



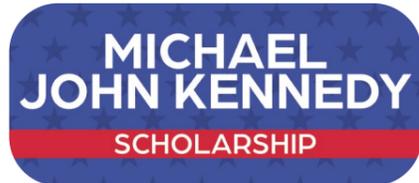
HOWNIIKAN

Zawbogyagises | September 2021

Top photo: View of the North Canadian River from a hot air balloon during FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival in August 2021.

A LOOK INSIDE

Page 5



Tribal member honored through memorial scholarship

Pages 10-11

Potawatomi Leadership Program Class of 2021

Page 13



Students benefit from summer programs

Pages 14-18

Tribal Executive and Legislative updates

Pages 19-20

Walking on



First Americans Museum celebrates opening weekend

After decades of being hindered by inconsistent funding and bureaucratic red tape, the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City opens to the public Sept. 18 and 19. The weekend includes tours, demonstrations, poetry readings, fashion shows, shopping, family activities and more. The staff and volunteers' excitement shows their dedication to the project, which they look forward to sharing with the public.

"We want to set the right perspective and tone for opening weekend because it really is a true celebration of how far we've come and that the museum is finally open," said Ginny Underwood, FAM's marketing and communications manager.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation employee and Curley family descendant Kendra Lowden volunteered to assist the museum opening weekend. She has waited more than a decade for the opportunity.

"The FAM staff I have interacted with are tribal citizens with a focus on properly representing the cultures and histories of all Oklahoma tribes. It touches my heart to know that the people doing the daily work at FAM have a deep, cultural connection to their work," Lowden said.

Land and architecture

The museum's designers and architects worked meaning and Native significance into every portion of the building and property. Tesia Zientek, CPN tribal member and CPN Department of Education Director, recognized those connections during a recent tour. The commitment to detail inspires her volunteerism.

"Decades of thought, advocacy and artistry have made the museum what it is today, and it made me emotional to see it come together after so much combined effort," she said. "The way that the facility incorporates the environment and tribal details from the floor to the ceiling is absolutely breathtaking."

The structure serves as an astronomical clock, according to Underwood. The sun rises and sets on different sections of the museum to commemorate the special times of the equinox and solstice, as well as observing the cardinal directions.

"Everything about how FAM is positioned is in relation to that," she said. "So that's kind of an exciting thing for people to understand that so much thought has been given to not just the objects and things that they'll find in our exhibitions, but also the architecture and the layout of the museum itself."

The FAM campus includes a 90-foot mound that connects visitors to an ancient history of Mound Builders while offering a stunning view of downtown Oklahoma City and the Oklahoma River.



From the architecture to the exhibitions, the First Americans Museum near downtown Oklahoma City offers opportunities to learn about the 39 tribes in the state.

"The land itself used to be an oil field. And so we had to reclaim the land and heal the land before we could start the structure of the museum," Underwood said. "In 2005, there was a ground blessing here with our tribal communities," with more than 1,000 people in attendance.

The grounds and interior of the building include three Oklahoma Art in Public Places pieces in partnership with the Oklahoma Arts Council, bringing some tribes' oldest beliefs and traditions into the modern-day.

"There's just a lot of things that I think people are going to find unexpected and really enjoy seeing over and over again," Underwood said.

The design also incorporates a 159-seat theater, gift shop, café and restaurant, for which Citizen Potawatomi tribal member Loretta Oden serves as chef consultant. Former Potawatomi Leadership Program participant Jackson Barrett also works for the FAM as a guest services associate.

"This museum will be a great opportunity to shine a light on Native American history in this state and to teach people about the history and the culture of all the different tribes," Barrett said.

The museum offered Lowden and other volunteers a preview of the museum, and she was enthusiastic about the opportunities it provides to bridge that understanding.

"I am excited to see all of the Native people and other Oklahomans begin to explore the museum grounds and facilities," she said. "I can already feel the energy I know will be present opening weekend."

Programming and storytelling

Opening weekend kicks off with representatives from all of Oklahoma's 39 tribes convening, followed by remarks from Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby and a reading from Joy Harjo, the

first Native American U.S. poet laureate and Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen.

The rest of the day's presenters include Indigenous chefs, artists, musicians and dancers. There will be movie screenings and drum-making demonstrations and even a community mural project for children.

"Once you get on campus, there's just so many things to do and engage with First American cultures as well as enjoy the exhibition. So we're just expecting a ... large crowd those days," Underwood said.

Opening weekend shines a light on the museum's bigger mission through exhibitions and day-to-day programming.

"Our hope is that people leave the museum as well as our programs with a deeper and revitalized respect for the arts, history and culture of the 39 tribes here in Oklahoma today," said Adrienne Lalli Hills, associate director for learning and community engagement, and Wyandot Nation member.

The museum welcomes the general public to attend fun family weekends year-round with art activities and interpretive stations included with admission. Walk-in tours and performances account for a tiny portion of its offerings.

"We'll also be designing programs with our Native visitors in mind," Lalli Hills said. "So, we'll have special tours for groups of Native folks that just want to deeply engage with our stories and the objects on view."

The museum includes two long-term galleries. *Okla Homma's* three sections follow a historical timeline of the area once known as Indian Territory, from the land's original inhabitants to the present day. The interactive exhibits allow visitors to play games, explore and leave with a hands-on experience.

Continued on page 7

Treaty of Fort Wayne, the War of 1812

On Sept. 30, 1809, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami and Eel River tribal leaders signed the Treaty of Fort Wayne, which included ceding approximately 3 million acres of land in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan for 2 cents per acre.

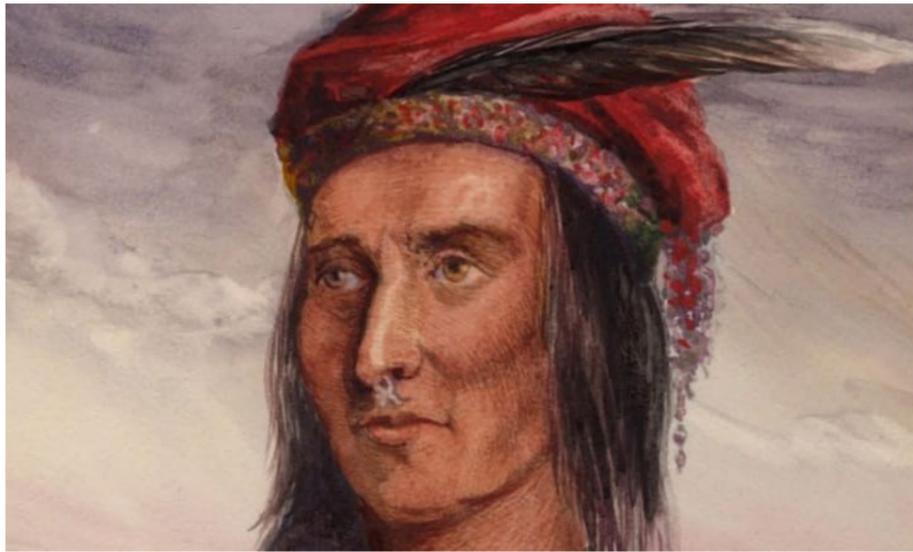
Some tribal leaders saw the treaty as an opportunity to provide for their people while others believed it merely supported non-Native expansion in the Great Lakes region. The agreement ultimately brought an end to peace between the United States and many Native Nations, creating a divide that contributed to the start of the War of 1812.

Persuasion

Eager to build upon the legacies of past administrations, President James Madison worked to acquire more Native American land throughout his presidential tenure. Madison's secretary of war, William Eustis, ordered then-Indiana Territory Governor William Henry Harrison to assemble all the Indiana tribes at Fort Wayne in September of 1809 to reach an agreement that would open lands for settlement south of the Wabash River.

The Potawatomi "were led by Winamac, perennial friend of the United States, who earlier had assured Harrison that all the tribes would be willing to cede the lands. Notably absent were such other friendly chiefs as Five Medals and Keesass, who feared retaliation by their younger warriors if they agreed to a land cession," wrote R. David Edmunds in his book *The Potawatomis: Keepers of the Fire*.

However, the Miami were not supportive and refused to relinquish their land claims until *Winamac*



The Treaty of Fort Wayne is also known as the Ten O'clock Line Treaty and provided fuel for many Native Americans to follow Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa.

and several Delaware leaders convinced them otherwise.

"The Potawatomis and Delawares agreed to participate in the cession only as 'allies' of the Miamis and not as owners of the lands, but the technicalities made little difference to Winamac," Edmunds wrote.

In return for *Winamac's* efforts, the Potawatomi received an increased amount of trade goods, which many needed to overcome the recent harsh winters. Yet, the additional provisions failed to gain the approval of all Potawatomi. Instead, *Winamac's* actions at Fort Wayne caused disharmony, and younger leaders became increasingly upset with his, and other chiefs', pro-American stance.

After signing the Treaty of Fort Wayne, *Winamac* continued serving as a United States ally, and fellow Potawatomi leaders *Keesass* and Five Medals also maintained friendly relationships

with the federal government due to their villages' locations near American military outposts.

Nativism

During this time, the Shawnee prophet *Tenskwatawa* and his brother *Tecumseh's* movement was gaining traction across Indian Country, which *Winamac* and other older chiefs resented. They encouraged Native Americans to band together against white encroachment and reject the United States' authority. *Winamac's* pro-American stance fueled many young warriors to flock to Prophetstown, Indiana, and follow the Shawnee brothers.

According to *The Potawatomis: Keepers of the Fire*, "Estimates of the number of Indians at Prophetstown varied greatly, from 650 to nearly 3,000, but by all accounts they posed a formidable force capable of inundating white settlement in southern Indiana."

Winamac served as a double-agent, trying to maintain a positive reputation among his people while also providing Harrison and the federal government intelligence regarding the growing Nativist movement.

"Harrison rewarded Winamac well, but many Potawatomis disliked the chief, envisioning him as little more than a puppet for the Americans," Edmunds wrote.

Tecumseh determined a compromise between Natives and non-Natives was impossible after he attended a failed conference at Vincennes, Indiana, with the U.S. officials and *Winamac* in 1810. The Shawnee chief focused the rest of the year recruiting Native warriors across the Great Lakes region to support his confederacy.

In the fall of 1811, Harrison led more than 1,000 men to confront those at Prophetstown, resulting in the Battle of Tippecanoe. The conflict created further divide between the United States and Native Americans, encouraging *Tecumseh's* confederacy to ally with Britain.

The Treaty of Fort Wayne not only resulted in over 3 million acres of Native lands opening to non-Native settlement, but it also increased U.S. and Native American tensions, laying the groundwork for the War of 1812. Turmoil over land rights ensued, and less than three decades after signing the treaty, the government forcibly removed most of the tribes involved to lands west of the Mississippi.

Learn more about this era in Potawatomi history by touring the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center gallery *Treaties: Words & Leaders That Shaped Our Nation* in-person or online at potawatomiheritage.com.



Veterans report

Bozho
(Hello),

Attention CPN veterans and veteran spouses: I have an announcement to make. The CPN Veterans Organization will begin having our monthly meetings again on Tuesday, Sept. 21, in the North Reunion Hall at 6 p.m., or as soon as you can get there. Pizza will be served. Remember, all CPN veterans and spouses with their families are welcome.

The CPN Veterans Organization's Color Guard has begun presenting the colors at events. We have lost several of our active members. Some have moved away, and others have walked on. All will be greatly missed. The parades and presenting the colors at events are our way of representing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

We have a number of events planned for our color guard. In October, we will pres-

ent the colors for an event at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort and a parade at the Wewoka Sorghum Festival. In September, we have the Tecumseh Frontier Days Festival Parade. You do not have to be a member of the Veterans Organization to participate in the parades with us. We have a trailer, since several of our members can no longer march and carry a flag, myself included. All you need is your own lawn chair. It's a great feeling to see the support we get from the kids and adults watching us pass by. It really makes you feel proud. CPN veterans and spouses, please join us. If you can't make it to the upcoming events, we will be participating in others in the future and welcome you to join us.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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Potawatomi in the White House

After the 2020 election, Vice President Kamala Harris has gained notoriety as the first Black and Asian-American, as well as woman, to hold the position. However, Harris is not the first person of color to serve as the United States' second in command. That title goes to Charles Curtis, a citizen of the Kaw Nation, who became the nation's vice president in 1929 under President Herbert Hoover. Lesser known is Curtis' Potawatomi lineage.

Background

Curtis grew up in the Topeka, Kansas, area. Born in 1860 to Helene and Oran Curtis, he was a citizen of the Kaw Nation, but his maternal grandparents Julie (Gonvil) and Louis Pappan had ties to several tribes, including the Potawatomi.

According to family records, Curtis' great-grandfather, Louis Gonvil — also spelled Gonville — was Potawatomi, French and Canadian, and his great-grandmother, *Waisjasi* was Kaw.

Curtis' grandmother Julie received some acreage known as the Half-Breed Reservation No. Four along the Kansas (Kaw) River through an 1825 treaty. His grandfather Louis and great-uncles Joseph and Ahcan were Canadians from St. Louis, Missouri, with a family background in trade. The three brothers married three Gonvil sisters: Julie, Josette and Victoire.

The Pappan brothers erected a ferry business on the allotted property in 1842. It became an important crossing for those traveling west on the California and Oregon trails and proved successful for many years.

After his mother Helene passed away in 1863, Curtis' grandmother Julie raised him for some time on the Kaw reservation. He learned French and Kansa before English, which helped Curtis fit in with other Kaw children.

During this time, tribes across Kansas experienced raids by other Native Americans, and the Kaw reservation was no exception. Curtis experienced this first hand, gaining notoriety for warning the people of Topeka of an active attack by the Cheyenne, traveling nearly 60 miles by foot to raise the alarm.

A biography published by the United States Senate said, "The incident also convinced his paternal grandparents, William and Permelia Curtis, that their grandson should be raised in the more 'civilized' atmosphere of Topeka rather than to return to the reservation."

Curtis moved to Topeka and developed a hobby around horse racing, riding as a jockey from 1869 to 1876. His reputation as "The Indian Boy" spread across the Kansas circuit. His paternal grandfather passed away in 1873, and Curtis attempted to travel with his Pappan family from the Kansas Kaw reservation to present-day Oklahoma. However, his grandmother Julie encouraged him to stay in Kansas to get an education. He eventually graduated high school, studied law and became a member of the Kansas Bar Association in 1881. Three years later, Curtis became the Shawnee County attorney, which jump-started his political career.

Public service

In 1889, one vote separated Curtis from winning the nomination to fill an



Charles Curtis, first vice president of color.

empty U.S. House of Representatives position. He worked to build up the public's support, and in 1892, became an elected U.S. Representative. He served in the House from 1893 to 1907 and played a key role on the Committee on Indian Affairs. In 1898, he drafted his most notorious piece of legislation, the Curtis Act, which extended the Dawes Act of 1887 to apply to the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory.

According to the Oklahoma Historical Society, "The Curtis Act dealt a blow to the governmental autonomy of the Five Tribes, but the act was merely the culmination of legislation designed to strip tribal governments of their authority and give it to Congress and/or the federal government. Ironically, Charles Curtis, himself of Indian blood, was responsible for the act

that helped pave the way for the demise of the Indian nations and for the statehood of Oklahoma."

The Kansas legislature elected Curtis as a senator in 1907, and he served in this capacity until 1913. Instead of state legislatures appointing senators, the 17th amendment extended the right to voters. He received the popular vote in 1914 and became a senator once more in 1915, serving in this capacity until 1929.

"During his time in the Senate he became even more influential. He eventually worked his way up to Senate majority leader in 1925 where he was known for his ability to accomplish results for both progressives and conservatives," according to a Visit Topeka blog post titled *Charles Curtis: The moment a people gained representation*.

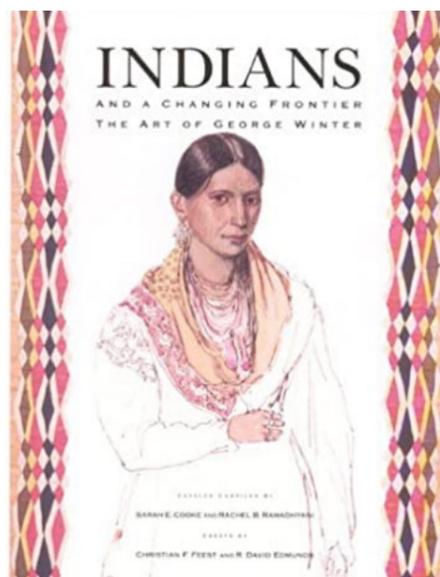
Curtis put his name on the Republican ticket to run for president but lost. The winning nominee, Herbert Hoover, selected Curtis as his vice-presidential candidate. Curtis spent the election speaking across the country, and the duo won the 1928 general election.

He not only became the first Native American to hold vice presidential office, but he was also the first from the state of Kansas and west of the Mississippi River. Hoover and Curtis were not elected to a second term, and Curtis retired from public office. He remains today as the only Native American to serve as the vice president of the United States. ♠

Resources highlight the Trail of Death

The Potawatomi Trail of Death began Sept. 4, 1838. More than 850 Tribal members walked 660-miles from Indiana to Kansas at gun point, and 42 died along the way, mostly elders and children. The Potawatomi lacked access to supplies, with starvation and illness commonplace throughout the removal and at the new reservation. Written and visual records provide insight into this turbulent time and help present-day Potawatomi remember and honor their ancestors' trials.

"When you have those resources and those memories, it is your duty to



Indians and a Changing Frontier: The Art of George Winter

stop and remember and reflect and honor our ancestors for the struggles that they went through because if



Journal of An Emigrating Party of Pottawattomie Indians: Indiana Magazine of History, December 1925

they didn't push through the next day, if they didn't take one more step, if they didn't hold their children close for one more night, we wouldn't be here," said Dr. Kelli Mosteller in a 2020 *Hownikan* interview. Dr. Mosteller serves

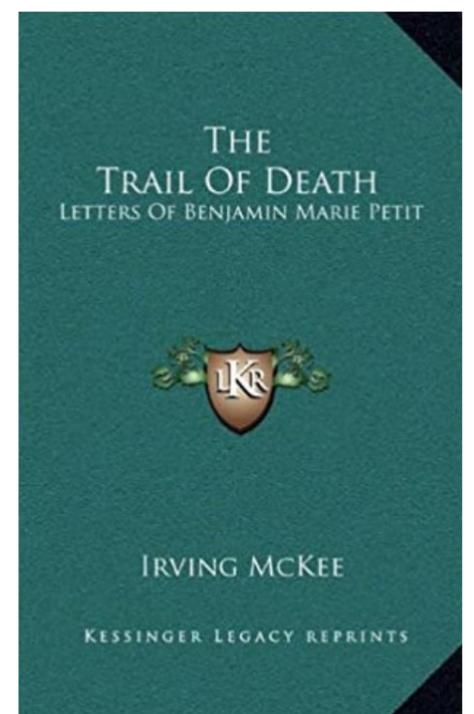
as the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center director.

English artist George Winter captured the only known first-hand images of Native American removal during the Trail of Death. This book features Winter's sketches, paintings, drawings and watercolor artwork that highlight the Potawatomi shortly before and during the forced removal. Although no longer in active print, numerous online retailers have the book available for purchase.

Federal official William Polke overlooked the forced emigration of Potawatomi through the Trail of Death. Polke's journal provides insight into some of the day-to-day experiences the Potawatomi faced along the arduous 660-mile journey.

Several online retailers sell the *Journal of An Emigrating Party of Pottawattomie Indians: Indiana Magazine Of History, December 1925*. Access *A Continuation of the Journal of an Emigrating Party of Potawatomi Indians, 1838, and Ten William Polke Manuscripts* through research databases and libraries. Additionally, excerpts from Polke's journal are published online at cpn.news/polke.

Father Benjamin Marie Petit served as a Catholic missionary to the Potawatomi and traveled with them on the Trail of Death. His journal entries across the three months included records of births, deaths and spiritual aspects, providing a slightly different viewpoint than Polke's



The Trail Of Death: Letters Of Benjamin Marie Petit by Irving McKee

written records. Find this resource online and through research databases.

Dive deeper into the Trail of Death's history by utilizing the Cultural Heritage Center's archives at potawatomiheritage.com or touring its gallery *Forced From Land and Culture: Removal*. ♠

Clardy family history

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

Potawatomi connections

Isabella Anastasia Bertrand, born in Bertrand, Michigan, on April 11, 1837, was the daughter of Joseph Bertrand Jr. and Elizabeth Jackson. The Bertrands were a prominent Potawatomi trade family in the Great Lakes region. Isabella married Joshua E. Clardy in 1859 at St. Mary's Mission on the Potawatomi reservation in Kansas.

Through the Treaty of 1861, the Clardy family decided to obtain a parcel of land in Kansas and the chance to become U.S. citizens. Although the treaty included provisions for the Potawatomi to receive farm equipment and a grace period on taxes, the federal government did not uphold the agreements. Many Potawatomi lost their lands to the inability to pay taxes or successfully establish agricultural endeavors. This prompted the Tribe to sign a second treaty in 1867 that provided the ability to purchase a new reservation in present-day Oklahoma.

According to family records, "Joshua E. Clardy, also known as 'Judge' Clardy, was with his family one of the first settlers of Potawatomi County, Oklahoma."

The *Shawnee News-Star's* 2013 magazine titled *Our Native Traditions* said, "Fourteen wagons filled with supplies and eager, yet anxious, Citizen Potawatomi set out for their new homes in Indian Territory with little idea about what they would encounter and how they would



Ben and May Clardy

succeed in supporting their families. The obvious challenges of living in a state that was hostile to its Indian population, like Kansas was, induced some to move. It also motivated them to stick together in their new homes. Most of these earliest arrivals settled together in a small community they called Pleasant Prairie near the center of the reservation."

In southern Pottawatomie County near present-day Asher, Isabella became the community's first postmaster and served as the town's namesake, officially established Feb. 15, 1857. Ten days later, the town's name changed to Clardyville.

At the same time, Joshua operated a trading post on his allotment.

Although few resources existed in the newly-settled Potawatomi reservation, Joshua believed educating Potawatomi children was important. According to *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, "On March 23, 1875, J. E. Clardy, delegate of the Citizen of Potawatomi wrote a letter to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs requesting that a portion of the funds set aside by the Indian Appropriation Bill,

approved June 22, 1874, for educational purpose be given to these Indians who were destitute of educational funds."

Because of his efforts, construction completed on a school near Clardyville on Dec. 18, 1875, totaling \$1,719. Due to the materials used, many referred to it as the "Stone School House." William Brown served as the teacher for \$50 per month.

According to an article published in the *Shawnee News-Star* in 1997 titled *Small county town moved many times*, "In 1876 it had an enrollment of 103 students. It closed after only one year."

Clardyville became known as Oberlin on April 25, 1876, and changed once more to Wagoza on July 18, 1881. The school's roof was then used to help construct the town's dance hall.

Forging a new path

After a near-fatal attack at his store, Joshua and family returned to the safety of Kansas where he built a strong reputation in the newspaper industry. He owned and operated *Pottawatomie Chief* out of St. Marys and *The Kansas Agriculturist* in Wamego.

Isabella and Joshua had seven children: Benjamin Joseph E., Albert Merrell, Annie Bertrand, William, Joshua, Carrie B. and Lucy.

William followed in his father's footsteps and helped with the family printing companies in Kansas. Eventually he returned to Indian Territory though. In 1887, he had a business at Sacred Heart, and in 1890, moved to Purcell where he served as the community's postmaster beginning in 1894.

Albert married Rose Marie Burt and found a career in the oil industry, which eventually took him to the Texas panhandle, according to family records.

Annie married William Boyer in 1886, and they had one child, William Francis Boyer, in 1887. William served as a

deputy United States marshal, and before her passing in 1958, Annie was the eldest member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Purcell.

Carrie B. married a pharmacist named W. H. Collister and eventually became a city welfare investigator in Kansas City. She passed away in 1958 at the age of 86.

Lucy Deem married William Diltz Deem in 1901. Lucy sold her 79-acre Potawatomi allotment in November 1917.

Benjamin represented the Tribe at the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature. Family oral records indicate Benjamin and wife Mae Clardy operated a boarding house in Shawnee, and he helped charter the Pottawatomie County Historical Society. He also became active in the Tribe, serving on the business committee for numerous years. Prior to the Bureau of Indian Affairs approving Benjamin's business committee position, he said that he was "an abstainer to the use of intoxicants and tobacco; owns a good home; had a high school education; has been fifteen years in the insurance business, ... and fifteen or sixteen years speculating in real estate, with an average income of \$100 per month."

During Benjamin's time in Tribal leadership, he helped represent the Nation in Washington D.C., fighting for Citizen Potawatomi rights.

Joshua and Isabella Clardy's descendants continue the family tradition of creativity, ingenuity and service to the Tribe.

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

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

Accountant, mother of five completes career milestone

The notoriously difficult Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination has a pass rate of 50 percent. Citizen Potawatomi Nation general ledger auditor April Sitton completed the test in October 2020 and became a CPA, joining the Tribe's CFO as department staff with the credentials.

The Choctaw Nation citizen graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 2013.

"I fell in love with my first accounting class — financial accounting," Sitton said. "I loved it, loved it. I loved the debits, I loved the credits, and I loved how it was set in stone. Like there was no gray areas, at least at that point."

She then completed a master's in business administration in 2015 and counts this new certification as the next major step in her professional development.

"It's given me more responsibilities here because I do have that certificate that

proves I do know what I'm doing — hopefully," Sitton said and laughed.

"It keeps me busy, and then it's also just nice to feel that I'm trusted with what I got and that I can do my job."

She intended to begin preparing for the exam in 2016, but as a mother of five, time evaded her. Sitton's intense studying started in summer 2019 with the completion of all four tests a year and a half later. Stacks of index cards and notebooks lined her bags everywhere she went. She downloaded three apps to study whenever a moment came and fell asleep to accounting audiobooks at night.

"You do have to know a lot of formulas and stuff, but a lot of it's memorization. And then I don't think I ever wrote that much in my life. My hand hurt at times, but I had to spend more time studying as well," Sitton said.

Working for a Tribe with varied services, enterprises and funding mechanisms has proven interesting and insightful for her. Sitton joined the accounting department



April Sitton serves Citizen Potawatomi Nation as a certified public accountant after passing a rigorous set of tests.

as a general ledger accountant in 2014. Her co-workers supported and encouraged her while she continued school and the CPA certification. Sitton now gives her knowledge back.

"I want to be the best at my job, and having my CPA means that I am knowledgeable in all those areas, and I want to be able to give my job ... all I can to help the Tribe grow, help the Tribe succeed and help in anything I can," she said.

Not one to shy away from a challenge, Sitton hopes to inspire her children as well.

"I want to show my kids that you can set your mind to anything and get it done, even if you do have a dozen other things going on in your life," she said.

Her quest for knowledge continues as she frequently tunes into webinars and takes courses to sharpen her skills. More certifications remain on the horizon; however, she plans to enjoy her accomplishment for a while before tackling the next.

"It's a hard test. And I'm really glad I'm done — so relieved," Sitton said. ♡

Tribal member honored through memorial scholarship

Citizen Potawatomi Nation veterans have a legacy of service to their country and Tribe. For Michael John Kennedy, his giving spirit lives on even after his passing in late May 2021 through a newly formed memorial scholarship.

At a service of remembrance in June, Tribal Vice-Chairman Linda Capps announced the CPN Department of Education's new scholarship available in fall 2021 for children and grandchildren of Tribal veterans. Funded by his estate, the Michael John Kennedy Scholarship is the Nation's first memorial award for education.

"It is such a beautiful way to give to your Nation and to leave a lasting legacy," said Tesia Zientek, department of education director. "I never got an opportunity to meet Michael, but in a way, his generosity has really touched me personally as well because now I can see how his life and his passing are going to affect several Potawatomi students for years to come."

When setting requirements for the scholarship, Zientek and Bob Carlile, the executor of Kennedy's estate, prioritized selecting a junior or senior undergraduate each year as the recipient of \$1,000.

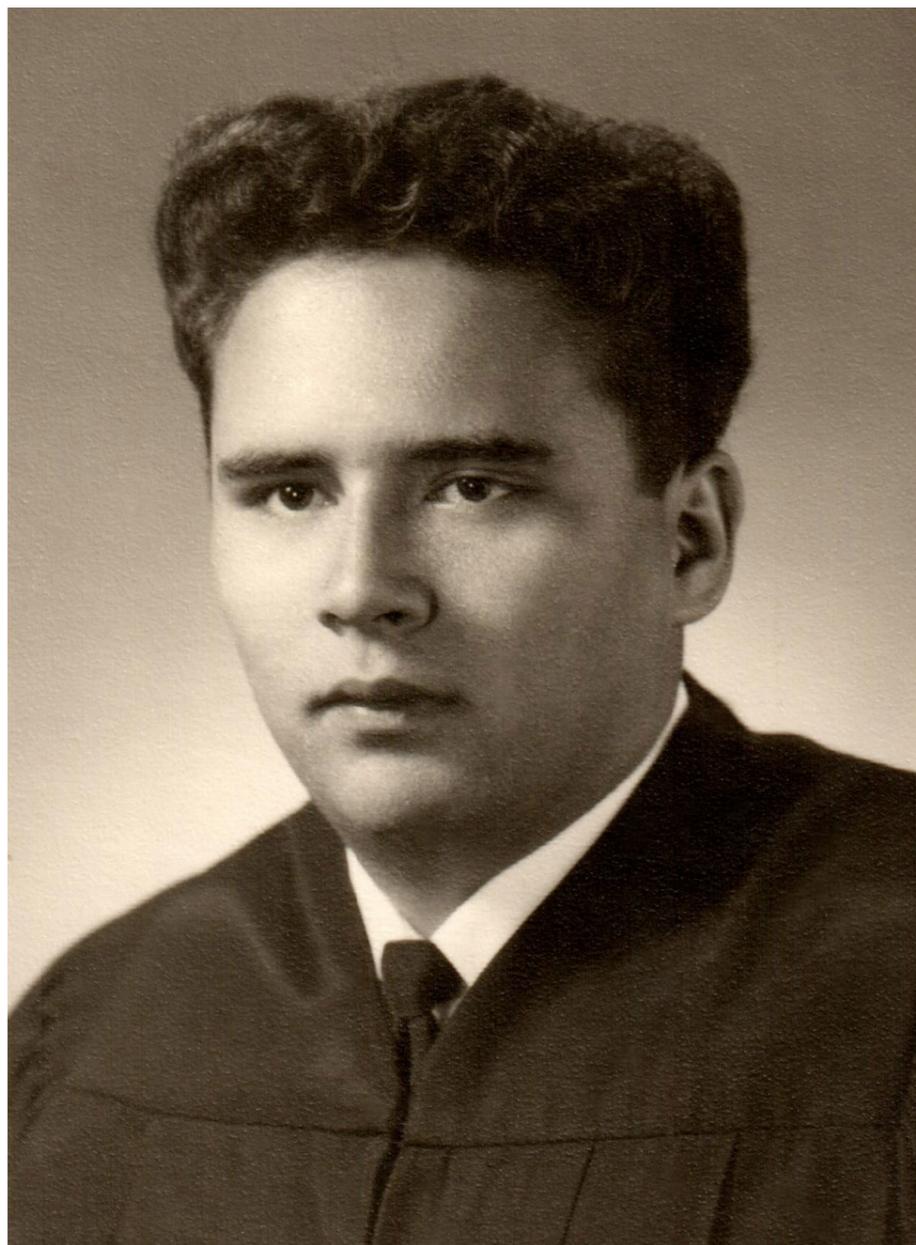
"It is true that there are more scholarships that focus on first-time freshmen. So for there to be one that specifically focuses on students more advanced in their studies, I think that is something a bit unique," Zientek said.

Warriors

Native Americans serve in the armed forces at a higher rate than any other segment of the population, and Kennedy followed in his father's footsteps when he enlisted. Carlile, Capps and Zientek want the scholarship to reach several generations linked to military service members.

"People of Vietnam Era, they all have grandchildren now. ... This way, it covers a larger class of people," Carlile said.

As a young man, Kennedy served in the Navy for 12 years during the Vietnam War. He took pride in his military background and talked to his friend and fellow Tribal elder housing resident Mary Powell some about his deployment.



*Navy veteran and Kennedy and Regnier family descendant
Michael John Kennedy (Photo provided)*

"When he was in Vietnam, he spent a lot of time traveling with the Navy Seals ... traveling up and down those rivers. Also spent a lot of time with the Vietnamese people themselves," she said.

The department set high expectations with their application requirements, including a 3.0 GPA. Students must also submit an essay about how modern or historical Potawatomi warriors impact the Nation.

"It doesn't necessarily have to be militaristic in nature," Zientek said. "We fight a lot of battles in the courtroom

now and in government policy. So I think it exemplifies the fighting spirit of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and I'm excited to see how each person expresses that relationship in their words."

The essay also presents an opportunity for applicants to research the Tribe and its history and perhaps talk to their family members about their military service.

"We had a lot of really strong warriors who helped us maintain our territories, culture and sovereignty," Zientek said. "So I think this is a really exciting way for people to put that

legacy of being a warrior into context and really think that through."

Kennedy was buried in Oklahoma at Fort Gibson National Cemetery in honor of his service.

Legacies

While Kennedy attended Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, for a time, he never graduated. Carlile felt he would have enjoyed helping the next generation of Potawatomi and veterans' descendants finish their degrees.

"It's just something people can have the rest of their lives. They're educated. They don't take that away from them," Carlile said.

"Conversations that we've had over a period of time, I think education was very important to him."

Kennedy lived in Tribal elder housing for almost the last two decades of his life. He and Powell were neighbors, and she knew him the entire time he lived there. She feels the scholarship honors him in a way that aligns with his values.

"One of Michael's passions was to read. He loved to read. ... He and (neighbor) John Burgett shared books back and forth a lot," Powell said.

She also remembers him as reserved, unselfish and "one of a kind." Although he enjoyed his introversion, Kennedy showed a soft spot for those closest to him with phone calls and small gifts.

"He may not be right there in your face all the time, but he was definitely a caring person," Powell said.

This memorial scholarship reflects that trait, contributing directly to Tribal members' education.

"I think this is going to be a really amazing opportunity for students," Zientek said.

The department of education accepts applications for the Michael John Kennedy Scholarship from July 15 through Sept. 15. Apply online through the CPN portal at portal.potawatomi.org. Find more opportunities at cpn.news/education.



MICHAEL JOHN KENNEDY SCHOLARSHIP

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CPN public health nurse serves family

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services welcomed Dakota LeClaire as the new East Clinic public health nurse in March 2021. He graduated with an associate of science in nursing from Seminole State College in spring 2020. LeClaire's professional experience speaks for itself, covering emergency room, hospital, surgical and public health nursing.

"I just love to help other people. ... It's like an adrenaline rush almost when I help other people. It just makes you feel good," he said.

LeClaire knew he wanted to become a nurse at 11 years old. His stepmother had twins 10 weeks early, and the family spent a significant amount of time in the ICU. The nurses' dedication to their care inspired him.

"I think just seeing ... them interact with them and seeing how much my stepmom and my dad appreciated it. I was like, 'I want to do that someday. I want to make a difference someday,'" LeClaire said.

Pandemic

After graduation, he began working at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He enjoyed his position working on a surgical floor for neurology and orthopedics until the coronavirus pandemic stretched medical resources to their limits. The hospital turned the specialized unit into a COVID-19 ward in November 2020, which LeClaire described as a "war zone."

"I was kind of just thrown into it, and it was an experience for sure," he said. "It had its ups and its downs. It was an experience. I wouldn't take

it back for nothing. I learned a lot and saw a lot of things, met a lot of nice people. But it was rough."

The need for change took over this spring; however, he said working in a COVID unit gave him years of experience in a short amount of time.

"I think once I left there, I was kind of like, 'Man, I feel like I can conquer anything. If I can do that, then I can do anything.' Because getting thrown into a pandemic right out of nursing school is kind of crazy, but it worked out," he said.

Prevention

LeClaire wanted to work for CPNHS, and after seeing patients through their darkest times, transitioning to preventive medicine became appealing.

"I like to see like the brighter side of things ... because I feel like if I do something positive in the beginning, that it hopefully won't lead to (a patient) going to the hospital or getting sick in the future if they don't get the certain vaccine or all that stuff," LeClaire said.

His time at the East Clinic has expanded his knowledge on the "brighter side" already, giving him the chance to work with all ages on their vaccines, asthma action plans, ear cleanings and anything else they need.

"It's kind of nice getting to see the same patients and kind of getting to know them," LeClaire said. "And they know me, so they're comfortable. And they learn how I do things. ... Everyone has a better experience when they know the person that's going to be taking care of them."



Dakota LeClaire finds the opportunity to serve fellow CPN tribal members rewarding through his medical career at the Nation.

Since starting with CPNHS, he has seen the other side of COVID-19 while assisting with three of the Tribe's mass-vaccination clinics.

"The patients were happy. People who came in were happy. All the staff seemed happy," LeClaire said. "It was just very organized and smooth, and they had the kinks to work out. But I mean, obviously, that's with anything you do. ... But it was overall just great."

Participation

Throughout his childhood, LeClaire visited CPNHS doctors and attended the annual Family Reunion Festival with his family. He feels more connected to his

heritage and other Tribal members after spending a few months as an employee.

"If (patients) are Potawatomi, they'll give me a background of their story, and they'll kind of tell me things about the Tribe, teach me things. They'll invite me to events at the Tribe," he said.

LeClaire now participates in Tribal activities more; he voted for the first time ahead of General Council this summer. He also enjoys meeting new people on an almost daily basis — and even new relatives. LeClaire's great-aunt helps him with their genealogy.

"I always talk to her about all of it and then hearing other people's, and then you kind of link together. You're kind of related in some ways, and you're kind of like, 'Oh, OK. So you're like my sixth cousin, somehow.' It's been kind of cool," LeClaire said.

He and his wife Maddie both serve Indian Country as public health nurses, and caring for Indigenous people gives their service-oriented professions extra meaning.

"I think it makes it better knowing that I'm helping my Tribe and helping other Natives, because with access to health care, if they can't afford it or if they can't get it somewhere else, they know they come to us and count on us to give it to them," LeClaire said.

One day, he hopes to pursue his education further and become a nurse practitioner.

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

Park project educates on empowerment

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

It's summertime, and parks are back open for families to enjoy the outdoors. The CPN House of Hope has taken full advantage of this opportunity and initiated the Hands Are for Helping project to educate youngsters on the importance of playing safely without violence. It was developed to help assist parents teach their children the best ways to overcome conflict without a physical altercation. We placed signs at many major parks and playgrounds across Pottawatomie County with tips on how to empower children with knowledge about healthy relationships. Some of these tips include teaching children about different feelings, practice/model good communication, and ways to create opportunities for your child to play safely with others.

The House of Hope's main objective is to eliminate domestic violence by providing victims and the community

HELP STOP THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY EMPOWERING YOUR CHILDREN WITH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.

- Provide instruction about sharing and resolving conflicts without hitting.
- Create opportunities for your child to play with others safely.
- Teach strong problem-solving skills and independence.
- Practice and model good communication.
- Teach children about different feelings and what they look like.
- Work to eliminate toxic relationships in your own life to give a better example for your children.



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with appropriate, effective services and programs. Domestic violence is not something that just affects couples. It also

has a huge impact on the children that are living in the home and witness the abuse over time. The U.S. Department

of Health and Human Services stated that children who witness violence in the home between parents may be at greater risk of exhibiting violence in their future relationships. By providing educational tools, like this project, families can learn the healthiest ways to overcome conflict and stop the cycle of abuse.

The House of Hope encourages families to look out for these signs while out and about at the park. Use the time as an opportunity to provide children instructions on playing safely and treating others with kindness. If you need more information on healthy relationships, you can find the House of Hope online at cpnhouseofhope.com.

If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault and would like more information, please contact the House of Hope at 405-275-3176 or reach out on social media at [facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope](https://www.facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope). 📧

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Self-Care Awareness Month brings together ways to focus

As a licensed professional counselor, Rickey Whisenhunt works with Citizen Potawatomi Nation Behavioral Health patients on their self-care and affirmations as tools to improve their mental health. He encourages people to spend time on themselves, and Self-Care Awareness Month in September is an excellent time to create new habits.

“We don’t stop for self-care enough. We care for others but not ourselves,” Whisenhunt said.

He has seen individual expectations increase throughout his 15-year career. Patients regularly tell him of troubles sleeping, show him schedules that fill every hour and express overwhelming pressure. Whisenhunt believes at those times, self-care becomes even more essential.

“You’re not turning all the lights off, getting all the electronics turned off and relaxing your body at an appropriate time. Sometimes we do adjustments in schedules in counseling to begin our treatment ... to get our sleep in and get healthier habits so self-care is implemented,” he said.

He presents many ways to help calm the body and mind, such as repeating an affirmational phrase to limit stimulation from the outside world.

Positively Potawatomi

CPN Department of Language Director Justin Neely worked with the Empowered Youth Development Initiatives to develop a list of encouraging words. He translated positive phrases from Ojibwe to Potawatomi to reflect both cultures.

“We’re a very positive people,” he said. “We definitely believe that good things happen in the way that we live our lives. I think that is even exhibited when we put down tobacco and we thank that plant, or we thank that animal for giving its life so that we can live. We’re a very thankful people, and at the same time, we’re a very caring and compassionate people to one another.”

Phrases such as *Gmnowabmenagwes* (You are beautiful) and *Nzhewéndagwes*

AFFIRMATIONAL PHRASES IN POTAWATOMI

- 1 **Gde-mbwakawes** *You are smart*
- 2 **Gnizhokmagé** *You help people*
- 3 **Gminwéwes** *You are a hard worker*
- 4 **Gmnowabmenagwes** *You are beautiful*
- 5 **Gdebwényénmen** *I believe in you*
- 6 **Gnetabsentagé** *You are a good listener*
- 7 **Nmishkwes** *I have inner strength*
- 8 **Nzhewéndagwes** *I am blessed*
- 9 **Nzhewades** *I am generous*
- 10 **Ndebenjegas** *I am loved*
- 11 **Nmigwechwéndem** *I am thankful*
- 12 **Nmnadénjegas** *I am respected*
- 13 **Nwedase** *I am brave*
- 14 **Nbwakawes** *I am wise*
- 15 **Ndozhita** *I am prepared*

(I am blessed) offer ways to connect with traditions through self-care. Expressing thankfulness helps exude positivity as well.

“We can use affirmations for every problem — when something’s going wrong. We can use affirmations for a situation when we’re in trouble, when we’re needing a pep talk. We use affirmations when we’re getting ready for a battle, for sports,” Whisenhunt said.

Writing affirmations

In an article for *Psychology Today*, Kathryn J Lively, Ph.D., outlines some soft rules for developing affirmational phrases. She recommends writing them in the present and the first person with both a positive and emotional charge.

“Write your affirmations as if they are already happening,” she wrote. “This means affirming, ‘I am happy and confident,’ instead of ‘Two months from now, I will be happy and confident.’”

For example, Potawatomi phrases such as *Nmishkwes* (I have inner strength) or *Gminwéwes* (You are a hard worker) serve all these functions.

A study published in a peer-reviewed medical journal *PLOS* highlighted a study showing the more practical effects of affirmation.

“The present study provides the first evidence that self-affirmation can protect against the deleterious effects of stress on problem-solving performance,” researchers said.

“Specifically, we show that chronically stressed individuals have impaired problem-solving performance and that self-affirmation can boost problem-solving performance under pressure.”

Whisenhunt’s tips

Whisenhunt often helps patients develop self-care routines or return to old ones. He has found it easier to stick to something with an outcome.

“We sometimes need to have specific goals about self-care. Some of us don’t put specific goals to those. And it may be about taking care of one specific thing,” such as getting a manicure or decorating a reading nook, Whisenhunt said.

The imagination provides an untapped source of relaxation for many people. He encourages clients to take vacations; however, imagining one sometimes works as well.

“Just planning a vacation and kind of living a vacation, even in our minds, is very therapeutic because it’s a visualization of something that’s very relaxing, and you kind of plan it out and maybe kind of live it,” Whisenhunt said. “And it’s very calming to kind of go through the whole process and then maybe kind of experience it. And it kind of takes your blood pressure down and kind of gives you just a little experience.”

Some patients feel they waste their time with self-care, and overcoming that way of thinking presents an obstacle. Whisenhunt recommends starting small.

“Try it twice a week to start out with, then move up to three, maybe even four days a week. Do it at your pace. Do it slowly. Move up if you can. I know you’re hard-working. You’ve got kids. It’s a challenge, but it’s very important. ... Make it a priority,” he said.

Find out more about Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Behavioral Health services at cpn.news/CPNBH. ♠

First National Bank welcomes Scott Kemp

By Payton Moody

Scott Kemp is the new senior lending officer at The First National Bank & Trust Co. of Shawnee, Oklahoma. Kemp brings a high degree of knowledge to First National Bank, thanks to his years of experience in the sector.

“The best part about commercial lending is the diversity in customers and loan requests,” Kemp said. “Each request is unique, so you gain experience as a lender, and it ensures that the job never gets boring.” He enjoys the variety his career allows, which keeps his daily routine interesting.

Kemp previously worked in both large commercial and community banking sectors and held regional management roles at Union Bank and Wells Fargo.

His degree of expertise and knowledge of banking and accounting processes

prepared him for the new position as senior lending officer, which he accepted in June 2021.

Kemp also likes to keep spontaneity flowing in his private life, as he endeavors into various outdoor pursuits. During his leisure time, he enjoys paragliding and hang gliding as well as golfing, weightlifting and watching the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

First National Bank & Trust Co. of Shawnee and its employees congratulate and welcome Scott Kemp. He will do an excellent job as senior lending officer.

First National Bank & Trust Co. has locations in Shawnee, Midwest City, Oklahoma City, Holdenville, Lawton, Mangum, Canute and Granite, Oklahoma. To learn more about FNB accounts, products and services, visit one of its 10 branches or visit fnbokla.com. ♠

First Americans Museum continued...

The second gallery, *Winiko: Life of an Object*, features 140 pieces from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indians. In the 1900s, NMAI curated many of the featured items from Oklahoma, and they are returning as part of the exhibit.

“It’s a real homecoming of sorts that those people are able to touch and handle the objects that were their ancestors directly. And so that’s been a really powerful experience to see that connection of today and yesterday together,” Underwood said.

Leadership and inclusion

FAM focuses on the present and future, thanks in large to an almost entirely Native staff who dedicate themselves to telling first-person accounts of such a diverse set of cultures.

“The power dynamic is very different when you have Native people telling their own stories,” Lalli Hills said. “So I believe deeply in the mission of this institution and in the exhibition projects.”

Many volunteers are also Native American, and Zientek feels excited about the inclusion and opportunity to serve.

“It’s important to me that Indigenous people are driving FAM’s exhibits and programming, and I’m even more passionate to see Citizen Potawatomi citizens contributing to the effort. Our Tribe wasn’t originally from Oklahoma, but we are here now, and I want our voices to be heard and faces seen,” she said.

While opening weekend seems like the end of a long-awaited goal, the staff perceives it as the opportunity to teach everyone about Indigenous peoples and turn visitors into allies for a greater purpose.

“Long story short, we’re just really glad to be able to open our doors finally and to be able to share with the world the value of First Americans and our contributions to society, not in the past but also today,” Underwood said.

Opening weekend is Sept. 18 and 19. Tickets and full details are available at famok.org. Find First Americans Museum on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. ♠

Land acknowledgments foster education, allyship

While a common practice throughout Canada, land acknowledgments remain a new concept in much of the United States.

The Native American and Indigenous Initiatives at Northwestern University defines land acknowledgment as “a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.”

Some academics and Native-focused nonprofits encourage them as a way to engage with the Indigenous peoples upon whose property their work and lives depend. As there are many layers to tribal histories, cultures and current affairs, these statements exist with various purposes and potentials.

Quality messaging

Speakers, teachers and community leaders generally prepare these acknowledgments for the beginnings of large gatherings, including meetings, lectures, sporting events, graduations and much more.

Cherokee Nation citizen and Indiana University professor Liza Black believes this aspect of repatriation is important. She gives one at the beginning of each of her classes.

“I mean, if we’re going to have the Pledge of Allegiance, why can’t we have a land acknowledgment?” she said.

Black begins her general education courses on Native American history with an assignment for each student to write one about their hometown or the university. She emphasized most complete ones are heartfelt, historical, detailed and respectful.

“I think (a land acknowledgment) should be moving. I think it should be compelling. I think it should have an emotional element to it. That doesn’t mean you have to use emotional language. I think it can have an emotional element by just being really detailed about those layers of displacement,” she said.

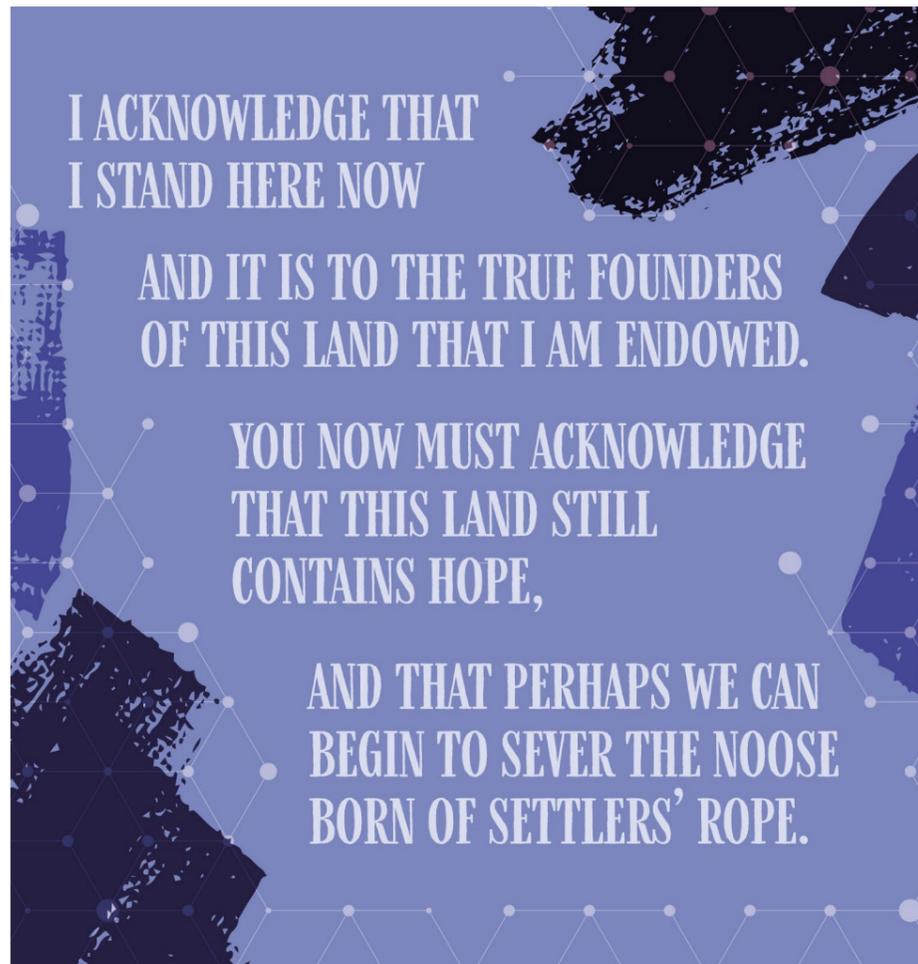
Some show passion and ingenuity for the project, including Madyson Lorch, who wrote one in the form of a poem for Black’s course in fall 2020. (The *Hownikan* has reprinted a portion with permission.)

*“I acknowledge this land was taken from
the Kiikaapoi and the Myaamia*

*for the sake of the white man’s
tainted academia.*

*I acknowledge the limestone
that built this city*

*was carried on the backs of those
who received no empathy.*



*I acknowledge the bloodshed,
and violence, and hurt*

*of those who raised this land
and cradled its dirt.*

I acknowledge that I stand here now

*and it is to the true founders of
this land that I am endowed.*

*You now must acknowledge that
this land still contains hope,*

*and that perhaps we can begin to sever
the noose born of settlers’ rope.”*

Minneapolis, Minnesota, based organization The Native Governance Center emphasizes these pieces’ effectiveness exists outside of a full explanation of history or grimness.

“They should function as living celebrations of Indigenous communities,” the nonprofit said. “Ask yourself, ‘How am I leaving Indigenous people in a stronger, more empowered place because of this land acknowledgment?’ Focus on the positivity of who Indigenous people are today.”

Black agreed and described them as a “living process,” meaning they call for frequent updates and exploration.

Meaning of land

Preparing an acknowledgment includes research, both historical and contemporary. It leads to an understanding of how various Indigenous nations function in the present day, including how

they celebrate their culture and the events that led to it.

“It’s part of establishing relations with local tribes. It’s part of learning how to say tribes’ names in their own language,” Black said.

“It should be a sense of seeing the world more fully, of seeing home more fully. Instead of seeing where you grew up as this one-dimensional or two-dimensional space, it’s like seeing that history helps you see it three-dimensionally.”

While writing, the author reflects on the various ways Indigenous peoples and Europeans perceive land’s purpose and their right to it. It helps them put societal issues between Native Nations and the government in a new context.

“In general, Europeans and people of European descent saw land as an asset and saw land as something marketable. And Native people saw and still see land very differently and more through a cultural lens, a spiritual lens, a utilitarian lens, a tribal lens, but not so much a capitalistic lens. And so I think that’s part of it is just this incredible clash over meaning,” Black said.

Tales of dispossession

Land acknowledgments also grapple with sovereignty and legalities. Many tribes entered into treaties with the United States government in an attempt to hold onto some piece of property that they have ancestral or legal rights to, including Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Like many tribes, CPN experienced

forced removal. Many Potawatomi were forcibly removed from the Great Lakes region to reservations in Iowa and Kansas, and eventually, took individual allotments in present-day Oklahoma — all of which occurred over four decades.

Black refers to the story of Native America as a “story of dispossession.”

Some land acknowledgments use formal presentations with visuals to explain these complicated facets of North America’s history to replace ignorance with a desire to learn more and become an ally.

“A jaded person might say, ‘Oh, this is just a statement that is being read.’ But I see in that that you’re planting the seed for supporting those tribes’ sovereignty,” Black said.

Fostering dialogue for the reclamation of Indigenous populations’ land is the ultimate goal. Briefly explaining laws and treaties moves discussions from emotional claims to lawful ones.

“To document that and give voice to that, and then to visualize that, to show that with statistics, this is all incredibly powerful in that it’s proving that dispossession. And it’s also potentially making land claims based on the means of that dispossession,” Black said.

While that seems like a lofty goal, she finds strength in repetition.

“You are acknowledging the sovereignty of these nations on the ground upon which you stand, and this increases awareness. And if you’re doing this at public functions with people who are in power to do something about said sovereignty, this can all support it to that end,” Black said.

“How do you replicate that? How do you give voice to all of that? But you have to try.”

She hopes that various institutions, groups and governments normalize land acknowledgments in the next 10 years.

Native-land.ca offers a map that shows traditional and present lands of Indigenous peoples, with options to view territories, languages or treaties. It also offers a text feature. Users can send a zip code or city and state (separated by a comma) to 907-312-5085 and receive the tribe(s) whose land it occupies.

To learn more about land acknowledgments, including a guide for writing and research, visit cpn.news/nativegov and cpn.news/UCLAGuide. Find a history of Citizen Potawatomi Nation, including migrations and force removals, at potawatomiheritage.com/history. ↗



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CPCDC partnership supports Shawnee growth

While many downtowns across America have died and stores remain empty and dilapidated, Shawnee's is experiencing a rebirth. This is thanks, in part, to businesses like The Gathering Place Coffee Co.

With the help of the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation, owners Rebecca and Jonathan Hilton and Jesse and Callie Ingram offer Shawnee more than just a space to grab a cup of joe. The shop provides a venue to connect and network.

"It's been really fun to see downtown liven up," Callie said. "It's been really great to be able to jump in and be a part of that."

More than dollars and cents

Originally owned and operated by Ogee family descendant Aaron Hembree and wife Jamie, The Gathering Place Coffee Co. opened in November 2017. It quickly became a mainstay in downtown Shawnee for its high-quality coffee, teas, baked goods and creative, laid-back atmosphere.

The Ingrams moved their plant house and floral studio, Bayly Botanicals, into the adjacent store space in 2019, and the Hiltons operated Fed+Well Kitchen, baking and selling delicious desserts, pastries and more to the coffee shop's customers. As the Hembrees looked for new opportunities in 2020, the Hiltons and Ingrams decided to partner together and expand both businesses by acquiring The Gathering Place Coffee Co.; however, they needed an understanding lender to help turn their dreams into a reality.

"We had a really big, vested interest in making this place succeed, and we saw what it gave the community," Callie said.

After experiencing hurdles in securing a loan at a local financial institution, they decided to work with the CPCDC for its ability to see beyond merely assets and liabilities.

"Banks don't really care why you're doing what you're doing or what you hope to accomplish. They care about how much security they have ... whereas in the CPCDC, they want to account for the (why) into the choice of whether or not to back your business," Jesse said.

"The four of us are very intentional and heart driven, and so we have a really big 'why' that drove us to even trying. It was really affirming to get



Majority-owners Jesse and Callie Ingram with daughter Posy at The Gathering Place Coffee Co.

those 'whys' to people and let them see the actual value in it," Callie added.

CPCDC

The Hiltons and Ingrams worked with CPCDC Commercial Loan Officer Felecia Freeman and other staff members to complete a detailed business plan and finalize their loan application.

"We offer tailored resources and innovative underwriting strategies," Freeman said of the CPCDC's process. "We look at our potential clients. We listen to them, and you can't learn that from underwriting software."

They took over operations from the Hembrees after the CPCDC approved their loan in late 2020.

"I was just sold on them from the very beginning," Freeman said.

"We're lucky to have this in our community. It's almost like a little incubator, being that it's got three businesses, and it helps get kids and others thinking, 'What could I do in this community?' I think that's a great atmosphere."

The CPCDC exists to support Native American's education, entrepreneurial and economic growth through access to capital, financial education, capacity building, community development and more. The CPCDC's resources

are available to Citizen Potawatomi Nation members nationwide and any member of a federally recognized tribe living in Oklahoma.

"We wouldn't have been able to do it without the CPCDC," Jesse said, who is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and majority owner of The Gathering Place Coffee Co. "Felecia ... was the best support. She has so much integrity and honesty with the process. She always had our best interest in mind."

Future

With nearly a year under their belts, the Ingrams and Hiltons said they hope to expand upon the former owners' successes while continuing to run Bayly Botanicals and Fed+Well Kitchen within the Gathering Place Coffee Co.

"Our future goals are to really elevate the customer experience with our food offerings and the space in general. It's already a great space, but we really want to make it ours. Our patio was a first step," Jesse said.

Its outdoor seating and tables provide an area for four-legged-friends and events as well as a calm, quaint location for fellowship.

"I always hope when someone goes back there, they don't realize they're in Shawnee," Jesse said. "I want them to feel like it's a unique experience."

They also look forward to extending collaboration efforts with local businesses and entrepreneurs to continue downtown Shawnee's revival.

"Part of our ideology is we're everybody's biggest fan on Main Street, and part of what it takes to have successful partnerships is that we have each other's best interests in mind. We're always supportive," Jesse said.

Learn more about the CPCDC at cpcdc.org, and visit The Gathering Place Coffee Co. at 415 E. Main Street, Shawnee, OK 74801 and online at gpcoffeeco.com.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation District 6 Representative Rande Payne & District 7 Representative Mark Johnson invite you to the

District 6 & 7 Fall Heritage Festival

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10am to 4pm

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Potawatomi Leadership Program Class of 2021

The 2021 Potawatomi Leadership Program participants spent the summer learning about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation virtually due to the pandemic. The 2021 class consisted of 23 members, and the *Hownikan* asked every participant some introductory questions. Meet 11 of them now:



Hannah Nystrom | Hometown: Topeka, Kansas

With a long list of hobbies and interests, Hannah Nystrom most defines herself by her love of writing. As a junior at the University of Kansas, she double majors in both journalism and environmental science. Learning enough about her family history and culture to be able to write about it and pass it on drew her to the PLP. As a language enthusiast, Nystrom's favorite part of the program was learning Potawatomi.

She is also a certified scuba diver and played on her high school and collegiate women's soccer teams. Most of her leadership skills came as captain during her junior and senior years of high school.

"I learned I liked being vocal and having my voice heard as well as listening to others and making sure their voices are heard as well," Nystrom said.



Jenan Cameranesi | Hometown: Palm Springs, California

Jenan Cameranesi focuses on art and art history as a sophomore at Yale University. As a freshman, she acted as assistant stage manager for a couple of small theater department productions, which helped her define what she considers leadership attributes.

"I tend to think of those who work directly within the community, those who work to not only lead but facilitate and collaborate," she said.

The Beaubien and Pearce family descendant applied to the program to learn more about her mother's family, especially her great-grandfather. Her passion for artistic expression comes through in her favorite part of the PLP — craft classes, especially beading.



Jozelle Arenz | Hometown: Woodridge, Illinois

Jozie Arenz applied to the PLP to expand on her knowledge of her Potawatomi heritage. The Hardin family descendant enjoyed the cultural teachings and felt connected to traditional medicines as a biology major at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She hopes to attend medical school and serve Native Americans through health services, in particular, reproductive care.

Whether she is leading the trombone section of her high school marching band, interning with the Morton Arboretum or facilitating meditation classes, Arenz shows leadership through passion.

"Passion is contagious, and when you are led by someone who is passionate about a cause, activity, or skill, you become passionate too," she said.



Maile Morrell | Hometown: Ewa Beach, Hawaii

Maile Morell showed herself as a leader throughout high school as the secretary of student council and involvement with two student body publications. The Higbee descendant's experiences showed her leadership comes down to grit and self-confidence.

"Grit reveals not only one's perseverance, but also an individual's dedication, resilience, and courage. Self-confidence is another quality I associate with leaders because one needs to trust his/her own judgment and direction before one can expect the same from others," she said.

The University of Hawaii at Manoa sophomore studies psychology, dances ballet, enjoys writing letters and hopes to visit Japan or Korea. She enjoyed traditional crafts, especially beading, during the program.



Mary Hrenchir | Hometown: Paola, Kansas

Mary Hrenchir remembers traveling to Tribal lands in Oklahoma to attend the Family Reunion Festival every summer as a child. She applied for the PLP to interact more and find a spot for herself that aligns with her skills, as both a leader and way to give back to CPN.

"I think the most important quality in a leader is that they are not afraid to stand up for the people that they care about," she said.

As a junior at the University of Kansas, the Schwartz family descendant studies business analytics. Hrenchir also plays the piano, draws, plays Dungeons and Dragons and watches cartoons. She enjoyed learning traditional Potawatomi songs and the history of the Tribe during the program.



Matthew Carney | Hometown: Lacey, Washington

Although his father and aunt are both CPN legislators, Matthew Carney felt the PLP presented an opportunity to explore his identity and bridge the distance between Washington and CPN headquarters in Oklahoma.

"Seeing the amount of pride and respect (my dad and aunt) have for their Native American roots has been really inspiring for me," he said.

Carney serves as a leader at his part-time job, using his communications skills and adaptability to succeed. The Juneau family descendant is a freshman at the University of Washington, Seattle, studying finance and information systems. He enjoyed learning about the Tribe's enterprises and businesses.



Matt Dillon Higdon | Hometown: Tecumseh, Oklahoma

Mueller family descendant Matt Dillon Higdon attended PLP to learn more about the Tribe's history and traditional stories. As a junior studying history at Oklahoma Baptist University, he knows the importance of their preservation. Higdon believes leaders work to prepare and serve others.

"Even though I do not know where my professional life will take me after college. I know that no matter where I end up I will want to mentor the next generation and lead others to better themselves and their community," he said.

Higdon participates in track and field, helps lead sports camps and enjoys archery. One of his favorite program activities was moccasin making.



MaryKate Godinez | Hometown: Orland Park, Illinois

MaryKate Godinez is a Bourassa family descendant and a senior at Governors State University in University Park, Illinois. She studies psychology and names empathy as one of the most important qualities of a good leader — more important than passion and courage.

"Leaders have to make decisions that impact groups of people, not just a select few," she said. "In order to ensure the benefits of a decision outweigh the risks, leaders must have the ability to put themselves in others' shoes."

Godinez applied to the PLP to learn the Potawatomi language and traditional ecological knowledge as well as connect with Tribal members her age. She also enjoys Beatles trivia and K-pop music.



Payton Godinez | Hometown: Orland Park, Illinois

As a senior at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Payton Godinez studies web design. She enjoys puzzles, logic problems and escapes room, always looking for a way to bring all of the pieces together, whether on the web or in real life. Godinez also enjoys boba tea, K-pop music, cartoons and video games.

She applied for the PLP to take a bigger role in the Potawatomi community and learn more to keep her heritage alive. The Bourassa family descendant believes leadership and confidence go together.

“Without self-confidence, it’s hard to motivate others and to have them believe in you,” she said. “Most importantly, I would say that a leader has to work with those that are following them.”



Kevin Huberty | Hometown: Elk River, Minnesota

Kevin Huberty defines himself as friendly, quiet, yet interesting. He uses leadership while at his job at a car dealership, when he brings together communication, delegation and problem solving.

“A strong leader needs to have integrity because if you can’t exhibit your honesty and strong morals nobody will trust you as a person,” he said.

This fall, he begins his junior year at North Dakota State University studying finance. He applied to the PLP to get to know Tribal members his own age from across the country and enjoyed learning the history of the Nation, in particular.

Huberty also enjoys outdoor activities, including hunting and fishing, sports and video games.



Grant Benson | Hometown: Edmond, Oklahoma

Grant Benson begins his sophomore year at the University of Oklahoma this fall, studying industrial/systems engineering. The Milot family descendant plans to attend medical school and become a cardiologist or general surgeon, or work toward his MBA. He wants to give back to the Native community as a doctor in tribal health care, a goal inspired by his views on leadership.

“Leadership is a way of life,” Benson said. “It is a way of living so that everything you do sets an example to follow, that is, one of humility ... integrity, determination, and, most of all, love.”

He applied for the PLP to “dig up” his roots, meet other Tribal members and learn about *Nishnabé* culture. Benson loves music and can play the guitar and piano. He also enjoys reading and sports.

Check out their final projects and portfolios at cpn.news/2021portfolio. Find out more about the program at plp.potawatomi.org and visit the CPN Department of Education at cpn.news/education. ♡



THANK YOU

for your support and for choosing me as your District 1 Legislator.

I am honored and look forward to serving!

I am filled with gratitude and excitement with the news that I have been elected as the new Citizen Potawatomi Nation District 1 Legislator. I am humbled. I am ready to serve.

I hope to follow in our late Legislator Roy Slavin’s footsteps. Roy was loved and respected by our District, and served with distinction. I aspire to serve with distinction and will work to earn that same place in your hearts. The primary theme of my campaign was connection, and I will continue this throughout my term of service: connection to each other, connection to services and resources, connection to our sister tribes and beyond, connection to language and culture. It is through connection that our sovereignty is assured, that our strength as a Nation is increased.

Chairman Barrett reached out to me with congratulations and welcomed me to the Legislature. I was glad to visit with him and look forward to a productive relationship with him and the rest of our administration and Legislature. Chairman Barrett shared many exciting projects with me; he reported that a large number of our citizens have applied for the ARPA funds and checks are being mailed out. I am glad that these funds are being distributed efficiently, and look forward to being part of the process of responsibly investing the remaining funds for the ongoing benefit of our people.

Migwetch (thanks) to all who voted and participated in this election. I appreciate the tone of my opponents throughout the race and will work to incorporate their ideas and agendas into my service. I have the privilege of serving the folks who did not vote for me, and want to honor that participation in the process as best I can. If you did not vote for me, help me understand your needs and concerns, I want to connect and serve you! To all of you who voted for me, my supporters and cheerleaders and family, igwien (heartfelt thanks). I am indebted to you, for your faith in me and investment in me. To my Campaign Support Team, you have my deepest gratitude: I certainly would not have had a successful campaign without your help, guidance and correction.

I began my campaign with requests for your prayers. An old shepherd from the Middle East said “Except the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it.” “Labor in vain” is a fancy way of saying that you’re wasting your time and effort, and I have no interest in doing that. I ask above all else that you continue to bring my name to our Creator. Pray for me, and with your help and God’s help I’ll do right by our people.

/w
(that’s it)

Alan Melot
Representative, District 1
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Exiled refugees connect on the prairie

After removal west of the Mississippi, the Potawatomi utilized the limited available resources to survive. The Tribe's expedition to present-day Missouri and Iowa put them in first-hand contact with other groups also experiencing displacement, including Mormons, and the Tribe fell back on their trade and commerce knowledge in order to thrive.

Platte Purchase

Discourse between the Potawatomi and the Platte Country began through the 1833 Treaty of Chicago.

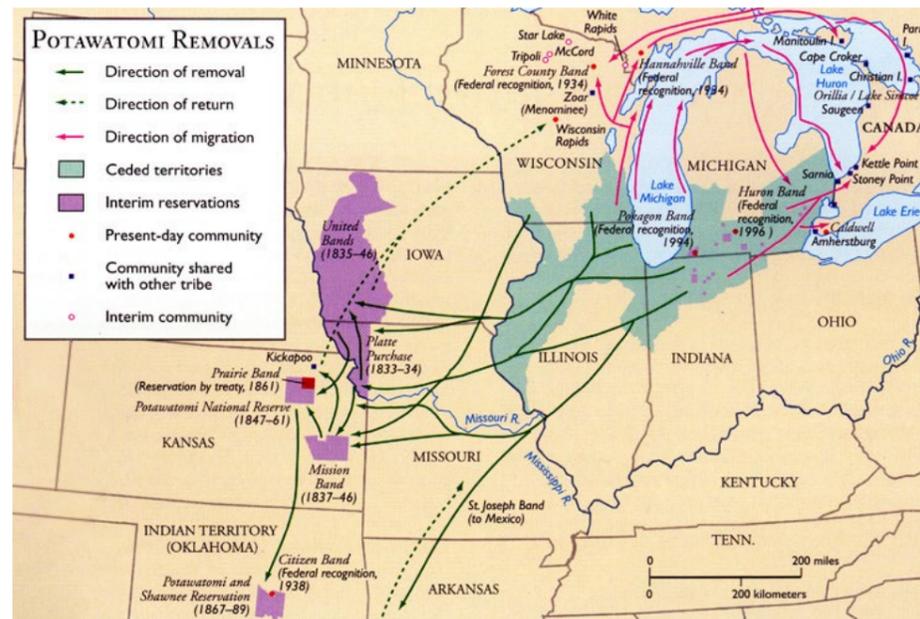
The Platte Country — also known as the Platte Purchase — was a swath of land along the Missouri River in present-day northwest Missouri. The federal government acquired the area from Native American tribes to remove eastern tribes to, including the Potawatomi. The original 1833 Treaty of Chicago included provisions for the Potawatomi removal to a portion of the Platte Country; however, Missouri wished to annex the area, and many across the state disagreed with the Potawatomi occupation. Two Missouri senators worked to amend the treaty's language, but many Tribal members disapproved of the updates, citing their desire to continue with the original negotiations agreed upon. The Tribe's words fell on deaf ears, and the debate pushed back the treaty's ratification until 1835.

Despite congressional approval, most Potawatomi ignored the new language and moved to the Platte Purchase in 1835 and 1836. The Potawatomi inhabiting these lands enraged non-Native Missourians.

According to *The Potawatomi: Keepers of the Fire* by R. David Edmunds, "Many settlers believed that the region soon would be annexed to Missouri, and they crossed over into the area, clearing land and erecting cabins. During February, 1836, troops from Fort Leavenworth forced the settlers back into Missouri, but the military actions angered state officials, and Senators Benton and Linn and Congressman Albert G. Harrison redoubled their efforts to have the Platte Country annexed to their state."

The region's importance to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also proved problematic. Mormon founder, Prophet Joseph Smith, believed that the area that is now northwest Missouri is the Garden of Eden and the location of Jesus' return in the second coming. This inspired church followers to establish communities.

The federal government granted the Tribe an opportunity to live in the Platte Purchase temporarily, but as Potawatomi started to move into the



Map depicts Potawatomi displacement west of the Mississippi over time.

area, tensions between the Mormons and non-Mormons mounted.

1838 Mormon War

In 1836, Missouri leaders devised a plan to establish Caldwell County for the LDS church followers. However, the religion quickly spread. The Governor of Missouri Lilburn Boggs issued Missouri Executive Order 44 on Oct. 27, 1838, which required all Mormons to leave the state.

"The Mormons must be treated as enemies, and must be exterminated or driven from the state if necessary for the public peace — their outrages are beyond all description," Gov. Boggs wrote.

Three days later, a militia of more than 200 massacred 18 Mormon men and boys at Haun's Mill. The state never prosecuted the mob's actions. Shortly after, 15,000 church members left Missouri, suffering from starvation and lack of resources along the way. Gov. Boggs' "Extermination Order" was not repealed until June 25, 1976.

Iowa

Around the same time, in an attempt to get the Potawatomi out of Missouri, General Edmund P. Gaines offered the Tribe transportation via steamboats and food to travel to Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Once the Potawatomi arrived in Iowa, they did not believe Council Bluffs held much permanency. Members leaned on their trading experience rather than farming or raising livestock to make a living, establishing commerce opportunities that helped drive economic development in the region.

"They were quick to adapt it to a wide range of opportunities that awaited them on the eastern fringe of the plains. They immediately benefitted from at least two other facets of the broad sweep of

western migration: the Mormon trek to Utah, and the gold strikes in California and Colorado," R. David Edmunds wrote in an article titled, *Indians as Pioneers: Potawatomis on the Frontier*.

In the mid-1840s, Potawatomi used their annuities to barter and trade with LDS church members.

"They willingly permitted the Mormons to graze their livestock (for a price) on tribal pastures and sold wood from Potawatomi woodlots for the Mormon campfires. Tribal leaders such as Billy Caldwell and Joseph Lafromboise constructed gristmills and sawmills to provide meal and lumber for Mormon travelers," Edmunds wrote.

Spirituality

While the Mormons provided economic opportunity, their Godly connection interested many Tribal leaders as the Potawatomi looked for answers for the federal government and settlers' negative treatment. Hearing the church's belief regarding Joseph Smith's divine connection, Chief *Apaquachawba* pleaded with Smith to speak to the Great Spirit on their behalf. Smith instructed the Potawatomi to abandon any violence with others and to read the *Book of Mormon* for instructions on how to solve all their current and future problems.

By 1846, the Mormon and Potawatomi relationship worried governmental officials. They feared an uprising against the United States.

According to Lawrence Coates' article *Refugees Meet: The Mormons and Indians in Iowa*, "Assessing the loyalty of the Potawatomi, Governor Chambers added that they should be watched closely since they had sided with the British in the War of 1812 and were among the most savage and irreconcilable of any hostile tribe."

Indian agents required the church members to leave the reservation. At the same time, non-Natives continued to encroach into Iowa, desiring the Potawatomi reservation for settlement.

"At each location, whites wanted land that had been reserved for these Indians. ... Many Indians refused to move, and the government responded by cutting off their annuities to force them to evacuate these areas," Coates wrote.

Potawatomi missionary

The Mormons continued traveling west until they came to the Salt Lake Valley, facing many obstacles along the way. One Potawatomi in particular, Anthony F. Navarre, followed LDS leader Brigham Young to present-day Utah where he lived among church members.

While Navarre studied Mormonism, the Potawatomi in Council Bluffs and the Potawatomi in Kansas signed a treaty in 1846. This established a single reservation in Kansas for all the Potawatomi west of the Mississippi to occupy. However, it created another set of problems, as the two groups of Potawatomi had never lived among each other and had varying stances on government affairs and more.

Navarre returned to his kinsmen in Kansas as a Mormon missionary in 1857 and quickly gained respect. He became very vocal against the impending treaty, and in 1860, hired a lawyer named Lewis Thomas to help avoid allotments and bring the Tribe together. While he did not obtain the desired results, Navarre's actions set a precedent.

Eventually, the Potawatomi signed the Treaty of 1861, officially separating them once more. One faction, the Citizen Potawatomi, accepted land allotments based on tribal standing and the chance to become U.S. citizens, and the other, the Prairie Band, opted to remain living communally.

Although the Tribe was no longer a single group, Navarre continued efforts to represent the best interests of all the Potawatomi west of the Mississippi, which some attest his religion impacted his leadership style and tenacity.

The church's headquarters remains today in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Mormon and Potawatomi relationship lives on with Potawatomi Plums planted by LDS church settlers growing wild across the state more than 150 years later.

Learn more about this era in Potawatomi history by visiting the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage center in person or online at potawatomiheritage.com. ♡

ARPA FUNDS

To apply for assistance, visit portal.potawatomi.org

Students benefit from summer programs

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Workforce Development & Social Services department recently wrapped up a busy summer full of activities to help youth learn and participate in their Native heritage and build professional skills. Outreach programs included a V-STEM camp, book club, law and policy, work placements and more.

V-STEM

Although the ongoing coronavirus pandemic hindered the department's ability to implement in-person activities for every initiative, staff found creative ways to keep youth engaged. A partnership with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society provided the foundation for CPN to offer an immersive, virtual STEM camp again this year. Students across eight weeks dove into science, technology, engineering and math-related subjects tied to Indigenous teachings and backgrounds.

"We covered star knowledge, water science, animal biology, geometry, and more, and we brought in other departments from across CPN to present," said Ariana Hurst, youth coordinator.

The camp reached approximately 80 students through its virtual sessions and in-person activities organized by the CPN Child Development Center.

"We have gotten a great reaction from them," she said. "They seem to have really enjoyed it."

Book club

Social Services Counselor Kym Coe and Assistant Counselor Nicole Byrd, led a month-long book club for local Johnson O'Malley participants and families. During the four weeks, they read CPN member Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Gathering Moss* and *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants* as well as Edward Benton-Banai's *The Mishomis Book: The Voice of the Ojibway*.

"It is an honor to be able to help families who have such a rich history to connect to their past in such a beautiful way. But more than that, I love knowing that the families are spending time together, reading and learning about their culture together," Byrd said.

Byrd drafted questions for students to answer, and they received incentives for completing the tasks.

"Our main goals with the book club are to encourage reading, teach the kids about their culture, and to also encourage families to read together," she said.

Although the club ended on Aug. 2, students were able to keep the books.

"For me personally, I am so happy that I could run this book club. I have always loved reading ... and as an avid reader, I have always loved that I can connect to history through an author's experiences. And now, I can share that with our youth," Byrd said.

Law

Workforce Development & Social Services partnered with nearby higher-educational institutions over three weeks, introducing students in grades 7 through 12 to potential legal careers through its Law & Policy Camp.



Participants connect to Native American culture and learn about healthy habits, career and educational opportunities through virtual and hands-on activities.



CPN's Workforce Development & Social Services combines virtual and in-person sessions during its summer youth outreach programs.

"They had really great law-related discussions, and in the last week, they got to meet in-person to do their own mock trial," Hurst said.

Workforce supplied legal portfolios and helped the students purchase professional, court-room appropriate clothing.

During the mock trial sessions, "I personally thought the younger kids would be more reserved and not as outspoken, but we had one girl who wanted to be the defense attorney, and she took her role very seriously in court," Hurst said.

At the end of the programming, students traveled to East Central University in Ada for a campus tour where they met with professors and learned more about the university's degree options.

"Everybody really seemed to enjoy themselves, and it was cool just getting to see everyone interacting together in person versus over Zoom," she said.

Work placements

In addition to camps over the summer break, staff assisted area youth ages 16

to 24 with finding short-term jobs to help them define potential career goals.

"The program is a way to get their foot in the door," said Achaia Powis, youth counselor.

Students can work up to 120 hours at locations within and outside of CPN.

"We try to place them with something that they're really interested in going to school for after they graduate, so we have partnerships with vet clinics, physical therapy offices and things like that," she said.

Staff strive to identify potential hurdles to participants' success to make the placement as beneficial and educational as possible.

"Let's say they work somewhere where they need scrubs or professional office attire — we help them with that," Powis said.

Health and culture

Youth also had an opportunity to participate in a Fresh Fitness Camp and tour the Cultural Heritage Center and CPN Eagle Aviary.



"The Fresh Fitness Camp was for kids ages 7 to 12 and occurred every Tuesday and Thursday in July," said Kristen Casteel, JOM intern. "On Tuesdays, they exercised with trainers from the Wellness Center and took part in arts and crafts."

Twelve students attended a Cultural Heritage Center tour led by Blake Norton, CHC curator, and afterward, enjoyed watching *The Playground of the Native Son* and food from FireLake Fry Bread Taco. Another group of students learned about the aviary's work to provide a permanent home for injured eagles that cannot return to the wild through an on-site tour.

Staff enjoyed the opportunity the department's summer outreach provided to keep youth engaged, especially while the coronavirus pandemic created fewer opportunities for students to attend regular, in-person camps and sessions. It also allowed participants to become more acquainted with local resources.

"We hope we helped give them a greater sense of their identity and their community. They might not realize that there are other people out there who really do want to see them succeed, and we have great resources here and we would love for them to take advantage of that," Powis said.

Learn more about CPN Workforce Development & Social Services at cpn.news/workforce.

Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



Bozho nikan
(Hello, my friend),

The COVID Delta variant has presented another health challenge for our country, and here at home, the Tribe had to reinstitute masking and other precautionary measures at all of our properties at the end of the summer. This last year taught us what we need to do to get through the threat of a growing pandemic. While there are challenges, the Citizen

Potawatomi Nation's employees and directors are quite capable of maintaining our services and business ventures in the face of these trying circumstances. On behalf of our Tribal members, I want to thank all of our employees for going above and beyond to serve our Nation.

As we move into the fall, all eyes will turn again to Washington D.C. as our elected representatives return to the nation's capital. At CPN, we keep an ongoing dialogue with our elected senators and house representatives, especially about issues that seek to improve the quality of life for our citizens. One particular issue I have brought to their attention is the need for federal action in support of the Native American leasehold mortgage market that was initially opened by the HEARTH Act over two years ago.

The issue is one that is fundamental for some segments

of the housing mortgage industry, but it has resulted in the denial of access to the mortgage markets for Indian tribes and tribally-owned banks. Even though we own the largest tribally-owned national bank in the United States, we cannot find a secondary market for mortgages for good credit customers authorized under the HEARTH Act. This means we face challenges to finance homes built on Indian trust land.

The simple fix to the issue is a federal guarantee for the mortgage structured the same as an FHA or Veteran's Administration home loan. I realize that some conservative members of Congress will oppose this as a potentially higher risk for the federal government. The answer to that perceived risk is simple: allow a secondary guarantee on the loan from the tribe that governs the trust land.

This will virtually eliminate the increased risk.

If a homebuyer defaults on a loan, the tribe will take back the house, repair it and resell it to another customer. Since the real property on which the house is built belongs to the tribe under the HEARTH Act, there will always be some degree of equity for the tribe to use to offset an unpaid mortgage. If this formula is followed, banks making HEARTH Act home loans secured by long-term leaseholds will be able to sell those loans on the regular secondary market in the same manner as banks now sell FHA and VA loans.

Tribes are often hampered by regulatory regimes implemented by Washington D.C.'s most cumbersome bureaucracies. The end goal of these fixes would allow tribes to utilize trust lands and develop rural parts of this country long starved of adequate investment — by that

I mean residential developments for our tribal members and employees as well as economic development opportunities for entrepreneurs and tribal nations alike. Right now, it seems the majority of these opportunities tend to be focused in the largest metropolitan areas.

I've spoken about this personally with Oklahoma Representative Stephanie Bice, her predecessor Kendra Horn and Senator James Lankford. Hopefully we can move forward with their assistance and support in creating a better regulatory environment for us to develop our land, just like non-Native entities do every day.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps

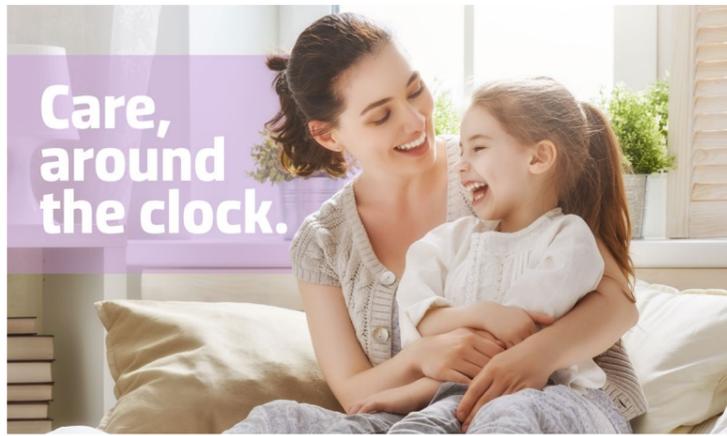


Bozho
(Hello),

“Care, around the clock” in reference to medical assistance is an appealing concept. What if a household had 24/7/365 access to board-certified doctors and pediatricians? The method of contact could be via phone, online or a smartphone app. Telemedicine is the practice of medicine using technology to deliver care at a distance. A physician in one location uses a telecommunications method to deliver care to a patient at a distant site.

Telemedicine became popular in rural areas during the 1960s and 70s where populations with limited healthcare access could reach specialists from afar. During this same time frame, agencies invested millions of dollars, plus an abundance of time, for research in telemedicine. Among the agencies were state and local health departments, NASA, the Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. One of the most successful of these government projects was the partnership between Indian Health Services and NASA. The project was called Space Technology Applied to Rural Papago Advanced Health Care. STARPAHC helped the Native Americans on the Papago Reservation in Arizona and astronauts in orbit with access to medical care.

What does telemedicine have to do with the Citizen Potawatomi people? CPN employees have had access to virtual doctors for a few years. It has proven very effective for some, especially those with children but other age groups as well. Later this month, the CPN Legislature will



have an opportunity to approve a program for telemedicine for Tribal members throughout the U.S. You must be at least 18 years of age or older to sign up for the program, and you will sign up similar to how you signed up for the ARPA funds.

Only one CPN adult Tribal member in a household is required to join the program. That person can add their spouse and children under their name. Once a Tribal member is signed into the program, he/she will have access to a virtual doctor 24/7 from the member's home, office or on the go. The choices are a virtual doctor or the

option to speak to the doctor on the phone. The doctors are not from CPN Health Services. Prescriptions can be sent to your nearest pharmacy if needed. There is no co-pay for the visit with the doctor, but Tribal members are responsible to pay for their prescriptions, which can be called in to the nearest preferred pharmacy.

You may be wondering just how many conditions can be treated by telemedicine. There are more than one would imagine, including acne, allergies, asthma, bronchitis, cellulitis, cold and flu, infections, insect bites and many more.

Please don't begin calling about this program because it must have legislative approval and then be implemented.

CPN's fiscal year begins October 1, which is when we will start signing up for the program, if it is approved. There will be more information about the program forth coming by social media and in the October *Hownikan*. There are no charges to our Tribal members for this program. The cost to our Tribe will be dependent on how many sign up for the telemedicine package.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve our Tribal members. It is especially exciting when we have new and innovative services to provide.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Linda Capps
Segenakwe
(Black Bird Woman)
Vice-Chairman
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Hownikan

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

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends)!

Happy September!

While there will be ups and downs, no doubt, I know so many of you are welcoming a return to the classroom for yourself or your youngsters. I'm excited to get back to regular shipments of period supplies to the Native students we assist through school partnerships with The Kwek Society — I'm hoping it will be a very busy fall as students return to their classrooms. In my other work, I've been doing most of my immigration client consultations through Zoom or WhatsApp. I thought I would be spending more of my time on in-person consultations, but my office is pulling back from that and I'll continue to do that work remotely. I had been looking forward to more client interactions, but I agree that we need to continue to

be careful, as I hope you will be, given the COVID-19 variants!

Upcoming meeting

I am planning our District 2 Fall Feast for Saturday, Nov. 20. That's the Saturday before the Thanksgiving holiday. I don't have confirmation of the venue yet, but it will be in or around Arlington, Virginia. We will have finger-weaving instruction by Bob and Karen Richey, who have moved back to Virginia from Tennessee, and our traditional potluck and giveaways — unless COVID-19 gets the better of us. Once finalized, I will get all details out via email, my website (check out cpn.news/D2calendar) and our District 2 Facebook page, but please do check back as the date gets closer. It's always a joy to have so many children and elders join our Fall Feast, but we will be governed by what the Virginia governor directs at that time and may need to skip the Feast again this year.

Rock Your Mocs 2021

Rock Your Mocs 2021 will take place Nov. 14 through Nov. 20, 2021. You can choose a day or days or the whole week to wear your *mkesinen* (moccasins) — the idea is to honor our ancestors and Indigenous peoples worldwide. To participate, wear your *mkesinen*, take a photo or video, add the hashtag #RockYourMocs and upload to



Mkesinen in the NMAI collection

social media. You'll be helping to create an online photo album for the world to see and enjoy. During Virtual Family Festival 2021, CPN citizen and artist Lakota Pochedley provided instruction online on making traditional Potawatomi pucker toe *mkesinen*. You can access the video here: cpn.news/mkesinen. District 2's Lyle Simmons put together a photo-illustrated instructional guide, available here: cpn.news/mocguide. For inspiration, I've included some photos of Potawatomi *mkesinen* in the National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center.

Virtual tour of the Cultural Heritage Center and early access to Mezodanek

Elsewhere in this paper is information on the application process for American Rescue Plan Act funds. Most of us will access the application through the CPN website portal at cpn.news/portal. While you are in the portal,

please also take advantage of the resources available there: a virtual tour of our Cultural Heritage Center and early access to *Mezodanek* (Family), our digital research program focused on the family history of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. *Mezodanek* allows citizens and their spouses to engage in genealogical research, build family trees and connect with Potawatomi relatives from around the globe. One can also communicate directly with Cultural Heritage Center staff to assist with family research and/or donate to the family history collection. Dr. Kelli Mosteller hosted an overview of *Mezodanek*, and its many capabilities, over Zoom on July 29. I found it helpful, and you might as well. It's posted on YouTube here: cpn.news/mez29. Please know that if you have any issues or concerns with using the portal to apply for the funds, you can apply by mail. The application can be printed from potawatomi.org; if you lack

a printer, I can print and mail a copy to you on your request.

Why We Serve exhibit

If you are or plan to be in the New York City area, you might want to check out the *Why We Serve* exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian — New York. It also is viewable online at cpn.news/why. The exhibit explores, through more than 40 images, the past 250 years of Native American military service. I'd love to get your feedback, if you are able to view the exhibit, so I can share it with fellow Potawatomi.

Communication

Please keep in touch — by phone, or online via email or a Facebook message. We have about 240 District 2 folks participating on a private Facebook group. Message me on Facebook if you'd like to join us. I look forward to hearing from you and helping you, as needed.

Migwetch (thank you) for the honor of representing you.

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe (Blue Bird Woman)
Representative, District 2
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District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Email addresses

By the time you open your September *Hownikan*, there will be another new legislator with our Nation. In the June election, Andy Walters became the District 11 representative. District 1 had a run-off, and that result was not known at the time of this article. We have two new members out there to represent you and get you information.

There are opportunities that each of the legislators encounter where they have information that could be valuable to you before the next *Hownikan* is received and possibly even yet to be published. For example, I learned of the ARPA \$1,400 opening date for the portal and the special 800 number roughly two weeks

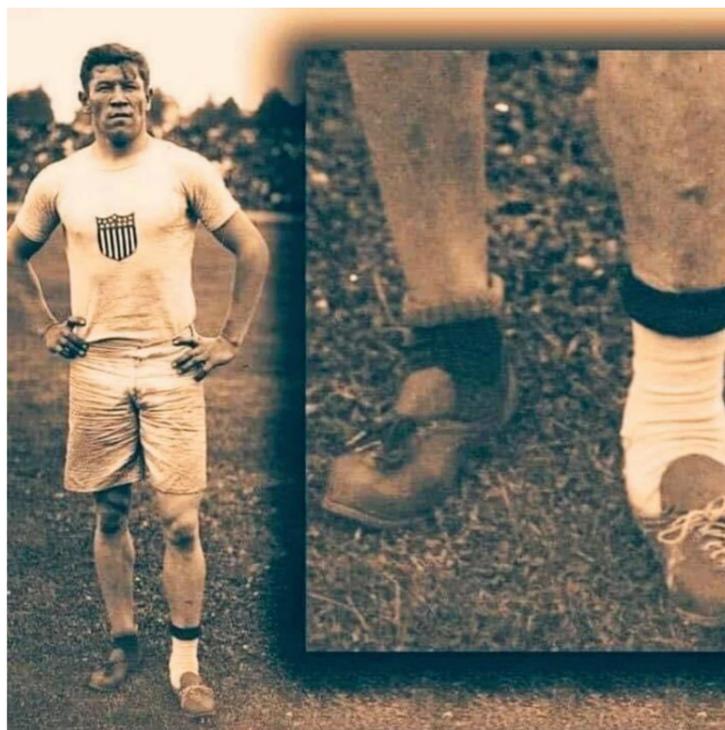
before the August *Hownikan* probably arrived. I created a memo to those who for whom I had an email address, giving them the details on the opening date of Aug. 2 along with the special phone number. In addition, another legislator sent me a PDF of the ARPA application, which I sent out via email to everyone on my email address list enabling the Tribal members I reached to submit an application the first day the process opened.

In the four terms as the District 3 representative, I still have probably less than 10 percent of the email addresses for the members in my district. Over the course of my four terms, I along with many of the other legislators, have asked over and over to give us a contact to reach you with information like your ARPA \$1,400. A very quick way to do that for me is to go to my website cpndistrict3.com or bobwhistler.com and click on the link I have given you to reach me. All you need to say is, "Here it is!" and add in your email address.

So, for future announcements that could assist you even financially, why not provide your district representative your email address?

Beading

In my last trip to Shawnee for our meetings in June, I made



Olympic pentathlon athlete Jim Thorpe and his famous mismatched shoes.

it a point to go to the Cultural Heritage Center and look through the gift shop. I was pleased to see that they now have a very nice loom for beading. It would be great for making items where a weaving type of design is made. This item sells for \$20 and can be purchased in person or online at cpn.news/loomkit. I am including a photo of the box the loom that it comes in. This is a super tool, especially for those who are new to the craft. If you're interested in learning more,

give a call to 800-880-9880 and ask for Potawatomi Gifts.

Jim Thorpe

In a follow up to the very nice article written in the July *Hownikan* by Paul Wesselhöft, I thought I might add a couple of items that I have information about. Attached is a photo of the shoes that Jim Thorpe took from the trash to win the decathlon because his original pair had been stolen. Paul did mention that Jim's twin brother



List of Potawatomi Nations and their distance from Wausauksing First Nations grounds in Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada.

died of pneumonia. What is interesting there is that brother, Charlie, was one of the many Native American children taken from their homes and placed in the boarding schools. Charlie was one of the many who died at Carlisle. Over the last few months, more and more information is coming out on how many Native American children died in the schools in both the U.S. and in Canada.

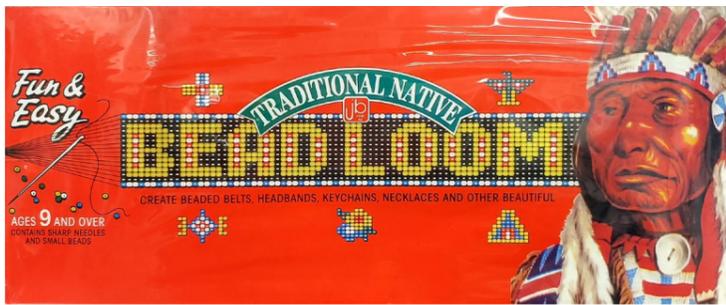
So far in the U.S. and Canada, the remains of 1505 Native American and First Nation children have been found collectively in seven schools, and there are still over 497 schools remaining in the two countries to be searched. What a travesty!

Sandy Hook

Just to set the record straight, Vernon Thunder posted a photo of those praying in *Nishnabek* for the 290 unarmed Indians — including over 200 women and children — that the U.S. troops murdered at a school in 1890. While I am sorry for the event that took place at Sandy Hook school, it was not the deadliest school shooting. I made note of this since we just recently had Juneteenth declared a national federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S. Hopefully there will come a time that the federal government finds that they have a responsibility to recognize us officially as the Natives of Turtle Island and honor us with a federal holiday.

Wausauksing

The Potawatomi Gathering in 2019 was held in Parry Sound, Canada. At the legislative meeting there, we added two



This beading loom kit is for sale at potawatomigifts.com

additional First Nation tribes to our group. I am attaching a photo of the post showing how far each of the other ten nations are from the Wausauksing grounds. The names of the two additional nations are: Chimnissing and Nawash. I have also included a photo of a group of us in regalia on a small hill overlooking the arena used for Grand Entry.

Code Talkers

In October of 2020, I made a presentation on YouTube on our history and subsequently offered YouTube presentation links for both the Alabama Choushatta Tribe and Choctaw Nation. In both WWI And WWII, Native American code talkers were used. You can go to YouTube for a lesson about the Navajo Marines in WWII, which is [cpn.news/code](https://www.cpn.news/code).

In WWI, the U.S. army used code talkers that were from the Cherokee Nation and Choctaw telephone squad. They classified this information as top-secret, and as a result, reinstated the program in WWII. In WWII, the federal government made it a point to recruit Native American code talkers from over 19 Native American nations.

In 1942, the U.S. Marines recruited 29 Navajos as their original group of code talkers who were used in the Pacific theater. While in school developing the language, an officer who was very well educated in breaking codes advised that most codes were broken because of repetition. So, the Navajos created a dictionary of three words for each letter of the alphabet along with special words for things like the comma and semi-colon. Initially, they started with 211 terms, and after



Potawatomi Gathering 2019 at Wausauksing First Nation in Parry Sound, Canada.

the meeting about need for variance, expanded the terms to 411. One of their unique words was “iron fish” representing submarine.

In the YouTube presentation, the speaker recommends reading the book *Navajo Weapon*, which gives much detail on the war in the Pacific and includes the code talker dictionary. That set of coding was not declassified until 1968. Peter McDonald, Sr., the YouTube speaker, is only one of five remaining Navajo code talkers from WWII.

I found the presentation that lasts about one and half hours very interesting and well worth my time.

As I started out this article, I am here to represent you and pass on information that may be of benefit to you. I look forward to hearing from you and again ask for your email address.

Bama mine
(Later),

Bob Whistler
Bmashi (He Soars)
Representative, District 3
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817-229-6271 cell
rwhistler@potawatomi.org
cpn3legislator@yahoo.com
cpndistrict3.com

District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho
(Hello),

Four District 4 students attend the 2021 Potawatomi Leadership Program

The Potawatomi Leadership Program educates, informs and encourages qualified Potawatomi students, within the Tribal membership at large, to develop a more accurate perception of the Tribe and its operations. To be eligible, students must be aged 18-21, demonstrate at least a 3.0 grade point average, have graduated high school by the program's start date, and be enrolled in college or vocational school at any level.

Normally, the program hosts 10-12 students in Shawnee, Oklahoma, for six weeks each summer. However, this year the program was held virtually, which did allow 23 students to

participate. I'm pleased to report that this year four District 4 students were selected. I'm not aware of any previous year when we had more than one student participate. Here are our four 2021 PLP students:

Hannah Nystrom, a Topeka resident, is the daughter of Jon and Chris Nystrom and is Juneau family descendant. She is attending the University of Kansas as a junior, double majoring in journalism and environmental studies.

Grace Laughton lives in Mission, and will be a sophomore at Johnson County Community College, where she is majoring in theatre/film. Grace is the daughter of Karen Schneider and Howard Laughton and is a descendant of the Bruno Family.

Mary Hrenchir, daughter of Nancy and Robert Hrenchir, calls Paola home. She is also a proud descendent of the Juneau family. Mary is a junior at the University of Kansas as a business analytics major.

Alexis Ladner, a Bourbonnais family descendent, is from Shawnee, Kansas. Her parents are Jeff and Angela Ladner. Although Alexis has received her associates degree from Johnson County Community College, she will return this fall for one class, chemistry. Next spring, she will attend Avila University

in Kansas City, Missouri, where she will pursue a bachelor's degree in the School of Imaging Sciences, preparing her to be a radiologic technologist.

Mark your calendars – District meetings

I add this section with the caveat that with the surge in COVID cases, we are waiting to finalize the below meetings. However, I wanted to provide you the dates and times to keep open on your calendar. I will send out a confirmation U.S. mail or via mail or email (if you have shared it with me) once we confirm it is safe to meet. Until then contact me with any questions.

Wichita: All-Indian Center located at 650 N. Seneca St. on Sunday, Oct. 3.

We will begin at 1:00 p.m. with lunch. Donald Blakeslee, Ph.D., has agreed to give a presentation on his discovery of Etzanoa, the long-lost city near Arkansas City, believed to be the second-biggest settlement of Native Americans found in the United States. Please RSVP by 5 p.m. on Sept. 28 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or email me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

Rossville: CPN Community Center in Rossville on

Saturday, Oct. 23 at 10 a.m. Lunch at noon.

James Ralston, Ph.D., has accepted an invitation to speak on his research on the Ogee House, the historical stone house just east of Silver Lake on US-24 where Lewis and Sophia (Beaubien) Ogee raised their family. Please RSVP by 5 p.m. on Oct. 19 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 indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

Hays: The Venue in Thrifty's Bar and Grill located at 2704 Vine St. in Hays on Sunday, Oct. 31 at 12:30 p.m. Buffet lunch at 1 p.m.

First time we've met in Hays. After lunch, I plan to hold a discussion on the CPN services and benefits available to those of us in District 4, followed by my CPN history presentation. Please RSVP by 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 25 by calling me at 785-608-1982 or email me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. Please indicate which meeting you plan to attend. Also, let me know your lunch preference of beef or chicken.

October Elders Potluck

The October Elders Potluck will be held on Friday, Oct. 8, at noon in the CPN Community

Center in Rossville. Tracy and Brenda are planning on preparing buffalo meat loaf for the main course. They have asked that you RSVP by Tuesday, Oct. 5 if you plan on attending. Their number is 785-584-6171. You are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

Honored to serve you

It is an honor to serve you as your district legislator. 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

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),

I am writing from a rainy Arizona. (Yes, really!)

It has been a long time since we have been able to gather in person, and while challenges remain with a resurgent variant

of the virus, it seems we may see the end of all of this in time.

Recently, a story I saw on CNN got me thinking about something that we know as tribal people. The founding bedrock of all societies is the family. While that can take all forms, the family is a vital piece of how our younger generations can learn and grow under the supervision of parents or guardians. However, we as Citizen Potawatomi know all too well that government interference into the family can be problematic.

Make no mistake, there are vital times when a family is so dysfunctional that outside assistance is needed. Agencies like our own Indian Child Welfare Department are there to support families who are

not functioning well for the children and family members. There are certainly legitimate reasons for the government — be it state, tribal or federal — to help when warranted.

But, I worry that blurring the line of allowing children, especially those just a few years from “adulthood,” (18 years in American society) to make decisions outside the control of their parents is a worrisome trend. No parent is perfect, but there also isn’t a perfect way to parent. There are as many ways to raise kids as there are parents in the world.

Parents, for all their faults, are better equipped to understand long-term consequences of decisions that teenagers and kids do not. This goes for grandparents, aunts, uncles

and guardians. In fact, this is why we as Citizen Potawatomi place such a high premium on our elders. They have been there, done that, and have had to live with the consequences of their decisions. The Seven Grandfathers teaching is not just a fable; it is a handy guide that shows our eldest can think long term about how their decisions will impact the next generations.

I know this might be a sensitive subject. Many people have had rough upbringings, and I do not mean to minimize those experiences. This is not a catch-all. But I do think there is wisdom in trusting our elders and parents and not relying on governments to dictate what the best decision for a young person still in the family home will be.

Don’t forget, the ARPA fund application is now available online at potawatomi.org or by calling 833-481-0638 and requesting a paper application. As we can see right now with the recent resurgence of the delta variant, COVID is not over. Some of our members may still need help to deal with the consequences of this pandemic, and these funds are there to help you. As a legislature, we voted to allocate them for Citizen Potawatomi, so please utilize this tool.

Love and prayers,

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

District 6 – Rande K. Payne



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

Another election cycle has transpired, and I would like to congratulate Chairman Barrett and District 4 Representative Jon Boursaw on their re-election wins. District 1 has yet to be determined, with a runoff election results between Alan Melot and David Slavin scheduled to be announced after the submission deadline. Congratulations to District 2 incumbent Legislator Eva Marie Carney and District 3 incumbent Legislator Bob Whistler on their re-elections as well. Both ran unopposed. And welcome District 11

Legislator Andrew Walters. Andy was elected to his first term without opposition. I look forward to working with all of them and the winner of the District 1 runoff election.

As you may or may not know, I supported Chairman Barrett for Tribal Chairman. However, I purposely kept my support low-key. I split the cost with District 7 Representative Mark Johnson for an ad in the *Hownikan* endorsing Chairman Barrett. It cost each of us \$75. I didn’t feel the need to campaign for Chairman Barrett, but I do believe that members in my district deserve to know who I thought was the best person for the job. Contrary to what some were saying, an elected official of the Tribe endorsing any particular candidate for Tribal office is not a violation of our constitution or Tribal elections code. That said, I believe the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is positioned for growth and progress well into the future.

We live in unprecedented times going through a deadly pandemic that has left no one unaffected. Our economy was definitely affected. Most

of CPN’s enterprises felt the impact, but hopefully we’ve put the worst behind us as recovery continues. Federal stimulus kept the economy from a total melt down and provided much needed assistance to help the country weather the storm.

Even as we’re seeing the delta variant of the coronavirus push metrics in the wrong direction, people are going back to work, students are going back to school, and the economy is picking up steam. CARES was designed to help individuals and businesses literally survive the pandemic. Now, the task of rebuilding begins. In March of this year, Congress passed into law the American Rescue Plan Act to help ensure that states, cities and tribal governments have the resources they need to continue providing services to their citizenry. As details emerge, I look forward to working with my fellow legislators in determining how to best appropriate the funds we receive. My understanding is that CARES funds were for short-term relief, while ARPA funds are for solutions to long-term sustainability. Water, technology and energy infrastructure, environmental protec-

tions, housing, health care and commercial development are a few things that come to mind for me. I believe that we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to strengthen our sustainability for generations to come. Please pray that wisdom prevails and that our grandchildren and their grandchildren will remember us fondly for the decisions we make.

District 7 Representative Mark Johnson and I are excited to announce the 2021 Heritage Festival. As always, it will be held outdoors in Visalia. The date is Saturday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided. District 6 and 7 Tribal members and their families are welcome. Up-to-date CARES and ARPA information will be provided. Tribal ID assistance will be available; however, all IDs will be mailed from Tribal Rolls. For those who missed our last Zoom meeting, language and family research resources available from the Cultural Heritage Center will be presented as well. We will also be covering available benefits and services available to Tribal members. It’s been a long time since we’ve been able to gather. Mark and I are looking forward to seeing

everyone next month! For the full invitation and registration details, see the invite on page 9.

I look forward to the future with enthusiasm, as I believe our best days and years are ahead of us! It is my great honor, and I’m grateful to serve as your legislator. If I can be of any assistance, please don’t hesitate to call, email or write.

Words of Wisdom: “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” — Marcus Garvey

Wisdom from the Word: “When a land does wrong, it has many princes. But when the ruler is a man of understanding and knowledge, its stability endures.” Proverbs 28:2 (AMP)

Migwetch! Bama pi
(Thank you! Until later),

Rande K. Payne
Mnedo Gabo
Representative, District 6
31150 Road 180
Visalia, CA 93292-9585
559-999-3525 office
559-999-5411 cell
rande.payne@potawatomi.org
randepayne@comcast.net

District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

I am sure by now, you have seen that the American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated to the Tribe are providing \$1,400 payment to each member, regardless of age. The only requirement is that the members were enrolled by Feb. 1, 2021. This date was agreed upon because that was when the Tribe reported our membership numbers to the federal government for the ARPA allocation. There is an online application for the funds and additional information at potawatomi.org/arpa/ or call 833-481-0638. If you choose not to apply, the funds will be put into other areas of the Tribe for the long-term benefit of everyone.

On Oct. 23, District 6 Legislator Rande Payne and I will again be hosting our Fall Heritage Festival in person in Visalia, California. Please watch for additional information, and sign up and join us. It will be great for us to reconnect after the last year and a half. For the full invitation and registration details, see the invite on page 9.

As I wrote last year, all of District 7 is now in the wildfire season. If you live in a rural setting, being ready for wildfire starts with maintaining an adequate defensible space and by hardening your home by using

fire-resistant building materials. Defensible space is the buffer you create by removing dead plants, grass and weeds. This buffer helps to keep the fire away from your home. It takes the combination of both defensible space and the hardening of your home to really give your house the best chance of surviving a wildfire. Before wildfire strikes, it is important that you get set. Prepare yourself and your home for the possibility of having to evacuate. Additional information can be found at readyforwildfire.org.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor and privilege it

is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always, give me a call, and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have or provide you with additional information you may need to access available Tribal benefits.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

District 8 – Dave Carney



Bobzo nikan
(Hello friend),

Throughout the years that I've been heavily involved with the Nation, I have learned much about the Potawatomi Leadership Program from different vantage points. It has been evolving and improving over the years. And then came COVID-19. I was very pleased to hear that the program would move forward this year

despite the pandemic. One of my kids, Matthew (age 20), applied to the program. He was very interested in learning more about the Nation – especially the Tribe's businesses (since he is a business major at the University of Washington). He was excited to hear that he was accepted.

While applying for the PLP, he also applied for an internship with a large, national company that offers shipping and other business supplies. After multiple interviews, a drug test and other hurdles, he was offered that internship as well.

"How is this going to work?" I thought.

With a bit of flexibility, he was able start very early each weekday morning and to finish his daytime internship just in time to jump on a Zoom call with his fellow PLP participants and program staff. On more

than one occasion, he would be walking into the front door, removing his jacket and tie while participating in discussions or listening to a presentation on his iPhone.

Heading up the program is Tesia Zientek, the Nation's Department of Education director. She has an absolutely amazing energy level and a passion for teaching our youth. Tesia's mother, Margaret Zientek, has been the PLP house mother for years. Obviously, this role was greatly changed due to COVID, but she continued to make a huge contribution – including making custom regalia for each PLP student to own at the end of the program (shawls for women and vests for men). Regular features of the program throughout the six weeks were cultural teachings provided by Dr. Kelli Mosteller and a "talking circle" for participants to speak about themselves, their educational

paths, aspirations, feelings and to bond with each other in general. Speakers who I happen to overhear (from the next room) while my son participated included Tribal Chairman Barrett, Vice-Chairman Capps, Director of Economic Development Dr. Collard and Kaya DeerinWater from the CPN Community Garden. I must say that I learned a thing or two eavesdropping.

Members of the legislature were invited to participate in a Zoom meeting to view the final presentations of the program participants. What a great group of young people with tremendous hearts for the Tribe! This was an eye-opening experience that gave them the connection to the Nation that they could have been missing. Several expressed interest in coming to the Nation in future years to serve in leadership rolls or as employees in health care or Tribal enterprises. One

of the best things about the experience was that a business-oriented student was exposed to cultural teachings, and students primarily interested in culture were educated about the enterprises that pay for cultural programs.

Migwetch (thank you) to all the people that made this wonderful experience possible!

Currently, COVID allowing, I am planning our Fall Feast for Oct. 23 in Portland, Oregon. Please save the date – it will be wonderful to get together in person.

As always, it is my honor to serve as your legislator.

Dave Carney
Kagasghi (Raven)
Representative, District 8
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Olympia, WA 98506
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dcarney@potawatomi.org

District 11 – Andrew Walters



Bozho
(Hello),

It was a two-story house — nothing unusual about it. It was made of brick and wood, mortar and concrete. You'd find one like it in most communities. It sat in an average neighborhood, surrounded by average streets. It even had average neighbors. You know, the kind that never pay attention to a lot. They'd just go to and from work, the store and school stuff. The Robinsons had bought the house when they were in their early 20s. Jill had just given birth, and Rick had just gotten a new job. They bought it a year after their wedding. That would have been 20 years ago now. They wanted a house they could raise children in. It took a while to get the furniture, curtains and knick-knacks, but slowly over the years, they built their home into what they wanted.

When the second child came — Lucy I think was her name — they built a nursery on the upper floor. Their first child, Jim, had moved into his own bedroom by then. The upstairs rooms were kind of separate from the rest of the house. Sometimes so separate that the kids would be scared to be alone, so they'd sneak into each other's rooms at night to feel safe. Being upstairs, out of sight and out of mind, made them feel alienated at times.

Life continued, normal, average, without requiring much. Rick would go to work early and come home at six or so, sit on the couch and watch TV. Jill didn't work at first. She wanted to stay and take care of the kids some, but when the finances started to become an issue, she took on a job at a small company doing bookkeeping work. She would get home at around five in the afternoon, after picking the kids up at daycare. And so, the years went by. Each year, same as the last, except for the occasional vacation.

The kids grew and finally reached high school age. It was around that time that Jill noticed Jim had been coming home and going to his room almost immediately. He seemed to not like to talk to the family. He told Jill he had homework, but she noticed his grades were dropping. Lucy was starting to

go out some with her "friends." Both Jill and Rick would talk about how she never brought her "friends" around to meet them. But life went on, and the pattern never altered — work, couch, TV, sleep, work. It wasn't until the call from Lucy's school counselor that Rick and Jill started to be concerned. Seems like Lucy would come to school with long sleeves. Some kids at school had commented about how she wore long sleeves to cover the cuts on her arms. Rick and Jill didn't know what to do other than talk with Lucy, but that proved unfruitful. Lucy, who just seemed not to care, would set with her earphones in, blankly staring at the wall. Their insurance wouldn't cover counseling, and the cost was too much for their budget.

By this time, Jim was failing at school. He started to skip classes and sometimes just never went to school. When he was asked about it, Jim would get angry, scream and yell, and then walk out of the house. The tensions in the house started causing problems with Rick and Jill too. They were always angry, always critical of each other. It seemed like each blamed the other for the problems they were having with their kids and with their life. But life went on, and the pattern never altered — work, couch, TV, sleep, work. It seemed easier to ignore the issues than to confront them, and the alcohol helped.

And that was true for Lucy and Jim too. Jim had started taking drugs and, by example, so did Lucy. The drugs seemed to quiet the storm going on inside him. It wasn't long until Lucy and her "friends" started selling drugs at the high school. One night, Lucy gave one of her "friends" some methadone she had gotten. The "friend," new to Lucy's circle, took the drug and almost immediately had a heart attack. You know, no amount of grieving can ever heal the wound caused by contributing to someone's death.

Lucy went even further into drugs. Jim would try to talk to her, to convince her she wasn't to blame, but Lucy knew what she had done. Rick and Jill had no idea what to do. They had lost the ability to communicate with Lucy and even with themselves. Jim quit school and left. Lucy went through episodes until one night, unable to cope with the death of her "friend," she took her own life. It was Jill that found her lifeless, hanging in a tree. It was the same tree that years before held a swing that Lucy loved to play on. The blow of losing her shattered Jill and Rick. They divorced, sold the house and moved to their own worlds, just trying to forget the unforgettable.

It would seem that the two-story house was more than that. It was actually four stories — the stories of each of the people

living there, and the story of how not communicating, not knowing what to do, ignoring the signs, and accepting the abuse can destroy even the most average of existences.

We as Potawatomi are so blessed by our culture, our Tribe and its resources. Counseling is available for families in distress. Drug counselling is available for teens in the midst of crisis. Alcohol and drug dependency can be addressed. Shelters are available for Tribal members who are victims of domestic abuse. Don't let their story be yours. We're all family. When one of us hurts, we all do, in one way or another. Talk with your kids. Talk with each other. Seek help. Don't have a four-story house.

Find information on behavioral health and assistance by calling 405-214-5101 or online at cpn.news/bh.

For those experiencing domestic abuse, find information on CPN's House of Hope at cpn.news/houseofhope or by calling 405-275-3176.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

**FOLLOW US!
ONLINE**



Zachary David Gregson
Bourassa Family



Zachary David Gregson, 22, passed away unexpectedly on July 21, 2021, due to complications sustained from being struck while riding his motorcycle on the Pacific Coast Highway. Zack was an active member of the Ventura County Fire Department as a fire control worker assigned to Crew 11, Dozer 12. Zachary's love for the service began at a young age. At 16, he began his career as a cadet, assigned to Fire Station 54 in Camarillo. Zack contributed to the transition of VCFD's cadet to explorer program and served as Post 50 leader. His family will be forever grateful for the bonds he formed with his crew and fire family.

Zack was born in Ventura, California, on December 16, 1998, and spent his life living in Somis. He graduated from Adolfo Camarillo High School in 2017. He also attended Oxnard College where he took fire science courses and earned his EMT license. At a young age, Zack was a member of Somis 4-H where he began his love for the outdoors and service to the community. Zack grew up enjoying football, baseball, golf, surfing, snowboarding, racing motocross, roping and hunting. Zack's passion in life was being outdoors, whether it was fishing, riding horses, roping, hunting quail, pig or deer, or riding his dirt bikes and motorcycle. He was also a member of the Ventura chapter of Quail Forever. He was the happiest outdoors doing the things he loved.

Zack is survived by his parents, Mike and Erica Gregson; sisters, Hannah Gregson and Brittni Morrison; brother-in-law, Colby Morrison; nieces, Paisley, Pennie and Phoebe Morrison; grandmother, Sharon Gregson; girlfriend, Hope Zimmerling; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Under the care of OneLegacy and the VCMC staff, Zack carried out his final wish of donating vital organs to those in need. His selfless nature, compassion, bright smile and dimples will never be forgotten.

Lester Dwight Hash
Milot Family



Lester Dwight Hash, retired major of the Kansas City Police Department, 83, of Smithville, Missouri, passed away on July 17, 2021.

Lester was born on Sept. 28, 1937, to Weldon Alex and Lue Bell (Melott) Hash, who resided on a farm near Cogar, Oklahoma. He was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. In June 1952, they moved to Oklahoma City, where Lester graduated from Capitol Hill High School in May 1955. He then entered the U.S. Army for three years, being discharged in June 1958 as a sergeant.

Lester moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he became a member of the Kansas City Police Department in March 1960 and remained until July 1988, retiring at the rank of major. He enjoyed working with victims and helping new officers develop. He said the most tragic event he worked was the Hyatt Regency skywalk collapse. Lester then went to the Kansas City International Airport police department as acting chief, where he remained nearly two years reorganizing the department. In 1993, he became a special U.S. marshal, working at the U.S. courthouse in security until 1999 when he finally retired.

Lester met his wife, Hazel Marie Montgomery, in 1960 and married on Nov. 19. They were blessed with three daughters, Gwendolyn Maria, Linda Kay and Kimberlea Diane. He always tried to assist them in any way possible before and after they married.

Lester was a member of the Grace Community Baptist Church in Smithville, Missouri. He was known for helping others when he could. He enjoyed woodworking and liked to make miniature log structures and furnishings, and would enter them into state and county fairs.

Lester felt it was a blessing to have served three years in the U.S. Army and 36 years in the police workforce. He made a difference.

James Ray Nadeau
Tescier Family



Jim left us to a better place on Jan 3, 2021. He was born Oct. 20, 1938, at the Cheyenne-Arapaho Hospital in Concho, Oklahoma, to Francis "Frank" Nadeau and Gloravena "Susie" Quinette.

He was one-of-a-kind, loving, thoughtful and generous to a fault and was loved by everyone who knew him. We all have our stories, and they are blessings we hold in memory of our times with him. A sister's fond memory is at age 4 years, Jim started his first job selling *The Oklahoman* on the southwest corner of the Cordell, Oklahoma, courthouse. His mother Gloravena ran the Mistletoe Express one block from there. If business was slow, he would slip into the pool hall next door to drum up some sales; when he was caught by Officer Mike — who would ask, "Are you 18 or 21?" — he would tell him, "No, just looking for my momma." He always had a paper route and continued in the paper business throughout his life, retiring from *The Denver Post* newspaper. Jim graduated high school in 1957 from Greely High Colorado, then joined the Air Force, and while enlisted, met the love of his life, Tommie Rae Sparks. They raised three children, Sheila Henry (Bill) and twins, Joe Nadeau (Susan) and Mike Nadeau (Collette).

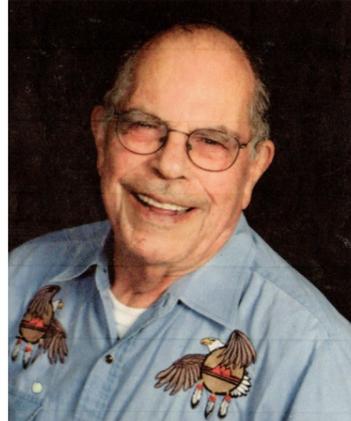
His grandchildren include Taylor, Brandon, Tony, Philip, Evan, Billy, Matt and Stacy, and he had many great-grandbabies he enjoyed!

He was preceded in death by wife, Tommie Rae Sparks Nadeau; his parents; brother, Dean Nadeau; and sweet grandchild, Stacy Henry.

Those of us left with sweet memories until we meet him

again are his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, his favorite and only sister, Rita Jean Oravetz, numerous nieces, nephews and so many loving friends and caretakers one could not list. *Bama pi*, Jimbo.

Jimmie Rhodd
Rhodd Family



Jimmie was born on Oct. 4, 1931, in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. The son of Noah and Opal Crume Rhodd, he passed away on Jan. 24, 2021, in Enid. After moving to Merced, California, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Far East where he served honorably in Korea and Japan. After serving in the Army, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in February 1954 and was honorably discharged in April 1958.

After his discharge, Jim studied diesel mechanics and worked for CCA (Farmland) for 15 years in McPherson, Kansas. He was then transferred to Enid, where after 13 years, he retired. Jim then signed up at the Waukomis Senior Citizen Center where he volunteered for 30 years. Jim married Janice Johnson in McPherson, Kansas, June 7, 1959, and had four children, Daniel, Susan, Richard and Michael. He is survived by wife, Janice, of the home; daughter-in-law, Becky of Watonga, Oklahoma; and three children, Susan (Ed) and three children of Wichita Falls, Texas, Richard (Laura) and four children of Cushing, Oklahoma, and Michael (Jamie) and one child of Waukomis, Oklahoma. He was a proud Grandpa, Ggpa and PePa and had multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by his father, mother and son, Dan.

He was a Purple Heart veteran of the Korean conflict and a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

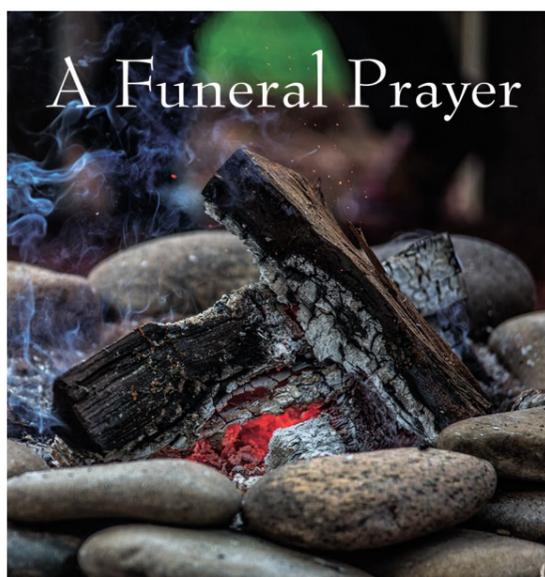
Susan Elaine Campbell Watkins
Weld Family



Susan Elaine Campbell Watkins, age 63, of Troy, North Carolina, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, July 9, 2021, at her home after a two-year battle with ALS.

Susan was born Jan. 8, 1958, to James Harrison and Frances Weld Campbell. Susan was raised in Candor, North Carolina. She received an associate degree in criminal justice from Montgomery Community College in Troy. In 1987, Susan married her soulmate Chris. She started her criminal justice career working as a dispatcher with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. Later, she began working as a correctional officer with the North Carolina Department of Corrections and finished her career in 2016 in administration. Susan was a lifelong member of Macedonia Presbyterian Church. She enjoyed taking trips to the beach with her family and loved riding motorcycles. Most of all, she was a loving wife, mother, sister and friend to all who knew her. Susan is preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her husband of 34 years, Chris Watkins; daughters, Katherine Watkins of Arlington, Virginia, and Laura Watkins Dills and husband Michael of Troy; and brothers, Larry Campbell and wife Donna of Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, and Phillip Campbell and wife Sue of Garner. A graveside service was held on July 13, 2021, at Macedonia Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Candor with Rev. Steve Wilkinson and Rev. Beth Olker officiating.



Hau ndenwémagnek
Ho my relatives
Ébyé yak shote gnom
We have come here today
Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma
To lay our brother to rest
Ngom she éпам sét ode
Today he walks
Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek
Among those who have passed on
I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngemwen
That is why we offer this song
Émno shketot wa je zhyat ibe shpemsegok
That his journey will go well where he goes above
Iw énaj moyan
That's all I have to say
A Potawatomi prayer for a specific loved one who has walked on.
By Don Perrot

Elwanda Jacqueline Guinn Jackson Mars Family



Elwanda Jacqueline “Jacquie” Guinn Jackson was born in a chicken coop on an icy January night in 1931. The chicken coop part isn’t true, but she loved to tell it that way.

She was born Jan. 22, 1931, in Washington, Oklahoma, to Curtis Russell “Russ” Guinn and Laura Evelyn Mars Guinn. Jacquie spent her early years in Goldsby and Maud, Oklahoma. At the age of 10, she and her family moved to Ojai, California. She graduated from Nordhoff High School in 1949, and not long after, she met Arthur Lee “Al” Jackson. While waiting for the wedding, Al and his brothers built a house, and Jacquie worked at the Sunkist plant in Ojai, packing oranges to make money to furnish the new home. They were married April 6, 1951. In June 1961, the family moved to Maud, Oklahoma.

Jacquie enjoyed singing, playing the piano, knitting and especially cooking and baking. Her cookies and cupcakes were eagerly anticipated at all her kids’ school functions. The first year after all the older kids graduated, she received a call from a student. He asked her to bake for a class function because he couldn’t imagine not having her cookies. She happily baked and decorated for the party.

Jacquie was extremely proud to be a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation through her great-grandmother, Clarissa Peltier Mars McGowen.

She was also very proud of being a member of the direct descendants and cousins of Davy Crockett.

Jacquie was a church piano player, group singer and soloist for many years. She was also a Sunday school teacher for more than 50 years. In her late

70s, she decided she wanted to take three months off to go on trips with her kids. She told her pastor, and he insisted they could not manage without her. She told him she needed the break. He asked her to pray about it during the coming week. She agreed. As she arrived at church the following Sunday, and the pastor ran out to her and asked if she had prayed about teaching. She told him yes. He smiled and said, “And?” Jacquie grinned and replied, “God said I don’t have to.” She took her three-month break.

Jacquie was preceded in death by her husband, Al; son, Franklin Jackson; brothers, Russell Gordon Guinn and Clinton Lloyd; sister, Mary Ellen Guinn; son-in-law, Timothy Jenkins; and grandparents, Jake and Maggie Cartmill Guinn, and Dennis and Peva Smith Mars.

Those left to cherish her memories are daughters, Laura Anne Jackson and Karen Jenkins; son and daughter-in-law, Tadina Jackson; daughter-in-law, Joyce Jackson; three grandchildren, Jason Jenkins and wife Kymber, Brad Jackson and Kathryn Jackson; and great-granddaughter, Kadence Jenkins as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Eugene Darrell Wright Navarre Family



Eugene “Gene” Darrell Wright passed away peacefully on July 20, 2021, in Yuma, Arizona. Gene was born June 13, 1930, at home in Washtucna, Washington, to Gertrude and Charles Wright. Gene grew up along the Snake River Junction and attended the one-room Star School House, then later Pasco High School. After graduating from Pasco High in 1948, Gene joined the U.S. Navy. While

in the Navy and anchored in New York City, he met the love of his life, Frances Giorgianni. He and Frances were married in September 1952 and raised three children together in Pasco, Washington. They adopted their son Gregory in 1960 and daughter Kathy in 1963 before giving birth to daughter Jennifer in 1972. They were married for 53 years when Frances passed away in May 2006.

After the Navy, Gene joined his father working for the railroad. He retired from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway in 1992. Gene was a longtime active member of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Pasco, the Moose Lodge and Knights of Columbus. He was also a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Gene loved his time with his family, grandchildren and friends. He enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing, working in his garden and playing cards. He cherished his many years in Pasco but especially loved retirement in Yuma, Arizona, and the warm winters there with friends. He and Frances moved to Yuma full time in 2004, and that became his new home.

Gene is survived by younger brother, Dennis (wife, Elizabeth) in Dayton, Washington; son, Gregory (wife, Susan) in Olympia; granddaughter, Sarah (husband, Colin McElroy); great-grandson, Griffin in Shoreline; grandson, Paul in Seattle; daughter Kathy, and granddaughter Chloe, in Portland, Oregon; daughter, Jennifer (husband, Greg Sullivan); and granddaughters, Carina (husband, Kane Kelley), Marisa, and Angela in Pasco. He will especially be missed by his special companion of the last 13 years, Floretta “Freddie” Ness of Yuma.

Gene was preceded in death by his wife, Frances; a baby brother that died at birth; his mother, Gertrude; father, Charles; sister, Charline Mann; and brother, Jerry.

Gene’s ashes will be interred with his wife Frances in Pasco, Washington.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Chaplains Association for Public Safety – Thurston County. CAPS-TC cares for firefighters, police officers and the people they serve. Gene’s son, Greg (retired, City of Olympia Fire

Chief) is a founding board member of this charity.

Memorials can be made to Chaplains Association for Public Safety – Thurston County at caps-tc.org.

Bobby Gene Morris Edwards/LeClair Family



Bobby Gene Morris, 91, of Avondale Estates, Georgia, passed away June 18, 2021, after spending his final day visiting with his wife and all three of his children. He is survived by Jacqueline Garton Morris, his wife of 68 years; his sons, Matt and Danny and their wives Karen and Barbara; his daughter, Marigene Mason; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Bobby was born on Dec. 7, 1929, in Burkburnett, Texas, a proud member of Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Oklahoma. He grew up in Stroud, Oklahoma. He excelled at football and track at Stroud High School. After graduating, Bobby joined the Army where he continued to play football. After his enlistment ended, he accepted a football scholarship to the University of Georgia. At Georgia, he played football from 1949-51, served in the Air Force ROTC, graduated with a degree in business in three years and, most importantly, met his wife Jackie.

Bobby Married Jacqueline Garton on Aug. 23, 1952, and they have been happily married for 68 years. Bobby and Jackie raised their three children in Avondale Estates, Georgia. During this time, Bobby continued to serve in the U.S. Air Force as a reserve and active duty officer, eventually attaining the rank of colonel. His primary employment was as an executive officer in various capacities at C&S National

Bank. He worked at C&S until his retirement in 1975.

Bobby possessed an unforgettable, energetic and caring personality. He most enjoyed spending time with his family and friends but also loved dogs, his yard, books, movies, the beach, watching sports and attending Georgia football games.

A memorial service with a disposition of ashes took place at Holy Trinity Church in Decatur.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation may be made to Holy Trinity Church, the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association.

Walter Whitlow Thunder/Vieux Family



Walter Carter Whitlow, 47, of Powers, Missouri, went to join his mother, Allison, in heaven on May 30, 2021, as a result of a dirt bike accident in Arizona. He leaves three sons, Michael, Dusty and Matthew, and two daughters, Carsyn and Cadie. Carter was born in Chandler, Arizona, to Michael and Allison Whitlow and grew up in Parker and Goodyear, Arizona, with his brothers, Cody and Clay and sister, Teresa, before moving to Missouri. He worked as a pipefitter and in construction. He is greatly missed.

Submitting obituaries

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

hownikan@potawatomi.org

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

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