



HOWNIKAN

Bnakwigises | October 2022

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Walking on



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 residents 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 walk 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.

"Andrea 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's Workforce Development and Social Services provides two fans, two window air conditioning units, one power strip and two heaters to eligible households through the department's new LIHEAP weatherization funds.

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

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

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 awards. 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 the community," 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 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 more 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 arising as cases proceed 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 justices of CPN's 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. I also really enjoyed coming to do different cultural classes when I was young — learning to do stick ball, learning to do beading. I enjoyed doing things with my hands as my artistic expression," Lamirand said.

After high school, she attended Oklahoma State University, earning her Bachelor of Arts in English, followed



Jennifer Lamirand

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 willing and open to dialogue with the different sovereigns or governments that are in their surrounding areas and across the nation to try to come up with arrangements that help everyone feel comfortable that 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 food deserts as a few examples of the Tribe's impact in the larger community of Pottawatomie County.

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. ♡

CPN legislative meeting minutes

Sept. 15, 2022

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

Absent: Representatives Eva Marie Carney and Alan Melot.

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

Call to order: Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. followed by 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 Schmidtkofer 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 Quarterly Meeting of the Tribal Legislature from Thursday, August 25, 2022, to Thursday, September 15, 2022. 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 Bourbonnais 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 and alternate 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 Wesselhöft and seconded by Representative Lambert. 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 Schmidtkofer and seconded by Representative Boursaw. 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 Barrett. 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 Representative Schmidtkofer 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 Boursaw 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-HHS: A resolution accepting and supporting funding of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's sanitation facilities construction program, P.L. 86-121, for scattered, existing homes offered through the U.S. Indian Health Service. (Project OK 22-011). Motion to approve Resolution 23-13-HHS was made by Representative Walters and seconded by Representative Wesselhöft. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Twelfth item of business: Resolution 23-14-HHS: 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

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Barrett recognized for leadership at state, national levels

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



Chairman Barrett accepts the 2022 Leadership Award for Public Service this September from the International Economic Development Council. (Photo provided by Alonzo J. Adams)

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 Baily 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 enterprises 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 over 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 CPCDC’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. ♠

LIHEAP continued...

their homes to help them fill out the forms — especially elders.

Tribal elders make up a large proportion of the LIHEAP clientele, and Zientek believes that without her team’s dedicated outreach efforts, many elders would not have access to the benefits.

Single parents and individuals with disabilities also make up a considerable number of households

relying on LIHEAP assistance for their energy needs.

Every client’s situation is unique, and McElfresh and Smiley find enormous fulfillment in meeting each one’s circumstances and filling their needs to the fullest extent possible.

“Margaret is a fantastic boss. I couldn’t have asked for a better person to be working for or working with,” McElfresh said.

“When she put me and Andrea together, I don’t really think she knew what she was doing. But I think she did because we hit the floor running, and we make sure that each individual family, whether they’re living off Social Security or they’re getting paystubs ... gets treated with respect and knows that they’re not alone.”

Resources

Learn more about LIHEAP at cpn.news/liheapfacts.

For CPN Tribal members who live outside of the CPN jurisdiction, state, local or tribal assistance may be available in their area. Find a state LIHEAP directory at cpn.news/liheapstate and a tribal LIHEAP directory at cpn.news/liheaptribes.

CPN tribal members are also eligible for the hardship application no matter their geographical location. Learn more by calling 405-878-3854. ♠

Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

CPN Executive Committee

Tribal Chairman: John “Rocky” Barrett

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Writer: Paige Willett

Writer: Mary Leaver

Writer: Rachel Vishanoff

Submissions coordinator: Brittany Oswald

Page/graphic designer: Trey DeLonais

Graphic designer: Emily Guleserian

Photographer: Garrett Fisbeck

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All correspondence should be directed to *Hownikan*,
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Questions: hownikan@potawatomi.org or 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

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 zoo 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 jackpots and majors as part of her Supervised Agricultural Experience.

Following high school graduation, Almand's passion for wildlife grew more once she secured a spot on an artificial insemination team at Sierra Mesa Ranch, a private breeding and hunting property

in Texas. Almand applied for the position after her brother saw a post on their Instagram seeking wildlife students at Tarleton State University. Her experience working with lambs was an advantage.

"They said, 'Oh, you showed sheep in high school? Alright, come on,'" she said.

Almand began at the ranch three years ago. She helps care for the white-tailed deer and maintain the population, which includes tagging, microchipping and testing the deer for diseases, among other things.

"I've always loved wildlife. I just didn't realize how many opportunities there were to work with them. Working with the wildlife vets, wildlife biologists and game wardens really opened my eyes to all of the possibilities," Almand said.

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 rerelease back into the wild. Her future career as a wildlife veterinarian aligns with that worldview.



Kaylee Almand and her grandfather, CPN District 11 Legislator Andy Walters, spend time together at the 2022 Family Reunion Festival. (Photo provided)

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 covets 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 has made me 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 *Nokoset*, 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. ♡

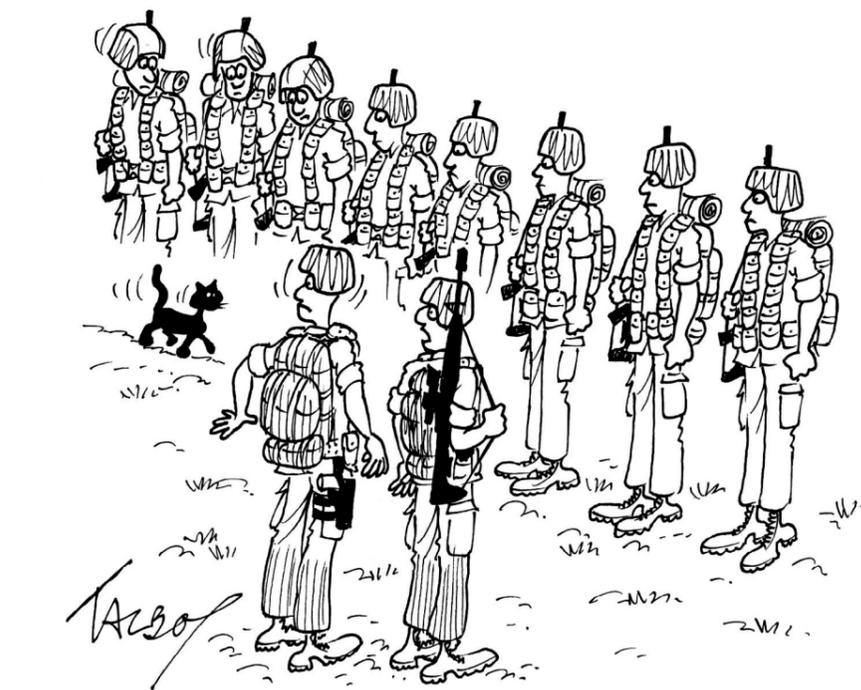
Veterans report



Bozho
(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



SIR, IT MAY BE WISE TO CANCEL TODAY'S EXERCISE!

become a permanent course and will be included in all basic training locations.

This 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 the 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 socializing. 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 its enterprises. 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



Staff and children at both CPN Child Care Centers enjoy events like reading with the Cat in the Hat (center) and Thing 1 and Thing 2.

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 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 their 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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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 potawatomheritage.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.



CPN Cultural Heritage Center



Visitors watch as a bird displays its ability to land and perch at the CPN Eagle Aviary.

“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 potawatomheritage.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.

“Then they actually will 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 are 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. ♡

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Nurse practitioner, world traveler

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 Tescier 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 get 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 certificate 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



Tribal member Christine Munoz finds daily satisfaction working for Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services as an advanced practice registered nurse.

West Clinic and her role with CPN 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 her passport shows signs of wear and tear: St. Croix, Iceland, Paris, Kenya, Uganda, Colombia, to name a few.

"I took coffee classes (in Colombia) because I love coffee. ... I filled a suitcase full of coffee to come back with. And right before you get on the plane, they check your suitcase, open it up. And they're touching all my coffee, making sure it's beans," she said.

Munoz has gazed at strips of the Aurora Borealis, attended a beach wedding in the Caribbean and gone on a safari in Africa.

"I was very lucky to see the Great Apes and trek into the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Let me tell you, that's a hard hike. There is a lot of brush. I was like, 'It's called impenetrable for a reason!'" she said and chuckled.

With a degree in zoology, she loves animals, and as a nurse practitioner, she spends her days analyzing the human condition. Munoz believes traveling serves both of those purposes and her interests as well.

"I think it's very important to spend time in nature and see the way other cultures live or have a good understanding of 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.news/health. 📌

Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho jayek
(Hello everyone),

We are still working on getting our children's books out. So, if you signed up, be patient. We are working on the most cost-efficient way to send them out. We hope to have them going out later this month. We have started another school year offering the language in high schools in Oklahoma. We currently have students at Shawnee High School, Tecumseh High School, Seminole High School and also Shawnee Middle School. We are also offering the language at several universities where there are large numbers of Citizen Potawatomi students.

I have been asked to join a panel discussion at the 54th annual Algonquian Conference in Colorado and am also going to be talking at the Algonquian Fair hosted by the Sac & Fox Nation.

We are working on our next online course to be offered through the same site we are using for our high school

students and hope to have a version of it available by the end of the month. We also have a ton of other tools like two YouTube channels, Woolaroo (a Google image recognition software) and an older Moodle course as well as the Potawatomi Language Facebook group.

I would like to share some sentences that come from a variety of sources of first language speakers. That way you can learn some new vocabulary and enhance your Potawatomi Language learning.

1. *Jayek tepntemwat égi mbomget égi gdemagsiwat. Mine ushonyamwa égi bnajtowat.*

Everything they had died off and they became poor. Also they lost all their money.

2. *Iw je égi pkwenshkwat ni pkweshgasen. Mine I ziwabo apte égi zigwébnak.*

So, he stuffed crackers in his mouth. And poured half the cider out.

3. *I je énat ni osen, "Nwi-pabmadzemen neyew gon*

tepedmek nge-byétomen shode. Éwi wabdemén. Mkekók nge-tomen."

He told his father, "We are going to make a trip for four days and we will bring our valuables here. So, you can watch them. We will have them in a box."

4. *"Cho she kwech, bgéji nde-ton wa mijyan nawkwék," énat éspen. Moéwe énatéwat, "Wegni je étoyen?"*

"Not much, I have a little I am going to eat for lunch," said the raccoon. The wolf asked him, "What do you have?"

5. *I je ekedot, "Nse se moéwe nwi-nkweshkwa mémejek wi bme-pkede."*

He said, "My brother the wolf I am sure to meet up with, and he will no doubt be hungry."

6. *"Iw zhye é-mnokmek ggi-ket," gé na noko. "I je yé i wéché-gché-gzhaték," é-kedot gigabé.*

"It's getting to be spring, you," said Grandma. "That's why it's getting to be hot," said the boy.

7. *Gyénam zhe é-mnewéndek gigabé. Babek gezhép é-dokit.*

The boy was very glad. Sure enough, in the morning, he woke up.

8. *Iw gshe zhe gete é-gi-bkedéwat gbé-gizhek. Iw gshe é-gi-gkéndek é-zhewébek é-bkedék gigabé.*

Sure enough, they were hungry all day. The boy knew what it was like to be hungry.

9. *"Gde-mgegno zhe na, é-wi-bméndezyen," é-nat ossesen mdemozé.*

"You are big enough you can take care of yourself," the old woman said to her grandchild.

10. *Gete se é-mnewéndek gigabé é-wi-tot wa-je-bbonshet.*

The boy was very happy to have a place where he would spend the winter.

Iw
(End). 📌



2022 BALLOON FEST DRAWS RECORD CROWDS TO SHAWNEE

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.

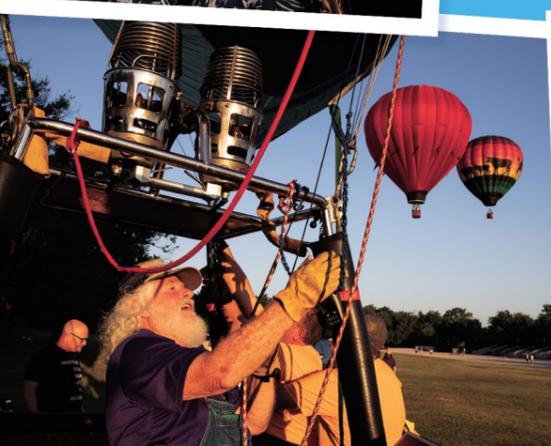
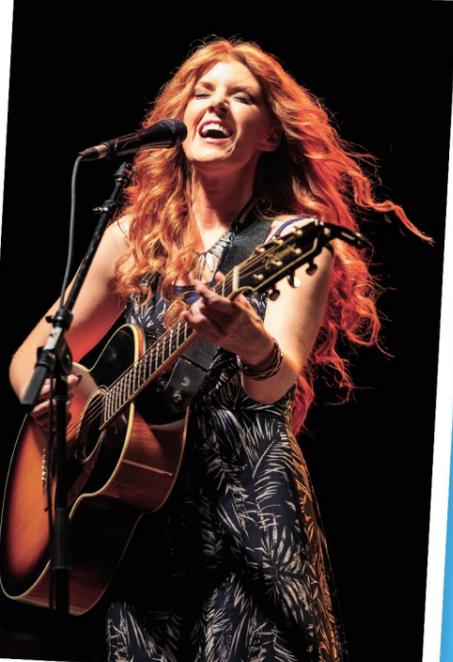
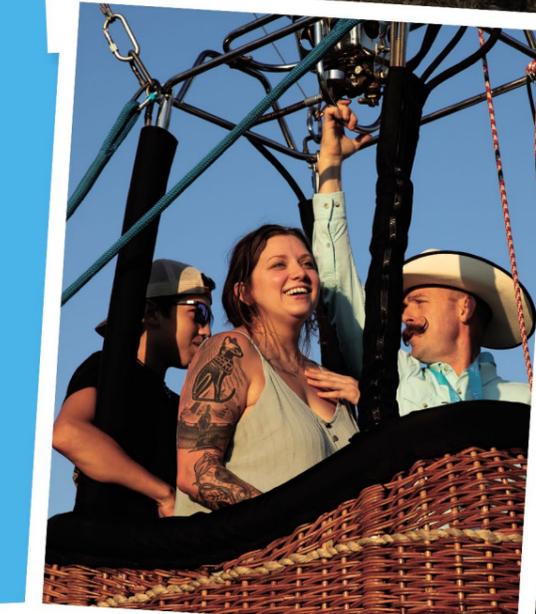
The FireLake Fireflight Balloon Fest will return in 2023, with new activities for its sixth year.

“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 Straus, 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

Try to remember the first time you took a bite of fry bread. Was it at the fair? In your *nokmes'* (grandmother's) kitchen? Was it covered in powdered sugar? Or a hint of honey? Did you dunk it in some *mdamnabo* (corn soup)? Was it piled high with taco toppings?

National Taco Day on October 4 celebrates the many ways to prepare one of America's favorite dishes, including a base of fry bread. Citizen Potawatomi Nation employees serve up made-to-order fry bread tacos for lunch and dinner at FireLake Fry Bread Taco, which opened in 2014.

"All of our employees pretty much know how to make it," said manager Preston Goombi. "We all make it pretty much the same way. Of course, you have your different variations at times just because not everybody makes the same dough-wise. ... It's made fresh every day, and we sell quite a bit of it."

History and perception

Not a traditional Native American food, fry bread originated out of necessity. In the mid-to-late-1860s, the United States forcibly removed the Diné people from their ancestral homelands in what is now Arizona to present-day New Mexico, referred to as The Long Walk. Travelers began making fry bread from the limited rations handed out by the government to prevent starvation along the way.

"Frybread appears to be nothing more than fried dough — like an unsweetened funnel cake, but thicker and softer, full of air bubbles and reservoirs of grease — but it is revered by some as a symbol of Native pride and unity," and resourcefulness, wrote *Smithsonian Magazine's* Jen Miller.

Others consider fry bread a piece of colonial history and one that contributes to a list of the most prevalent health problems endured by Indigenous peoples today. In January 2005, *Indian Country Today* columnist Suzan Shown Harjo outlined her grievances against what she sarcastically called "a gift of Western civilization" in an op-ed piece.

"Frybread is emblematic of the long trails from home and freedom to confinement and rations. It's the connecting dot between healthy children and obesity, hypertension, diabetes,

dialysis, blindness, amputations and slow death," Harjo wrote.

However, other tribal members consider it part of their heritage. They have good memories of learning to cook the perfect piece and enjoying it as a child, like Tribal member and Pecore family descendant Margaret Zientek.

"Saturday mornings, fry bread. Indian bread, as we called it. I had mine with syrup. Some of them had it with honey. We all had fry bread. It's a favorite meal, and it was like a treat," she said.

Potawatomi fry bread

A January 2020 article by the *Navajo Times* reported the first fry bread taco, or "Navajo taco," was created in 1964 at the Navajo Lodge's restaurant by manager Lou Shepard. The idea came to him while serving a friend who told Shepard to surprise him. Looking around the kitchen, Shepard topped the bread with chili, beans, green chilis, lettuce and more.

"It was an immediate sensation, and it soon became the most popular item on the menu," *Navajo Times* reporter Bill Donovan wrote. "Shepherd found himself making as many as 75 Navajo Tacos a day. Many of his customers would order it three or four times a week."

Since 1964, the dish has permeated tribes from every region of North America. In 2014, Citizen Potawatomi Nation decided to open a restaurant near the Tribal complex to give customers more dining choices. FireLake Fry Bread Taco, located next to FireLake Discount Foods, became a unique establishment that served a menu unlike any other in the Oklahoma City metro.

"We're still one of the only ones that do this year-round. And it's just neat to see how much bigger this has gotten. In the past couple of weeks, (there have been) just people who have never been here coming in. It just makes it feel a sense of pride just because ... the Tribe took a chance," Goombi said.

Diners enjoy picking their toppings, including various types of meat, beans and vegetables, and the restaurant's spicy meat pies, corn soup and sweeter options.



FireLake Fry Bread Taco serves fresh fry bread topped with spicy, savory and cheesy ingredients six days a week.

"We like to not make the fry bread until they come in. Unless we have a line, then we have someone back there who's making it all the time. But other than that, it's fresh. It's made fresh. It's cooked fresh, and everything's fresh," said FireLake Restaurants Director Tammy Tate.

FireLake Fry Bread Taco stayed open through the coronavirus pandemic with limited-time menu items, great deals on carry-out orders and new specials aimed at families.

The "best" recipe

Many tribes across Indian Country have their version of the Indian taco, and everyone claims a secret to making the "best" fry bread. Some think it takes a bit of salt. Some add a bit of sugar to their dough. However, any recipe begins with a 2-to-1 flour and warm water ratio.

This summer, Zientek guided a group of CPN interns through making it, many of them for the first time. She explained to them the simple process that uses only a few ingredients.

"There's a difference in your cooks and how they do it. I use all-purpose (flour), and normally, I'm going to do 3 cups of flour, 3 heaping teaspoons of baking powder, a teaspoon of salt and a very generous tablespoon of sugar," she said.

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 Graggs, 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 people have been making fry bread for years and years and years, and I've never done it before," Graggs said.

Her excitement and surprise showed on her face as she accepted her prize. Graggs 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 fluffy, crispy fry bread fit for an Indian taco with a bit of practice.

Find FireLake Fry Bread Taco on Facebook @frybreadtaco. ♡

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.

Thirteenth item of business: Resolution 23-15-HHS: A resolution authorizing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's proposed application for funding through the United States Department of Health & Human Services and Indian Health Services fiscal year 2023 Special Diabetes Initiative Program. Motion to approve Resolution 23-15-HHS was made by Representative Whistler and seconded by Representative Barrett. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Fourteenth item of business: Resolution 23-16-NR: A resolution approving the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's application for funding under the U.S. Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grant Program. Motion to approve Resolution 23-16-NR 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 23-18-ED&C: A resolution approving membership into the Indian Gaming Association for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and authorizing payment of membership dues for fiscal year 2023. Motion to approve Resolution 23-18-ED&C was made by Vice-

Chairman Capps and seconded by Representative Lambert. 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 Whistler 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-TC&A: 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-TC&A was made by Representative Walters and seconded by Representative Bowden. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent and 0 abstaining.

Recess at 7:30 p.m. (Executive Session)

Reconvene at 8:36 p.m.

Representative Lambert left the meeting.

Eighteenth item of business: Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Representative Wesselhöft and seconded by Representative Whistler. The motion passed with 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent and 0 abstaining. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. ♡

Photographer releases legacy project highlighting Tribal members, history

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 Tradition 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.

“I felt it was important to make the best, finest book I could because this is an heirloom. ... This is supposed to go forward to the next seven generations. And in order to be saved and cherished in that way, it has to be a beautiful book,” Hoogstraten said.

Having honed her skills for nearly 40 years studying and working on various projects, she applied them to *Dancing for Our Tribe*. She designed every aspect of the book and filled every inch with her experiences and subjects’ knowledge and thoughts.

Regalia

During the photoshoots, Hoogstraten set up spaces for people to dance dressed in their regalia, capturing the beauty of the handmade creations in motion. For the most part, she said people overcame their self-consciousness and expressed gratitude for the opportunity.

“I thought that was amazing because we would use music, and we’d get caught up in the drum beat, and they would really give of themselves. And there is their personality in those images. They’re not catalog pictures. Their humanity is in there, not just their regalia. I always hope that people see that,” Hoogstraten said.

She enjoyed picturing people in their own cultural garments that transcend and show the influence of time and history.

“Regalia is not a reenactment. ... This is a very based-in-tradition but current art. It is your story. Your regalia is always changing. It’s never finished. You are building your stories and your thoughts into your regalia. And then for non-Natives, it is a testimonial to the fact that we are still here, which so many people don’t understand,” Hoogstraten said.

While creating the book, she requested that her subjects handwrite statements about their attire, clan or Potawatomi family histories. Their handwriting became as important as their words.

“In our culture, the storyteller is the guardian of our history. ... And that really resonated with me. I thought, ‘That’s what I’m trying to do here — be a guardian of our history.’ Once I started looking at it like that, then I could really start processing people’s stories of their regalia,” Hoogstraten said.

The book’s front flap reads, “Tribal members learning the art of regalia will find these portraits provide an inspiring reference.” Hoogstraten hopes it encourages Tribal members to make pieces of their own for the first time or pushes them to begin a new set for themselves or someone they know.

Past and present

Hoogstraten’s connection to Potawatomi culture and her heritage remained

limited until she began the project despite living on *Nishnabé* homelands in present-day Chicago. A Ouilmette family descendant, she became inspired to learn about her ancestors and their past as she traveled throughout the continent, photographing other Tribal members. Now, her new book shows the breadth and depth of that gained knowledge.

“That’s been the thing with this project — every direction you turn, there’s a whole new tributary of Potawatomi history that is so interesting in itself,” Hoogstraten said. “But at some point, you just have to cut it off. This book is ... like an encyclopedia. I mean, it’s 304 pages. It’s an inch and a quarter thick. And I couldn’t even put everybody in here.”

She wanted the focus to remain on regalia. However, the book also contains historical resources and engravings of artist George Winter’s sketches from the Potawatomi Trail of Death, when the U.S. government forcibly removed Tribal members from the Great Lakes to Kansas. The pages include contributions from Native artists and authors alive today depicting culture and history as well. The line drawings of feathers and birds are attributed to CPN artist Penny Coates.

“I tried to provide enough background so that people who want to pursue a deeper understanding of the history of the Potawatomis or even the Native American experience during colonization find books in the preface that I recommend they go to because I’m not an academic. I’m a photographer ... although I have learned a lot in the last 10 years,” Hoogstraten said.

She made a name for herself throughout the Potawatomi nations during that time and enjoyed building relationships and meeting new family members.

“The reward ... is from being a person who hadn’t ever been to a (Potawatomi) Gathering or a Family Reunion Festival until 2010,” Hoogstraten said. “I now feel so connected to all these people and all these Nations. You have to earn that, and it’s such a gift. It’s a treasure to me that I can go to these places, and people know me, and I know them. It’s huge.”

“My” to “Our”

At one point, Hoogstraten slightly changed the book’s title. While it may seem small, to her, the distinction carried significant weight.



Photographer Sharon Hoogstraten
(Photo by Bo Apitz)



“I had a working title, *Dancing for My Tribe*, because this was my personal project. And it wasn’t really until I started to put the book together that I thought, ‘We’re all dancing in this book.’ ... The contributors, the assistants, even people who posed but aren’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*. We’re all dancing in our own ways,” 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 every chance to learn from someone.

“Even if they say something that you already know or you assumed, there’s always going to be an edge on it that is different from the way you process it. So many times, I’ve thought I had things figured out, but I’ve learned to just shut up and listen. It always pays off. I already know 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 easy 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 hornets and spiders. ... 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 photographs 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.

“You see modern 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

the pressure of completing what she started. Hoogstraten used the additional time at home during the pandemic to put the finishing touches on the book and develop a production and distribution strategy. However, as supply chain issues worsened and costs for materials rose, it became a challenge.

“I owe all the people who participated in this, who put their time and trust in me,” Hoogstraten said. “That’s what scared me so much when I just felt like I didn’t know what to do anymore with the book being too expensive, no paper being available. It wasn’t so much a question of my legacy as I owed all these people a result. And it was very scary for me not to know what to do about that.”

After some uncertainty, the University of Oklahoma Press agreed to market and distribute the book. When prices escalated wildly, they recommended a printer, and *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 find 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-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 and varied 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. Nothing. 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.”

Order *Dancing for Our Tribe* online at cpn.news/DFOT. ♡

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, also known as intimate partner violence, is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior in a romantic relationship used to gain or maintain control over a partner. 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

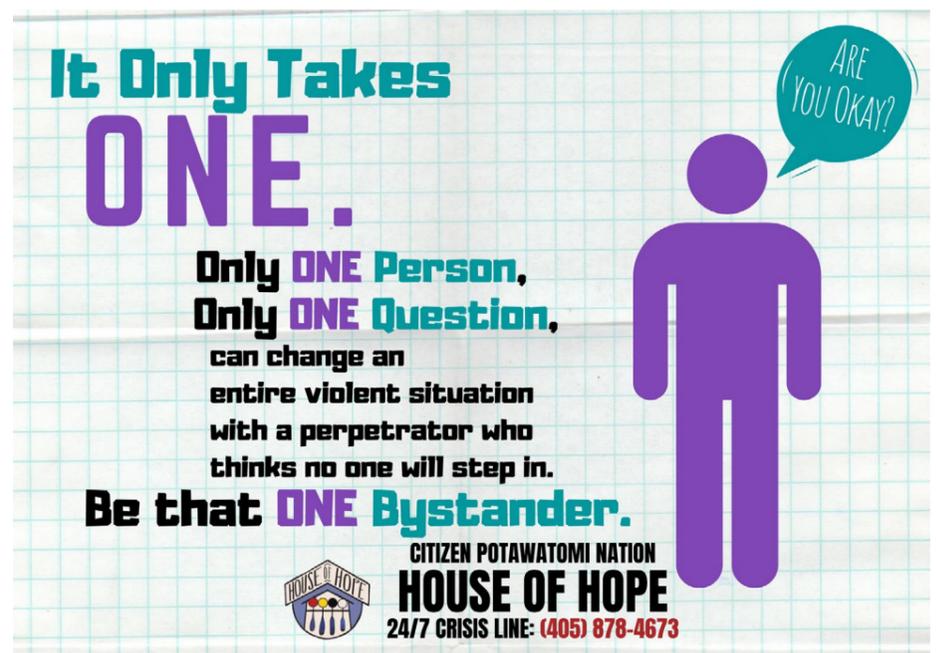
Domestic violence does not discriminate. It can happen to anyone regardless of gender, age, race, economic status, education level, religion or sexual orientation. There are generally

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 outbursts
- 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, rental 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 cpnhouseofhope.com. The Native Alliance Against Violence provides a list of Oklahoma tribal programs on its website at oknaav.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](https://www.facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope).

[ncadv.org/STATISTICS](https://www.ncadv.org/STATISTICS)

cpn.news/ncadv

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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 ties 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. 🔥



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION TRIBAL ROLLS

The Tribal Rolls Department is responsible for determining eligibility for Tribal enrollment, burial insurance, and Tribal ID cards, and assists with genealogical and historical research. The department is also responsible for maintaining and updating the computer membership list, utilizing Tribal membership information for various types of census data, and creating the voter eligibility lists under the direction of the Secretary-Treasurer for the CPN Election Commission's Secretary-Treasurer.

TO ENROLL OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Visit portal.potawatomi.org

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 for 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



Poet, herbalist, garden designer, educator and doula Kelli Harper (Photo provided)

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

Harper is hopeful readers can take small steps relieve the burden they may be carrying.

“By each of us pursuing our own passions, we really create pathways for other people to do the same, and we lead by example. In the closing of my book, I share that my intention for this is to be a call of action. Everything counts, even the seemingly smallest contributions. The earth restoration, the education around herbalism, around gardening, are tangible things we can do within our own lives and in our own communities to make a positive impact for the next generations to come. It starts with discovering and following our own intuition, our own internal guidance or atlas,” she said.

Harper is grateful for the influence of her Potawatomi ancestors and of other Indigenous people as well.

“I want to give thanks to all of our ancestors, past and present, for really planting the seeds and carrying them forward, both metaphorically and physically. It’s because of them that we remember the wisdom of how to grow our food and how to make our medicine and how to live,” she said. “It is an honor, privilege and sacred duty to continue planting the seeds forward, for the next generation to reap a bountiful harvest.”

Harper’s book, *Atlas: a Poetic Guide for the Fernweh Spirit*, is available on Amazon. You can follow her on Instagram: @FernBellaBotanicals and @KelliMarieFrances, or contact her at fernbellabotanicals@gmail.com. ♡

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Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



Bozho nikan
(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 us.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



Bozho
(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



Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett accepts the IEDC’s Leadership for Public Services award at the organization’s Annual Conference.

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.

But the highlight of the evening for those of us from Shawnee and the surrounding area was the award for Leadership for Public Service. That award went to CPN’s own Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett. What an exciting moment given IEDC’s stature as an international organization. Chairman’s acceptance speech was dynamic and uplifting with a flavor of humor that captured the audience. It was a very good evening for Chairman Barrett.

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

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District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

I hope the return to school and work has been smooth for you. I have a bird's-eye view of school openings and attendance levels as operator of The Kwek Society. This September, we shipped out many more period supplies than we did last September. We are including in our shipments 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 wecandothis.hhs.gov.

Gathering update

This year's Potawatomi Gathering was a priceless opportunity to reconnect with Potawatomi from across North America. I shared great visits and great meals, participated in the Tribal Leaders/Economic Development Meeting, and learned a new no-needle technique for making Eastern woodland center seam mkesinen (moccasins) from a

gifted teacher, Rachel Leigh-Jeske. After the Gathering, Rachel circulated a PDF of her instructions. I will share it by email on request. You can learn more about Rachel on Facebook and Instagram at @RLneshnabe.

November 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 *kwe* (woman) Sharon Hoogstraten, who will sign copies of 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 NMAI is hosting days of celebrations November 12 through 14.



Eastern woodland center seam moccasins as taught by RL Neshnabe

DISTRICT 2 *Fall Feast*

**SATURDAY, NOV. 12
11AM-2:30PM** | **LITTLE FALLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PARISH HALL
6025 LITTLE FALLS ROAD, ARLINGTON, VA 22207**

Bring favorite dishes (with recipes, if you'd like) to share. I will provide the turkey, a vegan main dish, and beverages. We will visit, make traditional rattles out of elk and bison hide, and share a family meal. Children are welcome, and the craft is appropriate for children eight and up with one-to-one adult supervision.

RSVP by November 5
**TO EVAMARIECARNEY@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 202-281-4373
CPN D#2 TRIBAL BUSINESS (VOICEMAIL) 888-849-1484**

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

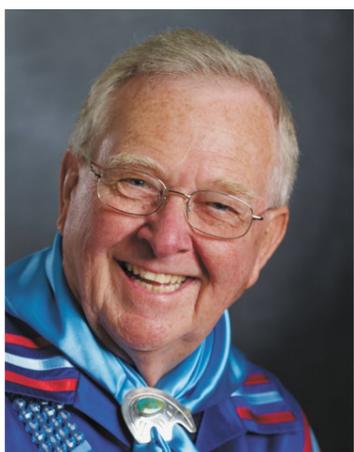
that veterans talk with their VA healthcare provider and/or contact their local VA medical center or outpatient clinic to learn more about the specific resources available to them.

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)
she/her/hers
Legislator, District 2
5877 Washington Boulevard
PO Box 5591
Arlington, VA 22205
888-849-1484 toll-free
ecarney@potawatomi.org
evamariecarney.com

District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho jayek
(Hello everyone),

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



Potawatomi language books

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



CPN Wellness Center

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

these books. The books are available and may be ordered on the Potawatomi language portal. The remaining five books are still in the creation stage but are expected to be completed by year's end. Another source for learning is to go to YouTube at "Potawatomi language and Justin Neely." Then go to the small circular photo below Justin's photo. There are almost 400 items there. Given all the areas we

are offered to learn our Tribal language, why not give it a try?

Wellness Center

While in Shawnee in late August, I happened to stop by our Wellness Center. I was happy to see all new exercise equipment at the facility. I took a photo from the second floor. In the photo are Chris Jolley and Joni Campbell. They are 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.

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 Chancellors 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.

Bama pi
(Later),

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

District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho
(Hello),

Native American or American Indian?

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

Q: I still see 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's 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 "AmerIndian." 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 650 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: Marriott Courtyard Kansas City East, 1500 NE Coronado Dr., Blue Springs, MO, on Saturday, October 22 at 10



Erin Larsen and Leah Tsinajinnie

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 Nuggets & 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 Town, which is part of the Ward Meade Park in Topeka. The exhibit was a joint effort between several members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and me. The exhibit consists of a wigwam, small prayer circle, medicine wheel and signage describing the history of those tribes that were relocated to the Topeka area in the early 1800s.

CPN Member Caddies at Disc Golf Professional World's Championship

Just before submitting this article to the editors, I received

the following in an email from CPN member Erin Larsen. During the last week of August, Erin attended the Disc Golf Professional World's Championship in Emporia, Kansas, and had the great pleasure to caddy for Leah Tsinajinnie from Atlanta, Georgia. Leah, a member of Navajo Nation, is a touring professional disc golfer who made the top 75 female players in the world who were able to compete in the biggest disc golf event of the year. Recently, Leah Tsinajinnie was elected to the Professional Disc Golf Association Board of Directors. She has been working with the PDGA to grow the sport in BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities. There are only three touring professionals disc golfers that are of Indigenous descent, and they are all female.

Erin is a member of the Navarre family and resides in Topeka. She is a member of the PDGA, and in July, she took 1st Place in her division at the Lake Shawnee Open.

Honored to serve you

It is an honor to serve you as your district representative. I appreciate hearing from 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 current email address, or what I have is incorrect. All you need to do is send me your email address, and I will enter you into my District 4 information file. My contact information is listed below.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

CPN District 1 & 4 Meeting

<p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY OCTOBER 22 BEGINS AT 10AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ADAMS POINTE CONFERENCE CENTER COURTYARD MARRIOTT KC EAST 1500 NE CORONADO DRIVE, BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64014</p>
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Join us for a discussion from CPN Chief District Judge Philip Lujan, who will describe how the CPN court system works and CPN Adult Protective Services Director Janet Draper, who will discuss her new program

Lunch to follow

RSVP BY 5PM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

CALL 785-608-1982 OR EMAIL JON.BOURSAW@POTAWATOMI.ORG
(Please indicate which day you plan to attend)

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.

District 5 – Gene Lambert



Bozho
(Hello),

Good day to you all.
Hope all is well.

Please make a note of the upcoming Colorado meeting on Oct. 15, 2022, at the Marriott Renaissance on Quebec Street in Denver from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch. Their phone number is 303-399-7500. We've held meetings here for years. Thought it would be wise to meet there again since it has been so long.

I am so excited to get back on track after not being able to travel due to the pandemic and travel restrictions.

We already had our Arizona meeting on April 9, 2022, and it was as if it was the first meeting we ever had. Great to be able to see everyone as it will be in Colorado as well.

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 peoples in office today or taking their seats during the

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
DISTRICT 5 MEETING
Saturday, October 15 | 10am-3pm
Marriott Renaissance
3801 Quebec Street, Denver CO 80207
lunch provided
RSVP BY OCTOBER 10
call 480-228-6569 or email glambert@potawatomi.org
or euniceilambert@gmail.com

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 voter 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 is to discourage enough

people so we will then fall into a fascist state. You are important!

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
480-669-0509 office
euniceilambert@gmail.com

District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

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 cpn.news/D67Oct22. 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 CPCDC serves Tribal member-owned small businesses

providing capitol 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 community 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 CPCDC.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

Citizen Potawatomi Nation District 6 Representative Rande Payne & District 7 Representative Mark Johnson invite you to the
District 6 & 7
Fall Heritage Festival
Saturday, October 22, 2022 10am to 3pm
Valhalla at the Grove
31150 Road 180
Visalia, CA 93292
Lunch provided. Tribal members and their families welcome.
RSVP by **October 19**
For the full invitation and registration details, see the invite at cpn.news/D67Oct22

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

District 8 – Dave Carney



Bohzo nikan
(Hello friend),

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 from the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife (USDFW) in Colorado. There is an application to be filled out and then signed by Chairman Barrett. After that

CPN District 8 Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 | NOON TO 4PM

GREAT SPIRIT METHODIST CHURCH
3917 NE Shaver St, Portland, OR 97212

Come be a part of your District and your Tribe!
All food provided (bring a dessert to share)
Presentations, art contest and a hot catered lunch with a Native American flair! Canned food drive to benefit the Food Bank.

RSVP BY OCTOBER 7
to dcarney@potawatomi.org
(please include number of people attending)




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

has been accomplished, one can order feathers over and over again. The system isn't smooth, and it takes some time, but it is a great way to obtain not only bald and golden eagle feathers but also other parts such as talons, wings and heads. Please go to cpn.news/USFWSreq to start the application process.

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 wasn't long ago

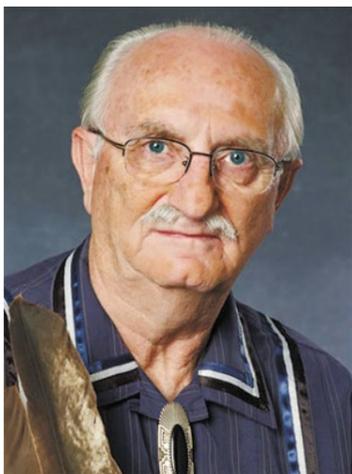
(the 1980s) that there were no eagles in Oklahoma. Now they are back and thriving.

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.news/aviary.

A few years ago, I had an opportunity to move close to a lake in my area of Western Washington. An unanticipated 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

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Among the Navajo and the Pueblo

We recently took two separate vacations near the Navajo/Navaho and Pueblo reservations in Arizona and New Mexico.

Our trip to Flagstaff, Sedona and the Grand Canyon in Arizona was wonderful. We

saw a big mature elk up-close with a herd full of the largest antlers I have ever seen. And of course, the Grand Canyon was spectacular.

The Navajo migrated to the Four Corners area around 1400 A.D. The Pueblo were there long before that. Navajo are today the second most populous of all Native Americans with 300,000 living mainly in Arizona and New Mexico. Navajo interactions with the Pueblo tribes were recorded at least as early as the 17th century.

Driving through the Navajo reservation, I was thrilled by the magnificent mountains and the dark shadows on the desert sand caused by the clouds moving across the sky but stunned and saddened by the poverty I saw.

The dilapidated houses and trailers there all had long dirt and rock roads leading up to their premises. There are no trees, grass or vegetation anywhere. Wind driven dust

hovered over the area like a light fog. The homes, some with old trucks jacked up on cinder blocks, are scattered across the desert in a non-communal manner. Some houses didn't have electrical or telephone lines leading to them. It makes you wonder if their abodes have running water.

We stopped and visited a few of the art stands by the highways. This is one way the Navajo make a living. The people are very friendly and were eager to answer my many questions. I tried to learn as much about them as I could without appearing nosy.

Their pottery, rugs, rings, necklaces and bracelets are beautiful works of the highest art. I bought a bracelet with the turquoise center mined at Kingman, Arizona, and the surrounding coral was harvested from the Mediterranean Sea.

Our other vacation centered at Santa Fe, New Mexico. I

have never seen such a massive concentration of great art works in just a few blocks as I saw in this city of 84,000. Virtually all the businesses, buildings and homes blend naturally into the adobe environment. Magnificent, rugged mountains surround the city. This would be a great little city to retire to.

We visited the Bandelier Mountain National Park to learn how the Pueblo lived in the past as well as the present. Today, there are some 75,000 Puebloans. They are great artisans. Their multi-colored pottery is striking. Pueblos influenced the Navajo in art works especially painted pottery and weaving. Their rugs are exquisite examples of this art form.

In the past, the Pueblo lived communally; that is, they gathered into small communities that depended upon each other. Some lived in the many caves naturally carved into

the mountainside above the villages. Their houses did not have front or back doors. The doors were constructed on top of their flat roofs. Wooden ladders lead up to the roofs. Then, they would retrieve the ladders. This kept human and animal from intruding in the houses. It was interesting to learn that they domesticated their turkeys, which lived in unison alongside their dogs. Corn was their main diet.

I have to believe that some of the greatest artists in the world are Native Americans. These tribes, as only two examples, may be poor in finances but very rich in art and culture. Their ancient art is amazing, and their contemporary art is exhilarating!

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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



THE Hownikan

PODCAST






District 10 – David Barrett



Bozho
(Hello),

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.

- In March 2022, the Honor Guard participated in a memorial service for our own Commander Daryl Talbot's wife's (Theresa) dad, Julian Zientek, along with the Army Color Guard from Fort Sill.
- April 5, 2022: CPN Department of Transportation and Environment Training at the South Reunion Hall.
- May 3, 2022: National Indian & Native American Employment & Training Conference held in Catoosa, Oklahoma.
- 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 25, 2022: Color Guard Grand Entry at the Family Reunion Festival near Shawnee, Oklahoma.
- June 25, 2022: Bob Lewis' memorial service.
- June 25, 2022: Flag folding and the meaning of each of the 13 folds read out loud.
- June 25, 2022: Flag retirement for flags that had served their purpose.
- June 25, 2022: Annual veteran meeting at the CPN Golf Club where we selected Lyman Boursaw to receive, as the Honored Veteran, the American flag that flew during Festival.
- June 23—25, 2022: Veterans table in FireLake Arena, where we passed out the red veteran's ribbons and sold merchandise and raffle tickets.
- July 30, 2022: Color Guard participates in the Grand Entry for the



The CPN Color Guard and Honor Guard participate in events and ceremonies throughout the state and around the country.



The CPN Veterans Organization at the Nation's Festival grounds near Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Potawatomi Gathering at Hannahville in Michigan.

Hughes, Okfuskee, Okmulgee and McIntosh counties.

- 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*.

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.

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.

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
Mnedobe (Sits with the Spirits)
Legislator, District 10
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801
405-275-3121
dbarrett@potawatomi.org

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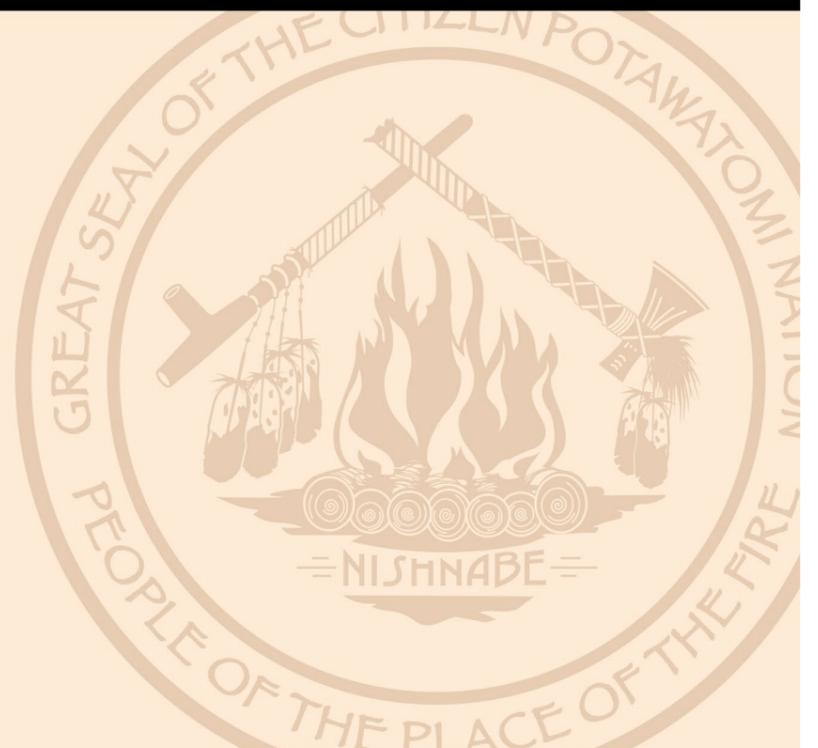
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As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation family, First National Bank wants to be your bank of choice. We have a lot of exciting things coming up and we want you to be a part of it! From mortgages to a loan for your small business—we have everything you need!

Visit us today at fnbokla.bank!



fnbokla.bank | NMLS #486434 Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



Mark G. Chandler Curley Family



Mark G. Chandler, 64, died on Aug. 11, 2022, from injuries he 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 later moved to Arkansas and worked as a PTA at various nursing care facilities for 20 years, then eventually retiring.

Mark enjoyed his daily walks with his faithful Border Collie Quincy! Mark also enjoyed cooking, hunting and fishing. He enjoyed spending time with his family and was a very loving and caring person.

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.

He is preceded by his mother, Miran J. Chandler; along with his paternal grandparents, Alfred and Dorcas Chandler; and his maternal grandparents, Claude and Viola Cavender.

Mark is survived by his father, Jasper V. Chandler, who lives in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

He has five siblings, Dwight Greenfield (Shirley), Carey Greenfield and Brenda Pierce, all three from Shawnee, Oklahoma; Jimmy Chandler (Linda) of Clinton, Arkansas, and Terry Chandler of Tampa, Florida.

He also has many aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

He also left behind his wife's children, Brittany Johnson and family, along with her son, Dexter Cates and family.

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

Patricia E. Kuhn Slavin Family



Patricia E. Kuhn, 72, of Olathe, 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 wife, 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 grandsons. 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 *Wasokwe* or She Who Shines Upon Others. Patricia's life exemplified that name.

Patricia is survived by her husband of 52 years, Randy L. Kuhn; daughters, Amy Schwartz (Chad) and Ailie Kofoid (Eric); 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 & Hoge Chapel in Overland Park, Kansas, and burial at Mount Moriah Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri. Memorial contributions may be given to Villa St. Francis at General Giving.

Ricky Willard Rader Juneau Family



On Sept. 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, Cristal Pawalaczyk 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 grandmother, Marie Baird; 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 spent the remainder of his life there.

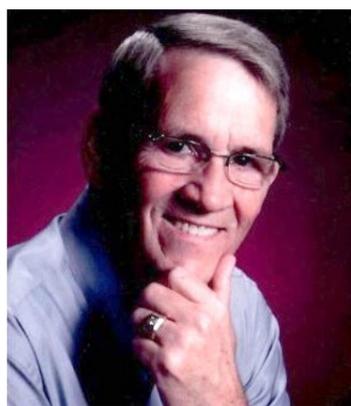
He worked in construction for his uncle most of his working years. He really loved the work he was doing.

He had a huge heart, and if he decided you were one of the people he loved, he did so 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.

Steven "Jejak" Lee Michael Martin Burns Family



Steven "Jejak" 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 Carriers as a truck driver. He was also co-owner of MSI 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 Bowersox on June 27, 2008, in Hutchinson.

Steve is survived by his wife, Deanne of Hutchinson; children, Melissa Jill (Brian) Gibson of Owasso, Oklahoma, and Paul Jason "Jake" (Kelsey) Martin of Hutchinson; stepchildren, Shaelee (Chad) Mendenhall of Hutchinson, and Jaron Bowersox of Kansas City, Kansas; siblings, Mary Hudson and Pauline Bickford, both of Rossville, Henry (Carol) Martin of Hesston, Kansas, and C.D. (Diane) Martin of McPherson; grandchildren, Madison (Matt) Liley, McKinley (Jacob) Rincon, Brennan Gibson, Brighton Gibson, Jady (fiancé Dominick Andersen) Martin, Jordyn Martin, Jennalea Martin, Kai Mendenhall, Zayden Mendenhall, and Oliviana Mendenhall; and great-grandson, Hudson Liley.

He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings, baby boy Martin, baby girl Martin, Tim Martin, Paul "Jr." Martin and Wally Martin.

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

Ullie Francis Melot, Jr. Melot/Melott 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 a 1957 graduate of Shawnee High School. Ullie ("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, food, 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. 3, 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 (Sissy), 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 world is 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 (Sissy); and sister Connie Page.

Bettye Field Dainty Harridge Family



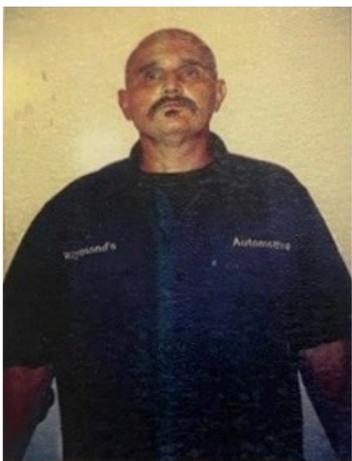
On Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022, Bettye Field Dainty passed away at the age of 98. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Austin S. Field; her second husband, Raymond Dainty; and her son, Austin (Butch) Jr.; as well as her brothers, LaVerne Helpingstine, Jack Harridge and Don Harridge.

She is survived by her three daughters, Sandie and husband Lanny, Ceanne 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 Lazelle 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, Lorenzo 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 Navarre Family



Charles William (Bill) Esch passed away June 28, 2022, at the age of 83 from COVID-19 in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Charles was the son of Charles Esch and Dorothy Esch Hicks.

He married his high school sweetheart, Joy Saffer, on July 29, 1960. A devoted couple, they were together for 62 years.

They have four children, Mark (AnnaMarie), Michael (Jeanine), Kelly (Cory Polak) and Krystal (Todd Driscoll); ten grandchildren, Ethan, Colin, Aaron, Rhiannon, Matthew, Ashley, Joseph, Gage, Ila Joy and Grace; and eleven great-grandchildren. In 2014, Charles found his extended family of five brothers and one sister, Don, Connie, Larry, Bob, David and Rick as well as many nieces and nephews. Many enjoyable days were spent getting to know each other.

The family moved from Kansas to Phoenix, Arizona, in 1968. Working in the auto body profession for over 44 years, cars were a hobby as well as a job. Charles loved working

with the Boy Scouts and going camping with his family. His quirky jokes, generosity, smile and courage (two-time cancer survivor) will be missed. He was a mentor to many.

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

Helen M. Chaffin Duvall Family



Helen M. (Duvall) Chaffin went to her heavenly home on Aug. 6, 2022. Helen was born on Oct. 2, 1935, at home in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, to A.A. and Ada (Rutherford) Duvall. 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 with 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 dinners are fondly remembered, especially her homemade macaroni and cheese. Helen loved to garden and take care of her yard. She was a great vocalist and an avid reader.

Helen is survived by her sons, Bobby Chaffin and wife Sue, and Randy Chaffin and wife Kim; brother-in-law, Bill Chaffin and wife Dee of Eufaula; and sister-in-law, Judy Chaffin of Earlsboro; granddaughters Mandy Adcock and husband Kevin, and Kassie Porter and husband Eric; and a special granddaughter, Amy Hailey. She is also survived by two great-grandchildren, Jake and Jaden Adcock; and many nieces and nephews. Helen was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bob; brothers, Ernest Edward, A.A. (Bud) Jr., and Curtis Duvall; sisters, Alma Lee Brown, Orene 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 Swearingen 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 Marlyeece Richardson Ziegler Family



Lynda Marlyeece 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 father, Donald Albert Richardson.

Lynda is survived by her daughter, Collette Mruk and Jay of Washington; son, Daniel Jacob "DJ" Voyles of California; daughter, Courtney Voyles of South Carolina; two granddaughters, Nicole Mruk and Kaitlyn 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 Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park in Missouri at a later date.

Lynda will forever be missed in our hearts.

Submitting obituaries

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

hownikan@potawatomi.org

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

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