



HOWNIIKAN

Giwségises | November 2021

Top photo: Local wildlife adjusts to the changing season as Oklahoma winds blow the fall foliage away.

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Walking on



Tribal Heritage Project needs your help

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center's Tribal Heritage Project seeks to capture each CPN veteran and elder's story through video interviews to safeguard the Nation and Tribal members' history for generations to come. Options include in-person at the CHC, at Tribal members' homes across the United States, during district meetings and through virtual platforms.

"No story is too small," said interview clerk and Whitehead descendant Christopher Lenggenhager.

The project serves as a chance for CPN service men and women to share their experiences, both personal and military. Veterans who have served during peacetime or any conflicts — not just World War II and the Korean War — are encouraged to participate.

"Any story we can get, be it a war story or any wisdom, we'd love to get," Lenggenhager said.

Family interviews provide an open forum for Potawatomi to share family trees, stories and more.

"There are no requirements or parameters that they have to follow," said Darius Oden, CHC audio/visual production assistant. "If they want to share a 15-minute excerpt or whether they want to talk for an hour, it's totally up to them."

How to contribute

CHC staff are currently calling each CPN member over the age of 70 to set up interviews, with special focus on veterans. However, the Nation does not have correct contact information for each Tribal member and seeks the help of Citizen Potawatomi to support this initiative. There are multiple ways to schedule interviews: online at portal.potawatomi.org, by calling the CHC at 405-878-5830 or emailing christopher.lenggenhager@potawatomi.org.



HONORING OUR VETERANS & ELDERS ONE STORY AT A TIME.

We invite you to share your story with Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center.

We're interviewing Veterans and Elders from all founding families.

To schedule your interview, please call 405-878-5830 or email christopher.lenggenhager@potawatomi.org

While the project initially focuses on elders and veterans, Lenggenhager invites all CPN members to share their family's history and stories.

"Our elders are our history. They shaped our world and our lives. The future generations want to learn from your wisdom and honor your story," Lenggenhager said.

All CPN members are welcome to participate, regardless of age, background or Tribal involvement.

"Visual representation is a very pertinent thing," Oden said. "We provide an open format, and we do our best to make Tribal members feel comfortable."

The CHC will save each unedited interview in its digital library that future generations can access.

Find details on the Tribal Heritage Project at portal.potawatomi.org, by calling the CHC at 405-878-5830 or emailing christopher.lenggenhager@potawatomi.org.

2022 ELECTION NOTICE

For Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and Legislators for Districts 5, 6, 7 and 8

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Filing form and fee must be received by the Election Committee no later than 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 12. Candidates for Vice-Chairman must be at least 35 years old upon being sworn in on June 25, 2022, and must have physically resided in Oklahoma continuously for at least six months prior to the election. Each successful candidate for an Executive Office in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation must submit a completed personal information form containing their personal financial information to the Comptroller of the Currency, as required under the Standard Change of Control application form for National Banks, no later than seven (7) days after election results are certified.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Filing form and fee must be received by the Election Committee no later than 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 12. Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer must be at least 35 years old upon being sworn in on June 25, 2022, and must have physically resided in Oklahoma continuously for at least six months prior to the election. Each successful candidate for an Executive Office in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation must submit a completed personal information form containing their personal financial information to the Comptroller of the Currency, as required under the Standard Change of Control application form for National Banks, no later than seven (7) days after election results are certified.

LEGISLATOR

Filing form and fee must be received by the Election Committee no later than 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 12. Candidates for Legislator must be at least 18 years old upon being sworn in on June 25, 2022, and must have physically resided within the district they would represent continuously for at least six months prior to the election.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AFTER DEC. 1, 2021. TO REQUEST, EMAIL ELECTIONS@POTAWATOMI.ORG

CHC receives state, national industry awards

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center received recognition as one of the top 10 Model Museum/Cultural Centers by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums in 2020. The CHC also won numerous Oklahoma Museum Association awards in 2021 on top of the national accolade.

"I am very honored when we receive awards like these because we try to be innovative," said Dr. Kelli Mosteller, Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center director. "We try to always think about what the Tribal citizen wants to see first and foremost, and then we figure out the reverse engineering about how to make it happen. When we are recognized on the state or national level for how we've chosen to do that, I always feel very humbled."

ATALM Top 10

The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums' charge includes preserving and advancing Indigenous languages, history, culture and lifeways. A national review panel selected the heritage center for the organization's most prestigious award in 2020. As part of the recognition, the CHC serves as a case study and inspiration for other Native individuals and tribal communities seeking to build impactful museums and cultural centers.

"It's definitely a feather in our cap for all of us at the Cultural Heritage Center," Dr. Mosteller said. "This recognizes that we are setting the bar — we are an example of what a lot of tribes are wanting and functionally able to put together. So I was thrilled when they picked us."

The CHC will work with ATALM to help others establish and grow their museums or heritage centers by providing training and hands-on experience. Much of this will build on the CHC's behind-the-scenes work, including cataloging, secure storage, decision making, and gallery and exhibit design. While original plans included collaborating throughout the last year, the coronavirus pandemic has delayed the CHC's ability to share its best practices.

"It is meant for people to go out and see on the ground how it can be done," she said. "We feel fairly confident that even if its years down the road, when they are ready to send people out and look at how tribal museums can and should be run, we will be able to partner in that capacity."



Dr. Kelli Mosteller represents the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center during the Oklahoma Museum Association's recent awards ceremony.

OMA

The CHC received three awards during Oklahoma Museum Association's 2021 conference, including Promotional Piece, Exhibit and Special Projects.

"The awards program honors the excellence and quality of projects accomplished by OMA members as well as dedicated individuals whose contributions positively impact Oklahoma museums and the museum profession," according to the OMA.

In spring 2021, the CHC released its all-new website created and implemented by hardworking employees from across the Nation. OMA recognized potawatomiheritage.com for its Promotional Piece Award.

"The website was definitely a multi-year labor of love," Dr. Mosteller said. "To see the website be rewarded by not only its incredible use by Tribal members but also by an association like OMA that we really respect, it's really nice to see that."

CHC staff spent years digitizing archives, information, documents, videos and more to make a user-friendly, educational resource that connects CPN tribal members and the public to the Nation and its history. Users can take a virtual tour of the CHC's galleries, conduct research through the encyclopedia, digital archives and manuscripts as well as learn about Potawatomi family heritage, build

family trees and interact with relatives through *Mezodanek* and more.

"All of the resources are right there with one dropdown — one click. You can see years and years of work processing the vast collections we have here," Dr. Mosteller said.

The Potawatomi have a long-standing tradition of service, and *Wédasé: The Stronghearted* gallery and exhibits highlight the stories of what it means to be a Potawatomi *Wédasé* (warrior). Because of this, the OMA acknowledged it for its 2021 Exhibit Award.

"*Wédasé* illustrates that service members — warriors — are a special group of people that have a long tradition in protecting what's important to their communities," said Blake Norton, curator. "From defending against occupying tribes and colonization in the past, to thwarting global terrorism today, our military has always sacrificed for the good of the people. The importance of our *wédasé* and the pride that comes with that title is still very much alive today."

Cases throughout the heritage center's Long Room feature uniforms, memorabilia and personal items donated by CPN veterans.

"Development included diligent research, writing and design by staff, but more importantly, open communication with Tribal veterans

and their families to understand the true experiences of our service members," he said. "*Wédasé* is meant to honor our veterans and warriors, while educating on the importance of these individuals on a tribal, national and world stage. Our veteran community has been very supportive in our efforts to the memorial."

Each Citizen Potawatomi received an allotment within the Nation's original 900-square-mile reservation in present-day Oklahoma in 1872 or 1887. The searchable, interactive allotment map, available in person and online, provides details on Tribal members, land plots and cemetery information and earned the OMA's Special Projects Award.

"To be able to go back and frame that snapshot of our history of how we made the transition down here and what this space looked like when it was just the Potawatomi and the Absentee Shawnee, I think that's really important," Dr. Mosteller said. "We put in a lot of work breaking apart the original map, assigning the allottee to it, finding images of them, knowing where they're buried — it's a good place to start if you don't know much about your family history."

The map provides information on each location as well as a QR code that connects directly to smartphone navigation by simply using the camera to scan the code.

"Being able to see your family's original allotment and where they made their home, it connects the family history and stories to the tangible," she said.

While Dr. Mosteller is thankful for the recent recognition, she stressed that hardworking staff and collaboration with departments across the Nation made the accomplishments possible.

"They come in day in, day out, with their noses to the grindstone and get it done," Dr. Mosteller said. "We have a fraction of the staff that a lot of institutions who are putting out the kind of content we're putting out. What our staff does every day matters. For example, it's not just scanning a document — it's connecting that and securing that piece of history with the Tribe today and for generations to come."

Learn more about the Cultural Heritage Center's awards at potawatomiheritage.com. 🔥

Education is key with domestic violence

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

Prevention is key when it comes to domestic violence. This October, staff at the CPN House of Hope made it their mission to educate those in the community during the awareness month.

With domestic violence on the rise all over the nation, education on the dynamics of abuse is needed more than ever. Nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States, per the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. With most victims of domestic

violence being women between the ages of 18 and 24, the focus is on bringing education to the youth in communities.

"If we can educate adolescents and teens about what is unhealthy in relationships before they start dating, we can try to eliminate the abuse," said Kayla Woody, prevention specialist at the CPN House of Hope.

The organization presented to public high schools and colleges in surrounding communities about red flags in unhealthy relationships, the cycle of relationship abuse and how to help a friend/loved one experiencing abuse.

Staff attended community events to reach not only adolescents but adults on the issues of domestic violence.

"Everyone knows someone who is dealing with relationship abuse. We can change the culture around this violence by encouraging our communities to speak up for victims and not remain silent," Woody said.

For prevention to work in multiple communities, the House of Hope needs your help to spread the word about domestic violence. For more details on how to help in your community, visit the new website at

cpnhouseofhope.com. The website has been updated to give information on what relationship abuse looks like and what you can do as a bystander to stop the violence. It also includes a relationship quiz for visitors to decide how healthy their own relationship is and easy online applications for anyone who is seeking assistance.

If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner violence, stalking and/or sexual assault and would like more information, please contact the CPN House of Hope at 405-275-3176 or reach out on Facebook @cpnhouseofhope. 🔥

Family tradition of adoption continued through FireLodge

November is National Adoption Month, and Citizen Potawatomi Nation's FireLodge Children & Family Services works year-round to place Potawatomi children in foster and adoptive homes that ensure a loving environment and connection to their Native culture.

CPN tribal member Sara Winsett and her husband Michael decided to expand their family in late 2019. After seeing an article published in the *Hownikan*, they reached out to FireLodge and began their journey to parenthood. This year, they adopted three children.

Back to back

The Winsetts lived in Texas a few years ago and moved to Elgin, Oklahoma, after deciding to work with FireLodge.

"The main reason why we moved up here is to use the Tribe to foster and possibly adopt. Because just going through the state, that was a completely different headache down in Texas," Michael said.

The Winsett's friends utilized the Tribe's services when they decided to foster and adopt. After taking their advice, Sara and Michael look forward to recommending FireLodge to others.

"If I had a question, they would give me a call back, or they would text me right then and there. Email me. I personally worked with (Foster Care and Adoption Manager Kendra Lowden) the whole time, pretty much, and she was a godsend. She was so helpful," Sara said.

The Winsetts began fostering an infant in August 2020 and another set of siblings at the beginning of 2021. The



First-time parents Sara and Michael Winsett use tips and advice from FireLodge Children & Family Services while caring for their adoptive children.

adoptions became final through the CPN Court System in July and August 2021.

"It feels like we've been doing this since they were born. It seems like we've been doing it forever. It doesn't seem like it's just been a short amount of time. But I think it's because we've improved so quickly over such a small amount of time, whether it's time management or just learning how to communicate with a child, kind of figure out what's going through their mind," Michael said.

Generation to generation

According to the National Council for Adoption's 2017 *Adoption: By the Numbers*, adoptions from foster care increased in the decade between 2005 and 2015, based upon the most recent data available.

However, the number of children awaiting placement also increased.

"Both of us kind of decided that even if we had our own biological children, that we'd at least foster or at least try to adopt one or two at the very least," Michael said.

Accepting children into their family holds a special place for Sara. Her grandparents welcomed her father into their home from Germany, and Michael was adopted as well.

"I've always been very open about it because of my dad and where he could have ended up," Sara said. "He was in an orphanage until he was about a year old, and my grandma and my grandfather adopting him got him out of that situation."

When the opportunity came to keep siblings together, "We couldn't say no," Sara said.

"I cannot imagine being separated from my siblings. ... That's just something that we would never allow to happen," she said.

They also enjoyed working with FireLodge for the chance to keep Native children in Native households. As a Darling and Willmet family descendant, Sara gladly accepted Potawatomi children into her home without second thoughts.

"I've heard people say that they will not even foster Native kids because it's not a guarantee that they'll get to adopt them because they're Native American. And that's really heartbreaking," Sara said.

They both focus on giving their children the ability to succeed in life and feel like their work remains incomplete.

"Hopefully, we can get a couple more kids," Sara said. "We both came from big families. I had four siblings; (Michael) had four. And so we want a big family."

They encourage other Native American families to reach out to FireLodge to ask about fostering and adoption. The department welcomes members and citizens of all tribal nations to contact them for information.

"The goal was the child, which is the way it should be at every agency, every state or organization. So just ask questions. If you're thinking about it, just ask. It's not going to hurt anything," Michael said.

Find out more about FireLodge Children & Family Services at cpn.news/firelodge.

Veterans report



Bozho
(Hello),

November is the second month that the CPN Veterans Organization attempts to return to a normal routine. We recently participated in parades in Tecumseh and Wewoka and presented the colors at two functions at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort. The schools are asking us to present the colors for Veterans Day, Nov. 11. We take great pride in representing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's veterans at these functions. When we participate in parades, we pull a trailer with 10 flags mounted on it.

At the next parade opportunity, we invite all CPN veterans and CPN spouse veterans to join us, and bring a lawn chair if you have one. If not, we will have extras. The more the merrier. We have fun and become inspired by the tremendous response we receive from the crowd.

I need to apologize for an error in September's *Hownikan*. I miscalculated the veterans meeting date. I had



THINK YOU HAVE ENOUGH AMMO?

calculated the fourth Tuesday as the 21, but it was the 28. My bad! We will not be meeting in November, but we plan to get back together for a special Christmas gathering on Dec. 7 beginning at 6 p.m. in the North Reunion Hall.

I'd like to address an issue concerning the respecting and honoring of our flag, our national anthem and our Pledge of

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Annual Veterans Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 7 at 6:00p.m.
North Reunion Hall at the CPN Powwow Grounds



Must RSVP to Daryl Talbot at 405-275-1054 as soon as possible.

Allegiance. These three symbols of our dedication to a country, *our*

country, which is not perfect and has faults, but is still the best this world has to offer. We, all of us, are a part of what makes the United States of America what it is. We are all part of the good and the bad that makes up this nation. Regardless of your criticisms of its systems' structure, which is still under construction and a work continually under construction, this nation deserves

our respect. So, when our flag is presented, our national anthem sung and our Pledge of Allegiance recited, it is an honor to stand and salute with your right hand over your heart. That is respect for a country with a new idea of freedom that is still growing and evolving into an ideal for the world to see and learn from.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Daryl Talbot, Commander
daryl.talbot75@outlook.com
405-275-1054

Building character through BMX

While most families spend evenings watching TV, playing games or winding down, the Seimears family heads off to the BMX track to hone their skills. Tucker, 13, and Jagger, 9, compete on Team C.O.B. coached by National BMX Hall of Fame Inductee Turnell Henry. Although the two brothers are young, the Denton descendants have accomplished tremendous cycling feats throughout their careers.

“It makes my momma heart really proud because when you see the age they are and how dedicated they are to the sport and how much effort they put into it. It just makes you proud,” said Jet Seimears, Tucker and Jagger’s mother.

Tucker began competing when he was 6 and Jagger at just 2 years old.

“They were both very, very young, but this one was even younger,” Jet said, pointing to Jagger. “He was racing on pedals and was still in pullups.”

Jet’s husband Michael is a BMX athlete himself. Knowing how much he has enjoyed the sport throughout the years, he began teaching his sons as toddlers how to balance and ride. Tucker and Jagger have never looked back. They have both achieved expert status, with the next step of becoming professionals.

Family affair



Denton descendants train every day to reach their BMX goals. (Photo provided)

“We pretty much eat, sleep and breathe each other,” Jet said and laughed. “We get tons of family time. The minute dad comes home, we’re at the track — all of us together.”

Some nights include simply working on jumps and riding, while others include more specialized instruction with professional BMX athletic clinics. Several tracks exist around the Seimears home in Las Vegas, Nevada, which provide the brothers opportunities to train on a variety of environments.

“We try to keep them on all the different types of materials because if you just focus on one material, you’ll notice your kid will lose the skill on the other types,” she explained.

Homeschooling allows Jet to structure lesson plans specific for each son, and it provides a greater opportunity for traveling for local, state and national competitions.

“I think they’ve been to more states than I have now,” Jet said. “And that says a lot because my mom and dad were in the Navy.”

Lessons

The shiny, numerous accolades lining a room in the Seimears’ house provide a visual representation of the boys’ accomplishments, but Jet stressed the most important are not always physically visible.

“Through the years, it has taught them sportsmanship and to be OK with not always being on the top,” Jet said.

“And especially this aggressive sport ... because it’s racing, everybody wants to be the No. 1. ... It has taught them to be a good sport.”

Jagger and Tucker always congratulate other riders and strive to have positive attitudes, regardless of their placements.

“It’s a good life-learning experience for them. I’m grateful that they have learned that and learned it at a younger age,” Jet explained.

Nationals

Throughout the season, Tucker and Jagger accumulate points from each competition. They then attend a final tournament known as the USA-BMX Grand Nationals held in Tulsa over Thanksgiving weekend every fall. Thousands of riders participate, and the points help decide qualifying round placements, which occur over several days.

“You never know what to expect because they are competing against the whole world,” Jet said.

Tucker and Jagger look forward to the opportunity to let their skills shine bright during this year’s final competition later this month and are already busy preparing for the 2022 season.

“To see the smiles and their faces light up when they work so hard for something and then they accomplish it and do amazing, that is just priceless,” she said.

Learn more about BMX and keep up with the Seimears’ standings at usabmx.com. ♡

Workforce achievement, preparation pays off

November is National Career Development Month, and Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Workforce Development & Social Services Department helps clients prepare, expand skillsets and find jobs. They serve economically disadvantaged, unemployed and underemployed members of the greater CPN community with grant-funded programs and opportunities.

Exploration

Before deciding on apprenticeships or educational avenues to pursue, Workforce counselors discuss options with clients and pick a field of work to try based on interests and current abilities. They sometimes refer them to the Gordon Cooper Technology Center’s Assessment Center to help determine a path.

“We’re looking at them whatever time and part of their life they’re in,” said Employment and Training Assistant Director and Grants Coordinator Margaret Zientek. “How can they be self-sufficient? ... Is this something I want to do in the future? Do I want it to be an inside job, desk job, outside job, manual labor, physical job? Do I get excited on computers or whatever? But we’re helping them make a decision.”

She and other counselors keep their minds open and their eyes on local employment opportunities. Helping someone pick a path remains one of Zientek’s favorite parts of her job.

“That’s how I get excited. I love to tell people, ‘Look! I saw this. Isn’t this awesome? Wouldn’t you like to do that?’” she said.

From that point, filling a small gap often helps a client succeed, whether that includes resume writing, interview practice or using the onsite computers to apply and check email.



CPN’s Workforce Development & Social Services Department hosts camps for children where they explore teamwork during activities such as cooking.

“For some of them, it’s just being able to have the tool set or the clothing needed to take the job, and then working with them as they’re ready to grow,” Zientek said.

Education

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for high-paying, occupational jobs such as software developers, management analysts, construction managers, nurse practitioners and industrial engineers will grow much faster than other industries’ average 4 percent over the next 10 years.

“Get the training and the certification. Position yourself for the high-growth jobs in the area,” Zientek said.

While many jobs require a bachelor’s degree or more, Workforce staff focuses on skills and training for well-paying positions attainable with no degree.

Many occupations, including carpenters, electricians, plumbers and construction laborers all require apprenticeships and certifications; however, BLS data from 2018 indicates jobs in these fields could grow to at least double the average and result in more than the median annual wage.

WFSS offers opportunities for training, classes, programs and GED certifications for advancement.

Future workforce

The department hosts interns and summer camps each year, helping students learn soft skills, such as organization and cooperation, to help them create a foundation for career success.

“It isn’t just workforce development. It’s life skills. And it may be developing a workforce, but the same things

you need for life skills are needed for the workforce,” Zientek said.

This summer, students in middle and high school attended virtual STEM camps with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. Their activities included everything from building bridges and infrastructure with Legos to making snacks while accounting for nutritional value and taste.

The attendees also learned communication and presentation skills through the program’s science fair.

“I am really thrilled with how many we had, and the kids all get a prize just because they entered. So they get encouraged to do this in the future. It was amazing what all they did,” Zientek said, while noting their inclusion of Native culture while exploring topics such as ecology and astrology.

The department also helps youth 16 to 24 with work placements for the chance to work up to 120 hours in a field that sparks their interest. Data and staff coordinator Lynn Heath said trying out a potential career ensures confidence in the future.

“Why go to school for all of these years in something that you think you’re going to want, and it’s absolutely nothing that you thought it was going to be?” she said.

When helping someone, Workforce staff always keeps in mind that the possibilities stretch far and wide.

“It’s not a one-size-fits-all. It’s always, ‘What helps that person?’” Zientek said.

For more information about Workforce Development & Social Services, visit cpn.news/workforce or call 405-878-3854. Apply for jobs with Citizen Potawatomi Nation at firelakejobs.com. ♡

Beliefs, life lessons shown through hand-molded artwork

Kiowa artist Burt Patadal has made many ceramic pieces throughout the last 30 years, providing others the opportunity to hold a work of art molded by his hands. In his full-time job, Patadal serves as the re-entry and diversionary lead counselor for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Workforce Development & Social Services' Tribal Re-entry Program.

He teaches prisoners to consider the consequences of their choices and prepares them for a life outside of the judicial system. Much of his artistic work highlights the same lessons Patadal presents to his clients. He enjoys interpreting Native American culture in his ceramics as well.

"I used to do artwork more, but when I found (ceramics) — this was my passion because I like working with colors, and I like putting history into it," Patadal said.

During an interview with the *Hownikan*, he discussed one creation the size of a large dinner plate. Patadal surrounded an impression of his hand with images of everyday life. Then he broke it down the middle — a representation of abuse, drug addiction and alcoholism.

"Then you have a crack in your whole life that tears the whole family up," he said. "It don't just do the one certain person. It makes havoc in the family — the cousins, the uncles, the aunts, mom and dad, grandpa and grandma."

History and culture

Patadal always had creative outlets, such as drawing and painting, and took up ceramics as a Rose State College student in Midwest City, Oklahoma. While on campus one day in the late 1990s, he saw a woman building a ceramic cowboy.

"She said, 'You can do anything. This is easy artwork. But you just got to know how to put the colors in,' so I signed up for that class," Patadal said.

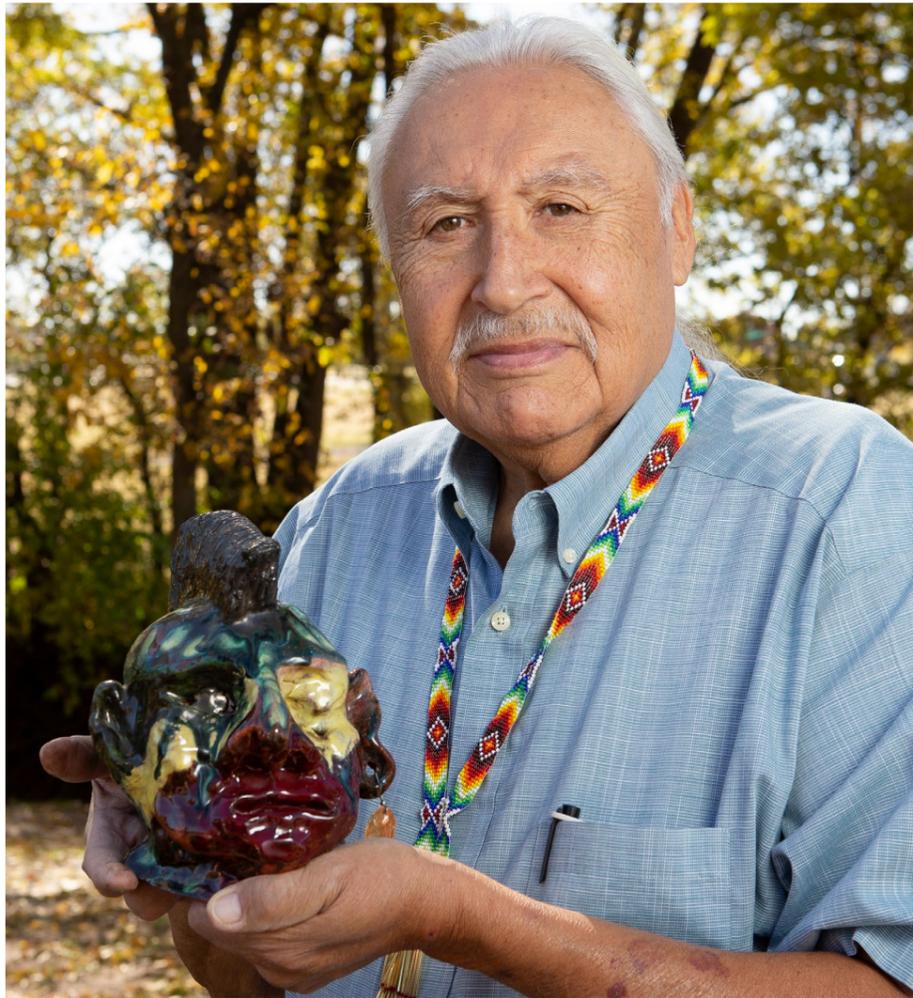
He quickly discovered the difficulty of using blue with ceramics. Patadal experimented and eventually learned how to show off the clay's natural beauty while also making his point with different hues. One of his pieces uses greens, blues, yellows and blacks as a call for the viewer to revere nature.

"It's like the ocean, the clouds, the darkness, the light. And you take care of Mother Earth because she knows what's going on," Patadal said.

Many of his pieces use colors to express emotion or as a small detail explaining a tribal tradition. He began reading about the Potawatomi and the Trail of Death around the same time he started making ceramics. The Nation's story of moving from Kansas to present-day Oklahoma to take allotments and the chance to become U.S. citizens grabbed his attention as well.

He has created several pieces teaching the Tribe's history. One depicts a Potawatomi warrior wearing a roach, a headdress reserved for warriors in many tribes. Traditionally comprised of porcupine hair to intimidate enemies, they are now often worn by powwow dancers. Their meaning, significance and use has changed over generations due to cultural disconnect and differing traditions in each tribe.

"My grandpa taught me all this," Patadal said, regarding Kiowa roach traditions.



Citizen Potawatomi Nation employee and Kiowa artist Burt Patadal interprets many Indigenous cultures into his ceramic work.

"When you wear a roach, you've got to be a veteran. You can wear a roach with no feathers if you was in the service. But if you went overseas, you can wear them down. But when you kill somebody in combat, you can wear it up."

As an avid storyteller, Patadal gladly held pieces and told their origin or meaning during a recent *Hownikan* interview. Many show Indigenous people's struggle, including one with a single tear running down a man's face.

"This guy is in a lot of pain; he's suffering for his people. You can see in his face, he's come a long way," he said.

Money and motivations

Patadal never sells his art; he always trades. He has received everything from guns and ammunition to other artworks for one of his ceramic pieces. This rule plays into several of his life mantras.

"Some people, it's all about money. It's not about money (to me). It's about Creator. You helping your fellow man. ... We're here to help one another," he said.

People sometimes commission Patadal to create a piece or painting for them, and they decide how to swap goods or services. He tries not to refuse requests.

"In my Kiowa ways, if somebody asks you to do something, you don't turn them down," he said.

Patadal also teaches participants of the re-entry program about the separation of personal interests and self-sufficiency.

"You do your artwork as a hobby. ... I have to have a good job and working and making money. I just really just did this on the side — spur of the moment," he said.

"You've got to prepare for tomorrow and the future. You can't just live one day at a time."

However, Patadal knows the importance of a creative outlet such as ceramics. He encourages the participants to find something, such as art, that they enjoy as a step in their recovery and re-entry process.

"I tell them, (they) say, 'I just can't do this.' I said, 'Wait a minute, wait a

minute. Why can't you do this? I don't want to hear the word can't.' Walk before you can run. ... Get your mind set on what you can do," he said.

He hopes to retire from CPN in the future and invest in a kiln to create more.

Prayer and the Red Road

Although Patadal began work at the John H. Lilley Correctional Center in Boley, Oklahoma, in 2006, he attained the title of Indian Chaplain of the facility earlier this summer.

"(I) just help a lot of prisoners. They want to talk, and (I) talk to them. And they want to pray, we'll pray. If we want to sing an Indian song, we'll sing an Indian song," Patadal said.

Frank Gregory, the facility's preacher and chaplain for the past two years, noticed Patadal's work and suggested he receive the title. Patadal uses the same experiences that influence and inspire his art to teach the Native American inmates customs, history and how to walk the Red Road.

"(I) try to talk nice to them, find out what's going on in their life and how we can make it better for them. And the only way I know is to tell them, 'Walk the Red Road.' If you do things good in your life and you try to help people and do things right, you'll be a better person," Patadal said.

He holds purification lodges and talking circles for those who want to participate and treat the gatherings with respect. He also screens educational films about Indigenous history.

"Then that's a light that comes on because most Indians, when you're growing up, you know something about your tribe or about yourself, what they teach you," Patadal said; however, he has found in recent years, many of them lack those customs and knowledge.

Patadal also teaches self-control through prayer to the Creator.

"I'll say, 'You need to find your triggers — what's going on, what makes you mad, what makes you tick — and you need to resolve it.' And I said, 'Like it says in the Bible, the truth will set you free,'" he explained.

Patadal believes in the interconnectedness of all beings on Earth. He emphasizes prayer as a time to be humble, reflective and honest about life and those connections.

"If you're going to do something, do it right because prayer is everything. Prayer's going help you out a million and one. And helping people is going to help you out. If you don't help people, and you just stick to yourself, you're ... not doing (Creator's) work," Patadal said.

Between his duties as the correctional center and job, Patadal has less time for ceramics than he used to. For now, he plans to continue helping those who are incarcerated and enjoy his new title of Indian Chaplain.

"I'm glad somebody finally recognized me, you know?" he said.

Visit cpn.news/WFSS to read more about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Workforce Development & Social Services Re-entry Program. ♡



Patadal's art reflects life experiences and lessons, which he passes on as the lead counselor for the CPN Workforce Development & Social Services' Tribal Re-entry Program.

Frapp family history

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives. To highlight some of these holdings, the *Hownikan* is featuring photographs and family history of every founding Citizen Potawatomi family. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830.

Frapp-Potawatomi connections

The Frapp's association with the Tribe began with the marriage of John B. Frapp and Josette Wilmette. Josette was the daughter of Archange Chevallier and Antoine Wilmette (Ouilmette), who were early residents of present-day Chicago. The community of Wilmette, Illinois, north of Chicago still bears the family's name.

In the 1830s, much of the Wilmette family emigrated to Council Bluffs, Iowa, to join other Potawatomi removed to that area. In 1846, all the Potawatomi west of the Mississippi moved to a single reservation in present-day northeastern Kansas.

John and Josette had six children during their time in Iowa and Kansas: Gabrielle, Isodore, William, Francis, Louise (Louisa) and Rose Ann.

John, Isodore, William, Louisa, Francis, Gabriel, Martha and Rose Ann all received allotments in Kansas, according to an 1863 document compiled by federal commissioners Edward Wolcott and W. W. Ross.

Records indicate William was blind. He married Minerva Shields on June 8, 1897, and they had one son, John Samuel, on April 4, 1898. William's allotment on the Potawatomi Reservation was located near the present-day Lexington Wildlife Management Area in Oklahoma.

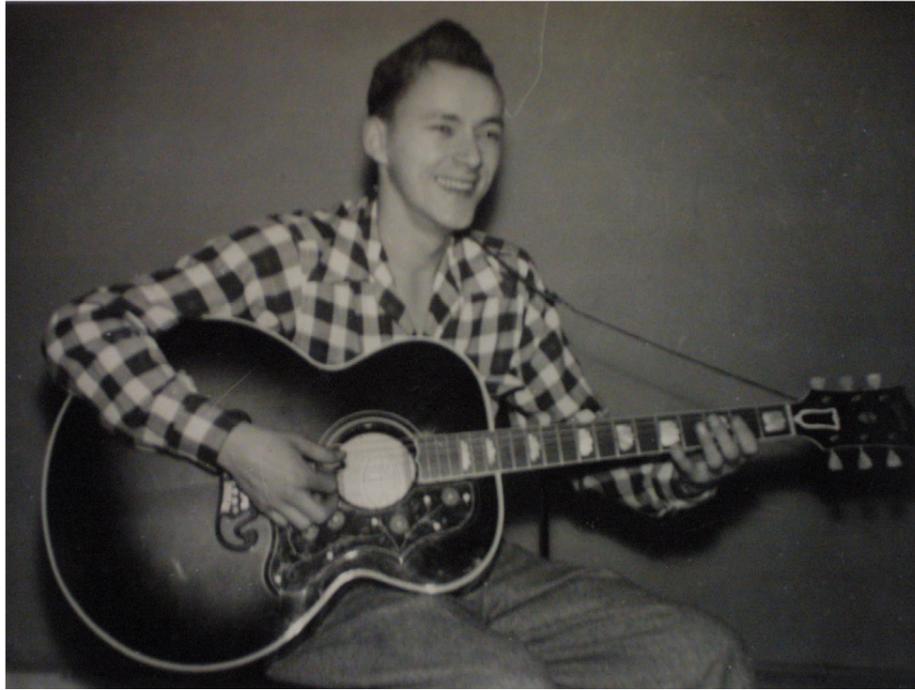
Like many other Potawatomi at the time, non-Native squatters resided on his allotment, forcing him to appeal to Department of the Interior officials. William's son John Samuel married Edna Hitt, and they had five children: Gordon E., William T., Murray, Varcille and Donnie Dale.

Gabrielle (Gabriel) married Martha, whose maiden name is unknown, and had three children: Gabrielle (Gabe), John Elsworth and Isadore (Dora).

In 1874, Gabriel was arrested for impeding justice for pulling weapons



Josephine Frapp (BeBe), Katherine Frapp, and Viola, sister to John E. Frapp



Norman Frapp plays guitar.

on law enforcement. After his passing, Martha married Leo Bourassa. Yet, some official records do not include the marriage. A census listed Martha as Bourassa's wife, along with two of her children. Leo received money from Martha's probate, but during his, she received no mention.

In a 1994 letter from then Tribal Rolls Director Mary Farrell to Donna Lee, "In Leo Bourassa's probate, however, his children and witnesses say he was only married one time and that was to Mary Cornett. The more you research, the more complicated everything gets and sometimes it gets so frustrating."

G. B. Frapp passed away after a switch engine accident took his leg and arm. An article titled *This is What Whiskey Has Done For Me: Victim of Fatal Accident in Frisco Yards*, detailed the incident.

According to the article, "I am suffering ten thousand deaths," said Frapp to Mrs. Cade, "and whiskey is the curst that brought me to this end." G.B. lived in Mrs. J.D. Cade's boarding house.

G.B. passed away due to his injuries at the age of 38.

John Elsworth Frapp married Hannah Elizabeth (Libbie) Buell. They had two children, Josephine and Norman Elsworth. John Elsworth's 1887 allotment was a few miles north, northwest of Sacred Heart in southern Pottawatomie County.

Libbie passed away at the age of 25. Family stories indicate John asked his sister-in-law Navada and husband Mark Green to raise Josephine and Norman E. As a result, the family's Potawatomi heritage was not shared with Josephine or Norman E.

Norman E. served in France during World War I in the American Expeditionary Forces from 1917 to 1918. He married Katherine Johnston, and they had one son, Norman Abner Frapp, in 1932. Due to memory loss, the elder Frapp sought care at the Danville Illinois Veterans Hospital in the 1930s where he passed away in 1982.

His sister Josephine married Leroy Evans and eventually Stuart Beebe. She did not have any children. According to family records, "Leroy Evans was a barber, and he gave Norman (Abner) Frapp his first hair cut. Norman recalls that Leroy had a gambling problem and Josephine divorced Leroy and then she married Stewart."

Norman Abner grew up in Illinois and married Donna Lane in 1953. They had four children, Linda, Brenda, Norma Jean and Timothy. Norman Abner has gained notoriety in the area for his musical talents and retired from Caterpillar Tractor Company.

"I learned to play the guitar and sing. I had a band of my own for about 13 years," called the Melody Ramblers, Norman Abner said during a CPN family interview.

He became aware of his Potawatomi ancestry when his son, Timothy, began conducting family research. Since then, the family has attended Family Reunion Festival and Tribal events, helping them stay connected to their



Norman E. Frapp, WWII veteran

Potawatomi heritage and relatives while also encouraging younger generations to become involved.

CPN members can schedule family interviews, engage in genealogical research, build family trees and connect with CPN relatives through *Mezodanek* (family) digital database at portal.potawatomi.org.

If interested in helping preserve Citizen Potawatomi history and culture by providing copies of family photographs, documents and more, contact the Cultural Heritage Center at 405-878-5830. ♡



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Center for Women Veterans honors matriarch's military service

Each year, the United States celebrates former military service members and their sacrifice for the country on Nov. 11 — Veterans Day. And each year, the demographics of the different branches become more diverse. Women comprise 10 percent of U.S. armed services, and one in 69 adult women is a veteran. Combined with the fact that Native Americans serve at the highest rate per capita of any population, Native women comprise a significant group of veterans.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans began the I Am Not Invisible campaign in 2019. Encompassing eye-catching black-and-white portraits of women veterans, the series also includes a set of photos highlighting Native women.

I Am Not Invisible featured Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member and Army Veteran Lisa Wamego Bruce in 2019. The Wamego, Bruno and Vieux family descendant joined the Army in November of 1982 and left the service in June of 1984 while stationed in Korea to have her first child in the United States.

“You can do a lot more than you think you can, and you can put up with a lot more than you think you can,” Bruce said of her time in the military. “So, it taught me to trust myself and not give up.”

Training and deployment

Bruce began basic training at 21 years old after feeling a need for guidance and direction. She wanted to hone her skills while traveling and gaining experience, and the Army seemed like the solution. A member of an all-female basic training class, Bruce acted as a squad leader. She also qualified as a sharpshooter with her rifle and disassembled and reassembled her M-16 the fastest in her platoon.

“I got to ride in a helicopter back to barracks instead of having to march back to barracks because *I shot the best* in



Lisa Wamego Bruce (Center for Women Veterans)

the whole company,” Bruce said. “That was my highlight of my Army career.”

She ended up training in microwave communication systems. Bruce had never studied electronics before and quickly found she enjoyed the material and showed great proficiency.

“My recruiter was just overwhelmingly impressed with my scores and the opportunity that opened up for me, which is one of the reasons I wanted to go in the military to get some training that would help me when I got out. And that was very highly skilled,” she said.

Bruce eventually earned a distinguished graduate designation. She was the only woman in her class who completed the microwave communication system repairs courses. Afterward, the Army deployed her to Korea, and she became part of a team that traveled to sites often on the tops of mountains to maintain those systems.

“On the weekends is mostly when I would do my work because we would go out to our different sites (to) run PMs and tests and do calibration for the site,” Bruce said.

She lived off-base in central South Korea with her now ex-husband and left the Army in June 1984 in anticipation of the birth of her first child.

“It’s not for everybody, but (military service) can do so much good for you,” Bruce said. “I recommend it if you don’t already have an educational plan. But go in when you’re young.”

Family and tradition

In 2019, Bruce visited the Chilocco Indian School near Newkirk, Oklahoma, for her I Am Not Invisible portrait. Her father attended the boarding school as a child. Teachers and staff forced the students to abandon their Native language, dress and culture at the risk of severe punishment.

“There’s still a lot of buildings there, and a lot of them are dilapidated and falling in, and then some of the newer ones are still standing,” Bruce said. “And they had it open for that day so people could tour it. ... But it was just sad to think of the things that we know that went on there.”

Years later, her father joined the military and continued the family’s service tradition. She and her three brothers all served in either the Army, Marines or Navy.

“My brothers tried to talk me out of joining when I decided to go in because there weren’t a lot of females in the Army at the time, and they were worried for me. But I made up my mind. And so, I did it,” Bruce said.

Her two sons also joined the Army and spent their first tours in Korea nearly a decade apart.

“I think (being stationed in Korea) helped me be able to understand what my sons would experience because I had been there before, so I could handle it better,” Bruce said.

Her time in the Army also inspired her nephew during his service.

“He said that he thought, ‘Well, if Aunt Lisa can do this, I can do it too.’ So, that’s how he got through basic the whole time,” Bruce said.

While she wishes she had shared her time in the Army with more women, Bruce remains grateful for the experience. She now gives back to veterans as a member of Kimberly-Clark’s SALUTE nonprofit and the Oklahoma Women Veterans Organization Tulsa chapter.

“We work with a lot of different veteran groups that help educate and try to help get them to the place that they need to be to get the help that they need. ... Some aren’t in a position where they want help or will ask for help. So it’s really just trying to open their eyes to the fact that there is help out there,” Bruce said.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs projects the number of women veterans to increase by approximately 200,000 over the next 20 years, showing they will continue to remain an essential part of the U.S. armed services.

Look at the I Am Not Invisible campaign at va.gov/womenvet/iani and on Facebook @VAWomenVets. ♡

Language update

By Justin Neely, Director of the CPN Language Department

It’s been a busy fall in the Language Department. We just finished a 10-week beginner Potawatomi class and recently began an intermediate class. If you miss any of them, we Zoom the classes for folks not in the area and also record them so folks can watch later. We then post the videos on one of our two YouTube channels. You can find the channels by searching “Justin Neely” and “Potawatomi Language” or at cpn.news/langyt and cpn.news/childrenyt.

Our staff goes into the Child Development Center Mondays through Thursdays. We also have five high schools set up to take our online high school course, which counts toward Oklahoma’s requirement for graduation. Our first year, we just had Wanette. Then the next year, we added Tecumseh. Last year, we added Shawnee and Maud. This year, we also added Seminole High School.

We also added a middle school, 9-week introductory course that every sixth grader in Shawnee will take. This is our first opportunity to offer the language at the secondary level. Other schools can join us to offer the courses. All it

requires is a person who can sit in with the students to make sure they are on the course and that the devices connect to the internet. There is no cost to the school district. We look forward to adding more partner districts. There is often a process of having the school board vote and add the course then getting it set up. So, if you have a student who would be interested in taking the course, please contact your school and have them get ahold of me. Currently, each state board of education has to decide if they will allow your student to take the course for credit. We have had a couple of students in Michigan take the course and also one college student at Arizona State University. We currently do not have a collegiate course offering but may offer one in the future.

For folks that used our Moodle online course, we hope to have a beginner’s course available by December. We will be using the framework we use for the high school course as a basis for the beginner course. We also have two courses on memrise.com. Also, don’t forget to utilize our awesome online dictionary at potawatomidictionary.com. All of this was developed in house partnering with our IT department.

We also have a Facebook group called Potawatomi Language in which we share language videos, classes and other language-related content. It’s also a great place for folks to practice using the language they are learning. Check it out at cpn.news/langfb. We are also working on a grant to develop a series of children’s books that should be finished by December.

Here is a short prayer that can be used for family gatherings or in the morning when you get up or perhaps for Thanksgiving.

Mamogosan Creator

Migwetch jak she gégo ga gishtoyen mine mno gishget.

Thank you for everything you have created and this beautiful day.

Kowabem gi kekyajek, penojeyek, yaknojejek mine jayek neshnabek.

Watch over the elders, children, sick and all Potawatomi/Native people.

Ewi ndodaskeygo mno bmadzen mine jitmagoswen.

We humbly ask for good health and help

Shewenmeshnak gtemagzeyak

Bless us for we are poor and pitiful

Nishokmeshnak wa je dapnayak gde-sheshmomenan mine Neshnabe nadzewen.

Help us to pick up our language and our Native way of life.

Nishokmo gi penojeyek wje nigan ji igwan emno bmozewat.

Help the children as they head into the future to walk in a good way

Kowabem o segmekwe mine jayek mtekok mine wesiyek

Watch over Mother Earth and all the trees and animals.

Migwetch ode wisnewen gaga wa je mijyak.

Thank you for this food which we will soon eat.

Shewenem gi wéjandawat ode wisnewen.

Bless those who prepared this food.

Iw eyajmoyan

Amen/End of what I have to say. ♡

CPN Veterans Organization calls for participation

Since time immemorial, Potawatomi have served as warriors to protect the well-being of others. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization exists to bring together Citizen Potawatomi veterans, active-duty service members and their families, and seeks to recruit new members.

“We do more than just honor the veterans. We honor our citizenry and our community,” said David Barrett, CPN Veterans Organization officer and CPN District 10 legislator.

The CPN Veterans Organization welcomes service members and their spouses, regardless of combat or service status, to join.

“We are a standalone, social organization,” said Daryl Talbot, CPN Veteran’s Organization commander. “We get together to socialize and visit and have a meal.”

Monthly meetings provide opportunities for fellowship and to meet other veterans. The group also presents the colors and flags at the annual Family Reunion Festival and during the Potawatomi Gathering of Nations as well as participates in events across the region. However, the CPN Veterans Organization has lost several active members in



Many CPN Veterans Organization members find the group’s comradery and opportunities to represent the Tribe fulfilling.

recent years. They hope recruitment will help the group continue to thrive.

Auxiliary

Although the CPN Veterans Organization convenes regularly at the Nation’s North Reunion Hall, it welcomes Citizen Potawatomi veterans and their families from across the country to come together.

District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw helps oversee an auxiliary organization in Kansas, and the CPN Veterans Organization hopes more will follow suit.

“We encourage East Coast, West Coast, Texas, to start the CPN Veterans Organization in their location,” Barrett said.

Because it is independent, the CPN Veterans Organization does not have the capability of providing monetary support toward establishing auxiliary groups. However, the organization’s officers are happy to offer advice and best practices to help those interested.

Becoming a member

The only requirement to join includes completing a form, and there are no participation stipulations.

“Whether they come one time a year or all the time, there is no obligation,” Barrett said. “I think sometimes the ones that have served less time maybe feel like they don’t deserve to be involved, or those who didn’t see combat, but that has nothing to do with it. It’s patriotism and wanting to see the organization continue.”

Learn more about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization by reading its monthly *Hownikan* column or reaching out to the group’s leaders. Daryl Talbot, the group’s commander, is available at daryl.talbot75@outlook.com or 405-275-1054. David Barrett, treasurer, welcomes communication through email at d Barrett@potawatomi.org.

Helping renters become homeowners

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department began developing a new program to help those on the cusp of homeownership achieve their goals. They constructed a lease with option-to-purchase plan, contingent on the tenants’ participation in a credit improvement program with the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation.

“It creates a mechanism or a way for an individual that is driven towards homeownership to get all their ducks in a row, get everything there in place. So I think the concept is good,” said CPN Housing Department Director Scott George.

At the end of a three-year leasing period with the housing department, the option to own the home becomes available with the rent previously paid applied to the cost of the house. The lease payments generally match those of a mortgage, with taxes and insurance paid from them as well. If prepared to purchase within the timeframe, the lessee may also qualify for a \$20,000 buy-down grant toward the mortgage.

Interest in the program remains steady, with several families moving into the new houses built for this purpose. However, the department continues to look for additional applicants.

“You don’t have the full picture, but the program is going to be full of a lot of education and counseling,” said homeownership manager Sherry Byers. “I would say somebody that that’s their goal in the near future, especially if they want to live within the jurisdiction of the Tribe,” is an ideal candidate.

Useful features

Byers and George name the dwellings’ energy efficiency as one of their most attractive features and a reason to invest.



The energy efficient, covered parking and new appliances make the CPN Housing Department’s lease with option-to-purchase program houses ideal for first-time homebuyers.

Solar panels power these fully electric homes, meaning significant savings on monthly bills. Spray foam insulation helps reduce electric costs as well.

“Nobody’s really building homes like that,” George said. “We have contact with other builders, and it’s more about turning them over than it is giving you something that’s quality. ... They don’t even put them in a small house.”

Families began moving in at the beginning of this year, and Byers noticed the features’ worth since then.

“Their bills were very affordable, especially with it being total electric,” she said. “So those solar panels are really working for them. So in turn, that helps them financially because there’s a lot less of a utility payment there.”

The 1,200 to 1,600-square-foot, open concept houses also come with a fenced backyard, new appliances and storm doors to cover outside-facing glass.

Each unit’s carport has a concealed rear portion for storing lawn care equipment.

The Tribe built the houses in a developing area on a quiet, family-friendly street. George and Byers see the neighboring children playing and enjoying their brand new bedrooms and feel the participants’ satisfaction in their home.

“You can go drive down through there, and they’ve all got their little yard ornaments ... that they’ve already put that has their name on it and things like that. So they’ve taken a lot of pride in that part of it,” George said.

Program structure

Since the Department of Housing and Urban Development funds the program, applicants must meet the HUD low-income limit — 80 percent of the national median income limits — determined by the household’s size. The program is open to citizens of federally-recognized tribes

within the Nation’s jurisdiction, with CPN members given preference.

“It’s been a sort of a learning process to start from a concept, even though it’s not nothing new. I mean, those concepts have been out there forever. But the way we set it up and had to start from scratch ... it was a little different,” George said.

He and Byers encourage Tribal members and those applying to think of it as a chance for financial growth and real estate investment in a growing area of Pottawatomie County.

“The program is also a good way to find out where you’re at in this process if you’re even thinking about it. Because you go down to the CPCDC, and they review all your credit with you and say, ‘OK, your credit is pretty good, but your husband or wife here needs to work on their credit if you’re going to buy this together,’ which most people have to buy together,” George said.

While the pandemic turned the housing market on its head, this opportunity to lease with the option to purchase removes some uncertainty while maintaining affordable financing.

“This is the time to get into one of these while the opportunity is good. Even though we can’t lock in the interest rates three years from now, it’s still really low,” George said.

Byers agreed and said, “Affordable and energy-efficient — they’re not just going to be able to go out on the open market and be able to afford a house like that.”

To learn more about CPN housing programs, visit cpn.news/housing. Watch a video presentation about the lease with option-to-purchase program at cpn.news/leasevid. Read about the Housing and Urban Development income limits at cpn.news/HUDlimits. Call the CPN Housing Department at 405-273-2833.

O'Neal becomes BIA department director

In early 2021, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, Tara Sweeney, appointed Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Jason O'Neal as the deputy bureau director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services. His role focuses on assisting the OJS reach goals, develop strategies and overcome barriers.

"It's not only a humbling experience, it's a very honorable position," O'Neal said. "I think service to Indian country is probably one of the highest callings of the federal government."

O'Neal began his career as a military police officer in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years. His first position outside of the military was through the BIA as a uniformed officer serving the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe near the Four Corners region.

"I developed a passion for working in Indian Country almost immediately," he said.

O'Neal then went on to a variety of roles within the BIA, including assisting the Chickasaw Nation with founding its own police force.

"I had never been through that process before, but I helped them establish their policy and procedures, help them kind of plan and strategize on what their police department would look like," O'Neal said. "I ultimately decided I wanted to leave federal service and go to work there as their chief of police."

One of his main goals as police chief for the Chickasaw Nation's Lighthouse Police Department included building rapport with city, county and state agencies and establishing cross-deputation opportunities.

"That really paid off in the end because no one law enforcement agency can ever cover everything by itself, and so having those partnerships is key to providing services to the community," O'Neal said.



The CHC takes pride in preserving Potawatomi history, like this Marine Corps uniform donated by CPN member Jason O'Neal.

During his eight years of leading the department, it grew from five officers to more than 40 staff members.

"I accomplished the goals that I set out to accomplish, and that's a lot of what pushed me back into the federal service was being able to take some of what I learned there and bring that back to the BIA to help tribes nationwide," O'Neal explained.

O'Neal then joined the BIA-OJS in 2012, bringing the lessons and experiences he learned from his time in Indian Country along with him.

"Returning to the Bureau of Indian Affairs gave me an opportunity to engage in a much broader scope," he said. "I now have an opportunity to engage routinely with tribal leaders throughout the country and with congressional members throughout the country."

While no two days as OJS director have been the same, he enjoys the opportunity to help Native Nations become safer and stronger.

"Finding the resources and the solutions to help communities overcome challenges, that has been tremendously rewarding," O'Neal said.

Traditions

During his time at the Chickasaw Nation, O'Neal ran for CPN Legislative District 10 in 2008 and became involved with the CPN Veterans Organization.

"Being able to participate in the honor guard and show representation for those events is an honor in itself. It was an honor for me being in the Marine Corps," he said.

As a Kime family descendant, O'Neal believes in the importance of learning the Potawatomi language and the Tribe's history and culture. Although he lives in Washington D.C., he utilizes online resources and sets aside time in his busy schedule to study, read and practice speaking *Bodéwadmimwen*.

O'Neal also donated one of his military uniforms to the Cultural Heritage Center to safeguard his



From the military, BIA to tribal law enforcement, Kime family descendant Jason O'Neal shows dedication to serving Indian Country. (Photo provided)

story of service and help remember the Tribe's long-standing warrior traditions for generations to come.

Looking to the future, he hopes to continue learning more about his Potawatomi heritage and that his time as a BIA director leaves a long-lasting, positive outcome for Native Americans across the United States.

"One of the things I enjoyed about my time in the Marine Corps was the *esprit de corps*. Having Indian country law enforcement programs feel that *esprit de corps* — feel that sense of honor of serving their community, of making a difference in their community — that's the legacy that I want to leave with," O'Neal said.

Learn more about O'Neal's recent appointment at bia.gov and the CPN Veterans Organization on pages 3 and 8 of this edition. Find information on the Cultural Heritage Center's donation process and Veteran projects, including its gallery *Wédaséjek*, at potawatomiheritage.com. 🔥

CPN pharmacist named a "Patriotic Employer"

On Aug. 13, the U.S. Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve office awarded Citizen Potawatomi Nation East Clinic pharmacist Penny Southern its Patriotic Employer Award.

The ESGR seeks to "promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees." CPN pharmacy technician and Air National Guard Staff Sergeant Kimberly Lakins nominated Southern, calling her "extremely patriotic."

"She's always just tried to work with me," Lakins said. "And when I've had (Guard) trainings, every time I came home, it was like I never even left. It was just always like open arms and welcome back."

The award surprised Southern, who was focused on the ever-increasing pharmacy orders and maintaining a staff throughout the pandemic.

"It was the farthest thing from my mind, and getting it ... just delighted my soul.



CPNHS East Clinic pharmacy technician Kimberly Lakins (right) enjoys the supportive relationship with her boss, pharmacist Penny Southern.

With the year and a half that we've gone through, I thought, 'This is fabulous.' It was really nice," Southern said.

Lakins joined the Air National Guard 10 years ago and became a CPN Health Services employee four years

later. She frequently hears less-than-comforting stories from other ANG members about their experiences with their regular employers. Lakins appreciates Southern's and CPN's support throughout her service.

Southern's understanding nature and willingness to help her employees comes down to a simple life philosophy.

"I have just always tried to live by the golden rule: treat others the way you want to be treated," she said. "I feel like if you're going to come out here and work hard for me, then I can try to help out and compromise."

Southern also notices her colleague's hard work and skills every day. Lakins attended Moore Norman Technology Center's pharmacy technician program in the mid-2000s. In the ANG, she works in medical logistics as an air evacuation unit member. Lakins now stocks in-flight medical

Continued on page 10

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160th anniversary of becoming the Citizen Potawatomi

On Nov. 15, 1861, nearly 80 Potawatomi headmen and Tribal members gathered with federal officials to sign the Treaty of 1861. The agreement made 160 years ago created two separate Potawatomi tribes on the Kansas River Reservation, establishing the Citizen Potawatomi and Prairie Band. The former included approximately 75 percent of the 2,170 Potawatomi in Kansas. This group agreed to receive land allotments and the opportunity to become United States citizens. The latter chose to continue living communally within an 11-square-mile reservation.

“It is truly the foundation — our founding document. The treaty made us the distinct, sovereign nation that we are today. It set us down a separate path than our Potawatomi relatives,” said Dr. Kelli Mosteller, Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center director.

Kansas River Reservation

All the Potawatomi west of the Mississippi moved onto one reservation in northeast Kansas along the Kansas River in 1846.

“We were promised that would be our home as long as the grass grew and the water flowed,” Dr. Mosteller said.

However, less than 10 years after arriving on the new reservation, the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 established Kansas as a territory, which opened the area to non-Natives and land-hungry businesses.

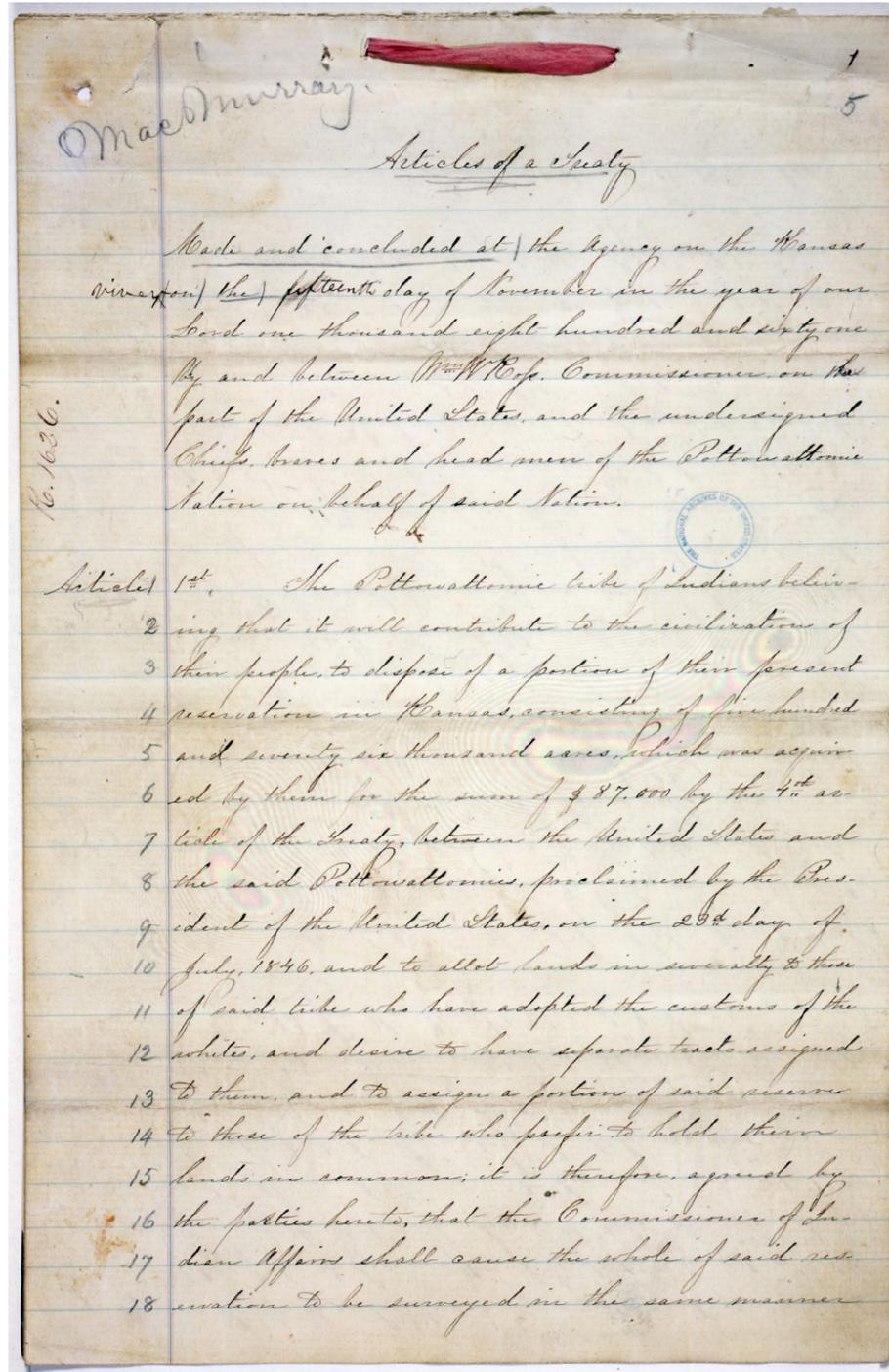
“We had learned over and over again in our past that when more and more non-Native settlers came in — start to claim plots of land, establish businesses, start farms — the greed for Native-owned land would also grow,” Dr. Mosteller said.

Multiple forced removals, mounting pressure from the federal government, missionaries, industry and newcomers inspired Tribal members to look for potential avenues to increase permanency.

The Oregon Trail and westward expansion also brought violence, disease and alcohol through the reservation. While some Potawatomi built successful enterprises around the migration route, they also understood it symbolized great changes.

“One thing that is very clear is that all Potawatomi living on the Kansas River Reservation in the late 1850s very much felt that their continuation on that plot of land and their very lives were unstable,” Dr. Mosteller said.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s founding members saw becoming landowners and U.S. citizens as potential solutions.



Treaty of 1861 (courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration)

“Every time we were pushed out of the lands that we were living on, a group of non-Natives came behind us. And they had pieces of paper that legally say they own that land now. ... The promise of having titles to our land ... that is a strong promise, and when you’ve been cheated by the government and by the law over and over, thinking that you can get the law on your side, it’s hard to walk away from,” Dr. Mosteller said.

The founding members of the Prairie Band argued the federal government had not upheld any prior agreements, therefore they did not wish to make any more. As a result, two-thirds of the Kansas River Reservation was set aside for the Citizen Potawatomi and one-third for the Prairie Band.

“Neither one of them had a lot of confidence that what they were doing was going to play out to their advantage,” Dr. Mosteller said. “Our ancestors took a chance. It was a risk,

but it was a calculated risk. And the treaty, as it was written, was not the treaty as it was actually applied.”

Quasi-citizen

Although the Treaty of 1861 established steps to becoming landowners and U.S. citizens, the process took time, and Tribal members were not able to obtain all benefits associated with normal citizenship, even after meeting all requirements.

To begin, a census recorded the number of Potawatomi and their standings. Land surveyors then separated the reservation, and Tribal members chose their allotments. Once settled, they had to apply for official land ownership.

“It wasn’t as simple as ... how you or I would own land today. They had to petition, and they had to have the backing of their Indian agent to say that they were sufficiently adjusted and

they were ‘civilized’ enough to own that land privately,” Dr. Mosteller said.

Once deemed “fit” to own the allotment, the treaty outlined that each member would receive a portion of the dollars from selling the excess lands, funds for purchasing farm equipment and seeds, and a two-year grace period on taxes as well as the ability to petition for U.S. citizenship.

“Unfortunately, that is not the process that was followed. Once people claimed their plots of land and were able to take their patents in fee simple, the State of Kansas — in total disregard for this treaty — immediately assessed taxes,” Dr. Mosteller said.

The taxation that occurred years before receiving any of the capital agreed upon in the treaty caused many to lose their allotments.

“It was absolutely done intentionally. ... They ultimately wanted to sell that land to the railroad. They wanted to open it up for non-Native settlement,” Dr. Mosteller said.

Obtaining American citizenship also proved problematic.

“Not everyone became a U.S. citizen immediately. They had to have the backing of their Indian agent. ... And just because you became a U.S. citizen did not mean you automatically had all the rights,” she added.

Those who received the Indian agent’s approval could be subject to American courts and taxation regimes, but they had limited voting capabilities and could not sit on a jury.

“We were referred to as quasi-citizens,” Dr. Mosteller explained. “It was a picking and choosing of what obligations of citizenship were applied and what protections of citizenship were not applied.”

Because of the negative consequences of the treaty and subsequent land-loss, the Citizen Potawatomi used a clause to sign another treaty with the federal government. The clause allowed the Tribe to sell some of the remaining lands in Kansas to purchase a new reservation in Indian Territory, present-day Oklahoma.

CPN continues to stand strong today as a result of the Treaty of 1861 and now has an annual economic impact of more than \$500 million with more than 37,000 CPN members living across the United States.

Learn more about the Treaty of 1861 and this pivotal era in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s history by visiting potawatomiheritage.com.

Patriotic employer continued...

supplies and medications, thanks in part to her experience at CPNHS.

Lakin’s organizational skills impress Southern, as well as her ability to connect with others, especially one-on-one.

“The patients adore her because you can hand the people their meds, or you can make a friend every time you see

someone,” Southern said. “And this is her. I mean, she makes a friend with every person that comes to the window.”

Lakins finds every day rewarding.

“I love the patients. ... I like coming to work just because I get to talk to the patients,” Lakins said.

As staff members needed to quarantine and pharmacy orders increased throughout the pandemic, Southern

worked with Lakins to secure additional hours after her husband returned from his tour of duty and the pandemic put his work on hold. While mutually beneficial, the opportunity pushed Lakins to nominate Southern for the award.

“Penny was able to work with me and get me on to work full time so that we could provide for my family. She’s really went above and beyond,” Lakins said as she teared up.

She recently left on deployment, and Southern eagerly awaits her return.

Before Lakins left for duty, Southern smiled and told her, “I’m going to be a world of hurt when you leave.”

Find out more about Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services at cpn.news/health.

Brown named 48th Milam Award winner

By Teri LaJeunesse,
ECU Sports Information

This article and photograph originally ran in The Ada News on Sept. 18, 2021. It has been lightly edited and reprinted here with permission.

The East Central University Athletics Department has awarded the 2021 Milam Award to Richard Brown, a former ECU football player that now counts among his many accomplishments as being a Big 12 Conference football official, family man and philanthropist.

Brown is the 48th winner of the prestigious ECU honor and serves as the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Human Resources Department director.

"We are thrilled to bestow Richard Brown with the Milam Award this year," said East Central University President Dr. Katricia Pierson. "Richard is a solid family man who gives back to the university and his community. Because of his incredible energy and integrity, he is a successful professional and well-respected Big 12 Conference football official."

The Milam Award is presented annually, since 1972, at ECU's homecoming football game to a former Tiger football player who not only excelled in the classroom and on the gridiron, but also distinguished himself in his chosen career. The award was named in honor of Joe Milam, a former educator and coach in the states of Oklahoma and Texas.



CPN HR Director Richard Brown uses the experiences gained during his time at ECU to effectively lead at work and serve the community.

"The Milam Award is a great honor," Brown stated. "It tells me that I have done things that people have recognized, even when I didn't realize they were paying attention. It is an honor to know that what I have accomplished in life and in my field of human resources has been helpful for somebody, and that is what life is all about."

The Okmulgee native started his interest in ECU football at a young age. When he was in elementary school, he would ride the school bus, which his dad was driving, from Okmulgee to ECU so fans could go see local

standouts like Donnie Brown, Dewey McClain, Harvey Richardson and Ronnie James play for the Tigers.

Watching his hometown heroes get to move on and get an education, while playing football, made him dream that one day maybe he could don a black-and-orange uniform to help him earn his college degree.

By the time came around for Brown to choose where to go after college, the decision was easy, especially after he met the current ECU coaching staff. Brown came to ECU in 1978 to play football and earned his bachelor's degree in 1982. Along the way, he claimed All-Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference and all-district honors, was named the team captain and added the title of President of the ETA Theta Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

"I spent a lot of time with coaches Pat O'Neal and Ron Miller," Brown said. "Both spent a lot of time with their players from a football aspect and also with the important things to do to be successful in life. Therefore, for me it was not just going to ECU, giving them four years of my life and getting nothing in return. I was able to get something out of it that has helped me throughout my life."

The skills he learned on the field and in the classroom have allowed him to excel in his career in human resources and also becoming a well-respected Big 12 Conference official since 1996. In his first career in human resources, he has worked with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, East Central Workforce Development, Inc. and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

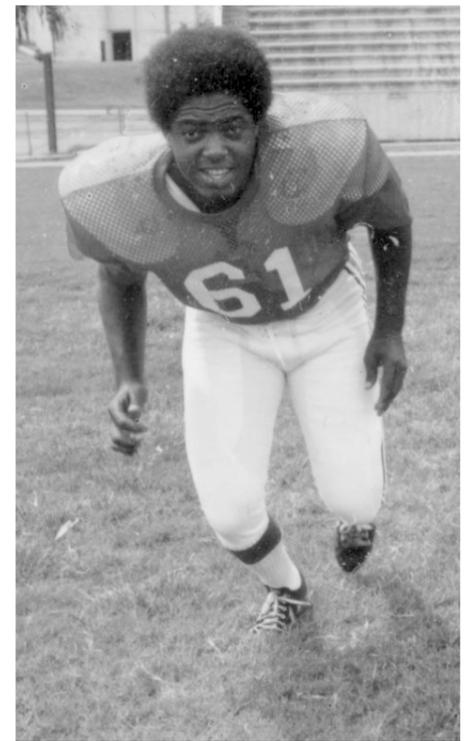
He started his officiating career in 1983 as a football, basketball and baseball official for the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association. He then moved up to working for the Big 8 (1993), Lone Star and Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conferences as a football official in 1989. Since 1996, he has been working as a football official for the Big 12, is the Oklahoma Officials Coordinator for the league and a replay official. He has also worked with NFL Europe, Arena League and the XFL.

"I went into officiating to stay close to the game," Brown said. "I wanted to teach and coach, but I got a job working for the State of Oklahoma right out of college. So I got involved with officiating to stay close to the game and work with young people. I still may be able

to help a student make a difference in their life or help them choose where they want to go after football."

Though his career, he has gotten to work with his former ECU teammate, Derrick Bowers, on the field, traveled to Europe for games, worked several bowl games, including the Rose Bowl and a national championship game, but his hardest games to work were when he had to come back to ECU.

"Getting called back to your alma mater, those are tough," Brown said. "But, I have always called games how I see them, and my colleagues are all men of integrity and will not sway a game in any direction."



Richard Brown, East Central University Tigers (Photo provided)

In his free time, Brown has made a point to be on involved in several nonprofit organizations, becoming a board member of most to give back to his community. He has worked with the Central Oklahoma Human Resources Association, Boys & Girls Club Advisory Board, Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovations Opportunity Board, International Association of Workforce Professionals, Southwest Benefits Association, Oklahoma Human Resources and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Brown has served as the leader of these boards and many more.

None of his accomplishments could have been realized without the lessons he learned at ECU in the classroom and on the football field. It also gave him personal connections that he has maintained.

"The people I met and have maintained friendship with throughout my life are some of my best memories from ECU," he said. "Everyone is like family at ECU. The atmosphere and quality of the teachers who cared about you as a person was tremendous."

"After attending East Central, I always tell kids, 'Try one year at ECU. You will find out that being a college student can be some of the best times of your life.'"

His love of sports has rubbed off on his family, as his son Justen has become a women's college basketball official and his daughter Brittney is an assistant women's basketball coach at Texas Christian University.

Recently, Richard and his wife Pat celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary. ♡



Richard Brown stays connected to his college football days as a Big 12 referee. (Photo provided)

CPN defends ICWA in Brackeen case

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has signed on to the tribal amicus brief in the latest legal challenge to the Indian Child Welfare Act.

While this isn't the first challenge to ICWA, the case has gained national attention and is considered the most extreme threat to date. The case began in Texas, where lawyers sought plaintiffs in a certain judicial district so that the case could be decided by a judge most likely to rule against ICWA.

The lawsuit — known as the Brackeen case — went through the Texas district court, which overturned the statute to the United States Fifth Circuit Court. The court upheld the statute in part and found other provisions unconstitutional. Now, all the parties involved (the State of Texas and anti-ICWA plaintiffs, tribal defendants and the federal government) have asked

the U.S. Supreme Court to hear an appeal of the Fifth Circuit decision.

Kendra Lowden, CPN employee and president of the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association, wrote a letter of support of ICWA and reminding of the circumstances on its original passage, stating that Oklahoma was home to the most Indian boarding schools in the United States. Through those schools, Native people faced years of traumatic family separations, which continues to negatively impact Native American families today. Since its creation, ICWA has upheld tribal sovereignty and preserved Native American culture and heritage.

"We have a considerable interest in the Indian Child Welfare Act being upheld to protect our children, our tribes, and our cultures from any and all future traumas related to the child welfare system," Lowden said. ♡

Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



*Bozho nikan
(Hello, my friend),*

As winter approaches here in Oklahoma, we have had some strange weather – a few days almost hot, over 75 degrees, and some freezing nights. This weather variance is hard on our golf course since we must cover our greens

when it freezes. The 15 degrees below zero we had last winter killed many plants, shrubs, and trees, and we are nursing along some young, replanted ones at almost every one of the 24 locations where we have buildings and landscaping. Greenery is very important to the appearance of our facilities.

We finally decided to start over with our traditional Potawatomi garden at the Sharp House where the Potawatomi Leadership Class stays in the summer. We salvaged all of the seeds and roots necessary to regrow the plants from the old garden. Since it sat off by itself in an untended hilltop pasture setting, we fell victim to Johnson grass, one of the ten worst weeds in the world according to the University Press of Hawaii. Johnson

grass is listed as a noxious or quarantined weed in 19 states.

As a cattle rancher of some scale, I can testify to the harm it has caused my planted cattle pasture. It is nearly unkillable, coming from both seeds and rhizomes. If wilted from frost or hot weather, it can accumulate enough hydrogen cyanide to kill cattle and horses. Unplowed for three years, it will become root-bound because it grows so thick. It came from Africa, introduced to his plantation by Colonel William Johnson about 1840 in Alabama, and has spread west ever since.

For those of you who have been following the progress of the garden, we lost the original historical botanist who started it to another employer. We have not been able to keep up

the nearly daily maintenance necessary to keep the Johnson grass from growing in the raised beds. The area around the garden grew up in the noxious weed as seeds blew into the garden from the strong winds we have up on that hill. So, we made the decision to move the garden down to near Squirrel Creek, close by the location of our sweat lodge. We are going to clean, then cover the ground for a full year and try to kill off any Johnson grass rhizomes before we plant. We will keep the surrounding area mowed to prevent the Johnson grass from going to seed. We plan to use raised beds again with pre-sterilized soil. I recognize this is far from traditional farming for Potawatomi Indians, but our ancestors didn't have Johnson grass. If you would

be interested in helping the project and live nearby, contact Dr. Kelli Mosteller at the Cultural Heritage Center through the main switchboard.

As the next few months go along, I will keep you posted on the progress of several new projects we are starting with funds distributed by the federal government and reserved for capital project construction. It is an exciting time to be a Citizen Potawatomi!

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

*Migwetch
(Thank you),*

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

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



*Bozho
(Hello),*

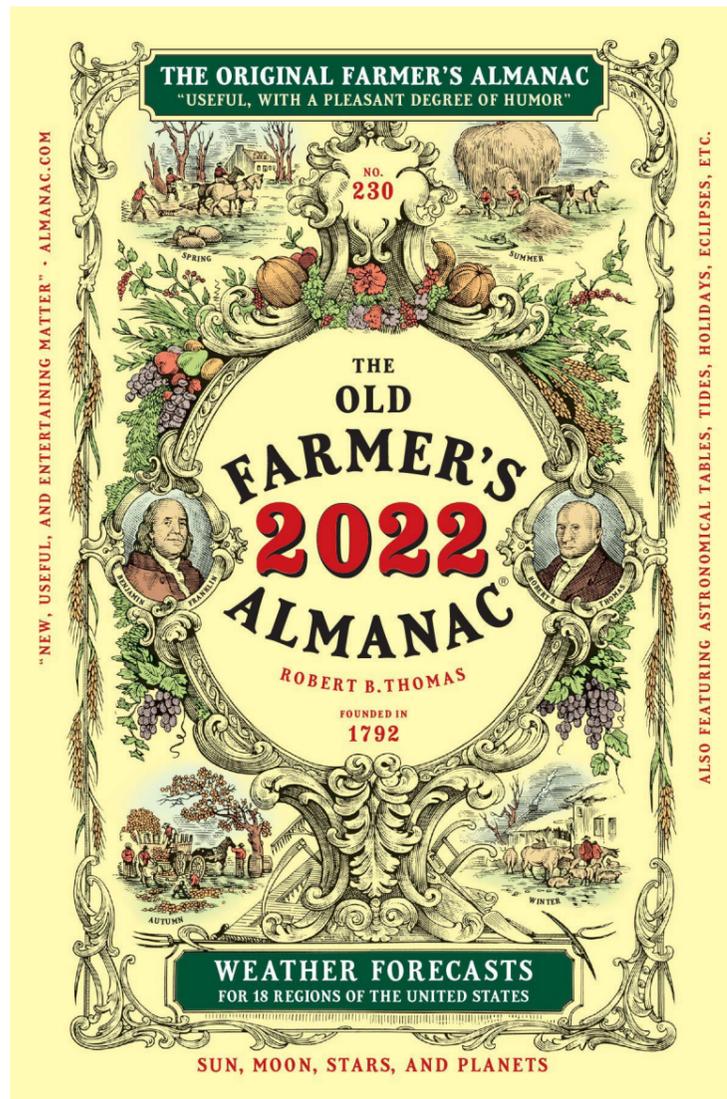
Some of you will find this article quite amusing. Perhaps Tribal members under 50 years-of-age may not have heard of the topic. It is about the Farmer's Almanac – an annual American periodical that was founded in 1792 and has been in continual publication since 1818. The 2022 edition was released at the end of August, the same time each year. I always purchase two: one for my son, Brian, and one for me. Brian likes it because he knows our immediate and extended family has had a current copy of the Farmer's Almanac in their homes for as long as he can remember.

What is this paperback book called Farmer's Almanac? It is a most unusual book with a blend of weather predictions, fun facts, humor and articles on gardening,

cooking, fishing, preparing food from the garden, full moon dates and lore, facts about outdoor activities and home remedies as well as seasonal weather maps for 16 months. The book's contents are delightful. Of course, all the information could possibly be found on the internet, in the library, etc., but it would take a long time to look up all the information, and you can have it at your fingertips for just \$7.99.

In the 2022 edition, there are articles about astrology, folklore (*The Tooth, the Whole Tooth, and Nothing but the Tooth*), genealogy, history and lots of nature. A most important part of the book are the 2022 trends. The trends are about farmers, tech tools, future farming and coming soon farming. There is a whole array of articles on gardening and even in-demand houseplants. There are all kinds of fun facts with percentages. For instance, 20 percent of Canadian consumers never eat food past the expiration date. Seven percent of Americans snack all day rather than consume meals. There is a section about our animal friends and even some statistics about animals. One example, 84.9 million U.S. households have at least one pet.

There are also articles on your health outlook and some good statistics about a person's relationship with their physician. There are 51 percent



of consumers that are very or extremely likely to tell their doctors when they disagree with them. People are taking more responsibility for their own health and are expressing their

views and opinions to their physicians. I personally think that this is true to a greater extent than even 20 years ago. There are articles about money matters and some good statistics

regarding personal finance. For example, 10 percent of people have a credit card that they keep secret from their partners. Another is 70 percent of employees say that they got a raise after asking for one.

I guess you can say that I am promoting the Farmer's Almanac. Not only do I like it, but it brings back great memories from my childhood. My Potawatomi mother planted the garden by the almanac, she harvested by the almanac, and she depended on the weather information. Of course, we know that the weather is readily available today; however, it may come in handy to see the weather prediction for your spring vacation six months down the road. Don't get me wrong; I am not getting paid for advertising this book. I simply like the periodical and thought I would share it with our Tribal members.

May you have a great Thanksgiving Holiday. I appreciate serving as your vice-chairman.

*Migwetch
(Thank you),*

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

ARPA FUNDS

To apply for assistance, visit portal.potawatomi.org

District 1 – Alan Melot



Bozho
(Hello),

The holidays are here! I'm always excited with the opportunity to be with family, to enjoy being together, eating together, to share our wins and losses together. Although Thanksgiving has been inaccurately represented in American culture as a happy union of Natives and Europeans, I decided long ago that I would not let that get in the way of me expressing gratitude for the life I am blessed with. I walk in gratitude daily, thankful and aware of my health, home and family. It seems natural to me to set aside a day to put a point on that gratitude, to go out of my way to thank God and those around me for all of the good in my life. So, Happy Thanksgiving!

As we get together to celebrate this year, I have no doubt that many of us are missing folks around our tables. COVID has taken a toll, on top of the more normal losses we face. Some in my extended family

have walked on this year due to health issues, and I'm sure many of you have lost friends and family as well. Further, I have had some significant conflict in my family that has resulted in some of the people I love the most being estranged from me. These are hard things, and I can easily imagine that some of you have similar experiences.

These difficulties are hard to bear.

We carry on. We carry on with hope. We carry on with hope that love will win the day. We carry on with the hope that the hardships and difficulties we bear will not be in vain, but that our heart and efforts will be noticed and justly rewarded. We carry on with the hope that whether in this life or the next, we will gather once again with our loved ones.

I was able to spend time recently in central Indiana at the Trail of Courage event hosted by the Fulton County Historical Society. This event features Potawatomi heritage and involves the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association. I spent time visiting with my cousin, George Godfrey, who has written many books about our ancestors and is the president of the Trail of Death Association. George is always a delight to visit with, filling in gaps of my knowledge of the Bergeron family and adding fun details to Potawatomi history. I was also pleased to be able to meet with Kevin Roberts while I was there. He was a pleasure to talk to, full of energy and ideas about how to bring more language and



(Left to right) Shirley Willard, PToDA Treasurer; Kevin Roberts, PToDA Secretary; George Godfrey, PToDA President; Alan Melot, D1 Legislator.

culture to D1. Kevin was the Honored Potawatomi at this year's event, and I was excited to learn that he is stepping in to the secretary position with the Trail of Death Association. The Trail of Death is *our* heritage, and I know that the association folks would love to have more support. If you have interest in learning more, check out their website at potawatomi-tda.org or email George at pnginnthewoods@gmail.com.

As I'm learning about our Nation and governance, it feels important to travel to CPN headquarters and get to know people there. I had lunch at the first of October with Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and was so glad to be able to share thoughts and ideas with her. She is warm and kind, and helped me better understand the role of

the legislature. She cares deeply about our people, and I look forward to learning from her.

I was able to meet with Tiffany Barrett, director of the CPN House of Hope. Tiffany gave me a personalized tour of our program that is a shelter for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. She patiently answered my questions, and was kind and accommodating. This resource is impressive, staffed with caring people and almost all of the things a person working their way out of abuse would need while they find their path to healing.

I also met with Justin Neely, director of the Language Department. Justin is excited and energetic, and we visited about ways to reinforce the

importance of language and culture. I talked to him about an idea several D1 citizens have mentioned — making Potawatomi the official language of our Nation. This has been discussed before, and I believe that now is the time to act on this idea. Chairman Barrett approved my addition to the Tribal Culture and Arts Legislative Committee, and I look forward to working with him and the committee to craft legislation that will reinforce the reality that our language is central to our identity. There are many resources for those interested in learning Potawatomi language, *Bodwéwadmimwen*, and I plan to share resources here. As I am able, I will begin working with our language department and other knowledge holders to translate parts of my legislative articles into *Bodwéwadmimwen*. Exposure to our language is critical for its survival, and the survival of our language is critical for our sovereignty. We must learn our language, each of us.

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you in person. If you have questions or advice or just want to chat, I'm all ears. Get in touch.

Bama pi
(Until later),

Alan Melot
Representative, District 1
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Joplin, MO 64801
417-312-3307
alan.melot@potawatomi.org

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends)!



Participants in the Potawatomi Chicago gathering.



Eva Marie Carney with Sharon Hoogstraten above Andrea Carlson's mural in Chicago.

Fall Meeting Nov. 13

I hope you will be able to attend our virtual Fall Meeting at 3 p.m. EST on Nov. 13. Postcard invitations have been mailed out to District 2 and District 8 residents. (It is a joint meeting with Dave Carney and District 8.) You will find the details in the invitation reprinted here. Updates on all District 2 events are available 24/7 at cpn.news/D2calendar.

It's finally here: Rock Your Mocs 2021

Here are the FAQs, reprinted from rockyourmocs.org:

- **Event dates:** Nov. 14 – 20
- **Why November?** November is National Native American Heritage Month.
- **Why a week?** The event was increased to a week creating more event opportunity days, especially for schools, people who work Monday – Friday and people organizing events.
- **Do we have to wear our mocs the whole week?** Nope, choose a day or days, or the whole week.
- **Is there a main day?** The original day will always be Nov. 15.
- **Why?** A positive opportunity to be united and celebrate tribal individuality by wearing moccasins. We honor our ancestors, and Indigenous peoples worldwide, during Rock Your Mocs events and commemorate National Native American Heritage Month.
- **Where?** Wherever you may be! Wherever your day takes you!
- **How to join in:** Wear your moccasins or Turquoise Awareness Ribbon or RYM T-shirt or organize an event.

- **Internet:** Use the hashtag #ROCKYOURMOCs with your social media post (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram etc.)

Celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day in Chicago; Next year's Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations

I was able to get up to Chicago on Oct. 11 to participate in a small gathering of Potawatomi at the Riverfront there. About 20 representatives

from among the 11 currently recognized Potawatomi nations participated; some provided their reflections. I've included some photos. As a reminder of the eleven nations, and their current main locations, they are:

- Forest County Potawatomi — Wisconsin
- Hannahville Indian Community — Michigan
- *Match-e-be-nash-she-wish* (Gun Lake Tribe) — Michigan

- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi — Michigan
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi — Michigan
- Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation — Kansas
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation — Oklahoma
- Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nation) — Ontario
- Wasauksing (Parry Island First Nation) — Ontario
- Chimnissing (Beausoleil First Nation) — Ontario

- Neyaashiinigiing (Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation) — Ontario

The gathering was organized by Geewadin Elliott, a Potawatomi member at Neyaashiinigiing, along with his sister Winona Elliott. They pushed the event forward because they wanted to be sure that we did not break our 27-year streak of Potawatomi gatherings. Melodi Serna, the executive director of the American Indian Center of Chicago, helped with logistics. We gathered in front of the expansive mural on the southside of the Chicago River

that reads “*Bodewadmikik ethē yéyék/You are on Potawatomi Land,*” created by the Obijwe artist Andrea Carlson. You can learn more about this artist and her work at cpn.news/carlson.

For your calendars: The 28th Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations will be hosted by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi during the first week of August 2022!

CPN Citizen in Shikaakwa (Chicago)

During my 12-hour stay in Chicago, I got to spend time with CPN citizen and Chicagoan

Sharon Hoogstraten. Sharon is a photographer and storyteller and lovely *kwé* (woman) and *nikan* (friend). Sharon has spent a decade creating formal portraits of fellow Potawatomi, focusing on both the traditional and contemporary aspects of regalia. If you have been to our Cultural Heritage Center, you likely have seen her large-format portraits displayed there. I got to preview Sharon's incredible book of photographs and stories, *Dancing for My Tribe: Potawatomi Tradition in the New Millennium*, and can't wait for its publication scheduled for 2021. You can learn more about Sharon and see

some of the photographs that will be included in her book at hoogstratenphotography.com.

Keep in touch

Please stay safe and well. I look forward to hearing from you. All my contact details are below.

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Ojindiskwe (Blue Bird Woman)
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Arlington, VA 22205
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evamariecarney.com

District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

September was a very busy month, and I hope you find my topics interesting.

SAIGE

Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Jeffrey Johnson is a member of the Society of American Indian Government Employees where he is with the mobile training team as a technician. He has acquired and created thousands of courses and hundreds of mobile training teams for international military students. The training portfolio he works with is valued at over \$10.9 billion, which is used in concert with 157 foreign nations and supports the Air Force Secretary's priority to strengthen our foreign alliances. On Sept. 15, Jeffrey was presented with the 2021 SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph near Universal City, Texas, in a virtual ceremony. For complete details, including a photo of Jeffrey with the CPN flag and

the congratulatory remarks made by Col. Brian Afferbaugh on Jeffrey's performance and dedication to his job, please go to cpn.news/SAIGE.

In addition to his wonderful work ethic, he is active with the base community and brings information about our culture and history to the students in the base schools.

Prior to learning of SAIGE, I was unaware of the military having a group for Native American government employees. For those of you who are in the service or have tribal relatives in the service, you might have them check to see if this organization has a chapter where they are serving.

Congratulations, Jeffrey. Your service to our country and representation of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is greatly appreciated.

Secretary of the Interior

The Sierra Club had a September article written by Jenni Monet on Laguna Pueblo native Deb Haaland, the new Secretary of the Interior. I thank District 3 constituent Eliza Berger for bringing this article to my attention. It is a great story of a determined lady from one of six small pueblo villages in New Mexico, rising from a very small community to step into this great federal government position. Here is the link to the full article: cpn.news/deb.

It is an excellent article and testament to the road she took to get there. I hope that



Legislator Whistler helps tie corn grown in Texas for the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes.

you enjoy reading the article. Having her in this position is very refreshing because this federal department is extremely important to us since one former Secretary of the Interior said their goal was to civilize or exterminate us. We now have someone who will support us, and we know can be trusted in how we should be treated and respected.

American Indian Heritage Day in Texas

On Saturday, Sept. 25, we celebrated American Indian Heritage Day in Texas at Lone Star Park race track in Grand Prairie. It was nice to be able to get there again since due to COVID-19, we were unable to hold the formal event in 2019 and 2020. This year, the Caddo Nation was recognized, and our formal subject dealt with sovereignty. The subject was covered from a variety of perspectives, and mine dealt with treaties and what was given up to gain our sovereignty. There were tables by different groups offering crafts and information. The Indigenous Institute of the Americas had information on some herbs and medicines used in the past by various Native American groups, depending upon where they lived. Two items that I found new to me were white willow bark and bear root.

Willow bark is a fever and pain reducer, used by most nations that had rivers where the trees grow. More information on it can be found at cpn.news/willow.

Bear root — also called *oshá* — has an active ingredient in the plant that makes aspirin. It is

found in the mountains as a root. Bears go crazy for the smell. I like this info and thought you might find it interesting since this is something our ancestors used long before the Europeans arrived. Details on bear root may be found at cpn.news/oshá.

I was able to secure a sample of each and opened the white willow bark when I returned home. It has a very refreshing aroma. I may bring each to our forthcoming District 3 meetings for you to see it first-hand and smell the bark's scent.

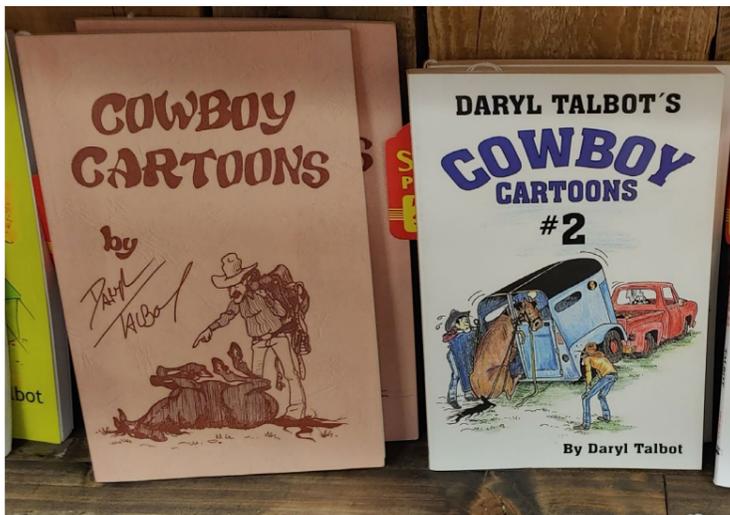
Wichita Corn

This spring, the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes desired to regenerate some seed corn from the 1870s that had been saved and wanted to create new seeds grown in Texas since this was their original lands. Anita Silverhorn-Wolf from the tribe's education department contacted a friend, Scott Langston at Texas Christian University, for help to find a garden location for the planting. Scott met with Fr. John M. Suenram, a Carmelite Father and the center director at the Mount Carmel Center. Fr. John and his sibling monks and nuns have a large acreage in Dallas, and at the back of their property is a garden area that they offered for planting the seed corn. On Sept. 11, I was invited to meet there and help pick the corn and set it up to dry. The garden area has both perimeter and overhead fencing to keep the pests away. We picked the corn and pulled the husks down so each had two opposing strips of corn husk with the ear dangling. A line was strung across one side of the garden. We tied the corn husk to the string to dry

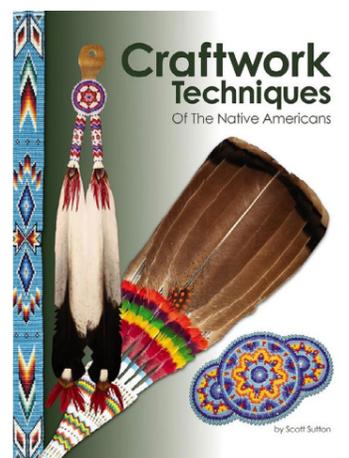
the corn in the open air, so it would dry evenly throughout. I have included a photo of some of us by the string that shows the hanging corn. Fr. John is not in the photo. However, Anita Silverhorn-Wolf is and has on a red shirt and yellow mask. Scott is just behind my right shoulder. The corn will dry for several weeks and will be taken down and back to the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes in Oklahoma. I was honored to be able to participate in this cultural and heritage event that was important to their nation. I thought it was very interesting that a line was used as a procedure to allow the corn to dry evenly. By the way, they also had squash growing along with the corn in this garden, but they didn't include the usual third sister — beans.

Gift shop

In my most recent trip to Shawnee in September, I saw some cowboy cartoon books on sale created by Daryl Talbot. Daryl is the commander of our veterans' group and a Choctaw citizen, and he is married to a CPN member. The Veterans Honor Guard brings in the flags at our events as well as at other Nation functions. The books were on sale at Potawatomi Gifts for \$20 and looked very interesting. Another item for those of you that may be thinking about making something for the Family Reunion Festival in June 2022, there was a book *Craftwork Techniques of the Native Americans* priced at \$19.95. You might consider getting this for some ideas. I do some craftwork and found items in the gift shop very helpful. They have an online store at potawatomigifts.com



Daryl Talbot's Cowboy Cartoons books



and routinely get new items for sale. Photos of Daryl's books and *Craftwork Techniques* accompanies this article.

District 3 meetings

Our first meeting will be in Corpus Christi on Saturday, Dec. 11, where a craft item will be made. The meeting will be held at Emerald Beach Hotel. I am still deciding on holding

the Jan. 22 meeting in either Round Rock or Bryan/College Station. The Jan. 29 meeting will be in Lewisville. I should have more information on the other two dates and locations in my December article.

ARPA money

Gentle reminder; if you are an enrolled Tribal member who was enrolled before Feb.

1, 2021, you are eligible for an ARPA check for \$1,400. If you haven't yet applied, now would be a good time to submit your application. I have a copy of the application on file if you can't access it at portal.potawatomi.org.

As I asked before, I would appreciate having an email contact for you. You can go to my website, cpndistrict3.com,

and send me a short note along with your email address. That way, should I have some pertinent information that might benefit you immediately, I have a contact for you.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you in District 3. I am your voice and am here to help on matters or questions regarding our Nation.

Bama pi
(Until later),

Bob Whistler
Bmashi (He Soars)
Representative, District 3
112 Bedford Road, Suite 116
Bedford, TX 76022
817-229-6271 cell
rwhistler@potawatomi.org
cpn3legislator@yahoo.com
cpndistrict3.com

District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho
(Hello),

Veteran's Day

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all CPN members who are currently serving our nation and to my fellow CPN veterans for their service and sacrifices. I feel that anyone who wore the uniform and received a discharge under honorable conditions should be proud of the fact that he or she served this great country and are worthy of being recognized for doing so. To all fellow CPN veterans, we will never forget the sacrifices you've made to protect our nation's freedom.

Thanksgiving



Legislator Boursaw and Chairman Barrett recognize the wisest attendee at a recent District 4 meeting.

It goes without saying that we all have a lot to be thankful for again this year. Remember: Thanksgiving is not just for expressing thanks for what you have; it is also a time to be grateful for what you are going to have. Please take a moment on Thanksgiving Day and give thanks to those service men and women who are away from their families and loved ones on that day. Peggy and I wish that your Thanksgiving is full of love, warmth and extra special moments. Have a wonderful and Happy Thanksgiving. But please, be safe!

Wichita district meeting

Early in October, I held a district meeting in Wichita, and it was very successful with over 60 in attendance. I was joined by Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps who updated the attendees on current activities and programs within the Tribe as well as future plans for growth and expansion. The principal speaker at the meeting was Dr. Donald Blakeslee from Wichita State University, who gave an extensive presentation on his ongoing exploration of the vast ancient Native American community near Arkansas

City, Kansas, called Etzanoa. This community is believed to have consisted of over 20,000 inhabitants and was one of several such communities that stretched north into what is now central Kansas. He described in detail the findings that have been made in the area regarding items such as tools and knives made from buffalo bones or stone as well as evidence that there was a battle with the Spanish conquistadors. This was the inhabitants' first encounter not only with the white man but also the horse. The current members of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes in Oklahoma are considered to be descendants of those who lived in Etzanoa.

Upcoming activities at the CPN Community Center in Rossville

November Elders Potluck: A traditional feast recognizing Native American Heritage Month and celebrating Thanksgiving, sponsored by the Senior Support Network staff, will be held at noon, Friday, Nov. 12. Tracy and Brenda plan to serve a buffalo meatloaf as the main course. You are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. If you plan on attending, they have asked that you RSVP by Tuesday, Nov. 9. Their number is 785-584-6171. You will be required to wear a mask at all times unless eating or drinking. We want this to continue as planned but will be cautious and want everyone to be safe.

December Elders Potluck: A traditional holiday feast sponsored by the Senior Support Network staff will be held at noon, Friday, Dec. 10. Tracy and Brenda are still working on the menu. As usual, you are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. If you plan on attending, they have asked that you RSVP by Tuesday, Dec. 7. Their number is 785-584-6171. As of now, you will be expected to wear a mask at all times unless eating or drinking. We want this to continue as planned but will be cautious and want everyone to be safe.



Chairman Barrett recognizes the youngest in attendance at a recent District 4 meeting.

Ongoing Elder activities: The elders in the Rossville area are staying active during the pandemic. Over the past 14 weeks, Brenda Zeller, CHR, has been leading the group in various exercises. Each week, her exercises address a different area of the body or problem, such as balance. As a former occupational therapist, she has many ideas and keeps it fun. The group has grown from three to 10. Once a month, one of the elders volunteers to lead a simple cooking class that is limited to three ingredients or less. It has been a big hit. Kansas State University Extension Service comes over once a month for a nutritional program and gives the elders ideas on cooking for one or two people. For many, this can be a real challenge and sometimes a big problem. Everyone stays after the activities and has lunch together. If you would like to participate, remember, these activities are on Tuesdays and start at 11 a.m. and everyone is welcome.

Email addresses

I cannot stress enough the importance that you provide me with your email address

in order for me to distribute the information such as the ARPA Individual Assistance Program and other pertinent information. I have recently sent out several emails to those CPN members for which I have email addresses. If you are not receiving my emails, either I do not have your email address or what I have entered on my list is incorrect or has been changed. If you would like to be added to my e-mail list, simply send me an e-mail at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. This is the only method available to me to obtain your email address.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

ARE YOU GRADUATING IN DECEMBER?
SEND THE FOLLOWING INFO TO GRADUATION@POTAWATOMI.ORG BY DEC. 15 AT 5PM
FULL NAME, HOMETOWN, POTAWATOMI FAMILY NAME, HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE, AND DEGREE TYPE AND MAJOR

District 5 – Gene Lambert



Bozho
(Hello),

I hope this column finds you all well. If you read my column last month, you know I have been doing research on Native American stories and traditions tied to the Star People. I have come to discover that several Potawatomi communities have beliefs that connect us to the cosmos.

I found a *Hownikan* article that I'd like to share that highlights our Tribe's stories and sky knowledge:

Communities across the world have passed down stories and beliefs tied to the cosmos. The Potawatomi hold their own oral traditions linked to astronomy, and learning about these customs ensures teachings survive for generations to come while simultaneously creating a sense of balance between the past, present and future.

"The fact of the matter is, a lot of us grow up not speaking our language, not knowing our history and knowing very little about our culture. ... This is a really common story for, I think, a lot of Potawatomi

people," said Blaire Topash-Caldwell, citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians.

Learning traditional knowledge and customs through the stars helps remove the separation sometimes created between modern living and being Native American, she added.

"I see this connection between constellations and Indigenous astronomy as saying, 'Hey, our ancestors were scientists. I don't have to put my Indigeneity on the back burner in order to be a professional or to be an astronomer. They're not separate things,'" Topash-Caldwell said.

Lowered down

Scientists and astronomers like Neil deGrasse Tyson recognize that humans contain the same genetic makeup as the stars.

"Even though we're talking about stars and suns that are millions of miles away, and sometimes millions of light-years away, that doesn't make it any more separate from us," Topash-Caldwell explained. "I bring it back to a sort of Anishnabe perspective, which we see everything like we're related. ... We see everything in a kinship relationship. The stars are in our kinship. They're the star nation."

*She began learning more about Potawatomi star knowledge during her time working in the Pokagon's archives under the department of language and culture. During a Zoom interview with the *Hownikan*, Topash-Caldwell highlighted how the word Nishnabé can create ties to the skies above.*

"Depending on what community you're from, (Nishnabé) literally

refers to being low or being lowered down," she said.

Potawatomi and other Nishnabé believe that plants, animals and other living beings have more wisdom and are more important than humans.

"It's a really humbling sort of explanation, but the other explanation that I get a lot is that Anishnabe, the Ones Who are Lowered Down, refers to our creation story that we were lowered down from the sky realm, specifically the hole in the sky constellation that the Ojibwe call Pugonakeshig" she said.

The Potawatomi, Ojibwe and Odawa are brother tribes, and at one time, were one single tribe. Because of this, the languages and culture across all three are similar. However, most Potawatomi call Pugonakeshig constellation Mdodosenik (Sweat Rocks).

Guidance

During the Nishnabé people's migration from the east coast to the Great Lakes region, some Tribal elders and history keepers believe they followed the celestial phenomenon known as the Crab Nebula supernova explosion.

"It left a really bright point in the sky (that) was definitely observable at night, but it was so bright you could see (it) during the day as well," Topash-Caldwell said during a 2020 Potawatomi Virtual Gathering presentation.

Additionally, Potawatomi constellations describe seasonal activities. Some communities believe that it is appropriate to share winter stories only when Pondésé Nēgos (Winter Maker) is in the sky.

"Some people have the interpretation that rather than reserving certain stories for winter, or more specifically when snow is on the ground, that actually (Pondésé Nēgos) might have been one way ... to communicate that what we really need to do is reserve the stories for when Winter Maker is in the sky," she said.

The stars vary depending upon location and time of year and may hold warnings and other communications. Through research and studies, Topash-Caldwell said she agrees with Carl Gawboy, an Anishinaabé artist from the Bois Forte Reservation in Minnesota, about the Nambezho Nēgos (Underwater Panther Star). It becomes visible between late winter and early spring when the water begins to melt and flow quickly, and he believes it could indicate the importance of employing extra caution when traveling by water.

"We know that nambezho (underwater panther) is a water spirit that we need to respect and that it's associated with whirlpools and capsizing canoes ... and (the nambezho petroglyphs) seem to show up in places in the Great Lakes where the water can be really dangerous," she said.

Learning resources

Becoming more acquainted with Potawatomi star knowledge preserves an important part of Potawatomi culture, Topash-Caldwell said.

Kyle Malott, language specialist at the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, developed a map that features Potawatomi constellations based on the seasons, which is available at cpn.news/stars.

Topash-Caldwell also recommends using stellarium and the Potawatomi Constellation Star Map to help find Potawatomi constellations.

"It's a free downloadable program where you can punch in a location anywhere on Earth, like in Oklahoma or here in Chicago, and you can get a 3D view of the night sky," she said.

Stellarium automatically selects the current date, but Topash-Caldwell said users can choose other times of the year.

"And not only do they have the Greek/Roman constellations, they have the Ojibway ones pre-populated in there," she said.

"There's so much ancestral knowledge contained within (the stars) that we just don't have access to. I think some communities will have stories that we can add as time goes on."

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center also features a digital interactive that highlights Potawatomi constellations.

I hope you've found this part of our culture and history as interesting as I have! Be sure and take some time this month to remember all the gifts and blessings Creator has provided. I wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Your representative,

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

District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

It is again time to get your fall graduation announcements in for anyone graduating high school or college in December 2021. Please email the following information to

graduation@potawatomi.org, and they will be announced in a following issue of the *Hownikan*:

- Full name
- Hometown
- Potawatomi family name
- Degree type/major
- School or college name

For those of you still in college or getting ready to start, the scholarship program application period for the spring 2022 semester opens on Nov. 15, 2021, and closes on Feb. 15, 2022. Applications are now submitted online, and you can log in at any time to check on the application's status. One scholarship is available to you each semester, \$2,000 for full-time students and \$750 for part-time students. Students are also reminded that you have

advising, scholarship help and internship support available to you through the Department of Education. The online application portal can be found at portal.potawatomi.org. You can also contact them by email at college@potawatomi.org or by phone at 405-695-6028.

Scholarships for vocation and technical studies are handled by CPN Workforce Development & Social Services, which can be reached via telephone at 405-878-3854.

As a reminder, submit your application online for the ARPA funds at portal.potawatomi.org. I am sure that with the holidays approaching, everyone could use the \$1,400 allocation for those enrolled before Feb. 1, 2021. Every member is eligible, regardless of age, if you meet

the enrollment requirement. I am proud that we have been able to provide District 7 members several million dollars of assistance between the CARES Act funding last year and the ARPA funds this year. If you need help, please reach out to me or call the help line at 833-481-0638.

I would also like to take a moment to let you know that I plan to run for re-election in 2022. It has been the biggest honor of my life to have served you as your district representative; we have accomplished much since I have been your representative, and we still have much work to do.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always give

me a call, and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have or provide you with additional information you may need to access Tribal benefits. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and District.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Mark Johnson
Wisk Mtek (Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611
559-351-0078 cell
mark.johnson@potawatomi.org

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ONLINE**



District 8 – Dave Carney



Bobzo nikan
(Hello friend),

Last month's *Hownikan* found me announcing the cancellation of our in-person Fall Feast in Portland, and now I am able to announce that it will be replaced by an online Fall Meeting. Yes, no food to feast on, but hopefully some information and good

interaction to take away after the hour-and-a-half of screen time. District 2's Representative and my sister, Eva Marie Carney, will combine forces with our district and some speakers in Oklahoma and the districts on Nov. 13 at noon PST.

The October 2021 *Hownikan* contained data on the distribution of the CARES Act funds. I am grateful to my fellow legislators for approving the distribution of funds and proud of the CPN staff who processed 3,110 applications and distributed \$2,992,586 in assistance to District 8. The ARPA fund distribution is in full swing now, and I have heard many compliments regarding the staff in getting these funds out quickly. *Migwetch* to all involved. The vast majority of members applied through the portal; however, a fair number of folks without computer access

Fall Meeting
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13
noon -1:30 PST | 3-4:30pm EST

District 2 and District 8 will join forces for an online Fall Meeting, featuring Cultural Heritage Center Director Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., crafting instruction, storytelling by CPN Language Director Justin Neely, an art contest and more.

register online at www.cpn.news/FFNOV

filled out a paper application and mailed it in. If you know of any Tribal member that may have slipped through the cracks, please encourage them to reach out to their legislator for assistance.

Recently, I moved my youngest child into the dormitory at the University of Washington in Seattle. At the moment, I

have three children pursuing higher education. I cannot say how grateful I am to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation for the scholarship program that they are benefitting from. Not only is the financial assistance a blessing, but the efficiency in which they can now apply and take responsibility for their own application and back up

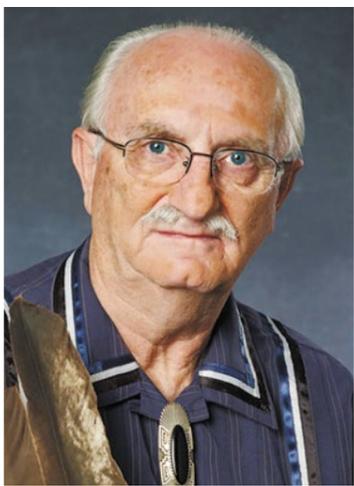
documentation is amazing. The Department of Education, under the direction of Tesia Zientek, is truly building the Nation's future by assisting our youth in meeting their educational goals.

As the rain and leaves begin to fall (or snow in some parts of the district) and we get ready for the holidays, I will give my annual advice: don't get caught up in the consumerism of the Christmas season. If COVID has taught us all anything, it's to stick to the basics and to cherish your family and friends.

Bama pi
(Until later),

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

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

I'm writing a novel, and I need your help.

I have been writing poetry since I was 15 years of age. Writing short stories and essays came to me in middle life.

However, I have not had the courage to write a novel, which can take over a year or more to accomplish. I can write a short story, essay or a poem in a day. That's the difference between the three genres.

I have written eight short stories featuring a young Native American boy, Jamie Redfeather, growing up in Oklahoma and Texas in the 1950s. I'm converting these stories and adding several more into a coming-of-age novel. That's where you come in.

I'm asking you to share your story ideas about the discrimination and bullying of Indian boys in your past. The novel I'm writing is a novel about a boy facing the challenges of growing up in a society where the tone

of his skin and his long black ponytail creates dissension and discrimination against him. Most of us have either experienced these problems personally or know of others who have.

My novel in progress, *Jamie Redfeather*, is very serious, dramatic and poignant. Therefore, it would be of benefit to me if you have some humorous stories or situations to share, which will lighten the seriousness of the novel.

I hope you will share with me your ideas that will improve the

novel. Your creative contribution will be a contribution to me and hopefully to all of us when published. I will be truly grateful. Please contact me with your ideas at reppaul@gmail.com. Thanks!

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

THE CPN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING 2022

APPLICATION DEADLINE NOV 15, 2021

Do you want to serve the tribe in an internship role that aligns with your career goals? If so, this is the program for you. The Internship Program offers a paid, 160-hour internship with a CPN Tribal Department to members who meet qualifications.

To learn more or apply for the Spring 2022 session, email a current resume and cover letter to CPN Internship Coordinator Stephanie Hawk at stephanie.hawk@potawatomi.org.

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 or 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

District 10 – David Barrett



Bozho
(Hello),

How do you parent these days? In the old days when my parents were raising three boys, what they said was gospel. You knew if you got in caught doing something wrong, you got in trouble. If you got in trouble at school, not only did you get punished at school, but when you got home, you got disciplined again. Strict rules were known, and you were fully aware of them and the consequences.

We didn't have computers back then, and when we did get them, you didn't have internet. Nowadays, the parents are behind the eight ball because

keeping the kids safe online is an issue almost all parents grapple with in an era when the average age of getting a smart phone is younger and younger. Alarming among parents concerns are bad apps for kids that could compromise their safety. Today, the potential risks are more serious than ever.

The young people who grew up with tablets are becoming the kids that face risks of bullying and communicating with strangers when they use certain apps. When you hand a smartphone to your kids, are you turning your kids free on the internet? How do you monitor your kid's smartphones, even when you warn your kids of the dangers?

There are many apps that are currently used by young people that are risky. Many apps allow the users to interact anonymously. Other apps let kids send and receive self-destructing photos and videos. Some apps have age requirements, but who is checking?

The internet can be good if it used properly; however, know that there are always more bad apps for kids. Reluctantly, you

must get on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and follow your kids. You will get social parenting knowledge from participation on major social media platforms. Even if your kids make a mistake, usually it can be fixed. Just stay calm, and inform your kids that you are there to help them see past the immediate crisis. What is needed here is to prevent the mistakes by educating your teens. Remember — we parents must take responsibility for guiding our children.

Social media can be destructive, as I have stated earlier, but when used knowledgeably, it has an even greater power to help our kids succeed.

Since you will be reading this column in November, I want to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and Veteran's Day! Allow me to talk about some things that I am concerned with also about parenting our kids on patriotism. Back in the day in a two-room school house, every morning we would start the school day by saying the Pledge of Allegiance. We were taught also what the pledge meant.

We need to teach the kids and others what to do during the

national anthem. Outlined in the United States Code, when our country's national anthem (*The Star-Spangled Banner*) is played or sung, you should stand at attention and face the flag, or face toward the music, with your right hand over your heart. Men not in uniform should remove their hats and hold it with their right hand, putting the hat over the left shoulder so their hat is still over their heart. Also, when the American flag passes in a parade or procession, all persons should show respect by standing at attention, facing the flag with their right hand over their hearts. Military personnel or veterans should face the flag and render their formal salute.

I am of the opinion that we should teach our kids to honor our soldiers, first responders and our people in blue. It doesn't matter if you agree or not with what they are doing, but it is the fact that they are willing to die for our rights.

As a democracy, teach them our core democratic values fundamental to America. *Things that our country was built on such as common good, popular sovereignty, life, liberty, justice,*

truth, pursuit of happiness, patriotism and rule of law.

What are our freedoms? Teach them about the freedoms such as those outlined in the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments in the U.S. Constitution). By setting by example, we as parents should teach our kids what it means to be a good citizen in our country such as voting, paying attention to issues and explaining to them how you decided what's important to you.

Always teach your kids to respect others opinions, even when you might not always agree with them and how to listen to others if it helps you to make your mind up on certain issues.

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.
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405-275-3121
dbarrett@potawatomi.org

District 11 – Andrew Walters



Bozho
(Hello),

“My name is John Johnson,” the little man said as he stood on the curb. John had come to my attention as I patrolled an area in West Houston near I-10. I had seen John walking eastbound on the feeder road with a large duffle bag slung over his shoulder. The bag seemed almost as large as he was, and I was sure almost as heavy. It was raining. Not a hard warm tropical rain, but a steady cold fall rain that came as cold fronts moved into the area. John was about 5'1" tall, had on a dark Navy watch cap, beige trousers, and a T-shirt on under his

CPO jacket. You could tell he was a physically strong man. His forearms muscled from heavy work with his hands. He might have weighed 130 lbs. soaking wet, but then again, he was. He was quite the pitifully sight, but his determination to get wherever he was going showed brightly. I pulled up, stopped the patrol car, stepped out the door and spoke to him over the hood. He was a polite man, well-spoken, affable.

I asked John where he was going, and he told me the Star of Hope Mission in downtown Houston. I asked him if I could give him ride, and he eagerly accepted. After the usual conversation and pat-down that always started with “Ya got any knives, guns, boomerangs, crossbows, longbows, screwdrivers, icpickers, razor blades, clubs, syringes or anything else that might get one of us hurt?” He was good to go. We put his gear in the back, and I let him sit up front. Now I know that some of y'all reading this either were police officers, or are police officers, or wanna be police officers, or watch Dateline. You're thinking, “What an idiot letting the guy into the car like that.” Truth

is, I was never really scared working with folks. You kind of develop a sense about folks and what they are capable of. You're not always right, and I have had my share of those times, but you have to treat people like family until they prove they don't deserve that kind of respect. John seemed a good man, with some bad luck, and no criminal history, wants or warrants. Folks are not all bad.

As were started off to the Mission, I called in on the radio and told dispatch I was “courtesy transport one white male to Star of Hope Mission.” She cleared me and off we went ... at least for a minute or so. That's when the Lieutenant bumped me on the “back channel” and asked me if my car was painted yellow and if I was charging fare for that taxi ride. He told me to terminate the courtesy transport immediately and go back into service.

John heard that, dropped his head, and started gathering some of his stuff off floorboard area up while thanking me for trying to help. I have to tell you; I agree with rules. I think rules keep us going in the right direction. Rules are a compass. But sometimes rules don't take

into consideration events and people. John needed help. But, I did as I was told and advised dispatch that I had “cleared my courtesy transport, back in service.” ... then I took John to the Star of Hope Mission.

On the way John told me that he was with the Merchant Marine and was trying to get back to the Port of Houston after going to San Antonio for his mother's funeral. His company had called and told him his ship was being loaded and readied for departure. He left San Antonio as soon as he could after the funeral, but his car broke down and he left it in a shop in Seguin. He had to get back before his ship left.

We arrived at the Mission, and John got his stuff out of the back seat. He thanked me and turning, walked away. As I stood there, a thought swept over me that but for the Grace of God, our situations might have been reversed. But for the Grace of God, it wasn't me sleeping at the Mission that night. But for the grace of God, I was standing on the “other” side of that police car.

We may be thankful for having a good job, for having a nice

car, or having a fine home. We all have things we are thankful for. But sometimes we need to just be thankful for who we are and for the Grace of the Creator who made us that way. We need to be thankful for the little things, for life, for family. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Oh, and by the way ... I did get in trouble for that. The Lieutenant ripped me up one side and down the other. Questioned my intent, reasoning, ability to use the proper fork at a formal dinner and even my dental health. He sent a letter to the Chief asking that I be barbe-qued, keelhauled, drawn and quartered, and all those other things bosses want to do when they get their drawers wadded up. The Chief's response was, “You've given him a verbal reprimand, that will be sufficient.” Several days later, the Chief passed me in the hallway and said quietly, “I think I would have done the same thing.”

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Andrew Walters
andrew.walters@potawatomi.org
nibwemko@gmail.com



David Allen Weaver Marquis/Bourassa Family



David Allen Weaver was born on May 18, 1989, in San Diego, California. He passed away unexpectedly in Tacoma, Washington, on Oct. 7, 2020, at the age 31. David was attending the culinary arts program at Bates Technical College, completing his chef certification prior to graduating with his associate of arts degree. He worked as a manager at Go Philly Cheesesteaks and Wings Restaurant while attending school. He was a dedicated husband and father, always putting his family ahead of himself.

David was a gifted musician, playing guitar his entire life and advanced jazz band in addition to symphonic and marching percussion at Prescott High School. In marching band competitions, his symphonic percussion section took first place statewide two years in a row. David also played for the youth group at Prescott Christian Church for three years without missing one day. His talent and passion for music brought those around him tremendous enjoyment as he awed his crowd with jazz, rock, acoustic and electric masterpieces. His private lessons since the age of 9 afforded him opportunities to write his own music as well as play for our Lord and Savior.

He enjoyed traveling across country to various mission trips, even making a two-week journey to Santiago, Chile, with his church youth group. David had a passion to serve people, and his charm attracted many friends over his lifetime. His family will truly miss his sweet, loving personality, him constantly telling them "I love you" during his frequent phone calls and text messages, as he has now been called away to heaven to be with our Lord Jesus.

He leaves behind his wife Alyssa Weaver (Tacoma, Washington); their two children, Qwynn and Azaelea Weaver; parents, Daniel and Susan Weaver (San Diego, California); sister, Sarah Haxton and husband Jared; niece and nephew, Zoey and Alexander Haxton (Prescott, Arizona); grandparents, Joyce (Marquis) and Gary Helmbrecht (San Diego, California); and many aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by

grandparents, Stewart and Nancy (Wilson) Weaver; uncle, Richard (Dick) Weaver; cousin, Michael Bruce Weaver; and second cousin, Mariah Weaver.

Arrangements have been entrusted to American Memorial Funeral Directors, Tacoma, Washington.

David Lee Gregson Griffin Family



David Lee Gregson, of Somis, California, died on Dec. 3, 2020, at Pleasant Valley Hospital in Camarillo in the loving arms of his wife and children. The cause of death was the result of diffuse alveolar hemorrhage.

David was born Sept. 23, 1941, in Red Mountain, California. His parents, Glen and Ruth Gregson, had traveled west in search of a better life and the hopes of more plentiful employment opportunities. In 1943, the Gregson family, including David's siblings, Jerry, Glenna and Joel, moved to Port Hueneme, California, to be closer to his paternal grandparents. They enjoyed the cooler weather and a stable job for his father Glen as a longshoreman.

In 1954, the Gregson family moved again to Oxnard where David would enjoy a happy childhood and the abundant love of his family. David was lucky to be raised by two incredibly hardworking people who instilled the qualities that made him the amazing man he was.

David graduated from Oxnard High School in 1959. Members of the graduating class of '59 still continue to get together from time to time for lunch and catch up. David looked forward to those gatherings.

David was the epitome of a hardworking man. As a young man, he always had a job, from delivering newspapers to working at a jewelry store in downtown Oxnard. He was aware of the importance of being a respectful employee and putting in a good day's work.

After high school, David attended Ventura College. He also served his time in the Army National Guard.

David went on to work at the Navy Base Ventura County Port Hueneme for the Department of Defense. He was a computer specialist in the FACS division. David was fortunate to work with his good friend Bob Reed whom he had known since high school. David and Bob were

friends for life. It was at work that David first met a beautiful new keypunch operator. Dad told me that when he first saw mom, he knew that she was the woman for him. Sharon Lynne Evans, a recent transplant from Oak Hill, Ohio, said yes to dad's request for a date. David and Sharon met in September, were engaged by November, and married in Oak Hill, Ohio, on Dec. 26, 1965. This year would have marked their 55th wedding anniversary.

The happy couple lived in Oxnard and purchased their first home on Almanor Street. There, they welcomed daughter Valerie Christine Gregson on May 14, 1968, and son Michael Richard Gregson born Nov. 4, 1970.

David worked hard to provide his family with a wonderfully comfortable life. To give his family even more serenity and safety, David and Sharon bought a piece of land in Somis, California, in 1976 and built the house we still cherish. Living in Somis meant he could grow avocado trees, plant massive gardens, and build a barn for his daughter's horses and a place to store his son's motorcycles. David loved to work on the property and made sure to teach both Michael and Valerie all the essential tools needed to maintain the homeplace.

David was happy while coaching or watching his kids' sporting events. Seeing his family happy and healthy were his goal. Watching son Michael rise through the ranks of the Oxnard Police Department made him especially proud.

In more recent years, he was delighted to be a grandfather and great-grandfather. Grandchildren Brittini, Zachary, Hannah and Paloma were blessed to have a papaw who never missed a dance recital, softball, baseball, football, soccer game or school play. He was truly their biggest fan. The

grandchildren benefited from having such a loving grandfather.

Great-grandchildren Paisley, Pennie and Phoebe will hopefully get to know their papaw through memories shared.

After retirement, David settled into a routine that included his grandchildren's events, time spent with family and weekly epic bike rides with his best friend Don Thorn. David and Don traveled, rode bikes and ate a lot of meals together over the past 35 years.

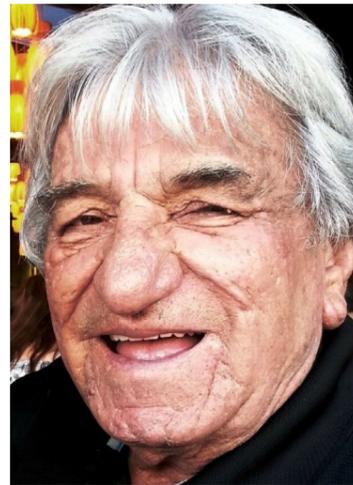
While it's almost impossible for us here left behind to imagine a life without him, I take comfort in knowing that he is in heaven with his beloved mother, father, grandparents and friend Bob.

Dad was a successful organ donor. As per his wishes, David Lee Gregson was cremated, and his ashes will be spread next fall in a beautiful mountain location he had chosen years ago.

We love you, dad.

Sharon, Valerie and Michael.

Donald LeRoy Neddeau Toupin Family



Donald LeRoy Neddeau (*Pos-so*) walked on from life on Oct. 15, 2021, in Hollister, California.

Born in Fort Defiance, Arizona, on Oct. 1, 1936, to Marjorie and LeRoy Neddeau, Don grew

up in Shawnee, Oklahoma. He was a proud Tribal citizen of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He attended St. Gregory's High School in Shawnee, Oklahoma, obtained a B.A. in education from Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah, and a M.A. in Education from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

Passionate about educating youth, Don dedicated 42 years to teaching. His love of music and teaching were undeniable to everyone he crossed paths with at San Benito Joint Union High School, particularly involving the Baler Band. His life was enriched by the many strong friendships, shared laughs and fond memories he had with people from the Hollister community.

Outside of work, Don loved fishing and camping with family. He spent many summers fishing the Klamath River for steelhead and salmon and catching up with lifelong friends, whom seasonally made Klamath's Camper Corral their home away from home. Don was also an avid sports fan from an early age. He loved reading and taking daily walks with his devoted standard poodle, Annie.

Don is survived by his wife of 44 years (Mandy Neddeau); his children, and their families: Beverly McGinley (Mark), Perry Neddeau, Gary Neddeau (Susan), Kimberly McGuire (Brandon), Donielle Neddeau and Browning Neddeau-Alabanza (Mark); grandchildren: Ryan Neddeau, Sayoko Neddeau, Tracey McDonough, William McDonough, Mason McDonough, Riley McGuire, Trevor McGuire and Colin McGuire; and his great-grandchildren: Dominic Caceres and June McDonough. His parents, Marjorie and Leroy Neddeau, daughter Michelle Neddeau, and sister Sharon Pipestem walked on before him.



Hau ndenwémagnek
Ho my relatives

Ébyé yak shote gnom
We have come here today

Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma
To lay our brother to rest

Ngom she épam sét ode
Today he walks

Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek
Among those who have passed on

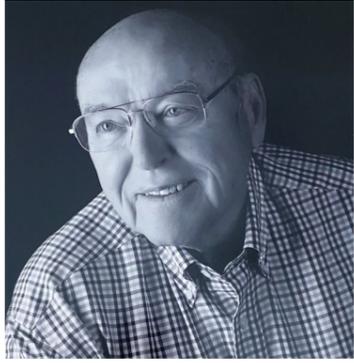
I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngenwen
That is why we offer this song

Émno shketot wa je zhyat ibe shpemsegok
That his journey will go well where he goes above

Iw énaj moyan
That's all I have to say

A Potawatomi prayer for a specific loved one who has walked on.

By Don Perrot

**James Russell Harris
Anderson Family**

James Russell "Jim" Harris, 92, retired air traffic controller, died Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021. Rosary and funeral mass were held on Sept. 30 at Church of the Magdalen in Wichita, Kansas.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Rose Harris; son, Craig Harris; and parents, Lucian Wayne and Della Harris. He is survived by his son, Bruce R. (Macacela) Harris; daughters, Debra Hilterbran, Sharon (Terry) Lewis, Kallie A. (Mark) Seligh; grandchildren, Jamie (Robert) Baker, Becky (Jose) Vargas, Kristina (Steven) Baez, Erica Alder, Carinne Hild, Anna Hild; and nine great-grandchildren.

A memorial has been established with Church of the Magdalen, 12626 E. 21st St. N., Wichita, Kansas, 67206. Share tributes online at dlwichita.com.

**Erik Scott Kohler
Muller Family**

Erik Scott Kohler, 41, passed away peacefully on March 22, 2021, from esophageal cancer. He was born on May 30, 1979, in Oakland, California, to Ed Kohler and Judy Hunt. Erik is survived by his father, Ed Kohler (Debbie Ledger); mother Judy Hunt and stepfather Cameron Hunt; and three siblings, Brian Kohler, Heather Munoz (Jose Munoz) and Kati Hunt. He was the father to

three children; Jasmine Hansen, Alyssa Kohler and Kristofer Kohler; and grandfather to grandson, Aiden Garibay.

Erik had a love for the outdoors and was always ready for an adventure. If he was not with friends driving their RC cars and RC airplanes, you could find him in the sky flying an actual airplane as a solo student pilot. Erik lived in Colusa County for 40 years and worked at Valley Air for 18 of those years. When he was not working, you could find him watching a Giants game or playing video games with friends. His two nephews, Jacob Turner and Bryson Munoz, and niece, Brielle Munoz, were especially fond of their Uncle Erik and always looked up to him.

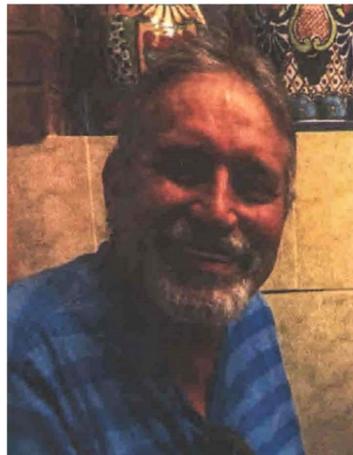
Erik is preceded in death by his loving grandparents, Charles and Margye Anderson and Walter Kohler and Mille Hannum. We know he was welcomed with open arms and all of the love in the world.

**Mark Wayne Batson
McKee Family**

Mark Wayne Batson, 71, passed away peacefully on Aug. 24, 2021, with his family by his side. Mark was born on Aug. 30, 1949, to Clifford and Edna Batson in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Norma Batson; his son, Justin and wife Nicole; his daughter, Amy Foster and husband Geoff; five grandsons (Noah, Andrew, Luke, Jacob and Blake); his older sister, Barbara Cranford and husband David; his younger sister, Debra; many beloved nieces and nephews; and dear friends, Don and Patricia Rohloff.

Mark graduated from Midwest City High School in 1967. After high school, Mark attended the University of Oklahoma before joining the Marine Corps Reserves. In May of 1972, he met his future wife of 48 years on a blind date to Six Flags Over Texas. He completed his degree at Central State prior to joining the Internal Revenue Service in 1973. In 1985, he became a certified public accountant after completing his studies at the University of Texas at Arlington. Mark retired in 2010 after 37 years of service with the IRS.

Mark enjoyed baseball, golf, traveling, cooking barbeque, Western movies and spending time with his family. He could often be spotted watching his grandsons at golf courses, tennis courts, baseball fields and soccer complexes throughout the metroplex. Mark was also a devout follower of Christ that truly loved to study the Bible. He and Norma have been members of Central Baptist Church in Arlington for 43 years. Mark was an easily likeable, generous and kind man that could have a conversation with anyone. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him, but we gain great comfort in knowing that we will see him again.

**Tracy Laine Harridge
Harridge Family**

Tracy "Lainey" Harridge, "The Brain," sugar lover and Pink Floyd's biggest fan, died on Sept. 12, 2021.

Tracy was an adored dad, papa, husband, brother, uncle, cousin and friend to many. He never complained and would give you the shirt off his back. He was quite the stud muffin in high school. He played football, baseball, wrestled and ran track. In 1983, he met Rita, the love of his life. He loved all animals

and would often bring home a stray dog he found on the side of the road and give it a great life. He loved music and would often request to sit outside and listen to his favorite songs. He, however, would be the first to tell you he did not like two types of music: country and western.

He had a life-long love affair with OU football — Boomer Sooner. He was also an incredible arm wrestler. He was a living legend down at the Phillips men's club meetings, beating all takers. And I really do mean that he NEVER lost a match. He surprised everyone (even himself) when he beat a professional arm wrestler from Texas who had arms like a grizzly bear.

He excelled at crossword puzzles, taking care of those he loved, grilling, road trips and any sport he decided to try. He took extreme pride in his two children, Austin and Monica, and grandchildren, Cruz, Quinn and Scarlett.

Tracy took fashion cues from no one. His signature everyday look was all his: a tee shirt with his favorite band, always paired with an OU baseball cap.

The family would like to thank Traditions Hospice for the excellent care he received from Jeff, Stephanie and numerous others. Also, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation elder program Title VI, especially Trina Starr Decker for her dedication to our family.

Tracy is preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Aileen Harridge. He is survived by his wife, Rita; children, Austin and Monica and husband Cole; grandchildren, Cruz, Quinn and Scarlett; his dotting sister, Shannon and husband Rich; cousins, nieces, nephews, brother and sister-in-laws; and his favorite Aunt Bettye Dainty.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7

Memorial services for Tracy were held on Sept. 17, 2021, at the John M. Ireland & Son Funeral Home & Chapel in Moore, Oklahoma, followed by a luncheon at Old School Business and Event Center. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Brothers in Recovery by mail or online

at brothersinrecovery.com. This organization is very dear to Tracy's heart.

**Wanda Louise Willhite
Anderson Family**

Wanda Louise Willhite was born on March 16, 1949, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Roma and Hazel Louise (Anderson) Hancock. Wanda passed from this life on Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, at her home in Broken Arrow at the age of 72.

Growing up, Wanda attended Daniel Webster High School and retired as a records clerk for Cancer Care. She is survived by her husband, Bill Willhite of the home; a daughter, Angela Tunnell-Tohlen and husband, Jason of Broken Arrow; sons, Bennie Tunnell and wife, Stephanie of Oakhurst, and Michael Tunnell and wife, Shannon of Broken Arrow; grandchildren, Kedrin Tunnell and wife, Nicole, Brittney Ogans and husband, Rod, Kyle Fisher and wife, Debbie, Alison Tunnell, Callie Ellis and husband, Jerrod, Brynna Tunnell, Bryce Tohlen and Bennie "Trey" Tunnell; great-grandchildren, Makayla Tunnell, Kaibryn Ogans, Logan Tunnell, Kaylean Fisher, Kasen Fisher and Kayzel Fisher; brothers, Bobby and Jerry Hancock; and a sister, Linda Wolf, all of Tulsa. She also leaves behind many much-loved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Roma Hancock, Hazel and Orbey Childers; great-grandson, Haden Lee Tunnell; sister, Shirley Stephenson; brothers, Leon and Ray Hancock; and a half-brother, Romie Hancock. The family received friends at Ninde Brookside Funeral Home. Rev. Willard Davis officiated the memorial service on Oct. 1 at the Ninde Brookside Chapel in Tulsa followed by an interment at Floral Haven Memorial Gardens.

**Submitting
obituaries**

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

hownikan@potawatomi.org

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

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