



# HOWNIIKAN

Gtegangises | May 2019

Top photo: Wild mustard growing at CPN's community garden, *Gtegemen* (We Grow It) near Shawnee, Oklahoma.

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Walking on



## Woodworking a family tradition for CPN's Matthew Cheatwood

Since time immemorial, craftsmen across the world put their skills to use shaping wood into items that often outlive their creators. Coming from the forests of the Great Lakes region, skilled Potawatomi woodworkers passed their talent from generation to generation. Today, some of the fruits of their labor are on display at Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center.

CPN tribal member and employee Matthew Cheatwood carries on traditions learned from his own family as a finishing carpenter for the Nation.

Patrons of the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort, FireLake Golf Course and Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center have likely seen or touched his work without knowing it. The entrance to the Grand Event Center contains an ornate bench that Cheatwood and his two co-workers helped shape. He created the display cabinets at FireLake Golf Course's pro shop in his studio located just west of the Grand. Visitors dining in the Grand Café excitedly gazing at the display of guitars and instruments signed by past musical acts do not know that Cheatwood's co-workers, Neal Milette and Roger Crowe, crafted and varnished them in a workshop a few hundred feet away.

The Wilmette family descendant's skills saved the Tribe money in its latest gaming venture. In 2018, the State of Oklahoma enacted legislation allowing ball and dice games at tribal gaming facilities. With more than 20 gaming operations across the state, there was a quick influx of orders for craps and roulette tables. The Grand Casino relied on Cheatwood's expertise to build its tables in-house, and he provides readily available repair and support, if needed, at short notice.

"Having tables built in-house means we can have them customized," said



*Wilmette family descendant Matthew Cheatwood constructs new gaming tables for the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort.*

CPN Director of Casino Operations Todd Brand. "We can have them built for less than it would be to buy tables from a vendor. We can also maintain and repair tables without having to call an outside vendor."

Those savings add up over the thousands of hours patrons use the tables.

"Matt can build a craps table for around \$1,200 in materials," Brand said. "To purchase the same quality of table from our vendor would cost between \$10,000 and \$12,000. A high-end craps table might cost around \$30,000."

### Different things to different people

Tribal nations are unique entities with a variety of roles. In some instances, they serve as repositories of cultural and historical information. In others, they are sovereign governments, providing services and programs to the public.

Those roles tend to filter into the responsibilities of Tribal employees, and this is especially true for those like Cheatwood. When large projects require an "all hands on deck" mentality, he and his staff rise to the occasion, hanging drywall and framing out offices.

"On a day-to-day basis, I might build cabinets; I might build tables; I might get an old chair and just refinish it," he said.

### Passion and skill

He came to work at CPN like many others, visiting [firelakejobs.com](http://firelakejobs.com) one day in search of opportunity. With seemingly never-ending construction and renovation projects, the Tribe required a finishing carpenter, and Cheatwood fit the bill. Though 29 when he became an employee in 2013, his skill level fit the needs of the Nation.

"I grew up in this industry," he said. "My grandpa Joe taught me about it, and I was always around it as a kid because he was always adding on to the house or building something."

Cheatwood credits his step-grandfather with cementing his passion for the craft.

"He was more of the trim carpenter ... build you an armoire or anything like that," he said.

Upon entering the workforce after high school, Cheatwood took a job with the State of Oklahoma using the skills learned from his family. He traveled to all 77 counties while serving as a finishing carpenter for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. DHS is the largest government agency in the state, providing an array of support programs to citizens in



*The Tribe saves money by employing carpenter Matthew Cheatwood full time to construct chairs, cabinets and more.*

**Continued on page 13**

# Potawatomi barrel racer places in the top 10 at Indian National Finals Rodeo

Amber Alsterlund's life revolves around animals. When not working as a veterinary technician, she travels to compete in rodeos and equestrian competitions in the northwestern portion of the United States. The time spent on her grandparent's farm in Idaho cultivated her passion from a young age.

"I was on a horse before I could walk. My family, we're pretty committed," she said.

She mainly barrel races but also likes roping and horse racing, and she won the women's bareback race at the Pendleton Round-Up in Oregon last September.

The Darling family descendant enjoys spending time with her horse and best friend, Six. In October 2018, the two came in sixth in barrel racing at the Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada, marking one of their most significant accomplishments.

## Road to Vegas

She grew up in northern Idaho, learning the basics of riding and caring for horses at her aunt and uncle's quarter horse ranch. As she got older, she began participating in Gymkhanas, which are display and skills-based equine competitions. Attending rodeos also inspired her to take on more challenging, physical events such as barrel racing.

"I feel like it's just in my blood. There's nothing better than when you're on your horse, regardless if it's 100 degrees or negative 3," Alsterlund said.

Three years ago, some friends she made while participating in rodeos near the Yakama Indian Reservation in Washington told her about the Indian National Finals Rodeo. She researched the competition's structure and then began regularly attending qualifying events.

"I honestly probably can say my life kind of revolves around it more than I revolve around it. ... Usually on Friday, I'm loading up and heading down the road. So, it's pretty amazing," she said.

The portion of Idaho she resides in belongs to the King Mountain Indian Rodeo Association, and 2018 was



*Alsterlund barrel races most of the year at rodeos throughout the northwestern part of the United States. (Photo provided by Shyanne Stillwell Photography)*

Alsterlund's second trip to Las Vegas as one of the region's top contenders.

"I love traveling. I love being a part of the fundamentals of it, and I love being able to represent my Tribe in the best way I can," she said.

## Six of one

She bought her primary horse, Six, from a woman in Purcell, Oklahoma, four years ago. Alsterlund worked from the ground up on Six's barrel racing skills. The two's compatibility and reliance on one another account for much of their success.

"I couldn't be more blessed to have such an amazing equine partner than her. She loves her job just as much as I do," Alsterlund said. "She's got such heart and try, and I know every time I go into the arena, I can count on her to give me 100 percent and always keep me safe."

Six's big personality comes out during competitions as well.

"She's hilarious. When she gets out in front of a crowd, you can just feel it. She loves it. She loves to strut her stuff," Alsterlund said.

"We'll be in the warmup pin; her head's down. ... And then as soon as we go to walk in the arena, it switches, and it's game time."

Alsterlund described the experience as "exhilarating," and said there is nothing more fun than hopping on the back of an exceptional mare. Both she and Six know what the other wants, which is essential during competition.

"One of my biggest goals always going down (to INFR) is just to stay consistent because I feel like consistency, it pays off bigger in the long run," she said.

## Family at South Point

Held at the South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa in Las Vegas, the INFR utilizes the establishment's arena for the rodeo events. Alsterlund's family including her dad, grandma and aunt made a vacation out of the finals.

She felt more comfortable and prepared, thanks in part to fellow Tribal member and rodeo participant Connor Osborne. He spent time with Alsterlund and Six before each competition and walked them toward the arena.

"I feel like that was really helpful for my horse and I as well because it kind of just let us relax and focus on the way down and just get into that groove to go make a run," she said.

Over the years, and especially since she began the INFR series, Alsterlund became friends with people across the

country. She receives pep talks and reassurance from fellow competitors, family and Tribal members that make it all worth it, regardless of her performance.

"That is one of my favorite things about rodeo is it's a family. If you need help, somebody's there," she said. "I think that's a pretty unique thing to have in this world."

## Finishing strong

For the 2018 INFR, Alsterlund calmed Six, cleared her mind and focused on the long game. They clipped a barrel during their first run, but Alsterlund saved herself from the time penalty by reaching over and setting it up before it hit the ground. Their runs improved following the mishap.

"As the week went on, (Six) started to speed up, which is pretty usual for her. If we're somewhere for a whole weekend, usually once the first run is out of the way, it only gets better from there," Alsterlund said.

She placed in the top 10 each evening for the rest of the week. In the end, she took home sixth place among 30 women from across the United States and Canada.

"I'm not going to complain about that at all," Alsterlund said. "Because the way I see it, I'm competing against some of the toughest girls out there. ... I can't wait to get back this year and see what we can do."

CPN sponsored Alsterlund for her trip to the finals, and she felt grateful for the assistance and the opportunity.

"To represent the Potawatomi Nation, it's an honor, honestly, for me. I feel very blessed to be able to have that associated with my name," she said.

Alsterlund recently purchased her second horse, a gelding named Rowley, as well as her pro permit. This year's goals include training him, participating more in breakaway roping and making another appearance at the Indian National Finals Rodeo this October.

"Rodeo and horses," she said. "They're everything I could ever dream of wanting to have for my life." ♡

# Tribal judicial positions up for renewal at June election

Two members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Supreme Court will be on the ballot for the June 29 election at the CPN Family Reunion Festival.

Supreme Court justices Jane Braugh and Nicholas Jones are both being nominated to another six-year term on the Tribe's highest court. If confirmed, their term will end June 2025.

The CPN legislature passed a resolution supporting their renominations to the court in an April 2019 meeting. The affirming vote must be approved by an election of the Tribal General Council by absentee ballot or in-person voting at Festival 2019.

Justice Braugh graduated from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's before completing law school at the University of Houston. She has previously

served as an assistant attorney general for the State of Texas' Financial Crimes Division. She is currently a partner at Sico Hoelscher Harriss & Braugh LLP, having opened their office in California in 2007. Braugh was first appointed as the district court judge for Citizen Potawatomi Nation in 2004 before her nomination as a supreme court justice in 2010.

Justice Jones completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Oklahoma before completing his J.D. at OU's College of Law. He is a practicing attorney at Barrow & Grimm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His practice focuses on business law, estate planning, real estate and banking law. He has been on the Tribal supreme court since 2016.

Read more about the CPN Tribal Court system at [cpn.news/judicial](http://cpn.news/judicial). ♡



## Inhalers now part of JD Bromagem's daily routine

By Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton

A Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member, kindergartner JD Bromagem uses an inhaled steroid twice per day to keep his asthma in check. A second inhaler is on standby in case.

"I'm not scared to use it," he said with a big smile.

For almost a year, his parents and doctors wrestled with what was causing him to have extended coughing fits at night, checking for allergies, ear problems or other potential sources.

"He was coughing to the point he was throwing up. It was a medical mystery," said Mandy Bromagem, JD's mother.

"Once we started treating him for asthma, it helped immensely."

A common chronic disease among children, asthma is when inflamed or blocked airways in the lungs make it difficult to breathe. It can cause repeated bouts of wheezing, chest tightening, breathlessness and persistent, severe coughing fits.

During an asthma flare-up or attack, the insides of a person's airways swell up, narrowing the space for air to pass in and out of the lungs. Additionally, the muscles wrapped around the airways in the lungs can constrict, making breathing even more difficult.

By comparison, seasonal allergies generally affect just the upper airway with

### COMMON ASTHMA TRIGGERS

- ▶ SMOKE, INCLUDING CIGARETTES AND CAMPFIRES
- ▶ MOLD    ▶ REFLUX
- ▶ STRONG FUMES    ▶ PET DANDER
- ▶ EXERCISE, ESPECIALLY IN COLD WEATHER
- ▶ COCKROACHES AND MITES
- ▶ RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS



a runny nose, sinus congestion, and when laying down, an intermittent dry cough.

Nationally, about 6 million children have asthma, or roughly one in every 12. According to data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Asthma Control Program, the pediatric numbers are slightly higher in Oklahoma, with asthma impacting almost 10 percent of the state's children. Among Native American children in Oklahoma, the rate is an estimated 14 percent.

Although incurable, asthma can be controlled with medication — such as Bromagem's inhaler — and by avoiding certain factors or triggers that can exacerbate the condition when breathed in.

Asthma's exact cause is unknown, and individual asthma triggers vary from person to person. Ones that are more common include dust, mold, secondhand smoke, pet dander, exposure to mites

or other pests, outdoor exercise in cold weather, acid reflux and strong scents, such as those from perfume or strong household cleaners. Additionally, people with an asthmatic family member are up to six times more likely to develop the condition themselves.

Oklahoma decriminalized medical marijuana in 2018. With federal restrictions still in place on marijuana-related research, not enough conclusive data is available to determine whether marijuana smoke is as much of an asthma trigger as smoke from commercial tobacco products. Also, not enough data is available to confirm the impact of vapor from electronic cigarettes on asthmatics, as noted by Oklahoma public health officials at a panel during the Southern Plains Tribal Public Health Conference.

"Smoke is still smoke though," Oklahoma State Department of Health's Christin

Kirchenbauer said. "Medical marijuana smoke still has fine particulate matter in it. With e-cigarettes, we need more research. It also varies from product to product, so it is hard to nail down the average (secondhand smoke) exposure."

Dr. Fausat Adediji is a board certified pediatrician at Citizen Potawatomi Nation's West Clinic. Acknowledging the research limitations on medical marijuana and e-cigarettes, she often encourages parents of asthmatics who smoke to either drop the habit or at least take it outside to reduce their child's exposure.

She also acknowledges that pediatric asthma patients sometimes outgrow the condition but does not see that as grounds for summarily dismissing a child's wheezing as a passing problem unworthy of medical attention.

"If left untreated and severe enough ... it can lead to scarring and reduce overall lung capacity as they get older," Dr. Adediji said. "If you have restricted lung volume, there's a limit on how you can do, which can lead to chronic problems. If they do outgrow it, that's a plus, but not everyone does. So, that is no excuse to leave it untreated."

Meanwhile, with an inhaler dose scheduled for later that evening, JD Bromagem is able to breathe easily as he scales the playground with friends at his midtown Tulsa elementary school.

"It's literally changed our lives," Mandy Bromagem said. ♡

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## ELECT JAY LAUGHLIN

MILOT/WEDDLE

## DISTRICT 13

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

### ABOUT ME

Paid for by Jay Laughlin.

- **Family** - Married with four children.
- **Education** - BS in Engineering and MBA with an emphasis in Finance.
- **Occupation** - Engineer/Investor/Activist/Small Business Owner.

### KEY INITIATIVES

- **Culture** - Protecting and nurturing our culture, spiritual beliefs, and historic values.
- **Economic Prosperity** - Greatly expanding our economic presence while maintaining a balanced portfolio.
- **Education** - This is key to our success through scholarships, internships, and re-entry programs.
- **Elders** - Promotion and expansion of our daily activities and services focused on those 55 and older.
- **Environment** - Ensure the water we drink, the air we breathe, the foods we eat, and the animals are protected for generations to come.
- **Healthcare** - Substance abuse, physical fitness, assistance with paperwork requirements, emotional health, and remote access services.
- **Youth** - Our youth are the future. The stronger our youth, the more developed our Nation will become.

CHECK OUT MY FACEBOOK PAGE AND CLICK ON THE ABOUT TAB OR CONTACT ME BY E-MAIL

JayLaughlin4CPN | JayLaughlinCPNDistrict13@gmail.com

# Sanchez is first female president of Oklahoma Junior Beta Club

By Virginia Bradshaw,  
*Countywide & Sun*

The below article about CPN tribal member Blakeley Sanchez appeared in the March 24, 2019, edition of the Pottawatomie *Countywide & Sun* newspaper. It has been reprinted here with permission from the editors.

Imagine being a pre-teenage Tecumseh Middle School student speaking before more than 20,000 people in a big Savannah, Georgia, conference center. That was one thing Blakeley Sanchez, now 13 and a Tecumseh eighth grader, did successfully last summer while serving as state president of Junior Beta Club.

"I was scared for her," the young girl's mom said. "But she said when she got up there, it wasn't that bad."

Blakeley Sanchez is the daughter of Nicole Sanchez, who manages all marketing and social media work for FireLake Discount Foods, and Julio Sanchez, executive director for Shawnee Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.

Beta Club is a national organization that has as its goal promotion of the ideals of academic achievement, character, service and leadership among elementary and secondary school students. Junior and Senior Beta has helped more than 7 million students nationwide, its literature states.

About 60 Tecumseh fourth through eighth graders are members of that school's Junior Beta Club, of which Blakeley Sanchez was also president from March 2018 through February 2019.

She took office as state Junior Beta president last June and will serve until this June — when another Tecumseh Middle School student, Samantha Schweighardt, will succeed her. The incoming president's parents are Mike and Carol Schweighardt of Tecumseh.

Nicole Sanchez said both she and her husband are Tecumseh High School alumni.

"We're super proud of the girls and all their hard work," said Mrs. Sanchez.

Nicole said she was in Senior Beta Club when she was in high school.

Blakeley Sanchez's experience appearing before large groups began during the one-day campaign for state Junior Beta president late March 2018 at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in Norman.

It was the club's state convention. "There were not as many people there as at national convention in Savannah. It was not as scary. A lot of her friends were there," said Mrs. Sanchez.

"You have a slogan, give a speech and have a campaign. Her slogan was 'Baking Up Success with Blakeley.'"

She likes to bake and told her listeners "You have to have all the right ingredients, and you have to have all the right ingredients that Beta offers to become a great leader," her mother said. "She's always liked to bake; it was something passed down from her grandmother."

Probably 150 to 200 kids were at the convention, Mrs. Sanchez continued. "The weather was not good that year, so attendance was a little bit down."

Blakeley Sanchez was running for state president and her opponent was the son of the state sponsor.

"We didn't think she would win," Mrs. Sanchez said.

But she did. In doing so, Blakeley Sanchez became the first female president of statewide Junior Beta Club ever.

"She was really thrilled and excited," said Mrs. Sanchez.



*Samantha Schweighardt and Blakeley Sanchez, the incoming and outgoing State Jr. Beta presidents.*

During her one-year term of office, Blakeley Sanchez presided at all the state meetings throughout the year and headed all the planning for this year's state convention.

"She started planning how she wanted everything to go since January. She was the main one to run the whole convention," her mother said.

She has also traveled during her term of office. One important trip was to the national Junior Beta convention in Savannah, Georgia, when she appeared before the 20,000 people. She was one of some 10 candidates competing for national president of Junior Beta Club.

"Blakeley did not get the office but had a wonderful experience," said Nicole Sanchez.

Another big trip was to Greenville, Tennessee, in July to participate in Junior Beta's national leadership camp where she met all the state officers of the clubs around the country. It was at one of those

events that she met one of her very good friends, Hannah Baker of Dallas, state president of the Texas Junior Beta Club.

Baker surprised her last week by attending one of Blakeley Sanchez's conferences.

She has also traveled elsewhere during her year as president. Other highlights of her year have been "just meeting a whole lot of friends," said Blakeley Sanchez.

She also heard a talk by nationally known chef Paula Dean at the convention in Savannah.

"She had a great time and learned a lot," said her mother.

After she leaves office in June, following the national Junior Beta convention, which will be in Oklahoma City this year, Blakeley Sanchez will serve on the Oklahoma Leadership Team for Junior Beta during the year ahead.

She will continue being an active member of the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club in Shawnee, the youth group of Tecumseh First Baptist Church, Tecumseh's FFA program and is a member of both Tecumseh Middle School softball team's fast-pitch and slow-pitch groups. She is a former member of the school basketball team.

"We are very, very proud of her," said Mrs. Sanchez.

The Sanchez family also includes two college-age members, one who works for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the other who is a senior at East Central University in Ada, majoring in education; plus two younger boys, one first and one second grader at Barnard Elementary in Tecumseh. ♡

## Veterans report



Bozho  
(Hello),

I know so many people and veterans who are either having shoulder surgery or have had it done. There is some very interesting work on shoulder surgeries coming from the U.S. Veterans Affairs Baltimore VA Medical Center.

As noted in a press release by the VA, "Doctors demonstrated how

3D printing at VA is more useful for orthopedic surgeons in planning shoulder replacement surgery than current approaches. Baltimore VAMC Drs. Eliot Siegel and Kenneth Wang described how CT scan images used to create 3D printed models of the shoulder.

"3D printing creates an object by using material that is layered on top of each other, piece by piece; also know as additive manufacturing. These models provide surgeons with a better understanding of each patient's specific anatomy, when compared with standard CT image review and with 3D visualization using a technique known as volume rendering. 3D printed models enable surgeons to better appreciate the anatomic features which determine the best surgical techniques for a particular patient.

"Shoulder-replacement surgery is commonly performed to treat arthritis, which is a widespread condition among Veterans and the general population. However, the small amount of bone at the socket side of the shoulder joint is a major challenge to the long-term durability of the shoulder replacements. By allowing surgeons to better appreciate the details of each individual patient's anatomy, 3D printed models of the shoulder provide an additional tool for surgeons to use in pre-surgical planning, ultimately leading to longer-lasting shoulder replacements.

"The VA has announced the availability of up to approximately \$15 million in grants for community organizations that provide adaptive sports, including therapeutic recreational opportunities for disabled Veterans and disabled members

of the armed forces. The VA awards grants to qualifying organizations to plan, manage and develop, manage and implement programs serving Veterans."

Remember, the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN and spouse veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Daryl Talbot, Commander  
[talbotok@sbcglobal.net](mailto:talbotok@sbcglobal.net)  
405-275-1054 ♡

## ARE YOU GRADUATING IN MAY?

SEND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO [GRADUATION@POTAWATOMI.ORG](mailto:GRADUATION@POTAWATOMI.ORG)  
BY MAY 15 AT 5PM

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

## Navarre descendant's hidden talent inspires Tribal members of all ages to learn new skills

During a volunteer shift at the Topeka Veterans Affairs Medical Center, a beautiful sound moved Citizen Potawatomi Nation member and veteran Mike Martin, *Wagen Nana* (Morning Man).

"It's a haunting kind of music that's really touching," Martin said of the Native American flute performance that day.

Martin served two tours in the Vietnam War. Today, he volunteers at the hospital to give back to fellow service members and veterans. The musicians there inspired Martin to learn how to play the Native American flute.

He began researching various styles and techniques, and after an invitation, joined the flute circle at the local VA Hospital. His time with the performers continues to instill a deep, sincere appreciation for reciprocity.

"They've shared a little with me, and I share a little with them," Martin said. He honors the lessons passed down from the group's participants by leading a monthly flute class at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Community Center in Rossville, Kansas.

### Honing the craft

Learning the instrument "takes time and focus. And just like anything else, you need to practice to improve your skills," he said.

"The hard part is getting the students to practice," Martin said. "And when I say students, most are at least 50 years old, and one of my students is 82."

Although picking up an instrument for the first time later in life can prove difficult, Martin has found his students do not let age influence their ability.

"Like a lot of other things, people don't realize what it is until you try it," he said.

"They see how they are making progress, and that is certainly well worth it for them and for me," he explained.

For those interested in learning the Native American flute, Martin suggests searching online for a variety of resources, tutorials and retailers selling the instrument.

"You can get a flute that plays pretty well for \$30 (to) \$40, but you can also spend \$200, \$300, even \$400 if you get carried away, which I have been carried away a few times," Martin said, then laughed.

He often attends Potawatomi events to play the flute or drum.

"It can be really emotional when we do naming ceremonies," Martin said. "People really respond to it ... it really touches them."

### Roles

Martin accepted a position with the Nation to maintain Tribal properties in Kansas five years ago. In the small town of Rossville, CPN operates an elder housing program, providing 10 affordable duplexes serving CPN members as well as a 10,000-square-foot community center.

"It's my job to make sure that No. 1, all the residents are safe, and they're living in an environment where their heating and cooling, appliances and all of that is up to standard," Martin explained.

He also strives to anticipate each of the 21 resident's needs, ensuring they can live their lives to the fullest.

"The most rewarding part of the job is when I know everybody is in their little unit and everything is like it's supposed to be," he said. "Everyone is safe and sound and comfortable — that's where I get rewarded."

The community center serves as a place for CPN members to enjoy fellowship and hold cultural classes as well as discuss family connections and Tribal history.



Ceremonial performances are one of Mike Martin's favorite opportunities to share his music. (Photo provided)

"There are those that take an interest in the culture, and we have some Tribal archives that are very extensive and of a high quality," Martin explained.

One of Martin's responsibilities is to prepare the center for events, including the monthly District 2 potluck and meeting organized by CPN Legislator Jon Boursaw where Martin holds the flute circle.

In addition to the lessons and district meeting, attendees bring food to enjoy afterward, which Martin attests is always delicious and plentiful.

### Hobbies

Outside of volunteering, his work with CPN, and the monthly flute circle, Martin also enjoys songwriting and playing the piano. "But there's only so much time in a day; I can't do it all," he said.

During a phone interview with the *Hownikan*, he spoke a few lines from a song he recently wrote that pokes fun at those who ride the coattails of their family's successes.

*"I'm an old cowboy from Paxico.  
I go everywhere in a Silverado.  
Grandpa's land has been good to me.  
I don't pay taxes, and I got it for free."*

He pulls lyrical inspiration from various businesses, industries and people from northeast Kansas, considering himself an "armchair scientist." Martin studies the behavior of those around him to learn more about the intricacies of modern life.

As a piece of wisdom from his observations, Martin encourages fellow Tribal members, young and old, to find their passions.

"Don't be afraid to go out into the world and strive — set your goals high, and don't give up," Martin said. ♡

## 2019 POTAWATOMI GATHERING BUS TRIP

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation will provide free bus travel to the annual Potawatomi Gathering for Tribal members and their immediate families. A chartered bus will leave the Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquarters, 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive in Shawnee, at 6:30 a.m. on Monday, July 29, 2019, and the bus will leave to return home on Sunday, August 4, 2019. The bus will arrive back in Shawnee on Tuesday, August 6, 2019.

A \$50 per passenger refundable deposit is required. Tribal members who attend Gathering will be responsible for obtaining their own passport, food, lodging and incidental expenses.

To reserve a seat on the bus and obtain more information about the hotel room blocks, please call Brandy Oswald at 405-275-3121 or 800-880-9880. You may also send an email: [travel@potawatomi.org](mailto:travel@potawatomi.org).

There is limited seating available. The deadline for reservations is 5 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2019.

Wasauksing First Nation at Parry Sound, ON, Canada, will be hosting the Gathering this year.

Website - [wasauksing.ca](http://wasauksing.ca)  
Facebook - [potawatomigathering2019](https://www.facebook.com/potawatomigathering2019)  
Twitter - [potawatomi2019](https://twitter.com/potawatomi2019)  
Instagram - [potawatomi2019](https://www.instagram.com/potawatomi2019)

Gathering contact: Harmony Redsky  
[potawatomi@wasauksing.ca](mailto:potawatomi@wasauksing.ca)  
807-464-2929



# BHS student to wear stole to recognize Native American descent

By Monica Brich, *Beatrice Daily Sun*

The below article about CPN tribal member Laney Baumfalk appeared in the March 29, 2019, edition of the *Beatrice Daily Sun* newspaper. It has been reprinted here with permission from the editors.

Along with the typical cap and gown, Beatrice High School senior Laney Baumfalk will be graduating with a special stole to celebrate her heritage in the Potawatomi Nation.

“Students that are of Native American descent and can prove that descent are actually citizens that have dual citizenship,” Principal Jason Sutter said. “They are both United States of America citizens — they’re also recognized as a citizen within their nation.”

Sutter said he was approached by the Baumfalk family last fall about allowing Laney to wear a stole.

“We had a good conversation. We talked about what that meant to her and her family — what that means to the Potawatomi Nation when a student goes through a graduation ceremony,” Sutter said. “What we did was we agreed to look into it some more, and to delve into what that would look like and what that could possibly mean if the school would be interested in doing something like that.”

During the Board of Education committee of the whole meeting, Sutter brought an amendment to administrative regulation 5225, which described the graduation dress code.

“It basically says that we recognize the historical significance of the Native American nations within the boundaries of the United States and the state of Nebraska,” Sutter said.

The amendment would allow students to wear “traditional tribal regalia as recognized as a religious or cultural significance as an adornment” during the graduation ceremony.

Sutter said that students would have to present proof of Native American or tribal membership and show what the regalia is and how it is to be worn. Sutter and the administration would then have the ability to approve or disapprove the request.

“In this case, the stole has been requested, and we feel that based on how that’s been described and shown to us through pictures, that would be appropriate,” Sutter said. “It would not be a huge distraction to our graduation ceremony.”

Baumfalk said wearing the stole at graduations means a lot to her.

“It represents who I am, and I’m proud to be a Potawatomi,” Baumfalk said.



Baumfalk will wear a Potawatomi stole to her graduation that is available through the CPN Department of Education.

Sutter said that this is the first time in the 20 years he’s been at the high school that a request has been made to wear a heritage stole. He said due to the narrow focus of the amendment, it will keep students from making other additions to their caps and gowns.

Students are not allowed to decorate their caps for graduation, but the regulations allow cords for National Honors Society members and a medal for students with a 3.5 or higher GPA.

However, several members urged Sutter to state a deadline for students to make requests to allow enough time to evaluate each case.

“I think what I’ve seen over the years, if there’s going to be anything that gets brought up, it will get brought up before one week out,” Sutter said. “We would still maintain our graduation ceremony to the highest degree, as I know the board members expect us to, and I think it’s the right thing to do.”

## ADVERTISED LEASE SALE #34 | MAY 30, 2019

Notice of sale of dry land farming and/or grazing leases to be held May 30, 2019, at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Real Estate Services for the sale of farming and grazing leases on Trust Restricted Indian Land to be conducted under the Provisions of Title 25, CFR 162.

### LEASES STARTING 1/1/2020

ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	1	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	2	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	3
821-84 Joseph Epeteska	80	E NW Sec 24-T6N-R4E Pottawatomie County		821-97 Clarrissa Mars	80	E NW Sec7-T6N-R5E Pottawatomie County		821-S 116 John Baptiste Vasseur	80	E SW Sec18-T6N-R5E Pottawatomie County	
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	4	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	5	DESCRIPTION			
821-219 Alexander Rhodd	24.73	Lot 99 S NE Sec33-T8N-R5E Pottawatomie County		821-S 278 Hattie Kime or Vieux	237.20	Lot 99=E SE Sec 19 Pottawatomie County		Lot 99=SW SW; SE SW; N SW Sec20 T8N-R3E Pottawatomie County			
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	6	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	7	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	8
821-395-C Pean-Ish or Peter Curley	40	SE NW Sec 4-T6N-R5E Pottawatomie County		821-S 510 Rozette Trombla	80	NE SW & NW SE Sec25-T8N-R1E Cleveland County		821-T 748 Joseph Lewis Acton	40	N N SW Sec31-T9N-R5E Pottawatomie County	
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	9	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	10	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	11
821-809 Frank Davis	80	N NE Sec15-T7N-R4E Pottawatomie County		821-900 Madeline Denton	10	E SE SW SE & W SW SE SE Sec 6-T7N-R1E Cleveland County		821-1325-D Harriet Pratt	10	SW SW NW Sec13-T8N-R4E Pottawatomie County	

### LEASES STARTING 1/1/2021

ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	12	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	13	ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	14
821-C33-E Mary Bourbonnais	40	SW NE Sec 12-T9N-R3E Pottawatomie County		821-35 James Burnett	80	W NW Sec 31-T9N-R5E Pottawatomie County		821-575-E Almira C. Bayliss	79.16	Lot 01=NE NE & SE NE Sec 4-T8N-R4E Pottawatomie County	
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	15	MUST BE LEASED TOGETHER			ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	17	
821-714 Cora Gregson	80	NE SE & SE NE Sec 26-T7N-R2E Pottawatomie County		821-42 Annie Wilmet	80	SE NW & SW NE Sec 28-T6N-R5E Pottawatomie County		821-S 697 Pos-so-ship-she-wa-no	80	N NW Sec 28-T6N-R5E Pottawatomie County	
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	18	MUST BE LEASED TOGETHER			ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	19	
821-S 825 Lydia E. Riordan	240	N SE & NE Sec 16-T8N-R1E Cleveland County		821-S 826 Robert James Riordan	80	E SE Sec 9-T8N-R1E Cleveland County		821-S 827 Grace Riordan	80	E SW Sec 16-T8N-R1E Cleveland County	

Any lease herein will be for grazing and dryland farming **ONLY**. The lease **DOES NOT** grant use of existing houses or the right to place mobile homes upon the premises. The lease **DOES NOT** grant lessee the right to hunt or fish on the premises. To obtain a lease bid packet, please submit a request to: Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Real Estate Services, 130 E. MacArthur, Suite 204, Shawnee, OK 74804. Or call 405-395-0113. Or email [tonya.turnpugh@potawatomi.org](mailto:tonya.turnpugh@potawatomi.org)

# NASA competition prepares Biddy for an engineering career

Trey Biddy's love and talent for welding captured the attention of Southwestern Oklahoma State University professors. At the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, instructors offered Biddy a spot on SWOSU's award-winning NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge Team.

The annual competition encourages high school and college students from across the world to develop human-powered vehicles designed to navigate other planets and moons. SWOSU team sponsors selected 10 students to compete this year, and together, they placed 22nd at the competition held on April 12-13 in Huntsville, Alabama.

"Trey has been a great asset. He is our lead welder, and he is working on the frame design, drivetrain, seats, wheels and axels. He has been an awesome addition to our team," said Cindi Albrightson, SWOSU Rover Challenge Team co-sponsor.

Albrightson and fellow SWOSU faculty member Brett Chase recruited Biddy due to his vast skill set and construction knowledge.

"I mainly work on fabrication, just making sure all the parts are the right size, cut in the right way and welded correctly," Biddy said. "Then I also help a little bit with the gears and steering."

He first picked up welding at the age of 16 in his hometown of Fort Cobb, Oklahoma, and honed the craft in high school at the Caddo Kiowa Technology Center.

After completing his basic collegiate courses, Biddy transferred from

Redlands Community College in El Reno, Oklahoma, to SWOSU where he currently studies engineering technology.

"I wouldn't probably be on the team if I didn't go to Caddo Tech," he explained. Biddy specializes in numerous methods including "TIG, stick, MIG, brazing, soldering — anything that involves melting metal together."

## The challenge

The NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge creates a simulated experience that encourages students to employ strategy and prepares them for a potential career in space exploration.

According to NASA's website, "Just as in the Apollo 14 surface mission ... teams have to make real-time decisions about which mission objectives to attempt and which to leave behind."

Successful teams apply life skills — like problem solving and communication — to complete key obstacles before the six-minute simulated supply of oxygen runs out.

"I've learned a lot about how gears work and working with others in a situation like this," Biddy explained. "When you have 10 people together, some ideas get rejected and some get approved. If it's your idea that got rejected, you just have to act good about it."

Teams earn points based on assembly, rover design, task accomplishments within the competition as well as pre and post-event requirements. Additionally, one male and one female from each



*Trey Biddy's welding skills assists fellow teammates with creating a competition vehicle designed to traverse extraterrestrial lands.*

group must traverse the course in the team's rover. Groups receive two attempts to complete the obstacle course, and the highest score goes into the final calculations. SWOSU's team experienced several setbacks during the competition, but the team regrouped and placed 22nd.

"I love seeing their faces when we accomplish a goal," Albrightson said. "More importantly, we strive to be ethical in our race. We follow all the rules and do our best with everything we do. I remind them often that we are representing our family, our school, our hometown and

each other. I tell them I would rather lose ethically than win unethically."

## Future

Biddy recently accepted an internship with Gore Nitrogen Pumping Service LLC headquartered in Seiling, Oklahoma, and he looks forward to learning more about a potential career as a hydraulic fracturing engineer.

"It will all be out in the field, mainly in western Oklahoma, but some in Texas and maybe Kansas," he said.

On top of coursework at SWOSU, the internship and participation on the SWOSU NASA Rover team, Biddy is a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and holds a part-time position at Testco Inc. in Watonga, Oklahoma. He strives to build as much first-hand industry experience as possible.

"I would like to get on as an engineer for an oil and gas company, and hopefully end up one day being a company man — running the production side of things in the oil industry," he said.

Although his busy schedule makes it challenging to attend Tribal events like the Family Reunion Festival, Biddy hopes to connect after completing his degree.

Learn more about the event and SWOSU's NASA Rover Team here, [cpn.news/swosurover](http://cpn.news/swosurover).

# Tribe receives \$36K air conditioning equipment donation

Tribal member and Trane Inc. Project Manager Chris Favre took notice when a contractor returned expensive air conditioning equipment to the warehouse.

The original project's specifications had changed, but Trane could not send the pumps back to the factory. Favre immediately thought of the Tribe and submitted the idea to donate the equipment to CPN. After the company agreed, he contacted Citizen Potawatomi Nation Mechanical Manager Chad Masoner.

"(Favre) said, 'Do you want a bunch of free equipment?' and I said, 'What's the catch?'" Masoner recounted with a smile.

A few days later on March 1, he and several other mechanical maintenance department employees picked up six 2-ton water-source heat pumps, a 7 1/2-ton water-source heat pump and a 3-ton rooftop unit from the company's Oklahoma City sales office.

"I think it's a very good gesture, Chris looking out for the Tribe itself and the Nation," Masoner said. "That typically doesn't happen in this industry. You



*Tribal member Chris Favre (far right) poses with employees of CPN's Mechanical Department as they accept a donation of geothermal energy system equipment from his employer, Trane Inc. (Photo provided)*

don't ever get something for nothing, so to speak. So, that's kind of a big deal."

The ground source heat pumps given to the Nation require a significant amount of infrastructure. CPN began utilizing the renewable energy method in 2014 when the Nation built a chiller plant fed with water from a geothermal pond as air conditioning for FireLake Arena.

The Tribe is open to expanding its geothermal energy efforts, and Favre called the opportunity to donate a "providential moment."

"It wasn't something that we could just give at a discount or sell again. The only alternative was scrap it," Favre said. "I hate to waste something when I know our people could use it."

Depending on the terrain and machinery, different types of geothermal systems use the earth's natural heat to control the ambient temperature on the other end. Trane's donation includes three-phase units capable of cooling a medium-sized commercial building, which fits the Nation's expansion over the last decade.

"It was a win-win for everybody, right?" Favre said.

"We need to constantly think, 'How can we give back to our ancestors? How can we give back to our Tribe?'"

He began working for Trane approximately 18 months ago. Shortly after he began, Favre crossed paths with Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, who asked him to keep CPN in mind.

"He plants that little seed, and then it comes into fruition," Favre said.

The mechanical maintenance department has not yet determined the use of the equipment. As the Nation continues to expand and build, the machinery will be considered as part of construction plans and options.

## Get the Hownikan via email!

If you would like your newspaper via email, please send your name and address to [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org) and let us know.

# Improving wellness across Indian Country one client at a time

Unforeseen circumstances can often reveal paths of potential, as was the case for Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Jessie James Whitney. Although his hometown of Choctaw, Oklahoma, is only a 45-minute drive from CPN headquarters, Whitney had limited personal involvement with the Nation in his youth.

In 2017, the Navarre descendant began building new connections to his Tribal roots after enrolling in the nursing program at St. Gregory's University and accepting a part-time position with the Tribe.

While the university's abrupt closure that fall created stress, it provided him a sense of renewed purpose. Whitney realized he could use his passion for sports to serve CPN members and develop a career in an industry close to his heart since childhood.

"Baseball, that was my first love," Whitney said with a smile. His exposure to athletics began as a toddler when he joined a local 6 and up baseball team at only 3 years old. He proudly wore the number 1/2 to highlight his age difference.

Today, Whitney continues his stride for fitness, serving as a full-time personal trainer at FireLake Wellness Center.

## Call of the diamond

Whitney's adoration for baseball continued after graduating from Choctaw High School in 2012. He joined Oklahoma Wesleyan University's baseball team in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and transferred to Southwestern Christian University in Bethany, Oklahoma, where he played second base and obtained a bachelor's degree in kinesiology.

While in college, Whitney completed a research assignment analyzing obesity rates across Indian Country. He learned that Native American populations suffer higher rates of obesity than other ethnicities. The project inspired him to continue learning more about a variety of health disparities across Indian Country as well as ways to combat the negative statistics.

"I decided to study kinesiology thinking that I was going to go into nursing school," Whitney said.



*As a National Association for Fitness Certification Physical Trainer, Jessie James Whitney encourages fellow Native Americans to create lifelong healthy habits.*

He completed his degree at Southwestern Christian University in 2017 before enrolling in the nursing program at St. Gregory's University and joining CPN's workforce.

"My job has inspired me to want to help everyone," he said. "Working with Native Americans — whether or not they are Potawatomi — I want Native Americans to be healthy and live as long as possible."

During his time at St. Gregory's, Whitney completed a course taught by CPN Department of Education Director Tesia Zientek.

"In that class, I learned a lot about the Tribe," he explained. "Now I want to work with the Tribe — whatever it is. Even if I move to another department later, I want to be around and learn more and be able to help other Tribal members."

Although St. Gregory's closed before he completed the degree requirements, Whitney is thankful the institution helped forge strong connections to CPN and provided the opportunity to build a career with the Nation.

## WHITNEY'S WISDOM

### THE SCALE IS JUST A NUMBER

"HOW YOU FEEL, HOW YOUR CLOTHES FIT — THAT IS WHAT WE SHOULD BE LOOKING AT. THE NUMBER DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING IF YOU'RE GETTING HAPPIER WITH YOUR BODY," HE SAID.

### MODERATION IS KEY

"INSTEAD OF FOUR BURRITOS AND A LARGE SODA, EAT TWO BURRITOS AND A WATER," WHITNEY SAID. "YOU'RE STILL GETTING THE TASTE FOR THE FOOD YOU LIKE, BUT YOU'RE CUTTING DOWN HALF OF IT JUST BY PORTION."

### GET MOVING

"DO 10 SIT AND STANDS AN HOUR, AND THEN YOU'RE DOING 80 A DAY. THAT'S JUST SITTING DOWN IN YOUR CHAIR AND STANDING UP," HE SAID. IF POSSIBLE, WHITNEY SUGGESTS GETTING OUTSIDE FOR A SHORT WALK AND OPTING FOR STAIRS INSTEAD OF ELEVATORS.

### PARK FARTHER AWAY

"HOW MANY PEOPLE DRIVE IN CIRCLES TRYING TO GET A SPOT? JUST PARK IN THE BACK AND WALK," HE SAID.

"I really just kind of fell in love with my job here," Whitney said. "It's really fun, I have a good time, and I enjoy doing it."

## Training

For Whitney, personal efforts to live a balanced life inspire him to help others develop healthy habits.

"I am not going to preach something that I'm not living," Whitney said. "I will never make a client do something that I can't do or that I haven't done or experienced."

Whitney teaches a group fitness class every Friday at noon and has scheduled client appointments throughout the week. However, those interested in one-on-one physical training usually complete an assessment before beginning.

"It's kind of a formal thing," he explained. "We'll sit down, and I'll take notes. We're going to go over any type of injuries, prior joint problems. And maybe you don't have an injury, but you have a weakness in your shoulder; we're going to talk about that."

The physical trainers then use the information obtained during the assessment — including current

medications and medical history — to develop a comprehensive, personalized exercise plan for each client.

"Everybody starts and stops at different places," he explained. "Some people come in and they are already fit, and some people come in that have never been in a gym. It doesn't make one better off than the other. One just may need a little help, and that's what we're here for."

While not everyone can make it into the gym, Whitney encourages integrating healthy practices into daily life and uses his efforts to motivate others.

"I want to be the guy that people can look to and say, 'Hey, he can help me,'" he said.

During his interview with the *Hownikan*, he highlighted the importance of setting attainable goals to increase the likelihood of long-term success and being mindful of opportunities outside of the gym to improve total wellness.

For more information on FireLake Wellness Center's physical training services and group classes, visit [cpn.news/firelakewellnesscenter](http://cpn.news/firelakewellnesscenter). 🔥

## Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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All correspondence should be directed to *Hownikan*,

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Questions: [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org) or 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

## CPN Chief Justice Riley highlights tribal successes in self-governance as member of Harvard panel

Pettifer family descendant Angela Riley serves as Chief Justice of the CPN Tribal Supreme Court. She is a professor of law at the UCLA School of Law as well as an Indigenous rights scholar and activist.

Justice Riley recently spoke with the *Hownikan* about her position on the Board of Governors for the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development's Honoring Nations program. After receiving an official invite, she joined the board in 2016. As a Harvard graduate, Justice Riley said she felt privileged to be asked to join.

Honoring Nations recognizes tribal governments' successes in self-governance in a wide variety of sectors such as education, health care and economics. The board of governors annually evaluates applications based on their "effectiveness, significance to sovereignty, cultural relevance, transferability, and sustainability," according to Honoring Nations' website.

Each year, the top 10 applications receive funding to spread their ideas and projects to other tribal governments. The goal of the program is to increase communication and the dissemination of this valuable information. More than 130 programs have been recognized to date including Citizen Potawatomi Nation for its Community Development Corporation, constitutional reform and Potawatomi Leadership Program.

### How did you get involved with the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development's Honoring Nations program?

"When I was a student at Harvard Law School in '95-'98, Joe Kalt was teaching his nation-building course at the JFK School of Government. Law students were allowed to take a few courses outside the law school, and I took the class. It was a continuation of my education in Indian law and tribal governance. I kept in touch with Joe and his colleague and Native Nations Co-Founder, Stephen Cornell, for years. By the time I was in academia

and writing extensively in the field, we had become friends and colleagues."

### What are some of your responsibilities as a member of the board of governors for the program?

"The board is actually quite active and very engaged in the work. We provide guidance in terms of mission and institutional support for the organization. But the primary work of the board is to review the applications from tribes and begin to narrow them to a smaller set. Then the board conducts site visits around the country and makes further assessments. Finally, we have our final board meeting where we make the final selections and give those honors out at NCAI."

### Why do you think Honoring Nations is important?

"The future is Indigenous. Native Nations have unlimited potential to develop as sovereigns and also to set the standard for good governance, which I believe the world needs right now. The Honoring Nations program is dedicated to seeking out that kind of innovation, brilliance, grit, and leadership, and not only rewarding it but making it known in Indian Country to serve as a model for other tribes."

### Since you have spent your career studying Native American law and sovereignty, what are some of the major facets of a tribal program that help its government in the long term?

"I have to be transparent here — I've been truly inspired by Chairman Barrett and the leadership he has shown in numerous respects. I feel our own constitutional revitalization was critical to adopting a constitution that comports with our own Tribe's governance and mission. As I've spent more than a decade studying Native Nations, the programs I have seen that are most successful share some common features. In the words of Joe Kalt and Steve Cornell, they constitute a 'cultural



*UCLA Professor of Law and CPN Chief Justice Angela Riley enjoys helping tribes across the country develop self-governance programs as a member of the Board of Governors for the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development.*

match'. That is, they are culturally integrated into the tribal community and reflect tribal tradition and values in a way that achieves support and buy-in from the community. They are run with principles of integrity and transparency, and — difficult but essential — they are sustainable. In my view, any sustainable, culturally relevant program helps the people, thereby helping the government. Tribes are a community, and must remain so to survive and succeed into the next seven generations."

### What do you think are some of the biggest challenges tribes face governmentally?

"People forget that many tribes are still recovering from an incredibly disruptive — and, in some cases, violent and destructive — colonial process. This means that the governments established in the Reorganization Period might not be suitable for today's challenges. Or the tribe may now be on lands away from their aboriginal homeland, making connection to traditional culture and spirituality more difficult. But I think some of our biggest challenges will come in figuring out how to be global

leaders in marrying innovation with sustainability — specifically, a respect for our planet, the Mother Earth, and how to ensure her continuation into the future for all people. In addition, the pressures of the outside world are significant, to say the least. As the Indian population moves off reservation in increasing numbers, we have to think creatively about membership, community, and tribalism for the future."

### What kind of feelings for the future of Native American governments does going through the applications and selecting honorees give you?

"I am constantly inspired by Indigenous peoples, in the U.S. and around the world. The unbelievable agility in adapting to new technologies and new innovations, while staying true to tribal culture and tradition, is truly remarkable. When I read the applications and see tribes leading the way for their people in health care in remote Alaskan villages or in green food production in rural Oklahoma or creating Indigenous-based justice systems in Northern California, I am awed every single time by the human capital that goes into those programs and the unbelievable success that tribes have in relation to size and resources."

### What kind of future do you see for the program?

"Joe Kalt and Steven Cornell are continuing to lead the program and fundraise for it, which will be based out of the Kennedy School at Harvard. But the program will evolve as its leaders and founders evolve in their own lives and careers. I was at Harvard as a student when the idea was hatched, and I'd love to see it maintain its Harvard affiliation. But, whatever happens, the future is limitless for Native Nations, and that's really the most important piece of the story."

For more information about Harvard's Honoring Nations, including the 2018 finalists, visit [hpaied.org/honoring-nations](http://hpaied.org/honoring-nations), or find it on Facebook at [facebook.com/HonoringNations](https://www.facebook.com/HonoringNations). ♡

## CPN establishes first tribal AISES chapter

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society recently approved Citizen Potawatomi Nation to establish the first tribal chapter of the organization, *Shkodedeajek* (Those Who Carry the Fire in Their Hearts). While nearly 200 higher education chapters and 15 professional chapters exist, AISES welcomed Native Nations to organize memberships within the last six months.

CPN seized the opportunity to promote Indigenous leadership in the science, technology, engineering and math fields. The chapter — sponsored by the CPN Department of Education — fills a gap for Tribal citizens around the world employed in STEM to make connections, network, share resources and more.

The Nation will benefit from a chapter as it begins to offer more health care services,

constructs new facilities, expands into manufacturing and attempts to fill the jobs that come with it.

CPN Cultural Heritage Center Community Garden Assistant Kaya DeerInWater serves as the CPN AISES chapter president. CPN welcomes non-CPN and non-Native Americans who support the mission to join the chapter as well as CPN STEM employees. There is no age requirement for inclusion, and STEM students are encouraged to participate.

Virtual meetings will allow all chapter members to participate, regardless of their location. Join the Facebook group *Shkodedeajek* AISES for updates, and email [kaya.deerinwater@potawatomi.org](mailto:kaya.deerinwater@potawatomi.org) to be added to the chapter's email list. More details to follow. ♡

## May is Foster Care Awareness Month

By Kendra Lowden,  
Foster Care/Adoption Manager

*Bozho* (Hello),

I am proud to have recently accepted the position of foster care/adoption manager at FireLodge Children & Family Services. Along with a brand new team of dedicated child welfare advocates in our program, I look forward to raising awareness about the need for Native American foster homes for Potawatomi children.

FireLodge Children & Family Services is committed to protecting children and ensuring they are connected to their family and heritage. Trauma is often the rule and not the exception for children removed from their families due to abuse or neglect and placed into foster care. Citizen

Potawatomi Nation foster families provide vulnerable children a sense of stability and comfort, while also ensuring their cultural needs are being met.

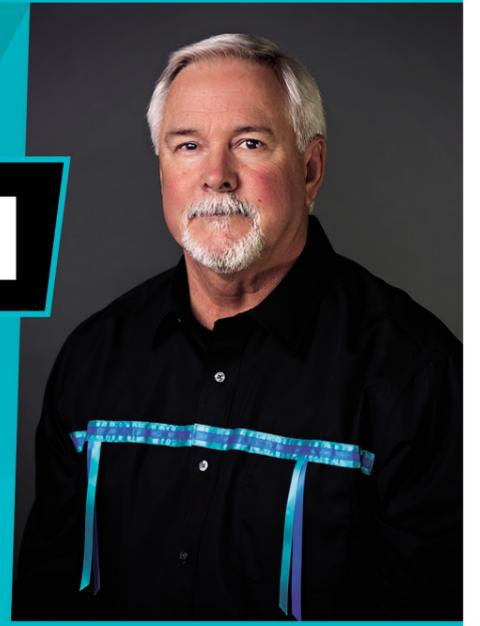
According to statistics provided by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services tribal unit, of more than 8,000 children in foster care in Oklahoma, one-third are reported to be Native American. Some of these children are Potawatomi and placed in non-Native American homes. FireLodge Children & Family Services strives to place children in culturally appropriate situations.

For more information on becoming a foster parent for Potawatomi children, please contact FireLodge Children & Family Services at 405-878-4831, or email me at [kendra.lowden@potawatomi.org](mailto:kendra.lowden@potawatomi.org).

*Miguetch* (Thank you)! ♡

# JOHN TOM ANDERSON FOR DISTRICT 11

Paid for by John Tom Anderson

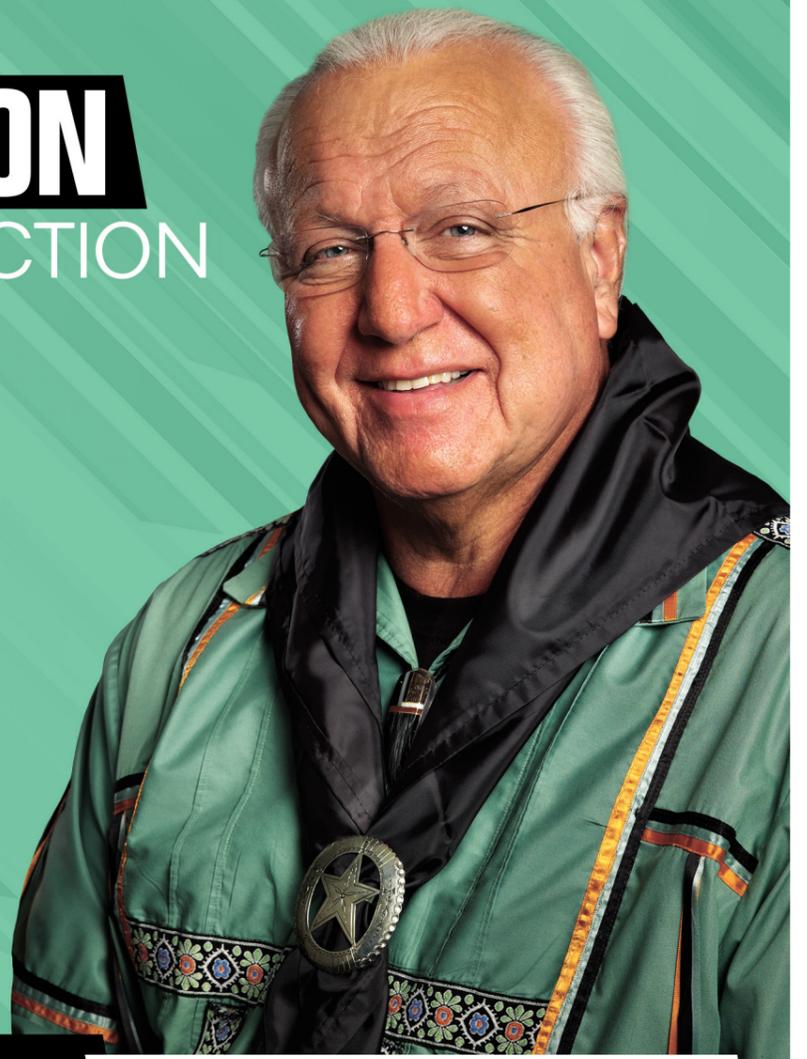


## JOIN ME AND VOTE **JOHN TOM ANDERSON** THIS ELECTION

HE BRINGS A RECORD OF INTEGRITY AND RECOGNITION BY HIS INDUSTRY PEERS

- PRESIDENT OF F&M BANK
- CPN GAMING COMMISSIONER
- FNBOK BANK BOARD MEMBER
- LARGE TRIBAL FAMILY

I TRUST HIM TO BRING THE EXPERIENCE TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS FOR OUR TRIBE'S LARGEST ENTERPRISES IN GAMING AND BANKING.



## **VOTE JOHN TOM ANDERSON** FOR DISTRICT 11

PAID FOR BY JOHN "ROCKY" BARRETT

# Elexa Dawson awarded grant to spread music inspired by Tribal culture

As a lifelong performer, singer and guitar player, Ogee family descendant Elexa Dawson sees music as her life's mission. She formed a female folk band named Weda Skirts (formerly The Skirts) in Kansas in 2008. While they considered performing together as a hobby, the band became more serious in the last few years and released two albums.

"That's just kind of where I'm living in right now is a realization that what I'm doing is, it's important. It allows people to connect to emotion, which is important for healing," she said. "As I write a song, as I get a song out, I can really experience the healing that takes place within my own soul and my own spirit to get those words and those sounds out."

Releasing a solo record became the next step in Dawson's musical career. As the idea solidified, she discovered the nonprofit First Peoples Fund, which supports Indigenous artists and their capacity to spread their culture. In late 2018, she applied for the nonprofit's Artists in Business Leadership Fellowship grant and was one of the 25 candidates awarded \$7,500.

"I felt really nervous but also very confident going through the application process because it seemed like they were offering it right to me because of what I had already made a decision in my life to do," she said.

## The grant

She began the year with the intention of developing her individual artistry and promoting herself as an act separate from her band. Dawson has written enough music to accommodate both.

"Weda Skirts have two albums of original music that we've released, and the entire first album and most of the second album is songs that I've written," she said.

Dawson set another goal for 2019 of immersing herself in communities with other *Nishnabe* people and connecting with Potawatomi culture.

"I didn't really know how those things went together, and I just kind of finally

realized, 'Hey, wait. These do go together, and this is who I am as a person, and I don't need to hide that. And I need to be honest about where I am with my life and the culture,'" she said.

The application process built up Dawson's confidence and made her form a plan on a timeline as well as budget the grant money in advance — something she had never done when considering artistic goals.

"It kind of made me resolve," she said. "Like even if I don't get this grant, I have to do this project because I had gone through the process of the planning to that point, and it seemed like it could really be a reality."

Her plan includes traveling to the Potawatomi homelands in the Great Lakes region to learn traditional sugar bush syrup harvesting, fishing, Indigenous gardening, wild ricing and more to get inspiration for songs. She also budgeted for recording, the production of CDs or vinyl, and promotion.

"I really thought that the way forward was to be a whole person and to treat this as a holistic project," Dawson said. "And so, creating music to further my community as a solo artist but then also just being vulnerable about this area of my life where I feel like so much of our culture is lost, and I feel the need to rediscover it, to experience it and hopefully, to reconnect the generations."

## Subject matter

"The art that I'm creating right now is based on a concept of retracing the steps of the ancestors and collecting those things that were left along the path," she said. "Because that's part of our Seven Fires prophecy that in that time that we are in right now that we have lost our way in a lot of ways, and that we'll retrace the steps."

For Dawson, that means participating in Potawatomi traditions in physical or distinguishable ways as a means of preservation.



*Ogee family descendant Elexa Dawson explores a new challenge as a musician by releasing a solo album with the assistance of a First Peoples Fund grant. (Photo provided by Lifeleak Visuals)*

"My focus for this project is that it's all about the connection to the land. If we don't have that connection, if we're exploiting resources, if we're not learning the language, if we're not doing the work, then what makes us Native?" she said.

She believes engaging becomes effortless over time as it becomes habitual, which includes gardening and the importance of Indigenous food sovereignty. Dawson has written songs about water, honoring food and the Earth as a mother.

"I'm just trying to wake us all up to the fact that we are dependent on this earth, and as humans, we're even lower than the plants, because the plants don't need us. We depend on them," she said. "We're like their children. We can't live without them, but they would do fine without us."

Her creative process also covered an aspect of Tribal history that impacted Potawatomi women that is not covered in many history books.

"There's one song that's about kind of the loss of identity through names and

relationships, and then also the idea that so many people just were taken from their families and given a new name in residential schools," Dawson said.

Many Potawatomi women's land ownership in the Great Lakes region transferred to French fur traders when they married and changed their names.

"That's about the connection to the land and going back to a place where we're working with it and having respect for it and not just the exploitation, not just logging for fur trading until all the animals are gone," she said.

Dawson's Potawatomi name is *Amo* (Bee). It fits given her desire to develop reciprocal relationships with other Tribal members, learn from nature, and then teach those practices and philosophies through her craft.

"I see that functioning in my life in a lot of ways, whether it is that idea of pollination, that I'm connecting things that maybe exist in two different friend circles, but I'm bringing those people together, or ideas or concepts that are in my life that I sort of am able to put together," she said.

First Peoples Fund brought all recipients together in Phoenix, Arizona, at the end of February to allow them to meet and discuss their projects. The other artists inspired Dawson and strengthened her resolve to continue her album.

"It let me know that I wasn't the only one out there kind of doing this weird thing where I'm trying to be really respectful of my heritage and really careful about not exploiting it, but also understanding that the work that I have to offer this world is valuable and accepting that as work that I have to do," she said.

She plans to work with the harvesting seasons and complete her collection sometime this fall.

"My whole mantra for this year is, 'Music is medicine,'" she said.

Find out more about First Peoples Fund and their opportunities by visiting [firstpeoplesfund.org](http://firstpeoplesfund.org). ♡

## Teacher certification tests offered

By Charles Lee III, CPN Department of Education College Advisor

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education and Workforce Development & Social Services have entered into a partnership with the Oklahoma Office of Educational Quality and Accountability to offer free teacher certification tests. Tests offered are the:

- Oklahoma General Education Test
- Oklahoma Professional Teacher Examination

- Oklahoma Subject Area Tests

All CPN tribal members are eligible. Citizens of federally recognized tribes in the CPN 477 service area (Pottawatomie, Cleveland, Lincoln, Payne, and Seminole counties along with Oklahoma County east of Post Road) are also eligible for this benefit. To apply, contact Workforce Development & Social Services Education Counselor Kandi McCracken at 405-878-3854 or [kandi.mccracken@potawatomi.org](mailto:kandi.mccracken@potawatomi.org). ♡

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# Tribal candidate Q&As: May 2019

## District 10 – David Barrett (incumbent)



new members each quarter. We have facilitated growing our enrollment thru the *Hownikan*, district meetings, Festivals and knowledge of our excellent services. By not limiting enrollment on Blood Quantum, we have grown our Nation from little over 1,500 members on the 1887 allotment rolls to now 34,582. Limiting our members is out of the question; however, for us to maintain the increased supply and demand that comes along with these new members, we are having to be very diligent, innovative and forward thinking not to jeopardize future generations.”

**What are some specific ways you believe CPN can diversify investments?**

“A prudent investor will never have all investments in one basket unless it is guaranteed. Our nation has First National Bank and CDC. We have enterprises that affect our daily lives such as grocery stores, clinics, housing, casinos and real estate. What about

creating entities that will affect our later years of living like a hospital, funeral home facilities, columbarium, and a Potawatomi and Veterans Memorial Cemetery? I would like to set up immediately a Nation’s Endowment Foundation so individuals can bequeath or donate. Diversification into manufacturing has many opportunities to bring employment and housing (another project) to our community.”

**Oklahoma legislators have a unique role as at-large representatives, what will you do to involve fellow Citizen Potawatomi in the governing process here?**

“Having meetings over our state has always been a desire of mine; however, due to the scheduling of each legislator’s meeting individually or as a group of eight (including the Executive branch) to cover our state has never materialized. Thus we have to utilize the *Hownikan* columns which gives our emails addresses and phone numbers

allowing us to inform and gain feedback for involvement with our constituents. Making myself available at the Festival and during the year, I do visit the senior citizen and I am involved with our veterans thus allowing individuals to ask questions about our Nation’s activities.”

**How do you define leadership?**

“A leader is someone who has the art of motivating a person or a group of people to achieve a common goal. Strategic planners are not everything you need; however, strategies are nothing without effective communication to ensure both sides understands the tasks and is motivated. Leaders must also command respect and trust along with focusing on the job at hand with the attributes of being a good listener and being honest. A leader will give credit to everyone else when things go well; however, when things go wrong they look at themselves and take full responsibility.”

**How would you address the issue of growing Tribal enrollment? Is there a point where you believe it should be limited?**

“We are happy at each legislative session to enroll approximately 200

## District 10 – Norman Brasfield (challenger)



place to begin with any perceived enrollment concern, the March 1989 *Hownikan*, reported 1,919 Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribal Members voted as a majority to amend the enrollment criteria to descendancy membership.

“Today our membership has grown to about 34,000 members. Comparison of this number against the membership of the 805 Iowa members is very large, but for perspective, consideration of the 355,000 members in the Cherokee Nation reduces CPN membership enrollment to a nonissue.”

**What are some specific ways you believe CPN can diversify investments?**

“Last year I attended the Reservation Economic Summit in Las Vegas, an event held by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. I saw what other tribes were doing to generate revenue beyond gaming and tobacco. A few had

pulled resources to procure apartment complexes that generate a low risk income. Some invested startup costs for member owned businesses and profited as the businesses grew. A larger tribe went with a third party money management firm with a high projected return on investment. Our tribe has many opportunities to grow and prosper to make life better for its people.”

**Oklahoma legislators have a unique role as at-large representatives, what will you do to involve fellow Citizen Potawatomi in the governing process here?**

“Currently, the Oklahoma legislators have no budget to ‘take the government to the people.’ Networking and building a Tribal member contact database can easily be accomplished, meet and greet with a smiling introduction and a handshake when seeing a Potawatomi tag. One contact can and will generate 10 to 20 other members or more.

“Today, the elders speak about the way things were done in the past. Young and old alike have not yet realized the quite power of the petition process available in the 2007 Constitution.”

**How do you define leadership?**

“Leadership in its most basic form is the ability to influence. Hitler’s leadership cleverly deceived many, promising a shining future while delivering the Jewish Holocaust. Reverend MLK had a dream of peaceful protest for human rights, rioting erupted across the nation when he was killed.

“JFK once pondered what makes a great leader and realized Gandhi was recognized as a great leader but beat his wife. JFK’s own father was considered a great leader but was a womanizer. Thankfully, JFK decided to simply be a good man.

“Individuals have a choice, to go fast alone or to go far together.”

**How would you address the issue of growing Tribal enrollment? Is there a point where you believe it should be limited?**

“Seeking the membership council’s advice is always a good

## District 11 – Lisa Kraft (incumbent)



Tribal enrollment criteria on blood-quantum for good reason; we are family through lineage. Our family grows day by day. This is a great thing for future leadership and our prosperity.

“A growing bona fide membership means more federal funding for our people. With more federal funds, we can invest our business profits in innovative growth and sustainable enterprises. I don’t see our 34,000 members as a crowded stadium. Rather, I see 34,000 people as individual rockets shooting for the stars.”

**What are some specific ways you believe CPN can diversify investments?**

“Before we can discuss investment diversification, we need a clear picture of what our current assets are, what our plans are, and a fair system of proposing initiatives that can make it to the floor for vote.

“I can’t sum this discussion up in 100 words but we need to close loopholes in

existing federal regulations hampering our financial growth. For example, tribes are not allowed to participate in the phenomenal investment of Opportunity Zones even if O-Zones are in their jurisdictions. O-Zones afford tax shelters on capital gains for investors that want to invest in impoverished communities.”

**Oklahoma legislators have a unique role as at-large representatives, what will you do to involve fellow Citizen Potawatomi in the governing process here?**

“The executive officers set legislative branch spending. Oklahoma legislators do not get budgets to host meetings or have outreach offices like outside-Oklahoma legislators do. Oklahoma legislators communicate with Tribal members at-large in two ways: the annual heritage Festival and the executive branch’s newspaper (*Hownikan*).

“In fact, legislators are not allowed to participate in the internal budget

hearings between directors, staff and the executive officers. Legislators do not propose amendments, reallocations, priorities, or budget cuts to our massive operating budget. This spending bill is formulated by the executive branch and then comes to the legislature to vote either for or against.”

**How do you define leadership?**

“Leadership is believing in something greater than one’s own benefit. It requires personal skills to advance ideals strategically, rally people to support and sustain those ideals, and the ability to materialize success of those ideals. The greater the success, the more people benefit and life gets better. Leadership is being able to weather political competition and change with grace when it leads to the greater good. Leadership is also having resolve to stand firm against tyranny, oppression, and corruption when it is unpopular, scary and dangerous. Simply put, leadership is a lifestyle, just like loyalty.”

**How would you address the issue of growing Tribal enrollment? Is there a point where you believe it should be limited?**

“Limiting our membership, under current demographics, is the farthest thing from my mind. We do not base

## District 11 – John Tom Anderson (challenger)



**How would you address the issue of growing Tribal enrollment? Is there a point where you believe it should be limited?**

“The United States courts have recognized that unless legislation by Congress intervenes, an Indian tribe has complete authority to determine all questions of its own membership. Due to this fact, the manner in which we enroll Tribal members will stay constant until either the federal government or our own Tribal government pushes for change.

“I personally believe that our growing Tribal enrollment is healthy. CPN has managed well to provide services to Tribal members throughout our modern history. The change in CPN’s Constitution in 2007, provided for legislators to maintain outreach to all members.”

**What are some specific ways you believe CPN can diversify investments?**

“What I have discovered about CPN’s basic business model is it manages all

enterprises with their own capital and resources. The Tribe totally owns all enterprises and economic endeavors. Looking forward it may be time for CPN to examine their business and operating models to find a solution that will enable a change in performance of their economic development. Increased profit advantages can spill over to improved services to our people.”

**Oklahoma legislators have a unique role as at-large representatives, what will you do to involve fellow Citizen Potawatomi in the governing process here?**

“Our Anderson family members have been active with CPN for years. We have come to regional and district meetings, annual Family Festivals, naming’s, gatherings ... participating at every opportunity. As a legislator,

these opportunities will only increase. I am prepared to embrace other CPN members in helping them know and understand the rich culture and heritage that my own family has experienced as Tribal members.”

**How do you define leadership?**

“I believe that true leaders lead by example. The successful leaders will tell you that their success is due to the competent people they have surrounding them. A real leader’s legacy is when they are gone, their teachings move forward. People who are decision makers and make the right, common sense choices, usually rise to the top and are able to lead people in the right directions.”

## District 11 – Christina Brasfield (challenger)



**How would you address the issue of growing Tribal enrollment? Is there a point where you believe it should be limited?**

“Tribal enrollment is based on descendancy and that is fair, logical and practical. The strength of our Tribe comes from our members. As our Tribe grows, so does our sphere of influence. To make this influence more impactful, we should

focus on improved education to open more opportunities to our members.

“In regards to growing enrollment, we must understand that we coexist on Mother Earth and human overpopulation is a serious threat. Ideally we would walk through this life leaving only footprints and our lasting impact would resonate through planned, future generations.”

**What are some specific ways you believe CPN can diversify investments?**

“I am fortunate to occasionally travel for work and I meet many interesting people who are open to partnering with Native Americans and tribes in their ventures.

“I would like to see an increased focus on technology that provides remote work opportunities for our tribal members. This includes data centers, technology incubators, being our own ISP, or partnering with technology companies.

“When I was in Las Vegas at the Reservation Economic Summit, tribes were diversifying through building

low-risk apartment complexes and by extension, hotels.

“We should also invest in our members and their businesses. Their success would be the Tribe’s success.”

**Oklahoma legislators have a unique role as at-large representatives, what will you do to involve fellow Citizen Potawatomi in the governing process here?**

“We should educate our members on our governing process, proactively reach out to them for feedback, connect members to encourage discussion, and make participation easy and seamless. A feedback loop is critical to avoid a sole focus on what is best for the Tribe and not forget we are here for our members.

“We must tackle barriers for entry that prevent people from participating. Such as:

- Not understanding how the process works;
- Not understanding how they fit into the process;

- A feeling that their voice and feedback is not heard;

- A feeling of uncertainty and that they do not belong.

**How do you define leadership?**

“No one ever advanced standing still. Leadership should be progressive and in the best interest of the constituents and keeping lines of communication open. Decision making is a key part of leadership, but it should always be based on an informed opinion of the constituency.

“Leadership means being accessible, responsive, and have a clear understanding of the issues.

“Leadership is bringing about the change we all want to see in this world.”

### *Cheatwood continued...*

need. Cheatwood assisted on construction projects of all kinds for Oklahomans served by DHS, including those with developmental disabilities, the elderly and families in need of housing assistance.

“We would do trim carpentry, roofing, sheetrock, painting or anything to build a building. We were a part of it,” he said.

In search of less travel and more time at home, Cheatwood jumped at the opportunity to work as a finishing carpenter for CPN.

“Prague, Oklahoma, born and raised,” he responded when asked of his hometown.

### **Then and now**

Sitting in his 2,000-square-foot workshop full of supplies, tools and equipment, Cheatwood laughs while describing his first days on the job at the Tribe. His first assignment was a podium for speakers at the Grand.

“When I first started, I had a little, old table saw ... a 10-inch compound miter saw and a nail gun,” he

said. “I had to borrow a hammer from the (auto pool) mechanic.”

As his time with the Nation progressed, Cheatwood’s assignment list grew. Eventually, he created tables for poker, blackjack and other games available at the casino. Working closely with John Gates in gaming operations, the two sketched out blueprints after receiving direction.

“Gaming operations would come over and show us a picture of what they wanted, and so I would build it,” he said. “I’d get some measurements on the width and height, and the rest was just, ‘Figure it out.’”

That flexibility continues to serve the needs required of a finishing carpenter at CPN, and Cheatwood says he is excited about his future work — whatever it may entail.

“I love it. I want to grow, get bigger and see where I can go with it.” ♡



**DAVID BARRETT  
DISTRICT 10**

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# Tribal candidate Q&As: May 2019 continued

## District 13 – Bobbi Bowden (incumbent)



**How would you address the issue of growing Tribal enrollment? Is there a point where you believe it should be limited?**

“I do not think the best way to handle growing Tribal enrollment is by limiting enrollment. In order to continue to provide the benefits and services to our members we need to take steps to insure our current enterprises continue to prosper as well as adding new enterprises and sources of income for the Nation. I like to think of our Tribes legacy being carried on by my grandchildren, their children and so on long after I leave this Earth.”

**What are some specific ways you believe CPN can diversify investments?**

“While our Nation already has a very diverse portfolio, I believe adding residential and commercial real estate development would be an ideal addition to our Nations assets. These developments would create new jobs and economic opportunities to continue the growth of our tribe.”

**Oklahoma legislators have a unique role as at-large representatives, what will you do to involve fellow Citizen Potawatomi in the governing process here?**

“In order to help involve fellow tribal members in the governing process I would continue to be available to meet and or speak with members, listen and do my best to answer their questions

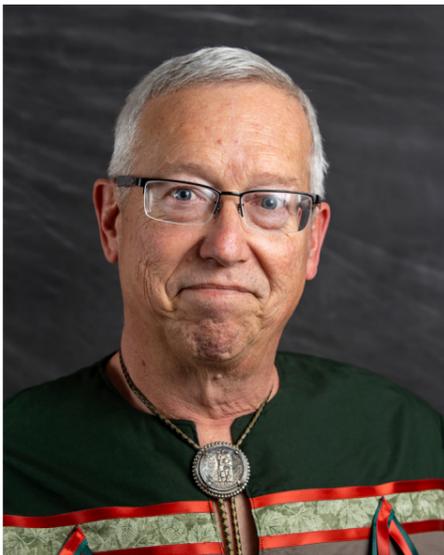
and help as much as I possibly can. I would also like to see meetings in different areas of our state to bring the information to our members.

“And as a reminder the most important thing tribal members can do to be involved in the governing process is to vote.”

**How do you define leadership?**

“The definition of leadership in my opinion is someone that strives to be of service to the members, who seeks continuous improvement, listens, and gives of themselves with honesty and integrity.”

## District 13 – Michael K. Whistler (challenger)



**How would you address the issue of growing Tribal enrollment? Is there a point where you believe it should be limited?**

“A greater population of CPN citizens is better. Tribes that work to limit their size dwindle away until they change their policies to grow once more. Perhaps some think that their ‘slice of the pie’ will get smaller if there are more citizens. But like love, which just keeps growing, our Tribe can keep growing without hurting anyone.

“Guess what? We can bake more pie! Good leadership will allow us to keep up with our Tribal growth.”

**What are some specific ways you believe CPN can diversify investments?**

“We must pursue business opportunities that make products. These businesses not only generate profit from sales of the products, but create quality jobs that support families and our communities. The CPN has started down this path, but we need to turn that path into a road, and then expand it into a highway of opportunity and success.”

**Oklahoma legislators have a unique role as at-large representatives, what will you do to involve fellow Citizen Potawatomi in the governing process here?**

“My role in the national association I worked with put me in daily contact with its members for many years. I have become very adept at getting the desires of the members onto the agenda at the legislative table. I am a champion of other people’s good ideas, which is required of a Legislator for our Tribe. I have some good ideas, but best ideas have usually come from others.”

**How do you define leadership?**

“Leadership is the ability to sift through the good and the bad, the sad and the wonderful, the angry and the joyful, the smart and the indifferent, and choose a direction that benefits all, yet does not upset so many that one is ousted ...”

## District 13 – Jay Laughlin (challenger)



An opportunity to thrive in our culture, our heritage, and our prosperity. The key is to bring our Nation together during this growth. There are always challenges with every opportunity.

“To be eligible for citizenship individuals must have a lineal ancestor that was enrolled, and I firmly stand behind this. In no way should citizenship be limited based on blood quantum. By establishing blood quantum requirements sooner or later our Nation would be non-existent and our treaties with the federal government would be non-existent.”

**What are some specific ways you believe CPN can diversify investments?**

“All investments and ventures our Nation undertakes must provide benefits to our citizens and the right team must be established. In addition to the ideas on [facebook.com/JayLaughlin4CPN](https://www.facebook.com/JayLaughlin4CPN), I’ve envisioned a large scale fueling

and maintenance operation within a few mile radius of the Grand Casino with light-rail service as well as a business collaboration center.

“The business collaboration center will promote citizen owned businesses, partnerships with universities, and be a focal point for our new enterprises. We need to diversify in government contracting as well as the private sector. The business collaboration center will bring creativity as well as expertise.”

**Oklahoma legislators have a unique role as at-large representatives, what will you do to involve fellow Citizen Potawatomi in the governing process here?**

“Communication is key. I see the continuation of the monthly legislative columns in the *Hownikan* as well as the recordings of the legislative sessions. To help facilitate more communication, I will collaborate with our communications

department to see how we can utilize technology to focus on issues and opportunities that receive the most attention from our citizens. I also think it would be a good idea to hold periodic district meetings within the State of Oklahoma at different locations where a large numbers of our citizens live.”

**How do you define leadership?**

“Leadership is the process of taking a vision and translating it into reality. Leadership is the ability to influence others and receive buy-in to reach a common goal. Leadership is provided by a leader that has passion, integrity, and the ability to communicate this vision. A leader draws the best out of people and empowers them to reach the common goal.” ♠

**How would you address the issue of growing Tribal enrollment? Is there a point where you believe it should be limited?**

“I don’t see growing Tribal enrollment as an issue but rather as an opportunity.

Boys who witness domestic violence are more likely to batter their female partners as adults.



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Hi. I am Christina Brasfield and I am running for Tribal legislature in District 11, Stillwater, OK.

I am a progressive candidate that is interested in diversifying businesses, strengthening member-to-member communications, and would like to hear from Tribal members about their expectations and experiences.

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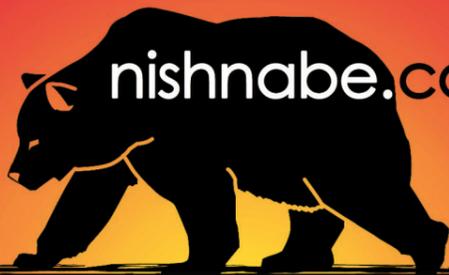
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**NORMAN**  
BRASFIELD

Leadership in its most basic form is the ability to influence. We should leverage influence for the betterment of our Tribal members and take the government to the people.

district 10 - norman@nishnabe.com

nishnabe.com




A portrait of Norman Brasfield, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a blue shirt and a dark jacket. The background is dark.

**Individuals have a choice -  
to go fast alone...  
or to go far together.**

Paid for by Norman Brasfield

# Tribal scholarship recipient gains business consulting experience

College freshman and Bergeron descendant Joey Otey studies human resource management at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas, and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation consolidated scholarship helps finance his educational pursuits. Through his participation in the student-led consulting agency Barton International Group, he quickly found his place on campus.

“We do data analysis, digital marketing, feasibility analysis as well as market research, depending on what our clients need,” Otey told the *Hownikan* during a phone interview. “We interact with business, mostly in the local area, but sometimes we’ll go to Kansas City.”

Otey admitted he had interests in human resource management before attending WSU, but his involvement with Barton International helped solidify the decision to pursue a degree in the field.

“I don’t want to be Toby from *The Office*,” Otey said, then laughed. The character Toby Flenderson’s primary job as a human resources representative revolves around addressing inappropriate work behavior. Since joining the organization, Otey has learned the profession has much more to offer.

“I’ll hopefully be able to work within human resources and be able to make sure everyone is working to their full potential because I know that’s something I am good at,” Otey said. “Being able to make sure everyone’s working their absolute best and being able to figure out tough problems is a natural thing for me.”

According to its website, “Barton International Group is a student run consulting business who strives to develop educational enrichment opportunities for our members and provide our clients with exceptional and creative business solutions.”



*Bergeron descendant Joey Otey kick-starts his career through participating in WSU’s prestigious Barton International Group.*

The organization provides a platform for students to gain valuable, real-world business knowledge.

The collegiate group often makes confidentiality agreements with collaborating companies. However, members recently worked with popular Mexican-style restaurant Qdoba Mexican Eats to expand its restaurant chain into the Wichita metropolitan area.

“We determined what locations would be best for them, when they should open up and things like that,” he explained. “Because of our work with them, Wichita State students get a discount whenever they visit Qdoba.”

## Potawatomi family

Every year, Otey and his family make their way to Oklahoma to visit his Potawatomi grandmother and Tribal employee Alma Bergeron-Bazhaw Otey. Through these visits, he has formed a deep connection with his Tribal heritage.

“What it means to me to be Potawatomi is just having pride in being able to know that you have a greater family,” Otey said. “You can go to the Tribe, and you have something in common with everyone there, which is really awesome.”

Along with a deep respect for others, Otey inherited his Potawatomi family’s musical talents.

“Both my uncles on my dad’s side are very talented with music, so from a really young age, I’ve kind of been pushed towards that,” he said. In the third grade, Otey received his first guitar as a gift from his uncles and began playing the upright bass two years later.

“One of the indirect reasons why I chose (upright bass) is because I was the tallest one in my class,” Otey explained. “I was probably 5-foot-10 in the fifth grade.”

He graduated in 2018 and held the position as first chair bass at Northeast Magnet High School’s orchestra his senior year.

For Otey, learning the upright bass came naturally and inspired him to continue mastering more stringed instruments.

“Along the way, I’ve picked up guitar, bass guitar ... I always like picking up new instruments,” he said.

Although his two uncles live in Georgia and Vancouver, Canada, when they all have a chance to get together, it is inevitable that someone from the family will grab a guitar and start playing.

He advises others who want to learn how to play to stay dedicated, even when it becomes difficult to see progress.

“I taught myself guitar, and doing that, it was a lot of late nights,” he said. When learning a new instrument, Otey finds songs that interest him and searches online for the specific chord progressions and finger placements.

“Work at it until you build up skills,” Otey said. “You’ll all of the sudden realize, ‘Oh wow, I am actually playing this song.’”

## Future

His goals outside of obtaining a bachelor’s degree include forming connections and applicable experiences that will propel him forward.

“It’s really awesome to be able to interact with the businesses in our area because these are the people that are going to be hiring me once I graduate,” Otey said.

As for his dream position, “I can’t really cherry-pick at the moment,” he said. “I would just really enjoy a job that’s open for growth. I would like to be able to work with other people.”

Luckily, Otey’s campus involvement and CPN tribal scholarship are helping him achieve his dreams. One day, he hopes his time at WSU will open opportunities to assist fellow CPN members and Tribal enterprises.

Learn more about Barton International Group at [bartoninternationalgroup.com](http://bartoninternationalgroup.com), and for information on CPN tribal scholarship opportunities, visit [cpn.news/cpneducation](http://cpn.news/cpneducation). ♡

## Language update: May 2019

By Justin Neely, Director of the CPN Language Department

It has been a busy time in the language department. We just recently released the beta version of our online searchable dictionary. It has several very neat components to it. It has a button for cultural context where we can give more information on a word like “eagle” or “tobacco.” We can explain the importance to our people.

It also has the ability to attach video to the word. It has an area for literal meaning where we can explain more about the word. Another neat

component is that there will be an audio file for each word when we are done. We also have a number of historic audio recordings where you can hear different speakers say the words. In June, we hope to have an app version of it available.

Our kids competed in this year’s University of Oklahoma’s Language Fair, and we got second place with our little kids singing the Potawatomi morning song. We also, for the first time, had a partnership with Will Rogers Elementary. Serena Neely brought a group of elementary girls who sang *Girls Just Want To Have Fun* in Potawatomi. They got second place.

We are in our second year of offering Potawatomi anywhere in the state of Oklahoma. If you are interested in your district offering Potawatomi for world language credit, get ahold of us so we can get it set up. Right now, Wanette is in its second year of offering Potawatomi, and we will have our first Potawatomi class offered at Tecumseh this fall.

We are spending time adding sound files, images and video to enhance our online dictionary. Right now, it has about 8,300 words and 2,800 sound files as well as 600 images. We started a new 10-week Potawatomi language class on April 15. The class will be Mondays from 6- 7:30

p.m. CST at the Cultural Heritage Center. We will be streaming these classes live in our Potawatomi language Facebook group. Search Facebook for “Potawatomi Language” and request to join the closed group. These classes will be archived and available for anyone to view at a later date.

Before long, it will be time to plan your trip to Shawnee for the Festival. We look forward to seeing everyone there, and please don’t forget to use your language! Whatever words or expressions you know. *Neshnabemon!* (Talk Indian!) ♡

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ONLINE**



## Tribal chieftess' legacy continues today

Potawatomi women traditionally hold a special place in Tribal society, but translating these Indigenous ideals to European and American cultural practices has not proven a simple task. However, one Tribal member rose above Western European ideologies of women and leadership. Massaw, daughter of Potawatomi Chief Wassato and wife of a French-Canadian fur trader, held standings as a Tribal headman and prominent business owner in the Potawatomi village near Lake Keewawnay in Indiana.

Named in honor of the community's leader Keewawnay, the community served as a key location to hold councils. After the Potawatomi removals west, settlers moved on the land and renamed it Bruce Lake.

"Her status in the community I think was a combination of things," said Blake Norton, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center curator. Massaw held a reputation as an intelligent businessperson and host, often entertaining dignitaries and others at her home.

"She may have been from an esteemed family, but she was the one who secured her place within powerful circles," Norton added.

Most accounts describe Massaw as stoic and commerce-minded, and although women held an integral role within the Tribe, they rarely received invites to authorize treaties as a headman.

"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."

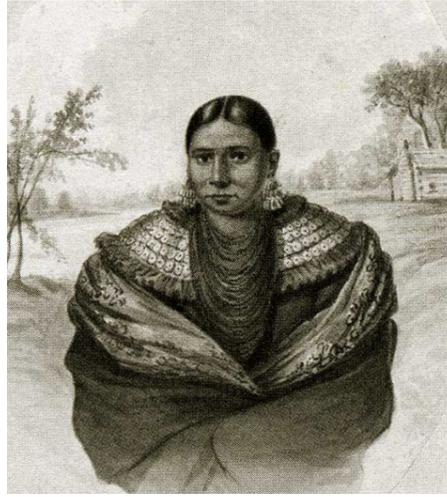
British artist George Winter sketched many Native Americans in the Great Lakes region including Massaw. He wrote in his journal about her status within the Keewawnay Village, including her large, two-story cabin that she often opened to dignitaries including U.S. military official Col. Abel Pepper, who held a reputation for securing treaties with the Potawatomi through unethical measures.

"During the time of the council, she derived considerable revenue from her accommodations, rude as they were," Winter said. "Independent from the sources of profit from the officers of the government, there were many white men who were visitors to the Indian camp from mere curiosity who were glad to get entertainment at Massaw's 'Hotel de Foret.'"

Winter also discussed Massaw's likeness in his diary, including her smooth, shiny dark hair; deep blue broadcloth blanket and petticoat with ribbon applique; silver brooches covering her cape; and her large, attention-grabbing earrings.

"The appointment of her dress were expensive, including her moccasins, which were neatly made and handsomely checkered on the 'laces' with ribbons of the primitive colors," Winter wrote.

He also mentioned Massaw's lack of homemaking skills, as "her prequeskin (bread) was not the best quality." However, what cooking abilities she lacked she made up for with her cunningness to wage and win bets.



*George Winter's sketch of Potawatomi Chieftess Massaw depicts her beautiful clothing and iconic earrings.*

"Massaw had some civilized qualities of no mean pretensions," Winter wrote. "She was in fact a gambler of no ordinary ability. She played euchre very well, and those who understand the game of 'poker' said that she was an adroit expert, often raking men of experience who attended her."

Some of the U.S. officials Massaw hosted later forcibly removed her and the Potawatomi to lands west of the Mississippi on the Trail of Death. During the removal proceedings, her husband Andrew Goselin served as an interpreter.

Records of Massaw after the Trail of Death are scarce, but the information available indicates she continued to hold her Tribal standing.

"She is one of five women to sign the treaty of 1861," Norton said.

The document divided the Kansas Pottawattamie Reservation between the two Potawatomi communities in Kansas. The treaty allowed one to continue living communally and provided the other, Massaw's group, land allotments and a path to potential U.S. citizenship.

"Her daughter Elizabeth married Jacob Vieux, son of Louis Vieux and Shanote (Charlotte) Chesaugan," Norton said. "While living in Kansas, they took allotments and had three children. They later moved to Oklahoma and took allotments."

After moving to Indian Territory, Massaw's granddaughter Charlotte married Hiram Thorpe and had twin boys, Charlie and James (Jim).

"The boys were originally enrolled on the Citizen Potawatomi rolls at Sacred Heart, later removed and placed on the Sac and Fox rolls," Norton explained.

Jim Thorpe gained worldwide attention as an athlete and the first Native American Olympic gold medal winner.

"Her other descendants became founding members of a new community in Oklahoma, successful business people, farmers, athletes, decorated veterans and members of Tribal government, to name a small distinguished few," Norton said.

Visit the CPN Cultural Heritage Center's *West of the Mississippi* gallery to learn more about Massaw, the various roles Potawatomi women played during this harsh era and how these ideals continue to drive CPN today. ♡

**FAMILY TRADITIONS**  
**VOTE LISA KRAFT**  
**OKLAHOMA #11**  
 Paid for by Lisa Kraft



**RE-ELECT BOBBI BOWDEN** PESHKNOKWE  
**LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 13**

Paid for by Bobbi Bowden

It has been my honor and privilege to serve our Tribe since 2007. First as a member of the Business Committee then as the District 13 Legislator.

I am asking for your continued trust and your vote in the upcoming election. As our nation continues to grow it is important for the executive team and the legislature to continue to work together towards continued success of our enterprises so that we can continue to provide benefits to our members. I hope to continue this work on behalf of the members I represent in Oklahoma.

Please attend the Family Reunion Festival on Saturday, June 29, and cast your vote in person or return your ballot request when it arrives. Your vote counts!

**HONESTY | INTEGRITY | EXPERIENCED**

## Tribal Chairman—John “Rocky” Barrett



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello, my friend),

It is nearly time to honor our Tribal families again! I hope many of you will come to the annual Family Reunion Festival held here at Tribal headquarters from June 28 to June 30. Festival coincides with our annual General Council Meeting where we present the State of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation — the current condition of the Tribe and its various enterprises and governmental functions.

We are making wonderful progress and expanding our services to the people and investments for the future. It is also the official date of our elections, although many of you vote by absentee ballot if you cannot vote in person on Election Day. This year there are three contested elections: District 10, District 11 and District 13. It is the policy of the *Hownikan* that elected officials may not use their monthly columns to express their political preferences. We are permitted, however, to purchase political advertisements in the Tribal paper. I have one in this issue of the paper, and I urge you to read it. Please.

During the weekend of Festival, I will be presenting an overview of the current projects and Tribal activities to enable the Tribal Legislature to provide input and ready them for consideration of the 2020 Tribal Operating Budget. The budget process, which has already begun at the department level, is a large

and complex task for all of the management employees of the Nation. During the legislative examination of the proposed budget, we go through each item of particular interest to each Tribal legislator, adjust line items to accommodate changed priorities, and arrive at a final budget to be voted on by the legislature in full session.

With more than 30 federal contracts and compacts, 14 Tribal enterprises, more than 2,400 employees and a budget in excess of \$350 million, it is an intensive and demanding process. We have the advantage of a very professional and capable Tribal management and accounting staff, experienced and educated Tribal legislators, and a clear message from our constituents to come to an agreement if there are differences of opinion. Our record of progress depends on it.

We have long had a difficult relationship with the City of Shawnee and the Oklahoma Tax

Commission. Under Oklahoma's new governor, Kevin Stitt, this activity appears to have stopped. In the past, we found ourselves, along with the other three tribes with governmental jurisdictions in Pottawatomie County, the target of predatory actions by the city and state to collect sales taxes on our lands that encroach on our sovereign status and breach long-standing federal policy and United States Supreme Court case precedents. Governor Stitt recognizes the vital role tribal economies play in rural Oklahoma and recognizes the legal standing of federally recognized tribes. We are grateful to him. He has the insight to realize that “a rising tide lifts all boats.”

What is good for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has proven beyond a doubt to be good for Oklahoma, Pottawatomie County and Shawnee. We live here too.

The Nation recently had a very pleasant meeting with our

new Oklahoma 5th District Congresswoman Kendra Horn. She spent over two hours with Vice-Chairman Capps and myself and has committed to help us with several federal legal objectives we have been working to accomplish for more than three years. I find her to be an intelligent and well-informed woman who will serve the 5th District of Oklahoma well. She toured the entire Tribal complex and met many of our key employees.

See you all at Family Reunion Festival!

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

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

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

## Vice-Chairman—Linda Capps



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

I recently attended the Good Samaritan Awards Luncheon in Oklahoma City at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. What a wonderful community room they have for such an event. There were approximately 400 guests at the banquet. Many people do not know about Neighborhood Services Organization. I've taken some of their information and written it below.

### Who are they?

NSO is a 98-year-old nonprofit organization serving the homeless and at-risk populations of the Oklahoma City community. It provides housing and health

solutions programs that teach skills and transform lives.

### What do they do?

**Vision:** To bring Christ's love to the homeless and working poor and empower them to break the cycle of poverty.

**Mission:** Transforming lives and encouraging independence through safe, healthy homes, dental care and nutrition.

**Values:** Servant's heart; community collaboration; future-oriented; ethically motivated; empowerment; family; service excellence and program integrity.

The NSO Martha's House offers women and their children a safe, healthy, transitional home for up to two years while they gain the skills and resources they need to be independent. Each family is provided

a fully furnished apartment, along with individualized case management services. Mothers attend weekly life skills classes to ensure that they are ready to take that next step toward independence.

In 2018, NSO provided a home and wrap-around

services for 12 women and 33 children. Martha's House receives about 20 calls a day from women seeking a home for themselves and their children. It is estimated that 21 percent of the homeless population in Oklahoma City are families with children.

Gatewood provides pregnant women and new mothers a healthy home for up to two years. This transitional living program makes sure that women are safe and cared for while giving them hope for the future. These mothers also receive individualized case management services and attend weekly life skills classes. During 2018, NSO helped six women and six babies work toward independence while providing a stable place to live.

The above information are some examples of how NSO helps those residents of Oklahoma City. They also have an emergency shelter designed for young men ages 18 to 23, who are homeless or who have aged out of the foster care system. In addition, there is a program designed for single adults living with mental illness. This program has 36 apartment homes for



**NEIGHBORHOOD**  
SERVICES ORGANIZATION

permanent supportive housing so residents can live their lives in an environment that protects them from fear and abuse.

The Good Samaritan Society offers funding for the services listed within this article. Donors from all over the state of Oklahoma and beyond help provide funding for the program.

NSO's Dental Clinic in itself is a dynamic story. The clinic has been in operation for over 50 years, providing dental services to the homeless and the poor. Their outreach touches almost 20,000 Oklahomans each year. In 2018, the clinic performed more than 9,400 procedures, including over 1,900 preventative procedures.

As a reminder, approximately 600,000 people in Oklahoma do

not have health insurance. NSO also has a WIC Clinic, Rent and Mortgage Assistance and Ice Angels Ministry, a program of Skyline Urban Ministries, since 2016. The ministry is a food truck for the homeless with hygiene kits, clothing, toys, water, food and winter items.

It would take a whole book to provide adequate information about this nonprofit. I wrote about it because there are so many good people in this state to “step up to the plate” and help with funding. Sadly, there is so much need that it is a difficult task. I am thankful that tribal people in Oklahoma have similar services to what I have referenced, but Tribal members make up only a portion of our state's total population. Organizations like NSO are such a blessing to the public.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

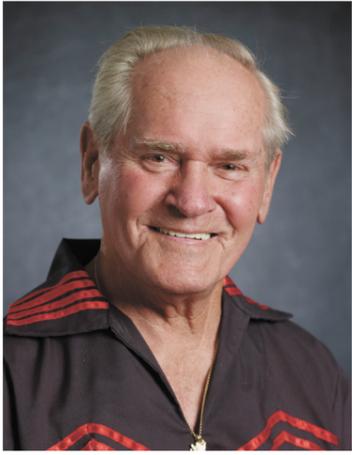
Linda Capps  
*Segenakwe*  
(Black Bird Woman)  
Vice-Chairman  
405-275-3121 work  
405-650-1238 cell  
[lcapps@potawatomi.org](mailto:lcapps@potawatomi.org)



# MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

HAVE A VOICE IN OUR TRIBE'S FUTURE, CAST YOUR VOTE IN JUNE

## District 1—Roy Slavin



Bozho nikanek  
(Hello friends),

I am writing this article this time with a sad heart. Julia and I have both had a family member walk on. Julia's brother, William Messinger of Salem, Nebraska, walked on March 31 after a long illness of lung disease. On April 2, 2019, Bill Slavin, Jr., my nephew, walked on after suffering a heart attack while doing a project for his mother.

I know we all have completed forms for the doctors about our family histories, and it seems to be just a lot of paper work and unimportant. I know firsthand this is not the case. I have been

*Join us for a*  
**CPN D1 & D2 Meeting**

*Saturday, May 18 • 10AM-2:30PM*  
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415 N. STATE HIGHWAY 265, BRANSON, MO 65616

**RSVP by May 10**  
*(for lunch ordering purposes / lunch provided)*  
**CALL 866-961-6988 OR 1-888-741-5767**  
**OR EMAIL ECARNEY@POTAWATOMI.ORG**  
**OR RSLAVIN@POTAWATOMI.ORG**



dealing with heart disease for more than 25 years. During that time, I have had two major heart surgeries. That in itself can get your attention. Over the years, I have lost seven siblings at an early age, all to heart disease. It doesn't distinguish between men and women; heart disease affects both. It is a proven fact that heart disease is hereditary. I guess what I am trying to say to all is make sure

you tell your doctors of any heart problems in your family. Then make some changes in your lifestyle. I stopped smoking, did lab work with the doctors to check my cholesterol and changed a lot of eating habits. Heart disease is treatable, but it also depends on you.

On a happier note, our granddaughter EveVella, who is 7, is in gymnastics. On March 23, 2019, she traveled to

Columbia, Missouri, to compete in the 2019 state gymnastics championships. She is in Level 3 and finished in 10th place all around. She has already started back to practice and will now be in Level 4. Good work EveVella; keep up the good work.

I will close this article, as always, with a plea for your contact information. If you do not get the occasional email from me, it is because I do not



Slavin's granddaughter EveVella poses for a photo at a Missouri state gymnastics competition.

have your contact information. Due to privacy issues, the Nation cannot provide me with that information. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative.

Roy Slavin  
*Netagtege* (Forever Planting)  
Representative, District 1  
816-741-5767  
888-741-5767  
[rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org)  
[rslavin@gmail.com](mailto:rslavin@gmail.com)

## District 2—Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek  
(Hello friends),

### District 2 contest entries

*Migwetch* (thank you) to all who entered this year's contest that called for Potawatomi heritage photos. In next month's column, I'll announce the winner and share the winning photo.

### Upcoming visiting opportunities

There are still spaces available for the National Archives visit, Friday, May 24, 2019, starting with lunch at 12:30 p.m. and tour at 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP by email or phone.

Districts 1 and 2 again are joining forces for a meeting in Branson, Missouri, on May 10. The postcard invitation is printed as part of Legislator Roy Slavin's column, above. A big chunk of District 2's population resides in Arkansas, so I jumped at the opportunity to join with Roy and formally invite Arkansans to this meeting. While

postcard invitations are mailed to Potawatomi living within driving distance of a given meeting, please know that all Potawatomi, wherever they reside, are welcome to join our meetings. Just give the host a call, or send a note by the RSVP date to ensure we have enough food and chairs for everyone attending! We are accepting RSVPs now; please call or email Roy or me with the names and ages of all attending. We are looking forward to seeing old friends and new faces at these meetings. Children are welcome. Please bring your family stories, including genealogy charts and photos. You may leave the meeting having met a close relative you didn't know you had!

Details on the National Archives visit, the Branson meeting, the Family Reunion Festival and

the 2019 Potawatomi Gathering are just a couple of clicks away on my website, [evamariecarney.com](http://evamariecarney.com), under the "Calendar" tab. A list of the families that will be specially honored at upcoming Family Reunion Festivals (through 2022) is posted under the "Heritage" tab.

### Tennessee meeting

About 50 Potawatomi and family members met at the end of March for our first District 2 Spring Feast. With logistical and instructional help from Dana *Kishokwe* Rees and Bob *Shaweno* and Karen Richey, the group shared family histories, learned feather wrapping, sang a welcome song and said a prayer of thanks in Potawatomi. We also recognized all veterans attending, had a delicious



LeClair Family near the Tennessee River.



Veteran attendees at the District 2 Spring Feast.

lunch, acknowledged the wisest, youngest and farthest travelled among us, and viewed a short PowerPoint that highlighted our PLP program and the traditions followed at the Family Reunion Festival and the Potawatomi Gathering. And we posed for photos. I've included a photo of veteran attendees. Here is a bit of service detail on each veteran (left to right):

- Ralph Jerome (Jerry) Martin: U.S. Army; served in Germany as a motor sergeant and driver from February 1955 to February 1958.
- Gayle *Biwabek kishkikwe* Malone: U.S. Navy; served as a cryptologic technician interpretive; primary languages Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- Ted Williams: U.S. Marines; served as radio operator in central and south Korea for 81mm Mortar Forward

Observers, with Weapons Company, Unit 1st Battalion, 5th Marines; returned to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he served with the 8th Tank Battalion. (Ted is a talented artist and shared the self-portrait printed on the next page.)

- Robert Manchester: U.S. Navy; aviation boatswain's mate fueler 1st class; served from September 1974 to August 1980.
- Nevels Vandagriff: U.S. Army; stationed at a listening post on St. Lawrence Island, in the Bering Sea off of Alaska during the Korean conflict from 1953 to 1955.
- Taylor Grubb: U.S. Army; served as an 11 Bravo Infantryman, stationed at Fort Benning from 2010 to 2014.

Many more meeting photos are available via this link: [cpn.news/D](http://cpn.news/D). You don't have to "do" Facebook to view the photos.

The next day, LeClair family members met near the Tennessee River for a private naming ceremony. I've included a photo of some of the ceremony attendees. *Migwetch* (thank you) to hosts Kathy *Wahsita* Meacham Webb and Gregg Webb and your dear parents for all you did to make the day special for those who attended.

#### Update on Meeting with Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans

I noted in my last column that I would be meeting in March with Jean Hovland,



*Ted Williams self-portrait.*

commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans and deputy assistant secretary for Native American Affairs, to discuss period poverty among Native American students and would report back. The meeting went well, and the commissioner expressed her support and thanks for our efforts, offering to put me in contact with Bureau of Indian Education personnel with whom to discuss budgeting for provision of period supplies in BIE-supported schools. I will be working these contacts as Commissioner Hovland shares them. By the time the

May *Hownikan* is in your inbox, I believe that the Kwek Society will be supporting 24 schools and community-based groups in Oklahoma, New Mexico and South Dakota.

#### Community

When planning meetings around our district, I know that many of you will not have the opportunity to travel to them. If you have questions, comments, or ideas to share, please do so through email, phone or letter. Building our CPN community in District 2 continues to be my top priority. Please also consider joining our District 2 Facebook

private group, if you are a user of Facebook. (Contact me for details on joining.) We currently have close to 200 members — just a fraction of the District 2 population — so I know there is room for many more of you!

*Bama pi*  
(Until later),

Eva Marie Carney  
*Ojindiskwe* (Blue Bird Woman)  
Representative, District 2  
2200 N. George Mason Drive  
PO Box #7307  
Arlington, VA 22207  
866-961-6988 toll-free  
[ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org)  
[evamariecarney.com](http://evamariecarney.com)

## District 3—Bob Whistler



*Ahow*  
(Hello),

#### Summer

With May comes warmer weather, and many will be outdoors enjoying the lake or possibly thinking about just sitting around the pool. For those of you with small children, please don't leave them alone around a pool or without a life vest if you are at the lake. At the lake I use, there are life vests for children on the shore, since the little ones will decide they want to wade close to shore. We read over and over again where everyone thought the water was shallow, and all of a sudden, the person wading is in water over their head and are in trouble. If on a boat or at the marina, it is a law or marina requirement that children must have a life preserver on when on the boat or on the dock near the water.

For anyone with small children and access to a pool, I wrote about the use of "flip locks" several years ago. They are shaped like a door hinge with one side slipping over the edge of the door so it won't open. You place them on the door frame up high, well above the reach of small children. We have them, and it took my granddaughter until she was around 5 or 6 to figure out how to disengage this door lock. This is a great security feature if you have toddlers; you don't want them getting up in the middle of the night when you are asleep and they decide to go outside. We have them on each door that allows you to leave the house, including the two to the backyard and our pool. When my daughter came with our granddaughter when she was a toddler, we had the

same rule for nighttime security. The flip lock is always used every time you come inside for any length of time. Moreover, the granddaughter must not be left alone out near the pool, even if in plain sight. It is too easy to become distracted and can result in very serious, negative consequences. These are rules we continue to operate by to this day. The flip locks are available at your local hardware store and should be under \$5 — a very inexpensive piece of safety and security equipment.

#### Caps and hats

For those of you who are boaters: I just finished reading the paperback *Experiment in Survival* by George Sigler. This book covers how to survive on open water and covers his trip in a small raft where he and a companion sailed from Los Angeles to Hawaii. For navigation, they used a nomogram instead of a sextant. This item is excellent to have in a survival kit and is very easy to use to determine both latitude and longitude. Although you may never find yourself in a situation where you need this information, for you sailors, I think you will find the reading and information therein very enjoyable.

One of the more significant items Mr. Sigler covered was that the most important thing for survival is clothing and that your head loses more body heat than any other part of your body. It needs to be covered. If we stop a moment and look at our heritage and how some of the various tribes were clothed, I suggest you look at the Apache. Yes, they had breach cloths, shirts and footwear that came up their legs, almost to their knees, but they wore a turban type headwear. They foresaw the need not just for warmth but also for protection from the sun. So, please remember that when you are out in the sun this summer for long periods, especially on a boat, be sure you have a cap with a wide brim. It should protect not just the top of your head, but your face, neck and ears as well.

#### Tattoos

In my daily encounters at the gym and elsewhere, I notice

more people wearing short sleeve tops or shirts, and I see many with tattoos. When I was in my teens, I decided to get a couple of tattoos. No doubt there may be some of you who made that same choice at a very early age. Often a tattoo is secured for something that at the time was very important to us. As we age and our tastes, important situations or relationships change, there could come a time that the tattoo is no longer something that we still want. About five years after I had one of my tattoos, I decided it was not what I wanted. I went to a doctor to have it removed. The only way to get rid of it at that time was to have it surgically cut out or have it incorporated into a new tattoo that changed what was there.

That all changed about 10 years ago, and now it is possible to go to a specialist that uses a laser that gets rid of the tattoo, fading the ink and leaving no scars. If you find yourself in this situation and want more information on how the procedure is done, I suggest you contact the Dallas Tattoo Removal Clinic. Their website is [dallastattooremovalclinic.biz](http://dallastattooremovalclinic.biz). The website has several videos on the procedure, along with testimonials. I have not used this firm but accidentally ran into one of their personnel. They do have a licensed doctor at the clinic. Should you find a similar facility in your area, I would be sure that they have a physician

there while any procedure is being done. This information is simply being given as info on a procedure that could be available, and it is not meant to say that I completely recommend it. Since I haven't used this service, I can't attest to it. However, the person I spoke to showed me their arms, and they stated they had tattoos in the past. Their arms were clean, no scars, and I didn't see even a faint outline of anything that would look like a tattoo. So, if you have any interest in this, take a look at their website and decide if this is for you.

#### Absentee ballots

By now, if CPN headquarters has your current home address, you should have received your absentee ballot. Although, in CPN District 3, we have no candidates up for election, it is important that you vote on the budget. Simply return the ballot request sent to you, and an absentee ballot will be mailed to you for completion and return. If you have an issue with the postage paid envelope and your personal information, you may insert the postage paid return envelope with your ballot enclosed, and place it in a second envelope of your choice and mail it to the election committee. The ballots are kept sealed until election day when they are opened by the election committee. Voter turnout tends to be poor, and it is important for you to cast your vote that way the leadership knows that they

have the consent of the citizens that the budget is to be accepted.

#### Joint D3 and D5 meeting

Tentatively, a joint District 3 and District 5 meeting is planned for June 1, 2019, at the Marriott Towne Place Suites, 2141 Scottish Rd., Abilene, TX 79601. Look for a postcard announcement confirming the date, time and place. Please RSVP to the person noted on the invite or call the number on the postcard confirming your attendance and the number in your party. There will also be meetings in both north and south Texas for District 3 in late summer or the fall, after CPN Family Reunion Festival.

#### Closing

I look forward to seeing many of you at our June Family Reunion Festival meeting. I serve with honor and deeply appreciate your trust in me to represent you. *Migwetch!* (Thank you!)

*Bama pi*,  
(Later)

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

## District 4—Jon Boursaw



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

### District 4 meeting in the CPN Community Center on Saturday, June 1, in Rossville

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. when Dr. Eric Anderson, a member of the Nadeau family, will give a presentation prior to lunch on the history of Haskell Indian Nations University. This is a different presentation than the one he gave a couple of years ago on what courses are offered at Haskell. Eric is head of the history department at HINU. Lunch will be followed by the unique opportunity to hear about the CPN Indian Child

Welfare Program from its director, Janet Draper. This program operates within the judicial branch of our government. It is a program we don't hear much about. Although it is one of our smallest programs, it is one of the most important and effective programs we have within the Tribal government. She will be followed by CPN District Judge Phillip Lujan, who will speak about Tribal sovereignty and CPN Judicial Branch. I heard both presentations last year in Wichita and found them to be extremely interesting and informative, and I hope you will also. Please RSVP by 5 p.m. on May 28 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or emailing [jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org). Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

### District 4 meeting in Wichita on Sunday, June 2, at the Mid-America All-Indian Center located at 650 N. Seneca St in Wichita

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. with a catered lunch, followed by Justin Neely, director of the CPN Language Department in Shawnee, speaking on the family clans that

existed within the Tribe decades ago. Justin is one of the Nation's authorities on our family histories, Tribal culture and traditions, and of course, the Potawatomi language. I think we can all look forward to this opportunity to learn more about our individual family histories and the makeup of the Tribe's early familial structure. Please RSVP by 5 p.m. on May 28 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or emailing [jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org). Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

### CPN Family Reunion Festival

2019 CPN Family Reunion Festival will be held in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on June 28, 29 and 30. This year's honored families included the Johnson, Lafromboise, LaReau, LeClaire, Melott, Rhodd, Tescier, Weld and Young families.

### Summer scholarship applications

The deadline for submitting applications for CPN scholarships for the 2019 summer school session to the CPN Education Department is 5 p.m., June 15. For more information, go to [college.potawatomi.org](http://college.potawatomi.org).

### May Elders Potluck in Rossville

The May Elders Potluck will be held on Friday, May 10, at noon in the CPN Community Center in Rossville. I've heard that Tracy and Pam plan to prepare lasagna and garlic bread for the main course. The Senior Support Network staff has asked that you RSVP if you plan on attending; their number is 785-584-6171. You are asked to bring a side dish or desert.

### Handmade quilt

I recently served as the director of a youth leadership conference, which is held annually in Topeka. This was my fifth year serving as the director. I was fortunate to be recognized by the conference committee for my involvement in the conference with the presentation of a beautiful small, handmade quilt, which contains several Native American symbols, one of which is the bear. The woman who made the quilt did not know the Bourassa family is of the bear clan and my Indian name is *Wetase Mkoh* (Brave Bear).

As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your legislative representative.



*Handmade quilt represents CPN Legislator Jon Boursaw's dedication to service.*

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

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

## District 5—Gene Lambert



*Bozho nich Bodewadmik*  
(Hello, my fellow Potawatomi),

Spring is here for most states snow, but according to the temperatures, it is summer for Arizona. It is hot already. You heard about the dry heat, right? We had a winter just like the rest of you, but it went straight into the dreaded season, forgetting all about spring. Flowers, trees and the birds are confused. Welcome to my world.

On a serious note, we have started our yearly meetings, and it is exciting to know I get to see all of you again for the Festival, Potawatomi Gathering and state-to-state meetings for District 5.

Take the time to check our Citizen Potawatomi Nation Facebook page, read the paper and watch for your invitations for 2019. Bring the whole family. It is a lot of fun. You are never too old or too young to enjoy reconnecting with family.

Abilene, Texas, is our next meeting. It will be held at the

TownePlace Suites by Marriott Abilene Northeast (2141 Scottish Rd.—Abilene, TX 79601) on June 1, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served.

District 3 Legislator Bob Whistler and I will jointly host the meeting. See his column on page 20 for the full invite!

We started our annual district meetings earlier this year in Arizona and had our first 2019 teleconference with Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps. We also welcomed for our first time the CPN Director of Language Justin Neely, for a wonderful story time and short language lesson. In fact, he opened with the Potawatomi prayer. We are very fortunate to have Justin and his staff to help us along with our language and history. It was a great time sharing this experience with everyone who attended. You all made such a difference.

We orchestrated our first teleconference last year in



*Youngest in attendance*  
*Luke Carter.*



*Furthest distance winner*  
*Thomas Glen Melot.*

Arizona, which did have its difficulties. You may remember the follow-up article. I think it went much better this year on this end of the controls.

CPN's Director of Information Technology, Chris Abel, always does a great job. He has the knowledge and patience of Job and would have to, to guide me through it. Thank you, Chris! Regardless of what's going on here, you make it happen from Shawnee.

In person is always best, but when you can't be with the ones you love, put them on the screen.

During our meeting this year, I would like to say (without names for privacy) we were able to witness a miracle.

There definitely is a God! The Creator was ever present.

I received a call from a wonderful new adoptive mother of a young Citizen Potawatomi boy. She wondered if she could

come and bring her son to the meeting, as she wanted to ensure he would continue forward with his Potawatomi heritage.

Ecstatic, I assured her it was absolutely not only possible for her to attend with her son but how wonderful it was she cared enough to do so. She had fostered the young boy, and after some time, was allowed on all sides to adopt and give him her love and name.

An unknowing grandfather and family members decided to attend, not realizing what was in store for them during the meeting. The grandfather was from another state, coming to join other family members.

We had a drum song for our veterans and handed out the family trees with a few unclaimed in the original disbursement.

Neither knowing the other, the grandfather and new adoptive mother went to the table to sort out the unclaimed copies to see if theirs had been overlooked.

The mother mentioned to the grandfather the name of her son prior to the adoption in the hopes he would assist in her search.

Through family difficulties years before, the grandfather had lost his grandchildren and was not aware of what had happened to his grandson, as he had not been notified. He was enormously anguished with feelings of loss and regret.

Just then and in that moment, he realized this was his long-

lost grandson he thought he would never see again.

Both the mother and grandfather were shocked, thrilled and emotionally overtaken as the truth poured out.

Surprisingly, they agreed it would be acceptable for the grandfather to visit and get to know his grandson.

This definitely brought closure to the pain and suffering of the past.

They call it a miracle. I call it a miracle. What would you call it?

These situations don't always have such a warm, heartfelt and satisfying conclusion. This did, and I am grateful. The family is definitely grateful.

In the world of change, a young lady by the name of Laney Baumfalk — enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, daughter of Mark and granddaughter of Barb Baumfalk from Nebraska — made a difference in the articles and rules for graduation for the entire school district.

Laney wanted to wear her beautiful Citizen Potawatomi stole during graduation, and it was forbidden to have anything except the traditional cap and gown. This was her special day, and she and her family did not give up on her right to wear the stole in honor of and representing the success of our Native American community.

She had to appear before the school board and explain what it was and what it meant to her. Obviously, she did a fantastic

job representing us and future Native people of their right to be proud on such an honored day. They have now changed their very strict rules due to her determination and persistence. You can read more about her and her family by reading the article from her local newspaper here: [cpn.news/2019stole](http://cpn.news/2019stole) or on page 6 of this issue.

Thank you, Laney, and we want pictures of this exceptional win.

We, as always, had our acknowledgements of the wisest.

The youngest was Luke Carter, also the best giveaway announcer in Arizona, (of course, this is his second year, so he is experienced now) son of Michael Carter. We had the

one who traveled the farthest distance, Thomas Glen Melot from Washington state.

That was a toss-up, as we had Ray Strange from Texas, District 5, definitely further than Texas, but what an effort to get to a Potawatomi meeting. I loved it.

We had Potawatomi Northern drummers in from Flagstaff,

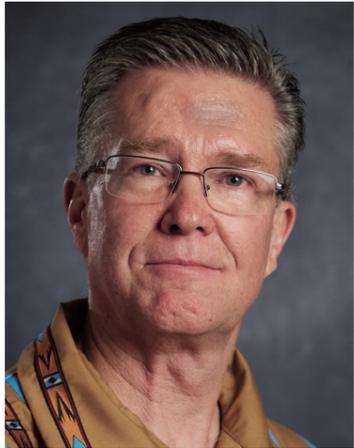
and they shared a tribute to our veterans and past prisoners of war.

We talked about our Veterans Wall of Honor and want to remind you: if you were in the service or have a family member who was in the service, we want your pictures and information for our continually growing acknowledgement of those who have proudly served our country.

We love all the stories, and if you have one you would like to share, please let me know. I would love to tell it.

Eunice Imogene Lambert  
Butterfly Woman  
Representative, District 5  
480-228-6569  
[euniceilambert@gmail.com](mailto:euniceilambert@gmail.com)

## District 6—Rande K. Payne



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

Elections are just around the corner and will be here before you know it. I've already received my absentee ballot request; hopefully, you've received yours, and you've had the opportunity to mail it in.

Tribal elections provide members with their best opportunity to be involved and contribute to our great Nation. While there are almost as many different ways for tribes to select their leaders as there are tribes, I have the utmost confidence in our Tribal election system. While the absentee ballot process may seem a little redundant, I believe it to be the most effective way of ensuring the integrity of votes cast. I have the utmost

respect and confidence in Gary Bourbonnais and his team on the CPN Election Committee.

While I am not in the habit of endorsing any particular candidate(s), I would like to offer my perspective regarding the makeup of our Tribal Legislature. I think the success and growth we've enjoyed speaks for itself and isn't by accident. The services and benefits available to somewhere in the neighborhood of 32,000 members is quite impressive. And those outside of the Pottawatomie County area may not know just how respected CPN is within its local community. CPN is a leader in community involvement for the benefit of all citizens. Public opinion is important in today's political climate, but that's not why we do what we do for the community at large within our Tribal jurisdiction. We do what we do to give something back in return for how we as a Nation have been blessed. It's just the right thing to do.

Successful organizations are made up of a group or groups of imperfect people. No single team member has all the answers nor is any single team member a superstar at every aspect of the game. Great organizations almost always consist of a group

**You're invited to a Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
District 6 & 7 Meeting**

**SUNDAY, MAY 19 • 10AM — 2PM**

CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY - LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
1401 E. FLAMINGO RD. LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

HEAR CPN NEWS, INFORMATION ON TRIBAL PROGRAMS  
AND PARTICIPATE IN POTAWATOMI CRAFT MAKING.

**Lunch will be provided**

PLEASE RSVP TO [HTTPS://CPNDISTRICT6AND7.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://cpndistrict6and7.eventbrite.com)

of people that have strengths that lend themselves to the successful operation of the organization. Being humble enough to recognize your own weaknesses and trust others who possess those strengths we lack isn't always easy, but this is one of the most important qualities needed to function well. There just isn't any room for arrogance and glory hogs in great organizations. While we celebrate the success of our Tribe and recognize our Tribal members for their contributions, tooting our own horns just isn't in CPN DNA!

For Tribal members in Oklahoma faced with a record number of candidates, as far as I can remember, I would offer this: success isn't based on luck. It's based on hard work and personal sacrifice for the good of the organization. The best organizations are comprised of a group of leaders plugged into areas where their strengths can be utilized the best. And the best organizations consist of a group of leaders with a high level of respect for each other and the ability to problem solve without personal attacks and personal agendas. I am proud

to say that while our leadership team isn't perfect, we all share the same goal of moving our Tribe forward on a continued path of success and do so in a respectful and professional manner. I am honored to serve with each and every one of our CPN legislators.

Please take a few minutes to exercise your greatest Tribal right and vote.

I look forward to seeing you all in Las Vegas and Shawnee!

Wisdom from the Word:  
"... Much is required from those to whom much is given, for their responsibility is greater." Luke 12:48

*Migwetch! Bama pi*  
(Thanks! Later),

Rande K. Payne  
*Mnedo Gabo*  
Representative, District 6  
31150 Road 180  
Visalia, CA 93292-9585  
559-999-3525 office  
559-999-5411 cell  
[rande.payne@potawatomi.org](mailto:rande.payne@potawatomi.org)

## District 8—Dave Carney



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello friend),

Since announcing the May drum making class, I have been contacted by many members who plan on attending and are excited about the opportunity to make a drum of their own. This should be a unique event. Our teacher, Paul Muxen, makes drums and Native flutes, and he is passionate about sharing his knowledge.

We have limited space and finite supplies, so while all

**DISTRICT 8 HAND DRUM MAKING CLASS**

Sunday, May 19 | 1-5pm  
open to CPN tribal members only

**GULL HARBOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
4610 BOSTON HARBOR RD NE OLYMPIA, WA 98506

Material fee \$25 per drum  
(payable in check or money order)  
**PIZZA & DRINKS INCLUDED**

**RSVP REQUIRED BY MAY 5** (space is limited)  
to [dcarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:dcarney@potawatomi.org) or 360-259-4027

are welcome, only the first 75 enrolled CPN members who RSVP and pay the materials fees will be guaranteed the opportunity to make a drum. The cost of the drum kit (deer hide) is \$50. However, the

Nation is subsidizing the event, so the cost to members is \$25 per drum. No cash will be accepted, only checks or money orders made to CPN.

If you plan to attend, plan on dressing casually and getting wet.

Hides are soaked for at least 24 hours before being stretched.

I am looking forward to seeing members in May.

The Family Reunion Festival is coming up fast — as always,

the last Saturday in June. I have heard from several District 8 members that they plan on attending. If you are travelling to this event, please send me an email. I would love to be able to field a hand games team from our district.

I am tentatively planning on a fall event in Minnesota. If you are a member within driving distance to Minneapolis, I'd like to hear from you! Please email me at the address below.

As always, it is my pleasure to represent you. Please feel free to contact me at [dcarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:dcarney@potawatomi.org).

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

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

## District 10–David Barrett



Bozho  
(Hello),

Growing up, I could watch Red Skelton and see someone who was funny. I looked up some facts from his biography on IMDB. He was born July 18, 1913, in Vincennes, Indiana, and died Sept. 17, 1997, in Rancho Mirage, California, from pneumonia. He was the son of a former circus clown and was introduced to show business at the age of 7. His numerous characters include Clem Kaddiddlehopper and George Appleby. He considered

himself a clown, although not the greatest, and his painting of clowns brought in a fortune after he left television.

Some other trivia is that he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was extremely offended by “blue humor” and publicly criticized comedians who used it. He felt that it cheapened the art of comedy. One of Red’s quotes is “I think most of today’s comedians are victims of laughter. ... They get nervous and resort to an insult or a four-letter word for a quick, cheap laugh.”

One of Red’s writers filled in for him one night when he took a serious fall, injuring himself. That writer’s name was Johnny Carson.

Although famous for his “drunk” comedy sketches, he never drank and was, in fact, allergic to alcohol. His trademark was he always ended his TV show and specials with, “Goodnight, and may God bless.”

I also found a commentary on the Pledge of Allegiance by Skelton. As a schoolboy, one

of his teachers explained the words and meaning of the pledge to his class. Skelton later wrote down, and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture. It is followed by an observation of his own:

“I — Me; an individual; a committee of one.

PLEDGE — Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

ALLEGIANCE — My love and my devotion.

TO THE FLAG — Our Standard; Old Glory; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts Freedom is everybody’s job.

UNITED — That means that we have all come together.

STATES — Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary

boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.

AND TO THE REPUBLIC — Republic—a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it’s from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION — meaning, so blessed by God.

INDIVISIBLE — Incapable of being divided

WITH LIBERTY — Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one’s own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.

AND JUSTICE — The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others.

FOR ALL — For all—which means, boys and girls, it’s as much your country as it is mine.”

Skelton further wrote, “Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: ‘Under God.’ Wouldn’t it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer and that would be eliminated from schools too?”

To close, I wanted to clarify a bit from my April column where I mentioned the number of providers in the CPN Health Services. There are nearly 250 employees and health providers working for Tribal members, and a big thank you to all who help keep you and our loved ones healthy.

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

Migwetch  
(Thank you),

David Barrett  
Mnedobe (Sits with Spirit)  
Representative, District 10  
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
405-275-3121  
[dbarrett@potawatomi.org](mailto:dbarrett@potawatomi.org)

## District 11–Lisa Kraft



Bozho  
(Hello),

I am so excited to be thinking Potawatomi, now more than ever. Just two months before the Oklahoma legislative elections are here. **Please mail your absentee ballot back as quickly as possible, or plan to vote in person on June 29 before 2 p.m.** This is history in the making. To win a seat, one person must get 51 percent of the votes or there will be a run-off election.

There are so many qualified and committed Tribal members desiring to represent our Tribal Nation. Yes, indeed; these are electrifying times to be Citizen Potawatomi. In Oklahoma, your votes will fill **three of the five Oklahoma legislative seats.** The other three seats of our legislature are held by the executive officers. This makes our legislative branch a lawmaking body of 16. There are eight lawmakers within Oklahoma and eight living outside of Oklahoma.

Both our Oklahoma land base and resident Indian population are directly tied to the millions of federal dollars we receive through negotiated compacts/funding agreements with the United States. These same variables also support the millions of dollars we go after in federal discretionary grants.

Grants provide funding for new enterprises, new buildings and infrastructure, and the operation of criminal, elder, youth, social, education, daycare, and health programs to all Indians in

our service area, not just our own members. **The money is available to our Tribe, and we should go after every dollar we can, while we can.**

As always, I am (respectfully and optimistically) thinking Potawatomi.

Lisa Kraft  
Representative, District 11  
601 S. Washington St # 335  
Stillwater, OK 74074  
405-612-8068  
[lisa@copperbearconsulting.com](mailto:lisa@copperbearconsulting.com)

## District 13–Bobbi Bowden



Bozho nikan  
(Hello friend),

Another year is flying by! Our Family Reunion Festival

is right around the corner. The Festival will be held June 28 – June 30. Keep watching the website [potawatomi.org](http://potawatomi.org) for information on registering and for this year’s schedule of events.

A couple of the very important and meaningful events are voting and Grand Entry.

On Saturday, June 29, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. is the time for you to exercise your right to vote in the 2019 national Tribal election and the Oklahoma Tribal legislative election. If you are unable to attend and vote in person, you may also do so by absentee ballot. All Tribal members of voting age

will receive an absentee ballot request form. This form is sent to your last known address the CPN Tribal Rolls Department has on file. If you have moved or your address is not up to date, please call tribal rolls at 800-880-9880 and give them the correct information. Your request for an absentee ballot must be postmarked no later than June 9, 2019.

Voting is your first and foremost right and duty as a citizen of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. I hope you will exercise your right to vote, either by absentee ballot or in person. Hopefully, this year we will have a record voter turnout.

Grand Entry is held on Saturday evening after our General Council meeting. Here are a few tips on proper attire for Grand Entry should you decide to participate:

If you do not have your regalia, men should at least wear a ribbon shirt with long pants and closed toed shoes (no shorts or flip-flops). Women should wear a skirt and wear a shawl and have their shoulders covered. I hope you will consider participating and encourage your children and or grandchildren to do the same.

One last thing in closing: scholarships, I believe, are one

of the most important and impactful benefits our Tribe offers, and I would like to remind you that the deadline to apply for summer scholarships is June 15. You can apply at [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org), or reach out to the education department at 405-275-3121. They offer individualize advisory and help regardless of age or location.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as one of your Oklahoma legislative representatives.

Bobbi Bowden  
Peshknokwe  
Representative, District 13  
[bbowden@potawatomi.org](mailto:bbowden@potawatomi.org)

**Robert N. "Bob" Foresman**

Robert N. "Bob" Foresman, 61, Topeka, passed away Jan. 28, 2019, at Midland Hospice House.

Bob was born Sept. 19, 1957, in Topeka, the son of Walter E. and Wanda J. (McRoberts) Foresman. He graduated from Silver Lake High School in 1976.

He was employed by Hallmark Cards as a press operator for over 42 years.

Bob married Pamela K. Sharkey on April 19, 1986, in Topeka. She died Oct. 28, 2009. Survivors include their daughters, Chelsi (Ryan) Turner, Kallie Foresman; grandchildren, Haylee and Harrison Turner, all of Topeka; his father, Walter (Dee) Foresman, Topeka; mother, Wanda Bise, Silver Lake; siblings, Mike Foresman, Deanna Lambert, Linda Erikson and Bill Foresman; and a step-brother, Jeff Fortenberry.

A visitation was held Feb. 2, 2019, at Dove Southwest Chapel. Private family inurnment was held later at West Lawn Memorial Gardens.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cotton O'Neil Cancer Center, 1414 S.W. 8th Ave., Topeka, KS 66606.

**Peggy Music Ward**

Peggy Music Ward was born in Elk City, Oklahoma, on June 3, 1937, to Glen

Music and Lois Music. She passed from this life on March 5, 2019, in her hometown, Norman, Oklahoma.

Peggy moved to Norman when she was 5 years old. She graduated high school in 1955 and later went on to earn an associates degree from American River College in Placerville, California, in 1970. She worked as a bank teller for Norman Bank of Oklahoma and for an insurance company.

Peggy married and moved around, living in Phoenix and Flagstaff, Arizona; Bakersfield and Pollock Pines, California; as well as Kremmling, Colorado, before returning to Norman in 1981. After returning to Norman, she became a legal assistant for the Office of Legal Counsel for the University of Oklahoma until her retirement in 1999. She was OU's most die-hard fan from 1952 to 2019.

Peggy is survived by her two children, who were her primary focus in life, Warren and wife Pamela J. Ward of Fraser, Colorado, and Wendi Diane Ward of Greely, Colorado, as well as a grandchild, Noah Luther Rumbaugh, and an extensive loving family throughout Oklahoma.

She is preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Wanda Denise Ward; and siblings, Jim Music and Barbara Lewis.

A memorial service was held on March 12 at Primrose Funeral Service in Norman.

**Charles Bazhaw, II**

Charles Franklin Bazhaw, II passed away surrounded by family and friends on March 17, 2019, in Kaufman, Texas.

Charlie was born Aug. 11, 1964, to Charles F. Bazhaw and Leta Lorraine (Little) Bazhaw in Dallas, Texas. He graduated from Mesquite High School in 1984. He joined the Balch Springs Fire Department in 1986 after completing rookie school at Mesquite Fire Department. He had a long and storied career at BSFD, rising to the rank of assistant chief before retiring. Charlie

later returned to serve as Chief of Canton Fire Department until retiring a second time. Charlie loved the brotherhood and comradery of the fire service, and it embodied a huge part of his persona. Charlie's public service continued with the City of Seagoville and finally the City of Forney as a building inspector. The only thing Charlie loved more than the fire service was his Lord and Savior. Charlie served Him faithfully over the course of his lifetime. His ministries varied from small group leader, to deacon, to elder and even teaching sixth grade at Kaufman Christian School. Charlie was passionate about telling others of the loving kindness of Jesus. His desire led countless people to come to know Jesus. This is his greatest legacy, and we are confident that he heard, "Well done, good and faithful servant," as he arrived home.

Charlie is survived by his wife of 25 years, Jennifer Bazhaw; daughter, Taryn, and sons, Brandon and Connor; brother, Tom Stout, and sister, Cathy Greer; and numerous nieces and nephews. He leaves behind many cherished friendships. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to Mission Church, 8485 Michael Talty Ave., Terrell, TX 75161 or online at [missionchurchtx.net](http://missionchurchtx.net).

**Thelma Katherine Beeson nee Negahnquet**

Thelma Katherine Beeson nee Negahnquet was born March 14, 1922, in Macomb, Oklahoma. She walked on Sept. 2, 2018, in Rensselaer, Indiana. She was preceded in death by her husband, Vernon Beeson; sons, Mark Anthony Beeson and Joseph Vernon Beeson; and four brothers and four sisters. She is survived by daughters, Mary Michele Negahnquet (Brian Janecyk), Joan Marie Stevenson (Steve) and Patrice Marie Crowley; her dear sister, Madeline Smith; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Thelma was a proud member of the Potawatomi Nation, and as a child, she attended the academy of St. Mary's at Sacred Heart. She was a loving and caring person and will be missed by all who knew her.

**William Dean Slavin Jr.**

William "Bill" Dean Slavin Jr., 56, walked into the arms of our Lord on April 2, 2019, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Bill, *Wadase Gichda* (Brave Warrior), was proud of his Citizen Potawatomi Nation heritage. He was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, on Sept. 9, 1962, son of William Dean and Kennetta (Hobbs) Slavin. He graduated from Eudora High School and then served as staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force where he was honorably discharged after 13 years. He was owner/president of Firelake Construction Inc. As a grill master, he enjoyed yearly cook-off competitions. He liked relaxing with family and friends at his boathouse on Guntersville Lake as well as bow hunting and riding his Harley. Bill attended Connect Church in Guntersville, Alabama.

He was always a gentleman, greatly respected and admired. Known for his infectious smile, he will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Memorial services were held at Family Church of Lawrence, Kansas, Reverend Ron Channell officiating, on April 2, 2019. Military honors graveside service was held at Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, Kansas.

He is survived by his wife, Mary C. Stritikus Slavin, whom he married on March 26, 1999. Survivors include his mother, Kennetta Slavin, Eudora, Kansas; his children, Aaron (Sunny) Slavin, Washington; Emilie Slavin, Alabama; Julie Slavin, Tongonoxie, Kansas; Katherine (Tanner) Burkhart, Wichita, Kansas; Siblings, Jennetta (Floyd) Hiatt, Lawrence, Kansas; Cynthia (Jerry) Reasoner, Eudora, Kansas; Diana (James) Theis, Paola, Kansas; Tim (Lisa) Slavin, Baldwin City, Kansas; Jackie (Greg) Foley, Lecompton, Kansas; 14 nieces and nephews; grandchildren, Ethan, Trenton, Michael Slavin; Allison Stephens, Kendal Spence; Jackson, Joseph, and Jaela White; and Addison Burkhart. He was preceded in death by his father, William D. Slavin in January 1992.

**Submitting obituaries**

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

[hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org)

**CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls**

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

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

For more information, please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email [cclark@potawatomi.org](mailto:cclark@potawatomi.org).