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

As the daughter of Potawatomi Chief Widato 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 ogena (headman or headwoman) and prominent entrepreneur near Lake Keewawayn in Indiana.

“She was a woman of her time,” Dr. Mosteller explained. “She absolutely saw 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 nearly made and handsomely checked,” 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 Totequa, Otter Woman, Mary Jutsons and Pahb-zaa.

“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, Totequa, Otter Woman, Mary Jutsons and Pahb-zaa, petitioned for the ability to receive 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

As the mother of Potawatomi Chief Watseka, Watchekee would make an early appearance at CPN headquarters.

Natural, sweet gifts of the Maple Sugar Moon

2021 Tribal Election Candidates

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A LOOK INSIDE

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

Watseka — Watchekee — (Overseer) was a prominent Potawatomi woman during the 19th century. She was the daughter of Potawatomi Chief Watseka, also a prominent leader and signatory to numerous treaties and lands. Watseka was known for her business acumen, running a successful hat-making business out of her two-story home in Middleport, Ohio. She was a prominent figure in Potawatomi culture and history, and her name change to Watseka was a significant step in recognizing the contributions of Potawatomi women.
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 send 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, including the Tulsa Research Kids competition in 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 if even it dried.”

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 declared 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 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 cnn.com/falcon9.
Potawatomi Women continued...

of Monahski and Potawatomi/Odawa Chieft Shabonna. During the War of 1812, Shabonna (Bluff Like a Bear) was an ally of Tecumseh and Tecumseh's War. He joined Potawatomi leaders Waushanter, Winama, Main Poc, and others.

Watchee 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 moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1837.

Once she moved west of the Mississippi, Watchee continued yearning for her homeland, 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. Watchee was one of the very few to continue yearning for her homeland, and she often traveled by foot back and forth to the Great Lakes region.

Mary Anderson Bourbonnais

Mary Anderson Bourbonnais was one of the most prominent landowners in Kosciusko County, Indiana. During the War of 1812, Chief Shabonna served as a visual reminder of the community's past. Mary Anderson Bourbonnais was one of the most prominent landowners in Kosciusko County, Indiana. She inherited his land and became a woman of your time but also refuse to be cut out of it. Mary Anderson Bourbonnais was one of the most prominent landowners in Kosciusko County, Indiana.

She held a high standing in the Milwaukee community, she is a shining example of that. Many remember her contagious energy and ability to make work enjoyable, no matter the task. She always have the training? No, but she was determined to do it. Did she always have the training? No, but she was determined to do it.

While each of the women mentioned left their mark on Potawatomi Nation continues operating today. While each of the women mentioned left their mark on Potawatomi Nation continues operating today.

Mary Ann Benache

Mary Ann Benache was one of the fierce warrior and leader Peashwah. After Seguak 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.”

Joyce Abel

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.”

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 campaigns 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 Potawatomi 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 descendents — you had other Andersons — who would eventually hire attorneys and go to Washington and argue on behalf of the Tribe.”

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 use 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.”

Mary Ann Benache

Mary Ann Benache was the daughter of the fierce warrior and leader Peashwah. After Seguak passed away, Mary Ann inherited his land and became a woman of your time but also refuse to be cut out of it. Mary Ann inherited his land and became a woman of your time but also refuse to be cut out of it.

Due to these connections, Seguak and his family avoided removal. Mary Ann divorced McCartney and eventually married a Potawatomi warrior named Patshwa. After Seguak passed away, Mary Ann inherited his land and became one of the most prominent landowners in Kosciusko County, Indiana.

She held a high standing in the Milwaukee community, she is a shining example of that. Many remember her contagious energy and ability to make work enjoyable, no matter the task. She always have the training? No, but she was determined to do it.

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

“The 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 do it alone. 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 signature are all over everything. She was where we needed her to be. She took office in 1970 and when a call came put off 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 Rhoidal 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 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 sondes — a small, easy to transport piece of 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 our 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 1 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 much-needed information out to our communities and students 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 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/cphouseofhope.
Natural, sweet gifts of the Maple Sugar Moon

The tinkling tinkle, tinkling 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.

According to Justin Neely, Citizen Nishnabé Director, oral traditions surrounding maple sugar have been a mainstay for her every spring. "Some people will do this at every tree, but others, they're more selective," Neely said. "It's giving to us as a gift, as the tree grows, as the sap starts to flow. It's a small gesture of reciprocity — of recognizing the tree for what it's doing for us."

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.

In 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 syruping

During winter, Nishnabé diets were comprised mostly of meat and nunmewen (wild rice) in wild rice communities. "So, the sap would clean us up 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 sugar from community to community. One in particular, Nanabozho and the Maple Trees, notes that a long time ago, syrup 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 sema (maple sap), letting it flow down into a folded wigwən (birch bark) container — wigwən 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 at the maple spigots," Wall 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 to create maple sap-carrying buckets happens during the winter when the dormant trees' bark becomes thicker.

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

Modern tapping utilizes a power tool to drill, which creates a hole in the maple trees themselves.

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

Ziwagmedé (Maple Syrup) Roasted Carrots

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lb. medium carrots, cut diagonally into 2-3 inch pieces
- 6 Tbs. melted butter
- ½ cup granulated maple sugar
- ½ cup maple syrup
- Dash of salt

DIRECTIONS

1. Mix the salt, melted butter, syrup, and granulated maple sugar together in a large bowl.
2. 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.

After boiling the sap, stirring and cooling with wood spatula turns the liquid into golden maple sugar. (Photo provided)

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

"The tree will heal, but the old style tapping is a more sustainable type of..."
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 up in the air, 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.
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 through her education. Much of her work centers around self-exploration and displays both her artistic process and final results.

The Schepetlow 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 from a physical process dependent on proper lighting, material, and equipment, whereas 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 museum presentings 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 miyook (corn). Nishnabé people rely on corn as a dietary staple 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 more that it rains and 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.

**Future of maple syrup**

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.

Foster created a replica of a sugar trough. Then she explained that she makes sugar "by other people’s standards, but in my own way. It requires a lot of patience and observation." Wall preferred to use observation methods — especially Nishnabé (corn)."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 more that it rains and 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."

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**Future of maple syrup**

Although colonization has created limited growing conditions for sugar maple — it doesn’t grow well 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 in the bush while making syrup and sugar.

"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)
Shawnee, Oklahoma
Education

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 is it 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 Chairman 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 through 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 - Kakingeshi (Grizzly Bear)

Justin Neely gave me my Neshahe 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
- CLU - Chartered Life Underwriter
- FLMI - Fellow Life Management Institute
- ChFC - Chartered Financial Consultant
- CIPP/US - Certified Information Privacy Professional - United States

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 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.

Eleaxa "Amo" Dawson

Chandler, Oklahoma ndoch bya, Kansas mshkoke ndeda

Education

Current student of Johnson County Community College, Sustainable Agriculture

Bozho, I’m Eleaxa “Amo” Dawson. I’m descended from the Oge and Beaubien families.

I was born at Mission Hill and raised in Chandler, Oklahoma. I moved to Chas 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.
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. 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, 1950, 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 the waiting time for the 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 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.”

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

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

“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 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.
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.

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 postmarked 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 votes. 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 is 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 cpnnews/ordinance.  

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**Election committee upholds mission for an accurate, secure Tribal election**

*HOWNIKAN* March 2021 11
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 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.

Source: Vanguard, cpn.news/vanguard

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.

CREATE YOUR OWN NISHNABE TACO!

ONLY AT FIRELAKE FRY BREAD TACO CALL NOW FOR CARRY-OUT! 405-273-0108 FRYBREADTACO

CREATE YOUR OWN NISHNABE TACO!

ONLY AT FIRELAKE FRY BREAD TACO CALL NOW FOR CARRY-OUT! 405-273-0108 FRYBREADTACO

$6.99 PLUS TAX
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

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.

2021
CPNChairman.com
Paid for by Kraft for Chairman 2021.
HOWNIKAN

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)

DREW BOURSAR

REGION ONE

I WILL WORK FOR YOU
Economic Development
Maintain and Expand Benefits
Support Education
Conduct Regional Meetings

drewboursaw@gmail.com

KEVIN ROBERTS Candidate for CPN Dist 1 Legislator

MARCH 2021

COMMUNITY
- CONNECTION
- PROGRESS
- SPIRIT

ELECT

DAVID SLAVIN

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

DREW BOURSAR

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE.
Vote Melot for District 1

| Integrity | Connection | Service |

Representative Eva Marie Carney

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: 1866.961.6988 (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

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.
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

Bebo nikan
(Hello, my friend),

Shawnee, our nearest town. It tribal leadership forum with and Kickapoo Tribe for a from the Sac & Fox Nation Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps

Bebo
(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 who 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. Alongside, 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 portable (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 with 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. 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, and 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

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 CLOSES ON MARCH 10

HOWNIKAN

18 MARCH 2021
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 voting is a key to continue building our 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 and return the ballot in time for it to be counted in June. I hope you will agree that voting is a key tool to capture one’s family story. Even to this day, if you look up into the sky and find the Big Dipper, you will see Hokshilah and the bear facing each other. At the summer solstice, 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.

Election update

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends),

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 told before the beginning of time, and that is the story of 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. Our village weeping. The 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.

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 Full Feasts, and it’s included in the compilation of Winter Stories you can find at cpn.news/emcws.

Hokshilah

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 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 return 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 sky of the summer you will see Hokshilah and the bear facing each other. At the summer solstice, 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 her 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, Waterence “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/renette, I extend condolences to her family members. It was always a treat to hear Mrs. Scarbor-ough talk with us, surrounded by car- ing family, at District 2 meetings. Please stay safe and well, and reach out to me to visit or if it can be of help.

Eva Marie Carney

While there won’t be a vote for District 2 legislator, the position of Chairman is on the ballot. I encourage everyone 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 told before the beginning of time, and that is the story of Hokshilah.

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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.
District 3 – Bob Whistler

Bobby Boursaw (Brave Bear)

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 close clinic CPN Tribal headquarters. Occasionally, CPN Health Services has had the capability of opening up vaccine distribution to CPN members. Watch CPN’s Facebook page @citizenpotawatomination 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 CIDB 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, photo and parent ID also. If you have any questions or concerns, call 214-941-1059 and then press 9.

New patient packet: cpn.news/rcxnewpatient

Eligibility documents: cpn.news/rxc/vaxelgibility

If you live close to the Oklahoma border and have been served with a court order with the Chickasaw or Choctaw hospitals in Durant or Ada, you may call Ada or you 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 group here in District 3 that will vaccinate our members with the COVID-19 vaccine, please send me an email and I forwarded 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 38 percent. Through 2017 alone, it has grown by an estimated 18 percent or roughly 15 percent of the 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 Missi, 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. Thereafter, you will there 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 it may not be needed to consider taking the course. For those of you, that 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 for a few months. It is not very easy way to learn 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 information 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 Tribe’s website: Potawatomi.org. Justin has also created a number of short YouTube videos that demonstrate how the language very easy, and most last from about a minute and a half to four minutes. Check them out at cpn.news/larget or cpn.news/IN.

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 be using to try to get you to buy AT&T as a bundle.

If you do, and reply yes, they will advise you there is a new special rate. The rate offered does vary by the length of the term and your 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 looking to want 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 term, I mentioned I was able to get vaccine information for COVID-19 out to District 3 members. I had no email so I could send them any of you that hear of any such information. However, if you wish to get this kind of information as soon as it is known, please send me your email address at CPNLegislature@yahoo.com.

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

Barna mine (Later),
Bob Whistler
Bmashi (He Sees)
Representative, District 3
112 Bedford Road, Suite 116
Topeka, KS 66604
817-282-0868 office
817-289-6271 cell
817-545-1507 home
tjm@potawatomi.org
askjekt@kcpotawatomi.org

District 4 – Jon Boursaw

Bobby Boursaw (Brave Bear)

COVID financial assistance report

In late January the CPN Legis laureate was provided the summary report of the overall expenditures of the CARES relief fund. Over $40 million dollars were disbursed to Tribal members though this program. I am pleased to report that the members of District 4 responded very well to the requests and 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 $35 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 thank all those who helped in getting the word out, and in particular, Tracy Kinderkeche, the Senior Support Network staff RN in Rossville.

Update on the Potawatomi Baptist Mission reopening

I recently met with the director of the Museum and Education Division for the Kansas Museum of History to discuss my recommend 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 its forced removal to Kansas. The video will then depict the establishment of the Mission by the Baptist Church, who purchased the land after the tribe’s relocation from the Sugar Creek Reservation in Linn County to the new Potawatomi 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 you are able to view the video. It will be released later this spring or early summer. I will be able to see the full story and enjoy the renovated Potawatomi Baptist Mission.

Social media

I thought I clarification of a recently established Facebook group was needed. A private group of Tribal members was created called “CPN District 4” to communicate to those their thoughts and opinions. I just wanted to be clear, this private Facebook group has no official connection with the CPN 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 communicate. However, the only official government Facebook page for the Nation is facebook.com/citizenpotawatomi 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 boursawjd@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 fair time to purchase a home or 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 felines 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 Billy Barnes in the CPN Housing Department at 405-272-2833 or 1-800-880-9988 or also email her at billyb@potawatomi.org.

Member-owned businesses

If you own a business or know a Tribal member who does, I would like to highlight that you can be 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 boursawjd@aol.com.

Finally, it has been my pleasure to serve as your legislative representative, diligently 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, Witab Chelsea (Brave Bear)
Representative, District 4
405-272-2833
Gage Blvd
Topeka, KS 66604
785-861-7272 office
785-688-1982 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

**Hownikan**

Bozho

I 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 its 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 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.

**District 6 – Rande K. Payne**

**Bozho wakanwak (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 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 with 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 frail. 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 understood it now. She had lived through the Spanish Flu pandemic and raised her family during the Great Depression. The life lessons of her 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 colonization 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.

Porowatomo word of the month: mbwakawnene

To find the meaning of the word simply go to porowatomadictionary.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.

Mightoch (Thank you!)

Rande K. Payne

Badeo Gabo

**Migwetch**

For finding the meaning of the word simply go to porowatomadictionary.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.

Mightoch (Thank you!)

Rande K. Payne

Migwetch

Gabon

Representative, District 6

3150 Road 180

Vicasa, CA 93292-9585

559-999-5325 office

559-999-5411 cell

rande.gabo@porowatomo.org
District 7 – Mark Johnson

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 shown 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,
Wiihk Maag (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

Many of you know that I am a realtor as my full-time job. I enjoy my work, and it has allowed me the flexibility to do my work as a legislator with very few time conflicts. While I have given lots of free real estate advice to CPN members over the years, I have only had one member I actually represented in the sale of a home. That 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 the 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 so 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
Kagagii (Raven)
Representative, District 8
520 Lilly Road, Building 1
Olympia, WA 98506
360-259-4027
dcarey@potawatomi.org

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft

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
Naganiti (Leader)
Representative, District 9
npeppala@gmail.com
pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org

HOWNIKAN
MARCH 2021
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 her Heavenly home on Jan. 2, 2021, 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. 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 Albu-querque, New Mexico, in 1995 where she became interested in genealogy. This led her to the 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 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Keith Ellis Cagle

Keith Ellis Cagle, age 74, was born Nov. 16, 1946, to I.B. Ellis and Lillie Belle (Joyce); his first wife, Geogginna Walsow; and three children: Angela, Beth, B. Wendell and Joe Wayne.

She was survived by his wife, Sandy Cagle; step-children, Danny Carroll and wife Angel, Paul Vincent Riggie, Versanda Shaw and husband Eric, Via Hlad and husband Bobby; and step-grandchildren, Victoria Herman and husband Mark, Robby Hlad, Maw, Shaw, and Ke-cin Carroll. Keith is also survived by numerous other beloved family members and friends.

Keith Ellis Cagle leaves a big void without her, but the angels in Heaven have truly welcomed him.

Patricia Ann Jackson

Patricia Ann Jackson was born on Aug. 17, 1950, in Great Bend, Kansas, to Mose Bruno, Jr. and Christine 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, Okla-homa. Patty was a homemaker and loved the country life. She spent time with Donald driving her four wheelers and helping them 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; sons, Dale Edward Jackson and wife Wanda of Soper, Oklahoma; daughter, Angie Martin and husband Donald of Soper, Oklahoma; brothers, Bob- by Bruno of Rattana, Oklahoma and Billy Joe Bruno of North Carolina; sisters, Francis Daniels of Tulsia, Oklahoma, Edwina Harper of Eustis, Texas and Jo Ellen Reid of Brandon, Missis-sippi; grandchildren, Danzy David Jackson, Crystal Jackson, Rouchelle Mantell, Dakota Bell, Michael Brown, Amber Jones, Michelle Larrison, Candy Hocket, Harlie Dawn Martin and Piper Dale Martin; fifteen great-grand-children; and a host of other family, friends and loved ones.

Mary Alice Mudgett

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

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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 sisters, 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 himself when called when Dan participated in several international dance competitions.

After graduation from Benton High School, Dan enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He spent nine months in the Defense Lan-guage Institute at the Presidio of Monterey, California. The program for foreign language fluent in Indonesian was dis-banded, so he was sent to Per-sonnel 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 served to sent to 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 Merged, California, and then moved to the Philippines in Zweibrucken and Ramstein, Germany. His daughter was born in Landsuhl, Germany, and three years later his son was born in Seattle, Washington.

Dan left the Air Force after serv- ing seven and a half years in order to complete his college education. After earning a B.A. and M.A. in history from the University of Washington, Dan's work life was primarily human resources for PACCAR, Inc., DATZ Engineering and The Boeing Compa-ny. 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 afterlife. He is survived by many relatives including sister, Susan (Dansenburg) Campbell; former wife, Donna (Sedenquist) Dansen-burg; and their children, Gary Dansenburg, and Heidi (Dansen-burg) North; son-in-law, Matt North; three incredible grand-chidren, 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 loss-frazefuneralhome.com. To send a card, go to indiendcards.com/frazefraz.

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 was born to Flora and Wayne Milligan on November 12, 1947, in Brisow, 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, Bette and Alexia. David and Mary made their home in Ponca City, Oklahoma. In 1977, the family moved to Slick where they lived, and 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 grandchildren.

She was preceded by her husband, David of the Slick home; four children, Angie Courteney and husband Larry, David Mudgett and wife Candyce, Brett Mudgett and Alecia Mudgett Perciful; thir-teen grandchildren, Boon Overshuy and wife April, Britney Bo-stick and husband Josh, Ashlyn McMama-w-y-ew, Max Courtyard, Alyssa Rovey, Emily Rovey, Golly, Ian Mudgett, Mia Courtyard, Amanda Mudgett, Evan Mudgett, Brody Perciful, Brandon Mudgett, Brandy Perciful, Braden Perciful and Aiden Mudgett; and eight great-grandchildren, Ethan Rovey, Emma Rovey, Branson Bostick, Carter Courtney Pagano, Maddex Ewy, Waylon Rowell, Nolan Bostick and Whit-ton Rowell. She was preceded in death by her parents, Wayne Mil-lligan and Flora Sned; stepfather, Eddie Sned; stepmother, Mary Alice Mudgett; and stepbrother, Dennis Mudgett and Nola Mudgett; and grandson, Max Courtyard.

She was preceded in death by her father, Wendell Fickner, and her brother, James Fickner. Surviving her is her husband, Tommy Norman; daughter, chastity Nor- man; mother, Berdel Fickner; sister, Sherri See; aunts, Georgia Williams and Dorothy Wilson; uncle, Larry Fickner; two nephews, four nieces, four great-nephews, one great-great-niece, many cousins and countless friends.

She 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 MDS 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 Veil Pierre Higbee and Leona Beatrice Thomas Higbee in a small house in Lexington, Oklahoma.

In 1946, she moved to Bakertis, California, and returned to Noble, Oklahoma, in 1951 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's history, 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, Veil and Leona, and stepmother, Helen Velma Straub Higbee. She is survived and will be deeply missed by her children, Mike Russell and his wife Donna, John Russell and his wife Jamie, and D’Anne Russell Poole and her husband Chris; her grandchildren, Megan Russell and her fiancé Chris Bye, 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 Huestam 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, and three nieces and nephews, brother, Thomas Goodman.

He lived his younger years in Shawnee and spent a lot of time with his grandparents at the Bourbonsnais 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 walk 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 for a memorial at least a day at a time.

Lloyd Glenn Melot

Lloyd Glenn Melot of Tecumseh, Oklahoma, passed Friday, Oct. 16, 2020, in his home. He was 95.

Born on Main Street in Tecumseh on July 25, 1925, 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 Spalding, 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 miniature and full-sized 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 stereo teasers 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) Belsh of Tecumseh, Tracy (Christy) Melot of Shawnee and Derek Melot of Lansing, Michigan; a brother, Alva Melot of Tecumseh; grandchildren, Dallas Belsh of Tecumseh, Ted Belsh IV of Tecumseh, Matthew (Miracle) Melot of Earlsboro and Stephen (Hannah) Melot of Lakewood, Colorado; great-grandchildren, Keren Batterton, Linsey Batterton, Ryan Batterton, Ted Belsh V, Asher Belsh, Olivia Seals and Elisabeth Melot; nieces and nephews, Claire Melot, Hilton Melot, Pierre Melot, Jodi Melot and Michelle Melot Sigman; and numerous extended family.

Glenn was preceded in death by his wife, Dolores; a brother, Raymond Melot; a granddaughter, Chastity 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 over of seven children of William Walter Brant and Lena Mae (Smith) Brant. She was a proud Potawatomi through the Oge-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 studied Bible. In 2018, Rene was awarded the “Wisest Member” by Eva Marie Carney at the District 2 Fall Feast. She is survived by 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, Januelle 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 husband at Arlington National Cemetery.