Meet the duo helping families heat and cool their homes

When the coronavirus pandemic caused the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort to temporarily close its doors to the public in 2020, employee Stephanie McElfresh moved to the Tribe’s Workforce Development and Social Services Department. The phones rang all day as Tribal members and community members sought relief from the crisis, and McElfresh jumped in to help the department manage the flow.

The temporary role shaped by emergency circumstances turned into an opportunity for McElfresh to shift her life and career. She began working full-time for WFSS as a receptionist, becoming personally acquainted with many of the clients that walked through its doors throughout the course of a year.

Now, McElfresh works as an admissions counselor for the Tribe’s LIHEAP, or Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. She works alongside officemate Andrea Smiley, who started at WFSS not long before McElfresh. Smiley has been familiar with the department’s many resources since her kids were young and participating in the Johnson O’Malley program.

The two quickly developed a rapport and have the many behind-the-scenes steps towards approving clients for LIHEAP assistance down to an efficient and lively dance.

“Andrew and I work very close and share an office together to make sure that all of our Tribal members and other tribal members within jurisdiction get the services that they need,” McElfresh told the Hownikan in a recent interview.

She continues to work closely with the clients on a face-to-face basis throughout the application process, while Smiley handles the finances and recordkeeping. The two share many of the community outreach responsibilities, bringing a personal touch and expert knowledge of the entire process to the table for each client.

LIHEAP

LIHEAP is a federally funded program under the United States Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families that helps low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. Administered by states, federally recognized tribes and other local agencies, LIHEAP benefits include assistance with primary heating and cooling bills during winter and summer months, respectively; assistance with small energy-related home repairs; emergency relief in energy crises; and community education about energy-saving best practices.

CPN has operated a LIHEAP program for as long as Margaret Zientek, Director of Workforce Development and Social Services, can remember — certainly longer than the 25 years she has worked for the Tribe.

Funding is determined formulaically, with tribal entities receiving a portion of state funds based on service area size and income levels.

CPN LIHEAP is allotted a minimum of $200,000 each season. For the 2022 cooling season, the program received $303,000 and served 250 households. Smiley and McElfresh hope to see that number climb. Seeing everyone within the service area who needs assistance receive it motivates them, but they also focus on the long-term continuation and expansion of the LIHEAP program.

Any funds that the program does not use by the end of each season must be sent back, Smiley explained.

“If we have to send anything back, then the next season, they’re going to shorten what we get,” she said. “And so we’re trying not to do that.”

“Margaret (Zientek) fights so hard to get us the funding that we get, so we want to make her proud and show her that her work isn’t going unnoticed,” McElfresh added.

Eligibility

Any household that has at least one person who is a member of a federally recognized tribe, meets income guidelines and is within the Tribe’s six-county service area (Pottawatomie, Lincoln, Payne, Oklahoma, Cleveland and Seminole counties) is eligible for LIHEAP assistance through CPN WFSS.

“There are a lot of people who think you have to be Potawatomi,” Smiley said. “They just have to be a member of a federally recognized tribe, and I think we miss a lot because of that.”

The application requires two forms of ID for the applicant and anyone else in the household, including children; proof of income; documentation of child support; the relevant utility bill (heating or cooling, depending on the season); and any Social Security, disability or Veteran Affairs benefits or other excluded income.

Applicants may be hesitant to disclose other benefits they receive or to reveal the true size of their household for fear of not receiving the needed aid. McElfresh emphasized the importance of disclosing all factors in full — it will only help them get approved for the appropriate aid. For example, some benefit programs such as SNAP auto-qualify applicants for LIHEAP assistance, even if their income exceeds the thresholds set by LIHEAP.

Zientek noted the challenges around effectively getting the word out about the program.

“If they don’t take the newspaper, where do they hear about it? How do they know? Do they watch the news? … And the application is now electronic for the state. How do they do that if they don’t have access?” Zientek asked.

Smiley and McElfresh walk applicants through every step of the process, sometimes even personally going to

Continued on page 3
As a young professional, lawyer and Citizen Potawatomi Nation Supreme Court Associate Justice, Jennifer Lamirand can list accomplishments from her 20s and 30s that many hope to achieve in their entire career. This year, her employer Crowe & Dunlevy nominated her for the prestigious Oklahoma Magazine 40 Under 40 annual award. The publication chose her as one of the 2022 honorees in April.

“I am very much flattered that I was included in this group of very successful and motivated and passionate young professionals in Oklahoma,” Lamirand said. “It’s great to see what everyone is doing to advance and make the state a great place, and I hope that I’m doing the same.”

Lamirand focuses on tribal and Indigenous law at the firm, working alongside other litigators with decades of experience in the subject matter. She appreciates Crowe & Dunlevy’s attention to the subject, especially in what was once Oklahoma Indian Territory.

“I’ve really enjoyed that aspect of the firm, and they’ve been welcoming to this practice area, and I have enjoyed getting to really put some time into service of different tribal citizens and tribal nations within the state,” Lamirand said.

However, she also enjoys other segments of law, including contracts, securities and insurance.

In 2016, Lamirand became an associate justice of the CPN Supreme Court, and she saw it as an opportunity to give back to the Tribe. She called her time on the bench “a learning experience, always.”

“It really gives the justices an opportunity to see the inner workings of our Tribal legal system and how it’s operating, what types of issues are coming as cases wind through our trial courts and then make their way up to the appellate court. … I enjoy looking at the different arguments from parties and seeing how our legal system is providing services to our Tribal citizens and helping to serve and protect the law of the Tribe,” she said.

After seven years on the court, she remains proud of CPN’s willingness to serve and support its members, which Lamirand referred to as “a huge accomplishment” in a recent Hownikan interview. All judges of the CPN Supreme Court are Tribal members, and together, they provide the bench depth and a wide range of experiences.

“That’s because we’ve put an emphasis on education through the Tribe. We’ve helped bring our Tribal members up in these different legal systems to give them the background that they need to practice in this area. And I think that’s wonderful,” she said.

Lamirand felt that emphasis on education as she grew up in Shawnee and Edmond, Oklahoma. The Curly family descendant spent her youth connected to the Tribe, attending events and gatherings.

“We like … to hear the news, vote in the elections, see our extended family and visit with the other families that we know through different connections in town and around. And I really enjoyed coming to do different cultural classes when I was young — learning to do stick ball, learning to do beadings. I enjoyed doing that, and it helped bring out my artistic expression,” Lamirand said.

After high school, she attended Oklahoma State University, earning her Bachelor of Arts in English, followed by the University of Notre Dame Law School. She earned a Master of Laws degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Throughout her studies, Lamirand enjoyed focusing on constitutional law and felt that type of analysis applied to Indian or tribal law.

“The origins of how we view tribal nations in government-to-government discussions and negotiations really starts back at the founding of the country and is tied into constitutional law,” she said. “I started out at that level and also pursuing different studies in international law because I view the interactions between the federal government and tribal nations as … something more akin to international law where you have discussions between different states or different jurisdictional regions.”

Lamirand’s passion for travel and studying the different structures and functions of governments across the globe led to a broader interest in international law as well. She also enjoyed analyzing how the different types and layers of government within the United States intersect and interact, and their effect on various segments of the population. That includes tribal governments and discussions about tribal sovereignty.

“We have sovereignty, and tribal nations are certainly very well protected and open to dialogue with both states and governments that are in their surrounding areas and across the nation to try to come up with arrangements that have our best interest, like ‘we’re all working together towards a common, bright, productive future,’” Lamirand said.

She named CPN’s work providing emergency communications and rural water services as well as building grocery stores in tribal districts as a few examples of the Tribe’s impact in the larger community of Potawatomi Country.

Lamirand enjoys participating in the Nation’s governmental functions as it continues to play a vital role in the greater Shawnee area. Her passion for her firm’s work and service to her Tribe did not go unnoticed by Crowe & Dunlevy as they selected nominees for the 2022 40 Under 40 awards.

“I was thrilled that they thought of me,” she said. “We have many wonderful and successful young professionals at the firm. We have over 100 attorneys right now between our offices. So they have many options. And it was very sweet and nice of them to think of me.”

See the complete 40 Under 40 list and read more about Justice Jennifer Lamirand at cpn.news/40Under2022.

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**Supreme Court Justice named one of Oklahoma Magazine’s 40 Under 40**

**CPN legislative minutes**

Sept. 15, 2022

**Present:** Chairman John A. Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale and Representatives David Barrett, Jon Bourne, Bobbi Bowden, Dave Carney, Mark Johnson, Gene Lambert, Rande Payne, Paul Schmidtkofer, Andy Walters, Paul Wessellhoft and Robert Whistler.

**Absent:** Representatives Eva Marie Carney and Alan Melor.

**Guests:** Tim Zientek, Greg Quinlan, George Wright, Aaron Fipps and Jamie Moucka.

**Call to order:** Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 3:55 p.m. and invited the invocation.

First item of business: Minutes from the previous legislative meeting held June 27, 2022. Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Representative Schmidkofer and seconded by Representative Whistler.

The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Second item of business: Resolution 23-04-R&G: A resolution approving the rescheduling of the 2023 Citizen Potawatomi Nation Supreme Court of Appeals. Motion to approve Resolution 23-04-R&G was made by Representative Dave Carney and seconded by Representative Bowden. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Third item of business: Resolution 23-05-R&G: A resolution confirming the appointment of the members of the Election Committee and designation of Gary Bourbonias as the chairman of the committee. Motion to approve Resolution 23-05-R&G was made by Vice-Chairman Capps and seconded by Representative Walters. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fourth item of business: Resolution 23-06-R&G: A resolution appointing delegates to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) annual session and authorizing payment of NCAI membership dues for fiscal year 2023. Motion to approve Resolution 23-06-R&G was made by Representative Wessellhoft and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fifth item of business: Resolution 23-07-App: A resolution approving the operating budgets of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation for fiscal year 2023. Motion to approve Resolution 23-07-App was made by Representative Schmidkofer and seconded by Representative Bowden. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Sixth item of business: Resolution 23-08-LCoE: A resolution for the voluntary relinquishment of George Frederic Colbert Taylor. Motion to approve Resolution 23-08-LCoE was made by Representative Bowden and seconded by Representative Payne. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Seventh item of business: Resolution 23-09-LCoE: A resolution for the conditional relinquishment of Hailey Raylen Beesley. Motion to approve Resolution 23-09-LCoE was made by Vice-Chairman Capps and seconded by Representative Walters. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Eighth item of business: Resolution 23-10-LCoE: A resolution enrolling 264 applicants into the membership of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Motion to approve Resolution 23-10-LCoE was made by Red by Representative Barrett and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Ninth item of business: Resolution 23-11-NR: A resolution approving the reappointment of Linda Capps and John A. Barrett as members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Floodplain Management Board. Motion to approve Resolution 23-11-NR was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Dave Carney. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Tenth item of business: Resolution 23-12-NR: A resolution authorizing a request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for disbursement of funds being held on behalf of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Motion to approve Resolution 23-12-NR was made by Representative Bourne and seconded by Representative Johnson. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Eleventh item of business: Resolution 23-13-HIS: A resolution accepting and approving funding from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s sanitation facilities construction program, PL. 86-121, as the homes offered through the U.S. Indian Health Service. (Project OK 22-011). Motion to approve Resolution 23-13-HIS was made by Representative Walters and seconded by Representative Wessellhoft. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Twelfth item of business: Resolution 23-14-HIS: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s application for funding under the Department of Health & Human Services Title VI Part A (Grants for Native Americans) and Part C (Caregivers). Motion to approve Continued on page 9
Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett has held a leadership role in the Tribe since 1973. He was elected Chairman in 1985, and since then, many organizations and nonprofits have recognized his leadership skills, business acumen and overall dedication to helping the people of his Nation.

This year, he accepted three awards at the state and national level in honor of his career in public service, belief in servant leadership and decades-long devotion to the expansion of tribal sovereignty across the United States.

The Sovereignty Symposium
The Sovereignty Symposium held its annual event June 8 and 9, 2022, at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City and recognized Chairman Barrett as one of the recipients of its annual Sovereignty Awards.

Throughout his tenure, he has bolstered the Tribe's ability to govern itself by making CPN an essential part of the surrounding community. Leaders from the Nation and from the City of Shawnee created a new collaborative initiative to work together as two functioning bodies. Shawnee Mayor Ed Bolt anticipates a bright future since the governments partnered together.

"Chairman's been a very good neighbor to Shawnee, and they've done lots of good things for Shawnee over the years, whether it's helping with the (community) pool or other projects. … We include each other in conversations that probably didn't happen for a lot of years. It's going to make things much easier for everyone going forward, and that's going to benefit everyone," he said.

Since the 1970s, Chairman Barrett has fought to preserve tribal sovereignty through the creation and adoption of CPN's current constitution and statutes in 2007. He has also been a frequent speaker on American Indian economic development. Barrett previously served as a delegate of the United States Federally Recognized Tribes to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and on the International Advisory Council of the Native Nations Institute.

Chairman Barrett received a medal during the Sovereignty Symposium's awards reception as well as an Eagle Coin gorget made by Muscogee and Seminole jewelry artist Kenneth Johnson, who was this year's symposium featured artist. He designed the piece in recognition of the Tribe's Eagle Aviary that celebrated its 10th anniversary this summer.

American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma
At the 2022 Gathering Business Summit in mid-July, the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma presented Chairman Barrett with the President's Legacy of Servant Leadership Award at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"This honor is reflective of the commitment shown by you and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to the American Indian Chamber's mission of building a stronger American Indian business community. CPN has consistently supported these efforts and makes a difference in AICCO's ability to help Native business companies connect with opportunities and to flourish even in trying times," said AICCO State Board President Bailey Walker.

During Chairman Barrett's tenure, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation founded the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation in 2003. The community development financial institution offers Native-owned businesses the opportunity to increase their business knowledge and obtain loans to establish and grow their companies. CPN also owns the biggest tribally-owned bank in the United States, First National Bank & Trust Co.

Chairman Barrett is also the founder of the National Indian Action Contractor Association and was a guest lecturer for the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. During his leadership, CPN has become the largest employer in Pottawatomie County and exceeded an annual economic impact of $729 million.

International Economic Development Council
The International Economic Development Council honored Chairman Barrett with the 2022 Leadership Award for Public Service at its annual conference in Oklahoma City. He accepted it on Monday, September 19 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center.

According to the IEDC, the award "recognizes an elected official who has served as a committed advocate for economic development for at least 10 years in the public sector."

"When domination of tribal affairs by outside (especially federal) authorities was fostering economic lethargy and dependence, Chairman Barrett led the effort to have the Nation take on all of its economic and public service operations," said Joseph P. Kalt, Co-Director of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development.

The IEDC highlighted a few of his achievements, including CPN acting as one of the first tribes to sign the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership (HEARTH) Act with the U.S. government, the CPDCD's prioritization of women-owned businesses and the Nation's adopted resolution to distribute federal pandemic funds to Tribal members economically affected by COVID-19.

Read more about Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett's work with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation at cpn-news/executive.
Tribal member finds calling caring for wildlife

“My friends are so over my love of wildlife,” said Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Kaylee Almand. From rescuing orphaned raccoons on the side of the road to rehoming turtles in ponds, Almand has always shown a love for animals since she was a small child. She dreamed of becoming a veterinarian when she grew up and is now one step closer to achieving that goal.

This fall, she completes her junior year at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, working toward her bachelor’s in wildlife sustainability and ecosystem sciences with a focus in zoology animal and confined wildlife biology and management with a minor in business. After graduation, Almand plans on continuing her education and applying for vet school.

“This is my calling,” she said. Her ideal career includes time outdoors, studying and helping wildlife, and preserving the earth.

Hands-on experience
As a child, the Bourbonnais family descendant participated in FFA, earning her Lone Star Degree, the highest membership degree awarded by the Texas FFA Association. Almand continues to work toward her American FFA Degree. During her time in the organization, she participated on her chapter’s FFA officer team and exhibited goats and lambs across Texas at fairs and major shows at State and National meetings.

After speaking with the wildlife veterinarians working at the ranch, she realized she wanted to specialize in more than house pets and farm animals. She enjoyed working with larger, exotic animals. The hands-on experience darting, tagging and testing the deer population gave her a clearer picture of her future.

“When we do testing, I want to be with the vet. It’s so interesting. I have been so lucky to have the veterinarians mentor my passion. I am just so interested to see how we test for different diseases and illnesses, how their physical look changes and how we treat the animals. How they can go from a crazy deer to just wanting to be touched is crazy,” Almand said.

Humans’ role
Almand believes in assisting animals in need with the goal of rehabilitation for release back into the wild. Her future career as a wildlife veterinarian aligns with that worldview.

“Many animals end up at a zoo to be taken care of. My goal is to keep the animal in the field so they don’t have to go back to a zoo or rehabilitation facility where they may never be able to be released. And so, I think it’s important to keep the animals in their natural habitat if possible and not contain them,” Almand said.

However, she still enjoys zoos and acknowledges their place in wildlife care. She has visited several parks and zoos across the country, including almost all of those in Texas.

“Actually, Fossil Rim (Wildlife Center) is my favorite zoo. They have an amazing rehabilitation program and breeding programs. They also have giraffes that you can feed from your car. . . I could do it all day,” Almand said.

Love of bison
Her Potawatomi heritage impacted Almand’s career goals and desires. She holds bald eagles and buffalo close to her heart, and covers the opportunity to work with and care for bison.

“I went to Yellowstone (National Park) in high school. And just the buffalo experience was overwhelming. It was so beautiful and empowering. Just being around them was unbelievable. And the more I’ve learned about my Tribal heritage and culture but also I want to learn even more,” she said.

Almand aims to join a buffalo study during her senior year. Heavy rainfall in June 2022 and the subsequent flooding and destruction in portions of Yellowstone National Park interrupted an opportunity for her to travel and work as an intern this past summer.

She is the granddaughter of District 11 Legislator Andrew Walters. At CPN’s annual Family Reunion Festival this summer, he named her A’seeet, or She Walks Quietly. She hopes to return to Oklahoma to spend time with him and at the Tribe’s Eagle Aviary. Almand knows a fulfilling career helping wildlife awaits her, no matter what.

“Just the more that I have worked with animals, the more that I’ve felt like, ‘This is what I need to do. This is my place,’” she said.

Veterans report

Bebo
(Hello),

Are our schools good enough? That may seem like a strange question and topic for a CPN Veterans report, but I think it must be asked. The Army, our Army, has developed an Army prep course to bring the young recruits up to recruiting standards.

The Army has set up a classroom with students and instructor dressed in Army uniforms. A poster is prominently displayed, highlighting Army values as well as warrior characteristics, attitudes and habits. It is part of the new Future Soldier Preparatory Course, a pilot program to help recruits who come up short on fitness and academic standards be able to move on to basic training. It is a challenge these days to find young men and women that are qualified to serve in the armed forces. If it succeeds, it will become a permanent course and will be included in all basic training locations.

This is not the first time the Army has established a program for recruits to improve their enlistment prospects. In the early 2000s, the service created a school to help recruits earn their general education development or GED diploma. On a personal note, I had a cousin who received his GED diploma in the Army and was able to attend Officer Candidate School and eventually rose to the rank of First Lieutenant.

Many of us got our first training and education for our careers in the military. There are even more opportunities and choices of occupations training than in past.

Please note: our monthly meeting of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization is the 3rd Tuesday of each month this month. October 18 at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the CPN Powwow Grounds. This is a week earlier than usual.

All CPN Veterans and spouses and their families are welcome. Membership in the Veterans organization is not required; come and visit us and enjoy our Veterans Night. For more information you can contact Daryl Talbot.

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

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CPN child care providers look toward the future

After two years of battling the coronavirus, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Child Development professionals now are optimistically looking toward the future.

CPN has three child care programs, the West Child Care Center, East Child Care Center and after school program. West Center Manager Courtney Garza said the past two years challenged employees like never before, but their dedication made the difference.

As the guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus changed almost weekly, managing complex emotions about the pandemic became more difficult. However, the staff adapted.

“We’ve always known how to leave it at the door. Even with the pandemic and the unknowns, we still had to maintain that. We have to maintain composure and be there for the children because they’re looking to us for guidance, and they can tell when a teacher is feeling (stress),” Garza said.

On the frontlines

As people learned about the coronavirus, everyone felt anxious about avoiding infection, Garza said.

“There’s a little bit of panic, naturally. But we immediately set to extra cleanings. We (asked) parents (not to enter) the building. We would go get the children from their parents and then bring them in. That way, we reduced the amount of people coming in the building as best as we could,” she said.

The staff followed public health guidelines with the guidance of CPN Health Services. The Tribe implemented mandatory masks and temperature checks for all the employees. For child care, that also included parents, vendors and other necessary visitors to the facility. Thermometer scanners and masks were purchased for each facility.

The staff also changed their usual lunchtime routines.

“We tried to have the (staff) not go to lunch places as much, and we started providing extra groceries and cooking so that we could feed our staff here. That way, we weren’t bringing to-go boxes in the building. At the beginning, nobody really knew how the virus was being spread,” Garza said.

As soon as proven prevention methods became available, child development staff implemented them.

“We found a special fogging solution that helps prevent the spread of illness, and it’s safe for the children. We immediately got that one as soon as we could, and we started using that,” she said.

Garza said all these measures helped parents feel more comfortable about sending their child back to care following quarantine. The facilities also became more flexible with their attendance policy.

“I think that gave a lot of parents peace of mind because we already did a lot of cleaning, but then that on top of it eliminated a lot of concerns,” she said. “We let parents pull their children if they were working from home. Some people lost jobs, and we just held their spots for a long time. We knew with the situation that a lot of people were afraid to bring them. We encouraged parents working from home to go ahead and keep their children home when they could. That way, we had the least amount of people here possible.”

Supporting working parents

While some people transitioned to work-from-home environments, not everyone had that option. Garza said center employees knew that working parents depend on reliable child care. Parents attending higher education or professional training also needed the centers to remain open.

“We have parents who are nurses and child care workers at other places and all sorts of jobs. We have a lot of (CPN) employees’ children, and they had to continue working because their (workplace was no longer working) from home. We had to maintain our continuity of care,” she said.

Parents who receive child care subsidy payments were grateful that the centers stayed open. Under the program, qualifying Native American children attend care with financial support from the federal government.

“During COVID, our director covered their co-pays. I think that blessed a lot of families that they didn’t have to make that co-pay because they weren’t able to work. They could still bring their child here while they’re out searching for a job and not be stressed out about making that payment. I know a lot of parents said, ‘Thank you. I needed somewhere for my kid to go because I was still in school.’ Even for parents, it’s hard to do schoolwork while you have your child at home running around,” Garza said.

Support from health services

Garza said CPN Child Development felt fortunate to rely on CPNHS when virus tests were scarce. As other child care facilities scrambled to find tests, CPNHS stepped up to provide them. Parents did not have the added stress of locating a test.

“I know parents were stressing out about getting them tested. For us to be able to say, ‘We’ll provide the testing at this time; you don’t have to worry about anything else’ is great,” Garza said.

“I think CPN as a whole was really blessed to get the amount of testing that they could. Then providing the vaccines to staff was a blessing because we didn’t have to wait other places to get that done. We were able to get it at the very beginning.”

Staff dedication

Garza has worked for CPN Child Development for nine years. For four years, she has been the manager at the West Child Care Center.

The staff tried to find fun activities to do, to relieve any anxiety staff might be feeling, Garza said. Child Care Director Donnette Littlehead often ordered lunch for the entire staff or provided snacks in the break room to lift morale.

While they look forward to the coronavirus no longer dominating the day-to-day operations, they still follow the latest health and safety guidelines.

Garza feels incredibly grateful for the efforts of everyone in Child Development.

“They’re very hardworking. They’ve kept a positive attitude for the last two years. (Child care can be) a difficult field for some people to be in. But we have maintained some really great staff that pushed through and came to work every day with a smile on their faces. I appreciate their hard work and staying positive for the children. They’re doing their best to keep it a healthy and safe environment for everybody,” she said.

Find the Child Development Center online at cpn.news/childdevelopment.

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POTAWATOMI.ORG/JOBS
CPN offers exciting options for National Field Trip Month

October is National Field Trip Month. Citizen Potawatomi Nation offers area schools and youth groups two options for an exciting experience outside of the classroom.

The CPN Cultural Heritage Center and the CPN Eagle Aviary welcome group tours year-round. Some preparation before visiting will help teachers develop a lesson plan or other classroom activity, plus answer any questions they might have, said CHC Senior Curator Blake Norton. Aviary Manager Jennifer Randell said some groups visit both facilities on the same day, and both sites offer relevant information for most lesson plans, from history to science classes.

**Cultural Heritage Center**

Planning a visit to the CHC is easy. A virtual tour of the museum can be found at potawatomiheritage.com/360virtualtour. “We have an extremely comprehensive, user friendly and enjoyable website (to help educators) prepare either a lesson plan or a more detailed field trip,” Norton said.

With a little preparation, a visit to the CHC can be tailored to suit the needs of the class.

“If you wanted to focus on a particular gallery, we can do that and just do some deep dives into that information for the class size or the age level. There are a lot of variables that can come into play that can make things a lot more positive and a lot more inclusive,” he said.

The visit can also be designed to suit the age level of the visitors, Norton said.

“Primarily for children or early elementary school children, we would mainly focus on our animated origin stories. It’s fun, it’s pretty captivating. It is comprehensive, but it’s easy to follow along,” he said.

The origin stories follow the millennia-long Potawatomi tradition of sharing history in an oral format.

“We really wanted to focus more on the audio components of it. If a young child was having a difficult time following along with the visuals and the animation, they could simply just sit back and listen to it. We wanted to honor the stories in that way, so we enhanced the reciting of the story itself. There’s an underlying score as well to create drama and help pace the story so you’re able to enjoy it in both fashions,” Norton said.

Young visitors will enjoy the Lifeways Gallery, focusing on activities that have seasonal significance.

“The focus is on the seasons, the moons and the activities through spring to summer, fall and winter. Each one of those are highlighted with specific activities and artifacts like our birch bark canoe, as well as the marine environment that we’ve created with specific fish that live in ecosystems in the Great Lakes, and botanicals to specific berries. (There is) a really cool wigwam that kids and adults are fascinated by. Over into fall, kids are interested in looking at our stone artifacts. And then we have an interactive display that takes us into winter and focuses on star knowledge and constellations,” Norton said.

Staff can even plan for teachers who are bringing combined grade-levels.

“It’s fun when you have a mixed age group of kids. It’s really rewarding watching the older kids tutor and mentor the younger kids when they’re asking questions, but also assisting them with our digital interactives and just watching the interaction between the kids,” he said. “We really wanted to create it that way as well for parents and children, too.”

To schedule, contact Senior Curator Blake Norton or Facilities Manager Keisha Wolf at 405-878-5830.

**Eagle Aviary**

CPN’s Eagle Aviary can help students learn about these majestic and culturally significant birds. Advance planning is required.

“I would say three months in advance for getting scheduled to come out here. You don’t always need that much time for smaller groups. But if they have 30 or 40 students, it’s better to plan in advance,” said Aviary Manager Jennifer Randell.

The Aviary wants to encourage all age groups to plan a visit. Randell looks forward to the perceptive questions the youngest visitors ask.

“I will tell you that the small kids, like our third or fourth graders, ask the best questions I’ve ever had to answer. It is really for all ages. And, if we have third graders, I might do a little different presentation than I do for high school students. But they all get a lot out of it,” she said.

Randell suggests visiting the Aviary’s website at potawatomiheritage.com/aviary to watch a few videos before a visit.

“It’s really helpful to have the students watch some of our videos online so they can see what they’re going to experience and maybe have questions ready. We love to answer questions. We do have an education bird out on the glove where they can get up close and personal,” Randell said.

“They actually will actually be able to go out and breathe the same air the eagles are breathing and get them as close as I hope they have ever been.”

The Aviary staff are happy to accommodate groups that would like to visit both the Aviary and the CHC.

“That’s a great option because they kind of intertwine, the cultural perspective we give them here, and then they actually can go see it at the museum. I really love that,” Randell said.

Other than this August’s periods of extreme heat, the Aviary is open year-round. Randell said the best time to see the Aviary’s eagles are in the cooler months when they’re more active.

“The eagles are more active in spring and fall. Winter for the eagles is their nesting season. So, they’re a lot more vocal and active,” she said.

Generally, tours last from 45 minutes to an hour. The Aviary can comfortably accommodate about 35 students at a time.

Contact Eagle Aviary Manager Jennifer Randell at 405-863-5623, or aviary@potawatomi.org to schedule a visit.
Before Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Christine Munoz accepted a job with the Tribe’s health services department, she took a tour of the facilities. She lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with her husband at the time, but the experience pushed her in a new direction.

“When I got this job, I was like, ‘I’ve got to go back.’ ... I was so lucky to find out about my Tribe. It just kind of happened. I came over here just to see what was going on because I didn’t know our clinic was like this. Our clinic’s amazing! I had no idea that they had these facilities,” Munoz said.

She began her first job as an advanced practice registered nurse with CPNHS’ West Clinic in March 2021. As a Tocier family descendant, she relishes the chance to learn something new every day about the culture or functions of the Tribe and its services.

“I have learned that the Tribe has a great sense of community,” Munoz said. “Everyone is very caring, and it’s just amazing the resources that the Tribe uses to help their people. And it’s nice because I got to see directly how much help we’re able to give Tribal members. ... I feel very grateful because there are so many things we can do to help my patients.”

Climbing the ladder

After completing her bachelor’s degree in zoology from the University of Oklahoma, Munoz continued classes and graduated with her nursing degree in 2016. She then worked as a registered nurse at both OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City and Saint Francis Health System in Tulsa. She took her education one step further and received her family nurse practitioner certification from OU in May 2020.

“I just want to take on the much larger role and be more involved in helping people,” Munoz said.

She spent her time as an RN in intensive and acute care units; however, the Wear Clinic and her role with CPNHS to let her transition to a primary care setting. Munoz enjoys the switch from reactive to preventative medicine.

“Preventative care and health screenings are very essential in primary care. So, encouraging people to live their healthiest lives and doing as much as you can to prevent illness or catch things early and treat them is very important,” she said.

Munoz feels the time slip by while talking to patients and their families. She believes a deeper understanding of an individual’s life has the potential to improve the quality of care.

“That’s kind of the benefit of family practice, too. You want to know the whole person. There’s more than just the physical aspects that go into overall health. There are other things you want to know — the emotional, mental, social, spiritual and other aspects that contribute to overall health as well,” Munoz said.

When difficult situations arise, she feels supported by CPNHS leadership. She finds the mentorship she receives from the administrators and doctors around her invaluable, especially throughout her first year as a nurse practitioner.

“You want to do the best that you can for people and make well-informed decisions. ... I’ve never had anyone say, ‘Oh, no, I can’t help you with that.’ Everyone is very gracious and so helpful. They’re all wonderful people. Just having that mentor is just a huge blessing because I don’t know that everyone has that when they start their first job,” Munoz said.

Across the continents

At 32 years old, Munoz and her husband spend their younger years globe-trotting. As she names off the places she has visited around the world, it becomes apparent she has a lot in common with people around the world. ... It’s amazing how you find out that you have a lot in common in many ways, and then also you get to see all the differences which is interesting, but you still have more in common than not. Everyone is very human at the core, and everyone is experiencing birth, life, growth, learning, love and death,” she said.

Munoz’s satisfaction working for CPNHS comes from its understanding of that same principle, and she enjoys sharing a mission with a group of professionals who set a high standard of care for all its patients.

“I feel like everything runs very smoothly over here,” she said. “I think everyone does an excellent job. That’s why I’m just thankful to be here.”

Find out more about Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services at cpn.health.
The 2022 FireLake Fireflight Balloon Fest drew its largest crowd ever to Shawnee, Oklahoma, on August 12 and 13 to enjoy hot air balloon rides, live music performances and family entertainment.

It is a free, annual event that offers both tethered and untethered balloon rides, a nightly balloon glow, concerts, food trucks and vendors. This year, 25 hot air balloon pilots and crew members brought their balloons to Shawnee, five more than 2021. More than 50,000 people attended over two days.

“The committee works hard to make each year better than the last,” said Linda Capps, Vice-Chairman, Citizen Potawatomi Nation. “Balloon Fest is such a fun event, and it’s a privilege to provide a space for families to come together and create new memories.”

Josie Scott and her husband, Michael, brought their balloon, Spirit’s Rainbow. They have attended FireLake Fireflight Balloon Fest since its inception in 2017.

The Oklahoma City resident said the community aspect of Balloon Fest is what draws the couple back each year.

“It’s been great to see it grow each year, to see how the community has jumped in and wanted to be a part of this. It’s one of the only events that is free to get in so more people can come and enjoy it,” Josie said.

Josie enjoys interacting with the youngest balloon enthusiasts. Children often ask if it is possible to cook a hot dog or marshmallow in the burners used to inflate and lift the balloons.

Having time for those conversations is the best part of the weekend, she said.

“We get to bring the people up to our baskets and talk about the balloons. When they’re coming up to the balloon and they have never seen one before — that interaction is my favorite part,” Josie said.

They also spend time catching up with their fellow balloon pilots, something that is not always possible at larger balloon events. This year, the Scotts even met with friends and relatives from Missouri, Kansas and Texas.

“All of that just makes it more like it’s a big family,” Josie said.

The FireLake Fireflight Balloon Fest will return in 2023, with new activities for its sixth year.

“As soon as our event is over, we start planning for the next one,” Vice-Chairman Capps said. “We have a committee of about 30 employees who commit a lot of time to planning this event. Dennette Summerlin, Kelley Francen, Jennifer Bell, Richard Driskell, Jason Boyce, Tyler Maxwell, Joe Garcia, J.T. Summerlin, James Strauss, Charles Meloy, Gena Rice and our police, security and housekeeping departments all go above and beyond to make this event a success.”

National recording artist and Oklahoma City native Bryan White headlined Saturday night’s concert lineup. White said he was happy to be back in Oklahoma again, playing for hometown fans.

The FireLake Fireflight Balloon Fest won the 2021 RedBud Award for Best Event from the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association. The RedBud Awards honor the state’s best tourism attractions and events.

FireLake Grand Casino & Resort sponsored the music performances. FireLake Fireflight Balloon Fest is held in conjunction with the Outdoor Nation Expo hosted by Visit Shawnee at the FireLake Arena. Learn more at firelakeballoonfest.com.
Celebrate National Taco Day with CPN

Citizen Potawatomi Nation hosts a fry bread cooking competition at the annual Family Reunion Festival each June. Zientek has won before, but this year, she did not place. First place went to Dusti Gragg, a Wilmette family descendant who traveled from Enid, Oklahoma. She won the judges over, not only the first time she entered the competition but her first time making fry bread.

“All the ingredients were set out on the table. And so, I just did a dish and a dash and a prayer and went up, and I had no idea what I was doing. I asked a lot of questions during the competition, just to the neighbors sitting next to me, and by chance, I won. It’s kind of a fun little story. I know how people have been making fry bread for years and years and years, and I’ve never done it before,” Gragg said.

Her excitement and surprise showed on her face as she accepted her prize. Gragg hopes to keep her winning streak alive and plans to enter again at next year’s Festival.

“I continue to do it. We’ll make fry bread from now on. I don’t know if I can not make it again,” she said.

Her win shows that anyone can achieve flaky, crispy fry bread fit for an Indian taco with a bit of practice.

Find FireLake Fry Bread Taco on Facebook @frybreadtaco.

C H A N G I N G  Y O U R  L I F E

Legislative meeting continued...

Resolution 23-14-HHS was made by Representative Schmidtkofer and seconded by Representative Bowden. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Resolution 23-15-HHS: A resolution authorizing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s application for funding through the U.S. Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Reliance of the Electric Grid Formula Grant Program. Motion to approve Resolution 23-15-HHS was made by Representative Schmidtkofer and seconded by Representative Wesselhöft. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fifteenth item of business: Resolution 23-16-NR: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s application for funding under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development fiscal year 2022 Indian Community Development Block Grant. Motion to approve Resolution 23-16-NR was made by Representative Wesselhöft and seconded by Representative Bowden. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Sixteenth item of business: Resolution 23-19-ED&C: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s application for funding under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development fiscal year 2022 Indian Community Development Block Grant. Motion to approve Resolution 23-19-ED&C was made by Representative Wesselhöft and seconded by Representative Johnson. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Seventeenth item of business: Resolution 23-20-TCA: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s application for funding under the fiscal year 2022 Endangered Language Fund. Motion to approve Resolution 23-20-TCA was made by Representative Wesselhöft and seconded by Representative Whistler. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Eighteenth item of business: Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Representative Wesselhöft and seconded by Representative Whistler. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.
Since 2010, Chicago photographer and Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Sharon Hoogstraten has been documenting members from the Potawatomi nations across North America for her book *Dancing for Our Tribe: Potawatomi Traditions in the New Millennium.*

Throughout the last 12 years, she has attended many events to capture the images that comprise the book she released in August 2022. More than that, she also collected family stories, Potawatomi history, poems, descriptions and artwork — all featured.

“Dancing for My Tribe” was the original title, but it “wasn’t until I put the book together that I thought, ‘We’re all dancing in this book.’ ... The contributors, the assistants, even people who posed but weren’t in the book, they all contributed to the spirit of the book. And everybody was so generous with themselves and their time and their interest in the project that I felt I had to change the name to *Dancing for Our Tribe.*" she said.

The transition from “my” to “our” came as Hoogstraten met more people from different Potawatomi nations and realized their stories about regalia and life needed to be included. She cherished each chance to learn from someone.

“Even if they say something that you already know, there’s always going to be an edge on it that is different from the way you process it. So many times, I thought I had things figured out, but I've learned to just shut up and listen. It always pays off. I already knew that’s what’s in my brain. I need to hear what’s in other people’s thoughts,” Hoogstraten said.

Throughout the years, she and her subjects worked in all climates and conditions, with shelter and electricity as necessities for a photo shoot. However, they were not always able to obtain, and Hoogstraten was grateful for any help.

“I froze to death on Walpole Island (First Nation in Canada), shooting in the hockey rink. I was sweating to death at the Prairie Band (Potawatomi Nation in Kansas) because it was 105 degrees, and we were shooting in a machine shed with fans and spaders ... And people look so good, and I wonder, ‘They’re in full regalia and dancing. I’m complaining about how hot I was. How did they do it?’ And nobody ever complained,” she said.

Creating an heirloom

Hoogstraten considered nearly every type of camera and format when deciding what kind of photography equipment to use. She filled the book with vibrant, full-color photos and sparing text, with crisp lines that show off each piece of regalia and its wearer with the help of a high-resolution digital camera to ensure the preservation of the photos for decades and generations to come.

“Photographers doing these beautiful portraits of Native Americans, and they’re black and white, and they’re very nicely done. I didn’t feel like I could do that because I’m showing exactly where we are in our time,” Hoogstraten said.

As the purpose grew from capturing portraits to telling Potawatomi stories, she started to feel a sense of obligation to her subjects and assistants, as well as Historical Preservation.

“Dancing for Our Tribe” became available in August 2022.

“I look at all the work I went to and I know so many Tribal members go to their ancestors. They’re digging through photo albums. I found old photos at my aunt’s house in Kansas that are just really precious. I think about our great-great-great-granddaughters and grandsons trying to figure out who we were. Here’s our book with so many Potawatomi names, dates, information, plus the portraits,” Hoogstraten said.

Now in her late 60s, she sees *Dancing for Our Tribe* as the capstone of her long career in photography and design career.

“It is my legacy,” Hoogstraten said. “With the exception of my family, there is nothing I have done in my lifetime that is more important than this book. No book, my interests in photography are dwindling. That door is starting to close for me. But this book is what I did with my life. It’s the most important thing I’ve ever worked on. I can’t imagine anything that could top it.”
How to help if you know someone is being abused

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

We all know someone in our lives that is experiencing abuse in a relationship. It could be a family member, a close friend, a coworker, someone at church or even a neighbor. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence states that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. NCADV data from 2010 shows Oklahoma as number one in the nation for the highest rate of domestic violence.

Domestic violence does not discriminate. It could be a family member, a close friend, a coworker, someone at church or even a neighbor. There are many different types of abuse that can include:

- Physical abuse
- Financial abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Verbal abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Spiritual abuse
- Digital abuse

There is good news. All forms of domestic violence are preventable, and anyone can be helpful to a victim with just some simple steps.

Step one: Look for red flags

Domestic violence does not discriminate. It can happen to anyone regardless of gender, age, race, economic status, education level, religion or sexual orientation. There are generally warning signs that indicate abuse in a relationship. These include:

- Fast pace or pressure for immediate commitment
- Extreme jealousy or possessiveness
- Put-downs and belittling
- Excessive calling and texting
- Unexpected anger outbreaks
- Pushing, shoving, slapping, strangulation
- Pressuring or forcing sexual activity
- Harming pets, children or family members
- Throwing or breaking objects to threaten
- Verbal threats of violence
- Constant comparison to others
- Blaming others for actions and behaviors
- Control of finances

Step two: Be familiar with local resources

Most communities provide resources to victims of domestic violence for free. Victims can receive help like safety planning to leave the situation, emergency shelter, crisis hotline, legal aid and utility assistance, and court advocacy as well as assistance with protective orders, transportation and gas assistance, relocation assistance and counseling/therapy. However, it is not always safe for victims to research these services for fear that their abuser may find out. You can be helpful by keeping the number of a nearby domestic violence shelter on your phone for quick access. The CPN House of Hope has a list of Oklahoma shelters by county at cpn.houseofhope.com.

The Native Alliance Against Violence provides a list of Oklahoma tribal programs on its website at oknav.cpw.org. The National Domestic Violence Hotline also provides resources by area for victims at 800-799-7233.

Step three: Be supportive

It takes courage for a victim of abuse to reach out to another individual about their experiences. Make sure that if someone confides in you, you listen without judgment and ask what help they need from you. Never tell a victim what they should do in the situation. Domestic violence is about power and control. Many victims have lost all control in their lives. You can give that control back by asking what they need and how they would like you to help. Provide continued support even if the victim decides to stay with or return to the abuser. Statistics show that it takes up to seven attempts for a victim of domestic violence to leave their abuser and remain separated. Leaving is the most dangerous time in an abusive relationship.

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 social media at facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope.

ncadv.org/STATISTICS

CPN NEWS/NCADV

CPN NEWS/WPR

CPN NEWS/DVPI

Oklahoma’s Tribes make great business partners

By James Collard, Ph.D., CITP/ FIBP, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Director of Economic Development

Oklahomans understand the importance of business and economic development. They know attracting and supporting employers is instrumental in establishing a diverse, stable and thriving community.

Savvy business owners and executives also understand the huge benefits of working with our state’s Native American tribes.

CPN serves as a great example. It operates the 700-acre Iron Horse Industrial Park on trust land. The Park takes advantage of Oklahoma’s location at America’s crossroads to provide opportunities for industrial businesses to streamline operations and save money. Iron Horse presents a wide variety of tax incentives and other benefits, including affordable space, access to a diverse workforce in a region of more than 1 million people and all utilities, including high-speed telecommunications. We even offer workforce training.

Additionally, Iron Horse is a designated Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ), which provides huge benefits and savings for companies with international suppliers or looking to expand across borders. This can include taxes with neighbors like Canada and Mexico as well as overseas partners.

Our fellow tribes in Oklahoma provide a wide variety of services to governments and non-Native businesses. Some offer global services to America’s heroes in uniform, producing equipment and training that can be used anywhere. The revenues flow back home for reinvestment in tribal areas that provides opportunities for all Oklahomans.

Tribal businesses are also prominent in banking, construction, and a wide variety of other fields, as well as support jobs in accounting, human resources and other areas across industries.

As many people know, tribes also provide travel destinations — from outdoor recreation to gaming — that entertain Oklahomans and attract visitors from the region and around the world.

Tribes are also governments, which means their revenue does not go to international shareholders or owners who live elsewhere. The funds support their local communities and generate additional opportunities for all, including opening new markets for other businesses.

Truly, Oklahoma’s Native American tribes will continue to grow as a crucial part of the solution to our state’s economic future.
Poet uses Indigenous values to help connect to Mother Earth

A Potawatomi writer celebrates a return to the values of Indigenous ancestors in her new book.

Kelli Harper has self-published Atlas: A Poetic Guide for the Fernweh Spirit. She was inspired to write the book during her own journey to reclaim Indigenous practices.

The Higbee family descendant is not only a poet, but she is also an herbalist, garden designer, educator and doula.

“My life revolves around being in service to the feminine. Yes, Mother Earth, but also the feminine in all its many shapes and forms from the pregnant mother to all stages of the feminine life cycle, including feminine values and virtues,” Harper said.

Growing food, medicine

“My journey started as a personal journey of healing myself, but it really took off with gardening,” she said. “I started diving deeper into the plants growing in my bioregion, what can be foraged, and then the medicinal uses of the plants. Because food and medicine are one in the same. Our food is our medicine, and our medicine is our food. Once you start to dive into one realm, the door to the other opens up.”

During the pandemic, Harper started an educational network called LegaSeed Collective, focusing on educating people in her community who wanted to grow their own food in an urban environment.

“There was a lot of interest around growing food, especially with so many people being at home with limited access to grocery stores. I started hosting community workdays where we would go to someone’s house, and I would lead a hands-on tutorial on how to build a garden. Many hands make light work, and it was amazing to see how much we could accomplish as a collective. We put in a total of 20 gardens in 2020 alone. We also deepened relationships with our fellow neighbors,” she said.

Science supports the viewpoint that gardening can be therapeutic. During the pandemic, many people turned to gardening ornamental, medicinal and agricultural plants.

“It is so therapeutic. There’s evidence that the microbiome of soil is beneficial for your gut health and all your body’s systems,” Harper said. “You have the physical aspects of gardening, the spiritual aspects, and the emotional benefits you get from relating with the natural world in an ancient way. Having that relationship directly with your food and directly with the earth is important. It helps you value all life as sacred and precious, including your place in it.”

Journaling inspired poetry

Harper has journaled for several years. She noticed that gardening continually inspired her writing. From those journals, poetry emerged.

She had always wanted to write a book of poetry, but the coronavirus pandemic presented an unusual opportunity to focus on it.

“I didn’t actually know if I could ever make that dream into a reality. It was really something I just did because I enjoyed it,” Harper said. “Throughout my experiences in the community and learning about social justice issues, climate issues and trying to address that on a local level, I became more inspired to write. When 2020 came, I realized I had the time on my hands and the fire in my soul to do so.”

As she wrote, a theme of healing began to emerge.

“I wanted to highlight the human experience through all different ranges of emotions, but also engage readers with a call to action around how we’re relating to ourselves, to each other, to the planet, social and climate issues, and coming back to reverence, respect and self-responsibility for our planet and our place in it,” she said.

Influenced by family, generations

Harper credits her family’s influence for helping her maintain a connection to the natural world.

“My father would always meditate in the morning. Taking time to be quiet and to listen, I think that’s a great start to having a healthy relationship with the planet. You need to be able to slow down and to listen and to observe, to really appreciate what’s here,” she said.

Harper’s childhood memories include playing in the forests of the Pacific Northwest, another experience that connected her with nature and the importance of protecting it.

“I grew up in Seattle, Washington, so our playground was the forest,” she said. “From a young age, I recall picking fresh blackberries and fresh peas and the abundance of Mother Earth. Unfortunately, that’s not an experience that every child gets these days.

Relieving the burdens

“I named my book Atlas because — well, it’s continued to reveal its many meanings,” Harper said. “One, it’s a map of my own inner journey through life’s many lessons. It’s also the symbol of carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders. And I feel throughout my 20s, I often carried that weight, as
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Tribe Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett

Bəzhọ niḵan
(Hello friend),

One lingering effect of the pandemic unrelated to health and wellness is the potential for a recession. The price of consumer goods and supply chain issues are affecting families and Citizen Potawatomi Nation members across the country. The U.S. Federal Reserve continues to raise interest rates in an attempt to prevent or curb a recession. Last month, it raised rates again from 3 to 3.25 percent — the highest they have been since the Great Recession of 2008. This means credit cards, auto loans, mortgages and other types of loans will become more expensive. And the increases show no signs of slowing.

Planning for these continued increases lessens the impact of these types of changes on individual finances. As I often say, the “seed corn” is the basis for reinvestment. The Tribe doesn’t “eat the seed corn” but instead creates new services and enterprises that benefit the Nation, its members and the larger community.

For business owners and families, that same reinvestment can be a major factor in their success and stability. The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation offers classes to Native business owners on managing their finances. Since its founding in 2006, the CPCDC has awarded tens of millions of dollars in business loans to help Native Americans begin thriving businesses that have a substantial impact on their communities. The CPCDC also offers one-on-one counseling sessions for individuals on how to rebuild their credit score, realign their income and debts, and build a plan to help them achieve their bigger goals.

The First National Bank & Trust, Co. — the largest tribally-owned bank in the United States — also has a well-trained and helpful staff to assist anyone with creating savings accounts, refinancing a mortgage or setting up payment plans for any other type of fiscal commitment. Following CPN’s purchase of First State Bank last year, FNB now has branches in Oklahoma City, Midwest City, Canute, Mangum, Lawton, Granite, Holdenville and Shawnee as well as a loan production office in Edmond. FNB is banking not only for those in Oklahoma, but Tribal members across the country with digital and mobile improvements coming.

In addition, the Tribe’s elders on fixed incomes will be significantly impacted by the rising cost of goods and growing interest rates. Check on them frequently, and remember that they are our knowledge keepers and once fed and cared for.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Tribal Chairman. Migwetch
(Thank you),

John “Rocky” Barrett
Tribal Chairman

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps

Bəzhọ
(Hello).

The International Economic Development Council is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization established to serve economic developers. This organization was formed in May 2001 by the merger of the American Economic Development Council and the Council for Urban Economic Development. IEDC is recognized internationally as the preeminent organization of economic developers.

The IEDC hosts three conferences annually — the Leadership Summit in the winter, the Economic Future Forum in the spring and the Annual Conference in the fall. Each conference takes place in a different location. Oklahoma City was fortunate to host the Annual Conference this September. It is the first time ever for the event to be held in Oklahoma. There could be no better venue than the stunning new Oklahoma City Convention Center, which is a $288 million publicly-funded project that opened January 2021. Approximately 1,200 attendees participated at some time during the four-day event. Most attendees stayed at the lovely Omni Hotel connected to the convention center.

CPN’s Economic Development Director Dr. Jim Collard is a board member of the IEDC. It is quite an honor to be on the board of such a prestigious organization. In fact, Dr. Collard is one of only two Oklahomans on the 55-member board. CPN was a sponsor of this annual event, which allowed our economic department to have a booth to advertise Iron Horse Industrial Park. The features of Iron Horse provided a fitting topic of discussion for conference attendees. One of the purposes of the whole program is to network and learn what is available for economic developers. CPN’s 700-acre plot industrial park is an attraction all its own.

The conference included the Excellence in Economic Development Awards at the 2022 Recognition Dinner Program, which was held in the impressive Five Moons Ballroom of the Omni Hotel. Approximately 20 items of recognition and awards were on the agenda. There was recognition of outgoing board members and acknowledgement for outgoing positions. The main awards were Young Economic Development Professional of the Year, 2022 Citizen Leadership Award, Jeffrey A. Finkle Organizational Leadership Award and 2022 Chairman’s Award for Lifetime Achievement in Economic Development.

The IEDC’s website released the following: “ Congratulations to John Barrett, Tribal Chairman of Citizen Potawatomi Nation on the 2022 Leadership for Public Service Award. This award recognizes an elected official who has served as a committed advocate for economic development for at least 10 years in the public sector.”

Thank you, Chairman Barrett, for your commitment to economic development. It is the reason that our Tribe is where we are today.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

RIGHT NOW, CPN members can sign up for 24/7 access to doctors, counselors and more via phone, video or our new mobile app AT NO COST TO YOU!

TO SIGN UP AND ACTIVATE YOUR BENEFIT, VISIT POTAWATOMI.ORG/CPN-CARE

Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett accepts the IEDC’s Leadership for Public Services award at the organization’s Annual Conference.
This September, we shipped Bozo nikanek (Hello friends), Gathering update

This year’s Potawatomi Gathering was a priceless opportunity to reconnect with Potawatomi from across North America. I shared great visits with revising current outdated information on how families can access coronavirus vaccinations in their communities. This work is on behalf of the We Can Do This COVID-19 Public Education Campaign. You can learn more about the campaign and get the information you need at wecandohis.hhs.gov.

Gathering events

It’s time to RSVP for the November Fall Feast. You don’t need to have received a mailed postcard to attend or live in District 2; you just need to let me know you are coming. The meeting will include an artist talk by Citizen Potawatomi Ave (woman) Sharon Hoogstraten, who will supposes her remarkable book Dancing for Our Tribe: Potawatomi Tradition in the New Millennium.

Friday, Nov. 11, 2022: Native Veterans Procession and Dedication Ceremony for the National Native American Veterans Memorial. To register for the procession and for all other details, visit cpn.news/NNAVMem. The NMV is hosting days of celebrations November 12 through 14.

Nov. 13-19, 2022: Rock Your Mocs 2022. Rock Your Mocs Day is Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022. Choose that day or the whole week of November 13 to wear your mkesinen. To participate, wear your mkesinen, take a photo or video, add the hashtag #RockYourMocs and upload to social media. You’ll be helping to create an online photo album for the world to see and enjoy.

Friday, Nov. 25, 2022: Native American Heritage Day.

February 2023 visit/tour

I’m finalizing plans for a D2 visit/tour of the Museum and Monument at The Legacy Museum and The National Memorial for Peace and Justice (cpn-news/LegacyMM) in Montgomery, Alabama, on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023. This is during the long Presidents’ Day weekend. We will start with lunch at the museum café and then tour the museum and memorial. All facilities are wheelchair accessible. Details will be posted on my website, so please continue to check it frequently.

CPN Care and VA telehealth

I hope you will check out and register for CPN Care (cpn-news/CPNCare), the telehealth program offered at no-cost to enrolled CPN citizens and our families. Another telehealth option recently was brought to my attention by D2’s Kathy Marchant-Miros, a VA employee. When we visited during our Little Rock meeting, I learned that the VA offers several telehealth resources to Native American veterans who are eligible to receive care within the VA. Visit cpn-news/VATelehealth for further information. Kathy suggests that veterans talk with their VA healthcare provider and/or contact their local VA medical center or outpatient clinic to learn more about the specific resources available to them.

Let’s keep in touch. If I don’t have your email, please send it to me! If you aren’t an email person, feel free to write or call. I will get back with you.

Bama mine (Later),
Eva Marie Carney

Ojindiskwe (Blue Bird Woman)
Legislator, District 2
5877 Washington Boulevard
PO Box 5591
Arlington, VA 22205
888-849-1484 toll-free
carney@potawatomi.org
evamariecarney.com

OITTLE FALLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PARISH HALL
6055 LITTLE FALLS ROAD, ARLINGTON, VA 22207

RSVP by November 5
TO EVANMARIE.CARNEY@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 202-281-4173
CPN D2 TRIBAL BUSINESS (VOICEMAIL) 888-849-1184

Tribal Leaders/Economic Development Meeting, and

and get the information you need at weeklytribalbusiness.hhs.gov.

American Indian/ Native Studies

Last month, I asked for your help to contact the Texas School Board (SBOE) to get a high school social studies ethnic class on Native Americans approved for use in Texas high schools and to call on the Texas State Board to move forward with revising current outdated Texas curriculum standards. On September 2, the SBOE voted to defer consideration of a full social studies review until at least 2025. The reason they voted (13-0) to cease consideration of Ethnic Studies courses this year was a result of a large contingent of far-right citizens who mustered a major campaign against any changes to the social studies standards that would have made them more accurate and inclusive. Our program as well as those on Asian American, Mexican American and African American courses were delayed as a result of these political considerations and will likely face a more conservative board in the near future. In the meantime, our public schools in Texas will continue to teach our children false information and myths about American Indian Nations. Some will say there are no longer any Indian tribes in the U.S. Also, that we pay no taxes, receive free health care and other free benefits. Schools are teaching distorted history. Although this is a setback, the group I am working with will continue to seek avenues to keep our program on track. In essence, we have the arrow on the string of the bow, and when the opportunity arises, we will let fly!

Language

Justin Neely, our language director, and his group have now put together seven of the planned 12 books to assist you in learning our language. The attached photo is an array of Potawatomi language books

HOWNIKAN

14 OCTOBER 2022

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney

District 3 – Bob Whistler
District 4 – Jon Boursaw

Bebeo (Hello),

Native American or American Indian?

The following appeared in the September Smithsonian Magazine as part of a Q&A with Dennis Zortig, Cultural Specialist at National Museum of the American Indian.

Q: I still use the term “American Indian” in use, including in the title of a Smithsonian museum. Why not say “Native American” instead?

A: Native people prefer to be identified with their own specific tribe or tribes. But when it comes to describing all of these nations with one term, there is no consensus. Groups in Alaska like to be called “Alaska Natives.” While those in Canada prefer the term “First Nations.” Some others in South America call themselves “American Indian.” Even though the term “Indian” originally came from a misunderstanding, many tribal people still prefer it over the alternatives. Some point out that any person born in the Americas could be called a “Native American.” I personally say “American Indian” because it is the language of the law between tribal and federal governments.

Last Chance Reminder for District 4 Meetings

Rossville: CPN Community Center in Rossville on Saturday, October 8 at 10 a.m. Please RSVP by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 4 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or emailing me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org.

You can also call Lyman Boursaw at 785-584-6401. Please identify which meeting you plan to attend.

Wichita: All-Indian Center, located at 630 N. Seneca St. on Sunday, October 16. We will begin with a lunch at 1 p.m. Please RSVP by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 12, by calling me at 785-608-1982 or emailing me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. Please identify which meeting you plan to attend.

Greater Kansas City area: Mattie Crowyard Kansas City East, 1500 NE Coronado Dr., Blue Springs, MO, on Saturday, October 22 at 10 a.m. This is a joint meeting with the CPN members from District 1 and their Legislator Alan Melot. Please RSVP by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 18 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or emailing me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. Be sure to indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

Upcoming CPN Elders’ Potlucks

The dates for the next two Elder Potlucks held in CPN Community Center in Rossville at noon are:

- October 14 with Breakfast Casserole with Biscuits and Fry Bread Nuggers & Sausage Gravy. RSVP by the 11th.
- November 18 for the Annual Thanksgiving Feast of Turkey and Mashed Potatoes. RSVP by the 15th.

Come join us and bring your favorite side dish or dessert. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Tracy or Brenda at 785-584-6171.

Dedication of Native American Exhibit in Topeka

You are invited to attend a dedication ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m., Friday, October 14 for the recently completed Native American Exhibit located adjacent to Old Prairie Village, which is at the NCTR’s entrance off of Washita Rd. in Topeka. The exhibit will celebrate the contributions of many CPN members in Kansas, whether in the form of a letter, email, phone call or in the office. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to you. If you are not receiving emails from me, it is because I do not have your correct email address, or what I have is incorrect. If you need to do is send me your email address, and I will enter you into my District 4 contact information file. My contact information is listed below.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Jon Boursaw, 
Wetase Mkoh (He Soars) 
District 4 Representative, District 4 608-1982 cell 
jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org 
Office hours: 9-11 a.m. Tuesdays 5-5 p.m. Thursdays

You are in Shawnee and looking for a place to exercise or swim, we have the place. Just stop in and present your Tribal card.

Monday, October 10 — Indigenous Peoples’ Day

At 3 p.m. on October 10, the University of Texas at Arlington will dedicate a bronze plaque acknowledging the land the university is on was taken from the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Caddo Nation and other Native Nations. Attendees will include members from the Nations cited, the mayor, UTA President and the Chancellor’s Office. Native foods will be served following the ceremony at the nearby library.

I am honored and proud to serve as your district representative.

Please contact me if you have a need where I may assist you.

Bena pi (Later),

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

while those in Canada prefer the term “Indian.”

There are almost 400 items in an exercise program by Jessie Whitney, one of our trainers.

Unfortunately, I didn’t get Jessie in the photo. The facility has a pool, many free weights to go with the machines and a walking track on the second floor. If you are in Shawnee and looking for a place to exercise or swim, we have the place. Just stop in and present your Tribal card.

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

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

Please let me know how I can be of assistance to you. If you are not receiving emails from me, it is because I do not have your current email address, or what I have is incorrect. If you need to do is send me your email address, and I will enter you into my District 4 contact information file. My contact information is listed below.
District 5 – Gene Lambert

There will be four people receiving their Potawatomi names on October 8 in Arizona, and I am pretty excited about that too. Please know that if you are in the area or live here, you would be welcome to attend the ceremony along with sharing Potawatomi food as prepared by our very own Lori Ketterman of Tucson, Arizona. You would need to let me know at least a week in advance to prepare for the food appropriately. My cell number is 480-228-6569.

Now, we keep moving forward and up as the number of Native people in Congress and high-ranking offices greatly increases. That is my interpretation. I started to do some research since we are in the campaign mode again.

In fact, a record number of Native Americans voted in the 2016 election. That number dropped in 2020 in Arizona. At the same time, 11 Native Americans were voted into office. Confusing! The Snyder Act of 1924 allowed Native Americans full citizenship. The 15th Amendment that was passed in 1870 had already granted American citizens the right of vote.

We are moving up and forward. Searching on Google and Wikipedia for Indigenous people in office today or taking their seats during the next term, I learned there has never been an Alaska Native in Congress. Until now. Mary Peltola, a Yup’ik woman, was elected as a U.S. Representative on August 16.

While her win is temporary, she replaced late Rep. Don Young, she will be on the campaign trail to win again challenging past Governor and Vice-Presidential candidate Sara Palin and businessman Nick Begich. We wish her success.

As the presence of Native Americans in Congress increases along with Native votes’ turnout, I become more impressed in terms of how active our Native people have become in local communities, districts, states and now national politics. This is where the laws are voted in and where we can make the changes required for our people. It is important we maintain our heritage along the way. This is what it is all about and definitely recognized by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation along with many other Nations exacting same. Let’s not forget who we are in the process.

Your vote makes a difference regardless of how hard others try to make you feel as if it doesn’t matter. That is their point and purpose to discourage enough people from voting. Please know if you have questions, do not hesitate to let me know. I am always willing and ready to help where I can.

Please stay safe, love your family, and be healthy. We care and love you.

Your legislator,
Eunice Imogene Lambert
Butterfly Woman Legislator, District 5
270 E Hunt Highway, Ste 229
San Tan Valley, AZ 85143
480-228-6569 cell
480-669-6590 office
euniceilambert@gmail.com

District 7 – Mark Johnson

As a reminder, on Saturday, October 22, Rande Payne and I will be hosting a combined District meeting and Fall Festival in Visalia, California. Hopefully, you received your invitation postcard and have sent your RSVP. If not and you would like to attend, you can RSVP on the internet at gpm.org/D6COct22. Come join us, it will be fun.

Just the other day, a cousin that lives outside of District 7 asked me about any help that the Tribe may have for those who are interested in building a business. I was able to point her to the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation.

The CP CDC serves Tribal member-owned small businesses providing capital and technical support. While there are many programs available to Tribal members through the Nation, those who are entrepreneurs have a unique partner in the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation. The organization’s mission is to finance, promote, educate and inspire the entrepreneurial growth, economic opportunity and financial well-being of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal communities and other under-served Native populations through financial education, access to capital, business development services, innovative capacity building practices and community development initiatives. If you’re a CPN member-owned small business, they can help you with financing for growth, business planning or a number of other items you may need as a small business owner. This organization came to support a significant number of Citizen Potawatomi-owned businesses through the pandemic, and their staff are well versed in helping find funding and growth opportunities. Please consider reaching out to them to learn more at CP CDC.org.

Also remember that November is just around the corner, and it is Native American Heritage Month. It is a great time to reflect on what it means to be a Citizen Potawatomi and the rich history that we are all descendants of. Our Nation’s language department holds regular online beginner language lessons that are open to all members and are a great way to become connected with your heritage. There are many resources available to you, both on the internet and through our Cultural Heritage Center and their website potawatomiheritage.org.

Another great website for Native American Heritage Month that will point you to many events is nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov. The National Museum of the American Indian has many online exhibits at americainindian. nps.gov. It is important that we teach our children about our collective history. The education of our young will help ensure that some of the dark periods of our history will not be repeated.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 Legislator. 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 available to you. 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
Web Mobby (Strong as a Tree) Legislator, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611
559-351-0078 cell
mark.johnson@potawatomi.org
Many citizens living in District 8 have received an eagle feather from me when they were named or at some other special occasion. As we all know, eagle feathers are special and to some degree sacred to the Potawatomi people. They are to be treated with reverence and kept with care. It is our traditional belief that the eagle carries our prayers to the Creator.

All members of a federally recognized tribe are able to obtain feathers for ceremonial, religious or cultural purposes. They are to be treated with reverence and kept with care. It is our traditional belief that the eagle carries our prayers to the Creator. It is our traditional belief that the eagle carries our prayers to the Creator.

Another source of eagle feathers is the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary which opened in 2012. Our Tribe provides a peaceful and permanent place for eagles that are injured to rest and live out their days. It was long ago (the 1980's) that there were no eagles in Oklahoma. Now they are back and thriving.

The Aviary harvests the eagles' molting feathers in the warmer months, but eagles can lose feathers from mid-March to September. A healthy eagle may lose all of its 12 tail feathers and a variety of wing feathers. The feathers that are obtained through the Nation's Eagle Aviary are from live birds. (Some can live as long as 50 years in captivity). The feathers obtained from the Federal government are from birds that have died in the wild. For more information on obtaining feathers from our aviary, please go to cpn.new.usfwd.gov to start the application process.

Eagle feathers discover a gift of feathers as I make my way up my driveway. So, when you get feathers from me, they may be from any of these three sources, but I am especially pleased to share one from my home. It's hard to believe that it is time for the Fall Feast again and that we won't be canceled due to COVID. Please consider attending.

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

If you like eagle feathers, please, go to cpn.news/aviary.

A few years ago, I had an opportunity to move close to a lake in my area of Western Washington. An unexpected side benefit of this move was the discovery of an active eagle's nest high in a fir tree in my front yard. Seasonally, I hear the unique sound the eaglets make, calling out for food to their parents. Since eagles are carnivores, it is common to find bones of various small animals at the base of the tree. Some mornings, as I walk my dogs, I...
Since COVID, our veteran organization color guard has gotten their mojo working again. We didn’t do any Color Guard and Honor Guard functions during COVID shutdown, even having our monthly meetings. We started having our monthly meetings again in March 2022. Boy, was that a sight for sore eyes— to be able to fellowship with our brothers and sisters again. Some were still scared to come to the meetings due to what they continued to think about COVID.

We have been going strong since then. As a Treasurer of the Veteran Organization and District 10 Legislator (Oklahoma), I am very proud to participate and serve the Potawatomi Nation in this capacity.

Allow me to report to you what events we have shared our Color Guard and Honor Guard with:

- February 21, 2022: Honor Blanket ceremony for Don Anderson at his Norman, Oklahoma, home.
- May 21, 2022: Shawnee/ Tecumseh Indian Education Powwow at the CPN Powwow Grounds.
- June 18, 2022: Honor Guard duties for funeral service for Veteran Member Don Anderson.
- June 23, 2022: National Bondman association at the Grand Casino Conference Room.
- June 30, 2022: Color Guard Grand Entry at the Family Reunion Festival near Shawnee, Oklahoma.
- July 30, 2022: Color Guard participates in the Grand Entry for the Potawatomi Gathering at Hannahville in Michigan.
- August 27, 2022: 1957 Shawnee Class reunion at the South Reunion Hall where we did the Pledge of Allegiance, and the class sang God Bless America.

Upcoming events that the Color Guard will be doing include the Frontier Day Parade in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, and the Sorghum Day Parade in Wewoka, which we have done so many times that I would not venture to guess.

This year, we were invited to bring the colors in at the 2022 Canadian Valley Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Event. Canadian Valley Electric provides utility service to more than 25,000 accounts, including residential, commercial and industrial members. The service area includes approximately 3,500 square miles covering all or parts of Oklahoma, Cleveland, Potawatomi, Seminole, Lincoln, Creek, Hughes, Okfuskee, Okmulgee and McIntosh counties.

As in the past, we have been invited to bring in the colors on Veterans Day followed by a demonstration of the folding the American flag and a reading the meaning of each of the 13 folds at the Tecumseh High School.

We will be having our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas veterans’ dinner on December 6, 2022, at the North Reunion Hall. Hope to see you there.

Our October meeting will be on the 18th instead of the 25th at the North Reunion Hall at 6 p.m. It goes without saying that it is both a pleasure and an honor to serve you and our great Nation.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

David Barrett
Menedobe
(Sits with the Spirits)
Legislator, District 10
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801
405-275-3121
dbarrett@potawatomi.org
Mark G. Chandler, Curley Family

Mark G. Chandler, 64, died on Aug. 11, 2022, from injuries suffered from a tragic accident while visiting his family and friends in Montana.

Mark was born Nov. 10, 1957, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mark graduated from King High School in Tampa, Florida, in 1975. Mark enlisted in the USAF in 1977 and retired in Great Falls, Montana, after serving 18 years as a MSGT in 1995. After retiring, Mark received his associate degree and retrained to become a physical therapist.

Mark left behind his loving wife, Dovia Chandler; his daughter, Tracy Russell, and her three children, Cameron Bartlett, Adelaide Russell and Jasper Saltenberger; and his great-grandson, Asher Bartlett.

Mark is survived by his mother, Marjorie (Shirley), Carey and Viola Cavender.

He also left behind his wife’s children, Brittany Johnson and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on Sept. 25, 2022.

Patricia E. Kuhn, 72, of Olathé, Kansas, formerly of Overland Park, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022. She was born Feb. 6, 1950, in Wamego, Kansas. Patricia was a loving, creative and warm-hearted woman, mother, nana, sister and friend. She loved to create and spent her free time throughout her life making personalized greeting cards, scrapbooking, sewing and coloring. Her family was her passion, and she loved visiting with her parents and her siblings, shopping and laughing with her daughters, and spending time with her three grandchildren. Patricia and Randy enjoyed traveling, often visiting Randy’s family in Tulsa, Oklahoma, spending long weekends in Branson, Missouri, and heading to the Colorado mountains with Patricia’s family. She also enjoyed celebrating her family’s Citizen Potawatomi Nation heritage. Her Potawatomi name was Wí shield De Shewu or She Who Shines Upon Others. Patricia’s life exemplified that name.

Patricia was survived by her husband of 52 years, Randy L. Kuhn; daughters, Amy Schwartz (Chad) and Aisley Kofoid (Eroc); grandsons, Trevor Schwartz, Aaron Kofoid and Andrew Kofoid; mother, Dorothy Eileen Pearl; and siblings, Mike Pearl, Doyle Pearl, Susan Johnston and Don Pearl. She was preceded in death by her father, James B. Pearl.

Patricia’s Celebration of Life Service was held Saturday, Sept. 17 at the McGilley & Hope Chapel in Overland Park, Kansas, and burial at Mount Moriah Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri. Memorial contributions may be given to Villa St. Francis as General Giving.

Steven "Jekaj" Lee Michael Martin Burns Family

Steven "Jekaj" Lee Michael Martin, 72, passed away Aug. 13, 2022, at Hospice House, Hutchinson, Kansas. He was born Sept. 26, 1949, in Rossville, Kansas, to Paul “Mook” and Nellie Irene (Gibson) Martin.

Steve was a 1968 graduate of McPherson High School. He graduated from Brown Mackie College, Salina, Kansas, with an associate degree in business. Steve was a former employee of Farmland Industries and Willbros Pipeline Construction. He retired from Calm Creek Carrigan Company. He was also co-owner of MS Wireless.

Steve was a family man and loved spending time with his family. He was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

In 1968, Steve married Judy Frickey, and they later divorced. He then married Deanne Smith Bowerly, born June 27, 2008, in Hutchinson.

Steve is survived by his wife, Deanne of Hutchinson; children, Melissa Jill (Briar) Gibson of Owasso, Oklahoma, and Paul Jason “Jake” (Kelsey) Martin of Hutchinson; stepchildren, Shailee (Chad) Mendenhall of McPherson, and John Barton Bowersox of Kansas City, Kansas; siblings, Mary Hudson and Pauline Bickford, both of Rossville; and uncles, cousins, great-grandchildren.

Steve was a 1957 graduate of Shawnee High School. "Chuck" as he liked to be called is survived by his three sons, Gary, Brian and Keith; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Chuck enjoyed family, flying and traveling. Before retiring from Tinker Air Force Base, he was a successful machine shop owner in California. He was always a loving, caring father and proud of his Potawatomi heritage. He recently returned from one of his favorite trips to visit family in California with a stop in Las Vegas. His last days were very enjoyable, and he always looked forward to his next adventure. He will be greatly missed and appreciated, and always loved and remembered.

Shirley Annette Page, McKee Family

Shirley Annette Page, 63, passed away on Sept. 5, 2022. She was born June 4, 1959, to Robert and Mary Page, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Shirley is loved by her family and friends and will be greatly missed. She took immense pride in her grandchildren, Richard Roberge, Jr. (Bubba) and Eryahna Elizabeth Roberge (Siisy), who called her “Nana.”

Shirley graduated from Del City High School, continued her education, and was certified as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She spent her 35-year career as a nurse helping her patients through mental health and drug addiction at the Oklahoma Crises Center and St. Anthony Hospital. She spent the last two years working at Hope Community Services, where her friends at HOPE were like family, supporting Shirley and her family through her recent health issues. The State of Oklahoma awarded Shirley the Certificate of Appreciation for her devoted time, energy and dedication to her fellow nurses as a member of the Peer Assistance Committee by sharing her experience, strength and hope by giving selflessly to others.

Shirley was a free spirit and proud of her Native American heritage as a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma. She believed that moving from this nation was not something to be mourned but celebrated as she walks on her spiritual journey.

Shirley was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Page. She is survived by her father, Robert Page; son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Tara Roberge, son, J.T. Garrett; daughter, Stephanie Palmer; grandchildren, Richard Roberge Jr. (Bubba) and Eryahna Elizabeth Roberge (Siisy); and sister Connie Page.

On Sep. 1, 2022, at the young age of 48, Ricky Rader went home to be with the Lord. He is survived by his mother and stepmother, Julie A. Baird and Catherine Baird of Oklahoma; his father, Stephan Rader of El Centro, California; his brother, Sammy W. Rader of Oklahoma; his life partner, Tina Morgan; his sister, Crislí Pulawalsky of New York; his grandmother, Wava A. Rader of El Centro, California; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Marie Baird and grandfather, Carl Rader; his Aunt Janice; and so many others — too numerous to list.

Ricky was born April 21, 1974, in Redlands, California. He lived most of his life in the pass area between Beaumont and Yucaipa, California. He moved to Joshua Tree in 2006 and remained the remainder of his life there.

He worked in construction for his uncle most of his working years. He really loved the work he was doing.

He had a huge heart, and if he decided you were one of the people he loved, he loved you with all of his heart. He spent many years helping out others less fortunate than him and always said in that respect his momma taught him right. Always willing to feed others and give the shirt off of his back. At Christmas time, his house would be full of others who had no place to go or no food to eat. He gave of himself with a heart full of love.

He spent much of his time praying and working on his relationship with God and taking care of others.

There was a private memorial service for immediate family. He is going to be so missed.

Ullie Francis Melot, Jr. Melot/Melot Family

Ullie Francis Melot, Jr., walked on June 22, 2022, of intestinal complications. Born Aug. 26, 1939, he was 82 years of age. He was the son of Hesston, Kansas, to Paul “Mook” and Wally Martin.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, at Elliot Chapel with the Rev. Kent Little officiating. Inurnment followed in Rossville Cemetery in Rossville.

Ullie was a free spirit and proud of her Native American heritage as a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma. She believed that moving from this nation was not something to be mourned but celebrated as she walks on her spiritual journey.

Shirley was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Page. She is survived by her father, Robert Page; son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Tara Roberge, son, J.T. Garrett; daughter, Stephanie Palmer; grandchildren, Richard Roberge Jr. (Bubba) and Eryahna Elizabeth Roberge (Siisy); and sister Connie Page.

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A memorial service was held Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, at Elliot Chapel with the Rev. Kent Little officiating. Inurnment followed in Rossville Cemetery in Rossville.
Bettye Dainty Harridge Family

On Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022, Bettye Dainty Harridge passed away at the age of 96. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Austin S. Field; her second husband, Raymond Dainty; and her son, Austin (Butch) Jr.; as well as her brothers, Lanny, Ceanne and husband LaVerne Helpingstine, Jack Harridge and Don Harridge.

She is survived by her three daughters, Sandie and husband Laney, Cranne and husband Wade, and Leigh Ann and husband Scott. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and her beloved nieces and nephew.

Bettye was a faithful member of the Order of the Amaranth, Beehive Court, for over 50 years. A fun-loving spirit who lived life to the fullest, Bettye will be missed a great deal by her family and the many friends she made throughout the years.

Her memorial celebration will take place on what would have been her 99th birthday, Oct. 13, 2022, at Mount Vernon Memorial Park Chapel in Fair Oaks, California.

Raymond Anthony Jaquez Lazzle Family

Beloved, wonderful son, husband, father, brother, uncle, cousin and friend, Raymond Anthony Jaquez went on with Jesus May 25, 2022.

Born Sept. 24, 1966, in Los Angeles, California, son of Raymond Jaquez, who passed in 1999, and Shirley Ann Laster (Jaquez) (Goodman), still living, he is survived by his wife, Nancy Costello; daughter, Christina Marie Jaquez; son, Raymond Anthony Jaquez Jr.; and his daughter by Laura Garcia, Dalina Jaquez. He is also survived by his sister, Bonnie Muñoz; half-sister, Valerie Linda Jaquez; and half-brother, Lorenes Jaquez.

Raymond laid carpet many years and eventually worked as a mechanic. He attended Pasadena Community College for six years and Trade Tech in Los Angeles for two years.

A memorial service was held July 9, 2022, in San Bernardino, California. He is at rest.

Charles William Esch Navare Family

Helen M. Chaffin Duval Family

Helen M. (Duval) Chaffin went to her heavenly home on Aug. 6, 2022. Helen was born on Oct. 2, 1935, at home in Putawamome County, Oklahoma, to A.A. and Ada (Rutherford) Duval. She graduated from New Lima High School in 1953, but she spent most of her school years at Harjo. She married Bobby Gene Chaffin, the love of her life, on May 15, 1952, in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. They spent 40 years together before his death in 1992. They were loving parents to two children, Bobby Allen and James Randal (Randy) Chaffin. They lived in Seminole the majority of their married life, except for a few years in El Reno.

Helen was a homemaker for many years. She later worked for the Wonder Bread Store in Seminole, retiring in 1996 after 28 years of service. Bob and Helen were active members of the Seminole Free Will Baptist Church for many years, where Bob served as a deacon and Helen taught Sunday School. She also served in the children’s ministry, teaching children of all ages for many years. She epitomized the Proverbs 31 woman as she worked at her hands and cared for her family. Helen was a gifted artist in multiple mediums, a skilled seamstress, and an excellent cook/baker. She enjoyed preparing meals for her children, grandchildren and extended family and friends. Family described her as funny, loving, kind, with a quirky jokes, generosity, smile and courage (two-time cancer survivor) will be missed. She was a mentor to many.

Coming to the Family Reunion Festival and being a Potawatomi (Navare family descendant) was very important to him. Charles spent eight years in the Army Reserves with the rank of Sergeant E5.

Helen M. Chaffin Duval Family

Helen Chaffin was preceded in death by her first husband, Bob; brothers, Ernest Edward, A.A. (Bud) Jr., and Curtis Duval; sisters, Alma Lee Brown, Ornee Bridges, Wanda L. Macy, Ella Ruth Martin and Reba Fern Elliott; brother-in-law, Harold Chaffin; and sister-in-law, June Chaffin.

Funeral services were held Aug. 10, 2022, at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Seminole, Oklahoma with Bill Adcock officiating and arrangements under the direction of Sweatin-gen Funeral Home in Seminole, Oklahoma. Donations may be made in Helen's memory to Seminole Free Will Baptist Church or a charity of your choice.

Lynda Marleyeece Richardson

Lynda Marleyeece Richardson, 61, of Fresno, California, passed away on Friday, July 1, 2022, from complications of pneumonia. She was born Aug. 21, 1961, in Nevada, Missouri, the oldest daughter of Donald and Lois “Dianne” Richardson.

Today, our hearts are broken as we mourn the sudden loss of Lynda, our beloved mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend. Lynda loved life and lived hers to the absolute fullest. She understood the attraction of “the romance of the road” — the freedom to do as you want. A new adventure around every corner. For all the pressures of the world are left on the side of the road, three miles outside of your hometown city lights. Albeit her list of travels was left incomplete.

Lynda worked in logistics as a freight dispatcher, where she served as a tour guide of sorts for truck drivers across America. Lynda's charismatic charm, bright spirit and the twinkle in her eye-drew us in, and now leaves us longing for more.

Lynda was preceded in death by her daughter, Collette Mruk and Joy of Washington; son, Daniel Jacob “DJ” Voyles of California; daughter, Courtney Voyles of South Carolina; two granddaughters, Nicole Mruk and Kaylinn Mruk; her mother, Lois “Dianne” Richardson of Missouri; siblings, Kristina Tilley, David Richardson, Douglas Richardson and Tami Jo Richardson, all of Missouri; eight nieces and nephews; and countless numbers of friends whom she greatly cherished.

Private memorials were held by the family on July 6, 2022. Lynda’s ashes will be scattered at Johnstone’s Shut Ins State Park in Missouri at a later date.

Lynda will forever be missed in our hearts.