



# HOWNIIKAN

Aptebbongises | December 2021

Top photo: FireLake water tower as seen through winter trees near Tribal Headquarters.

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## 2021 Year in Review

Following a tumultuous year marked by the pandemic, 2021 brought productivity and uplifting news from Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Big developments ranged from new ways for Tribal members to connect digitally to an impactful agreement between local governments to improve the community's future.

### Shawnee Aligned

In late September, the City of Shawnee and the Nation signed an agreement forming Shawnee Aligned. The initiative developed a strong partnership for the betterment of greater Pottawatomie County, and both governments agreed to work cooperatively on water system improvements, fire and police protection, housing, transportation, economic development and more.

It also signaled the end of decades of legal proceedings, coming one day after the Shawnee City Commission voted unanimously to formally detach lands south of the North Canadian River. In 1961, former city representatives annexed large areas of the Nation's trust land for development without the Tribe's permission. The Shawnee Aligned initiative marks a turning point for Tribal-city relations in many ways. Visit [shawneecaligned.com](http://shawneecaligned.com) for more information.

### First National Bank & Trust Co. acquisition

The largest tribally-owned bank grew this summer when CPN's First National Bank & Trust Co. acquired MidWest Community Financial Corp. and its



CPN Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett honors Shawnee Mayor Ed Bolt with a blanket after signing the Shawnee Aligned agreement.

subsidiary, The First State Bank. As Oklahoma's largest banking merger and acquisition since 2016, it resulted in the expansion of FNBOK with branches now in Oklahoma City, Midwest City and Canute as well as a loan production office in Edmond. Its assets reach in excess of \$700 million, making FNB one of the largest independent community banks in the state. Read about available services and branch locations at [fnbokla.bank](http://fnbokla.bank).

### CPN Health Services vaccination drives

The beginning of the year brought with it COVID-19 vaccine rollouts. Only a few days after the Food and Drug Administration's emergency use

authorization in December, CPN Health Services began administering the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. CPNHS held drive-thru and walk-in clinics in the following months, quickly distributing the 10,000th dose in March. They continued to reach thousands of elders, patients, tribal members and the surrounding community throughout the rest of the year and began distributing boosters in September. Call 405-964-5770 for vaccine information.

### 2021 FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival

Citizen Potawatomi Nation celebrated a return to community events with

*Continued on page 7*



## COMING SOON FREE TELEHEALTH FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

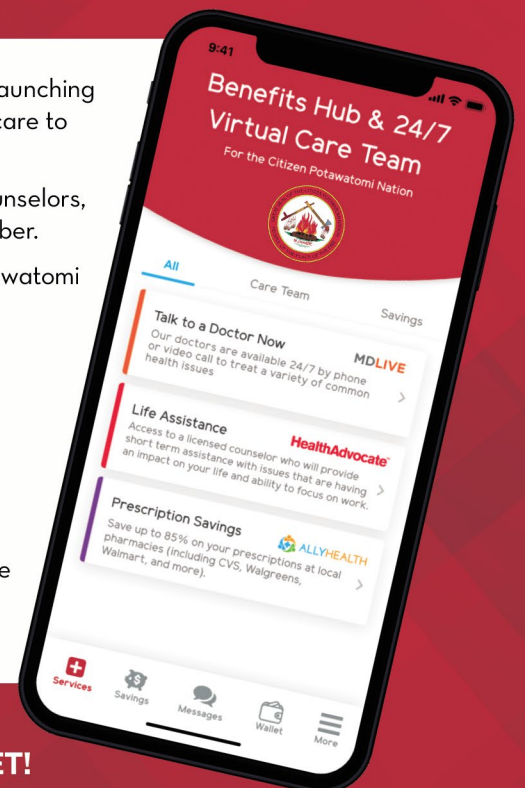
We are proud to announce that next year, Citizen Potawatomi Nation will be launching CPN Care, a new telehealth program offering quality, confidential telehealth care to members at no cost to you or your family!

Starting January 1, 2022, CPN members will have 24/7 access to doctors, counselors, and more at \$0 cost per call - with a \$800+ value per year per enrolled member.

CPN Care will include a powerful suite of easy-to-use services for Citizen Potawatomi Nation members, including:

- 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.

CPN Care is coming to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation community starting in January, where you will be able to access services via phone or our new mobile app! Stay tuned for additional details regarding how to activate this valuable program and receive registration instructions.



**WE ARE THRILLED TO OFFER THIS SERVICE IN 2022 TO HELP YOU HAVE THE HAPPIEST AND HEALTHIEST YEAR YET!**

# Hownikan staff recognized

Since its first publication in 1971, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's *Hownikan* has produced news, information and updates for Tribal members around the globe. The original publication under the direction of Secretary-Treasurer Beverly Hughes contained information on per capita payments from the 1960s-era Indian Claims Commission.

After the print edition of the paper is complete, staff upload stories and content on [potawatomi.org](http://potawatomi.org) daily and share it via CPN's social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Event flyers and Tribal services graphics created by the department are distributed on these digital channels, published on billboards around Oklahoma or sent directly to Tribal members. The department also works with local media, such as the *Shawnee News-Star* and *Countywide & Sun*, to republish articles, photos, videos and audio interviews shared on the CPN YouTube page or incorporated into the *Hownikan Podcast*.

The team behind this undertaking consists of Tribal members and non-Citizen Potawatomi — some former journalists, others from different professional backgrounds. In recent years, the publication and its ancillary content have won numerous awards at state and national competitions.

## Jennifer Bell - Editor

A graduate of the University of Tulsa and The University of Oklahoma, Bell joined CPN after spending 4 years at Cherokee Nation Businesses. She began working at CPN in 2012 and has worked diligently to share more CPN news with Tribal members and the public in general. Bell has served on the board of directors for the Oklahoma chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Native American Journalists Association. Bell is a descendant of the Ogee family. Her recent awards include:

- 2018 – Shawnee Forward Excellence in the Community Award
- 2018 – Oklahoma Gazette 40 Under 40
- 2019 – Journal Record Achievers Under 40

Merit Award, Oklahoma Tourism Redbud Awards, Outstanding Media Coverage, FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival

## Society of Professional Journalists Awards 2019

- First Place, *High Tech in Tecumseh* (2019)
- Third Place, *FireLake FireFlight Balloon Festival* (2019)

## Native American Journalists Association Awards 2018, 2020, 2021

- Third Place, *What Happened with the Lottery?* (2018)
- Third Place, *Mko Kno Soars* (2018)
- First Place, General Excellence (2020)
- Third Place, Digital Publication (2021)
- Second Place, General Excellence (2021)

## Emily Guleserian - Graphic Artist

Hailing from McKinney, Texas, Guleserian is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee,

Oklahoma. She came to the Tribe straight from college, and in recent years, many CPN members have likely held her work in their hands when receiving a regional meeting invitation from their Tribal legislator. Guleserian's work is also found on numerous designs found inside Potawatomi Gifts and for many promotional events for the shop and other Tribal enterprises.

In recent years, her work was recognized in a number of forums, including:

- 2018 – NextGen Under 30
- 2020 – First Place in Promotional Materials from the Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalists
- 2021 – Certified Digital Marketing Professional from the Digital Marketing Institute

## Trey DeLonais - Graphic Artist

A CPN member from Ada, Oklahoma, DeLonais has largely been responsible for the *Hownikan's* layout and page design since coming to the Nation as an employee in 2014. Piecing together a 20-24-page paper with more than a dozen different contributors on a monthly basis isn't easy. Yet, the paper has won numerous Native American Journalism Awards for best design since this DeLonais family member came on board.

Some of these honors include:

- 2017 – NextGen Under 30

## Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalists Awards 2021

- Feature Page Layout and Design First Place – December 2020 *Hownikan*
- Use of Graphic Illustration First Place – COVID Tips Infographic, March 2020 *Hownikan*
- Best Newspaper Second Place – March 2020 *Hownikan*

## Native American Journalists Association Awards 2019, 2020

- General Excellence Print Publication Third Place Award (2020)
- Best Layout Print Publication Third Place Award (2020)
- Best Layout Print Publication First Place Award (2019)
- General Excellence Print Publication First Place Award (2019)

## Paige Willett - Writer and Podcast Producer

Willett came to the *Hownikan* from National Public Radio affiliate KGOU. This Mustang, Oklahoma, native pens articles that offer in-depth looks into the day-to-day lives and experiences of CPN members and employees.

The University of Oklahoma alum previously held an internship for the paper under late *Hownikan* editor Michael Dodson and is an alumnus of the Potawatomi Leadership Program. In 2019, this Toupin family descendent built on Dodson's radio legacy with *The Native American Speaks* by creating the *Hownikan Podcast*.

In recent years, she's won awards for her written and audio content, including:

- 2019 – NextGen Under 30

## Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalists Awards 2020, 2021

- Entertainment-Arts-Leisure Writing (2021)
  - First Place, *Bootmaker finds artistry in tradition*
  - Third Place, *Woodland artists celebrate contemporary work at Jacobson House Native Art Center*
- Feature Writing Third Place Award for *Jesses bring community together at J Bar Arena* (2020)
- Diversity Coverage Third Place Award for *Language with Perrot* (2020)
- Entertainment Feature, Arts Criticism, Leisure Writing (2020)
- Second Place Award for *American-Chinese artist's career and work inspired by Native culture* (2020)
- Third Place Award for *Artist Susan Appier finds versatile medium in gourds* (2020)
- Sports Reporting Second Place Award for *Potawatomi barrel racer places in the top 10 at Indian National Finals Rodeo* (2020)

## Native American Journalists Association Awards 2020

- Radio/Podcast Best Feature Story Third Place Award for interview with Kristy Phillips, May 2019
- Print/Online Best Elder Coverage Second Place Award for *Language with Perrot*

## Mary Belle Zook - Writer and Marketing for Potawatomi Gifts

A Bourassa family descendant from Waynoka, Oklahoma, Zook is a graduate of Oklahoma State University's agricultural communications program. Zook transitioned to her current role after a successful internship with the Public Information Department, with her writing for the paper in recent years focusing on cultural and historical topics. Her latest undertakings include monthly articles focused on the Tribe's founding families.

In addition, she collaborates closely with Guleserian to grow Potawatomi Gifts' online and marketing platforms. The enterprise's continued improvement indicates the collaboration's success.

Her dedication to her craft is reflected in recent awards and honors, including:

- 2019 - NextGen Under 30
- 2021 - Certified Digital Marketing Professional from the Digital Marketing Institute

## Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalists Awards 2019, 2020, 2021

- Feature Writing First Place, *Bourassa the reptile wrangler* (2021)
- Education Writing Second Place, *Students and parents alike enjoy virtual STEM and Healthy Eats camps* (2021)
- STEM-Environmental Writing Third Place, *Regenerative agriculture techniques improve Tribal land for generations to come* (2021)
- Entertainment Feature, Arts Criticism, Leisure Writing First Place Award for *Citizen Potawatomi author seeks*

*to define spiritual and ancestral identity in new book* (2020)

- Diversity Coverage Second Place Award for *Heritage seed project helps decolonize Potawatomi food systems* (2020)
- Online Video Journalism Third Place Award for *Seven Fires* (2020)
- Science, Tech, Health & Environmental Division Third Place Award for *Cultural participation aids charge against youth suicide* (2019)
- Diversity Division Third Place Award for *DNA testing, impacts across Indian Country* (2019)

## Native American Journalists Association Awards 2019

- Feature/News Story Second Place Award for *DNA testing, impacts across Indian Country* (2019)

## Garett Fisbeck - Photographer and Videographer

This citizen of the Cherokee Nation joined the staff in 2017, bringing his years of experience at *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Oklahoman* and *Oklahoma Gazette* to the paper's visual offerings. In addition to award-winning photography in the *Hownikan*, the Blanchard, Oklahoma-raised Fisbeck ramped up video shoots on behalf of the Public Information Department and CPN's Cultural Heritage Center. If you've seen a video on the CPN YouTube page or photos from FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival, you've seen his work.

His skill is reflected in the regional and national awards won in recent years, including:

- 2019 - NextGen Under 30

## Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalists Awards 2020, 2021

- General Photography Third Place for *Flag Raising* (2021)
- General Photography First Place Award for *Balloon Fest Wonder* (2020)
- Sports Photography First Place Award for *Close Play* (2020)

## Native American Journalists Association Awards 2020

- Best Sports Photo Second Place Award for *Close Play*
- Best Feature Story Honorable Mention Recognition for *Conservation Camp*
- Best Sports Photo Honorable Mention Recognition for *Bench Warmers*

## Native American Journalists Association Awards 2019

- Best Feature Photo Print Publications
  - First Place Award for *Balloon Fest 2018*
  - Third Place Award for *Bill and Marty*
- Best Sports Photo Print Publication
  - First Place Award for *OSSA Softball Championship*
  - Second Place Award for *OSSA Softball Championship*
  - Third Place Award for *Baseball Camp* 🏆

## Tribal member brings diversity to book donation

Each year, the Pioneer Library System of central Oklahoma donates books to Women, Infants, and Children programs through the Cleveland County Health Department, McClain County Health Department and Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services. Tribal member Britt Muirhead leads the initiative as the programming specialist for PLS.

“That’s really our goal with this is to put a book into as many children’s hands and homes as possible to help promote literacy and a love of learning from an early age,” Muirhead said.

The Anderson and McCarthy family descendant believes in that mission and the importance of early childhood education as a former teacher. The donations follow the completion of the library system’s summer learning challenge when its tri-county service area community participants log time spent reading and learning. This year’s goal was 6 million minutes.

“It’s pretty amazing for our community to spend 6 million minutes reading and learning this summer. And with us reaching that goal, the Pioneer Library System Foundation grants the Pioneer Library System \$10,000 to be able to order and donate these books across the service area,” Muirhead said.

Gifted the books for WIC programs to distribute throughout the next year presents a way to promote learning and reading to an underserved segment of the population.



*Tribal member Britt Muirhead prioritizes early childhood literacy skills while creating programs for the Pioneer Library System.*

“It’s one thing to take a library book home and then have to bring it back, and it’s another to have one of your own that you get to keep, and that’s yours,” Muirhead said.

The Tribe’s WIC office distributes them throughout Pottawatomie County to clients and CPN’s East and West clinics. The program began in 2019, and since then, the relationship between CPN and PLS has grown stronger.

“I feel like CPN’s community engagement and support of the community really aligns with what PLS’s goal and mission is,” Muirhead said. “And I think that alignment helps us work together more

effectively in a way that strengthens our impact on those communities.”

Muirhead reached out to CPN Department of Education Director Tesia Zientek for assistance selecting a children’s book for the donation that filled a gap in Native American representation. As Muirhead put it, “There’s no reason not to.”

“CPN is just as significant population of our community as every other member and everybody else living throughout our service area. And I feel like it’s important to give back and to do so in a way that is inclusive,” Muirhead said.

The donation to the Tribe includes a book titled *Cradle Me*, featuring

photos of Native American infants and translations of vocabulary in Ojibwe and English. Muirhead highlighted the importance of literacy skills in early childhood development.

“Even though I don’t get to do storytimes with (children) anymore, I can provide that opportunity for them to have in their own homes,” Muirhead said.

When handing out *Cradle Me*, CPN includes a bookmark insert that says, “Read to me” or *Gemeshen*, in both Potawatomi and English.

CPN Language Department Director “Justin Neely has given us the Potawatomi translation of that ... just to give a little bit more exposure of the language to the children and their families,” Muirhead said.

The library hopes to continue the program in the future and expand representation, making it as diverse as the communities in McClain, Cleveland and Pottawatomie counties. Muirhead has heard nothing but positive feedback filled with excitement.

“We’re here to support the community needs however we can, and the more that we’re able to connect and engage with all members of our community, the more we are able to actually meet and serve those individual needs,” Muirhead said.

Find out more about Pioneer Library System at [pioneerlibrarysystem.org](http://pioneerlibrarysystem.org). Visit CPN’s Women, Infants, and Children’s program online at [cpn.news/WIC](http://cpn.news/WIC). ♡

## Veterans report



Bozho  
(Hello),

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

At our last meeting in October, we had two guest speakers who addressed some issues that are important for our Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans. Our first speaker was Chris Lenggenhager from CPN’s Cultural Heritage Center. He told us of the need for CPN veterans who served in the military, in peacetime and war, to be interviewed about their military experiences for historical records for their future families to know their story in their own words. You can contact Chris Lenggenhager by calling 405-878-5830. This is your family’s history that is being saved for generations to come.

Our second guest speaker, Tanya Moore, talked to us about a program called Respite Care. It is a service through the Veterans Administration that pays a person to come to a veteran’s home for a care program while their family caregiver takes a break. While a veteran gets respite care, the family caregiver can run errands or go out of town for a few days without worrying about leaving the veteran alone at home. This service



THEY HAVE BONDED WELL!

can be helpful to veterans of all ages and their caregiver, and it can be done in an inpatient, outpatient or home setting.

The program is for veterans who need skilled services, case management and help with activities of daily living. Examples include help with bathing, dressing, fixing meals or taking medicines. This service can help lower the stress that veterans and their family caregiver may feel when managing a loved one’s long-term care needs in the home. All enrolled veterans are eligible if they meet the clinical need for the service, and it is available in your area through the VA. You may be able to get a paid home health aide to come to your home; you could attend an adult day health care center; you could go to a community

living center, a VA nursing home or a VA medical center for a short stay. Depending on the respite care services in your area, you can choose which options are best for you and your family caregivers. Most veterans choose a home health aide to come to their home. No matter which option you use, trained staff will help you with your care needs. Respite Care services may be available up to 30 days a calendar year. For more information you may call the VA at 1-877-222-8387, or if you are in Oklahoma, 405-259-9155.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization will begin



DON'T TELL ME THAT'S CAMOUFLAGE! I KNOW FISHING LURES WHEN I SEE THEM!

having our regular monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month starting on January 25, 2022, at 6 p.m. in the North Reunion Hall of the CPN powwow grounds. All CPN Veterans and their families are welcome. We hope to see you all there.

Migwetch  
(Thank you),

Daryl Talbot, Commander  
[daryl.talbot75@outlook.com](mailto:daryl.talbot75@outlook.com)  
405-275-1054 ♡

# Tribal 477 program makes national news thanks to VP Harris

In remarks to the National Congress of American Indians 2021 general assembly, Vice President Kamala Harris announced a long-awaited opening for tribal 477 programs across the country. These programs, like those administered through the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Workforce Development & Social Services Department, allow tribes to co-mingle federal funds in the delivery of services to Native Americans in their jurisdiction. Tribal leaders across the country repeatedly requested the re-opening of the 477 programs' memorandum of agreement providing guidance on the self-governance law signed by President Trump in 2017. Without consultation with the Native Nations it would impact, a dozen federal agencies signed the MOA. This resulted in these same agencies re-implementing many harmful practices that the law's 2017 signing intended to fix, despite tribes' protests.



Vice President Kamala Harris

Development Corporation's commercial loan program was just one of many pushing local investment of federal funds. The program provides financing to Native-owned businesses that create jobs in the Tribe's 477 service area, which encompasses Pottawatomie, Oklahoma, Cleveland, Seminole and Lincoln counties in east-central Oklahoma.

While Workforce Development & Social Services oversees many 477 programs for the Nation, examples like the CPCDC's loan pool have been integral for economic development at CPN.

"The loan pool is a 477 creation," said WDSS Assistant Director Margaret Zientek. "The CPCDC manages a

\$100,000 loan pool that we created. Each year, I get a report on how many new loans, new jobs created. That pool has turned over now over three times."

In practical terms, that means the Tribe's initial investment has earned back almost half a million dollars.

A similar project created through 477 helped get one of the Tribe's most ambitious commercial endeavors off the ground. In 2001, a commercial loan program of \$75,000 helped cover FireLake Discount Foods' opening payroll costs. Just passing its 20th anniversary since opening, the enterprises' ability to utilize the initial loan program proved a solid investment.

The practice of increasing turnover of funds in the local, Tribal economy has been a longtime goal of the Citizen Potawatomi Tribal government under Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett.

## The way it used to be

It is difficult to understand what it was like prior to Public Law 102-477's passage for many using these programs today.

In a 2017 interview with the *Hownikan*, Zientek recalled a situation CPN went through with the early head start and child development programs in the 1990s. The two Tribal departments received funding and Thanksgiving dinner staples, but were barred from "co-mingling" their staff and food items by federal agencies.

"They told you (Tribal departments) that you should collaborate and share, but if you did, you were told not to do it that way," she said.

When staff members from one department cooked a Thanksgiving dinner using donated turkeys as part of their in-kind work, HHS opposed it. Had the Tribal staff members not touched the donated turkeys, they would have been allowed to count them in their reporting.

In another instance, bureaucrats in Washington encouraged the Tribal department to hire staff and approved the job posting requirements. However, they then demanded to review the resumes of all the applicants enrolled in the Department of Education's Career Technical Education Program.

"We just told them, 'We have hired someone who meets those qualifications. You don't need their resume. We don't need your approval,'" Zientek said.

Examples like these show why professionals continue to push for logical, thought-out processes when amending federal legislation impacting Indian Country. The ability of tribes to exercise local control of the federal funds and put them to use in the spirit of the 477 law are what the legislation is all about.

To learn more about CPN's Workforce Development & Social Services programs, visit [cpn.news/workforce](http://cpn.news/workforce). ♡

# Embracing culture through art

Cartoonist and printmaker Lane Lincecum uses art as a form of exploration. The Bertrand descendant enjoys opportunities to share Potawatomi culture and heritage with others, especially through visual formats. For a final project at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, creating a comic book seemed like a no-brainer. The project, titled *Flyover*, includes *Nishnabé*-inspired themes and stories.

"I just took the skills that I had ... and I just decided to make the cool, weird sci-fi, floppy comic that I wish that I had when I was a little kid," Lincecum said.

*Flyover* provided Lincecum an opportunity to mix disciplines, from its colors to hand-binding.

Lincecum, who focused on printmaking during college, said, "One of the fun parts for me was designing the whole thing."

## Background and process

Their interest in art began at an early age.

"I've been drawing since, I think, I could hold a pencil," Lincecum said. "I've always just really enjoyed drawing cartoons ... it's just something I've gotten really good at over the years."

Studying as many disciplines as possible during college helped define the Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member's signature style.

"I really like when my drawings feel very familiar and lived in, which I think makes it fun when I write like sci-fi kind of stuff or fantasy kind of stuff because it's combining like a very realistic,

lived-in world with sort of an out-of-this-world concept," Lincecum said.

Anime and manga, popular Japanese art trends, along with fine artists like Philip Guston and everyday life provided inspiration.

"I get a lot out of observing the things around me in daily life — on the street and on the ground, in the grocery store, when I'm driving around," Lincecum said.

Opportunities arise quickly, making sketchbooks essential for the creative process.

"It's where I collect all my ideas. ... I go back to my sketchbook and look at my notes, look at my little drawings and see how I can take those and expand on them, put more time into them and turn them into something else," Lincecum said.

*Flyover* evolved from prior sketches and an alternative print technique called a risograph, which created the comic's late-winter, early-spring setting using mint green and blue hues set in the Great Lakes region.

"I just think about like what that area looked like 200 years ago and maybe what it'll look like that same amount of time in the future," Lincecum said.

## Sugar bush

Despite living around the Great Lakes, researching and learning Potawatomi traditions and history is a more recent interest.

"What I wanted to do in this story was talk about something that I think a lot of people my age and experience, or just



The comic book *Flyover* creatively intertwines a post-apocalyptic world with traditional Potawatomi subjects.

a lot of people in our Tribe's experience, is—growing up kind of not having that perspective and then gaining it as an adult and trying to re-learn about the world around you through the perspective of relationships to the land and what our ancestors went through," Lincecum said.

Childhood visits to northern Wisconsin and fond memories of tasting fresh maple syrup drew Lincecum to this traditional Potawatomi food.

"It's an example of a story I think is good for kids and like younger people to

understand the relationship between people and the land and that give and take," Lincecum explained. "So I chose to take that and kind of extrapolate it out into this climate change scenario."

The comic's main character, Bertie, lives in a post-apocalyptic world and uses a drone to explore and map her surroundings. Bertie comes in contact with Ollie, who introduces her to Amy in the nearby sugar bush. Bertie discovers they are harvesting maple sap and learns what caused the wide-spread desolation.

"I hope it makes (readers) kind of think about the world around them a little bit more and maybe take interest in some different science concepts — maybe like mycology,"

Lincecum said. "If they're Potawatomi, it makes them interested in the oral history, it makes them interested in the ecology of the Great Lakes."

Lincecum hopes to one day create comics completely in *Bodéwadmimwen* and is currently working on developing an online commerce platform along with several artist colleagues.

Find Lincecum's work, including *Flyover*, at [lanelincecum.com](http://lanelincecum.com). Follow on Twitter @uglygrlswag and Instagram @uglygirlswag. ♡

## Meet new District 1 legislator

Following a long campaign and run-off election, Alan Melot became Citizen Potawatomi Nation's District 1 legislator in September 2021. He lives in Joplin, Missouri, with his wife Stephanie and works as a licensed clinical psychologist. Melot decided to run for election in 2020.

"I had thought of this a time or two before, and it just seemed like a natural open door. ... I visited with several people, and they encouraged me to run. They thought that I would be well suited for the position," he said.

As his four-year term begins, Melot plans to translate his gratitude for the opportunity into service for his constituents.

### Family

Now in his mid-40s, Melot grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana, but spent a significant amount of time in the Oklahoma City metro as a child.

"So that's where I learned how to talk, and that's where I learned how to 'warsh' my hands and how to fry 'oak-ree' and those types of things that happen around here," he said and laughed.



District 1 Legislator Alan Melot

"I'm old enough to remember whenever the facilities (at CPN) weren't here and when coming down to Shawnee to get your teeth cleaned or do other things at the Indian Clinic were very different from what they are now."

Melot attended Caddo Magnet High School in Shreveport and briefly attended Louisiana State University before working and moving to Missouri to live with his wife Stephanie in the early 2000s.

"She's the absolute structure and rock of my life. She's my best friend and my support and just a fabulous person to be able to live with," he said.

Their 21-year-old son Judah taught Melot a lot about himself through the struggles of parenting. As Judah grew up, Melot and his wife decided to return to school and finish their degrees. He graduated from Missouri Southern State University with a bachelor's degree in sociology in 2018 and a master's in clinical psychology from Pittsburg State University in 2020.

"A lot of people don't have the opportunity to have the kind of support that I've had, and to be able to go back and finish up my bachelor's degree was ... a real privilege," Melot said.



CPN Chief District Judge Philip D. Lujan swears in District 1 Legislator Alan Melot.

### Generosity

Aside from a fascination with human nature, Melot works as a psychologist to make his clients' lives better.

"I love what I do. I just absolutely love helping people. I love being able to meet people in their hard times, in their hard places. And it's just a really nice way to be able to give back now," he said.

After completing his degree, Melot decided to pursue running for a legislative position to help others receive the same assistance from the Nation.

"The Tribe has given me so much. They've given me support with my education. They've given me some cultural foundations that I'm glad for, and I want to be able to pass those things on. I want to be able to serve the people in District 1, and I'm just really thankful that I have the ability to now," he said.

While a legislator, his goals revolve around communication, bringing the people of District 1 together, and acting as an informational resource. However, his priority remains fulfilling constituents' requests.

"There are so many things that we have opportunities to do that perhaps we haven't, ideas that we haven't considered yet or projects that we may be working on and might need to have a little bit different input or different voices," Melot said.

He follows longtime District 1 Legislator Roy Slavin, who walked on in April 2020. Melot admits to lacking Slavin's life experiences and connections to generations older than him, both of which come with age. However, Melot believes he offers a lot to the role.

"I can bring my own personality and my own skills and my own experiences to the generations that are coming up, and I think that that's very important," he said. "Not that I can do what Roy did because I can't fill those shoes, but I might be able to find some shoes of my own and walk a path that was like his."

### Joy

Almost always sporting a big smile, Melot attempts to fill every day with fun.

"I'm probably one of those people that at the wrong moment, I think something's funny. And I have the self-control of a third-grader sometimes. And I'm just going to laugh. If something's funny, I'm going to laugh, and I can't help it," he said.

Melot also considers bringing people together through accomplishments and overcoming arguments high on his skills list.

"What I've realized is that everybody has

needs, and we all have places that we struggle and that we all have places that we can grow and learn. And that includes me. I'm talking about myself here, and that through this process, I want to learn, and I want to grow through this so that I can be the absolute best for my people that I can be," he said.

"Is laughing a hobby?" he asked and chuckled.

"I like to have joy that's just rooted in something besides just what's going on at the time because hard times come. And part of that joy for me is just hanging out with my wife and my family."

His dad taught him to enjoy the outdoors, and Melot also likes quiet coffee on Saturday mornings, riding his motorcycle, traveling, all types of food and comedy.

Read District 1 Legislator Alan Melot's previous *Hownikan* columns at [cpn.news/legislature](http://cpn.news/legislature). Find his biography at [cpn.news/D1melot](http://cpn.news/D1melot). 🔥

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# Career change unveils tasty talents

Quintard descendant Paige Grandjean found herself at a crossroads. Realizing she had no interest in her degree field of exercise physiology, she quit her first job after graduating from Texas A&M. But with months left on her lease in Birmingham, Alabama, she needed to find a revenue stream. Inspired by her love of cooking and baking, she applied for an internship opportunity with *Southern Living's* test kitchen. Six years later, Grandjean continues to artfully craft and test recipes for major publications like *Food & Wine Magazine*, *Magnolia Table Vol. 2* by Joanna Gaines and *Southern Living* through the Meredith Corporation.

"All my summer jobs in high school and college were in restaurants or kitchens. I didn't think it was an actual career path for me, but somehow I ended up there," she said.

"Just to have my name in the magazine ... I just never thought it would happen, but it's really cool."

## Family roots

Food has always served an integral part in bringing Grandjean's family together. The traditions and memories crafted as a child with her mom, grandmother and aunts in the kitchen still inspires her today.

"The point of everything I do is for (readers) to bring it into their home kitchen, and how important food is from a family aspect. To be a part of that is great," she said.

Since joining the Meredith Corporation, Grandjean has had several recipes featured on the covers of renowned food publications as well as articles, spreads, tear sheets and more. One of her favorite projects so far included a trip to her mother Debra's home state of New Mexico.

"For as long as I can remember, we've been going back (to New Mexico) every October and September to pick up chiles," Grandjean said.

The September 2021 issue of *Food & Wine* included her story, which takes readers to the desert fields of southern New Mexico alongside her family to harvest and process Hatch green chiles.

"Our day begins in the chile fields at dawn, the cooler nighttime temperatures vanishing as the sun peeks over the distant mountains. After meticulously picking for hours, we pile 50-pound burlap sacks of chiles, still warm from the desert sun, in the back of the pickup truck and meander home along dusty farm roads," Grandjean wrote.

The accompanying tutorial and recipe highlight how to process the chiles at home and make fool-proof chiles rellenos with crisp, golden exteriors and warm, flowing cheese interiors.

## Development

While Grandjean did not attend culinary school, she strives to learn new techniques and always improve her craft.

"I've done bakery stages around the country. I'll go hang out with the chefs for a couple days, shadow, help out, go to conferences, just random things here and there," she said.

Creating print-worthy recipes requires a team effort. Grandjean begins most



*Paige Grandjean's composed, yet rustic approach to recipes captures the attention of foodies across the nation. (Photo provided)*

workdays in the kitchen, and then takes what she prepares to a review panel.

"We all sit around the table, pass the food around, taste it for feedback and suggest changes for next round," she said. "Then we go back into the kitchen, remake it, type up recipe notes and any changes, and then pass that recipe on to the recipe editors."

Assignments include a mix of Grandjean's concepts, other staff members' ideas, themes and more.

"It's a lot of back and forth. Some stories, you get more freedom. ... Other times, it's cross-testing recipes from chefs. So it's translating a chef recipe into something that a home cook can actually execute, scaling it way down, changing out obscure ingredients, that sort of thing," she said.

Grandjean employs a multi-pronged approach to her work.

"You have to look at it from a visual standpoint and also taste profile — flavor profile," she explained. "Because it's going in a magazine, the visual is very important to draw people in. But then, obviously, you need to execute on the flavors."

Since the coronavirus pandemic's onset, more people are opting for cooking and baking at home. According to Hunter PR, a consumer market research firm, even as restaurants and businesses return to a new normal, 70 percent of consumers plan to continue preparing meals in their own kitchens.

"Like with the sour dough craze, flour sold out everywhere. It seems like



## Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 large yellow onion, roughly chopped (2 1/2 cups)
- 5 garlic cloves, chopped (about 1 1/2 tablespoons)
- 1 1/2 pounds yellow squash (about 4 small), cut into 1/4-inch-thick half-moons (about 5 cups)
- 1 1/2 pounds zucchini (about 4 small), cut into 1/4-inch-thick half-moons (about 5 cups)
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt, plus more to taste
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon dried Mexican oregano leaves
- 3/4 teaspoon black pepper, plus more to taste
- 2 cups (10 oz) fresh or thawed, frozen yellow corn kernels (from 3 ears)
- 1 1/2 cups (10 oz.) roasted, peeled, and chopped medium-heat Hatch green chiles, drained well (from fresh or thawed, frozen chiles)
- 6 ounces shredded Mexican cheese blend (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 4 ounces crumbled queso fresco (about 1 cup)
- Cilantro leaves, for garnish

## Directions

### Step 1

Melt unsalted butter in a large (12-inch) cast-iron skillet over medium. Add chopped onion. Cook, stirring often, until slightly softened, about 5 minutes. Add garlic. Cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add yellow squash, zucchini, salt, cumin, Mexican oregano, and pepper. Cook, stirring often, until softened, 10 to 14 minutes. Stir in corn and green chiles. Cook, stirring occasionally, until corn is tender and flavors meld, 5 to 8 minutes.

### Step 2

Reduce heat to low. Add the Mexican cheese blend, stirring until melted and well combined, about 2 minutes. Season to taste with additional salt and pepper, if desired. Sprinkle with queso fresco, and garnish with cilantro before serving.

Find the full recipe at [cpn.news/sl](https://cpn.news/sl) | Recipe and photo provided by Southern Living



people are really diving into multi-day cooking projects," Grandjean said.

This trend has provided an opportunity to explore her love and talent for pastry and bread making, earning a cover spot on the September 2020 issue of *Food & Wine*.

"I definitely went down the rabbit hole of how to make the best croissant and how to translate that for the home cook — the best butters," she said. "It was very surprising how

many people actually went to the effort of making the croissants and how well they were turning out for the first time. That's exciting to see, from a developer standpoint."

She encourages other CPN members to explore through cooking and baking, and looks forward to future opportunities to learn about her Potawatomi culture. Find Grandjean's work online at [paigeandjean.com](https://paigeandjean.com). ♡

## 2022 ELECTION NOTICE

*In the November 2021 edition of the Hownikan, the election notice contained incorrect dates. They have been corrected here. We apologize for the error.*

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

#### VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

#### SECRETARY-TREASURER

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

#### LEGISLATOR

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

**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AFTER DEC. 1, 2021. TO REQUEST, EMAIL [ELECTIONS@POTAWATOMI.ORG](mailto:ELECTIONS@POTAWATOMI.ORG)**

*Year in review continued...*



*CPN Health Services Chief Medical Officer Adam Vascellaro, D.O. checks in with COVID-19 vaccination clinic patients.*

the 2021 FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival in August. This year's attractions brought out more than 20,000 attendees over two days, the most since it began in 2017. Twenty-three hot air balloons from across the country took to the skies throughout the weekend. Patrons enjoyed commercial and tethered rides, food trucks, evening balloon glows, carnival rides, the Tribe's new splash pad, and live music, including Saturday night headliner and country music star Craig Morgan. Visit [firelakeballoonfest.com](http://firelakeballoonfest.com) for more information.

**CPN Cultural Heritage Center website and Ancestors**

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center introduced a new website in the spring, giving Tribal members access to a new encyclopedia, archives, family manuscripts page, an interactive allotments map and veterans database. It also includes an improved language section with easier accessibility to resources for all ages as well as a section devoted to the CPN Eagle Aviary with biographies and more. Access it all at [potawatomiheritage.com](http://potawatomiheritage.com).

A new section of [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org) called *Ancestors* offers Tribal members the chance to build their family trees, access information about relatives, submit photos, and connect with other Tribal members on a social platform with the ability to exchange information.

**2021 Tribal elections**

This year's elections included contests for Tribal Chairman, Districts 1 through 4 as well as approval of the

annual budget and two CPN Supreme Court justice nominees. In-person voting occurred on June 26, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. with results announced during the annual General Council meeting later that afternoon.

Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw retained their positions. District 2 Legislator Eva Marie Carney and District 3 Legislator Bob Whistler ran unopposed. Following a run-off election in August, CPN voters elected Alan Melot as District 1 legislator. Voters approved the budget, and both Supreme Court justice nominees were re-appointed. Read legislators' biographies and columns at [cpn.news/legislature](http://cpn.news/legislature).

**ARPA and CARES Act**

CPN began accepting applications for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act programs in June 2020 with two additional phases in July and October. The Tribe continued to fill requests in 2021, processing nearly 39,000 applications and awarding more than \$40 million for elder housing, eviction prevention, student assistance, technology advancements and much more.



*Tethered hot air balloon ride participants create lifelong memories at the FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival.*

Tribe continues to accept applications. Read more at [cpn.news/ARPA](http://cpn.news/ARPA).

**Ida's Law**

Following state congressional approval, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt signed Ida's Law into law in April. Named for Ida Beard, a missing Cheyenne

office facilitates cooperation between state, tribal and federal authorities to institute best practices for the reduction of missing and murdered Native Americans in Oklahoma.

**Michael John Kennedy Scholarship**

The CPN Department of Education awarded the first Michael John Kennedy Scholarship this year. Given to a child or grandchild of a veteran, it provides an opportunity to recognize and honor Potawatomi military members while assisting the next generation. The department plans to award the scholarship funded by the estate of Vietnam War veteran Michael John Kennedy each fall. Read more at [cpn.news/kennedy](http://cpn.news/kennedy). Visit the Department of Education at [cpn.news/education](http://cpn.news/education).

**Potawatomi Fire basketball**

In September, the Tribe announced the purchase of the Potawatomi Fire, a professional basketball team and member of The Basketball League. The Nation anticipates job creation and community outreach as the major advantages and goals of owning the team as well as providing affordable family fun for Pottawatomie County and the surrounding communities. The Fire will play home games at CPN's FireLake Arena beginning in 2022. Read more about the announcement at [cpn.news/firebasketball](http://cpn.news/firebasketball).



*CPN Chief District Judge Philip D. Lujan swears in Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett for another term at General Council 2021.*

The Nation also began accepting applications for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 in August. Tribal members enrolled prior to Feb. 1, 2021, qualify to apply for the personal assistance program. By September, CPN had awarded more than \$31 million across the country and processed nearly 18,000 requests. The

and Arapaho Tribes citizen, Senate Bill 172 directs funding to create a state database regarding missing and murdered Indigenous persons. It also implemented the Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons as a branch of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. The



*The CPN Executive Branch takes a tour through First National Bank & Trust Co.*



*Potawatomi Fire center Anthony Allen, Jr. and head coach Derrick Rowland help bring The Basketball League to Pottawatomie County.*

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# Three tribal veterans celebrate 50th wedding anniversaries

*The following was collected from responses from the three couples mentioned in this article and compiled into a written format by K. Galen Greenwalt, member of the CPN Veterans Organization.*

By coincidence in casual conversation at a fall CPN Veterans meeting here in Shawnee, Oklahoma, three couples found out that they had all been married in the same month 50 years ago. The three veterans that had their weddings in December of 1971 are David Barrett, Galen Greenwalt and Daryl Talbot. Their wedding dates were within 17 days of each other that very month.

## Weddings

On December 11, 1971, David and Connie Barrett were married on a Saturday at 2 p.m. The wedding was held at First Baptist Church of Tecumseh, Oklahoma. They honeymooned as they traveled to California. Their first place to live was La Mesa, California.

On December 21, 1971, Galen and Sondra Greenwalt exchanged vows on a Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Bakersfield, California. Their honeymoon stops were California City, California; Calico Ghost Town, California; Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Hoover Dam in Arizona. Their first "home" was apartment housing on base at Fort Benning, Georgia.

On December 28, 1971, Daryl and Theresa Talbot held their wedding on a Tuesday at 10 a.m. at St. Teresa Church in Okemah, Oklahoma. They toured Texas on their honeymoon. Their first place they lived was in a Stillwater, Oklahoma, trailer park.



## Military service

David served in the Navy on active duty from 1969 to 1975 as an electronics technician (radar). His duty stations included San Diego, California (accession training); Treasure Island, California



*David and Connie Barrett*

(beep test); and on the USS Durham LKA 114 in the West Pacific. David served in the Navy for six years.

Galen was drafted and served in the Army with a military occupational specialty of 11B40 (Airborne Infantry) on active duty from 1971 to 1973. After Basic Training and AIT (Advanced Infantry Training) at Ft. Ord, California, he was sent to Non-Commissioned Officer School and Airborne School at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Ft. Benning was also his first Permanent Duty Station. His last year of service was at HQ 8th Infantry Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. Galen served for two years and was granted a European Separation (Honorable Discharge) from his last duty station in Germany. He and his wife Sondra traveled around Europe for several months after his discharge.



*Galen and Sondra Greenwalt*

Daryl was in military service from 1963 to 2004, serving in the Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force Reserves, Army Reserves and the Oklahoma Air National Guard. He was an Aviation Radio Repairman, Illustrator, Medic and Lineman. His duty stations included Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego; Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Arizona; Norfolk, Virginia; Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana; and Will Rogers Air National Guard and the 95th Division Headquarters, both in Oklahoma City. Daryl's total military service was 33 years, 9 months and 6 days.



## Dating and married life

Looking back on their courtship, David and Connie dated in the summer of 1970, got engaged in the summer of



*Daryl and Theresa Talbot*

1971 and were married in December 1971. They met while David was attending the University of Oklahoma, and Connie was taking classes at Oklahoma Baptist University, using their friends to find out information on each other. Both David and Connie had grown up in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma. During these 50 years of marriage, they have lived in La Mesa, San Diego and National City, California; Tecumseh and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and currently reside in Bethel Acres, Oklahoma. They have two children and five grandchildren.

Their guiding principle for marriage has been "always consulting each other on all matters that have impacted our lives, and we both share the same Christian core values for each other." That said, remaining "friends and being able to laugh with each other" has been very important.

Galen and Sondra dated from March 1970 to December 1971, getting engaged

on July 21, 1971. They met in church at First Southern Baptist Church of Mettler, California. Galen had just dropped out of college, and Sondra was in high school. Galen was born in Illinois but raised in California (San Diego and Bakersfield), while Sondra was born and raised in Bakersfield. In their 50 years together, they have lived in Ft. Benning, Georgia; Bad Kreuznach, Germany; Anacortes, Washington; and many cities in California, including Rialto, Bakersfield, Mill Valley, Hercules, San Pablo, 29 Palms and San Diego. They currently reside in Shawnee and have three children and six grandchildren. They attribute their 50 years of marriage to a "deep and abiding love for each other, with a commitment based on common goals and values. Above all, we share a Biblical understanding of marriage through our relationship as believers in Jesus Christ."

Daryl and Theresa met in an Oklahoma State University class in 1970 and dated one year. They got engaged in April 1971



and were married eight months later. Daryl grew up in McAlester, Oklahoma, and Sherman, Texas. Theresa was born in Vernal, Utah, and raised in Shawnee. They have lived in Stillwater, Oklahoma; Lewisville and Mount Pleasant, Texas; Norfolk, Virginia; and currently live in Shawnee. They are proud of their two children and four grandchildren. They said that the 50 years of marriage can be traced to the fact that they "were, and have remained, best friends!"

These three couples, looking forward to their special days in December, are in the planning stages or have finished planning what they will do to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversaries. It is truly a special milestone for them!

***The CPN Veterans Organization is always in need of active members, be they retired or honorably discharged service members, or those still on active duty. To learn more please visit [cpn.news/vetparticipation](http://cpn.news/vetparticipation).*** ♡



## SPRING SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

## FEB 15 AT 5 PM CT

Apply at [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org)



## Father, son climb Mount Whitney

Tribal members Koby and Steve Lawson took on the challenge of hiking the highest point in the contiguous United States — Mount Whitney in California. Descendants of the Laframboise family, the father and son enjoy all outdoor activities. Being outside helps them feel connected to nature and Mother Earth.

In a recent interview, Koby told the *Hownikan* he believes that love comes from his Potawatomi heritage.

“I really started connecting with it whenever I was in middle school. And I started spending more time outdoors and getting into hunting and fishing and all that and kind of realizing that that’s how my ancestors lived back then,” he said.

Koby called the trip an once-in-a-lifetime experience.

### Physical exertion

The two hiked roughly 70 miles through Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park along the John Muir and Mount Whitney Trails. The summit sits at an elevation of 14,505 feet, and Koby admits, the challenge of hiking 10 to 15 miles a day for a week intimidated him.

“I thought it was insane,” he said. “I was like, ‘How do people go hike ... to the top of this mountain? I would never do something like that.’ And my dad, he immediately fell in love with the idea of doing it, and I think he saw it as a challenge for him to do that before he turned 60 years old.”

After agreeing to take the trip in 2019, Koby trained three to five days a week for two years. That meant cutting back on fast food, increasing his exercise endurance, learning how to carry a 40 to 50 pound backpack and running — lots and lots of running.

“I absolutely hate running,” he said and laughed.

However, the training paid off and prepared the Lawsons for unanticipated hurdles and allowed them to push themselves further.

“There were a couple of days where we had 5,000 feet of elevation gain,” Koby said. “And we would leave one area, and we’d be hiking for an hour, and we looked down, and we had a satellite GPS with us, and we could check how far we’d gone. It had been an hour, and we’d only gone one mile.”



Father and son Steve and Koby Lawson at the summit of Mt. Whitney. (Photo provided)

One afternoon, they even arrived at the day’s stopping point early but continued, which put them at their final destination right on schedule. They reached the peak after seven days.

“We just got to watch the sunrise from the top of the mountain. And so that feeling of accomplishment — we’ve been talking about doing this and watching videos and training for it for two years — and finally being there was just a completely surreal experience,” Koby said.

### Environmental connection

Home to some of the world’s most beautiful scenery, Sequoia National Park attracts visitors from all over to hike to the top of Mount Whitney. Koby appreciated the chance to experience the terrain and wildlife of the Sierra Nevada mountain range in a unique way.

“It was worth seeing and really getting out there and not just staying in the park and on the roads and looking at everything,” he said. “You get a completely different experience actually heading out into the backcountry away from everyone.”

On day one of their journey, Steve and Koby stumbled upon a black bear after hiking for only a couple of hours.

“And all of a sudden, (my dad) just stops, and I almost run into the back of him,” Koby said. “And he just kind of turns and just says, ‘Bear, bear!’ And so I look around the side of his pack, and there’s a bear no more than 15 steps away, like right in the middle of the trail, just staring at us.”

They froze, and after noticing a rustling in the bushes, a cub emerged to follow her lead. She never took her eyes off the hikers but eventually moved her child up the side of the mountain and into the forest, leaving them behind.

The next day, they hit one of the country’s preeminent hiking destinations — Precipice Lake. The crystal clear water reflects back the vertical granite cliffs, creating a stunning mirror effect. Koby saw many pictures and videos of the site online beforehand but said standing in front of it felt different.

“It almost makes you dizzy because you can’t even tell where the water starts. ... The water is so still, it just looks like that cliff just goes straight down into the water. And so seeing that was just absolutely incredible,” Koby said.

California wildfires hit Sequoia National Park last year, and on their fourth day, the Lawsons hiked for almost two hours through parts of the forest blackened and ravaged by the heat and flames. Koby called the experience “extremely eerie.”

“You’d have thousands of trees standing, no leaves. Just black trunks sticking up towards the sky. ... And so every step you’re walking in, the ash is poofing up from the dirt. And you pass by these giant granite boulders the size of a house, and the heat from the fires had been so strong that the boulders had actually exploded,” he said, noting they also saw the forest’s undergrowth returning.

They enjoyed bathing in a hot spring along their trail and the many other notable lakes, meadows and pit stops they made throughout the week.

### Family bonding

Originally from Oklahoma, Koby now lives in McKinney, Texas, and works as a preconstruction manager for CORE Construction. Steve acts as chief legal officer for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company in Oklahoma City. They remain close despite the distance. The trip offered them the chance to bond like never before and recognize each other’s strengths.

“I learned that I got some of my dad’s work ethic and kind of his determination to accomplish my goals,” Koby said. “I definitely got that from him. And it was apparent that we have that same drive when we’re both out there hiking the trail and everything.”

Fishing together is one of their favorite activities, and they created memories pulling colorful trout from the pristine Alpine Lakes and small rivers throughout the mountains.

“That was probably the best fishing experience that I’ve ever had, and I think (my dad) would probably say the same thing,” Koby said.

The two also recognized their larger CPN family when they summited the mountain. They marked the small research shack at the top of the mountain with a large Tribal seal sticker next to others from countries, schools and organizations around the world.

“I just thought it would be cool to kind of display my heritage or to show that someone from the Potawatomi Nation had accomplished something like that. So I hope that it inspires somebody else from the Tribe to go and try it. I’d love to see another sticker right next to that one up there,” Koby said.

He plans to continue the tradition and climb Mount Whitney with his two sons someday.

See more about the trip on Koby Lawson’s Instagram account @High\_Sierra\_Trail\_21. ♡



The Lawsons celebrated summiting Mount Whitney by placing the Citizen Potawatomi seal near the visitors’ register. (Photo provided)

# New lesson plans fill gap on Potawatomi history

In an attempt to meet requests from teachers and school districts throughout the country, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education began composing lesson plans about Potawatomi history in 2021. The first one available now tells the story of the Potawatomi Trail of Death.

"I'm really proud that we have something to offer educators or citizens now when they ask, 'How can I incorporate Citizen Potawatomi Nation into our classroom?' We've been asked that for years," said CPN Department of Education Director Tesia Zientek.

To ensure accurate content, college advisors Matt Higdon and Rachel Watson spearheaded a panel of primary education professionals and historians, including CPN's Cultural Heritage Center Director Dr. Kelli Mosteller, to compose the lesson plan. The team used their expertise and experience in Indian education, state standards and curriculum writing as well as Potawatomi history.

"We also had some input from Norman Public Schools. Lucyann Harjo, Indian Education Director over at Norman (Public Schools), brought some folks over, and so we were able to kind of beta test it with them. And they gave us some really good feedback that helped us with the final lesson plan," Higdon said.

## Content

The forced removal of Potawatomi from Indiana to Kansas took place over two months in the fall of 1838. More than 40 of the 859 Potawatomi passed away during the 660-mile journey, mainly due to the harsh conditions or disease. Most Native history education in the United States refers to the Cherokee Trail of Tears and rarely mentions other Native American communities' similar experiences.

"Just by this little sprinkling of, 'Hey, here's a tribal nation that has a removal story that you've probably never heard of, and

## TRAIL OF DEATH LESSON CONTEST

- Schools will send in audio recordings made by the students reflecting on the Trail of Death lesson experience. The teacher may have their classes vote on which submission(s) to send in to represent their class or otherwise narrow submissions.
- Upload the audio files to [cpn.news/todpod](https://cpn.news/todpod).
- Only these file types will be accepted: wav, aiff, mp3, aac, wma. Max file size 12MB.
- Audio files must be no longer than 3 minutes to be considered eligible.
- Submissions must be received by May 6, 2022.
- Prizes for the top 3 will be \$100, \$75, and \$50 cash respectively. All entries will be entered into a drawing for a pizza party for the entire class. Individual winners may be featured on CPN social media and/or the Hownikan podcast.

Please direct any questions to [college@potawatomi.org](mailto:college@potawatomi.org) or 405-695-6028.

everybody has one.' ... I think that's the main thrust. Let's start looking at history from different points of view than just the traditional points of view," Higdon said.

In addition to the dates, times and places, the lesson includes interactive pieces, such as an 11-minute walk designed to represent the 660 miles. Along the way, the students stop for short periods equating to each day along the trail and hear historical accounts from diary entries and written communication.

Since Potawatomi traditionally use oral storytelling, most of the primary sources for the lesson plan come from non-Native peoples — a lesson in itself.

"There's also an explanation for teachers and students as to why these are the only primary sources we have from this era," Watson said. "And I think that, combined with the oral storytelling activity, really hammers home the way different sources are valued or have been valued by historians and also opens the door for those sorts of alternative primary sources that students may not have thought about before the lesson."

The department wrote the lesson plan optimally for a seventh or eighth-grade classroom; however, they made adjusting it easy for teachers for elementary or high school-aged students. Oklahoma educational standards introduce removal in third grade.

"The details can become more nuanced, or even some of the more gruesome details can be explored in more depth the older a student is. But at a young age, people can understand that history is a story, and it matters who's telling it," Zientek said.

As a final component, the lesson asks students to make an audio recording of their experience on their walk and hearing the historical narratives, putting themselves in the shoes of the Potawatomi forcibly removed from their homelands.

"That is why we have these written first-hand accounts and not the accounts from our ancestors the way we would have hoped. But we're asking students to understand that, experience it, and then become a part of our oral record," Zientek said.

## Contest

The education department staff also created a contest to encourage classrooms to utilize the resources and promote student engagement. They are asking participants to send in audio recordings of their reflection on the experience for the chance to win cash prizes, a pizza party and be featured on the Tribe's podcast, *Hownikan Podcast*. However, the goal stretches further than the rewards.

"That's one of my greatest hopes is that it will start pulling that thread, and we can pull that thread with really young students," Higdon said. "I think the younger, the better. Early students, if they can start seeing that world that way, it can really open up their minds and open up the potential for education, particularly history education."

While the focus remains on the past, the staff also hopes to bring CPN members and Indigenous people into the present day for students through that interaction and inspire them to explore additional resources to educate themselves about the Nation and other tribes.

"I think what's been most exciting for me is that this is just one lesson plan, but it's also only the beginning," Watson said.

The staff continues to work on the next lesson about the Oklahoma land runs and their effect on Citizen Potawatomi displacement.

Access the lesson plan online at [potawatomiheritage.com/classroom](https://potawatomiheritage.com/classroom). Enter the classroom contest at [cpn.news/todpod](https://cpn.news/todpod) through May 6, 2022.

Find out more about the CPN Department of Education at [cpn.news/education](https://cpn.news/education), and email feedback or topic ideas at [college@potawatomi.org](mailto:college@potawatomi.org). Listen to *Hownikan Podcast* on any podcast platform; just search "Potawatomi." ♡

# Image-Based Abuse

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

With the help of the internet, billions of photos and videos are shared every second. Apps like TikTok and Instagram allow users to capture every moment of their day, sharing those with the world. This does not come without a price. Once uploaded, these images are irreversible and can be used as a form of power and control against a person.

Image-based abuse, sometimes called "revenge porn" or "non-consensual pornography" is the sharing of sexually-graphic images without the consent of the person(s) in the image. Sextortion is the threat to disclose sexually-graphic images of a person unless that person complies. These images can include:

- A nude person or exposed sexual parts of a person
- A person engaged in a sexual act
- A person showering or bathing
- The face of a person digitally added to a sexualized image

This type of abuse is becoming more common as a tactic of intimate



partner violence. Research is beginning to shed light on the issue. A 2019 nationwide survey conducted by Florida International University Psychology Assistant Professor Asia Eaton found 1 out of every 12 respondents claimed to have been a victim of nonconsensual pornography.

When this type of abuse happens in intimate relationships, victims can be manipulated and controlled with threats to share images or videos. The effects of this type of abuse can have huge impacts. Many are re-victimized due to shaming

by others that come in contact with the images. Some respond with comments like, "It's your fault that you allowed the photo to be taken," or "You put yourself in that position." Many images are obtained without consent from victims, and whether or not the person agreed to the photo, they did not consent to share it. Abuse is never the victim's fault. There needs to be a shift in the responsibility of those actions to the perpetrator.

For someone that has experienced image-based abuse, the uncertainty of how to handle the situation is overwhelming.

Fortunately, there are steps to take that can remove images and hold the perpetrator accountable. Victims can:

1. Document what is happening by printing any harassing emails or texts
2. Try to capture the date and time the image was posted
3. If the website shows who posted the image, take a screenshot
4. Report the content to the site it was posted to
5. Submit a request to search engines like Google or Bing to remove the image from any future searches
6. Report the abuse to law enforcement
7. Seek support from local domestic violence services

If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault and would like more information, please contact the CPN House of Hope at 405-275-3176 or visit us online at [cpnhouseofhope.com](https://cpnhouseofhope.com) or on Facebook. ♡

## Grand Casino Hotel & Resort turns 15

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation opened its flagship enterprise in 2006, welcoming visitors to the FireLake Grand Casino with 125,000 square feet of gaming. It turned 15 in 2021, and the last decade and a half brought many changes, including a renaming in 2012. Now the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort, this one-stop-shop for fun off I-40 attracts visitors with an excellent Brazilian steakhouse, a spa, a 14-story hotel, ball and dice games, slot machines on two stories, and much more.

Grand Casino Director of Marketing Chad Mathews started working for the facility in 2015.

“It’s been, I think, really, really cool to watch the growth not only of this facility but just the Tribe and how those things have gone over the last decade or so. And we’ve seen so much growth and forward-thinking,” he said.

### Entertainment destination

The Nation began construction on a 262-room hotel in 2011, opening it to the public two years later. It added almost 144,000 square feet to the property, with architecture influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright. It now houses the Grand Resort Spa, a 24-hour fitness center, meeting facilities, in-room dining, wireless internet, an outdoor pool and more.

“We’re central Oklahoma’s, I believe, destination as far as casinos go,” Mathews said. “If you’re looking for more of a resort feel, if you’re looking for upscale, if you’re looking for that kind of experience in the casino, specifically in central Oklahoma, we’re the stop.”

The Grand Event Center has hosted big musical acts such as The Band Perry, Alanis Morissette and Rodney Carrington. The Emmy-winning music documentary and concert series *Play It Loud* also calls the venue home, welcoming up-and-coming artists of different genres from across the state. The space also attracted many conferences throughout the last decade, including the Red Earth Festival Native art market in 2020 and 2021.

“We’ve got everything that you really need in terms of hosting a conference. We’ve got entertainment, we’ve got hotel rooms, we’ve got restaurants, catering, we’ve got the space. So it’s all sort of a one-stop, especially for that right size group. They can just do it all here,” Mathews said.

### Future improvements

Following an unprecedented year in 2020, the casino celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2021 with the best revenue year yet. People eagerly returned to their favorite slot machines and poker tables after spending time away. The casino took the opportunity to refresh its machine selections and floor plan to give it a more “open feel.”

“We were growing year to year before the pandemic ... But to have that continue and then even do better now is pretty awesome,” Mathews said.

The Grand plans to improve in the next year by expanding their food offerings — which already include a steakhouse, sports grille and sushi restaurant — with a food court on the main floor.



*Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett welcomes attendees to the grand opening of FireLake Grand Casino in October 2006.*

“With the explosion of craft beer across the country and in Oklahoma, that’s one of those things that it almost feels obligatory, like, you got to have it now,” Mathews said. “But it’ll be good in terms of a product that we’ll have ownership of and the ability to offer to our clients and customers and put our own kind of spin on it.”

They also anticipate the return of concerts in the new arena and events center, with ongoing construction to connect all parts of the casino in a fun and effective way. Current plans will give the entrance and other areas “more glitz,” Mathews said. The Hunzicker Brothers, Inc. recently updated the dome above the main outside entrance to include multi-colored LED lights that paint the structure purple, blue and red.

CPN consistently searches for new ways to improve its customers’ experience

to ensure their return and retain its reputation for good, clean fun.

“The Grand has become a standard in terms of casinos in Oklahoma, and we want to continue to be that standard,” Mathews said.

Visit the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort online at [grandresortok.com](http://grandresortok.com) or on Facebook [@grandcasinoresort](https://www.facebook.com/grandcasinoresort).

“If you and I go to lunch and you want ramen, and I’m feeling like barbeque, we can we can go in different directions and come back together, and (it’s) just an easy way to do that,” he said.

The bars and restaurants will also begin serving Grand House Brewing beers in 2022. CPN’s new brewery will offer a blonde American ale on tap with more flavors and types of beers coming in the future.

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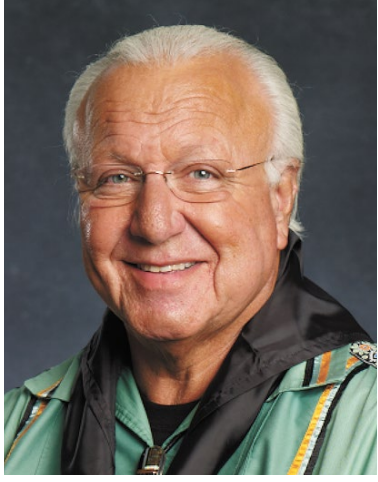
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## Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



*Bozho nikan  
(Hello, my friend),*

It has been a while since I've been able to provide a construction update. We have been delayed by disagreements with surrounding governments and the pandemic, and many of our economic development projects have been on hold. I am pleased to report that 2022 looks like it will be a productive year for economic development in Shawnee, a much needed and welcomed change from the holding pattern we've been in.

Upgrades at the Grand Casino are ongoing after our buffet proved unusable due to the pandemic. Staff have been

working to turn that area into a food court, which will offer multiple dining options and a coffee shop for patrons to enjoy. This model helps to alleviate some of the risk of having to shut down operations or expose staff and patrons to health risks. It will also help to decrease our food cost, which should help to make the Grand even more profitable.

The Grand will also open its own craft brewery which will become our main source of beer for CPN enterprises. This will also help us reduce cost and offer a product unique to our establishments.

The old entertainment space is being renovated into ballroom space. Our convention and banquet space are top-notch for our area and in high demand. This additional space will increase our ability to host corporate events and conventions.

The hallway between the main gaming floor and the ballrooms will be transformed into an entertainment area as well. Additionally, we are adding seating to the sports grille and more gaming machines.

At Iron Horse, we're making progress on our plastic pipe

manufacturing facility. This was another industry disrupted by the pandemic and subsequent supply issues. We have orders in place for product, and we're looking forward to having that operational in 2022.

Our newest entertainment attraction is basketball, called the Potawatomi Fire. The team will play at FireLake Arena. The acquisition of the team was less than two of our weekend concert events and has the potential to bring in marketing sponsorships, more than a dozen home games, and merchandise sales. The Fire will be playing outside of Oklahoma as well, and we look forward to our Tribal members being able to support them.

All of this economic development will help keep capital circulating in our community, specifically inside our Tribal realm. CPN is bound to our jurisdiction, in the poor half of a poor county. As capital does when generated in rural communities like ours, it tends to quickly move down the interstate to be spent in Oklahoma City. Our Tribal government saw this happening decades ago, resulting in our communities continually being starved for resources compared to those in the big metropolitan areas. In a state that has an imbalance in rural versus urban tax collections, Oklahoma has a history of leaving rural areas to wither on the vine.

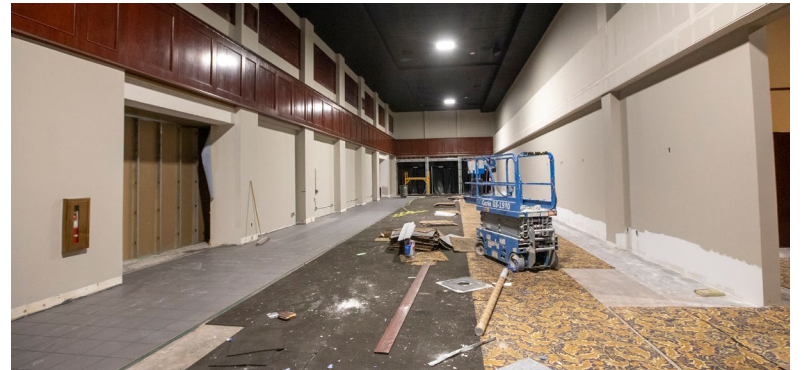
My goal since coming into elected office has been to ensure that any capital generated in our community will circulate here at least three to four times. That means paying the salary of one of our 2,100 employees, who then deposit their paycheck in a local financial institution like First National Bank & Trust Co.



*Construction of a new ballroom at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort.*



*The Grand Casino Hotel & Resort's new food court coming soon.*



*Construction at the Grand offers patrons new options and fun while staying and playing with CPN.*

The bank can then build up its own capital resources, extending mortgages on nearby homes or auto loans for a car that is filled up with gas purchased from FireLake Corner Store. Keeping that money local allows the Tribe to generate revenues that match federal grant funding for scholarships, healthcare at our clinics and social services for our most vulnerable community members. It also helps us to expand services to areas outside of our jurisdiction, which we cannot do with federal money alone. As our Tribal population grows, our economic opportunity must grow as well.

The Tribe has taken stronger precautions than the state of Oklahoma in dealing with COVID, so you may consider

visiting when you feel safe to do so. We are building stronger ties with our neighboring communities and developing the jurisdiction, all with the goal of drawing our Citizen Potawatomi people back home. We have numerous job opportunities, and with these new developments, we will need our talented Tribal members. This is just the start.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It is an honor to serve as your Tribal Chairman.

*Migwetch  
(Thank you),*

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

## Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



*Bozho  
(Hello),*

Our Tribe is extremely busy this time of year, but considering the COVID-19 vaccination issue, we are even more pressed for time. Within the month of November, some vital issues must be resolved. Whatever the outcome, everyone must remember that CPN is a sovereign nation. In being a sovereign nation, we must often implement autonomous decisions. Chairman Barrett

has been leading this Tribe for 36 years, and he has made the right decisions repeatedly. Some decisions he made were showered with controversy; however, the one thing I do know is that we always get the job done. We have been here for our people, and we have continued to provide goods and services in abundance. I have confidence in all our leadership as well as our excellent employees.

In addition to our employees being outstanding, they are competent, loyal and dedicated. That is a great reason to keep good employees. They, too, have important decisions to make. As they are contemplating their choices about the vaccination, I want them to know how important they are to CPN. I can't keep from thinking about the phrase “This too shall pass.” The wording has been handed down for hundreds of years. Plus, it is also biblical. *-Strength for Today- “And This Too Shall Pass” 2 Corinthians 4: 17-18.* It is basically referring to change. The current situation

that our Tribe is in today will change for the future.

The beginning of 2022 will see a transformed CPN. It is my fervent prayer that we will further see the decline of COVID. It has been a thorn in our side for two years now. It has changed the way we do business and has involved quarantines, masks, enterprise downsizing, inconvenience, illness and death.

Tribal rolls reports that 42 Tribal members died due to COVID during the last two years. There were probably some that did not claim the death benefit. We have no way of knowing the additional numbers, nor do we know the number of spouses and other family members within our CPN families that passed away from the COVID virus. Change is inevitable. We look forward to positive change.

Now, on the lighter side. As you know by now, ARPA funds, in the amount of \$1,400 per Tribal member, were given to enrolled

members that applied. I believe the funds helped many families, especially those with several members in their household. The Tribe received so many notes of gratitude, appreciative phone calls and encouraging emails. It was a great outpouring of thankfulness. We appreciate each gesture of kindness that you showed during both the CARES and the ARPA funding. I want to recognize Deanna Angelillis from Dunedin, Florida, for the precious act she showed to the CPN House of Hope, the Nation's domestic violence department. Of her \$1,400, she sent \$500 back to the Tribe for a program that could use the money for assistance to others. The House of Hope can, indeed, use the funds to help the many women and children that come to our program seeking relief. Thank you, Deanna Angelillis, for the goodness in your heart. I believe you will receive a huge blessing for this act of kindness. In fact, I am sure that you would say, “I have already been blessed.”

Our employees offer many acts of kindness during the holidays. They work hard during Thanksgiving and Christmas to participate in “angel trees” for various organizations. They bring food for baskets to give during both holidays. They give money to supplement various programs for children and needy adults. They give their time to help boundless programs at CPN and in the community. Happy Holidays to each CPN family, and may you have a myriad of blessings.

Thank you for allowing me to be your vice-chairman throughout the years.

*Migwetch  
(Thank you),*

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

## District 1 – Alan Melot



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

I warmly wish you the all the best of the season's greetings. I hope this article finds you healthy and well, able to celebrate the end of the year with ones you love. I hope to join my family for Christmas in New Mexico this year, as we build new traditions and celebrate healthy relationships. From me and my family to you and yours, Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Happy Holidays!

As I shared in my last article, I am working to bring legislation forward to make Potawatomi the official language of the Citizen Potawatomi

Nation. Making Potawatomi our official language is a huge, symbolic move that officially recognizes its importance to us as a sovereign people. Most of us are several generations away from fluent speakers. That isn't a reason to relegate the language to the status of an unused legacy but a reason to reinforce its importance to our people. We have a variety of reinforcers for the language as it is, from the Potawatomi Leadership Program to the language department to invocations given in Potawatomi. We need more. We need everyone to have a greater appreciation for the importance of the language. Take me as an example: many years ago, I didn't place any meaningful value on learning Native language. I have since realized that Native languages are like old growth forests, that once they are gone, there is a huge amount of collateral loss. We lose the richness and depth of our culture when we lose language. When the Tribe only operates in English, we signal that the language isn't important. A resolution to make Potawatomi our official language sends a different signal, emphasizing its value and moving the needle back in the

direction of Potawatomi rather than Pan-Indian or Euro-Indian.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has used loss of language as a factor in determining the sovereignty and Federal recognition of tribes. The factor in question in this case is "distinct community." To demonstrate "distinct community," there must be a meaningful number of members residing within a particular geographical area, marriages among members, or group members maintaining distinct cultural patterns such as language, kinship organization, or religious beliefs and practices system, or ceremonies. Tribes have been disbanded and lost federal recognition because they had become so assimilated as to be indistinguishable from the larger Euro-American culture, with language loss being one of the largest components of that assimilation. If the BIA/federal government can or will disband a tribe even one time with language as a weighty factor, they can or will again. Such a resolution makes official our attitude towards our linguistic heritage and mitigates the risk of losing sovereignty or federal recognition. There is no current threat to our sovereignty. Now

is the time to act to make sure there never is a threat to our sovereignty due to this issue.

An outstanding issue is that we may need to conduct meetings and business in Potawatomi if it is made our official language. We can address any perceived requirements to conducting business in Potawatomi one of two ways: either state in our resolution that it is non-binding or simply add English as an alternate official language. The Cherokee Nation addressed this issue in their legislation with Legislative Act 10-91: "The Cherokee Nation does hereby officially establish both Cherokee and English as official languages of the tribe." They go on to explain encouraged uses of those languages in following sections. It's a powerful and simple response.

To me, it's common sense to make Potawatomi the official language of our Potawatomi Nation. It's a simple thing to do and sends a powerful message: *Bodéwadmimwen* (Potawatomi language) is important. The nature of being Potawatomi is imbedded in the language, and to learn even part of it is to embrace being Potawatomi. I think that

it is imperative for us as a people to do everything in our power to be Potawatomi and not fade into the dominant culture imposed on us over the past 200 years.

If you are interested in preserving and elevating our language, want to support our language department, and want to be part of the generation that restores our language to its rightful place, please contact your legislator and our administration and let them know that you would like Potawatomi to be the official language of our Nation.

To add a clarification to my November column, I misspelled George Godfrey's email address. It should be [pnginthewoods@gmail.com](mailto:pnginthewoods@gmail.com). Apologies for the error.

Again, Merry Christmas! I hope to hear from you and hope for all the best for you as we end 2021 and begin 2022.

*Bama pi*  
(Until later),

Alan Melot  
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[alan.melot@potawatomi.org](mailto:alan.melot@potawatomi.org)

## District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends)!

### Holiday greeting and a public service announcement: Grandparent scam

Please accept my best wishes for the winter holidays and new year – and please guard against becoming a fraud victim, as this time of year is beloved by scammers!

As I sat down to write this column, my phone rang. I am not a grandmother, yet the distressed voice on the other end of the line said, "Hello, Grandma." A grandparent scammer was targeting me! In a recent alert ([cpn.news/alert](https://cpn.news/alert)), the Federal Communications Commission

(FCC Alert) explained the scam this way: "Scammers who gain access to consumers' personal information – by mining social media or purchasing data from cyber thieves – are creating storylines to prey on the fears of grandparents. The scammers then call and impersonate a grandchild in a crisis situation, asking for immediate financial assistance. The callers may 'spoof' the caller ID that appears on the recipient's phone to make an incoming call look like it's coming from a trusted source." In my case, the caller appeared to be calling from a women's shelter, so of course I answered.

The FCC Alert goes on to describe a typical scam: "In a recent report from the FBI in Buffalo, N.Y., a caller contacted an elderly person in western New York state and claimed to be a grandchild who had just been in a serious car accident and arrested for drunk driving. The imposter pressed the grandparent for money to post bond, then passed the phone to someone else who claimed to be the caller's attorney. That phony attorney told the grandparent to come up with approximately \$15,000 in cash and to put it in an envelope to be picked up at their house by a courier at a designated time. When the courier arrived,



*Joe Adams' 80th birthday celebration, shared with two of his grandchildren.*

the unsuspecting grandparent handed over the cash. The FBI reports that these scams may use ride-share companies to retrieve the cash from victims."

The FCC's advice to those receiving one of these scam phone calls, or any suspicious phone call, is to hang up immediately. The FCC suggests that if you have caller ID and you do not recognize an incoming phone number, just let it go to voicemail. It also counsels that, "If you do wind up in a conversation, use caution if you are being pressured for information or to send money

quickly. Scammers often try to bully victims into transferring money through a mobile payment app, by wiring money, or by purchasing gift cards or money orders. If you receive a call like this, report it immediately to local law enforcement."

I hung up right away and hope that if you get one of these calls, you will too. If you are a grandparent and the caller causes you to worry about one of your grandchildren, you can always contact your grandchildren or their parents, after you hang up, to check in and follow up.



*Preston Singletary, White Raven (2016)*

### Birthday wishes for District 2 elders

I want to do a better job of acknowledging the birthdays of District 2 residents who are 80 years old and better. Please help by contacting me about such upcoming birthdays. Lovely District 2's Sue Wagner has such a birthday this month. And District 2's Joe Adams turned 80 in October. He celebrated with a lovely CPN-logged birthday cake, which he shared with two of his CPN-citizen grandchildren, Libby (Elizabeth) Adams who turned 13 and Brett Adams who turned 21. I have included a great photo



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

shared by Joe's wife, Ardy. Happy birthday, Sue and Joe!

### Holiday gift

I am again offering a CPN/District 2-themed, end-of-year gift to those District 2 folks who write or call me with their physical mailing addresses. I have found this is a terrific way to stay connected and keep

my address list updated. My contact information is below.

### Upcoming NMAI exhibit

In my next column, I will share the details of the online Districts 2 and 8 Fall Meeting. While I have enjoyed getting together virtually, I am hopeful that one of our first back-to-meeting-in-person events will be a 2022 tour

of the National Museum of the American Indian, in Washington, D.C. While there, we can view the incredible art of Tlingit artist Preston Singletary. The new exhibit, titled *Raven and the Box of Daylight*, opens January 28, 2022, and will run for a year. NMAI describes it as an immersive, multisensory experience during which Raven takes visitors on a journey of the transformation

of darkness into light. In addition to Singletary's striking glass pieces, the exhibition will feature storytelling paired with original music, coastal Pacific Northwest soundscapes, and projected images. You can visit [cpn.news/raven](http://cpn.news/raven) to see some of the art.

Please stay safe this holiday season, and reach out to me

if I can be helpful. It is my privilege to represent you.

Eva Marie Carney  
*Ojindiskwe* (Blue Bird Woman)  
Representative, District 2  
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[evamariecarney.com](http://evamariecarney.com)

## District 3 – Bob Whistler



*Bozho nich Bodewadmik*  
(Hello my fellow Potawatomi),

### District meeting upcoming

On Sat., December 11, there will be a District 3 meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Check out the attached invitation for more information. I planned for similar meetings in January in Central and North Texas but will delay those for a few more months. I attended a club meeting in mid-October with an organization that I belong to with many, including myself, not wearing masks. I had received both vaccines for COVID as well as my flu shot. In spite of the vaccines, I came down with a mild case of COVID that made me seriously ill for several days. In addition to my illness, I found in attempting to find a meeting location, many of the facilities that might be available still have some restrictions for meetings. Many still require separation in seating, and in

several cases, the locations I contacted failed to call back. So, for now, I will look into holding another virtual meeting in the first quarter of 2022.

### Social Security

Yep, unless you work for a railroad, the government or are a teacher, most likely you pay into the Social Security system. Because of this, there are a couple of benefits associated with the program. Obviously at retirement age, generally somewhere after age 65 or older depending upon your date of birth, you may become eligible for some income from the program. It is dependent upon working the necessary quarters, and then how much you paid into the program will determine how much you receive monthly. The funds received each month are always a month in arrears. Meaning the check you receive in December is actually your November benefit. In addition to this, there is a \$255 total death benefit that may go to your eligible heir or estate. When you walk on, the Social Security Administration needs to be notified of your passing. Generally, when this happens, they will recall the last check they sent to you. They will send you notification from an office in California advising you of the death benefit along with notice that the check that was recalled should not have been and will be reissued. That office only deals with the monthly Social Security payments. To get the death benefit, you now need to

call the Social Security office at 1-800-772-1213 and ask for a telephone appointment with your local office for the death benefit. Due to COVID-19 and staffing shortages, when my own wife walked on, it has taken me just over 10 months to get an appointment with the local office. Part of the issue was that the initial letter from the Richmond, California, office asked for various certificates for death and marriage, and I believed in error that they were handling the necessary paperwork for the death benefit. So, to make it simple, call and get an appointment with the local Social Security office to file for the death benefit.

### No co-pay

CPN, like many employers, offers a medical insurance plan for their employees, and the current plan has a telehealth program. For several years, a number of the legislators including myself have been asking for CPN to look into offering some type of medical insurance plan to Tribal members throughout the U.S. Effective November 1, 2021, a plan named Call A Doctor Plus has been put in place with a resolution titled CPNCARE. In the resolution, CPN will pay a monthly insurance premium for each family. Each family will need to register in order to be eligible to use the plan. There is no co-pay by those using the program. The program avails the member to have a phone or computer

contact with a doctor 365 days a year on a 24/7 basis. The physician will have the ability to write prescriptions and recommend medical treatment. For those without access to an Indian Health Service facility, no health insurance or a high co-pay for doctor visits, this is a very no-cost means of getting some medical attention for minor afflictions. As I mentioned before, you must register in order to be eligible for the program. More information will be forthcoming in the *Hownikan*. So, keep an eye open.

### Citizenship program

And mentioned over the past few months, I have been working with a group to create a two-semester high school Native American history course for the Grand Prairie School District. In late October, I covered the citizenship portion of the program to an introductory group. On November 13, I made the same presentation to a DAR group that was interested in how citizenship for Native Americans took place. The program covered the pre-settlers coming to North America, government laws that impacted our citizenship, and how we coexist as dual citizens, including how treaties versus laws interface. The complete history program will be put into use in this coming school year in Grand Prairie. Hopefully, it will go well and will be approved for complete use in Texas by the TEA in late 2022.

### Youth drum and dance group

The Dallas Indian Missionary United Methodist Church has created an Intertribal Southern Plains Singing and Modern Intertribal Dancing program. It is hosted by the Soar Beyond Youth Mentor Organization. I believe ages 8 through about 16 are involved. Practice is held at 1203 Hollywood Ave, Dallas, TX 75208. I recently saw a brochure on this, and you will need to call for more information to see if it is something you may be interested in for your children. It showed the request is for boys, girls and young adults. Contact Michael Tongkeamha at 469-618-3370 for more detail on this drum and dance troupe.

In closing, I hope to see a number of you at the Corpus Christi event on Sat., December 11. I am here to serve you and be your voice, so if you have questions or need help in getting information on programs or benefits, give me a call or email me. I serve with pride and deeply appreciate your allowing me to be your District 3 elected representative.

*Bama mine*  
(Later),

Bob Whistler  
*Bmashi* (He Soars)  
Representative, District 3  
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[cpndistrict3.com](http://cpndistrict3.com)

## District 4 – Jon Boursaw



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

### Holiday greetings

Peggy and I would like to sincerely wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We

hope that your holiday season is safe and only filled with joy and happiness. Despite COVID-19, this past year has been a very active and rewarding year for me, and I hope the same can be said for you. I look forward to 2022 with great expectations and enthusiasm as I continue to foster the awareness of the history and presence of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Kansas and my endeavors to connect with and serve CPN members across the state.

### Rossville storm shelters

Three tornado storm shelters have recently been installed in the CPN duplex complex in Rossville. These shelters have been positioned in locations that best serve the residents living in the duplexes. The

optimum occupancy of each shelter is 12 adults. After I had the opportunity to go into one of shelters shortly after it was installed, I recommended to my brother Lyman, who is the housing manager in Rossville, that periscopes should be installed inside the shelters so the occupants could see what was going on outside. His logical answer back was that it was expected that the shelters would be occupied for a very short time and therefore periscopes were not necessary.

### District 4 meeting in Rossville

On Saturday, Oct. 23, I held a District 4 meeting in the CPN Community Center in Rossville, and it was very successful with over 150 in attendance. The



*The new Rossville storm shelter being moved off the truck.*

principal speaker at the meeting was James Ralston, Ph.D., from Lenexa, Kansas, who gave an extensive presentation on his research regarding the history of the stone house near

Silver Lake, Kansas, which is commonly known among local Tribal members as the Ogee House. For decades, it has been understood that this house was built by the U.S. Army in 1827

and served as the Indian Agency until the reservation land was deeded over to Potawatomi Tribal members as allotments in 1861. At that point, Lewis and Sophia (Beaubien) Ogee occupied the house and raised their family. Dr. Ralston claimed in his presentation that he can find no documentation that supports the idea that the house was built in 1827 as commonly believed, but he also admitted that he can find no evidence as to when the house was built or by whom.

Following Dr. Ralston, a long time member of the Kansas State Historical Society and a member

of the Board of Directors, Herschel Stroud, gave a short but enthusiastic presentation encouraging attendees to become annual members of the Historical Society.

After lunch, the attendees heard from two 2021 Potawatomi Leadership Program students from District 4 regarding what they experienced during their six weeks of virtual participation in the program. Alexis Ladner from Kansas City gave her presentation virtually, and Hannah Nystrom from Topeka was present at the meeting. Both young ladies spoke very highly of the PLP and both look



Located within easy walking distances of homes, the storm shelters fit 12.

forward to visiting Shawnee, Oklahoma, and experiencing firsthand what they learned about virtually during the program.

I then held a brief Kansas history quiz in order to give away three free family admissions to the Kansas State Historical Museum. The questions were:

What is the state motto?

Answer: *Ad Astra per Aspera* or "To the Stars Through Difficulty"

Where can you find the statue *Ad Astra*?

Answer: On top of the state Capitol building.

Who was the U.S. President when Kansas was admitted to the Union?

Answer: James Buchanan

I then gave a brief, but comprehensive, update on current activities and programs within the Tribe, as well as ideas and plans for future growth and expansion.

The meeting ended with the presentation of the three traditional gifts. The award of a blanket for being the eldest and wisest in attendance went to

Mary Hudson from Rossville; a blanket for being the youngest went to Amia Ohmer, a 2 1/2 month old baby girl from Rossville; and a travel kit bag went to Sherry Vasey from Wichita for traveling the furthest.

### December Elders Potluck

A traditional holiday feast hosted by the Senior Support Network staff will be held at noon, Friday, Dec. 10, 2021. Tracy and Brenda are still working on the menu. As usual, you are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. If you plan on attending, they have asked that you RSVP by Tuesday, Dec. 7. Their number is 785-584-6171. Masks are not required, but highly recommended. We want these events to continue as planned but will be cautious as we want everyone to be safe.

### January Elders Potluck

The Elders January Potluck at the CPN Community Center in Rossville is scheduled for noon, Friday, Jan. 14, 2022. The menu will be various soups. Come join us and bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Tracy or Brenda at 785-584-6171 if you plan on attending.

Masks are not required, but highly recommended.

### Honored to serve you

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

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Jon Boursaw,  
*Wetase Mkoh* (Brave Bear)  
Representative, District 4  
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Office hours:  
9-11 a.m. Tuesdays  
3-5 p.m. Thursdays  
Other times: please call

## District 5 – Gene Lambert



Bozho  
(Hello),

Hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving and are readying yourself for a fabulous Christmas.

It is the time for family gatherings, sharing of gifts and the acknowledgement of this ever-so-famous birth, the star that lead the wise men to the manger and the gift given to us as a tiny newborn baby.

The gift giving was originally established by the patron St. Nicholas, and the Santa we know was a poem written by Clement C. Moore for his children in 1823. Strange how traditions start and continue over the generations. The gift giving is also a Tribal tradition and ceremony as well.

I know I have addressed Christmas many times in the past, but we never grow weary of the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

We have also talked about the Tribal prophecies and how the birth of Jesus is consistent

with those legends or history handed down by our ancestors.

We did not always celebrate Christmas as we do today due to the fact the knowledge simply was not there. We did know, however, of the Creator of all things and gave gratitude at the beginning of each day knowing what we needed would be provided. (Notice I said *needed*, not wanted.)

Christmas has become the most celebrated holiday all over the world.

We have all been through so much change in the last year or year and a half. We need to pay particular attention to our loved ones here and for those who have walked on. Make up for the past holidays when we couldn't visit and share. Let's be thankful this year is much better.

There is something right here I would like to interject remembering my first morning service with the sacred fire acknowledging the arrival of a new day.

The story was first told to me by Thom Finks, a former legislator and regional director from California, who shared a beautiful experience attempting to encourage me to get up before dawn and watch the day begin.

As he told the story, had you been there, you couldn't wait to be a part of such a beautiful experience.

After the fact, I shared the story in an article and related it, as did he, hoping to encourage

others. I think his words created the intrigue, and I related it in writing in my next article. I didn't think of it then as it was a conversation but later thought I stole his very words as they were so beautifully spoken. They lead me into some heartwarming moments. Thank you, Thom. You never know when you are positively affecting someone else's life.

We give in many ways without realizing. It doesn't have to be Christmas unless you think of Christmas as every day. It is, you know!

What do you say we take a look this year at some little-known facts about Christmas you can dazzle your friends and family with?

1. We celebrate Christmas marking the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25, yet there is nothing in the Bible to indicate that is the day he was born.
2. The Christmas tree started showing up in people's homes during the holidays to decorate. The evergreens became the base of our Christmas tree, as it was a sign of a new and bright future.
3. The tree did not make it to the Americas until the 1830s, and it not become popular until Prince Albert had a picture taken in front of the decorated tree.
4. The three wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus, and that is why we give gifts to each other.
5. Christmas was not immediately accepted by the religious. From 1659 to 1681, it was *against the law* to celebrate Christmas in some cities. Should you get caught celebrating such a holiday, there was a fine.
6. One of the reasons we leave milk and cookies for Santa is because Dutch kids would leave milk and cookies for St. Nicholas on his feast day.
7. And we leave carrots for Santa Claus' reindeer because in Norse mythology, children left them for Odin's eight-legged horse.
8. And stockings come from this story: A poor man with three daughters couldn't afford the dowry to have them married. One night, St. Nicholas dropped a bag of gold down the man's chimney so that his oldest daughter would be able to get married, and the bag fell in a stocking that was drying by the fire.
9. Coca-Cola is the culprit that put Santa Claus in a traditional red suit in the 1930s. He did wear blue, white and green in the past. Guess the colors weren't vibrant enough for Coca-Cola.
10. The image of Santa flying in a sleigh didn't even start until 1819 and was established by the same author who wrote the *Headless Horseman*. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was actually conceived by a department store, Montgomery Ward, as a way

to get kids to buy coloring books for the holiday.

Now the reindeer have names that have been changed in addition. They were not always what you know today. We have Flossie, Glossie, Racer, Pacer, Scratcher, Feckless, Ready, Steady and Fireball. We remember Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph, although Donner is sometimes called Donder and Blitzen is sometimes called Blixem.

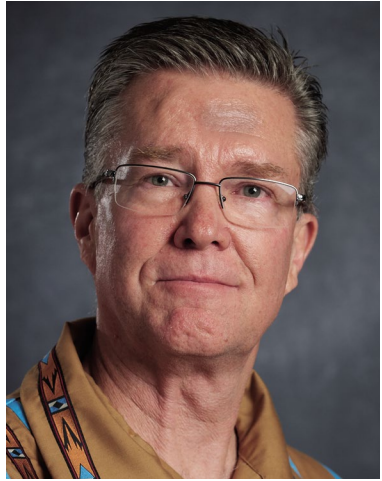
Strange as it may be, the holidays and their traditions vary family to family. It somehow wouldn't be Thanksgiving to me without a turkey or Christmas without a ham. Christmas trees don't go up until after Thanksgiving. Christmas trees come down on the first day of the New Year.

Traditions, as predictable as they can be, it is the most gratifying to celebrate as did your parents and their parents. Whatever your traditions are, enjoy the holidays and bring back the memories you had as a child. It awakens the little boy or girl you once were. Life is more enjoyable if you learn how to play.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays,

Eunice Imogene Lambert  
Butterfly Woman  
Representative, District 5  
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## District 6 – Rande K. Payne



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

I am writing this month's column while listening to the sound and smell of greatly needed rain. Yes, rain! It is the Monday after our Saturday, October 23, District 6 and 7 Heritage Festival. I am so glad that we had such beautiful weather for our gathering. And an anticipated inch and a half of rain in the weather forecast for today is like the icing on the cake.

It was a good turnout, and I would like to thank all who were able to attend. I realize life is busy, and for some the distance is too great to travel, so I really appreciate the sacrifice made by those who were with us.

For the benefit of those not able to attend, I would like to provide a summary of the gathering. Because we have had so many new Tribal members enrolled recently, the gathering was primarily informational.

- We were able to hear directly from Tribal Chairman Rocky Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps about a wide variety of exciting things happening with the Tribe via a video they made just days

prior to the event. They gave an update on CARES and ARPA programs, including how those programs have been administered, and they addressed some of the concerns Tribal members have had. They also talked about new enterprises CPN is developing to help increase our revenue streams. Ms. Capps spotlighted the Office of Self-Governance and explained the significant role they play in securing federal funding for many programs and services the Nation provides for our members. Chairman Barrett expressed his gratitude to all who supported him in his bid for re-election. He said his life's work has been serving the Tribe, and he is excited about the future of CPN and looks forward to getting to work. It is always a joy to hear from them, and I am thankful for their leadership and passion for leading our great Nation.

- One of the biggest concerns Tribal members had regarding ARPA payments was the enrollment cutoff date. Many felt that if they had their enrollment forms in prior to the cutoff date that they should have received the payment. But the United States Treasury mandated that you must be enrolled by the cutoff date, which means that the enrollment process must be completed. The enrollment process takes time, and with the unprecedented number of enrollment applications, the process takes even longer. We showed a 12-minute video highlighting the entire enrollment process that Tribal Rolls must follow. And it is important to keep in mind that Tribal Rolls



*Fifteen-month-old William Dalton was our youngest, and apparently most tired, attendee.*

also administers the burial fund payments. I should also mention that the Tribal legislature also held special sessions specifically for enrollment resolutions to support Tribal Rolls in getting as many people enrolled as quickly as possible.

- A summary of the benefits available to Tribal members were presented. Attendees were also provided with a copy to take home. If you would like a copy, I would be glad to respond to your email request with a copy.
- All the various forms needed to apply for the various benefits along with address change, name change and Tribal ID request were discussed and made available for everyone.
- Brant-Cummings descendent Mary Alice Johnson from Visalia, California, was the wisest Potawatomi in attendance.
- Melott descendent Danna Barron from Spring Valley, California, traveled the farthest.
- Fifteen-month-old Tescier descendent William Dalton from Winton, California, represented the future of Citizen Potawatomi Nation.
- An opportunity to comment and voice concerns with our current Tribal elections process resulted in a lot of valuable information being shared. It was great for Representative Mark Johnson and me to hear firsthand from Tribal members. The information will be presented at our next legislative meeting December 2.

In summary, I feel like the gathering was fun and productive. Lucy's Tacos provided lunch, serving up

our executive team, and I have always tried my best to assist members in my district and make sure their voices are heard in Shawnee. That said, it is my honor to announce that I plan to run for re-election as your District 6 representative. While we may live in uncertain times as did those who have walked on before us, we find peace and strength in the same God as they did. Should it be His will for me to serve another term, I pledge to seek His wisdom and guidance and utilize them to the best of my ability in serving the people of our great Nation.

As the end of the year draws near, may love, joy and peace



*Danna Barron traveled furthest to join us.*

made-to-order street tacos for everyone. Tribal member Michael Rhodd presented information and free samples of his hemp product. We were hoping that time would allow for putting our medicine pouch kits together, but we just did not have enough time. The Tribal members were given kits to put together at home instead. As always, *migwetch* for all the help and support from my family in helping make the event a great success. Thank you, Representative Mark Johnson, for your hard work helping put everything together. And once again, thank you very much to those who attended!

In closing, I would like to say that it brings me immense joy serving our Nation. It is hard to believe I have been doing this since 2010. Our Tribe has been through a lot during that time. It seems that there is no shortage of hills to climb and opportunities to advance as a Nation. I am proud of our accomplishments, and I feel that we have done many good things for our people and in a good way. I strongly support

fill your hearts this Christmas. May your dreams of the New Year be filled with hope. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Words of Wisdom: "Leaders must recognize that their character directly affects how they operate." – Fred Smith

Wisdom from the Word: "Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days." Proverbs 19:20 NASB

Word of the Month: *mgoshwe* – feast abundantly he/she does

*Migwetch! Bama pi*  
(Thank you! Later),

Rande K. Payne  
*Mnedo Gabo*  
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*Mary Alice Johnson was our wisest in attendance.*



## THE Hownikan PODCAST










## District 7 – Mark Johnson



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

Winter has arrived in District 7. Once again, our District 6 and 7 Heritage Festival was a success; a great time was had by the 82 members who attended as we spent a good deal of time sharing information about the happenings of the Tribe and benefits that are available to Tribal members. Some of the interesting facts are that California still has the second highest number of Citizen Potawatomi tribal members next to Oklahoma with 3,934. Utah has 287, and Nevada has 388. I would like to thank Rande Payne once again for the use of the venue at his home, and

the great tacos, rice and beans lunch that were enjoyed by all who attended. Please try to join us next year if you were unable to attend this year.

As many of you know, it's not always been possible to provide the same level of benefits to members outside of Oklahoma. As a member of the legislature, it has always been a goal of mine to expand those benefits that are available. Towards that end, I am very happy to talk about CPNCare. CPNCare will give members access to board certified physicians and pediatricians via phone, secure

video or through their mobile app 24/7/365 for the treatment of non-emergency conditions. This is a standalone service that is not part of our current Tribal medical clinics or mail order prescription service. Further information will be provided in the *Hownikan*. Please make use of this new benefit to you and your dependents.

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

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

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Mark Johnson  
*Wisk Mtek* (Strong as a Tree)  
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## District 8 – Dave Carney



*Bozho nikan*  
(Hello friend),

start with tracing their family tree, while others take a deep dive into culture and language.

The Nation has made substantial investments of time and treasure into providing tools for members to get their own answers. A trip to the Cultural Heritage Center can be amazing and informative, and for those who can't travel to Oklahoma, I'd suggest spending some time at [potawatomiheritage.com](http://potawatomiheritage.com) where there is a virtual tour available. Other assets found on this site are family allotment records, family manuscripts and a link to *Mezodanek*.

To explain this, I defer to the site itself: "*Mezodanek – Ancestors is a digital research program focused on the family history of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. It provides members the opportunity to engage in genealogical research, build family trees and connect with Potawatomi relatives from*

*around the globe. Members can also communicate directly with Cultural Heritage Center staff to assist with family research and/or donate to the family history collection"*

For those interested in genealogy, it's going to be a developing font of information.

Through both [potawatomi.org](http://potawatomi.org) and [potawatomiheritage.com/language](http://potawatomiheritage.com/language) there are links to our Potawatomi (*Bodewadmi*) language. With the leadership of our Language Director Justin Neely and his staff, there is a robust effort underway to assist those interested in learning the language accomplish their goals through online and in-person classes. There are other assets here such as an online dictionary and some animated cultural teachings.

2021 will soon in be in the rearview mirror, and we optimistically hope that 2022 is

a year when we can once again experience gatherings with our Citizen Potawatomi family. Please consider attending the 2022 Family Reunion Festival held June 24-26. The honored families this year will be Bruno, Darling, Hardin, Lewis, Nadeau, Slavin and Smith. What does it mean to be an honored family? Like so many things, it's what you make of it. It often helps if there is an enthusiastic matriarch or patriarch who does some organizing, planning or maybe even family T-shirt designing. The purpose is to celebrate five to seven of our original founding families on a rotating basis. Each of these families has a banner hung in the roundhouse to designate a special meeting area. Interviews with multiple generations of family members are recorded for posterity by the staff of the Cultural Heritage Center, and special recognition of these families happens when

members move into the dance arena in the powwow.

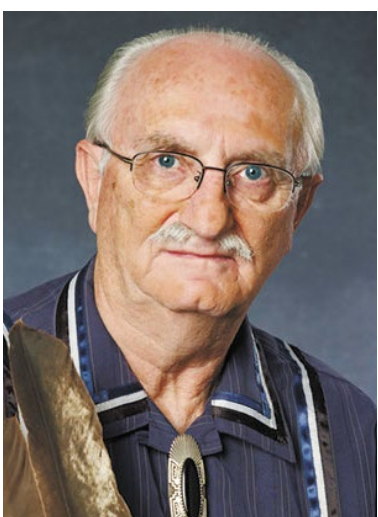
I have done my best to get the word out to all Tribal members to access the American Rescue Plan Act funds available through the Tribe. If you have a family member who you suspect has not applied, please nudge them to do so or have them contact their legislator. The only requirement is that they must have been an enrolled Tribal member before Feb. 1, 2021.

Whatever your faith tradition, I wish you a very fine holiday, and as always, it is my honor to serve as your legislator.

*Bama pi*  
(Until later),

Dave Carney  
*Kagasghi* (Raven)  
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## District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

### The Indian Museum of North America

Recently, I visited The Indian Museum of North America

in South Dakota next to the gigantic mountain Crazy Horse Monument. I have visited other Native American museums including the one in Anchorage, Alaska, but none compare, not even close, to this great museum and educational center.

The museum features a massive collection of art and artifacts reflecting the diverse histories and cultures of over 300 Native Nations and tribes across North America. I could have spent hours reading the history and descriptions of the thousands of art and artifacts, but we had several other sites to see in this state as well as in Wyoming.

I'm proud of my birth city for creating the First Americans Museum. As an elected member in the Oklahoma House of

Representatives, I strongly supported the creation of our museum for years, and it took many years to fund and complete it. This is one of the reasons why I founded the 21-member Oklahoma House Native American Caucus, which still exists. I have not yet visited this Oklahoma City museum, but I fear I will be somewhat disappointed compared to the museum up north.

I'm sure it takes many years for museums to mature and collect thousands of art and artifacts. Hopefully, the First Americans Museum will become a great educational experience and attract tourist from across America.

I commend these museums as well as our Potawatomi museum



housed in our Cultural Heritage Center. Our museum has enlightened me on numerous

facts about my heritage. It will be of immense benefit if I find the time to visit every tribe's museum to learn about their history, culture and art.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft  
*Naganit* (Leader)  
Representative, District 9  
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## District 11 – Andrew Walters



*Bozho*  
(Hello),

Riding fence in the Big Bend is tough. It's even tougher in the winter. In the summer, you can always find shade. But in the winter, with that West Texas wind blowing, well ... It makes you cold down deep. The Old Cowboy had known better times. And he'd known worse. He came to West Texas from New Mexico where as a younger man he had gotten involved in the Lincoln County War. He'd known William Bonney before folks started calling him "The Kid." He got hired by John Tunstall same time as Bonney. Tunstall was a good man. When that Sheriff killed him, Billy just went loco. But that's another story for another day. The Old Cowboy worked for the G4 Ranch out of Ojo de Chisos. He rode fence for the ranch. Day in and day out, riding down

the fence line, fixing fences that sometimes were cut, and other times were pushed down. The Old Cowboy loved the life.

On this particular winter evening, he stepped down off his horse just west of the Ernst Tinaja to set up camp. Evening was coming, and the Old Cowboy wanted to eat and be rolled up warm before the night fell too deep. To his east were the Sierra Del Carmen Mountains. To his west was mostly flat land up to the Chisos. It was rough country, and he was dog tired. As he set up camp, he saw in the distance, to the south, a light. Funny, he'd never seen that before. Looked a ways off, but it was bright and distinct. He wondered what it could be. As he set up camp, he kept looking that way and wondering until finally, the wonder got the best of him, and he had to go see what it was. He put up his kit and rolled up his blanket and headed south toward the light.

He rode, through the brush and the thicket. Sometimes on a trail and sometimes not, he rode toward the light. He knew he was west of the Sierra Del Caballo Muerto Mountains and headed toward a little Mexican village called Boquillas. On he rode, and the hour was late, when he finally reached that little stream of water folks call the Rio Grande. It was late in the season, and the snows were still falling in Colorado. It isn't

until spring and the snow pack melts that the river lives up to its name. Until then, you can pretty much walk across it.

The Old Cowboy crossed the Rio Grande and headed to Boquillas. Now Boquillas is truly "No Where." It is about as far from anything as any place can be. Mostly known for a couple of horse thieves, twin brothers named Sandoval who stole a horse from a preacher, turned bartender, turned Sheriff and in their case, turned judge and hangman. The Old Cowboy rode into Boquillas, still seeing the light just ahead. As he turned onto the quiet main street, that's when he saw the light was a lantern on a pole, sticking up in the air next to the livery stable. He thought to himself laughing, "What kinda fool rides this far for that?" But, as he approached the stable, he heard a baby crying.

The Old Cowboy held up next to the fence at the stable, and in the lantern light he could see a young woman, huddled under a blanket holding a child. "Que pasa senora?" he called. The young woman went on to explain that her husband had gone to find food and that she and Baby were there trying to keep warm. Touched, the Old Cowboy stepped down off his horse and pulled out a spare blanket to give her and some hard tack and jerky he had. The young woman eagerly

took the food and wrapped the Baby in the blanket. They talked for a bit. She told the Old Cowboy her name was Maria and her Baby was Jesus. They had come to Boquillas hoping for a better life, but they found it was no different. The Old Cowboy, having not many folks to talk with, told her about his life and such. During that time, Maria, trying to get the Baby situated, thrust him toward the Old Cowboy and ask him to hold him.

It had been years since the Old Cowboy had even seen a baby, much less hold one. He gently reached out and grasped the child, being careful not to drop him or squeeze him too hard. The Baby was beautiful. He seemed to glow in the dim light. The Old Cowboy marveled that sometime in the past, he had been that same way. He gently held him to his chest when suddenly, the Baby looked right into his eyes and smiled. That's when the Old Cowboy felt something. At first, it was like his heart was going to burst. He felt all the pain and sorrow leave. He felt a lump come up in his throat. The Old Cowboy smiled back at the Baby and tears came to his eyes. He sat there for quite a bit staring at that Baby, all innocent and peaceful. The Old Cowboy remembered back on all the bad things that he'd done, all the folks he had hurt, all the pain he had caused, and

somehow it all seemed forgiven. He felt relieved. He stood there for a long time holding and staring down at that innocent child. Finally, he handed the Baby to Maria, and after making sure she and the Baby would be alright, he got back on his horse and headed north.

As he rode, he thought back on his life, and it all seemed so short, so fast. Here he was old, but something about that Baby made his heart light, feel young and new. He rode north through the night until the sun came up early that bright Christmas morning.

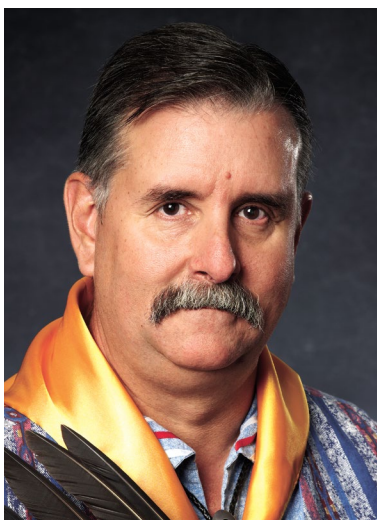
I hope this Christmas y'all see the Baby's smile. That your lives are renewed, and happiness dwells in your hearts. As we say at our house, "Feliz Navidad ... y'all!!!!"

*Mno gishget Jesus ga nigit mine mno weponget!* Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Andrew Walters  
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[nibwemko@gmail.com](mailto:nibwemko@gmail.com)

## District 12 – Paul Schmidlkofer



*Bozho nikanek*  
(Hello friends),

We are coming to the end of the year 2021. It has been another experience. This pandemic has changed our world so much. I often think that this must have been what our ancestors thought and felt when they also suffered through their many struggles. I am thankful for the strength they have given us.

I know we have lost members during this year. Some by expected causes and others unexpectedly. I will spend the end of this year remembering them, and you, that they have left behind. I want to remember all the good they brought into our world and encourage you also do this. Honor them for their impact on us.

We have the holidays coming this month, and whichever you

follow, I wish you happiness in celebrating yours. And I hope that you are able to celebrate them with those you love that are still here with us. I cherish my time with my family and the memories I carry forward from the experience.

I wish all of us a happy and better year in 2022. As always, I am honored to serve you.

*Migwetch*  
(Thank you),

Paul Schmidlkofer  
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## Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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## Michelle O'Neal Haas Family



Michelle Leann O'Neal, 46, lifelong resident of Bethel Acres, Oklahoma, passed from this life on Oct. 23, 2021.

She was born May 26, 1975, to Robert and Janis "Sue" (Arrasmith) Barrett in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Michelle was raised in Bethel Acres and attended Bethel Public Schools. She graduated with the class of 1993 from Bethel High School.

She married Chad O'Neal on Nov. 20, 1999, at the Emmanuel Baptist Church in McLoud, Oklahoma.

Michelle served as the assistant nutritional director for Bethel Public Schools for the past 18 years.

She loved animals and was called the "Snake Whisperer." Michelle loved helping people, loved the kids that came through the lower elementary cafeteria and was a friend to everybody. She was a practical person, was always smiling, loved being outdoors, liked old cars, was a very aggressive card player, and loved to shoot and was a strong supporter of the Second Amendment. Michelle loved her husband and children, and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. She will be dearly missed by all those who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Barrett; both sets of grandparents; and cousin, Jon Michael Arrasmith.

Those left to cherish her memory are her loving husband, Chad O'Neal of the home; two children, Rand Alan O'Neal and Kori Payton O'Neal; her mother, Sue Barrett of Shawnee, Oklahoma; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Scott and Christy O'Neal; nephew, Grant O'Neal; numerous uncles, aunts, cousins and many loving friends, including best friends, Jamie Johnson and Amy Nealy; her favorite cow, Belle; and her pet cat, Jameson.

A memorial service was held on Nov. 1, 2021, at the Bethel High School gymnasium with Reverend James Bond of Stroud, Oklahoma, officiating under the direction of Cooper Funeral Home of Tecumseh.

## Connie Jean Moser Bertrand Family

Connie Jean Moser, long-time Tryon, Oklahoma, resident was born Sept. 28, 1955, in Cushing, Oklahoma. She departed this life on Oct. 4, 2021, in Edmond, Oklahoma, at the age of 66 years.

Connie was the daughter of Marvin and Maxine (Creager) Savory. She graduated from Carney High School. Connie married James Michael Moser on Oct. 14, 1983, in Tryon, Oklahoma. She worked for National American Insurance Company as an oil and gas underwriter for over 30 years. Connie was a faithful member of the Tryon Christian Union Church. She loved painting, spending time with her grandchildren, country music and was always in the kitchen baking. Connie was an amazing wife, mother, grandmother and friend — truly one of a kind. She will be greatly missed.

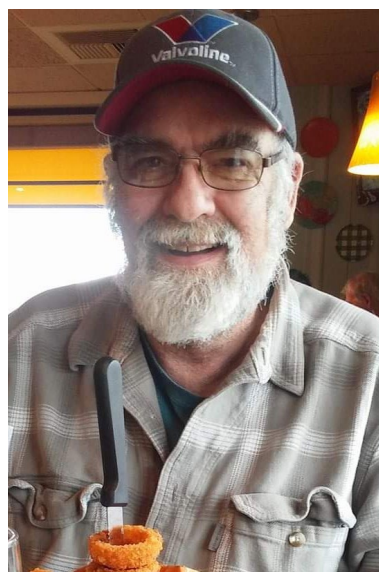
Her parents, and one brother, Will Savory preceded Connie in death.

Survivors include her husband of 37 years, Mike Moser; one son Hank Moser; one daughter Manda Smith; one brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Nancy Savory; four grandchildren, Rorie, Cooper, Emma and Whitlee; niece, Nikki Kretchmar; and bonus sons, Josh Mobley and David Smith along with other relatives and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in Connie's name to the Chosen House in Chandler: P.O. Box 25 Chandler, Oklahoma 74834.

Funeral services were held Oct. 8, 2021, at the First Baptist Church in Chandler, with Pastor Stephen Grotheer officiating. A burial followed at Olivet Cemetery in Vinco, Oklahoma.

## Henry James Clark Navarre Family



Henry James Clark, of Morehead, Minnesota, passed away after a many-year battle with brain cancer on Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021, at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, North Dakota.

Born on Jan. 30, 1951, in Topeka, Kansas, to Charley and

Bernice (Nugent) Clark, Henry grew up in Kansas, Idaho and Montana. He enjoyed helping his dad with the family towing business and was gifted his own tow truck on his 18th birthday. He sold the tow truck to begin his lifelong career of over-the-road trucking, driving millions of miles in "Big Red." In his 40s, Henry and his brother Gerry operated a home delivery seafood business in Moorhead. Henry married the love of his life, DeVon Hoff, on June 16, 1990. He called DeVon every night he was on the road.

Henry was a generous and hardworking man, always welcoming to everyone. Family was always first; he loved spending every free minute with his wife, children and grandchildren. He especially loved taking them out to supper. He enjoyed old western movies, doing woodworking projects, tinkering and fixing things, making his "famous" beans and weenies, cuddling with the dogs, and having coffee at the Fryn' Pan with his friends. He changed peoples' lives through his care and actions, and he will be greatly missed by his loved ones.

Henry is survived by his wife of 31 years, DeVon Hoff, six children, 11 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, five siblings, and many special friends, in-laws, cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Henry was preceded in death by his parents Charley and Bernice Clark; brother, Charley Clark Jr.; brother-in-law, Earl Stuart; grandson, Dustin Clark; and special friend, Paul Asplin. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021, at Wright Funeral Home in Moorhead, and he was laid to rest at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Fargo.

## Stella LaClaire Malone LeClair Family

Stella LaClaire "Waskonedoket" Malone nee Hackler was born Aug. 8, 1928, in Lexington, Missouri. The daughter of Joseph William Hackler and Nelle Caroline Ford, she had two brothers — Joseph William Hackler (1924-1979) and Martin Hughes "Shawnokwebe" Hackler (1931-2019). She rode a horse with her oldest brother to attend a one-room schoolhouse. In 1936, her family moved to Sedalia, Missouri, where she graduated from Smith Cotton High School. During World War II, she met an Army Airman (later to be Air Force), Marion Oldham Malone, whom she married in 1947. With his military and later civilian career, they made over 30 complete household moves, and Stella successfully made a home each time for her family. After their retirement, they worked on the family genealogy, traveling and studying. Her husband walked on in 2000, and her youngest

daughter, Michele Marian Malone, in 2008. Stella walked on Sept. 21, 2021, in Maryville, Tennessee. Stella is survived by her daughters, Stella Gayle "Biwabek Kishkikwe" Malone and Cynthia Anne Franken, as well as several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Her ashes are buried next to her husband's at Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando, Florida.

"All the pain and grief is over, every restless tossing passed. I am now at peace forever, safely home in Heaven at last."

## Ralph Claar Anderson Family



Ralph Claar, 87, of Deerfield, Kansas, died Nov. 10, 2021, at High Plains Retirement Village in Lakin, Kansas.

He was born July 31, 1934, in Lakin, the son of Milton and Sophie (Anderson) Claar. Ralph lived a full life as a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend and farmer.

He grew up in Deerfield, Kansas, where he was an active community member. He graduated from Deerfield High School in 1952 and married his high school sweetheart, Twila Lea Duncan. They were married for 69 years and were blessed with three sons, Bobby, Ronald, and Kenneth. He was a member of the United Methodist Church. Ralph worked for the Kearny County Farmers Irrigation Association for 11 years and served as a board member for 39 years.

He helped build and restore the Amazon head gates west of Lakin, Kansas.

He was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and on the Tribal roll.

Ralph was preceded in death by a son, Bobby Claar; a brother, Charles Claar; sister-in-law, Donita Claar; and his parents.

Survivors include his wife Twila; two sons, Ronald and wife Chris of Deerfield, and Kenneth and wife Judy of Franktown, Colorado; a daughter-in-law, Janie Claar of Manhattan, Kansas; seven grandchildren and their spouses; 27 great-grandchildren; 8 great-great-grandchildren; and many relatives and friends.

Special wishes of Ralph and Twila are for a service at a later date when both are deceased.

Memorials for Ralph are suggested to the United Methodist Church of Deerfield in care of Garnand Funeral Home of Lakin, Kansas. Words of comfort may be sent to Twila at 607 Court Place, Room #204, Lakin, Kansas 67860.



*Hau ndenwémagnek*  
Ho my relatives

*Ébyé yak shote gnom*  
We have come here today

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

*Ngom she épam sét ode*  
Today he walks

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

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

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

*Iw énaj moyan*  
That's all I have to say

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

By Don Perrot

### Christine “Tena” Elizabeth Gifford Higbee Family



Christine Elizabeth Gifford, “Tena” to all who knew and loved her, departed this life on Oct. 1, 2021, at the age of 77.

Tena was born to Joseph Glenn, and Alda “Nonie” Dean (Higbee) Glenn on Oct. 24, 1943, in Purcell, Oklahoma. She graduated from Socastee High School in South Carolina in 1961 while her dad was stationed there at the Air Force Base but spent most of her life in the Cleveland County/Pottawatomie County area in Oklahoma. Tena took great pride in her Native American Heritage and was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She was so happy to attend the naming ceremony with her cousins where she received her name *Mkowabjegekwe*, Bear that Searches.

Tena was a “Jill of all Trades.” Among other things, she owned a café, was one of the first women in the Oklahoma Laborers Union, worked as an airplane mechanic at Tinker Air Force Base, went to nursing school, and owned and operated a daycare for 24 years until her retirement. Tena was a mother of four, but a mom to many. She enjoyed Bob Ross painting, collecting movies, reading, cooking, sewing, vegetable gardening, fishing and OU sports, but her family always came first. She kept a special place in her heart for each of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; spending time with her family was her greatest joy.

Now, she is on her greatest adventure. Those who survive her include her new love and best friend, Herman Clement of Wister, Oklahoma; brother, Chuck and his wife Ann Glenn of Yukon; three sons, Rob Gifford and wife Tandra of Norman, Greg Gifford and wife

Sherry of Oklahoma City and Mike Gifford of Oklahoma City; daughter Angel Millican of Norman; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends that will miss her dearly.

### Gene Renegar Burnett Family



Wilburn Eugene “Gene” Renegar went to his heavenly home on Oct. 7, 2021, after passing in his sleep. Gene was born on March 4, 1939, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, to Wilburn Renegar and Ethel Mae Ziegler Renegar. In 1957, he graduated from Shawnee High School, where he excelled at auto mechanics. He grew up in church, first at Calvary Baptist Church before becoming a lifelong member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

Gene was drafted into the United States Army in 1960, where he spent a year stationed in Seoul, Korea, before his discharge in 1963. When he returned home, he met and married the love of his life, Linda Taylor, on Dec. 9, 1966. The two welcomed his favorite and only daughter, Vonda Kay Renegar, in 1969.

After his service, he began his career at Tinker Air Force Base, where he worked for 33 years until his retirement in 1996. Once he retired, Gene’s favorite hobby was his motorcycle.

Though he was quiet, Gene was known for his fun-loving, ornery spirit. He was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (Burnett), and enjoyed exploring and honoring his heritage. He loved traveling and spending time outside, especially on lakes across the United States. He was a wonderful devoted grandpa, who was always at his grandkids’ games and events. He never met a dog he didn’t like.

Gene is survived by his wife of 54 years, Linda Taylor Renegar; his daughter and son-in-law, Vonda Renegar Muirhead and Tim Muirhead, of Tecumseh; two grandchildren, Macy and Colton Muirhead; and his favorite little dog Gypsy Rose. He is also survived by numerous family members, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

### George Benton Melot Melot Family



George Benton Melot, 94, of Lubbock, Texas, passed away on Oct. 13, 2021.

George was born on June 30, 1927, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, to Thomas and Margaret Melot on Tribal lands as the youngest of nine siblings — two girls and seven boys. He was proud to be the seventh son of a seventh son.

George married Billie J. Roten in Lubbock, Texas, on July 10, 1949. They were married for 72 years. They had four children. He worked for Amarillo Hardware for a few years, then moved to Lubbock Schools, and then Snyder Schools as director of building maintenance. He retired from Texas Tech University as director of building operations.

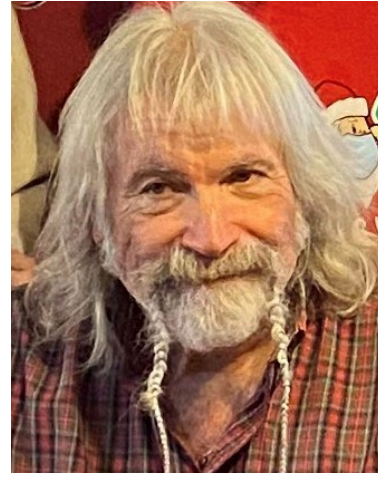
George loved the Lord and was baptized in 1969. He was a Citizen Potawatomi who loved the Tribe and enjoyed fellowship and dancing at the annual festivals. He was happy to contribute family artifacts to the Cultural Heritage Center. Many family members were privileged to walk with him to the old homesite and see the area where there are unmarked graves of our ancestors.

George represented the CPN in the U.S. Army during the Pacific Campaign of WWII. He

was a member of Yellowhouse Masonic lodge for 65 years. He was also a member of the VFW honor guard for several years.

He is survived by his wife, Billie; one daughter, Elaine; three sons, Ben and wife Cheryl, Bill and Lee; 21 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren, with more on the way. He was preceded in death by his parents and all his siblings.

### Cary L. Wilson Bertrand Family



Cary L. Wilson flew to heaven on Oct. 18, 2021, at the age of 66. Cary was born in Cushing, Oklahoma, to Gary and Sarah Wilson on Aug. 3, 1955. Cary grew up in the Cushing-Ripley area, graduating from Ripley High School. He spent the majority of his adult life in the Dallas area, where he founded and owned American Environmental Specialties, Inc., a company completing asbestos abatement. He retired two years ago and returned to live on the homestead in Ripley.

Cary embraced life to the fullest; he was adventure loving and thrill seeking. He loved shooting sports, fishing, riding his motorcycle and his family, especially his nieces and nephews. Recently, he enjoyed renovating the home he grew up in, making it his own and growing watermelons that his dad would have been proud of.

Cary is preceded in death by his dad, Gary Wilson, and his nephews, J.W. Wilson and Tobin McTague. He is survived by his longtime soulmate, Jan Trussel; his mom, Sarah Wilson; brother, Donnie Wilson; sisters, Sue Jones and Kay Porter; nieces, Julie Porter, Jayme McTague and Jackie Dawn Porter; nephew, Laddy Aldridge; great-niece, Dani McTague; and great-nephew, Tyler McTague.

### Patricia “Pat” Sue Cedar Vieux/Bruno Family



Patricia “Pat” Sue Cedar passed away on Nov. 7, 2021, in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, at the age of 86.

Pat was born to Jacob Paul Bruno and Rose (Enyart) Bruno on March 10, 1935, in Pawnee, Oklahoma. She attended Pawhuska High School and later graduated from there in 1952. On December 26, 1952, she entered marriage with Paul Cedar II. She worked as the 1st Deputy Osage County Clerk at the Osage County Courthouse. Pat was an accomplished seamstress and a referee for boys’ and girls’ basketball with her friend Hazel Shoemake. She enjoyed watching football, sewing, playing bingo and collecting anything to do with elephants, but nothing was better than spending time with her grandchildren. They were the light of her life.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, Anita Cedar; her parents, Jacob and Rose Bruno; her sister, Pug Purvis; and her brother, Jacob Bruno II.

Pat is survived by her children, Paul Cedar III, Jack Cedar, Juliana Gilmore and Shana Martin; and siblings, Barbara Dennett and Ann Coyle.

## 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](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org)

## CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

For more information, please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email [cclark@potawatomi.org](mailto:cclark@potawatomi.org).