Natural and Cultural Resource
- Protect natural and cultural treasures
- Respect Land Sovereignty and Tribal Rights.
- Increase safety on tribal lands and tackle the crisis of violence against Native Women, Children, and the Elderly

- Increase Native health data collection and sharing to improve health
- Issue an executive order to conserve 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030, focusing on the most ecologically important lands and waters
- Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 and recognize for the first time tribes' inherent power to exercise special criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian offenders who commit domestic violence, dating violence, or violate a protection order on tribal lands
- Build and repair roads, highways, and bridges in Indian Country
- Expand broadband, or wireless broadband via 5G, to every Native American household.
- Increase access to capital for Native-owned businesses
- Expand housing benefits
- Helping families with their first home with up to \$15,000 refundable advance able tax credit
 - (Not sure, but this might be like the 2008 initiative and the \$8,000 given to people who bought homes in advance. The first advance you had to pay back after 5 years, but the second advance they forgave.)
- Promote Native history and culture in schools

Given that this has been made public and a promise to the Native people in the United States of America, it is our job to hold them to it. It looks good on paper, and it appears we have started off with the assurance of Native American appointments to the leadership of our country.

There is a double assist here since the appointments are not only Native — they are women. *Love it, love it, and love it.*

Congresswoman Deb Haaland will be the first Native American to be appointed as Interior Secretary, which governs public land. She is, of course, pleased to serve as the first Native American in the cabinet. Ms. Haaland has not yet been confirmed. She is a citizen of the Pueblo of Laguna and was the second Native American woman to be elected to Congress.

Ms. Heather Dawn Thompson was appointed director of the Office of Tribal Relations at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Her home state is South Dakota, and she belongs to Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. In addition to her many qualifications, she is a Harvard Law School graduate and specialized in tribal law. Her credentials are extensive and impressive. I cannot imagine she wouldn't be confirmed.

Wahleah Johns is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and has been appointed as the director of the Office of Indian Energy. She said she knew what it was like to not have electricity and is excited to be in a position to help Native people under the Biden/Harris Administration.

All we can do at this point is work toward ensuring it all comes about.

In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy because we love you.

Your Legislator, District 5

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 6 – Rande K. Payne



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

I would like to start by thanking everyone that responded with their experience participating in the various CARES Act programs administered by CPN. The majority of the feedback was positive. Most were appreciative of the measures taken by CPN to get information out to Tribal members and assist with navigating the application process. One person

said that the CARES program prompted her family to enroll family members who would otherwise probably still not be enrolled.

There were a few hiccups that have been noted and will contribute to better communication during the application process, should another round of CARES funds become available.

As a Tribal legislator, I was exempt from participating, and rightfully so. Most of my family members felt like they were fortunate to have not been impacted financially by the pandemic. While they could have applied for assistance, they said they opted not to. One Tribal member said she wasn't going to apply because her income had not been affected. But after talking to a CPN representative, she decided to apply; however, she waited too long, and the program had ended. She wasn't upset and said that hopefully someone who really needed the assistance was able to receive it.

As a young lad, I remember my grandmother being very frugal. She routinely complained about how expensive things were. Even though she had the money, if she thought something was unfairly priced, she wouldn't buy it. My dad bought a new car once, and we went to my grandmother's house to show her. The first thing she asked my dad was, "What was wrong with your old car?" Then she said, "I hope you paid cash for it." I was excited about the new car and didn't understand why my grandmother wasn't. I understand it now. She had lived through the Spanish Flu pandemic and raised her family during the Great Depression. The life lessons of her day taught her to be self-reliant and prepared for the rainy days. All the way up to her passing, she believed our country was on the verge of another Great Depression if we didn't get our financial house in order.

I share this because I believe there is wisdom in how she lived her life.

When I reflect on the history of our country during the colonialization period, survival for tribes ultimately ended with complete government dependence. We're all aware of the promises of food and shelter that were frequently broken. Not many would argue that moving from a life of self-determination into a life of being totally controlled by the government worked out good for Native Americans.

So here I am, believing like my grandmother believed, that it could happen again. Maybe not in the same way as the Great Depression, but in government having too much control of our lives. History and the wisdom of our elders are our best teachers, in my opinion.

My hope and prayer is that elders would understand their role with regards to wisdom and that younger generations would value the wisdom of their elders. This is the way we have survived since time immemorial. *Aho!*

Lastly, I would encourage anyone with family members that are not enrolled to get the process started sooner than later.

Potawatomi word of the month: *mbwakawnene*

To find the meaning of the word simply go to potawatomidictionary.com.

Wisdom from the Word: "Using a dull ax requires great strength, so sharpen the blade. That's the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed." Ecclesiastes 10:10

Migwetch
(Thank you)!

Rande K. Payne
Mnedo Gabo
Representative, District 6
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District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello my friends),

With the coronavirus pandemic now in its second year, all of us are starting to look for a return of something we can call normal. One of the quickest ways to get there is to get vaccinated as soon as you are eligible, under your state's COVID-19 vaccination plan. One great place to start is with a visit to the federal Indian Health Service website, ihs.gov/coronavirus. You can check your area offices to check on vaccine availability. Another great resource would be your county health department's website. Most are going to great lengths to make the vaccine

available to our elders and first responders and health care workers. Many other groups are starting to open, so please take the time to make this small step in order to help us get past this.

I know there is a lot of apprehension about the vaccine, just like the smallpox vaccine, and every other vaccine since. I was blessed with both doses of the vaccine and can tell you from my experience, it was no different than getting any other vaccine. Please do it when you can.

Election season is here for the Tribe. Please take the time to

request your ballot and return it when you get it. Again, I urge you to examine the growth and stability our Nation has enjoyed in recent years. Let's not step off the solid path that's gotten us to where we are as Citizen Potawatomi.

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 Tribal benefits that you may be able

to receive. 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
559-351-0078 cell
mark.johnson@potawatomi.org

District 8 – Dave Carney



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

transaction went very well, and of course, I gave the seller a discount on the commission. This allowed me to get to know this member very well, and I consider him a good friend after the experience of working together through the process.

I worked as a real estate broker in the 1980s in California and then took a 25+ year break to work in various other industries before returning to the industry about 10 years ago in Washington. In my time, I have learned that markets change continually. Almost everyone is familiar with the terms "buyer's market" or "seller's market." Currently, we are in a very unusual market that is very counterintuitive. While the coronavirus rages on, masked buyers tour the few homes that are available and bid them over the already healthy asking price. Somehow, even as prices are going crazy, there are more cash buyers than I've

experienced before. I guess this is a hyper-seller's market.

The usual trends of people moving up from a smaller starter home to a larger home or empty nesters downsizing to smaller homes has been thwarted by the justifiable fear that a new home cannot be easily found. It's a cyclical problem.

In the area that I live and work, which is about halfway between Seattle and Portland, there are buyers relocating from more urban areas because of the new normal of telecommuting. This trend, along with record-low interest rates and the Veteran's Administration cap on home values they will finance, are further fueling the hot market.

I really feel bad for first-time homebuyers because prices have climbed so much, and there is just so much competition that it is very possible to make many offers before getting one

accepted or giving up. My main advice for anyone looking to engage in buying or selling real estate would be to find an experienced local agent who can guide individuals through the process. If you are a buyer, you generally pay your real estate agent nothing to represent you, as their commission comes from the seller's proceeds. I strongly discourage anyone from selling their home themselves. Beside potential scams, missteps and liability, the average person who does this (in my area) loses \$40,000 to \$50,000, even after paying realtor fees. I have a friend who just did this, and he managed to lose out on even more — but that's a story for another time.

Last week, the CPN legislature met to discuss the distribution of CARES Act funds. I have received preliminary reports by region and by program, but they are preliminary. When numbers are final, the report will be

shared in the *Hownikan*. District 8 members accessed these funds at a good rate, and I have been super happy that this money has helped so many of our members.

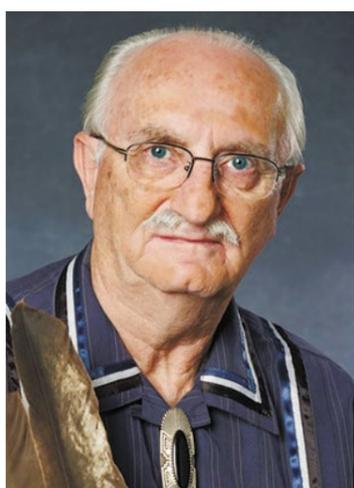
There is a strong indication that there may be more CARES funds available in 2021. I will keep the district informed through email and the district's Facebook group as soon as details are available.

There will be an election this year. Please be sure to request an absentee ballot and participate.

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),

I'm publishing just a few of the many positive comments on Facebook concerning the local Citizen Potawatomi Nation COVID-19 vaccine program:

"Thank you so much for all you guys do for us. The vaccine as well as the Care money was a blessing to us!!"

"I love my tribe!"

"Dr. V is fantastic and our tribe is phenomenally amazing!!! We are blessed indeed!!!"

"Well done Dr. Vascellaro!!"

"Very proud of CPN!"

"Great job Dr. V & CPN! This is absolutely wonderful."

"I'm amazed at how well the vaccines were administered. Thank you Dr. V and CPN!"

"I'm so proud of our tribe! We step up and get the job done."

"Great job, Dr. V."

"Dr. V is a hero."

"I got my second injection. CPN did a great job."

"I'm amazed at how well the shots were administered. Thank you Dr. V and CPN."

"Proud to have a great Dr. V. He has added so much to our health care. The Drive through COVID vaccine was very organized and quick. Indians

don't stand in the cold for hours. Thank you Dr. V."

"So very proud that our tribe has a caring & dedicated people working to care for our people. *Migwetch*, Dr. V and all our Health Care Workers. Y'all have done a wonderful job."

"I can't say enough about Dr. V and everyone at the CPN clinic. They saved my life. I have found everyone at all the tribal offices have always went the extra mile to answer any questions and help. Lori Beth Williams saved my life because of going the extra mile."

And I will add that our Citizen Potawatomi Nation and its

health care workers are probably the most effective COVID-19 vaccine administrators in Oklahoma. I wish those living outside of Oklahoma had the opportunity we were given by these dedicated doctors, nurses and their staffs. On behalf our legislature and the Nation, we commend you for a job, sometimes dangerous, well done!

Migwetch

(Thank you),

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



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Jean S. Doty



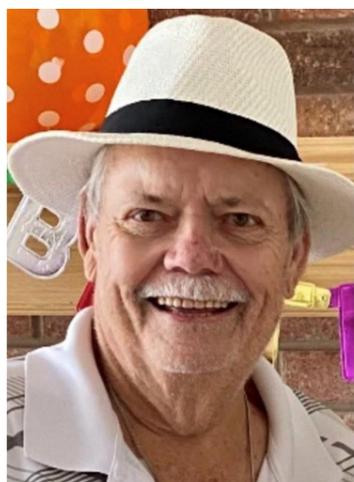
Jean Schmechel Doty was born on April 26, 1929, the eldest child of Julius and Ruth Schmechel. She grew up in St. Joseph, Missouri. She was called to the Lord on Aug. 23, 2020, after a long battle with dementia.

She married Charles Stewart Doty on June 5, 1954. After completing her master's degree in library science from Kent State University in 1970, she became a librarian at the Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, Maine. She raised three sons, David, Ted and Peter. The winters in Maine were hard, and she missed spring there, which doesn't come until May.

She and Stewart retired to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1995 where she became interested in genealogy. This led her to Potawatomi ancestor Solomon Bertrand, and she was enrolled in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She was very proud of her Potawatomi heritage.

She was diagnosed with dementia in 2011 after Stew died, and it has been a long fading into the twilight. Survivors include three sons, three grandsons and two granddaughters.

Keith Ellis Cagle



Keith Ellis Cagle, age 74, was born Nov. 16, 1946, to I.B. Ellis and Lillie Belle Cagle in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Keith was the sixth and last child in the family. He was called to his Heavenly home on Jan. 2, 2021.

Keith had a very full and active life. He graduated from John Marshall High in Oklahoma City, served his country in the Air Force, was successful as an insurance salesman and was always jovial, bringing joy and laughter to others.

Sandy Wachtel and Keith married in 2005 and had a very strong, devout and loving Catholic marriage. Keith was

instrumental in setting up the St. Vincent Thrift Store, served as past president of St. Vincent De Paul and Fourth Degree Member of Knights of Columbus. Keith also was a past commander of the Citizen Potawatomi Veterans Association. His Potawatomi name was White Eagle, meaning "flying over the earth gathering prayers to take to God."

Along with being a great OU Sooner football fan, he enjoyed golfing, going out to eat, having a root beer float, and most of all, his family and church.

Keith was preceded in death by his parents: I.B. and Lillie Belle (Joyce); his first wife, Georgeann Warlow; and three siblings: Betty Collins, I.B. Wendell and Joe Wayne.

He is survived by his wife, Sandy Cagle; step-children, Danny Carroll and wife Angel, Paul Vincent Riggie, Veranda Shaw and husband Eric, Via Hlad and husband Bobby, and Vincent Riggie and wife Shela; two siblings, Linda Teal, and Carol Kuestler and her husband Oscar; and step-grandchildren, Victoria Herman and husband Mark, Robby Hlad, Mia Shaw, and Kecin Carroll. Keith is also survived by numerous other beloved family members and friends. Keith Ellis Cagle leaves a big void down here, but the angels in Heaven have truly welcomed him.

Patricia Ann Jackson



Patricia Ann (Patty) Jackson was born on Aug. 17, 1950, in Great Bend, Kansas, to Mose Bruno, Jr. and Christie Marie (Clark) Bruno. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Jimmy Bruno, M.C. Bruno; and sister, Sue Lynn Renfrow.

Patty was a graduate of Grant High School's class of 1968. She married Donald Jackson on Aug. 18, 1968, in Goodland, Oklahoma. Patty was a homemaker and loved the country life. She spent time with Donald driving her four-wheeler and helping him take care of their cattle. Patty loved the outdoors and enjoyed swimming and fishing. Above all, Patty loved her family and enjoyed spending time with them. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Patty is survived by her husband, Donald; son, Dale Edward Jackson and wife Wanda of Soper, Oklahoma; daughter, Angie Martin and husband Donald of Soper, Oklahoma; brothers, Bobby Bruno of Rattan, Oklahoma

and Billy Joe Bruno of North Carolina; sisters, Francis Daniels of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Edwina Harper of Eules, Texas and Jo Ellen Reid of Brandon, Mississippi; grandchildren, Dusty Jackson, Crystal Jackson, Rouchelle Mantell, Dakota Bell, Michael Brown, Amber Jones, Michelle Larrison, Candy Hokett, Harlie Dawn Martin and Piper Dale Martin; fifteen great-grandchildren; and a host of other family, friends and loved ones.

Dan Dansenburg



At the age of 72, Dan Dansenburg passed away on Jan. 29, 2021, due to complications of the COVID-19 virus. He always loved sunshine and spent the last 13 years of his life relaxing in retirement in sunny Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

When he was born Jan. 6, 1949, in Wichita, Kansas, Dan was welcomed by his sister, Susan, and his parents, George Lee Dansenburg and Betty Colleen (Kelly) Dansenburg. His nickname from a young age was "Danny," although his given name was George Lee Dansenburg, Jr., which he legally changed to Dan.

As a child, Dan participated in church, Boy Scouts, and especially liked fishing, camping and being outdoors. He loved dogs, excelled in practical jokes and was always very fun-loving. At age 16, he attended a square dance exhibition in Seattle, Washington, where he met some teenage dancers. The chance encounter was the impetus for him to join The Mavericks. Because Dan's parents were avid square dancers, they were thrilled when Dan participated in several international dance competitions.

Upon graduation from Renton High School, Dan enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He spent nine months at the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey, California. The program for which he became fluent in Indonesian was disbanded, so he was sent to Personnel Training School at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi.

On June 24, 1969, he married Donna Sedenquist, and they moved to an apartment halfway between Gulfport and Biloxi. Six weeks later, they survived hurricane Camille, the worst hurricane to hit the continental United States. The wind gauge broke at 200 mph.

After receiving his credentials as a human resources specialist, Dan was stationed at Malmstrom

AFB in Great Falls, Montana, and then sent to serve at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon. After five months in wartime Vietnam, Dan volunteered for a transfer to Thailand for eight months. He was also stationed for a year in Merced, California, and three and a half years in Zweibrucken and Ramstein, Germany. His daughter was born in Landstuhl, Germany, and two years later his son was born in Seattle, Washington.

Dan left the Air Force after serving seven and a half years in order to complete his college education. After earning a B.A. and M.A. in business from the University of Washington, Dan's work life was primarily human resources for PACCAR, Inc., Duninger Engineering and The Boeing Company. His leisure activities included genealogy, computing, traveling, racquetball and bicycling. Dan enjoyed watching his children at their various activities: piano, choral, dance, band, magic and acting. He especially loved taking the kids waterskiing, camping, hiking and playing in the ocean.

Both his parents and brother-in-law, Eric Campbell, preceded Dan in their transition to the afterlife. He is survived by many relatives including sister, Susan (Dansenburg) Campbell; former wife, Donna (Sedenquist) Dansenburg; and their children, Gary Dansenburg, and Heidi (Dansenburg) North; son-in-law, Matt North; three incredible grandchildren, Tyler, Kyle and Rose; and cousins, nieces and nephews.

Dan will be interred at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington, near his parents' final resting place. Thoughts and condolences can be sent to the family at lietz-frazefuneralhome.com. To send a free card, go to sendoutcards.com/lietzfrazefuneralhome.com.

Dan was proud of being a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation from early childhood; he was a member of the Vieux family.

Mary Alice Mudgett



Mary Alice Mudgett was born to Flora and Wayne Milligan on November 12, 1947, in Bristow, Oklahoma. She departed this life on Jan. 15, 2021, at the age of 73 years, 2 months and 3 days.

A Slick High School graduate, Mary attended college at Northern Oklahoma College where she received an associate degree. In 1963, she married David Mudgett; to this union were born four children, Angie, David, Brett and Alecia. David and Mary made their home in

Slick, Oklahoma. In 1979, the family moved to Ponca City. Mary and David returned to Slick in 2005. Mary worked many years as an administrative assistant in the medical industry. She loved her family dearly. She loved her Lord and Savior, attending Slick First Baptist Church for many years. Mary enjoyed painting and was an avid reader. She was also an amazing cook. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with family, especially her grandkids.

Mary is survived by her husband, David of the Slick home; four children, Angie Courtney and husband Larry, David Mudgett and wife Candyce, Brett Mudgett and Alecia Mudgett Perciful; thirteen grandchildren, Bron Overbey and wife April, Brittney Bostick and husband Josh, Ashlyn McNamara-Ewy, Max Courtney, Alyssa Rowell and husband Cody, Ian Mudgett, Mia Courtney, Amanda Mudgett, Evan Mudgett, Brody Perciful, Brendon Mudgett, Braily Perciful, Braden Perciful and Aiden Mudgett; and eight great-grandchildren, Ethan Overbey, Emma Bostick, Brennan Bostick, Carter Courtney Pagano, Maddex Ewy, Waylon Rowell, Nolan Bostick and Whitten Rowell. She was preceded in death by her parents, Wayne Milligan and Flora Sneed; stepfather, Eddie Sneed; in-laws, Francis Mudgett and Nola Mudgett; and grandson, Max Courtney.

Shelia Darlene Norman



Shelia Darlene Norman, age 61, entered her eternal home Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her father, Wendell Fincher, and her brother, James Fincher. Surviving her is her husband, Tommy Norman; daughter, Chasity Norman; mother, Berdean Fincher; sister, Sherri See; aunts, Georgia Williams and Deb Weatherbee; uncle, Larry Fincher; two nephews, four nieces, four great-nephews, one great-niece, many cousins and countless friends.

Shelia was a caring wife, mother, sister and daughter.

She was active in her home church, Pathway of Life, teaching Sunday school, working with the children and the Bible Life Study Course.

She was a caregiver for her family and others throughout her life.

She was a bus monitor for MISD Special Education.

She was loved and will be missed by all her family and friends.

Delores Higbee Russell

Delores Fay Higbee Russell of Shawnee, Oklahoma, formerly Norman, Oklahoma, passed away at age 84 on Jan. 7, 2021. She was born Nov. 11, 1936, to Verl Pierre Higbee and Leona Beatrice Thomas Higbee in a small house in Lexington, Oklahoma.

In 1946, she moved to Bakersfield, California, and returned to Noble, Oklahoma, in 1953 after her mother passed. Delores graduated from Noble High School in 1954 and graduated from Draughon's Business College in Oklahoma City.

During her 45-year professional career, Delores specialized in customer-community relations as a communications relations officer at Security National Bank and Republic Bank of Norman. Serving as a tireless, dedicated volunteer, Delores also assisted multiple organizations, ranging from Oklahoma four-term Governor George Nigh's election campaign to the board of directors of the Norman Ballet Company, to name a few.

Delores enjoyed time with her family and many friends. As a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she enjoyed sharing stories of her family ancestors, attending annual Tribal festivals and Higbee family reunions. She lived in Norman, Oklahoma, the majority of her adult life. After retirement, she moved to Camargo, Oklahoma, to be near her sister, Sharrie and then to Arlington, Texas, to be near her daughter, D'Anne. Delores then moved to CPN housing in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Preceded in death by her parents, Verl and Leona, and stepmother, Helen Velma

Straub Higbee. She is survived and will be deeply missed by her children, Mike Russell and his wife Madonna, John Russell and his wife Jamie, and D'Anne Russell Poole and her husband Chris; her grandchildren, Megan Russell and her fiancé Chris Baye, Madison Russell Martinez and her husband Preston, Mckenzie Russell Gregory and her husband Clay, Brooks Russell, Steel Russell and his fiancée Devin McInerney, Stone Russell and Taylor Ross; her great-grandchildren, Poppy Russell and Wesley Martinez; her sister, Sharrie Ward and her husband Bob; her nieces and nephews, Pam Huesman and her husband Mark, Gregg Ward and his wife Susan, Mark Ward and his wife Carrie; their families; her uncle, Ronnie Higbee; and numerous other family relatives.

Raymond Glenn Goodman

Raymond Glenn Goodman was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on Sept. 4, 1941, to Thomas Samuel (Buster) Goodman and Hazel Lorene Weathers Goodman. He passed away on Dec. 18, 2020, from complications of COVID-19 in Midwest City, Oklahoma.

He is survived by two sisters, Darla Wells and Shirley Laster. He is also survived by brother, Thomas Goodman.

He lived his younger years in Shawnee and spent a lot of time with his grandparents at the Bourbonnais Cabin, which is now part of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center. He later moved to California where he graduated from South Gate Senior High School and attended Long Beach State College.

He had a successful career in IT for 25 years in system analysis, programming computers.

He was a naturalist and loved all the cosmos.

He purchased a wall tile memorial to Iva Lou Lazzelle, his grandmother, and himself at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.

In his later years, Raymond truly embraced his Potawatomi heritage and donated his regalia, which was mostly handmade by him, to the CHC. His wishes were to have a memorial feast at a later date.

Lloyd Glenn Melot

Lloyd Glenn Melot of Tecumseh, Oklahoma, passed Friday, Oct. 16, 2020, in his home. He was 93.

Born on Main Street in Tecumseh on July 25, 1927, Glenn grew up in the teeth of the Great Depression as the son of farmers Vernon and Mary Melot, an experience that imbued in him a lifelong commitment to the value of hard work and providing for his family.

He met his best friend, Dolores Ann Sparkman, in the late 1940s, and they were married on April 6, 1951. They made their home in Tecumseh and were fixtures at the academic and athletic events of their three children. A graduate of Tecumseh High School, Glenn attended Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee before embarking on a long career in the federal government in surplus property disposal at Tinker Air Force Base. He was never happier than during the long hours traversing the family's acreage on the west

side of Tecumseh where he raised cattle and built and improved numerous structures.

After his retirement, he and Dolores enjoyed regular jaunts to antique stores and estate sales to stock a variety of collections, including a large set of cabinet stereos stored in his workshop and employed to play records of such favorites as Patsy Cline and Glenn Miller.

Glenn is survived by his three children, Cindy (Ted) Belshe of Tecumseh, Tracy (Christy) Melot of Shawnee and Derek Melot of Lansing, Michigan; a brother, Alva Melot of Tecumseh; grandchildren, Dallas Belshe of Tecumseh, Ted Belshe IV of Tecumseh, Matthew (Miracle) Melot of Earlsboro and Stephen (Hannah) Melot of Lakewood, Colorado; great-grandchildren, Keren Batterton, Linsey Batterton, Ryan Batterton, Ted Belshe V, Asher Belshe, Olivia Seals and Elisabeth Melot; nieces and nephews, Clarice Melot, Hilton Melot, Pierre Melot, Judi Melot and Michelle Melot Sigman; and numerous extended family.

Glenn was preceded in death by his wife, Dolores; a brother, Raymond Melot; a granddaughter, Chasity Batterton; a son-in-law, Jesse Melot; and a grandson-in-law, Michael Batterton.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Tecumseh High School Alumni Association.

Walterene Brant Scarborough

Walterene "Rene" Brant Scarborough, 97, of Arlington, Virginia, died of complications of COVID-19 on Jan. 26, 2021. She was born in Pottawatomie

County, Oklahoma, on June 20, 1923, the sixth of seven children of William Walter Brant and Lena Mae (Smith) Brant. She was a proud Potawatomi through the Ogee-Weld-Cummings line. She attended Pottawatomie County public schools, including a two-room elementary school. She then attended the Blackwood-Davis Business College in Oklahoma City.

During WWII, she worked with the Army Corps of Engineers, in Oklahoma City, then Tulsa, and then Houston. She met her future husband, Robert H. Scarborough, Jr., an officer in the Merchant Marine and Navy Reserve, in New Orleans in 1945. When the war ended, she worked for Braniff Airways in Houston. She was married at Grace Episcopal Church in Galveston, Texas, on July 1, 1946, and shortly thereafter moved with her husband to Longview, Texas, where she worked as a secretary. When her husband was recalled to active duty, she accompanied him on his assignments until his retirement as a vice admiral and vice commandant of the Coast Guard in 1982. His career took them to California, Virginia, New York City, New Jersey, Texas, Honolulu, Washington State, Washington D.C., and Ohio.

She attended William & Mary college. When they lived in Hawaii, she was active as a volunteer with the Junior Army-Navy Guild Organization (JANGO) and at Punahou School. Later, she worked for the US AID in Washington. She was an accomplished amateur painter and master gardener and enjoyed Bible Study. In 2018, Rene was awarded the "Wise Member" by Eva Marie Carney at the District 2 Fall Feast. She is survived by her two sons, Robert Henry III (Dee Dee) of New York City and James Burton of Arlington; four grandchildren, Julia of Northampton, Massachusetts, and Dorothy, Helen and Henry, all of New York City; and her younger sister, Juanelle Beauford of Shawnee, Oklahoma. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews, including Patrick Brant of Houston, who was particularly close. She will be buried alongside her late husband at Arlington National Cemetery.

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.