



HOWNIKAN

Zawbogyagises | September 2022

A hot air balloon meets the setting sun in Pottawatomie County during the fifth annual FireLake Fireflight Balloon Fest.

A LOOK INSIDE

Page 7



The cunning nature of addiction

Page 11



Meet your host: behind the scenes of the *Hownikan* Podcast

Page 12

Leadership program participants reflect on 2022 session

Pages 13-18

Tribal Executive and Legislative updates

Pages 19-20

Walking on

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's economic impact exceeds \$700 million in 2021

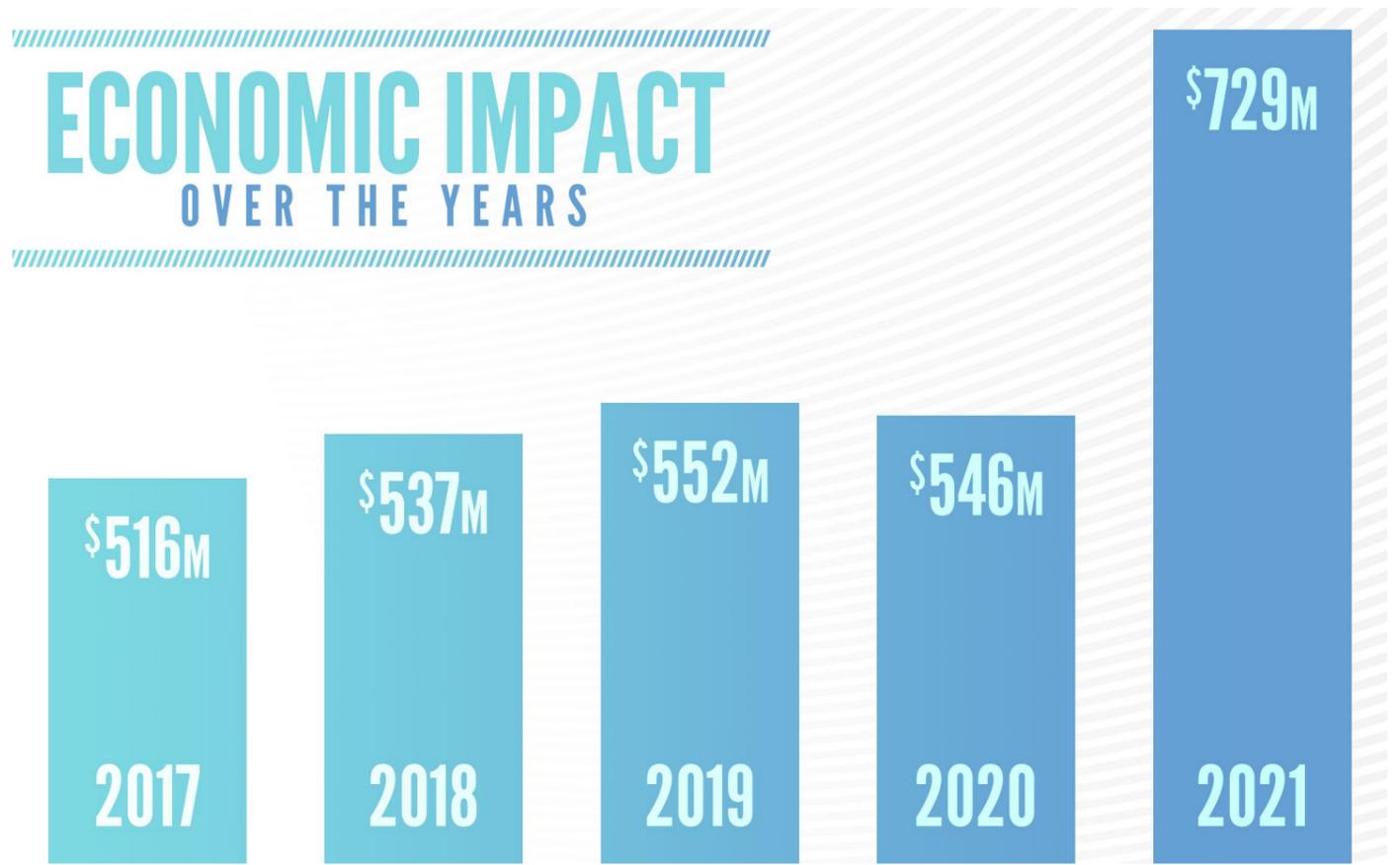
As an economic force in central Oklahoma, Citizen Potawatomi Nation continued to contribute to the growth and sustainability of Oklahoma and its communities in 2021. A government report released earlier this year shows the Nation's economic impact increased from \$546 million in 2020 to \$729 million in 2021 — a total of \$183 million. Over the last 15 years, the numbers show an expansion of \$350 million.

Development Center served nearly 1,300 youths through direct care and support. Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Department of Education also dispersed more than \$6 million spread out over 3,619 scholarships across the country.

Looking at Tribal enterprises, CPN's 2021 total income from those businesses exceeded more than \$484 million. They include the Grand Casino Hotel and Resort, the

expanding its services to Tribal members and all clients across the country.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation makes substantial contributions to the larger community and state, and 2021 was no exception with more than \$2 million in donations and funding. Overall, it made more than \$39.6 million in tax payments to the state and other municipal appropriations. Public schools in surrounding



The report also outlined the Nation's strength as a job creator, remaining the county's largest employer in 2021 with 1,950 employees. Wages and benefits totaled \$96 million last year with a more than \$200 million effect on the local economy.

Throughout 2020 and continuing into 2021, the majority of CPN's government expenses were spent on health services and associated costs. CPN Health Services totaled nearly 35,000 physician visits and more than 4,800 dental visits; filled nearly 282,000 prescriptions; welcomed visitors to its wellness center more than 13,300 times; and vaccinated more than 16,000 community members for the coronavirus, both Native and non-Native.

During 2021, the Tribe also served 2,500 employment and training clients and assisted more than 17,400 community members through its Women, Infants and Children department. FireLodge Children and Family Services' client contacts and services totaled more than 1,800 for the year, and the Child

FireLake Discount Foods grocery store chain, FireLake Casino and more.

CPN's financial institutions also saw exceptional growth in 2021. The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation, CPN's community development financial institution, surpassed more than \$54 million in total assets. Since its founding in 2003, the CPCDC has made more than \$109 million in commercial loans, \$9.7 million in employee loans, and provided more than 37,800 hours in financial education and business development assistance to help clients and employees reach their goals.

In July 2021, the First National Bank & Trust Co., the largest tribally-owned national bank in the United States, acquired The First State Bank of Oklahoma City and its locations in OKC, Midwest City and Canute as well as a loan production office in Edmond. Now with 10 locations, FNB increased its total assets to more than \$710 million after the merger, and it plans to keep improving and

communities received more than \$324,000 from CPN to help expand their offerings to students and improve education in Pottawatomie County.

The Nation also makes an economic impact through the ownership and operation of Rural Water District 3, which added a second water treatment plant in the last two years. The CPN Housing Department provided down payment assistance to more than 260 families, and the Title VI Program provided more than 18,000 daily meals to Tribal elders.

Despite difficulties both globally and locally throughout the last three years, the Tribe continues to serve its community and improve its economic impact each year for the betterment of Pottawatomie County and the Nation's larger jurisdiction.

Read more about Citizen Potawatomi Nation's services, enterprises and employment opportunities at potawatomi.org.



Tribal member selected for international engineering program

A Tribal citizen studied engineering in Europe this summer after he was chosen for one of the most competitive and prestigious engineering internships in the country.

Jake Biddy, a sophomore at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, was selected for the International Research Experiences for Students Project offered through Texas A&M University. The program is a partnership between Texas A&M and École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers and took place over 10 weeks in Aix-en-Provence, France. ENSAM was founded in 1780 and is among the oldest French institutions and one of the most prestigious engineering schools in France, according to the ENSAM website.

International Research Experiences for Students aims to broaden professional networks, deepen the relationships of a diverse student cohort with the industry and introduce students to international practices in innovation and technology development, according to the Texas A&M website.

The Smith family descendant is majoring in engineering manufacturing at SWOSU. The internship program is very selective, and Biddy was the only participant not attending Texas A&M or one of its campuses. Program interns were selected based on academic performance, application package materials and program goals.

Biddy learned of the opportunity through the Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. OKLSAMP is a consortium of Oklahoma colleges and universities working to increase the number of students from underrepresented populations who receive degrees in science, technology,



Jake Biddy visited the Principality of Monaco on the French Riviera. (Photo provided)

engineering and mathematics, or STEM, according to the SWOSU website. He traveled to College Station, Texas, last April to meet with the internship administration and become more acquainted with the program.

"I was looking for something to do over the summer, and I found this option that paired well with my major," he said. "I saw it, and I thought it'd be perfect."

Studying materials used in many industries

The internship placed Biddy with a French student studying coatings. The coatings can be used in a variety of industries.

"I was working with a Ph.D. student on her study over ceramic coatings," he said. "I was performing tests

to see how they reacted under certain stresses, like bending."

Biddy even evaluated how the coatings performed on a microscopic level.

"It was four-point bend test," he said. "We used four points of contact to bend a sample that contained this ceramic, and we observed it under a microscope."

The ceramic material will be used in different industries from aerospace to automobiles.

"The coating is painted on an engine part because it has anticorrosive properties," Biddy said.

He is excited that his work contributed to a product that will be used by and benefit many people.

"It's a good feeling," he said. "It's definitely eye opening to see something that was so small can be used in such a large application."

Making friends and seeing Europe

The internship also provided him a chance to make new friends with other interns and split his time between work in the lab and sightseeing.

"We became really good friends over there. We'd sit down during the week and plan out our weekend. Every weekend we would load up on a train and go to a different place," Biddy said.

"It was the perfect balance. There wasn't so much work that I didn't feel like I wasn't getting the European experience that I was expecting," he said.

Biddy will have plenty of memories to share. In addition to seeing much of Aix-en-Provence in the south of France, Biddy was able to travel to nearby countries like Spain and Switzerland.

"We went to Switzerland and to Mount Blanc, which is the tallest peak in the Swiss Alps," he said. "We also went to Monaco and got to see the Casino de Monte-Carlo. We went to Barcelona, Spain, and saw the Sagrada Familia Cathedral. That's still under construction. We made a trip to Paris, and I got to see the Eiffel Tower. That was amazing."

This was Biddy's first trip to Europe. He was happy he did not experience any cultural challenges when working with European colleagues.

"It was great getting to see how different it was," he said. "I tried to

Continued on page 12

Telemedicine now available for Tribal members

When Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Theo Allasia was hit by illness shortly after losing her health insurance, she turned to a new CPN service for help, even though she does not live near Tribal headquarters or health clinics in Oklahoma. From her home near Chicago, Illinois, she accessed a new telehealth platform provided by the Tribe, despite never having used CPN Health Services. The Bourassa family descendent had signed up for CPN Care, which provides access to virtual health care for free to Tribal members, their spouses and their dependents.

"It is a very quick process. Whenever you make an appointment, you will talk to a doctor in about five to 10 minutes. It's free. ... I think it's just a really awesome tool to have, and you don't have to rely on it to use it. So I very much suggest trying it out," Allasia said.

CPN Care became available January 1 of this year and offers phone and videocall appointments on the spot to those with an account. It also provides access to some counseling and mental health services via phone and video as well as a platform for reduced medication and prescription costs.

CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps wanted to offer health services to Tribal members anywhere in the United States, and the need significantly increased during the coronavirus pandemic. She and a team of CPN

CPN CARE

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is thrilled to announce the launch of CPN Care - a new telehealth benefit offering for you and your family. CPN members now have 24/7 access to doctors, counselors and more via phone, video or our new mobile app - at NO cost to you!

This three-pronged service offers members general telemedicine, life assistance and pharmacy discount services for a whole-body care system:

- General Telemedicine - for doctors who can diagnose acute conditions and prescribe medication, successfully resolving over 90% of calls.
- Life Assistance - for on-demand access to specialists, counselors and social workers for help navigating life's challenges.
- Pharmacy Discount Services - 25-75% discounts for needed medications.

You MUST activate this benefit to get started. Visit potawatomi.org/cpn-care or scan the QR code to activate today!

staff worked with Call A Doctor Plus, an industry leader in telehealth, to develop and implement CPN Care.

"Over time, benefits have become more expensive and the cost for families to be able to provide these benefits, and Ms. Capps saw virtual care as a way to do this in a very cost-effective way, to deliver a program with really zero cost to the members. They can use it as often as they'd like," said Call A Doctor Plus CEO Lou Daniels.

Now, Tribal members anywhere in the country can complete an easy two-step registration process using their Tribal ID and access a doctor via the AllyHealth smartphone application whenever they need care.

CPN Health Services became one of the first tribes Call A Doctor Plus worked with to develop a unique service for its members. They anticipate working with more Native nations in the future and enjoy helping them

reach everyone in their communities, no matter where they live or travel.

"I think the fact that it's really early in terms of the adoption across the board with other tribal nations, seeing CPN at the forefront of that, I think it really shows Ms. Capps' innovation and her forward-thinking ability," said Call A Doctor Plus Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Hoakman.

Continued on page 5

Q&A with District 7 Legislator Mark Johnson

During the Tribe's 2022 election, District 7 chose to reelect Vieux and Johnson family descendant Mark Johnson to his fourth term as a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation legislature. Both families have a long history of involvement in tribal government, both with CPN and across Indian Country, and Legislator Johnson continues that tradition. He spoke with the *Hownikan* about his time as a legislator, his career and CPN's future.

How did you get started as a legislator?

"I spent my working life in public service. I was in the fire service for about 41 years. And that's been my mentality is the servant's life. When the Tribe changed its constitution to form a legislative form of government, I started thinking about it. My dad would have done it had it happened sooner in his life, but he prodded me towards it. Then I decided after the first two-year term when Thom Finks was the Tribal legislator to go ahead and run. There were three of us in that first race, and it whittled down to a two-person runoff. And I was fortunate and lucky enough to win that seat."

You spent your career with the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. What drew you to working in forestry and firefighting?

"It was quite intensive work to work on wildland fires, especially in the California climate that we have. It was just something that drew me to it from the age of like 7. My mom would tell me that all I talked about was being a firefighter. ... So I pursued the fire career full time and was lucky enough to get the job with Cal Fire, and it was a great career. There's a lot of heartache that goes with that job, but I wouldn't change anything. ... And being able to help people, I think, is what drew me to it. And you deal with a lot of people on their worst day, and you try to make it better, and that's what I've tried to carry forward in my service as a legislator."

How have lessons throughout your career helped you as a legislator?

"Being in the fire service here is a job that doesn't allow you a whole lot of time to think. So critical thinking is something that is very great to possess in your toolbox and to make decisions



District 7 Legislator Mark Johnson (center) begins his fourth term in office at the 2022 General Council meeting.

quickly. ... And I can relate to a whole lot of different people because I've dealt with a whole lot of different people my entire life going back to when my dad used to take me to powwows out here. ... The life experience that I've had, I think, has served me well as a legislator. It's been able to give me a broader view of what all is going on out in Indian Country and certainly shaped the way I think about tribal sovereignty."

What is your Potawatomi name, and who named you?

"I was named by Chairman Barrett quite a few years ago. My name is *Wisk Mtek*. It can mean a couple of things depending on the context you use it. It can mean 'Sweet as a Tree' or 'Strong as a Tree.' And it probably has something to do with the fact that I'm like 6'8" and 250 pounds or so. It's something that I hold near and dear, and the Creator will definitely know me when he sees me."

How are you looking forward to contributing as a legislator through your next term?

"When we have people vote in the districts, we have less than 7 percent vote. So there's a disconnect there that I would like to work on because we want to have people involved in our Tribe, and one of the ways you can do that is by voting. ... We need to get back to being a family. We need to lift up those that need help. We need to expand the benefits into the districts as we can, which is something that's very hard to do with our economic base. But we're continually chipping away

at that. We need to make sure people are taking advantage of those benefits that are available to them. But we need to solidify our heritage. We need to solidify our language so it doesn't disappear.

"I always want to make sure that I represent the views of my constituents, not just a few of the constituents. I want to represent all the constituents, and I want to hear from all the constituents. That's a struggle that we're going to have, I think, going forward, is getting people to get involved with their Tribe and with their heritage. It's fighting the good fight. We're going to continue to hold meetings. We're going to continue to hold fall gatherings out here. I'm going to continue to ask people to come back home to Shawnee and visit the Tribe the last weekend in June."

What are some of your plans throughout the next few years for interaction and engagement?

"We will continue to have our meetings out here. I'll be excited to get the Chairman and Vice-Chairman out here. I try to work in conjunction with District 6 Legislator Rande Payne. ... There's an arbitrary line that runs through the middle of California that separates District 6 from District 7, and it also runs through Nevada and Utah. And many of our families are intertwined. So I try to work very closely with Rande Payne when we do our events out here.

"I continue to try to reach out to members through the *Hownikan* to get people involved and get their attention

to different matters. So, I will continue to do that, and I will continue to email the members that I have email addresses for. I have a few hundred of those. I wish I had every one of them. I certainly encourage our Tribal members — since the electronic age is here to stay, and it's not going anywhere — to reach out to your legislator with your email."

You retired in December 2021. What are some of your favorite hobbies and activities now?

"I like to spend a lot of time with my cows. They don't talk back. They don't give me a hard time. Being out on the land that I own and some land that I lease and run cattle on. That keeps me busy. There's always a piece of barbed wire fence that needs to be mended or something. I also try to spend some quality time with my wife Rita, catching up on all the times we have missed when I was working those long workweeks. I spend a good amount of time reading what's going on in Indian Country just so I can be up to date and know what's going on around that. Some of the Native American gatherings in central California, I'll find time to attend. And I've built some good relationships through my work with the tribal chairmen that are close to me, and I've been able to share some of the wisdom of our experience as the Citizen Potawatomi Nation."

Is there anything else you would like your constituents to know about you or your hopes for the Tribe?

"If I could have our Tribal members do one thing, it's just be involved. It takes very little time. We do the bulk of the work for you. But if you just reach out, let us know what difficulties you're having, and we may not be able to solve it today. We may not be able to solve it tomorrow, but we will certainly work on solving it into the future because that's what we're here for. I'm here to serve you, the Tribal members. And it just takes a very small amount of time to reach out to me, to let me know that you're here. Let me know what your thoughts are. Let me know what is important to you and your family, and I will do everything I can to move heaven and earth to get you what you need."

Read more about Legislator Mark Johnson at cpn.news/legislature. Email him at mark.johnson@potawatomi.org.

Hownikan

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Tribal internships boost student skills, connection

Several college students came to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal headquarters this summer to work as interns, potentially earn college credit, gain valuable career experience and connect with Potawatomi culture.

The CPN Department of Education has coordinated these six-week internships throughout the Nation since 2016.

CPN citizens Brett Adams and Daisy Pelletier were among those selected for this year's intern program. Adams is from Georgia and attends Duke University where he is majoring in history. He was an intern at the Cultural Heritage Center. Pelletier, from Maine, attends the University of Southern Maine and studies sociology. The U.S. Navy Veteran was an intern in the language department.

CPN tribal member Riley Logsdon was also selected. Logsdon attends Oklahoma State University and was an intern in agricultural operations.

Several other students had the opportunity to earn internship credits at Tribal headquarters.

Camry Whitekiller of the Seminole Nation attends Kansas Wesleyan University. She was a CPN Health Services dental department intern. JT Murray, a Saginaw Chippewa descendant, attends the University of Oklahoma. He is majoring in mechanical engineering and studied renewable energy at Iron Horse Industrial Park. Mahsan Ostadnia, is an international student from Iran. Ostadnia is studying the economic development impacts of Indigenous nations at the University of Oklahoma.

History comes alive for Adams

Adams said he has always wanted to work for his Nation.

"I saw that there was a position open for the internship, and I thought, 'That sounds like a really good opportunity,'" he said. "I applied and was lucky enough to get it."

The Bourassa family descendant worked at the Cultural Heritage Center, researching the Sacred Heart Mission. It was established in 1876 by a Catholic priest named Fr. Isidore Robot. Robot received a land grant from the Potawatomi that included the site where the mission would be built. For many years, the mission educated Potawatomi children. In 1901, a fire destroyed nearly all of the buildings. Work to rebuild the present church began in 1905 but was not completed until 1914. Sacred Heart closed as an educational institution in 1926.

"I've been doing a ton of research, trying to find resources and doing a lot of write ups," Adams said. "The end goal is that we're trying to do a virtual tour of the site that's going to have a lot of information on its history and what the buildings were like, how they were used and how the school functioned."

Knowing his work will be included in such an important project is rewarding, he said. Adams also put his research skills to the test.

"Finding resources hasn't always been easy," he said. "It's an old site. The mission's not functioning anymore. So, trying to find resources isn't always the easiest, but I think I've done a pretty good job of finding what there is out there."

His efforts paid off when he found some photographs of the site before the fire destroyed many of the buildings. The Cultural Heritage Center had not yet acquired these particular photos.

"There was a good amount of information on the (mission) site from after the fire. But I was able to find some new pictures that we didn't have access to," Adams said. "(The photos show) what the buildings looked like and give some information on the layout and how it was founded."

Adams said the internship has helped him develop new research skills that will be beneficial as he completes his studies at Duke this year. He appreciates how history that once felt far away, now feels closer because of his internship.

"I think how much connection that history has to today is pretty cool," he said. "(At) Sacred Heart, there's still a Catholic church there today and a lot of the (Potawatomi) people still go to church."

Adams believes his research has brought him closer to his Tribal history.

"I read through my resources about people that were involved in the founding of Sacred Heart. So I almost feel like I know them," he said.

Adams encourages anyone thinking about applying for the program to "just go for it."

"If you have an interest in the Tribe and you're looking for an internship, there's not really a better option than this," he said. "I've gotten to learn a lot about the Tribe, a lot about the culture. I've gotten good work experience. I've gotten to know how a museum runs and functions. It's related to my major, so it's been perfect."

He has attended Family Reunion Festival in the past, but his internship



Daisy Pelletier

provided him with even more opportunities to learn about his family's history. He even had the chance to sing with the Squirrel Creek Singers during traditional hand games.

"I definitely got to learn more than I ever could just by visiting the museum every few years," Adams said.

Pelletier connects to language, sociology

Daisy Pelletier is a nontraditional student who is completing her college education. The Maine resident is originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and a descendant of the Bourbonnais family.

"I returned to school after my youngest son just graduated from high school," she said. "This internship will finish my degree in sociology."

She chose the University of Southern Maine because of its proximity to her home, but her love of learning is what ultimately drew her back to the classroom.

"Well, I've always been interested in learning, and I had always intended to go back to school," she said.

Pelletier left college to join the U.S. Navy. After she and her husband started a family, their son became their priority. As he grew up, Pelletier decided she wanted to focus her energy on her education and get a degree in sociology.

When she found out about the internship opportunity, she jumped at the chance to combine her studies with her interest in Potawatomi language and culture.

"I've always wanted to learn more about our culture and learn more about our language. Since I don't live in Oklahoma, sometimes that can be difficult," Pelletier said. "When I

(heard about) the internship program, my husband encouraged me to apply for it because that would give me the opportunity that I might not get to really connect to the Tribe in ways that I wouldn't be able to from afar."

The internship provided a unique opportunity to combine her college studies with immersion in Potawatomi culture.

"I was hoping to implement some of my educational goals and start looking at using sociology on the ground," she said. "I was talking to people, figuring out how the language is integrated into the Tribe, how the language department integrates with the rest of the Tribe, and how the language department is facilitating language acquisition."

Pelletier also enjoyed her time at Family Reunion Festival, helping the language department organize activities. She was excited to see the department's work put into practice, right in front of her.

"Most of my time at Festival was spent working, which was great. I worked in all the (Potawatomi) bingo games. It was fun to watch people experience that and start learning some language. And seeing all the kids and how they're learning. That was that was a lot of fun for me," she said.

"I got to see the hand games. I've never seen that before, and I didn't participate, but I think I could in the future."

Pelletier hopes to encourage others who are considering returning or starting college to pursue their goals.

"The education department is extremely supportive," she said. "(They) made sure that I had everything I needed to get here. Because not only am I nontraditional student, but I was leaving my family behind to move here for six weeks. I don't know that there is another internship program where you would get the same sort of support that our education department provides."

Pelletier said she considered other options, but she is certain she made the right choice.

"It's a unique experience that I think is very valuable, regardless of how old you are," she said. "And because the people that work for the Tribe are such a wide variety of ages, it doesn't feel uncomfortable to be an intern who is older."

For more information about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education, call 405-695-6028 or email college@potawatomi.org. Read more about the internship program at cpn.news/education. ♠

Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

The Potawatomi Gathering and Language Conference is in the books. We saw over 640 people attend the two-day language conference. Our Tribe was nicely represented. We had five Citizen Potawatomi people talk/present at the conference. They were Kristy Philips, Lindsey Marean, *Wkenodan Gétgadékwén*, Robert Lewis and Justin Neely. It was awesome to be able to gather together again after almost three years since our last Language Conference. We

were honored to have Jim Thunder with us and representatives from the various language programs. *Wkenodan Gétgadékwén* is a young man who is only 16 years old. We were very proud that he was asked to present at the language conference and also did the opening prayer for one of the three powwows during the gathering.

Those of us in the Language Department had the pleasure of getting to know this young man while he interned with us this summer. We also had two other awesome interns, Kateri Philips (the

outgoing Miss Potawatomi) and Daisy Pelletier. We really enjoyed having each of them with us this summer. We also had a young traveling scholar and former PLP named Kabl Wikleron spend significant time with us this summer working on the language. Needless to say, it has been a busy summer for the Language Department.

Stormy Rhodd and Ragan Marsee began teaching a new Beginner Potawatomi class on Wednesday, August 10, continuing for seven weeks. It will be at the Cultural Heritage

Center from 5:30-7 p.m. CT. We are also streaming the class online.

We are still compiling our mailout for books. So, if you put your name down online, please be patient. We are going to mail out in bulk quantities of 200 to keep the costs down.

We are looking forward to a busy fall with high school online courses, more books and some collegiate courses starting up. ♠

Kind Collections owner finds confidence through CPCDC

By Lakisha Meade, CPCDC Grants and Finance Coordinator

Hannah Muller is a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the thoughtful owner of Kind Collections. She is located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and does most of her work online. Kind Collections is a unique business that offers custom embroidery services such as bags, jackets and more. She describes her target market as women ranging from 16 to 40.

“My style is minimalistic with floral elements. Customers who buy my products typically prefer that style as well,” Muller said.

She has made great success embroidering logos, quotes and various designs on garments for her clients. In addition, she donates a portion of everything she makes to random acts of kindness — hence the name. She contributes to local charities as a benefit that she believes her customers appreciate.

As with any business, there were struggles along the way. Muller had originally done hand embroidery, but she knew to grow her business, she would need to expand her operation and make some investments. These required investments would not come without a heavy price. The embroidery machine that she needed was quite expensive. Making an investment such as this came with a struggle of confidence in starting something on her own. Yet, that did not stop Muller. She used various resources to meet her goals. She listened to many podcasts, read articles and asked a lot of questions.



Kind Collections grows its business with training from CPN's community development financial institution. (Photo provided)

Muller noted that she attended Native Artist Professional Development training through the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation, and it truly helped her succeed. The more she learned about the topic of business and how to run one, the more confident she became. When asked how she heard about the NAPD training, she explained that her sister worked for CPN at the time and forwarded her an email with the information.

“I needed help, and the CPCDC was able to assist. They were kind, thoughtful, understanding and truly helped me step into the next stages of my business,” she said.

The guidance Muller received helped her begin a true business plan and gave a sense of confidence that this was something she could pursue and find success.

“The CPCDC helped me in purchasing a piece of equipment and made my business possible,” she said.

Time was of the essence for this business expansion, and Muller was happy that the assistance she received was very quick. After completing the class, she was ready to dive headfirst into her small business.

“I received my piece of equipment within a couple weeks, and then I



Owner Hannah Muller works hard to provide her clients with high-quality, unique fashionable pieces that make a statement. (Photo provided)

began. CPCDC has made my business possible. Without the equipment they helped me purchase and the business training, my business would not be where it is today,” Muller said.

The staff at CPCDC is proud to serve Tribal members like Hannah Muller and hear their stories. They look forward to following her story and watching her business flourish and continue to grow.

“My small business has become a steady income for my husband and I. We are able to put more money towards savings and investments, and it even helped us purchase our new house. It all started with the assistance of CPCDC,” she said.

Visit the Kind Collections website at kindcollections.com. Follow Kind Collections on Social media @kind.collections. ♡

Telemedicine continued...

Time and cost

CPN Care makes doctors available 24 hours a day, seven days a week via the app. On their website, Call A Doctor Plus boasts a 10-minute average call back time and a 92 percent success rate at resolving patient issues on the first call.

“It does save people time and money. Quite a bit of time because you don't have to lose time at work or time at home to get to a facility to be checked out. And money because it is a zero co-pay, unlimited, no deductible program, so nothing comes out of your pocket,” Daniels said.

Call A Doctor Plus lists sinus problems, ear infections, nasal congestion, allergies, pink eye and upper respiratory infections as some of the most common diagnosis via their services. CPN Care has the potential to reduce trips to urgent care or primary care providers for common ailments. Users also have the ability to access a physician as soon as symptoms appear, which Hoakman considers a huge advantage.

“Getting people that care right at the point of need is critical because that's going to shorten the cycle of that illness. So if you don't have to wait a couple of days to schedule an appointment, go sit in a doctor's office, drive all the way down there, whatever that may be, all of the hurdles that you have to get that done, you can just pick up your phone and call a doctor,” he said.

If the doctor decides to provide a prescription during an appointment, they put that request into a pharmacy with the medication in stock near

the patient. Allasia experienced a sudden onset of allergy symptoms one day and received medication in a snap after using CPN Care.

“The minute I got home from work, I just called the doctor. I was able to get back in the car and go pick up the prescription, and just go to bed. And it's very nice to not have to take that extra trip to urgent care or make an appointment,” she said.

Quality of care

Hoakman said a high-quality user experience is their “sole focus.” Daniels agrees and notes that sometimes users question the expertise and skills of a doctor via telemedicine, which keeps them from utilizing those services. However, CPN Care puts patients in contact with qualified medical professionals.

“You are speaking to a real U.S.-based, U.S. board-certified doctor that has minimum 15 years' experience that's been vetted by MD Live over a three-month period before they can even come on the network,” Daniels said. “The doctor you speak to is going to be somebody that's in the state that you're in because typically only a doctor in your state can prescribe, and these doctors can prescribe.”

During a call, Allasia's doctor directed her through a self-examination to diagnose a throat infection while asking her about what medications she had taken up to that point. In the end, Allasia felt the doctor on the other end really listened to her.

“She really wanted to make sure that it wasn't anything else. And she was

very slow and patient with it, just kind of like, ‘You take the two fingers, you press them up like below your jaw and up towards your ear' kind of thing. ... It felt like I was going to the doctor. It was just instead of somebody else touching me in my face, I was doing it myself,” Allasia said.

Hoakman has experience talking with and walking through calls with many of the doctors throughout his 11 years with the company.

“These physicians are so good at really sniffing out what that root issue is, even over the phone,” he said. “It's unbelievable. It's incredible. And the physicians love it because it actually allows them to be so much more efficient with what they do. There's no waiting rooms. There's no offices. They don't have to take the overhead.”

He also noted the convenience of remote care while traveling. CPN Care offers the ability to access a doctor during a vacation, work trip or weekend out of town since it requests the user's current location during the onboarding process.

CPN Care also offers mental health services and counseling sessions as another aspect to the app and a holistic approach to wellness.

“There's a mental health component to this,” Daniels said. “If you are having stressed out anxiety ... or you're having marital issues, or there's somebody in the family with substance abuse issues, you have the ability to talk to a licensed clinical professional who can help you through that need and can direct you to further help depending on what you may need.”

CPN tribal member Kathryn Ann Olsen lives in Utah and had never utilized CPN's Behavioral Health services. The Moore family descendant heard about CPN Care at the time she was searching for a new therapist. She signed up, and it gave her the chance to switch providers at an affordable rate.

“This time, I went in with very specific needs and very specific questions, and they found someone who has 19 years of experience working with people with my particular struggle. ... I was really glad to have Jessica be the person I was assigned to, and she's been great,” Olsen said.

She found the process easy and appreciated the additional, less formal check ins with her therapist that the service provides. Her experience with online therapy has been much better through CPN Care than in the past, and Olsen encourages others to find out more information.

“Just give it a shot. Take a look at what's available and see if there's anything that you may be missing out on just because you don't know it's there for you,” she said.

CPNHS and Call A Doctor Plus encourage CPN members to sign up as soon as possible. It takes up to 48 hours to process a new account request.

“Healthier people are going to be happier people, and that's our goal,” Daniels said.

Find more information about CPN Care as well as instructions on how to apply at cpn.news/CPNCare. ♡

Bourassa descendants preserve and repair homes

Bourassa descendant Ty McBride helps homeowners preserve their largest investment by combining the latest technology with respect for the environment.

“Our mission statement is that we save the future by preserving the past,” he said. “I think that’s what drives us.”

McBride and his family, including sister Jimmie Hodgkins, have been restoring homes and buildings in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas and other states since 2016.

Some of the well-known sites previously under their care include the Harn Homestead and the Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City, the Creek Nation Council House in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, and the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oologah, Oklahoma.

Using the latest technology

McBride and his wife, April, started the business together, but his roots in home building go even further back to his grandfather, Jim McBride.

“My grandfather started building houses in 1972, so I’ve always been around the construction industry,” he said. “I found myself working on an old house in Oklahoma City and realized the unique challenges around working on something old that the community wants to save.”

McBride found a product called epoxy resin, which is approved by the National Park Service to repair damaged or decaying wood. His company uses it to repair many of the historic structures they have worked on, and he realized its potential value to homeowners everywhere.

Part of the challenge in preserving historic homes is that many of the parts that need to be replaced are no longer commercially available, McBride said.

“When you’re working on something old, even if it’s just 20 years old, (materials) can be really hard to source if you want it to match. That’s why most people choose to just replace everything,” he said.

McBride explained finding various construction materials became even more difficult during the pandemic. As the supply chain shortages emerged throughout the last two years, it became harder to get wood for windows, doors and other things.

“We just saw this huge opportunity where with the epoxy we can mold, mimic and permanently and sustainably repair rather than replace,” he said. “We can come in and repair it within a couple of hours, save people thousands of dollars and it’s really convenient. And it’s environmentally sustainable at the same time.”

A grandfather’s influence

He credits the influence of his grandfather, who helped him understand the importance of being environmentally responsible.

“These are the types of things that make sense, by keeping things longer, by repairing what you have, by not being wasteful,” McBride said. “It’s



Ty McBride of We Preserve Homes

just common-sense environmentalism that everyone benefits from.”

His grandfather and father showed him how to put that into practice. McBride said he used to save concrete form boards for later use. Most construction firms throw the wood away and use new wood each time. He pulled the boards, removed the nails and neatly stacked the boards on his grandfather’s trailer. He filled a bucket with the nails for later use as well.

“It’s just one of those things that is always with me, that we don’t waste (because of) the harm that it causes our planet when we do that,” he said. “But it’s also just really smart because we save money and resources.”

Making improvements that last

With the continued popularity of home improvement television programs, more people are interested in reusing historic materials or preserving their home’s original character.

“I often tell people our goal is to end demo day, not celebrate it, and to do things that are worthy of repair in the future,” McBride said. “So, when we do repair, we want the repair to be high quality enough that someone else will follow behind us and also repair and not replace.”

But his work in preserving the past does not limit the kinds of homes he works on.

“We take that same passion to the smallest project for your average homeowner. It might be a rotting doorjamb or a rotting door. We take that same level of passion and commitment to preservation and apply it wherever we go,” he said.

“Although I do enjoy those big, exciting projects — those landmark projects — most of our day is spent in south Oklahoma City, in Midwest City, Choctaw, Edmond,” McBride said. “We spend most of our day

working for regular, everyday people, helping them create solutions so that they can repair rather than replace.”

McBride is proud of his company’s ability to help homeowners save money. He recalled one customer who needed to sell their home quickly. The inspection report revealed wood rot in the windows. The customer faced paying tens of thousands of dollars to replace their windows before the home could be sold.

“They were beside themselves on what to do. We were able to make the repair for less than five percent of the cost of replacement. They were able to sell their house and to meet that emergency they had,” McBride said.

“There’s so many moments like that where we’re just able to show up and say, ‘Good news, you don’t have to replace it. We can repair it. It’s going to cost you a fraction of that. And it’ll be done in two days.’ And people just get really excited about that. And that’s probably the best part.”

Repair using epoxy resin is convenient, affordable and a sustainable repair solution, according to the We Preserve Homes website. Epoxy can be used to repair wood rot and concrete cracks and breakage. Conventional remodeling, reconstruction and demolition can result in 37 million tons of wood debris and 381 million tons of concrete debris added to landfills each year.

Advice for homeowners

Some areas of a home may need extra attention as it ages. McBride offers advice to homeowners on safeguarding their investment.

“With wood, you’ve got to keep an eye on is where your water is going,” he said. “The exterior of the house is built to protect it from water. And when water is getting on it, you need to be paying attention to those areas.”

Homeowners with sprinkler systems should ensure the sprinkler heads are

facing away from the house, McBride advised. If the spray is continually hitting the house, that could create conditions where wood rot can develop.

Other tasks, such as ensuring gutter systems are free of debris, can also save headaches down the road, he said.

“The gutters on your house, are they working like they’re supposed to work? Are they making sure that they get the water off your roof and away from your house?” McBride asked. “If your gutters are full and they haven’t been cleaned out in a while, they can back up. That water can overflow and can find its way on to the different wood elements of the house and cause deterioration. It’s all about just watching where that water is going and making sure that it’s not going on your house.”

Employees make the difference

McBride is quick to credit his employees as a big part of the company’s success. Whether it is his sister, Hodgkins, or fellow CPN citizens like technician Blake Elwell, he is appreciative of their commitment.

“What makes us successful is the people that are here. We have some amazing people,” he said. “Jimmie, who is our business development manager, has developed the training for our epoxy technicians. There are people like our technician, Blake. On our social media or our Google reviews, nine times out of 10, they’re going to say how great Blake was. He’s just phenomenal. And along with our other technicians, they really make this work.”

McBride feels fortunate to be surrounded by his family and colleagues each day. While he acknowledges that working with family each day does come with occasional challenges, he feels blessed to do what he loves with the people closest to him.

For more information about home preservation and repair, visit wepreserve.homes. ♡

The cunning nature of addiction

By Dr. Julio Rojas, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Behavioral Health, Licensed Health Service Psychologist and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor

No other illness can conjure up feelings of anger, resentment, frustration, and despair like addiction. For those who suffer, and for those who love them, the journey is agonizing.

Addiction can be defined as a primary, progressive, chronic, and potentially fatal disease with genetic, psychological and socioenvironmental underpinnings. Neuroscience is advancing our understanding of changes to brain structures and functions that result from chronic exposure to addictive substances.

Since the brain is responsible for our day-to-day experiences of life — such as how we think, feel, behave, and interact with ourselves and others — it is helpful for individuals who struggle to understand addiction and to see how this change unfolds as addiction progresses.

It is important to recognize that, for the individual you know and love, these changes in thinking, emotional functioning, behavior, and capacity for relationships are subtle. In the field of addiction, we often talk about the “cunning nature” of addiction to remind ourselves that it can be difficult for the person who is afflicted to see something that may be evident to their 10-year-old child.

Recognizing the cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and relational symptoms of addiction is important since these are the outward symptoms that correlate with changes to the brain’s structure and function.

Cognitive changes

In the early stages of drug use, a great deal of learning occurs. An individual may learn about the mood-altering properties of a chemical and the drug’s capacity to increase alertness, bring on a positive mood, or relieve stress and

pain. Memory plays an important role as the experience of the first high and subsequent euphoria can become a permanent marker in the brain of an unusual chemically induced sensation.

The individual gradually attributes powers to the substance, (for example, “It helps me stay focused, be productive, feel less depressed”) and what the drug is doing *for* them is more important than what the drug may be doing *to* them.

These changes are subtle, and this is often a honeymoon period. Over repeated use, the mind-altered state becomes the norm, and the person becomes mentally preoccupied with obtaining their drug of choice. This mental obsession grows over time, and the individual will begin to develop rationalizations for their use and justifications for areas of their life that are becoming problematic.

Emotional changes

An enticing aspect of drugs of abuse is their ability to alter mood. Substances do what they promise in terms of alleviating pain, calming anxiety, and altering negative mood states.

Euphoric recall is one of the emotional responses that triggers urges to use, and part of treatment is helping the patient learn to play the tape forward past the immediate relief to the consequences that will usually follow.

In the end stages of the addictive progress, the patient may be irritable, angry, resentful, and hostile toward others. The individual who suffers from addiction may be disgusted with themselves; they may be shame-ridden, guilt-ridden and at a loss to explain how this journey came to this point. The person may experience tremendous demoralization (such as loss of parental custody, incarceration, or a very public arrest), but fortunately, this may open a window of opportunity for help.

Behavioral changes

You may be confused that the person you know and love seems stuck in a vicious



Dr. Julio Rojas

cycle of destructive behavior. “Why don’t they just stop or realize what they are doing?” you may ask. This behavior is the result of the limbic system (the emotional part of the brain) over-riding the prefrontal cortex. Fortunately, treatment and recovery can restore a balance between these parts of the brain. This restoration rarely occurs on its own without treatment or a recovery program.

Relationships

Over the course of the addictive process, individuals will become disconnected from their creator, higher power, or God of their understanding. The shame and guilt they experience will drive them to disconnect from their own minds and hearts. Then comes the rejection from family who can no longer endure the lies, broken promises, traumatic events, and loss of hope.

This is the isolation that characterizes the end of the line for most people who suffer from addiction. It is a place that many individuals who suffer from addiction will come to. Many welcome death at this point.

What can be done when such a complex and cunning illness has a hold of your loved one? First, it is important to seek others who understand addiction.

Consider organizations like Al-Anon, Parents Helping Parents in Norman, Oklahoma, and/or consider speaking to a behavioral health professional.

Next, consider going to open meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or other recovery support groups. Open meetings are for anyone who wants to learn about addiction, including family members, counselors, or clergy.

Have you ever spoken to someone in recovery? Have you ever listened to someone in recovery talk about their journey? It can be helpful to hear stories of how others escaped the grip of addiction. If we hear more of these success stories, we may begin to feel more hopeful that recovery works and that people do recover.

Upcoming event

I am planning a lecture titled Understanding Addiction on Sept. 15, 2022, at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Following my lecture, a panel of individuals in recovery from one year to 40 years will answer questions from the audience. They are doing this so that others will know that there is reason for hope. There will also be several organizations in attendance to share their efforts to address addiction in our community.

Addiction results in characteristic changes to an individual’s cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal functions. However, the good news is that recovery improves an individual’s capacity for those same skills to better than the person was before they developed addiction.

I hope you will join us to learn about addiction, meet people who are in successful recovery, and show your support for recovery efforts in our community.

Find out more about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Behavioral Health Department at cpn.news/BH. ♡

House of Hope celebrates five-year anniversary

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

The CPN House of Hope is excited to mark the five-year anniversary of its domestic violence shelter in Pottawatomie County. The shelter and the agency’s domestic and sexual violence services have grown over the years, and many individuals have found safety from dangerous intimate partner situations.

The shelter had its grand opening on Sept. 11, 2017, the fifth of seven tribal shelters in the state, and provided services to individuals within the week. When asked about the process for the opening of the shelter, House of Hope Director Tiffany Barrett said the Tribe saw the need for this type of service and provided the building, ready to go, for the organization. Over the years, the shelter has been able to help more than 170 individuals. HOH has even been able to provide safety to individuals as far as California and Tennessee.

Currently, shelter services are open to women and their children that are experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. This service provides victims with a safe and private location to reside while trying to decide their next steps. A caring advocate team is available 24/7 to help navigate through the confusion and devastation that violence has caused them. Occupancy allows four women with children and two single individuals and offers many of the same comforts that these individuals would find at a private residence and that meets their basic needs. Residents can even participate in skill-building activities and self-care projects.

When asked about the past five years, Barrett said it has been a tremendously educational experience.

“We have learned so much from residents during this time,” she said. “We have gained so much knowledge from these



The House of Hope auctions off its five-year anniversary quilt to support survivors of domestic violence.

individuals when they open up about the abuse that they have experienced.”

To celebrate the anniversary, the House of Hope’s advocates have created a T-shirt quilt that will be donated to another local domestic violence organization. Project Safe of Shawnee will host their annual Honey Do Auction on Thursday, October 6. The quilt will be auctioned off, and all proceeds will go to survivors of domestic violence. The T-shirts used in the quilt have been designed each year by the House of Hope’s prevention team to provide inspiration, awareness, education and encouragement.

For more information regarding the Honey Do Auction, please reach out to Renee Clemmons of Project Safe at 405-273-9953. If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or stalking and would like more information, please contact House of Hope at 405-275-3176 or visit us online at facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope or cpnhouseofhope.com. ♡

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If you would like your newspaper via email, please send your name and address to hownikan@potawatomi.org and let us know.

Department of Education hosts celebration for CPN graduates

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education held its first Graduation Celebration in April 2019. The annual event held each spring recognizes the accomplishments of the Tribe's students from the previous calendar year as they graduate from high school or colleges and universities with various degrees.

The department returned to an in-person event in May 2022 after canceling the 2020 celebration and hosting a virtual event in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The staff looked forward to welcoming graduates and their families back to the CPN Cultural Heritage Center for a meal, gifts, drumming and recognition of their accomplishments. Department of Education Director Tesia Zientek enjoys making the connection between the Tribe and students who utilized the scholarships to achieve life goals.

"It's incredibly meaningful for me and I hope the rest of the staff, too, because we spend a lot of our time emailing, approving scholarships, talking on the phone," she said. "But to be able to see somebody in person and understand what that support has meant to them, it's a really powerful reminder of how special it is that we get to do what we do."

Department of Education Assistant Director Charles Lee spends his days helping Tribal members overcome obstacles to completing a degree.

"There are so many factors at play that make graduating, especially from higher education, so much harder for Native American students," he said. "Sure, they get to have their ceremony



CPN Department of Education staff present culturally significant gifts to students in honor of their educational achievements at the annual Graduation Celebration.

and walk across the stage. But I think to have your tribe acknowledge that you have done something special is really meaningful and impactful."

The Department of Education established the event at the request of Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, and she attended and spoke at the 2022 celebration. More than 60 students and family members came together to recognize the bright path ahead of them.

"I can only imagine how powerful it is for Tribal leadership who are actually allocating these dollars for us to pay over \$6 million a year in Tribal scholarships for us to be able to have this department. They're really getting to see the impact of that investment," Zientek said.

Highlighting culture

Zientek noted that many Tribal members have no connection to CPN or Potawatomi culture until they reach out to apply for a scholarship.

"If we can in any way connect them to other Tribal resources or get a fire going inside them to want to learn more, that's a huge honor and responsibility for us," she said.

The Department of Education made a point to incorporate many cultural aspects into the celebration, including songs from two Potawatomi drum groups, a prayer in *Bodéwadmimwen* (Potawatomi language) and gifts full of cultural significance, including a feather from CPN's Eagle Aviary.

"We definitely want to try to not just mirror other graduation banquets and things that they could possibly attend. We want to make it from the ground up a Potawatomi experience," Lee said.

Jennifer White attended this year's Graduation Celebration after completing her MBA from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

"This ceremony was something new to me, and I was very taken aback with how beautiful everything was," White said. "That was the first time in my life that I was able to hear the language and spoken so fluently and beautifully, and it was just an amazing experience for me."

Many of the students brought several of their relatives across generations, making it a family-oriented affair.

Art contest

The Department of Education also began planning a yearly art contest to accompany the Graduation Celebration. Tribal members at least 14 years old can enter by sending their work, any style with a Potawatomi theme, to college@potawatomi.org. The winner receives a cash prize, and a limited edition print of their work is given to each graduate who participates in the event, both in-person and online.

Zientek imagines Tribal members given a new piece of art at each educational milestone they achieve.

"I just think it's a really neat way to connect students with their Tribal identity and fellow Tribal

Continued on page 10

Veterans report



Bozho
(Hello),

I have made it my mission to keep our Veterans informed of the services available at the Veterans Administration Hospitals. It is there for their medical needs. You need to stay informed and up to date with their medical services that you may need. The VA Hospitals have had issues in the past, but they are constantly working to improve the services they are expected to provide to Veterans. So, please contact them about your needs. You have earned it.

Some of the most important issues that have plagued Veterans currently are PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and insomnia, or CBT-I. We have lost so many Veterans from these afflictions. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. lives with a mental illness. However, with service members, that ratio jumps up. Nearly 1 in 4 active-duty members show signs of a mental health condition.

Whether it is a mental illness or disorder, it is triggered by their experiences in the armed services. Veterans need more support. In 2018, more than 1.7

million Veterans received treatment in a VA mental health program. But there are many Veterans that avoid seeking help. They have found that Veterans are 1.5 times more likely to die by suicide. Besides PTSD, there is depression, traumatic brain injuries and substance abuse disorders.

Many honor our Veterans on Veterans' Day with words of gratitude, parades and ceremonies, but it should not end there and should not be confined to a single day. All year long, you can find ways to support Veterans, especially those with mental illnesses and disorders. Thank you for our freedom, brothers and sisters in arms. *Migwetch* (Thank you).

The new Veterans Crisis Line number: 988, then press 1.

Remember our monthly meeting of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization is the fourth Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise notified due to weather or conflicting events) at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the CPN Powwow Grounds. All CPN Veterans and spouses and their families are welcome. Membership in the Veterans organization is not required; come and visit us and enjoy our socializing. For more information you can contact Daryl Talbot.

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



Trail of Death caravan readies for next observance

In 1838, the state and federal governments forced the Potawatomi people to leave their Indiana homelands to make way for squatters who wanted Potawatomi lands. From Sept. 4 to Nov. 4, 1838, the United States forcibly removed a band of 859 Potawatomi and marched them from northern Indiana to present-day Kansas. Without adequate food and water and in oppressive heat, many Potawatomi became sick or died of exhaustion. During the 660-mile journey, 41 Potawatomi died.

A remembrance of this history is held every five years to honor victims and survivors. The next observance will be in 2023, said Janet A. Pearl, member-at-large, Potawatomi Trail of Death Association.

The organization's mission is to preserve this history, memorialize those who did not survive and promote awareness of the Trail of Death. One of their main events is an organized caravan, retracing the original route the Potawatomi took during their ordeal.

"It feels like you're there with them," Pearl said. "It's really hot and uncomfortable, and you feel like you're suffering, but you realize you didn't suffer anywhere near as much as they did. And you have great admiration for what they went through and thankfulness and gratefulness for it."

Pearl has made the full journey and several partial journeys throughout the years. She has a deep connection to the Trail of Death. Her great-great-grandmother, *Equa-Ke-Sec*, was a small girl who was forced to make the journey. She survived and arrived in Kansas.

"I've been on the whole caravan, and it's very emotional," Pearl said. "(My great-great-grandmother) was a 6-year-old girl who walked the 660 miles from Indiana to Kansas with her sister. And we don't know what happened to their parents. We think that maybe they died along the way."

The sisters eventually arrived at Sugar Creek Mission in Kansas where the



English artist George Winter captured the only known first-hand images of Native American removal during the Potawatomi Trail of Death.

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart cared for and educated many of the survivors. *Equa-Ke-Sec* was baptized by the missionaries, who changed her name to Teresa Living. It was in St. Marys, Kansas, where *Equa-Ke-Sec* met and married James Slavin.

"James Slavin was the Irishman who drove the bishop from Kansas City to the Jesuit College in St. Marys," Pearl said. "They met there, and they got married. And then that's how our family flourished."

James and Teresa had three children, Mary, John and James. They all appear on the 1887 Citizen Band Potawatomi allotment roll in Oklahoma.

Pearl has been on the caravan several times with her father, Robert. She describes it as a powerful and moving experience.

Robert "Bob" Pearl, 96, has been on every caravan since its inception in 1988. Janet Pearl said the caravan is a great opportunity to learn more about Potawatomi ancestors. After her father retired, he was able to spend more time teaching Janet and her four sisters about their ancestors.

"We have spent a lot of time together traveling and going on the caravans," Pearl said. "He really absorbed a lot of history, and he knew things from when he was a child. His mother taught him many things, and he is a great storyteller. I've absorbed things from him that I didn't even realize."

During the recent 2022 Family Reunion Festival in June, Pearl met with many Potawatomi at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center to talk about the caravan and its importance. She was excited to answer questions about the trip and share more about the experience.

Past caravan participants have told Pearl the trip was emotional, but fulfilling, and helped them connect with their Potawatomi ancestors who survived the journey. Pearl is a retired journalist, and she thrives on the many stories she has shared.

"We actually go to the places where our ancestors went," Pearl said. "(Some of the townspeople) remembered a place where they heard spirits in the corn field from where (the Potawatomi) had walked through in the past."

Since 2013, four U.S. states have placed a total of 80 Trail of Death markers along the route, helping to educate people about the events. Pearl said some local residents will meet the caravan and say how sorry they are for what happened and even offer meals and small gifts.

"It's just amazing, the outpouring of support and concern from strangers," Pearl said. "And then you hear stories about how some of the local people had offered food and concern to the original walkers on the trail, that they made food for them and gave them some food along the way."

Pearl said since the Potawatomi lacked adequate supplies, some of the ladies in towns along the route would make food and hand it to the Potawatomi because the scant U.S. Army rations were rotten.

Caravan participants also have a chance to visit some of the same rivers and streams where their ancestors waded.

"There's a place where we go that has spring water coming out of the ground, and people get down in there and drink it. And that's the same water that our ancestors drank. There are creeks and rivers that people climb down into to be in the same water where our ancestors were," Pearl said.

"I encourage everyone to get involved because we're all descendants of some sort from removals and from these people that suffered. And we're free today. And that's why I think that we should celebrate that and remember them."

Pearl urges those interested to join the caravan and experience the journey first-hand. They may contact the Trail of Death Association at pnginthewoods@gmail.com or call 217-502-9340 for more information.

"Just send us your mailing information and email address," Pearl said. "We will send more information about the caravan as we firm up our plans and our itinerary." ♡

HOMEOWNER EMERGENCY MORTGAGE

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This program was developed by the U.S. Congress and U.S. Treasury Dept. to assist low-income households impacted by the COVID-19 health emergency with mortgage and certain property charge assistance.

This program is available to homeowners only and may only be requested for primary residences. Eligible applicants must have a combined household income that is not more than 100 percent of the median income for the United States as defined by HUD. This will vary based on the household's location and size. To determine if you are eligible, please visit huduser.gov/portal/datasets or call 833-481-0638. CPN will make the final determination about whether a household has demonstrated that its combined income makes it eligible for aid based on applicable federal laws. The program benefit is determined on a case-by-case basis. Payments will be made directly to mortgage companies and applicable servicers for debts related to qualified property charges.

To determine if you are eligible, please visit huduser.gov/portal/datasets or call 833-481-0638

Training offers educators empowerment and resilience

A presentation that portrayed the harmful effects of colonization and forced relocation resonated with area educators. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center hosted a blanket healing exercise for education professionals.

The National Indian Education Association offers the Indigenous Empowerment and Resilience Training to area communities. NIEA seeks to implement the blanket healing exercise in local communities, both Native and non-Native, according to the NIEA website. The purpose of the training is to foster truth, understanding, respect and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The program was developed in collaboration with Indigenous elders, knowledge keepers and educators.

The exercise was created in 1997 by KAIROS, a Canadian organization that advocates for international ecological justice and human rights.

In the training, participants stand on brightly colored blankets representing a region of North America. Exercise leaders read a historical timeline of Indigenous peoples, and participants see the true scope of colonial contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance, according to the NIEA. At the conclusion, participants discuss the experience and process their feelings.

"People often say, 'You never know what someone is going through until you walk a mile in their shoes,'" said CPN Education Director Tesia Zientek. "In a lot of ways, this exercise takes that expression to heart by offering a participatory experience."

"I believe educators will have a new depth of empathy for their Indigenous students if they understand the history and trauma that our ancestors have experienced," she said. "With that

understanding, I hope that educators can foster a more inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment."

Education professionals from Shawnee, McLoud, Norman and other schools attended the event.

Angie Thurman Goodfox, Indian Education advisor at Shawnee High School, and her daughter, Tara Goodfox, Indian Education advisor at Shawnee Middle School, said the presentation was moving.

In their roles, they both help Native American students with their educational needs, offer support and help facilitate understanding between Indigenous students and non-Indigenous teachers.

"You hear about (Indigenous history), you read about it, and you've known about it, but to actually have the hands-on (experience)," Thurman Goodfox said. "It just made it even more real."

Thurman Goodfox (Sac and Fox, Comanche) is hopeful that non-Native educators will attend a session. She believes the training will help educators understand the perspective of Native students.

"One third of the students at Shawnee High School are enrolled tribal members," she said. "And that's just one school. We can talk (to educators) until we're blue in the face, but this hands-on exercise will help them understand. So, I definitely encourage other educators to try it."

Tara Goodfox (Sac and Fox, Otoe, Comanche) said the experience reminded her of the generational trauma many Indigenous people have experienced and continue to experience.

"It was so informative, and I liked how interactive it was," Goodfox said.



Participants read a historical timeline during the NIEA blanket exercise

"Everyone had to get up and actually participate. It was very, very helpful."

"It was a very eye-opening exercise. It's intense, for non-Native people as well."

After nearly 17 years in education, Thurman Goodfox said she often sees the challenges students struggle to overcome, from living in an unstable environment to turning to substance abuse to escape emotional pain.

Thurman Goodfox said the 2021-2022 school year was a challenging one, with students still processing their feelings and emotions about the coronavirus pandemic, quarantine and other stressors. She said the opportunity to talk and support fellow educators was needed.

Tara Goodfox said having just a couple of education professionals who are aware of what their Native students may be experiencing can help so many students.

"Our kids have a lot going on," she said. "There are kids who aren't having their needs met. We just need more people to be aware, whether it's teachers, counselors or the principal. Just one little, 'Are you okay?' may make the difference to kids."

Zientek, who currently serves as the treasurer of the NIEA board, said the workshop is widely available to educators who are interested.

"This is an outstanding opportunity for schools to offer a uniquely powerful professional development," she said. "Because NIEA is a national organization, the workshop can be offered anywhere throughout the United States."

The NIEA was formed by Native educators in 1969 to encourage national discourse on Native education. For more information on the blanket exercise, contact Melanie Johnson at mjohnson@niea.org or visit niea.org. ♡

Graduation continued...

citizens, while also helping them maybe start a little art collection and appreciation too," she said.

Lee hopes the art pieces serve as a reminder of each student's accomplishment every time they see them.

"It's just a tangible thing to be like, 'I did this, and this is what we have to show for it.' That's not specifically tied to their school, but it's tied to their culture. Just a way to remind them that their Tribe's proud of them," he said.

In 2022, the Navarre family descendant and graduate Stephanie Hawk won the art contest with her beadwork of a Potawatomi violet in pink and green on a white leather bag. The attendees were given high resolution prints of the violet, reminiscent of regalia applique. In May, she graduated with her bachelor's in integrative studies with a focus on

social sciences and a minor in restorative justice from the University of Oklahoma.

"I just think that was a real honor and that people appreciated it because a lot of times people don't realize how much work goes into beadwork or how long it takes or the cost of materials," Hawk said. "And so just seeing that people were excited to receive that and that maybe someone has it hanging on their wall is really cool."

The department gave a beading kit with each print and hosted a beading class on Zoom. They pair each year's art piece with something of cultural significance in hopes it inspires graduates to become more involved. White hung the print of Hawk's work in her office, and it made her want to bead as well.

"I've just ordered my supplies. I received my beadwork design book in the mail yesterday. ... And I plan on using that to do a little more. I want to learn to do a lot more beadwork," she said.

That type of engagement represents the overall goal of the art contest and paired gifts given by the Department of Education.

"Our hope is ... that it helps them, as (college advisor Matt Higdon) always likes to say, be able to do something Potawatomi every day. Some way to connect with their identity," Zientek said.

Registration

Citizen Potawatomi tribal members attend school from coast to coast and beyond, and the Department of Education sought to create a way for all students to participate in the Graduation Celebration. Now, the "Education" portion of the Tribe's online portal includes virtual registration.

Those who want to travel for the in-person event and receive their gifts the day of the luncheon can register as "Attending In-Person." Those who are not able to travel but still wish to participate digitally can

select "Attending Virtually." They will be included on a slideshow and video celebrating the year's graduates and receive their gifts via mail.

"Please still register. We want to send you a gift. We want to still celebrate you in our video. It's wonderful if you're able to make it to Shawnee, but it's okay if you're not. And we still want to celebrate you," Zientek said.

White believes she accomplished her goals with help from the Department of Education, and she was happy to celebrate with them any way possible.

"I thank them so much for doing what they've done because that was a tremendous help," she said.

Find out more about Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Department of Education at cpn.news/education and visit the Tribe's online portal at portal.potawatomi.org to register for the Graduation Celebration between July 1 and April 15. ♡

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ONLINE**



Meet your host: behind the scenes of the *Hownikan* Podcast

September 30 is International Podcast Day, established in 2015 to celebrate the power of podcasts to tell stories and connect listeners around the world. Now in its fourth season, Citizen Potawatomi Nation's *Hownikan* Podcast uses audio reporting to reach Tribal members wherever they are with stories, issues and voices throughout CPN.

Hownikan Podcast is a production of the Tribe's Public Information Department. Toupin and Willmet family descendant and employee Paige Willett is the show's host and producer, and built the program from the ground up. Willett is also an alumna of the Potawatomi Leadership Program.

"The podcast sort of goes along with the newspaper that we mail to Tribal members, and it expands on some of the stories," Willett said. "It gives some content that you do not get anywhere else in the Nation."

In May 2022, she expanded the show's production from monthly to bi-monthly. One episode each month is laid out like a news magazine program with several stories in one episode, Willett explained. The second monthly installment provides a deep dive into just one story, such as the June 2022 episode on the Eagle Aviary's 10-year anniversary.

Beginnings

Willett joined the staff of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Public Information Department in 2017, drawn by the opportunity to work for her Tribe and the invitation to spearhead the department's expansion into audio reporting.

Getting a new podcast started was "an experience," Willett said. "But I felt like college and other jobs had prepared me well to be able to take that on as something new."

Everything from the introduction for the podcast, which sets the tone for what listeners can expect and gives the show a distinctive, recognizable sound, to the visual brand for the show's marketing and web presence had to be designed from scratch.

"We have some really, really amazing people on staff, especially our graphic designers, who helped create a look for the web presence of the show," Willett said.

She also enjoyed the challenge and opportunity of producing the introduction, a critical piece of audio that listeners hear at the beginning of every episode.

"That was a really fun thing to sort of figure out how we as a Nation wanted that to sound," Willett said.

Behind the scenes

Something many people may not realize about podcast production is just how much time and work goes into each episode. Willett emphasized that "producing is planning."

She starts several months in advance of an episode's release date by "taking a look at what's going on around the Tribe, finding out what is either coming up or figuring out what people are doing on an individual basis, or services we're offering or things that just need to be explained more."

Once she has decided which stories to include in upcoming episodes, Willett



Hownikan Podcast host Paige Willett interviews Tribal members during the 2022 Family Reunion Festival.

records interviews with key spokespeople as well as "B roll" audio — relevant ambient sounds or candid audio that will later be edited in alongside the interview and narrative material.

Then comes "taking all that audio, sort of reassessing it, and then writing."

Willett explained, "I sit and I think about everything that I learned and everything that maybe everyone should know ... and I write up a script of it and then, of course, go back through and cut all that audio up."

Once all the audio has been recorded, cut and edited back together to concisely and effectively tell that particular story, Willett puts the whole episode together and prepares it for release. Even then, the work is not quite over. She still must write text to accompany the episode on streaming platforms and coordinate with the Public Information Department's graphic designers and social media managers to get the episode in front of listeners.

"It's a lot of work. It's long, and sometimes it's tedious," Willett said. "But it's a lot of fun. I can get caught up editing and look down, and I'm like, 'Oh, okay. Two hours have gone by,' and I think to myself, 'Paige, drink some water.'"

Creative freedom

The time and effort that goes into podcast production is also one of its major defining characteristics when it comes to types of audio reporting, and one that drives Willett's creativity.

"When I was an on-air host, it was like, 'Okay, you have 1 minute and 37 seconds to fill with news, weather and traffic,'" she said. "So it was just 'Go, go, go, go.'"

Just as the podcast medium offers producers time to find and develop their stories in a way that daily news broadcast does not, the medium also allows for each episode or segment to run as long as it takes to tell the story.

"That's one thing I like about streaming services, too," Willett said. "When everything was on cable, everything had a very, very, very tight time constraint. ... But (streaming) allows the flexibility to be like, 'Okay, this episode needs to be an hour. That's fine. This one's only 45 minutes. That's fine.'"

"It gives you the ability to really develop stories and flesh them out fully... (Podcasting) is really adaptable to the best way that there is to tell that specific story."

Oral storytelling

As a student at the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Willett found new possibilities in audio as a journalistic medium.

"I really focused on radio as much as I could during college. I fell in love with audio reporting and using audio itself to tell a story. ... I'm just a big audio nerd," she laughed.

For Willett, though, the *Hownikan* Podcast goes far beyond her own passion for audio and storytelling.

"For a lot of Indigenous societies, oral storytelling was how information was passed down between generations, and that goes back before writing, before a written language was created," she said. "And I think podcasting fits that tradition very well. I think that it just totally makes sense."

Willett believes that access to the voices of Tribal members telling their stories is an important resource for the Tribe to have.

"I love sitting around and just listening to people tell their stories. And I love writing about them, but I also love capturing people's voices. You get a whole other dynamic to the story when you can hear someone telling it," she said.

The voice conveys much more than just the words spoken. It also carries information about body language, inflection and facial expression, which paint a fuller picture of what the speaker means, she explained.

In the future, Willett hopes that having an archive not only of words, but of voices, helps Tribal members connect deeply to the people and stories that make up the present moment in CPN history.

"Later on, if we have an archive, people can go back and listen to people tell their stories and hear the voices of the people who were doing these things, or if they were an artist making these things or presenting at this event or whatever it may be," she said.

Find the *Hownikan* Podcast on SoundCloud, Spotify, YouTube, Apple Podcasts or Amazon Music — just search "Potawatomi." Email hownikan@potawatomi.org to pitch story ideas. 🎧



Leadership program participants reflect on 2022 session

Each year, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation welcomes several college-age Tribal members to Shawnee, Oklahoma, to learn about the Nation's culture, history and government. While the Potawatomi Leadership Program participants are engaged in the immersive 6-week course, they may also gain a strengthened connection to their Tribe.

After a hiatus in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic and a virtual program in 2021, the PLP returned to its in-person format in 2022.

"After having to cancel PLP in 2020 and moving it to a virtual format in 2021, it was wonderful to resume in-person programming this summer," said CPN Education Director Tesia Zientek. "Growing up in this area and working for the Tribe, it can be easy to take for granted all of the amazing people and programs that comprise the Nation. However, seeing our Tribe through the eyes of the PLP students is energizing and fills me with hope for future generations."

One of the most anticipated parts of the course is a reception at which the participants present the special projects they created that include programs, services or enterprises they envision for the Nation's future.

Anna Korzeniewski and Chloe Williams created *Wjanda Kek*, or Cooking Pot, a cooking show produced and shared on social media platforms. The show would feature both traditional and modern Potawatomi recipes and help Tribal citizens connect with Potawatomi culture no matter where they live.

Mawdownen Minkanen, or Gathering of Seeds, was presented by Catherine Charnoky and Melody Glover. The creation of a seed library would allow Tribal members to request plant seeds that hold cultural significance for Potawatomi people. Seeds would be harvested from plants grown at Tribal headquarters and then mailed to CPN members.

Biddy continued...

pick up as much of the language as I could, but everyone was very helpful, and we could communicate very efficiently. I really couldn't have done it without their help and support."

Building a professional engineering career

Biddy hopes to eventually build a career in engineering, and his internship has opened his eyes to even more possibilities.

"I like the hands-on aspects of the engineering world," Biddy



2022 Potawatomi Leadership Program participants

David Harty and Sophia Carney shared *Mamikwajma*, or A Memorable Story About Someone, a rebranding of the current PLP program marketing to increase the number of program applicants. The project would redesign the program brochure and create a blog where past PLP could share their experiences.

Presenting *Msko Nech*, or Red Hand, were Jaden Tarter and Tessa Arenz. This project would increase local and regional awareness of the Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women/ Person crisis at public events such as a virtual and in-person 5k memorial run and honor walk, prevention and self-defense classes, talking circles and other healing practices.

Liberty Wolfe and Tristin Stites introduced Native Air, which includes the construction of a mid-size airport and the creation of a small airline and flight school. The project would offer operations support to agricultural crop-dusting services, handle commercial travel and create employment in the form of pilots, instructors, maintenance and support staff.

said. "That was something I got to do extensively over in Europe."

As he prepares for his sophomore year at SWOSU, he looks forward to putting what he learned into practice.

"I got to do a lot of lab work and use different equipment that I've never used before. I got to become more familiar and more comfortable working in a lab environment. I did have to do some minor mathematic work during this internship. That will also help out in the classroom." Biddy said.

The talent for engineering runs in the family. Jake's brother, Trey Biddy,

Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, District 10 Legislator David Barrett, District 11 Legislator Andrew Walters and other members of CPN administration were in attendance to watch the presentations, ask questions and offer advice.

"This year's class really connected to the Tribal culture. Whether it was beading, smudging, learning the language, or singing, they loved learning about how to incorporate our Potawatomi culture into their daily lives," Zientek said. "In addition, they have so many incredible ideas about how to share what they've learned with their families, friends and school communities."

As the 2022 session of the PLP came to a close, each participant read a brief essay about their experiences. Many described their excitement at being selected and initial nervousness before arriving in Shawnee and living with a group of strangers.

Korzeniewski said she overcame preconceived notions of what it meant to be Native American as she learned about her family's Potawatomi history at the Cultural Heritage Center. She

graduated from SWOSU in 2021 with a degree in engineering technology. Jake's uncle, Wayne Kirk, also graduated from SWOSU with the same degree in 1987.

During the trip, he shared his experiences with his older brother.

"I'm following the same track he did through college. He also studied manufacturing engineering. It's really great to talk to him about the stuff that I'm working on, and he always understands what I'm saying." Biddy said.

"I would like to mention and thank all my professors that have helped me out and everyone that's been a part of helping

said the PLP has helped her strengthen her cultural identity. She plans to share what she has learned with her family and incorporate it into her daily routines.

Several participants spoke of their experience as transformative, connective and even providing healing.

Charnoky said the weekly talking circles helped her process mixed emotions. She grew up in New York, proud to be CPN but reluctant to share her limited knowledge of her culture with others. Talking with her peers about those feelings helped her fully embrace her Potawatomi identity, Charnoky said.

Harty said before he arrived in Oklahoma, he struggled with a sense that he was not changing or growing. PLP helped him embrace who he is, and he does not focus on who he is not. Tarter said the talking circle helped him connect with a new sense of purpose. He said he ended many days by drumming and singing Potawatomi songs, which was therapeutic for him.

Carney intends to keep learning Potawatomi language and include her culture in her daily routine to help put herself in a healthy mindset. She said she plans to continue beading and sharing other traditions with her friends.

Stites found beauty in CPN culture that he now proudly calls his own. Cultural teachings about wisdom, respect and humility have impacted how he sees the world and how he will step into his future, he said.

Program participants received gifts from Tesia Zientek, Workforce and Social Services Director and PLP housemother Margaret Zientek and PLP counselor Braden Bruehl to commemorate their time at CPN headquarters.

For more information about the PLP, email college@potawatomi.org or visit plp.potawatomi.org. ♡

me through this process. I definitely didn't do this by myself. There are a lot of people that helped me along the way."

He is hopeful his internship will influence other Native American engineering students to pursue the opportunity.

Learn more about OK-LSAMP (cpn.news/OKLSAMP), ENSAM (cpn.news/ENSAM), the engineering program at SWOSU (cpn.news/SWOSUET) and the engineering program at Texas A&M (cpn.news/TAMUE). ♡



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION TRIBAL ROLLS

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

TO ENROLL OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Visit portal.potawatomi.org

Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



*Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),*

Citizen Potawatomi Nation enrollment is based on the connection to an ancestor on our Tribal Rolls. While many Tribes operate this way, I believe that CPN is special in recognizing and learning about those founding families. To recognize their sacrifice and encourage our citizens to learn more about their history, we began honoring these founding families each year at our Family Reunion Festival.

We haven't had honored families since 2019 due to the cancellation of the Festival in 2020 and 2021. This year's Festival honored all

the Tribal members Citizen Potawatomi Nation has lost due to COVID-19, and we took the opportunity to revise the Honored Families schedule for the next several years.

Honored Families began in 1998, when the Tribe changed the format of the annual powwow from an open event to one specifically for Citizen Potawatomi and renamed it the Family Reunion Festival. Prior to this change, many of our members found it difficult to identify each other and meet relatives of their larger Potawatomi families.

Along with the format change, we decided to honor 7 to 9 families each year who moved from Kansas to what was then Indian Territory beginning in 1872. Those who relocated formed what eventually became the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. We put the families in a rotating cycle, and many times it serves as a special incentive for out-of-state Tribal members to travel to CPN the year their family is on the list.

You may notice some changes from the past. We reorganized family groups so that families

**CPN FAMILY REUNION FESTIVAL
HONORED FAMILIES**

2023 Johnson, Lafromboise, Lareau, Leclair, Melott, Rhodd, Tescier, Weld, Young	2024 Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Levier, Lewis, Nadeau, Negahnquet, Pambogo, Smith
2025 Bourassa, Burnett, Melot, Navarre, Peltier, Wamego, Willmet, Vieux	2026 Acton, Beregeron, Bruno, Curley, Delonais, Greemore, Slavin
2027 Anderson, Beaubin, Bertrand, Bourbonnais, Ogee, Pettifer, Toupin, Wano, Yott	2028 Clardy, Frapp, Kahdot, Juneau, Pappan, Crumbo, Muller

SCHEDULE MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

with larger enrollment are not all in the same group. We believe this will help us to host about

the same number of honored attendees each year. This will allow everyone a chance to

participate in activities and have equal recognition.

During Festival, each honored family has a marked section of the Round House as a place to gather, and during the Saturday evening powwow, the honored families follow CPN's government leaders and Veterans' Organization Color Guard during Grand Entry.

Some plan beforehand and make special shirts or hats to easily find each other and stand out in the Honored Families photo. Many also make teams of eight for hand games Friday night for a bit of fun family rivalry. If your family is among the families being honored in 2023, now is the time to plan your regalia so that you can dance.

Please review the schedule at cpn.news/honoredfamilies and make plans to attend, especially the year your family is being honored.

*Migwetch
(Thank you),*

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

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



*Bozho
(Hello),*

This is an appropriate summer to thank the people that are affiliated with the Nation in various ways. I want to begin by thanking the Tribal members — the core of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. I have said it dozens of times in the past and, no doubt, will say it in the future; this

great Nation belongs to you. You are the key element of the Nation. You have the right to interact, ask questions, provide comments and reap the benefits that are provided for you by the Nation. We would have no Tribe without our Tribal members.

Thanks goes to our legislators who have performed a superb job during the past 15 years. We are fortunate to have such competent and dedicated Tribal members serving in a legislative capacity. Our legislators give of their talents, time and resources beyond what is expected. I commend their supreme efforts in reaching out to their constituents on a regular basis, while handling their governmental duties. Each have a deep appreciation and love for this Tribe.

Of course, highly deserving of my praise are our CPN employees. What great

employees we have! It is common knowledge that I refer to them as the “best of the best.” They prove this daily. The Tribe held both our annual Family Reunion Festival in June and then the fifth annual FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival in August. Our employees are the ones that do the lion's share of work for these events.

This has been one of Oklahoma's hottest summers on record. Since the end of May, we have had numerous days that topped 100 degrees in temperature, but it is always hot in Oklahoma during the summer. Our employees jump right in for these two events and prove their resilience and diligence, regardless of the heat. I am so thankful to each employee that worked so hard this summer. May they be truly blessed.

All our employees are highly deserving of my praise. They are

the glue that keeps our Tribe together when we grow, develop new programs and expand our horizons. They are the ingredient that keeps us visible in the community, respected by other organizations, valued as contributors and appreciated by our own Tribal members. They are in the trenches and on the front lines. We are truly fortunate to have such capable employees at CPN.

Along with our Tribal members, legislators and employees, we salute the throng of people that do business with CPN programs and enterprises. We appreciate the customers, clients and patients that we see on both a regular and occasional basis. We depend on them at our enterprises and within the programs that provide services to our Native and non-Native population. It is my sincere desire that each enterprise, program and

service constantly strive to provide a quality product. I would hope that “quality service every time” is a common theme throughout CPN.

I wish for you to see the greatness of CPN from this praise round-up. All the above components are in my heart and on my mind on a regular basis. I need to express it more often.

I cherish the opportunity to be your Vice-Chairman.

My best,

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

Affordable Connectivity Program Service Plans and Devices

If the customer qualifies for the One-time Connected Device credit, the customer will receive:

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Dorinda Lambert-Kellogg (CPN Member), Agent | dkellogg@galaxysales.biz
Shane Kellogg, VP of Sales & Business Development | skellogg@galaxysales.biz
405-788-5354 for enrollment/information

District 1 – Alan Melot



Bozho jayék
(Hello everyone),

School is back in session, and summer is winding down. Fall will be here soon!

I missed being able to go to the 2022 Potawatomi Gathering. A series of unfortunate events prevented me from attending, and I definitely look forward to being there next year. It was a treat, however, to be able to see the pictures and stories

many of you shared on social media. I was able to share in the Gathering vicariously through social media and appreciate each of you who participated and were willing to let us enjoy your trip from the sidelines.

Plans are underway for a district meeting in Blue Springs, Missouri, in October. I am coordinating with District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw for the Kansas City area meeting. Look for details on that meeting in Jon's column below. In short, we will meet on Saturday, October 22 at 10 a.m. with presentations and lunch at the Adams Pointe Conference Center Courtyard Marriott KC East. Please RSVP to me or Jon at either of our listed emails or phone numbers by October 18.

I have decided to postpone a district meeting in the New England area until next year. I've heard from several of you back East that you want to get together and have a meeting. I

absolutely want to get together with you, but I've put the planning off for longer than I should have and now don't have the time to get things together like I want. This is my fault, and you have my apologies for dropping the ball on something I had said I would do. If you are in the eastern part of District 1, please get in touch with me so I know who and where you are in order to plan for a meeting!

The Potawatomi Trail of Death Association will have a presence at the Fulton County Historical Society Trail of Courage event near Rochester, Indiana, on September 17 and 18. This event is aimed at re-creating a pre-1840 atmosphere with a wide variety of vendors and activities. Among those things are Potawatomi influences and involvement in the area. I plan to attend and would love to see any of you who are able to come. You can find more information at cpn.news/toc if you are interested.

Part of my work as a therapist focuses heavily on acknowledging thoughts and feelings as they are. This past month or two have been difficult for me, and I have felt depleted, both personally and professionally. Throughout this tough time, I have had the privilege of having my dad, Jerry Melot, stand by my side and be supportive, and I want to recognize him here. My heart is full of gratitude for my dad. My dad has been my friend since I was born, teaching me how to be a man and pursue what is right. My dad has demonstrated integrity and bravery in difficulty, wisdom in uncertainty, respect for his and others' boundaries, honesty with his own strengths and weaknesses, humility with his willingness to pursue continual growth, truth in acknowledging situations and people for what they are, and love demonstrated in his heart of service toward others. Dad leads by example with

these teachings and has taken time to heal from his traumatic upbringing and broken cycles of violence and dysfunction. Dad invested a lot of time in me, and with activities ranging from taking me backpacking often to making me mow the yard, passed on life lessons that have been enriching and given me purpose and direction. Thank you, Dad, for being a gift and example to our family and our Potawatomi Nation.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Legislator for this past year. I look forward to hearing from you, whether on how I can do better or serve you in any way, or just to say hello!

Iw
(That's all),

Alan Melot
Legislator, District 1
608 S. Sergeant
Joplin, MO 64801
417-312-3307
alan.melot@potawatomi.org

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

Update on our Little Rock meeting

We had a good turnout for our Little Rock meeting. We also had a heartwarming, and relatively common outcome at District meetings: two Citizen Potawatomi sat next to each other as the meeting began and discovered they were close neighbors. They found they had even more in common



District 2 Legislator Eva Marie Carney presents a blanket to Sheila Hill, the wisest attendee of a recent meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, Sheila Hill.

than their Citizen Potawatomi heritage. I believe they will become good friends. This is what can happen during District gatherings; I hope you'll attend all that are within striking distance and experience a similar sense of family.

I've included a few photos taken by our Little Rock host, Dixie Morgan Quinn Nelson/*Mmkebedemkokwe* and her spouse, Jonathan Nelson. One is of our wisest attendee, Sheila Hill, who told the group that she is one of a set of triplets, all of whom would be celebrating their birthday in the week after our meeting.

Migwetch (thank you) to Dixie for securing us the space and to Dixie and Jon for helping with set up and clean up.

Among our meeting activities were family visiting, a hand games demonstration and a good lunch. We had a Potawatomi prayer said before lunch, and as I promised CPN District 2 citizen Ted Wolfelt I would do, I read a passage from a book Ted gifted me when we met up during the April Clearwater, Florida, meeting. Ted had me promise to share something from the book, *Native American Wisdom* (Kristen Maree Cleary, editor, 1996) at future District 2 events. Here's the short piece I read, attributed to Potawatomi *Senachwine*:

For more than seventy years I have hunted in this grove and fished in this stream, and for many years I have worshipped on this ground. Through these groves and over these prairies in pursuit of game our fathers roamed, and by them this land was left unto us as a heritage forever.



A group of CPN tribal members in the Little Rock, Arkansas, area gather for food, fun and a bit of Potawatomi history and culture at a recent District 2 meeting.

Today, I'm packing my bags to head off to the beautiful groves and streams of the Hannahville Indian Community, our hosts for the 2022 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations. I will write about the visit in my October column.

Upcoming events

Please mark your calendar and RSVP to our District 2 Fall Feast, scheduled for Saturday, November 12. It will take place in the parish hall of the Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road, Arlington, Virginia, 22207 (littlefallschurch.org). Bring favorite dishes (with recipes, if you'd like) to share. I will provide the turkey and a vegan main dish along with beverages. We will visit, make traditional rattles out of elk and bison hide, and share a family meal. Children are welcome. The craft is appropriate for children 8 and up with one-to-one adult supervision. RSVPs are requested — email or call me, please. Postcard invitations

will be mailed, but please know that you do not need to receive a mailed invitation to join us — and you don't need to live in District 2. All are welcome.

The Feast takes place during the long weekend of events celebrating Native American veterans and the completion

of the National Native American Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). To register for the procession and for all other details, visit cpn.news/NNAVMreg. The NMAI will host three days of celebrations November 12 through 14 — the Fall Feast location is a short Uber or cab ride from the NMAI. Consider spending the weekend in the area!

Please keep in touch

I look forward to hearing from you! *Migwetch* (thank you) for the honor of representing you.

Bama mine
(Later),

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe (Blue Bird Woman) she/her/hers
Legislator, District 2
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ecarney@potawatomi.org
evamariecarney.com



Carney also presents a blanket to the meeting's youngest attendee, a member of the Schaaf family.

District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho ginwa
(Hello everyone),

TEA

Two and a half years ago, about 70 educators from Texas and Oklahoma, along with over 50 representatives from the 170 American Indian Nations citizens living in Texas, met in Grand Prairie, Texas. Our objective was to investigate the possibility of creating a high school ethnic class on American Indian Native Studies. The class would encompass culture, heritage, history and sovereignty. I, along with District 3 citizen Carl Kurtz, participated in the creation of this program. In June, I was a delegate of the committee to represent our group along with five others to convert our program under the guidance of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) into a formal program for the Texas school system. On August 1, I made a brief two-minute presentation on our program along with many others to the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE). I stressed that there are over 350,000 members of Native American Nations living in Texas whose children attend Texas schools. I included the fact that I represent over 2,800 of our citizens that live in Texas. In my presentation, I advised that I have had complaints from my own constituents and others of violations in the areas of our culture, heritage, history and sovereignty by teachers, schools and non-Native students. The incidents are a direct result of a lack of knowledge by literally almost every Texan about the 574 sovereign Native American Nations in the U.S. and the dire need for this ethnic class. Aug. 1, 2022, was the first reading to the SBOE, and comments of support from citizens are needed



Sharon and Kristen

in order for them to recognize that hundreds in the Texas population firmly believe this ethnic class is needed. My single presentation in representing you is minimal at best, considering there may be others that do not wish this class to be created because they are embarrassed that their classes now exclude practically all information about us. They are ashamed that many hundreds of Native American children between 1870 and 1984 were all but kidnapped from their parents and shipped off to so-called Indian schools. Many of these children were brutally whipped or had lye put in their mouths because they were speaking their language at the school. Jim Thorpe's twin brother died at Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. The truth is now coming out from the elders that lived through some "12 years of hell" that they spent in these schools. While our class doesn't specifically talk about that exact cruelty, there are many areas where we have positives about ourselves as well as information on broken treaties and stolen land. This needs to come out in our education system, and I need your support. Please go online and write to the TEA! For anyone who wants to physically review our work and would like a copy, simply email me, and I will forward a copy of a link to view the draft presented to SBOE. Our program is on pages 110 through 126.

TEA requires that your email provide specific comments and recommendations for a work group, so please identify the work group in the subject line of the email. For our program, please indicate "Social Studies TEKS Review Work Group E American Indian/Native Studies Feedback" in the subject line. Your comments can read something like, "The content for the ethnic class is good over the time period covered, and the class is needed in order to prepare our children for future years and college." As a point of information, this is a one-year class, and due to the class time limit, we had to make choices on what to include. It would be much more than a one-year class had we covered more history and other areas that you think we didn't highlight. We need positive comments so this program moves ahead. Negative comments could lead to the SBOE telling us to start over. Please submit your reinforcing comments to TEA at teks@tea.texas.gov. I urge you to send in those emails! They are needed, and please use comments that are positive about the need you are stressing. *Migwetch!*

Jim Thorpe

On July 15, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) officially acknowledged Jim Thorpe as the sole champion of the decathlon and pentathlon in the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games. Jim Thorpe, a

Potawatomi descendant and Sac and Fox Nation tribal member, is the first Native American to win a gold medal for the United States in the Olympic Games. In 1913, the IOC stripped Thorpe of his gold medals for having played minor league baseball for meager earnings while he was in college. His family has been fighting for this reinstatement for literally the last 100 years.

Powwow

As mentioned in my article last month, the 10th anniversary of American Indian Heritage Day of Texas will be celebrated on Saturday, September 24 this year. It is to be held at the Trammell Crow Park at the Trinity (Arkikosa) River in Dallas. The "River of the Canoes" theme will feature a variety of ceremonies on the 24th. Powwow times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The address is 3710 Sylvan Ave., Dallas, Texas. Directions from various locations in both Texas and Oklahoma may be found at arkikosa.vision in the powwow section. There will be vendors there with various crafts. It is recommended that you bring your own seating



Theresa Talbot, Margaret Zientek and Joan Atkins in new skirts

since it is an open, natural park on the river bed. Also bring your own food and water as there will not be any food or water vendors at the event.

Deception

For the last several months, the TV news media, our President and the gas industry firms have all been telling us about the oil shortage. They state that is the reason for literally double the price we pay for our gasoline compared to last year. Our government claims the oil companies have leases that allow them to drill for oil. However, the fact is the leases are worthless since the companies drilled on that land years ago and have extracted all of the available oil. They need to have new areas authorized for exploration, and the U.S. government will not provide that approval. Based on some scientific research, it has been alleged that the U.S. has more oil reserves beneath various areas in our country than the entire rest of the world. In the

meantime, the oil companies are buying oil from other nations at a very high price. In June, our President authorized the oil companies to increase the amount of ethanol added to current gasoline. The press and oil companies have made little notice of this. The addition of ethanol has accomplished the following: provides a full tank of fuel. However, because there is less actual gasoline in this new mixture, our mile per gallon of fuel has dropped by around 20 percent. Yes, we are seeing some reduction in what we pay in the last few weeks, but it is not even close to what the gasoline companies are making with this change in the fuel composition. Do the math. \$2 to \$4 is a 200 percent increase. A price drop from \$4 to \$3.65 is an 8.75 percent decrease in price coupled with our 20 percent loss in fuel mileage per gallon. The gas companies did reduce our price marginally but very minimal compared to what they gained in profit compared to our losses in mileage. We need to insist that the President cancel the increase in ethanol and bring the fuel back to the



Dorothy Horak on mile walk trail

as an average. Most of my driving is on the highway, which is why I noticed the variance so quickly. I went to the dealer to see if a recent tune-up had created the problem, and they confirmed that they were getting numerous complaints about miles per gallon decreases. The dealer confirmed that when they do a tune-up all they do is change out the spark plugs. They do not change any setting on the fuel injection system. In earlier times when we had carburetors, we could lean out the fuel mixture and use a "hotter" spark plug to increase mileage. You had to be careful not to overheat the engine due to preignitions with the stronger spark plug. This is no longer an option with current fuel injection systems due to cost and ongoing maintenance.

Dancing For Our Tribe

In my July article, I advised how to secure a copy of this 304-page 10x13 inch hardcopy book from Amazon containing 272 color and 32 black-and-white photos of members of the nine Potawatomi Nations created by District 1 Tribal member Sharon Hoogstraten. I am at the Gathering this year hosted by Hannahville, and I met briefly with Sharon. Sharon made a presentation at the Gathering and sold several copies of her beautiful books. I managed to get a photo of Sharon as she sold a copy of the book to Oklahoma district CPN member Kristen Arambula Hernandez. A copy of the photo showing them and the book was submitted with this article. Sharon suggests you buy the book from Oklahoma University Press. They have one of the best Indigenous booklists in the country, and she is very proud that they have added her book to their collection. In my own opinion, I believe this is also a great move to support a firm in Oklahoma since that is where CPN is headquartered. The book is \$80 and may be ordered online. Go to oupres.com and scroll through the book list to find the link to order this wonderful volume depicting our people in regalia.

Gathering

As mentioned directly above, I attended the Gathering this year the last week in July hosted by

the Hannahville Potawatomi Nation. The first two days are devoted to language and history. I found it very worthwhile and learned some new things about our history as well as in the language area. On the second day in the language class agenda, I attended a very good class hosted by District 1 Tribal member *Wkenodan Gétygadékwén*. He is a 16-year-old who has literally become very proficient in our language in just three years through the use of stories and making the decision to concentrate on learning the language. Justin Neely, our Language Department director, had suggested I attend his class, and I found it to be a good experience. When we moved into the formal powwow side

of the Gathering, there were many crafts available, and I was able to make a rattle. I had the opportunity to take a couple of photos of CPN members involved in some of the events, which I believe you will enjoy. District 5 Tribal member Dorothy Horvak participated in the mile walk on Saturday. A photo of her on the trail is attached. I also visited their cultural center and found that an elder lady's skirt-making class was underway. CPN members Theresa Talbot, Margaret Zientek and Joan Atkins modeled their new skirts for me under a special marquee that Hannahville had setup on one of their walls. A photo of that is also attached. At the tribal leaders' meeting

on Friday, we voted to accept the Ojibway Tribe Kettle and Stony Point First Nation into our Potawatomi membership. This now brings our number to 12 nations. Five are in Canada and seven are in the U.S. Also at the meeting, a gift of the book by Sharon Hoogstraten was made from Hannahville to our Chairman for our library at the Cultural Heritage Center as a good permanent historical record of the regalia worn during these times.

District 3 meeting

A District 3 meeting will be held on Saturday, September 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will meet at the Dallas Urban Inter-Tribal

Center. The address is 1283 Record Crossing Rd., Dallas, Texas, 75235. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to rwhistler@potawatomi.org or call 817-229-6271, giving your name and the number in your party planning to attend by Friday, September 9. This site was chosen so that those attending will know where this facility is located since you are eligible to receive non-emergency medical treatment there at no charge. It is nonprofit and will accept your insurance information for third-party billing. You are not responsible for any co-pay.

I look forward to seeing those of you that are able to attend the September 17 meeting. It

is an honor to serve as your elected District 3 representative. I am your voice and am here to help on Tribal matters where you have questions. So, please contact me when you feel I may be of assistance.

Nagech
(Later),

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

District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho
(Hello),

2022 Potawatomi Gathering

I returned yesterday from the Gathering hosted by the Hannahville Indian Community, who are located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It was a beautiful site to have the Gathering. The Hannahville tribe recently built a beautiful, covered arena with an artificial dance surface that was like walking on thick carpet. As always, the Gathering offered me the opportunity to see and converse with friends from the other Potawatomi tribes. But what everyone enjoyed were the cool temperatures, with mornings in the mid-50s and the highs in the upper 70s and low 80s. Next year, the Gathering will be hosted by

the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, located near Battle Creek, Michigan. You should plan on attending.

Put It on Your Calendar – 2022 District 4 Meetings

I have scheduled three District 4 Meetings for this fall. They are:

Rossville, Kansas: CPN Community Center in Rossville on Saturday, October 8 at 10 a.m.

Due to last minute cancellations, the meeting program is presently under development. Lunch will be served at noon. After lunch, I would like to show a few of our CPN Veteran DVDs. Please RSVP by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 4, by calling me at 785-608-1982 or emailing me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. You can also call Lyman Boursaw at 785-584-6401. Please identify which meeting you plan to attend.

Wichita, Kansas: All-Indian Center, located at 650 N. Seneca St. on Sunday, October 16 at 1 p.m.

We will begin with a lunch at 1 p.m. I have been assured that a member of the CPN Health Services Program will be available to describe what services in our clinics in Shawnee, Oklahoma, are

available to CPN members in Kansas. Time permitting, I would like to show a few of our CPN Veteran DVDs. Please RSVP by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 12, by calling me at 785-608-1982 or emailing me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. Please identify which meeting you plan to attend.

Greater Kansas City Area: Adams Pointe Conference Center Courtyard Marriott KC East, 1500 NE Coronado Drive, Blue Springs, MO 64014 on Saturday, October 22 at 10 a.m. This is a joint meeting with the CPN members from District 1 and their Legislator Alan Melot. We have invited CPN Chief District Judge Philip Lujan and CPN Adult Protective Services Director Janet Draper to speak. Judge Lujan will describe how the CPN court system works, and Janet will talk about her relatively new program. I've heard them both speak previously, and I am confident you will enjoy their presentations. Lunch will follow their presentations. Please RSVP by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 18, by calling me at 785-608-1982, or emailing me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. Be sure to indicate which meeting you plan to attend.

Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

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

September 9: Roast Beef and mashed potatoes. RSVP by the 6th

October 14: Breakfast Casserole with Biscuits and Fry Bread Nuggets & Sausage Gravy. RSVP by the 11th

Come join us and bring your favorite side dish or dessert. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Tracy or Brenda at 785-584-6171. Masks are not required but highly recommended.

Flu Shots

If you haven't received your flu shots, you can check with Tracy Kinderknecht, our Senior Support Network RN in Rossville, to see if she still has shots available. She can be reached at 785-584-6171.

Sugar Creek Tour

Tracy and I would like to conduct a tour of the location of what had been the Sugar Creek Reservation in Lynn County, the final stop for the Potawatomi Trail of Death. We are looking at either Tuesday, October 11

or Thursday, October 13. This will be a full day venture. If you are interested, please let either Tracy or I know. Tracy's number is 785-584-6171. Mine is listed below.

Honored to serve you

It is an honor to serve you as your district representative. I appreciate hearing from CPN members in Kansas, whether in the form of a letter, email, phone call or in the office. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to you. If you are not receiving emails from me, it is because I do not have your current email address or what I have is incorrect. All you need to do is send me your email address, and I will enter you into my District 4 information file. My contact information is listed below.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

District 6 – Rande K. Payne



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

Greetings from the breadbasket of the world.

As the dog days of summer begin to give way to cooler temperatures and shorter days, it seems we may have survived a third consecutive year of drought. January, February and March were the driest in over 100 years. As the water wars heat up between environmental groups and agricultural and municipal stakeholders, California added nearly \$3 billion to the 2022 state budget for drought relief. Sadly, the money is primarily directed at programs that are band-aids to get through another dry year and do little to improve long term water supply for the state. We're living in the midst

of a perfect storm: changing climate, increased demand for water, dwindling supplies and an aging water infrastructure. California's population has increased from 10 million to nearly 40 million since the last meaningful water infrastructure projects were completed.

California has managed its water about as well as it has managed its forests. But I believe there is hope. While we never hear from state officials that they got it wrong, we are starting to see a quiet and subtle shift back to forest management practices that were in place prior to environmental groups and

so-called government experts shutting them down. I believe the same will hold true with water. Just as successive years of mega-fires are forcing change, the increasing demand for water combined with a fragile supply system will also force change. The entire western border of the state is the Pacific Ocean. They say that desalination isn't cost effective, but neither are electric cars, yet here they are. All our challenges have solutions. It's unfortunate that politics seem to always get in the way.

I would like to thank District 6 Tribal member Jack Mitchell for letting me know about

a program to help Native American college students with tuition and student services. The University of California's Native American Opportunity Plan ensures that in-state systemwide tuition and student services fees are fully covered for California students who are also enrolled in federally recognized Native American, American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. This plan applies to undergraduate and graduate students. If you are an enrolled CPN tribal member, you are eligible for the Native American Opportunity Plan. Your in-state, systemwide tuition and student services fees will be fully

covered either by UC financial aid or another federal, state or other financial aid program.

Students with greater financial needs can qualify for even more grant support to help pay other educational expenses, like books, housing, transportation and more.

You don't need to fill out a separate application to qualify for the Native American

Opportunity Plan. If you qualify, UC will contact you directly with further instructions. If you think you may qualify and have not been contacted by UC, reach out to your Native American student resource or community center or campus financial aid office.

For more information and applications simply visit the University of California admissions website at admission.universityofcalifornia.edu.

In closing, I would like to invite you to the annual District 6 & 7 Heritage Festival on Saturday, October 22. The Festival will start at 10 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. There will be CPN news updates, an interactive Q&A session, craft making and, of course, a great lunch. Postcard invites will go out soon. RSVP on Eventbrite at cpn.news/D67Oct22. Mark and I look forward to seeing you in October!

Potawatomi Word of the Month: *bisa* – rain

Words of Wisdom: “In leadership, focused passion accomplishes much more than merely considering an intellectual, scholarly approach.” – Fred Smith

Wisdom from the Word: “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.” (Colossians 3:23)

Migwetch! Bama mine (Thank you! Later again),

Rande K. Payne
Mnedo Gabo
Legislator, 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),

On Saturday, October 22, Rande Payne and myself

will be hosting a combined District 6 and 7 meeting and Fall Heritage Festival in Visalia, California. You will be receiving your invitation postcard. Please RSVP if you would like to attend; you can register online at cpn.news/D67Oct22.

August in California can be a brutal exercise in the art of self-preservation at times. As we entered the month, we were in a two and a half week stretch of 100+ days. If there can be a bright spot in that, generally the humidity stays relatively low in California, so when you go outside, it's more like sticking your head in an oven than it is a sauna, like Oklahoma can be at times. With our first calves

due starting the third week of September through the end of October, I always get a bit nervous. Our animals are family to us and a bridge to my heritage. My grandfather, on his summer outings from the Carlisle Indian School, worked on a dairy farm in New Jersey and when he returned home to his allotment in Shawnee, he continued to raise cattle. I often wonder if he had the same concerns and worries that I do, just in a different context of time. Well, most likely some of them are, but in general, I think we have it much easier than our grandparents did, and you notice I didn't use the word better because I think in a lot

of ways, with all the hardships, they had a better, simpler life — not in all ways but in many.

I would invite you to explore your heritage with our Tribe at the Cultural Heritage Center website at potawatomiheritage.com. Take a look around the site and explore the many items that are available to you with just a click. Our team at the Cultural Heritage Center has done an outstanding job making information available to you.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 legislator. As always, give me a call, and I will be happy to work with you on

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Mark Johnson
Wisk Mtek (Strong as a Tree)
Legislator, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611
559-351-0078 cell
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District 8 – Dave Carney



Bohzo nikan
(Hello friend),

I am writing this column on the last day of July, and it is a sweltering 95 degrees. I know many of the Tribe's citizens across the USA have no sympathy for me when I say that — particularly those in the sunbelt. However, 95 degrees in Olympia, Washington, is unusual and uncomfortable. I am not sure how my “cousins” in Oklahoma tolerate the

many 100+ degree days every summer. I am certain that most would not swap that for six months of rain that occurs in the Pacific Northwest.

Weather dictates what we do, where we go, what food we eat, how we recreate — and so many other things. It was even more so in the days of our ancestors. This is on display in the Cultural Heritage Center at the Nation. According to Dr. Kelli Mosteller, we were a seasonably nomadic Tribe and followed the herds as a source of food in the winter and what food was raised or collected in the other seasons. Weather dictated a lot about who we engaged with, what tools we used, etc. This interconnectivity is what inspired the structuring of the *Life Ways* exhibit in the Cultural Heritage Center into four distinct seasons. There are large displays of a traditional birch bark canoe on a river in the Great Lakes area, a classically built wigwam (no nails or screws) and



District 8 legislator Dave Carney (middle right) celebrates the naming of Tescier and Bourbonnais family descendant Jenna Barrett (middle left).

paintings of gathering food at different times of the year. Mural settings are inspired by scenery from Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin.

After the Trail of Death, and upon arrival in Kansas, our ancestors faced harsh winter

weather with no shelter after having been promised homes upon their arrival. There were several deaths that winter due to severe weather — many Potawatomi simply dug a hole in the ground and covered themselves with a blanket. As they became settled, they

eventually created shelter for themselves. It would be a fair statement that we have citizens of our Tribe all over the world now — living in all kinds of weather conditions.

I recently had the honor of naming a Seattle-based citizen (a member of the Tescier and Bourbonnais families) who I've had the pleasure of knowing for about a decade now. *Bsedot* (She Listens) was the Potawatomi name given to Jenna Barrett on a rainy Saturday morning. Her husband, Iko, was a great support and a lot of help as our “fire keeper” in the moist weather. *Migwetch* (Thank you) — it was an honor to be part of your Potawatomi journey.

As always, it is my honor to serve as your District 8 legislator,

Dave Carney
Kagasghi (Raven)
Legislator, District 8
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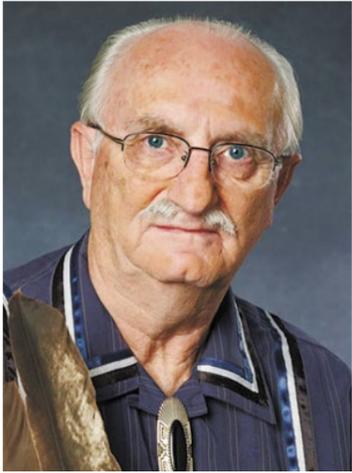


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District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

The Greatest Mystery

The greatest mystery is not of life, amazing as it is, or death, as mysterious as it will be, but of existence itself! Ask yourself this question: in the long history of time, some 13.7 billion years, why do I exist and exist now?

You could have existed centuries ago, or you could exist centuries from now, or you could have never existed at all. Your grandparents didn't have to meet, your parents didn't have to meet, didn't have to fall in love, and didn't have to have

the miraculous unification of their sperm and egg. And you could have been the unfortunate product of a miscarriage. But you were born, exist and thrive.

It actually happened. You exist now — this century, this year, this month, this day, this very moment in the long history of time as you read my article. Why do you think that is?

Why do you think you were not born centuries ago? Why do you think you were not planned to exist a century from now? Why were you planned to exist at all? Why? Did the world somehow

need you? Could the world have continued along without you? Were you necessary? Why in the world are you here?

Imagine for a moment what your non-existence would be like. Imagine no memory, no thoughts, no feeling, no smelling, no tasting, no hearing, no seeing, no nothing. All there is is blackness, and even blackness does not exist for you. There is nothing!

You didn't ask to exist, nor did anyone on planet Earth; yet you are here, existing,

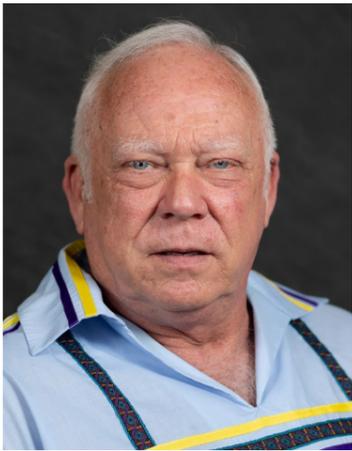
and existing now. It didn't have to be this way.

This is your turn at existence — at life — because you were given a turn. Make the most of your turn, your time and your life while you exist now. It will be brief.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

District 11 – Andrew Walters



Bozho
(Hello),

and futures. Dad survived in that frugal environment. Keeping things that might still have use, spending only out of necessity and squeezing the last bit out of everything in life. The Army gave him a way to escape the oppressive sharecropping poverty of the deep East Texas woods. Back in 1938, when he first entered service, his pay was \$18 a month. Having sharpened his shooting skills on opossums, raccoons and squirrels shot out of necessity to feed his mom, dad and brothers, dad managed to obtain an expert qualification with his issued Springfield bolt action rifle. That bumped his pay to \$20 a month. Dad went through World War II as a First Sergeant in an Infantry Company. He served 180 days on the front lines and was awarded three Bronze Stars with "V" attachments. He wore his Combat Infantryman's Badge with dignity and honor throughout his career. After WWII, he came home only to be deployed to Korea, where he was a Junior Warrant Officer in the 57th Field Artillery. It was there in late November, near a place called the Chosin Reservoir, that he was captured by the Chinese. He escaped and eventually came back home, scarred, battered, but not broken. Dad grew his career, his family and future based on those childhood struggles and scars of

war. So, the picture was fitting, and the proverb appropriately described his philosophy of life:

For want of a nail the shoe was lost.

For want of a shoe the horse was lost.

For want of a horse the rider was lost.

For want of a rider the battle was lost.

For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.

And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

— Anon

In remembering those times, those teachings, that proverb, I often think about how the Tribe operates and the businesses we have. How things have changed. How our Tribe is a lot like my dad's life. Born in hard times. Going through sorrow, misery and heartbreak. Then coming out battered but not beaten. A better version of ourselves forged with pride and determination in the furnace of adversity. Then I wondered why some would give away or sell all our "nails" for self-profit and personal benefit. Why some who question the Tribe's efforts to enhance our business ventures, to increase our profits and build new enterprises, would forsake

the Tribe and their heritage for 30 pieces of silver?

I have come to know and understand that the monies derived from our business enterprises go to fund programs that assist our members. These "nails," these enterprises, fund programs like scholarships, burial assistance, down payment assistance and others. These programs necessitate funding of well over \$100 million, just to assure there is money when Tribal members request assistance. The Tribe levies no taxes. None of us, as citizens of the Nation, are required to pay taxes to the Tribe. The money that we receive for ARPA, WIC, child development, Title VI elders, housing, workforce development and Indian Health Service is solely from grants and funds provided by the U.S. government. So, growing our Tribal businesses is vitally important. Without it, we'd have no money to give for those life-enhancing programs. Our overall financial situation is secured by having each detail, every dollar, accounted for and used in an appropriate manner. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer are businesspeople who appreciate the nuances of Tribal business development and have done a yeoman's job securing our Tribal success. Their work assures we will never "...want of a nail..." and our Tribe be lost.

In today's world, Tribal government has moved from poverty and squalor to business development and profits. While traditions MUST be observed, languages taught, skills re-learned, stories told, drumming heard, we cannot turn away from the fact that Tribal business is what keeps the machine running. Tribal enterprises keep our Nation sovereign, gives jobs and gives us a future. Without Tribal business, we would be just another waif of the federal government — a red puppet dancing on the strings of entitlement.

The management team for our Tribe has no equals. Checks and balances are in place to assure continuing prosperity for the Tribe as a whole and to assure that each member will be afforded the rights and privileges of Tribal membership and the benefits of being one of the almost 39,000 members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma. "For the want of a nail..." Ofttimes, the difference between success or failure comes down to something that profound yet simple.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

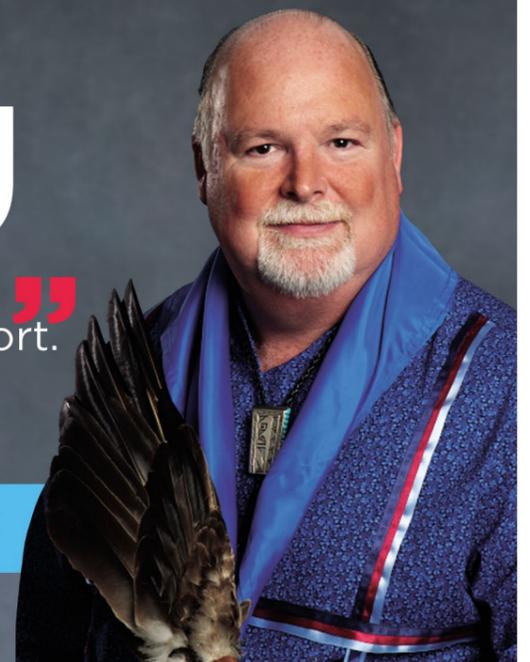
Andrew Walters
Legislator, District 11
andrew.walters@potawatomi.org
nibwemko@gmail.com

“**THANK YOU**

for choosing me to serve another four years as your Tribal Secretary-Treasurer. It is an honor to have your trust and support.”

SECRETARY-TREASURER **D. WAYNE TROUSDALE** *NETEMGIWSE*

Ad space provided by the Hownikan



Glenn Paul Hey Beaubien Family



Glenn Paul Hey left this life for the next in Heaven on April 19, 2022, after a brave, hard-fought two-year battle with cancer. Born Nov. 11, 1953, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Kenneth and Ruth Hey, Glenn was an inquisitive child who quickly grew into a lovable, if occasionally ornery, teenager.

He was an altar boy at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, which he attended for more than 40 years. Later in life, he was known to frequent Life Church. He graduated from Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School in 1972.

Glenn worked as an electric motor repairman for more than 45 years for Evans Electric Enterprises, becoming one of the most sought-after and knowledgeable DC men this side of the Mississippi. Along the way, he trained many a young pup in electric motor repair and the art of not taking yourself too seriously. He will be missed among fellow motor repairmen as a source of light and laughter, a co-worker you knew you could depend on to do his very best every time and someone to bounce ideas off of when you couldn't figure something out.

Family and friends remember him as kind, caring, and always willing to lend a hand and crack a silly joke; his son remembers him as an amazing father willing to sacrifice himself every day. Everyone agrees he was a friend to all living things.

His faith was very important to him, and it informed how he treated others. He took Jesus' message of loving others without exception to heart, developing a nasty habit of standing up for others in conversations when they weren't around to defend themselves. He always thought of others and what they might be going through. Many came to him for help and advice throughout the years and always found him a source of comfort and peace.

The light of Glenn's life was his son, Jeffery Todd Hey. Everything he did, he did for his son. He was a spectacular father, whose love knew no end in its width and depth. From being a friend who was a blast to hang out with, to being a teacher who taught deep lessons about humanity, he lived and basically died for his son, who

is forever grateful and in debt to the rest of the world for sharing such an amazing man with him.

Though a fan of many things, from movies and books to TV shows and sports (the OKC Thunder and OU football were particular favorites), Glenn's passion was music. He enjoyed a variety of styles from many different artists, from Fleetwood Mac to Luke Bryan and everything in-between. Though not a musician himself, he could have been a top-shelf songwriter as he always had a talent for writing (and even drawing) and had loads of life experience to write from. He also could have been a DJ, as his wide knowledge of music and deep, relaxing voice would have ensured his success. He was always unbelievably supportive of his son's musical endeavors. Towards the end of his life, Glenn traveled around attending many, many concerts with his best friend, Jerri Winlock Leighton. It was one of the happiest times in his life.

Glenn is preceded in death by his mother, Ruth Ellen Hey (Mathis), and his father, Kenneth Joseph Hey.

Left behind to cherish his memory and spread his light and love are his son, Jeffery Hey; his devoted sisters, Carol Stapleton, Linda Miskovsky and Gail Hopper; his devoted sister, Patricia McKee and brother-in-law David McKee; his brother, Mark Hey; his brother, Wayne Hey and sister-in-law Glenda Hey; ten nieces and nephews; 26 great-nieces and great-nephews; four great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews; as well as numerous friends and acquaintances.

Memorial donations are accepted at agaperoad.org/donate.

Genevieve Marie Newman Higbee Family

Genevieve Marie Newman, of Oakwood, Ohio, was stillborn July 25, 2022. She is survived by her parents, Zachary and Jandy; her sisters, Callia, Leah, Frances, Esther and Agnes; and her grandparents, Dan and Nelda Newman and Jay and Judy Smith.

The ability to inspire greatness and change lives is always desired but often takes a lifetime to achieve, and we knew, as the namesake of St. Genevieve, the great patroness of Paris, our daughter had big shoes to fill. We never dreamed she would intercede so soon in our own lives, working constantly to provide comfort and compassion in times of darkest distress. Genevieve's too short life was a tremendous blessing and inspiration to her parents, family and friends.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 1, 2022, at Holy Angels Catholic Church in Dayton, Ohio, followed by the Rite of Committal at Calvary Cemetery in Dayton.

Richard Alan Whitecotton Toupin Family



Richard Alan Whitecotton, 65, passed peacefully from this world on the evening of June 21, 2022, at his home in Shawnee, Oklahoma, after fighting a brave battle against bile duct cancer.

Richard was a lifelong resident of Shawnee, born on July 19, 1956, to Bill and Janet (Howell) Whitecotton. His early days were spent in Shawnee, and he often told of running a paper route as a young boy. He graduated from Shawnee High School in 1974. He met the love of his life, Renée Burnett, while pumping her gas at his job at the family's gas station. A few months later, they were married on Sept. 6, 1974. They were happily married for 47 years and loved holding hands until the very end.

As a young man, he went into business with his brother and formed Cotton Electric. He worked as an electrician for many years before trying his hand as a home builder and developer. In 2008, he started his own businesses, Cotton Homes and later Hyatt Development. He enjoyed working with people and found his work as a builder deeply rewarding. It was one of his proudest accomplishments to see the development of Hyatt Addition in Shawnee to near completion.

When Richard was not working, he enjoyed spending time outdoors. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. He also enjoyed metal detecting, golf and family vacations. He traveled to many places, from Alaska to Japan, but his favorite place was on the beach with his wife, friends and colleagues on the annual Buford White Lumber Co. trip.

Richard was a warm, funny and big-hearted man who made friends wherever he went and was always laughing, joking and telling great stories. He loved animals, particularly dogs, but his greatest joy in life was being a dad as well as a papa.

He is survived by his loving wife, Renée; daughter, Rebecca (Benjamin) Stock; son, Ryan Whitecotton; and three granddaughters, Adeline, Eloise and Josephine Stock. He is also survived by his mother, Janet Whitecotton; brother, David (Margie) Whitecotton; aunt,

Vera Whitecotton; and many loving relatives and friends. He is preceded in death by his father, Bill Whitecotton; and brother, Tommy Whitecotton.

A memorial service was held on July 9, 2022, at Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center. Memorial contributions can be made to Saving Pets At Risk (SPAR) of Shawnee, Oklahoma, or to St. Jude's Cancer Research Hospital.

Robert Leland Wall Johnson Family



Surrounded by loving family on a lush summer day that he would have loved, Robert Leland Wall, *Wasay Ankwat*, (Shining Cloud) left us to become an honored ancestor on June 8, 2022. He was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and graced us all with the 91 years of his life.

Bob was born in Binghamton, New York, on Oct. 11, 1930, the youngest son of Asa Wall and Inez Coddington Wall. Growing up in the Great Depression, he was steeped in the values of resourcefulness, simplicity, independence, fairness, compassion and service that shaped his life. From humble origins, he was the first of his family to graduate from college and began his career at Broome Technical College, where he studied electrical engineering, and then took his first job at General Electric. Eager to learn more, he went to night school at Union College as a young father, while working at a garage to support his growing family. It was there he "fell in love with beauty of calculus" and embarked on his journey as an engineer. He worked at General Electric in Schenectady, New York, for 30 years before retiring to start his own engineering consulting business, for which he earned international respect and friends around the world.

Bob was a man of many gifts: a deep intellect, artistic talents, integrity and an unbounded curiosity that made him a lifelong learner, always growing and exploring. He possessed a generosity of spirit that touched everyone who knew him. Perhaps his greatest gift was his infectious love of life and his ability to connect with other people through his warm presence, genuine attention and gentle humor. He had the gift of creating homemade

fun and sharing it with others, laughing 'til we cried.

He was a man who lived his values and understood that gifts are coupled to responsibilities. In return for the gift of a good community, he believed that you had to contribute to create good community, which he did. Bob shared his gifts while serving as a Boy Scout leader, Girl Scout helper, softball coach, Planning Board Chair and as a respected Town Supervisor for the Town of Duanesburg, New York. He was also a valued member of the Schenectady Metroplex Development Authority for more than a decade. He instilled in his family the ethic of "leave a place better than you found it" — which he did.

Bob was a vigorous outdoorsman, hiking, paddling and introducing his kids and grandkids to the natural world. He was blessed with the long friendship of hiking buddies in whose company he became an Adirondack 46er. He shared the lessons that climbing mountains can teach you: the journey is more important than the destination, take your own path, carry what you need, share what you have, stop and look, go with friends, sing as you go and enjoy the view.

Bob enjoyed the gift of 72 years of marriage to his beloved companion, Pat Wall, who passed away in February 2022. A loving and inspiring father, Bob often said that he was most proud of his four children, Michele Wall, Robin Wall, Daniel Wall and Barbara Wall, who miss him beyond measure. He is survived by eight adoring grandchildren, Arielle and Bailey Hanek, Linden Lane and Larkin Podsiedlik, Nathan and Erica Wall, and Ryan and Rachel Potter, who treasured their camping adventures with grandpa; and by seven great-grandchildren, who were lucky enough to know him. He is also honored by his many nieces and nephews.

His favorite saying was, "Proceed as the way opens." He was guided by his appreciation and gratitude for the gift of a good life and found deep satisfaction in the simplest pleasures. Think of him when you're graced with birdsong, a sparkling lake or a shining cloud.

Bob loved well and was well-loved. May we be guided by his example.

Bob loved and defended wildlife, forests and wild places. Memorial contributions may be made to the Adirondack Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. To leave a special message for the family, please visit newcomeralbany.com.

Cody Wade Whitlow Vieux Family



Cody Wade Whitlow, of Buckeye, Arizona, passed into eternity on July 11, 2022. He was born on June 6, 1971, in Pomona, California, to Allyson and Mike Whitlow. He was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation near Shawnee, Oklahoma, a descendant of the Vieux family.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Walter and Bernice Beloit, and Wade and Marie Whitlow; his mother, Allyson Whitlow; and his brother, Carter Whitlow. He is survived by his two sons, C.J. (Tayler) and Collin Whitlow of Goodyear, Arizona; two granddaughters; his two half-sisters, Teresa Hernandez of California and family, and Julie Culhane of Massachusetts and family; his brother, Clay Whitlow and daughter of Avondale, Arizona; his brother Carter's five children; his father, Mike Whitlow of Texas; his mother's three sisters, Carol, Rae Lynn, Susan and families; and his father's sister, Karen and family.

Cody grew up primarily in Parker and Buckeye, Arizona, where he graduated from Buckeye High School. During his youth in Parker, he and his brother, Carter, raced first 3-wheelers and later quads in both the Arizona Desert Racing Association and the Southern California Off-Road Association. He attended college in Douglas, Arizona, graduating with his single and multi-engine commercial pilot's license. Cody owned Whitlow Trucking, end dumps, transfer trucks and a rock yard. He drove commercially for many years.

He loved the outdoors, riding off-road vehicles, fishing, waterskiing on the Colorado River and boating. Cody had a disarming smile that quickly won over his relatives and friends, especially his female ones, and an outgoing personality and sense of humor that won him many friends. He attended Promise Keepers with his dad and uncle

and the Walk to Emmaus with his dad. He enjoyed getting together with extended family wherever they gathered and will be dearly missed by all.

Frances Elizabeth Skidmore Higbee Family



Frances Elizabeth (Higbee) Skidmore went home to her Lord on Aug. 5, 2022, after a short battle with cancer. She was born July 1, 1938, in Corbett, Oklahoma, to Louis Howard Higbee and Lois Vera (Kirkland) Higbee.

She met the love of her life, David Lee Skidmore, and they were married on Aug. 24, 1956. They were married for 58 years before David went to be with the Lord.

She worked at Sears & Roebuck before becoming a stay-at-home mom for several years. She had two children, Denise and David. The family moved to Oklahoma in 1972 and operated a car dealership, Dave Skidmore Motors, until 1983. She continued to work as a bookkeeper before fully retiring in 2012.

Frances was very proud of her Citizen Potawatomi Nation heritage and instilled that in her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter, Denise Madole of Norman; her son, David Skidmore and wife Ruvena of Norman; two grandsons, Sean Madole and wife Kylie and great-grandson Camden of Norman, and Connor Madole and wife Derica and great-grandchildren Hudson and Sawyer of Washington, Oklahoma; her sister-in-law, Linda Massey and husband Harvey; and six nephews, Allen Barwick of Shawnee, Oklahoma, Robert Higbee of Walnut Creek, California, Dennis Higbee of San Diego, California, Richard Higbee of Corona, California, Jason Massey and Jon Christian Massey.

She is preceded in death by her husband, David L. Skidmore; mother, Lois

Higbee; father, Howard Higbee; brother, William Higbee; and sister, Janet Barwick.

Nancy Lee Cordill Dike Family



Nancy Lee Cordill, 81, passed away peacefully on July 16, 2022, after a 12-year battle with ovarian cancer. Nancy Lee Dyer was born on March 28, 1941, in Junction City, Kansas. She had a great smile and spunky spirit and was loved by all. Strong, vibrant and beautiful inside and out. Nancy loved the Lord, and her faith sustained her throughout her life. She was generous to a fault, always giving to family, friends and strangers.

Nancy was very proud of her Potawatomi heritage and encouraged her children and grandchildren to learn about and get involved in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, Nathaniel and Muriel Grant, and great-granddaughter, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Wilkinson.

She is survived by Carl Cordill, her loving husband of 26 years who tenderly cared for her throughout her illness; children, Cindy (Jim) Wilkinson, Daniel (Grace) Lund, Cathy (Gary) Johnson, Crystal (Paul) Nevosh, Kelly (Jim) Kehlet and Brad (Karen) Cordill; grandchildren, James (Janine) Wilkinson, Jason (Eleanor) Wilkinson, Jaime (Andrew) Johnson, Joshua (Natalie) Wilkinson, Jennifer (German) Fernandez, Heather (Doug) Vegter, Jordan Nevosh, Brad (Kelsie) Lund, Samuel Nevosh, Danielle (Kyle) Hulse, Kristen Kehlet, Ryan Kehlet, Bryce Cordill and Kyla Cordill; and nine great-grandchildren.

Nancy's passing leaves a huge hole in the hearts of her family and friends, but we rejoice in knowing she is in Heaven resting in the Lord's loving arms.

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in

the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" Psalm 91:1-2

Graveside service and burial were at The Exeter District Cemetery on Aug. 19, 2022.

Michael David Coots Peltier Family



Michael David Coots, age 80, of Necedah, Wisconsin, passed away on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at his home. He was born September 8, 1941, to Arthur David and Pearl Ruth (Walling) Coots in Oklahoma. Following high school, Mike enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he proudly served his country for 4 years. During his time in the U.S. Air Force, he was assigned to the 4631st Support Squadron that performed radar maintenance in the aerospace defense program of the Chicago North American Air Defense Command NORAD Sector. Upon leaving the service, most of his working career was spent at the Port Edwards Paper Mill working in the Power Department, he also worked in road excavation construction. During this time, he became very handy and skilled at various jobs. If there was something you needed fixed, you could always count on him.

He met the love of his life, Della Cheryl Becker, and they were wed on May 6, 1963, in Rockford, Illinois. They were together until her passing on June 8, 2001.

Mike was a simple kind of man. He loved a good conversation (or debate!) about politics, working on cars and motorcycles, but most of all, he enjoyed the time he got to spend with his family.

Mike is survived by his children, Jeffrey (Lori) Coots of Necedah, and Dawn (John) Kinnett of Edgerton, Wisconsin; grandchildren, Justin (Megan), Brittany (Jeffrey), Trevor and Brandon; great-grandchildren, Emery, Cullen, and Brecken; sister, Sandy and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Della; his parents, Arthur and Pearl; and his brother, Steve.

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at the Torkelson Funeral Home in Necedah. Burial with full military honors followed at the Bayview Cemetery. Online condolences may be offered at torkelsonfuneralhome.com

Wayne Anthony Hey Beaubien Family



Wayne Anthony Hey of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, passed away from this life on May 2, 2022, at the age of 75. Wayne was born in Oklahoma City to Kenneth and Ruth Hey on March 29, 1947.

Wayne was a kind man with a warm, loving heart. He liked spending time outdoors, tending to his garden, using his woodworking talent to create beautiful pieces of art, and in his younger years, enjoyed raising pigeons. He also enjoyed spoiling his cats and spending time with his family, whom he adored. Wayne touched the hearts of many during his lifetime, and he will be dearly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Shelli Hey; his mother, Ruth Ellen (Mathis) Hey; his father, Kenneth Joseph Hey; and a brother, Glenn Hey.

Left behind to treasure Wayne's memory are his beloved wife, Glenda Hey, of the home; one son, Kyle Hey; two grandchildren, Brendan and Braylon Hey; four sisters, Carol Stapleton, Linda Miskovsky, Patricia McKee and husband David, and Gail Hopper; and one brother, Mark Hey; along with a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends, both human and feline.

A memorial service was held Thursday, May 5, 2022, at the John M. Ireland & Son Funeral Home & Chapel in Moore, Oklahoma.

Submitting obituaries

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

hownikan@potawatomi.org

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

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