



HOWNIKAN

Aptebbongises | December 2022

A winter storm leaves snow and ice buildup on infrastructure around the Citizen Potawatomi Nation FireLake complex.

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Grant gives go-ahead for research, restoration at Uniontown Cemetery

Citizen Potawatomi Nation received a \$60,000 Tribal Heritage Grant to pursue research and restoration at the historic and sacred site of Uniontown Cemetery near Rossville, Kansas.

The National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund awards Tribal Heritage Grants to federally recognized tribes for cultural and historic preservation projects. Uniontown Cemetery is a historic site on the National Register of Historic Places.

The funds will be used to repair crumbling stone walls and gravestones at the cemetery and to conduct ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys of the area to confirm the location of a mass burial site where several Potawatomi ancestors are believed to have been buried following a cholera outbreak at Uniontown in 1849.

Uniontown

Uniontown was built as a pay station and trading post following the removal of the Potawatomi onto a reservation on the Kansas River, west of present-day Topeka, Kansas.

Once a town of approximately 50 buildings, including 14 stores and numerous taverns, Uniontown existed as a direct result of federal policies of removal and annuity payments and became a ghost town once it no longer served as a thriving business hub for the Tribe. It was also a popular stop for settlers streaming west along the Oregon-California Trail.

However, these travelers brought with them deadly diseases, including cholera and smallpox. A cholera outbreak struck the community at Uniontown in 1849, and the residents burned the town to the ground to stop the spread. Oral history points to a mass burial at the base of a large cottonwood tree in Uniontown Cemetery, formerly known as Green Cemetery.

“Today we understand that one spreads cholera by not properly washing their hands after exposure to contaminated body fluids, but our ancestors would have likely linked the cause of the outbreaks to the proximity of the bodies,” Tribal member and historian Dr. Kelli Mosteller said in a recent *Hownikan* interview. “In this time period, because of the technology that was available, that often meant you couldn’t dig individual graves fast enough. So it was fairly standard practice when you had outbreaks like this, that when you were able to get a grave dug, you put as many people in there as you could, giving them as much respect as you can but also knowing that public health needs this to happen quickly.”

There are also several individual graves in the cemetery that belong



District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw at Uniontown Cemetery during the 2019 Potawatomi Gathering. (Photo provided)

to members of Joseph Napoleon Bourassa’s family, including his mother-in-law Mary L. Nadeau, his wife Mary E. Nadeau and four children.

Research

CPN District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw and his brother, Lyman, began researching the history of Uniontown several years before Jon took office as a Tribal legislator, and it has been an object of significant interest and study ever since.

Keen to learn more about the site to confirm these records, and to bring together a fuller picture of Potawatomi history at Uniontown, Mosteller and Boursaw remain adamant that any research be undertaken with the utmost respect.

“We’re certainly not going to undertake a more traditional archeological excavation,” Dr. Mosteller said. “But technology has advanced to where you have ground penetrating radar.”

In 2018, when the Prairie Band Potawatomi hosted the Potawatomi Gathering, Boursaw conducted a tour of historical sites in the area with Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, several legislators, and then-Director of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center Dr. Kelli Mosteller. The tour included Uniontown.

“We had talked about how the only thing we can do is get a ground penetrating radar survey done. The Chairman turned to me and said, ‘Get it done,’” Boursaw said.

“It would be nice, particularly for the Boursaw family, if we can find out

where Joseph is really buried,” he continued. “We can find him, or we can eliminate that spot as a possibility. But we do have a lot of history there, as does the Nadeau family.”

Dr. Mosteller emphasized that “regardless of whether or not we find out more about the mass graves, this is a resting site for many of our Tribal members and other non-Native people, and it’s a site that we care about.”

Grant

Jeremy Arnette, assistant director of the CPN Office of Self-Governance, worked with Dr. Mosteller in seeking the appropriate grant to fund the proposed research. They elected to apply for the Tribal Heritage Grant due to its flexibility to accommodate the multifaceted academic, historic and cultural needs of the project.

“We had to make sure that it was the right grant,” Dr. Mosteller said. “When you’re dealing with historic properties that are culturally sensitive but also have a scientific (interest), it’s hard to find a granting agency that fits.”

The National Park Service awarded the Tribe the \$60,000 grant on Aug. 23, 2022, and its term runs through August 2024.

Dr. Blair Schneider, associate researcher and science outreach manager at the Kansas Geological Survey at the University of Kansas, began working with Dr. Mosteller and Boursaw in 2020. She will conduct the GPR surveys and analysis. The grant also funds the temporary

Continued on page 6

Self-Governance director represents area tribes on national committee

Each year, Citizen Potawatomi Nation receives millions of dollars in grants from federal agencies. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awards most of those funds, in particular the Administration for Children and Families subagency.

In September 2022, CPN's Self-Governance Director Kasie Nichols accepted a position on the ACF Tribal Advisory Committee as an alternate representative for the Oklahoma City Area to help advise and make decisions on improving the agency and its service to tribes. For her, progressive change for the Tribe and other Native nations begins with a seat at the table.

"It's important for us to be engaged because we have several programs and funding, and they're important core services for us," Nichols said.

That cash flow supports some of the Tribe's most utilized resources, including CPN's Child Development Centers, FireLodge Children & Family Services, House of Hope, specific Workforce Development & Social Services programs and more. Those departments assist Native families with foster care and adoptions, provide

daycare and after school programs, help domestic violence victims in the community and provide resources for low-income families to pay their bills.

For Nichols, serving on the committee provides opportunities to expand tribal self-governance and discuss ideas to make it a reality.

"That initiative is very important to CPN and tribes in our area because it streamlines administration and funding, and then it pushes control to the tribes. The tribe makes the decision rather than the federal government. So that's something that's a long-term goal," she said.

Twenty-four tribal representatives comprise the committee that divides the United States into regions, and Nichols serves Oklahoma and portions of the surrounding states. She is Citizen Potawatomi Nation's first delegate on the committee. As director of the Office of Self-Governance, Nichols and her staff see all sides of the grant process — from application to compliance.

"We see different ways to manage federal programs and funds and



Kasie Nichols

maybe can offer a better way to do things that truly honors tribal decision-making at all levels and brainstorm to offer options," she said.

"We have a lot of cumbersome grant processes, and the way that we access the

funds isn't always easy. Tribes don't have access to certain programs provided by ACF directly to states, which is a problem because those state-funded services may not ever reach tribal communities. So that's really where we want to be engaged. And we share the same concerns and issues with tribes in our area."

The Tribe and Nichols approach these types of opportunities with the big picture in mind for all of Indian Country.

"We take that to heart and try to make sure that we're good representatives," she said. "The Tribe, we can offer our own experiences because firsthand we have knowledge of these programs and what they look like at our level. We can discuss those details with other tribes. But first and foremost, we're really representing not the Tribe, but tribes in the Oklahoma City area who have access to these ACF programs."

Nichols' position on the Administration for Children and Families Tribal Advisory Committee continues through December 2023. Find out more at cpn.news/ACFTAC. ♡

Native American music series invites Potawatomi women drummers

A group of Citizen Potawatomi Nation *kwék* (women) proudly shared drumming and *Bodéwadmimwen* during a university concert series.

The University of Oklahoma's Ruggles Native American Music Series recently invited *De'Wegen Kwek* (Our Women's Drum) to share traditional and contemporary Potawatomi singing and drumming on Sept. 22, 2022. The performance took place in the Paul F. Sharp Concert Hall on the OU campus in Norman, Oklahoma.

The Ruggles Concert Series began in 2006 and is dedicated to Native American music and storytelling, said Dr. Christina Giacona, Indigenous and modern music specialist at the OU School of Music.

"Every semester we feature one group or artist or band or composer, and we build a show around their performance," Giacona said.

One of Giacona's colleagues at OU, Jennifer Slater, also teaches Native American music and had heard of *De'Wegen Kwek*.

"It was (Slater's) suggestion because I wanted something that we hadn't had before. (Since) we're featuring a classical composer in the spring, I wanted something that was different," Giacona said.

Giacona was excited to feature a group comprised entirely of women, a first for the Ruggles series. The program has previously featured a wide variety of music, from Indigenous flutes to contemporary powwow singing and drumming.



De'Wegen Kwek members, from left, Reva Wolf, Jayne Fleishfresser and Czarina Thompson sing and drum during the group's performance at the University of Oklahoma.

"I was absolutely ecstatic," she said. "This is perfect. This would be great for the students."

The shows are usually planned with OU's music students and the community in mind, introducing them to music they may not otherwise have experienced.

"Mainly, we are hoping that community members will come to the show, but also a lot of students from campus. Many of the students who attend are taking Native American music that semester," she said. "The (students') goal is to listen to the concert, analyze the music, write a report over it, and then a lot of them actually get really interested in exploring more what's happening in our state."

Giacona said for some of her students, the experience has sparked a lifelong appreciation of various forms of Indigenous music.

"I have a lot of students who will, semesters later, email me and say, 'Hey, I just heard this great powwow group, so thank you for introducing this to me.' It's a really great experience for our students," she said.

Since 2019, the concerts have been free to attend with the hope that as many students and community members as possible are able to enjoy themselves and learn more about Indigenous music.

If people missed this performance, Giacona said they can attend

an upcoming concert as the coordinators have plans to expand.

"I would love for (*De'Wegen Kwek*) to come again. We would love to incorporate a workshop maybe earlier in the day of a performance. And I want to find more opportunities that aren't just the concert stage. My future goal is to have a concert at OU and then have a concert at (First Americans Museum) as well," she said.

Dr. Giacona is also planning to produce video clips of the prior years' performances for the Ruggles Native American Music Series website.

De'Wegen Kwek was established in December 2011 after group of women expressed interest in drumming after attending Potawatomi women's teachings.

The members of *De'Wegen Kwek* are Kristen Arambula Hernandez (*Idwegishgokwé*); Donna Barnard (*Jigwe Ankwet Kwé*); Issy Bonebrake (*Giwanimkokwé*); Minisa Crumbo Halsey (*Wabaksekwe*); Sarah Dalton (*Yabwewkwé*); Nicole Emmons (*Mko Gises Kwé*); Jayne Fleischfresser (*Bmashi Segó*); Anissa Graves; Stormy Hunter; Ragan Marsee; Bird Mountain (*Misque Dawagon Equa*); Kim Nootbaar (*Niganbekwé*); Czarina Thompson (*Minisnogokwé*); Pam Vrooman (*Mdwešenajewen*); Cathryn Wamego (*Weezie Shkodé mnendo kwé*); Paige Willett (*Nawki*); and Reva Wolf (*Mskomko*).

To learn more upcoming performances, visit the Ruggles Native American Music Series website at cpn.news/ruggles or contact Dr. Giacona at cgiacona@ou.edu. ♡

2023 ELECTION NOTICE

For Legislators for Districts 10, 11 and 13

LEGISLATOR

Filing form and fee must be received by the Election Committee no later than 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Jan. 11. Candidates for Legislator must be at least 18 years old upon being sworn in on June 24, 2023, 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, 2022. TO REQUEST, EMAIL ELECTIONS@POTAWATOMI.ORG

Looking back at 2022

As the year winds to a close and people anticipate the promise and possibilities of a new year, now is the time to reflect on 2022. For Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the past year was filled with celebration, innovation and success. The Nation has grown by more than 10,000 new citizens and today, there are more than 38,000 CPN members.

We look back at some of the more notable events.

Virtual Tribe portal

The Virtual Tribe portal (portal.potawatomi.org) gives Tribal citizens the ability to take greater control of their personal information and experience a more enriched environment for family history research. Tribal members can now update all their personal information in one place rather than contacting different individuals in several departments. CPN safely accepted online applications for the CARES Act and ARPA funds through the portal while observing strict coronavirus health guidelines.

The portal also helps enhance the experience for citizens researching their family history through the online genealogy tool *Ancestors*, which received the Oklahoma Historical Society's 2021 Bruce T. Fisher Award for Outstanding Oklahoma History Project. Staff from the Cultural Heritage Center and Information Technology departments worked together and developed the platform. *Ancestors'* search function allows users to simply type in their family's name to look at records like maps, official documents, newspaper articles and more.

Bodéwadmimwen

The CPN Language Department began offering Potawatomi classes to public school systems in 2017 after the curriculum met Oklahoma state standards for a language credit. *Bodéwadmimwen* was offered for the first time to students at Shawnee Middle School in Shawnee, Oklahoma, in 2022. The course combined some aspects of the high school course curriculum with other content created for elementary-aged students. Four school districts near Tribal headquarters now offer the high school course.

Google Arts & Culture approached the CPN Language Department about participating in a new language learning platform called Woolaroo (cpn.news/woolaroo). It allows users to take a picture of common plants, animals, items and more and then uses artificial intelligence to identify the objects and play back the Potawatomi word to the user. It features more than 900 Potawatomi words and phrases. The words, phrases and verb conjugations all show and explain how the Potawatomi saw and continue to see the world with an emphasis on a connection to the earth, a high regard for mother nature and living beings, and a communal lifestyle.

The Language Department received a \$200,000 federal grant as part of the Living Languages Grant Program. The staff produced Potawatomi versions of *Chicken Little*, *The Red Raincoat* (*Mskwa gmowen biskowagen*), *Wéni je o nam' edit?* (*Who's Dancing?*) and *Mtek Wigwam* (*Tree House*). Staff contributed the translations and the artwork for the books, which were given to Tribal members free of charge in



A group of Citizen Potawatomi men drum during the Family Reunion Festival powwow in June.



FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival draws a record crowd from across the region.

their Family Reunion Festival gift bags. Each book also contains a QR code that allows the reader to access an audio file of the book being read in Potawatomi.

Department of Education

The CPN Department of Education launched a new leadership program, *Mdamen*, open to any Tribal member over the age of 18 residing anywhere in the United States. Through virtual sessions held once a week, the 29 members of the inaugural class learned about the government, culture and economic development of the Tribe and participated in talking circles to foster community and belonging. The program met for two and a half hours each week for seven weeks, with one hour allocated to presentations from different Tribal departments, enterprises and cultural centers. The program name — *Mdamen* — comes from the word used in *Bodéwadmimwen* to refer to corn. *Mdamen* literally translates to “that miraculous seed.” The name was chosen to reflect the purpose and values of the program — growing knowledge of and participation in the Tribe as well as strengthening the foundation of somebody's identity as *Nishnabé*.

Family Reunion Festival

The 2022 Family Reunion Festival took place in person in Shawnee, Oklahoma, after two years of virtual events due to the coronavirus pandemic. Instead of the tradition of designating honored families, the June 2022 Festival honored Tribal citizens who had walked on due to COVID-19.

The annual event marked its 50th anniversary. What began in 1972 as a small powwow grew to three days of cultural activities, food, dancing and family time. Classes on ribbon shirt making, beading, language, dancing and more took place throughout the weekend. General Council continued as a cornerstone of Festival, where members addressed important decisions for the benefit of the Tribe. Find more at cpn.news/festival.

CPN Eagle Aviary

Also in June, the CPN Eagle Aviary celebrated its 10-year anniversary. Construction on the two enclosures and indoor viewing area began in 2010, funded by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant with matching investment from the Tribe. The CPN Aviary officially opened during Family Reunion Festival in 2012, providing a home to eight eagles. Since then, the Aviary has undergone growth and improvements. Sixteen birds currently call the CPN Aviary home, including 12 bald eagles, two golden eagles, one Harris's hawk and an augur buzzard. With the help of the CPN Department of Environmental Protections, flood waters have been diverted, and a conservation area full of diverse wildlife is burgeoning on the property. Learn more about the aviary and its residents at cpn.news/aviary.

CPN Care

CPN Care became available to Tribal citizens. CPN Care provides access to virtual health care for free to Tribal

members, their spouses and their dependents. CPN Care offers phone and videocall appointments on the spot to those with an account. It also provides access to some counseling and mental health services via phone and video as well as a platform for reduced medication and prescription costs. CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps wanted to offer health services to Tribal members anywhere in the United States, and the need significantly increased during the coronavirus pandemic. Read more information and sign up at cpn.news/cpncare.

FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival

FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival drew 50,000 people to the August event, its largest crowd ever. Held annually in Shawnee, the FireLake Fireflight Balloon Festival hosts two days of balloon rides, food, crafts, music, fireworks and more at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's powwow grounds. The nightly balloon glow draws visitors from across Oklahoma, the region and even the U.S.

The Balloon Festival also received the Outstanding Event award during the 2022 RedBud Awards, hosted by the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association. The RedBud Awards recognize Oklahoma's top tourism attractions, events, programs and organizations for their outstanding efforts to serve and promote Oklahoma's tourism industry. Visit the event online at firelakeballoonfest.com.

Potawatomi Fire

In March, the Potawatomi Fire took to the hardwood for their inaugural season as the first professional sports team owned by a Native Nation.

The Potawatomi Fire were honored with two awards at the conclusion of their successful 2022 season, including the Jim Koch Award for Team Market of the Year. The Fire Dance Team, under the direction of Aonisty Parks, also received the Dance Team of the Year Award from The Basketball League.

Fire guard Deshawn Munson was named TBL's Most Valuable Player and All-TBL first team. Munson finished 2022 with 12 triple-doubles and had 21 double-doubles during the year. He was the only TBL player to average 25 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists per game.

The Potawatomi Fire's season ended on June 12 with a 120-110 loss to the Shreveport Mavericks in the semifinals of the TBL playoffs. Overall, the Fire went 18-6 in the regular season, earning the third seed in the Central Conference of the playoffs. Look for next season's schedule and buy tickets at potawatomifire.com.

House of Hope

In 2022, the House of Hope marked its five-year anniversary of providing domestic violence response and prevention services. The shelter had its grand opening on Sept. 11, 2017, the fifth of seven tribal shelters in the state, and provided services to individuals within the week. Throughout the years, the shelter has been able to help more than 170 individuals. HOH has provided safety to individuals as far as California and Tennessee. Visit cpnhouseofhope.com for more information and resources. ♡

Meet Officer Marcus Burris of the CPN Police Department

A desire to serve citizens and improve his community inspired Patrol Officer Marcus Burris to seek a career in law enforcement. He joined the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Police Department in 2020 with a mission to make a positive impact.

"I just want to make sure that everybody feels that they are important and whatever they're doing is worthy of attention," he said.

As a child, Burris wanted to be a construction worker. He only considered becoming a police officer after his family experienced some challenges.

"My family was struggling, needing help, but not feeling important enough to reach out for the help we needed definitely woke me up to that reality. It wasn't just reality for us, but it was reality for a lot of people," Burris said.

"I wanted to make our community better... (whether) they're having an issue with something small or something serious."

He began his law enforcement career in 2016 as a reserve police officer in the small community of Meeker, Oklahoma.

While many television programs show law enforcement in high-speed chases and tackling suspects, Burris said the most rewarding calls are the ones that involve interacting with the community.

An area man once reported his bicycle stolen and assumed he would not get it back, Burris said. The man, who is without a home, relies on the bicycle as his only form of transportation.

"I could tell as he was giving the report, he felt it was a lost cause," Burris said. "He said, 'I'm sorry, it's probably not worth your time.'"

However, officers located the bicycle after a brief search and surprised the owner by returning it.

"It's not the guns blazing, driving fast calls; it's the ones where we're showing (citizens) we're going to do everything we can. Those are the calls that really make me happy," Burris said.



Patrol Officer Marcus Burris

He meets people from all walks of life while patrolling areas like CPN Housing, FireLake Entertainment Center, FireLake Discount Foods and the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort. Burris also embraces the opportunity to serve the wider community. He enjoys working with police officers from Shawnee, Tecumseh, McLoud and sheriff's deputies from Pottawatomie County. It was one of the reasons he felt drawn to work for CPN.

"We do a lot of agency assists with our neighboring departments," Burris said. "Having that relationship with the county is definitely beneficial for citizens because when they have these incidents that quickly get out of hand, we're able to assist."

In the late 1990s, tribal governments and Oklahoma municipalities began developing cross-deputization agreements. Those agreements built the framework that allow both tribal and state law enforcement to work together within each other's jurisdictions. This effort fostered cooperation without infringing on tribal sovereignty.

That cooperative relationship was apparent when Burris responded to a recent domestic dispute at a family

gathering. Dispatch informed him the situation was quickly deteriorating.

"It was in the northern part of the county, and (CPN officers) were the closest units," he said. "The sheriff's deputies are trying to get there, but they may be seven to 10 miles away. Being able to assist them and get to these high-risk calls, to handle the situation until they can arrive, it's a big benefit to the community."

Burris said communities in some corners of Pottawatomie County might only have a single deputy available to respond. Sometimes a Tribal police officer is closest and responds to the call or provides needed backup to another officer.

"Being able to watch their back, it's safer for the officers, but it's also safer for the community as a whole," he said.

"It's a good thing, having those relationships. It's definitely worked out for the agencies around us and worked out for the community. (Citizens are) benefitting the most when the agencies have good working relationships."

Burris also manages tough emotions while on duty. He said vehicle accidents involving a fatality are the hardest.

"We try not to bring that stress home, but that's difficult, especially when it's someone younger," he said. "The best way to deal with it is not to think about it as much. As soon as I get off work, I dabble in hobbies, playing football and basketball with my son and trying to keep my mind off that event. I try to create that mental separation."

Burris said he is generally laid back and tries to bring empathy and a calming approach to his job. He enjoys the chances to interact with the public he serves.

"I try to be as approachable as I can be; that's both on and off duty," he said. "I don't want to come off as hard to talk to. You never know what day somebody is having, at the drive-thru or checkout, you can say the wrong thing. I try to carry myself as somebody that's easy to talk to and a calming influence."

With his focus on improving his community, Burris appreciates the opportunity to become a familiar face in the area. As his career progresses, he has ideas about how best to create and foster lasting relationships.

Burris enjoys events like Shop With a Cop. During the holidays, area law enforcement officers help children and youth shop and pick out gifts for themselves and their family members. He would love to participate in similar events year-round.

"I can see myself trying to push for more community events that involve other departments and agencies," he said. "I'd like to come up with a baseball tournament or something like that through the year. I'd like to continue that interaction with community. I'll be pushing for things like that in the future."

Read more about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Police Department and find contact information at cpn.news/police. ♡

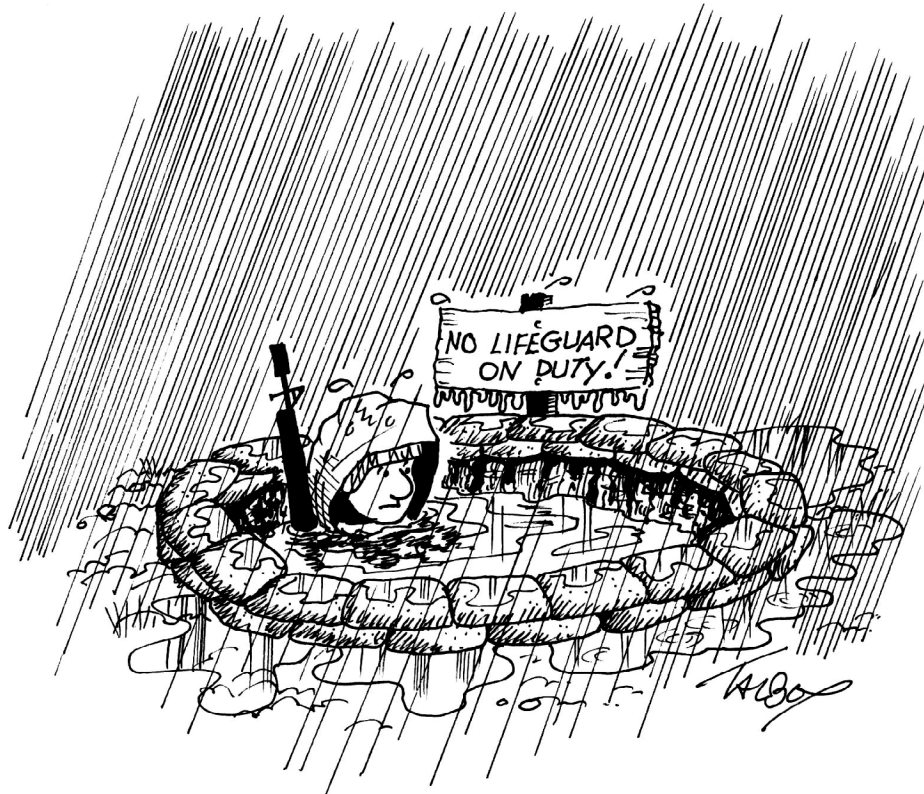
Veterans report



Bozho
(Hello),

Well, this new year, 2022, is ending, or depending on when you read this, has ended. What a year. So much has happened within the Tribe, the CPN Veterans Organization, our nation and the world. This is America on earth, and nothing ever stays the same, whether it's weather or politics.

We have a few more active members in our CPN Veterans Organization, Color Guard and Honor Guard, and there is room for more. Our new active members are Rory Thompson, Mike Hardesty and Larry Maxwell. Our Color Guard



has been busy with U.S. flag events in schools and parades in Shawnee and Tecumseh as well as private events for different functions. We are representing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation throughout the state and will continue as long as we are able and have the veterans.

Remember, we have our Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization's Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 6 at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall located next to the creek on the CPN Powwow Grounds. All CPN Veterans and their families are welcome. You don't have to be a member of the organization to attend, and you don't have to be a member of the organization to attend our monthly meetings.

Migwetch
(Thank you)!

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

Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho jayek
(Hello everyone),

Bgéji ksenyamget shode odew jo pi ngom
(It's a little cold here today). Lots going on in the Language Department. We are finishing up our children's book grant. We have already shipped about 400 books but have more to go. Please be patient if you are waiting on your books. They should be there soon.

If you haven't checked out Woolaroo (cpn.news/woolaroo) by Google, make it a priority to do so. This program is pretty awesome. We were one of the only tribal groups in North America who were part of this project. To use Woolaroo, you go to the site with your phone and choose Potawatomi as the language. Then use your phone to take pictures of objects like a door, table or chair, and it will give you the word in Potawatomi along with an audio file. In order to make this happen, we had to translate the 3,500 most Googled terms and then create an audio file. It's a pretty cool tool.

Also, we have a number of learning tools out there for folks who wish to learn the language. We have a dictionary at potawatomidictionary.com with over 10,000 words with more than 70



percent having audio files attached to them. We have two YouTube channels with more than 400 videos on each site. There are learning videos, songs, stories, cultural teachings, cartoons and even full-length movies in the language. There are versions of most content with one captioned in English, one captioned in Potawatomi and one with no captions. We have a Facebook group with over 6,200 folks (cpn.news/langfbv).

We are currently finishing up a beginner course for our newest online platform Tovuti. We hope to have this out before the first of the year. We still have two courses on memrise.com. One is called

A Day in the Life in Potawatomi and one is called *Conversational Potawatomi*. We also have an online Moodle course, which is phasing out, soon to be replaced with the new Tovuti course.

We have been doing a lot more with QR codes recently. We have put them in all our children's books so you can hear the story read to you in Potawatomi. Here is a short prayer you can learn and use at family functions over the holidays. We are putting a QR code here so you can hear the prayer read.

Migwetch Mamogosanan
(Thank you Creator/God)

Jak she gégo ga gishtoyen
(For everything you have created)

Mine mno gishget
(And this beautiful day.)

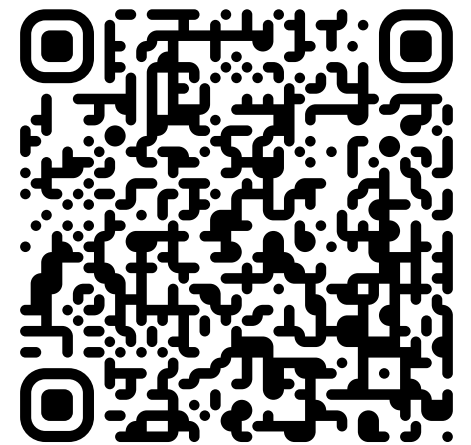
Kowabem gi kekyajek, yaknogejek
(Watch over the elders, those who are sick)

Penojeyek mine shemagneshik
(Children and the soldiers.)

Ewi dodaskeygo mteno mno bmadzewen
(We ask only for good health)

Mine wjitmagoswen
(And help.)

Iw
(Ending/Amen) ♪



Kotches'uk Inina'tig and Ba'boan



Carrots Maple Sugar and Wild Ginger

This Potawatomi recipe is adapted from the recipe on page 25 of the 1975 cookbook *From Indian Recipes: Collected from the Indian People I Love* by Tribal member Priscilla Mullin Sherard. This recipe serves 8.

From District 2 Legislator and Juneau, Vieux and Yott family descendant Eva Marie Carney/Ojindiskwe: "We make this for holiday meals, substituting grated fresh ginger or ground ginger for wild ginger. Our daughter Elise Cohen/Mtenose has contributed this to 'heritage' meals held by her graduate school."

INGREDIENTS

8 carrots, peeled and sliced diagonally
Grated fresh ginger or ground ginger
Maple Sugar
Parsley for garnish
Butter

DIRECTIONS

Butter a baking dish. Heat oven to 350 F. Put layer of carrots in the baking dish. Mix a small amount of ginger with the maple sugar and sprinkle lightly over carrots. Dot with butter. Continue this layering until dish is filled. Add just enough water to steam carrots. Bake until carrots are tender (about 20 minutes).



From Indian Recipes: Collected from the Indian People I Love is available at evamariocarney.com.

Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

CPN Executive Committee

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Legislator named Fresno County Public Safety Hero awardee

Citizen Potawatomi Nation District 7 Legislator Mark Johnson spent more than 40 years as a firefighter in California. He retired as the Unit Chief for the Fresno-Kings Unit of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in December 2020 and Chief of the Fresno County Fire Protection District one year later. Throughout his career, he saw some of the worst wildfires in state and national history and helped countless people on the worst day of their lives.

The Vieux and Johnson family descendant now spends his retirement with his wife Rita caring for their land, animals and family. In early September 2022, Fresno County named him the recipient of the Public Safety Hero Award as one of the 2022 State of the County Front Line Hero Honorees.

“It was pretty much a shock. I think I was actually feeding horses, and I got a call that asked me if I would come accept that award. I said to them when I accepted it, ‘It’s a whole team. It’s not just me. I was the one that was lucky enough to be leading them at the time.’ I was grateful for it,” Johnson said.

He attended the award ceremony and luncheon on Sept. 27, 2022. During a short video address, CAL FIRE Division Chief Jim McDougald noted Johnson’s dedication to teamwork while chief.

“He’s very humble about it, and he’s always believed that it’s about a team,” McDougald said. “And he told me, ‘This award is really nice and everything, but the team should be receiving the award.’ That’s a pretty humble thing to do, but that’s just the kind of person he is.”

Fresno County Fire Protection District 5 Supervisor Nathan Magsig nominated Johnson in recognition of his career spent giving back to the community, which he began as a volunteer firefighter at 19 years old. District 1 Supervisor Brian Pacheco spoke during the video as a member of the selection committee.

“In selecting the frontline hero award, Chief Mark Johnson immediately came to mind because those of us in leadership positions, we make decisions all the time,” he said. “Chief Johnson’s decision literally saved the community of Shaver Lake.”

Shaver Lake sits in central California’s Sierra National Forest with a population of approximately 700. It was nearly destroyed in 2020 during the Creek



County of Fresno District 1 Supervisor Brian Pacheco presents Chief Mark Johnson with the Public Safety Hero Award. (Photo provided)

Fire, which burned a total of 379,895 acres between early September and late December. Johnson and his team used the wind to their advantage and set a backfire to stop the blaze from reaching the small town. It is the fifth largest fire in modern California history.

“There’s always a risk because these large fires like that create their own weather system. You just do what you’re trained to do and carry on the best you can. There was a lot of people involved in that. ... It worked out the way it should have. And that community’s still standing there today. It was a good effort by everybody involved, and it was a win,” Johnson said.

In the aftermath, Valley Public Broadcasting Service and documentary filmmaker Jeff Aiello began interviewing first responders, residents and others involved with the fire. The first episode of *Afterburn: The Creek Fire Documentary* aired Aug. 18, 2021. The program focuses on the first 96 hours of the blaze, which covered 20,000 to 50,000 acres.

Johnson served as an expert for the documentary and agreed to an interview about his experience and leadership.

of Kansas and the Kansas Historical Society as well as other historical preservation and stone-working experts will comprise a large portion of his job. He will also be responsible for the financial logistics and reporting required by the granting agency as well as managing the project’s timelines and many moving pieces.

“The biggest thing is understanding that it’s a historical site, but with interred ancestors, it becomes a lot greater than that,” he said. “As a delegate for the Tribe, (I’m responsible for) overseeing the project in the correct ethical and culturally appropriate way.”

Preservation

Norton believes that the work at Uniontown Cemetery is vital to the Tribe’s commitment to maintaining an ethical and correct historical record as

“It’s nothing that any of us (first responders) really want to relive or rehash or talk about too much. But I just wanted to make sure that the story was told as accurately as it could be and that people could understand what went on, what people went through,” he said.

In June 2022, *Afterburn* won an Emmy for Best Documentary — Topical from the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

“That was a cool time,” Johnson said. “I was glad to see when those folks put so much work into something like that that it’s recognized.”

The Creek Fire was the biggest fire Johnson encountered in his four-decade career, and he said many people of the area still deal with the trauma today. He attributes his CAL FIRE team with the strength and resilience that saved people’s lives. Johnson wanted to be a firefighter since he was 7 years old and still feels it was the only path for him despite the hardships.

“Wouldn’t trade anything for doing it. I’d do it all over again. It’s just a

great career. And I would encourage anybody out there that is looking for a great career where they’re in public service and doing things for other people and stuff like that to look at the fire service,” he said.

CAL FIRE Division Chief Jim McDougald congratulated Johnson one last time on winning the Public Hero Service Award during the video played at the ceremony, summing up his colleagues’ thoughts.

“There’s not a better person that’s more deserving than you for the time you spent as a chief of CAL FIRE and Fresno County Fire Department,” McDougald said. “You did a lot of great things in Fresno County, and your legacy will live on.”

Watch *Afterburn: The Creek Fire Documentary* on YouTube at cpn.news/creekfire. Read District 7 Legislator Mark Johnson’s biography and past *Hownikan* columns at cpn.news/legislature. ♡

Uniontown continued...

removal of the stone walls surrounding the site allowing Dr. Schneider to survey ground currently out of reach as well as their full repair and restoration.

“What we need to do is move the wall out further, let Dr. Schneider do her survey, then bring the walls back, reset the walls and add rock as necessary,” Boursaw said.

He also intends to restore headstones, replace the flagpole and create signage for the site explaining its historical and cultural significance to visitors.

Blake Norton, senior curator at the Cultural Heritage Center, will serve as project director.

He said that coordinating the Tribe’s partnerships with experts from the University

well as caring for ancestors in a collective space and facilitating a way to always oversee the well-being of these ancestors.

“It’s not just the future moving forward, but it’s also the past and being able to take care of those things and preserve them,” he said.

“Jon (Boursaw) has been quite an advocate for the project. To repair the site itself not just in a physical way, but there are metaphysical things that need to happen — cultural things and spiritual things that need to happen at that site. The repair goes beyond what you can see.”

Dr. Mosteller encourages Tribal members to visit the site if they ever get the opportunity.

“Standing (on that hill) you can scan the countryside, and everything you see

used to be the Potawatomi reservation,” she said. “This was the landscape that shaped our community’s history after we were first removed and trying to make it through those turbulent years where we became the Citizen Potawatomi. ... This is where we lived through not only the cholera outbreaks but becoming U.S. citizens, our first go-around with land allotments, where a lot of the chaos of the Civil War was playing out around us, trying to build a railroad that connected Chicago and the West Coast. All of that was going on right there.”

Read more about the history of Uniontown at cpn.news/ru. Find online historical resources including allotment maps, family manuscripts, and a historical and cultural encyclopedia at potawatomiheritage.com/resources. ♡

Higher education Potawatomi language class now available

In 2022, Citizen Potawatomi Nation received an Administration for Native Americans' Emergency Native Language Funding Opportunity grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families.

The CPN Department of Education and Language Department Language Aide Robert Collins formed the *Mokiwek* (They Rise) team to offer *Bodéwadmimwen* to higher education institutions. Collins teaches the course.

"Our aim was to reach out to our people where they are," he said. "(The Department of Education) approached those colleges that have the most Citizen Potawatomi attending. The ones that receive CPN scholarships."

CPN now has agreements with four colleges and universities in Oklahoma and one in Kansas — East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma City Community College, University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Rose State College in Midwest City and Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

Collins assists five students, one of whom is a CPN tribal member. He dedicated himself to the project and students looking to improve their literacy skills.

Curriculum

The class utilizes a web-based digital platform called Tovuti. It allows the

students to learn the same material each week despite geographic distance. Collins is available for questions and help as well.

"We've pretty well maintained a good relationship with (the students) because we do have them introduce themselves, and we were able to have them submit a video introducing themselves (in Potawatomi) from the introduction lesson that we gave them, and they did a great job, exceeding our lesson outcomes," he said.

Collins helped craft appropriate language materials that met the syllabus created by the *Mokiwek* team and accepted by the institutions and began serving higher education students through new platform in fall 2022.

It starts at the very beginning with the basics of *Bodéwadmimwen*, and any student can succeed regardless of their prior exposure to the language. The class focuses on grammar and vocabulary with accurate, relevant content that challenges the students.

"If it takes longer to learn it, it takes longer to learn it, kind of thing," Collins said. "I don't keep anything from them. If I can learn it, you can learn it."

Collins and the Department of Education built the class around the Potawatomi worldview in sequence with the medicine wheel and the four seasons — *mnokme*



Robert Collins

(spring), *niben* (summer), *dgwaget* (fall) and *bbon* (winter). The students also read sections of Jim Thunder, Sr.'s *Mikwéndewnen: Memories*, which features stories from a bilingual Potawatomi elder and first language speaker.

"We wanted them to utilize his book for the good stories written from a first language speaker," Collins said. "And so, it's pretty easy to go and read the Potawatomi."

The class also includes cultural teachings and utilizes offerings from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center, including videos and the 3D interactive tour of the

museum available on the CHC website (potawatomiheritage.com). Students write a short children's book for their final project to be used in language classes at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Child Development Centers. In doing so, they add to the language revitalization efforts.

"We have to give them the tools that they need (to complete their final), and I've introduced them into a lot of little stories, just so they can get the concept down," Collins said.

The students enjoy the class's flexible platform, and Collins expects them to show self-sufficiency and self-motivation. For him, the course comes with the chance to expand educational opportunities.

"We want to be at a certain level of academics with our language, and that requires us to hold ourselves to a certain standard. Once we're at that level ... it makes you want to move to the next level," Collins said.

The *Mokiwek* team will return with their Potawatomi 1 language course at colleges and universities in fall 2023. They anticipate offering Potawatomi 2 in spring 2024. Find more information about the higher education course by emailing education@potawatomi.org.

FireLake Foods produce brings exotic foods close to home

By FireLake Foods Marketing Manager Nicole Sanchez

If you are like me, I did not have a lot of chances to experience produce from other countries while growing up in Oklahoma. I never got the opportunity to taste or feel the texture or even see the stunning colors until I was an adult. To me, "produce" was the items I picked out of the family garden — tomatoes, potatoes, okra and maybe a few sand plums along the way. Occasionally, we would have blackberries and perhaps some peaches if the cattle herd didn't find them before me.

Though I still like homegrown tomatoes, FireLake Foods has changed my food choices. Now, I can drive to my local grocery store to find the precious produce that represents many places worldwide.

Selena Sims, FireLake Foods produce manager, is changing how we view produce. She thinks of produce "like art" by displaying each item in such a creative way that makes customers want to try something new. For the past five years, Sims and her staff



FireLake Foods produce manager Selena Sims (middle left) and her staff.

have expanded the department with hundreds of items, and they continue to help other stores do the same. You will now see more creative displays with fresh fruit and produce, both local and exotic, and have more opportunities to

sample different varieties you may not be familiar with, like pepino melons, star fruit, mangosteen or even pomelo.

Sims started working in the grocery business 24 years ago at Nichols Dollar Saver in Seminole, Oklahoma, under

the direction of her friend and mentor, the late Mr. Ray Sellers. He encouraged Sims to learn more about produce, pulling her from other areas to give her more experience with fruits and vegetables. Her love for the department grew as she wanted to make it the best it could be for her customers.

After multiple attempts to recruit her, Sims joined FireLake Foods in April 2009 as a produce clerk under former employee Don Clay. After a few years, she was promoted to manager in 2015, and she continues to lead the way in creative displays and adding new items for customers. She hopes to one day be a produce merchandiser.

In 2018, FireLake Foods produce department joined POGO (Pottawatomie Go), a Blues Zones-certified community. It continues to support this mission by offering hundreds of products to our customers that support a more natural eating lifestyle.

For more information or to see our list of exotic produce, you can visit cpn.news/funproduce.

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Tribe, county partner to improve area infrastructure

Leaders from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation joined Pottawatomie County officials to mark completion of the first phase of a road project near Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett was joined by Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Pottawatomie County District 2 Commissioner Randy Thomas and CPN Transportation and Environment Director Shawn Howard for a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open phase one of the Hardesty Road improvement project. Also attending the ceremony were CPN Roads Manager Clint Mascho and Daniel Clements of Circuit Engineering.

“We’re improving Hardesty Road from Highway 102 to Brangus Road,” Howard said. “The next phase will be the widening of Hardesty. The county is responsible from 13th Street to U.S. 177, and then the Tribe is picking it up from U.S. 177 to Brangus.”

The 6.1-mile portion from Highway 102 to 13th Street was completed at a cost of approximately \$885,000, Howard said. The final price of the entire project is hard to estimate, due to the rising costs of labor and materials. But, once the engineer’s quote is received, CPN will have a better idea of the final total, she said.

Pottawatomie County District 2 Commissioner Randy Thomas said the road currently sees 5,500 cars a day, making it one of District 2’s busiest.

Partnerships between CPN and city and county officials play a crucial role in improving county infrastructure. Federal funds designated for tribes to use in their jurisdictions fill an important gap in funding and benefit everyone from tribal citizens to non-Native residents.

Thomas said the partnership with CPN helps him quickly complete many District 2 roads projects that would otherwise take several years. Without the cooperation from CPN, roads projects are completed in multiple phases when funding is available — a much slower process.

“It’s a great blessing,” Thomas said. “I’m thankful to the Tribe, to Chairman (Barrett). I think it was a win-win.”

The Hardesty Road improvement project is just the first in a series of planned improvements.

“It’s a great partnership,” Howard said. “Through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, hundreds of millions of dollars have been set aside for tribes to repair or replace bridges through the bridge fund.”

She said her department has submitted applications for the replacement of eight county bridges.

“This is going to be an ongoing project. We’ll work together to identify these bridges,” she said. “When they’re designed, we’ll go into construction



CPN Roads Manager Clint Mascho, CPN Transportation Director Shawn Howard, CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, CPN Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett, County Commissioner Randy Thomas and Circuit Engineering’s Daniel Clements gather for the ribbon cutting ceremony to open Hardesty Road.

and replace them. So that’s another community partnership that we have.”

“People don’t realize the impact they could have as just friends and partners,” Thomas said. “(With) CPN paying for the (bridge) engineering fees, that’s \$75,000 for each bridge. When we work together, we can get a lot of stuff done.”

The Tribe and county roads officials meet each month to discuss ongoing projects or to consider future projects.

“I also have standing monthly meetings with the city of Shawnee,” Howard

said. “But if there’s something that needs to be done, we really don’t wait for the standing meetings or the project update meetings. If something needs to be done, we work together. They know that they can call me, and I can call them. It’s been a good working relationship with our community partners.”

Thomas said the relationship reminds him of friends and neighbors helping each other through challenges.

“Like a good friend. If I’m having a problem, my neighbor is going to be there. It’s a good thing,” he said. 🍂

POTAWATOMI Pumpkin BREAD

From mother and daughter Tribal members and Anderson family descendants
Amy Hones and **Sue Wagner:**

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups unbleached flour	1 tsp baking powder
1 ½ cups mashed or pureed cooked pumpkin (canned may be used)	1 tsp spiceberry or allspice
½ cup honey	½ tsp nutmeg
2 eggs, beaten	½ cup pecans or walnuts, chopped
½ cup melted unsalted butter	½ cup dried cranberries
	Whipped cream, optional

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine flour, pumpkin, honey, butter, eggs, baking powder and spices in a large mixing bowl. Stir just until combined, don’t overmix. Stir in nuts and cranberries. Pour batter into a greased 6-by-9-inch bread pan. Bake approximately one hour or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove loaf from pan and let cool on a baking rack. Loaf can be tightly wrapped in plastic or foil and frozen or refrigerated. Top slices with dollop of whipped cream if desired.

“This recipe was gifted to us by a friend because she knew we were Potawatomi. It serves 8 with a 20-minute preparation time and one-hour cooking time.”

HOMEOWNER EMERGENCY MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

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

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

Plan, resources for turning business dream into reality

Many people view owning a strong, fruitful business as the epitome of success. December is National Write a Business Plan Month, and Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation staff look forward to helping Native Americans begin the journey of becoming business owners through resources and assessments.

For Senior Lender Bob Crothers, a detailed, flexible business plan that accounts for growth “is the key to opening the door to successful business ownership.” He likens it to two equal ships, one with and one without instructions, a map and a navigator. The ship using its resources more than likely makes it to its destination.

“And I would put the same odds in reverse,” Crothers said. “I think 99.9 times out of 100, (the one without a plan) won’t even make it out of the harbor. And if they do, they’re going to get out in the middle of the ocean, just go around in circles, finally run out of gas and sink.”

As a community development financial institution, the CPCDC counsels business owners and individuals from underserved populations on how to excel at finances, improve their credit scores and achieve their monetary goals. Many times, that begins with a developing a plan to applying for a loan with the CPCDC.

Opportunities

Commercial Loan Officer Felecia Freeman often works with business developers unable to obtain a business loan at a traditional bank, which consider them a high-risk borrower for any number of reasons.

“The best thing we could do to any customer is mitigate their risk and tell them the hard stuff,” Freeman said. “And sometimes those are the worst days that we have because we don’t want to be a dream killer, but we also don’t want somebody to lose their hard-earned money.”

Crothers and Freeman offer assistance for as long as it takes to educate someone on the basics of business and lending and how to analyze opportunities as wins or losses from a financial perspective.

“Our clients have a vested interest. They’ve been trained. They’ve been shown. They’ve learned. And ... 99 percent of them — and that’s not a hyperbole — pay off their loans,” Crothers said.

A good business plan

- Analyzes the need/desire of a product/service
- Anticipates the needs/desires of the market location
- Calculates costs of entering the market
- Foresees costs and profit margins, including reaction to raising prices
- Determines strengths, weaknesses, efficiencies and hard costs
- Shows expansion opportunities
- Sparks new ideas to increase profit margins
- Compares costs and profits to determine viability



According to him, the CPCDC’s default rate is lower than many other financial institutions.

Necessities

A good business plan includes a thorough market study of the area where the owner anticipates opening. It shows analysis of the need or desire for the product or service, the location of the market and its accessibility, and the potential total cost for entering that market.

“If you have a \$50 hamburger, it might be great. But your market’s going to be very, very limited because there are very few people who will pay 50 bucks for a hamburger. I don’t care what you make it out of,” Crothers said.

“The market study proves to you, and to those that might invest in you, that you have a place to ply your wares.”

A good plan also includes pro forma analysis, which involves calculating financial results with various projections and foreseeable costs. It helps determine the market’s reaction to rising prices and includes budgets and profit margins. Combined with a market study, these types of analyses determine strengths and weaknesses, efficiencies and hard costs — and ultimately if enough money remains to continue operating.

“You analyze your gross revenue at the top, and then you start subtracting your monthly costs. And that goes everywhere from labor to insurance to taxes. A lot of things people don’t think about that are going to be expenses for them. And that all has to come out of your top line. And

then you look to see if there’s anything left on the bottom line,” Crothers said.

Freeman and Crothers often see detailed business plans that show expansion opportunities or spark new ideas to increase profit margins with a slight change of direction. They know the process intimidates some people and makes them feel hesitant about branching out on their own.

“There’s a big need (for our services). People need that handholding. People need that one-on-one help. There’s no cookie-cutter approach. Every business is different. Every business needs something else,” Freeman said.

Resources

Many of Freeman’s clients are unaware of the community resources that assist with business plans. She always recommends contacting a local technology center’s business and entrepreneurial services, which includes Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Pottawatomie County.

“I say, ‘Don’t just show up. Make an appointment, and you have their undivided attention,’” Freeman said. “If you show up, you get some homework, and you’ll get an appointment to come back because they want to know for sure that you’re serious. Make an appointment. That tells people you’re serious about this. Because making a plan is work.”

Market studies require deep local and regional data about economics, businesses and consumer behavioral

patterns. Small business development centers and sometimes public library systems offer access to software that compiles it and has the ability to filter information and project various scenarios. In central Oklahoma, Pioneer Library Systems provides research databases for this purpose and staff assistance at no charge to library members.

“We want CPN tribal members to know that there is help out there,” Freeman said. “And it is pre-paid with their tax dollars most of the time, so they shouldn’t be paying somebody to help with the plan. Our state, all the states, have provided funding for that economic development that they want to see.”

After creating a solid business plan with local resources, clients often come back to Freeman and Crothers to apply for a loan and get approved. The loan officers hope their clients achieve enough success for their relationship to become unnecessary after paying off their balance.

“One of our happiest days is when ... a customer says, ‘I’m going to expand. I’d love to come back and borrow some more from you guys, but I can get a better rate at the bank now,’” Crothers said. “Well, that’s when we pop the champagne corks and celebrate. Because we did our job.”

Find more resources for beginning a business plan and learn about the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation at cpcdc.org.



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION TRIBAL ROLLS

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

TO ENROLL OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Visit portal.potawatomi.org

Johnson family history

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives and video interviews.

To highlight some of the archive's holdings, the *Hownikan* is featuring photographs and family history of every founding Citizen Potawatomi family. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830.

Archived documents reveal beginnings

Documents from the Cultural Heritage Center archives show a legacy of leadership and public service within the Johnson family. Jacques Vieux (1757-1852) was chief fur trader with the Hudson Bay Company. Fur trading along the west shore of Lake Michigan put Jacques in contact with many Tribal nations, including the Potawatomi. Jacques, a non-Native, had married a Potawatomi woman, Angeline LeRoy (1784-1862) at Green Bay, Wisconsin. Angeline was the niece of *On-au-gessa*, a Potawatomi chief. Jacques and Angeline had a son named Louis.

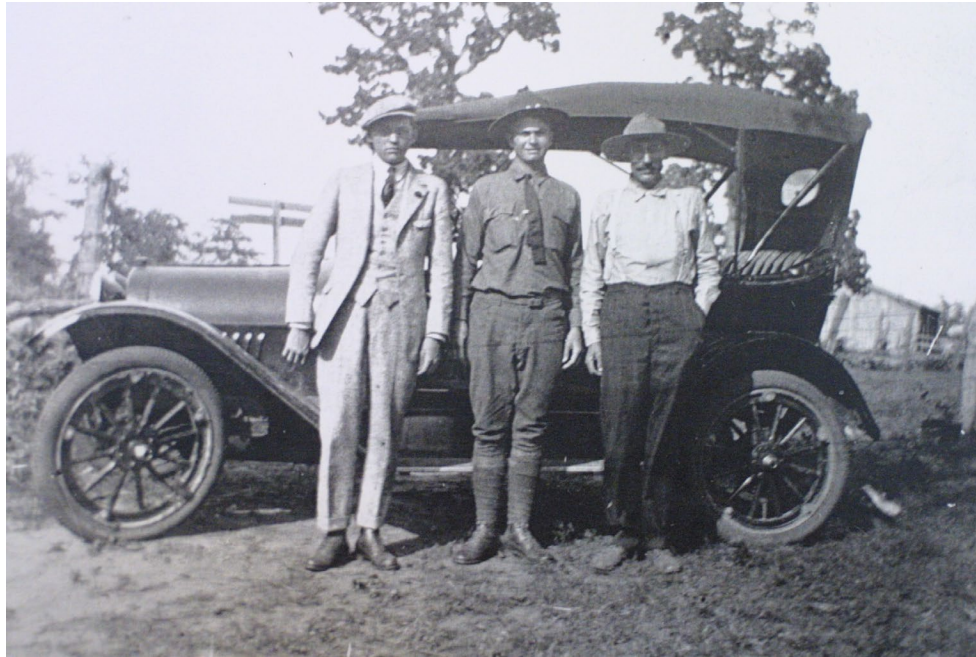
Louis Vieux, Sr. (1810-1872) assisted and then succeeded his father as chief fur trader. Louis met his wife, *Sha-note* (Charlotte) in Michigan. *Sha-note* (1820-1857) was the daughter of *Che-shaw-gan*, a prominent leader among the St. Joseph Potawatomi. After Louis and *Sha-note* married in about 1830, they moved near present day Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Their children Madeline (Nadeau) and Jacob "Jake" were born there.

When the U.S. government forced the Potawatomi from their ancestral homelands under the Indian Removal Act of 1830, Louis and Charlotte left Milwaukee for Council Bluffs, Iowa, joining other Potawatomi on the United Bands Reservation. Their daughter Sophia was born there in May 1840. The family lived in Council Bluffs for approximately 20 years. During this period, the family grew to include Ellen (Frayer Cooke), Margaret "Arcange" (Nadeau Young), Rachel (Thurber) and Louis Jr.

Louis Vieux, Sr. often acted as an interpreter and helped the Potawatomi during business or government transactions. He was later elected chief. With a keen business sense, he was also known for his fair treatment of all and his generous nature.

As the government in Iowa began to push for statehood, the Potawatomi were again forced to relocate. In 1846, the family joined others leaving for Kansas. They settled in Indianola, near present day Topeka. Here, they lived in wigwams before they built a house. In Indianola, the Vieux family began farming and raising stock while Louis continued helping with Tribal business or assisting those who were sick or needed help. The Vieux children kept busy with cooking, milking their cows and gardening.

From Indianola, Sophia Vieux journeyed in a wagon to St. Marys, Kansas, to attend school. She later became sick



Alton Will Craig, William Fansler and David P. Johnson

at age 13 and could not continue her education. After she returned home, she met Jacob Johnson, a restaurant proprietor. They married June 9, 1856.

Sophia's mother, Charlotte, died the following year in 1857. Sophia's father, Louis, moved to Vermillion, Kansas, and kept the toll bridge over the Kansas River. Jacob Johnson was one of the toll bridge operators. Louis also sold supplies like grain, hay and livestock to Fort Riley and to wagon train travelers. Louis lived until 1872. When he died, several hundred people attended the funeral to pay their respects.

Jacob Johnson moved the family to Rossville, Kansas, about 1861 where they farmed wheat, cattle and hogs for 11 years.

On Feb. 27, 1867, a treaty was signed, assigning lands in Indian Territory to the Potawatomi who had elected to become citizens. About a quarter of the Potawatomi left Kansas in 1870 and 1871, bound for Indian Territory.

The Johnson family lived for a brief time at Sacred Heart but later built a two-room log cabin near present-day Wanette, Oklahoma. Here, Jacob opened a general store. Not long after, he experienced a setback when his cattle herd was stolen. This, combined with the extension of too much credit at the general store, financially ruined him.

The family moved back to Sacred Heart in 1876. By 1887, the Johnsons were back on their feet, living near Sacred Heart where they built a log home. There, they found stronger financial footing by farming corn, hogs and occasionally, cattle. Combined with the wild deer, turkey and prairie chickens, they enjoyed some stability.

Sadly, two of Jacob and Sophia's children died very early. Their daughter, Seraphine, died at age 4. Their son, Jacob, died as an infant. Their surviving children were Richard, Rachel (Wall), Lawrence, James, Sarah (Goulette), Andrew, Emma (Goulette), David and Catherine (Craig).

Sophia's son Richard later left home to become a mail carrier along the Red Fork River near present day Sapulpa, Oklahoma. He never married. Rachel was employed for a time at the Friends Mission. Lawrence remained at home while James, Sarah and Andrew entered the Friends Mission as students. Sadly, James died while a student there.

In 1883, the family moved to a location near present day McLoud in Pottawatomie County. Sophia Johnson spent her golden years on her allotment in a five-room cottage built for her by her children.

A dedication to educating Indigenous people

Also within the Cultural Heritage Center archives are the recollections of Jacob and Sophia's daughter, Emma D. Johnson Goulette, written on Sept. 24, 1911, when she resided at 507 N. Market St. in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Emma's name was *Duc-qua-was*, or Duck Woman. Her grandfather was Lt. James Johnson of Washington, D.C. He was an English captain who left the British forces to join the American colonists during the Revolutionary War.



Richard V. Johnson

Emma recalled that her father, Jacob Johnson, left home to seek his fortune in California in 1848. After prospecting for gold, he conducted a food caravan between Omaha, Nebraska, and the California gold fields to supply a general store he opened. Jacob eventually settled in Kansas as the proprietor of a hotel where he met and married Sophia Vieux, whose Potawatomi family had moved from their Wisconsin homelands to Iowa and eventually to Kansas.

Emma's parents were among the 1,400 Potawatomi who accepted allotments and eventually settled in Oklahoma. Emma was born in Indian Territory and at age 8, went to Chilocco Indian School, learning housekeeping and dressmaking. She later taught sewing.

Emma attended Arkansas City, Kansas, public schools and graduated from the literary department at Chilocco as valedictorian. She later attended Carlisle Indian School and received a scholarship to attend teacher training in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She graduated in 1896, receiving a Principal's Certificate and a certificate for teaching kindergarten.

She began her teaching assignment on Sept. 1, 1897, at the Quapaw Indian School in northeastern Oklahoma. Emma said she was encouraged from childhood to "teach your own people." She took that advice to heart, teaching 200 students on the Apache reservation in San Carlos, Arizona. She later was an assistant principal at the Phoenix Indian School with 700 students. Emma went on to work as a principal at schools serving the Pima, Pueblo and Navajo nations.

Public service legacy continues

The Johnson family maintained their legacy of service. Years after the family left Kansas and endured hardships while making a life in southern Pottawatomie County, they eventually settled in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Later, during the 1932 Oklahoma Dust Bowl and Great Depression, some family members relocated to California.

Richard "Dick" Johnson was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. He was born Dec. 15, 1922, in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, to David P. and Kate (Fansler) Johnson. Dick was known as the family historian and was instrumental in providing family documents for the CHC's archives.

During his military service, Dick served as a scout during WWII. He was severely wounded during the Battle of Pork Chop Hill during the Korean War and received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his valor in Korea. Richard "Dick" Johnson walked on April 1, 2012, at the age of 89.

Dick's son, District 7 Legislator Mark Johnson, continues the family legacy of service. He was elected to his seat in August 2010. His name is *Wisk Mtek* (Strong as a Tree).

A native of Sanger, California, Mark Johnson began as a volunteer firefighter and served the public for more than 40 years in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and other agencies.

"Being able to help people, I think, is what drew me to (fire protection). And you deal with a lot of people on their worst day, and you try to make it better, and that's what I've tried to carry forward in my service as a legislator," Mark Johnson told the *Hownikan* in a September 2022 interview.

Both the Vieux and Johnson families have contributed to the solid legacy of leadership and service first begun by Louis Vieux, Sr., passed to his daughter, Emma Johnson, and continued today by Mark Johnson.

Schedule family interviews online at portal.potawatomi.org. Learn more about the Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/festival, and find research resources online at potawatomiheritage.com. ♡

Search for ancestral resting place continues after more than a century

By Anderson family descendant
Tommy Craig Bokegway Anderson

The Evening Gazette, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Territory — Saturday, Dec. 27, 1890

Hot Winchesters

John Bly Shoots and Instantly Kills Pete Anderson

Just Over the Pott Line

A Fierce Fight Results in Bly's Capture

Yesterday afternoon while the chimes of a merry Christmas were still ringing in the ears of the children of this world another bloody crime was recorded on Oklahoma's sanguinary calendar. Another man was killed and today seven little children in his home mourn for him and refuse to be comforted. The county jail contains another prisoner and the taxpayers of the county will be at the expense of his trial the result of which no living man can foretell.

In 1871, Peter "Pete" Anderson (age 27) and his wife, Julia Hardin (age 16) came to the "Pott Country" with the first group of Citizen Band Potawatomi families to relocate from Kansas. Pete Anderson was born in Illinois in about 1845 and was the third child of John Anderson and Marie Trombla and younger brother of John Anderson and Mary Anderson Bourbonnais.

Pete had been to the heart of Indian Territory before. In 1868, Pete, Joe Melot and James Baldwin had attempted to scout the area as a possible new reservation for the Potawatomi. However, after facing impassible wagon roads, deep mud and overflowing streams, they had been forced to turn back. A second attempt met with greater success in the winter of 1869. After several days of cold and hard travel, the group successfully arrived and selected a 30-mile-square tract of land lying between the North and South Canadian rivers. This became the new site of the Citizen Band reservation.

Just prior to the relocation to the new reservation lands, Pete and Julia were married in Shawnee County, Kansas. Julia, also Potawatomi, was the daughter of John Hardin and Margaret LaFromboise, and was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in about 1854. Julia was the younger sister of Elizabeth Hardin, who was married to Pete's brother, John.

Pete and Julia began a family at their first home in Oklahoma about 18 miles northeast of Purcell, near present-day Wanette. The children born there were William, Isabelle, George, Nellie, Davis, Frank and Benjamin.

Julia died at the birth of Benjamin in about 1886, and by 1889, Pete and the children had left the southern part of the reservation and selected allotments in the far northwest corner of the reservation near present-day Choctaw. However, because of the location of the new home, Pete found himself involved in controversy relating to events surrounding the Monday, April 22, 1889, land run that opened the unassigned lands just to the west of Potawatomi lands.

Pete Anderson's place, called the Lazy A, was about four miles southeast of the



Pete Anderson's wife, Julia Anderson

famous 7C Ranch, owned by William J. McClure (age 46). Because of the strategic location of the 7C Ranch on the Shawneetown road, a crowd estimated to be near 1,000 people with 360 wagons gathered along the "Pott Line" in anticipation of the noon opening. Among the crowd that day was McClure's nephew, Frank M. Gault (31), C.F. Johnson (24) and John Reed (29), who was married to Pete's sister-in-law, Mary Louise Hardin.

This group established a campsite near Pete's place several days before the opening. On Saturday before the opening, Gault and Reed visited the Anderson home and probably discussed their strategy for the approaching land run with Pete and two other guests already there, John Clinton, second husband of Margaret LaFromboise Hardin, and William McMurray (58) livery, who lived near Dave Hardin and Antoine Bourbonnais.

The distance from the eastern boundary of Oklahoma Territory to the Oklahoma Station, the first Santa Fe depot before the land opening, was about 14 miles. Gault claimed he made the ride in one hour and 10 minutes and was the first to stake his claim in Oklahoma City.

Gault stated, "The horse I rode had been trained for its purpose, had been a racehorse; he was 15 and a half hands high, dark bay, black mane and tail and weighed about 1,000 pounds."

Immediately, protests arose as witnesses declared that Gault and McClure had been inside Oklahoma Territory prior to the opening and had stationed cowboys with relay ponies for the purpose of making the run to Oklahoma Station. Among the witnesses who claimed to have seen Gault's cowboys were John Clinton, William Daniels, son-in-law of John Anderson, and

Joe Whipple, Potawatomi freighter for Mr. Scott of Shawneetown.

Another witness who claimed to have seen the cowboys was the notorious John Bly, who was inside Oklahoma near Crutcho and Soldier Creeks at noon on the day of the run. Bly, described as "powerfully built ... with a clear, cold deliberate eye" was a long-time resident of the Chickasaw Nation. More recently, Bly had lived a few miles east of Choctaw City and had acted as constable there for some time.

Despite the witnesses, Gault's claim was eventually upheld. However, John Bly continued to be a thorn in the side of Gault, McClure and other cattlemen in the area. Bly was the son-in-law of Choctaw Justice of the Peace Barnett and had a reputation as a crack shot. He also had a reputation for highway robbery, horse stealing and many other crimes in the Chickasaw Nation for which he had been arrested several times but never convicted.

John Bly, born 1869 in Missouri, was the second son of James and Kizziah Bly. In the spring of 1885, James Bly was postmaster of the Bly post office in Clarke County, Kansas, but by 1887, the Bly family had settled near Purcell, Oklahoma. At that time, the family also included Givens (born 1867) and Clyde (born 1877). By 1890, Givens had married Mary Elizabeth West, and both were working at the 7C Ranch.

John Bly and his gang, which included James Bly, Givens Bly and possibly James D. Barnett, Richard Burchfield and Charles Wilson, had been harassing cattle men and settlers in and around Oklahoma City for several years prior to 1890. Law enforcement had been unsuccessful in convicting the Bly gang for several years.

In addition to the cattle stealing going on around Choctaw City and the 7C Ranch, the illegal sale of whiskey was a source of concern and irritation to the local Indian Agents and the Commission of Indian Affairs. An October 23, 1890, report by the Sac and Fox Agent to the commissioner identified several saloons in Choctaw City illegally selling whiskey. Saloon men named in the report included John Bly.

On Christmas Day, 1890, District Judge John G. Clark of Oklahoma City issued bench warrants for Bly's arrest on charges of stealing cattle and selling whiskey. Clark specially commissioned Gault, giving him authority to swear in his own deputies. Sheriff DeFord deputized Gault and Pleas Gilbert on Christmas night, and by the next morning, they had arrived at the scene a few miles east of Choctaw.

Temperatures dipped into the low 30s on the morning of December 26 as Gault and Gilbert enlisted the aid of Pete Anderson and Frank Cook, "two citizens of the Pott Nation." According to newspaper accounts of the story:

The party started for the Shin Oak neighborhood and had not ridden far before shooting was heard in advance of them. The officers dismounted and proceeded afoot in the direction of the shots. Across a ravine and in front of them a man was discovered standing with a Winchester in his hand as if doing picket

duty. The Gault party crossed the ravine and made directly for the fellow who commanded them to go back at the same time dropping down amid the scrub oaks. He opened fire, and the first bullet struck Pete Anderson square between the eyes, killing him instantly. Gault and Cook went down behind the bushes and weltd away at the fellow who had precipitated the battle. Something like a dozen shots were fired by each of the party, and things became mighty warm around there for a time. Finally, the man's gun went up as a flag of truce, and he called out to Gault that he had been shot. The officer had him throw away his gun and march up under cover of a red-hot Winchester. It was John Bly, the man wanted, and Mr. Gault very artistically proceeded to gather him in.



Pete Anderson's sister, Mary Anderson Bourbonnais

One of Pete Anderson's daughters, Isabell Anderson Mims, was about 14 years old when the shooting occurred. Almost 50 years later, Isabell remembered that "... old man Bly and son ... killed Father from ambush. ... He was just 40 years old." With the Bly gang in custody, Oklahoma Territory newspapers hailed Gault a hero and dubbed him "The Cowboy King of Oklahoma City."

John Bly, James Bly and Givens Bly were formally arrested at the scene in Pottawatomie County by C.H. DeFord, Deputy U.S. Marshall of Oklahoma Territory. John Bly was covered with blood from his wound to the fleshy part of his shoulder and arrived at the Oklahoma City jail just after dark on the evening of December 26.

William West was a detective on the Bly case, and indictments were prepared and filed. The July 16, 1891, indictment for murder listed the title of cause as *Territory of Oklahoma vs. John Bly*. An indictment for larceny also filed July 16 reflected *Territory of Oklahoma vs. Richard Birchfield, John Bly and Givens Bly*.

In 1892, Guthrie, Oklahoma, was home to one of the very first federal prisons in the Midwest. John Bly was eventually transferred to this United States jail and had been there for several months as of December 1892. The murder case against Bly was to be set for April 17, 1893, in Oklahoma City; however, John

Continued on page 13


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Iron Horse Industrial Park full steam ahead into the new year

As the global landscape of manufacturing shifts in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Iron Horse Industrial Park sits at the cutting edge of the new world economy. Iron Horse is a 700-acre rail-anchored Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) industrial park on Native American trust land located at the crossroads of United States freight and rail transport.

The park has received three grants from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce. With the most recent EDA grant in 2020, Iron Horse has brought a total of \$4.7 million to CPN tribal headquarters near Shawnee, Oklahoma, for further development of Iron Horse's critical infrastructure.

As 2022 ends, Iron Horse staff are pleased to report an active FTZ warehouse; active international shipment; a manufacturing tenant preparing to begin hiring and production in the new year; and major developments in their transport infrastructure, including a fully operational transload station for shipping container transfer and the park's own locomotive.

"There are two purposes of the industrial park. One is to create revenue to put into the general fund of the Tribe. The second is to create jobs for Tribal members and others. And now, both are beginning to happen," said CPN Director of Planning and Economic Development Dr. James Collard.

Transport

Conveniently located in America's heartland, Iron Horse Industrial Park offers direct access to Class I railroad operated by Union Pacific and Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad. It is also within easy reach of U.S. Highway 177, OK State Highway 9, Interstate 40, Interstate 35 and Interstate 44. Iron Horse utilizes Houston, Texas, as well as Long Beach and Los Angeles, California, as its main ports.

The central location offers benefits to companies by minimizing transport costs and providing efficient access and transload between transport modes. Its Foreign Trade Zone designation provides additional advantages for international companies, including duty deferral and tax benefits.

"The cheapest way to ship heavy freight is on water — the oceans



and rivers," explained Dr. Collard. "The second cheapest way is rail, and then truck, and then air."

The park's transload station enables companies to make the most of the numerous transport options available to them to meet their business needs. A 160,000-pound reach stacker facilitates the transfer of shipping containers between truck and rail; it can load and unload up to 99,000 pounds.

"Many of today's commercial ships are massive and adapted for container shipment that delivers goods internationally. Therefore, transloading is crucial and necessary to make the logistic cycle continue," Iron Horse's Administrative Research Analyst Vedrana Milakovic, BBA, MBA, CCS, CES, wrote in a recent press release about the transload facility.

To further develop the park's transport and transload capacity, Iron Horse will soon add its own locomotive for on-site and local transportation.

"It's a refurbished, beautiful locomotive," Milakovic said. "Locomotives are very expensive. We got in at the right time, and we have enjoyed the process of seeing the development from nothing to actually being painted and all the electrical that needs to be put in."

Work on the locomotive is currently nearing completion in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, and Iron Horse staff hope to have the engine on-site before the new year.

"It's a market need," Milakovic said. "Now we can maneuver heavy transportation for companies."

Disruptions

The coronavirus pandemic transformed the world economy, and companies are overwhelmingly re-shoring their manufacturing and adjusting their transport strategies to meet the changing world.

Iron Horse staff find the park's benefits even more relevant in the emerging industrial landscape.

"Due to economical impacts during COVID, just-in-time inventory doesn't exist anymore," Milakovic said. "So, everybody's trying to get their shipments in bigger batches, which also requires more warehousing. There's no warehousing left. So, big companies are looking to relocate to (places like) Oklahoma, for example, where they can reach I-35 easily."

Re-shoring also drives the demand for manufacturing sites. With shipping costs up nearly 10 times pre-pandemic averages, companies are looking to bring their overseas manufacturing and production operations back to the United States.

"We've learned some terrific lessons as a result (of the pandemic) for understanding the importance of keeping our suppliers close to us," Dr. Collard said.

He noted that on the morning of his interview with the *Hownikan*, a company contacted him about that very topic.

"We are at the forefront, presenting a business-friendly location to U.S. companies that want to re-shore their manufacturing," Dr. Collard said. "Iron Horse provides safe, stable protection from COVID disruptions."

The park has one active FTZ warehouse, which opened in May 2022. Iron Horse has received shipments of goods from South Korea, China, Israel and Canada. Milakovic said they aim to add more warehouses in the next phase of its development to meet companies' needs.

For companies who wish to build, Iron Horse Industrial Park is outfitted with extensive water, sewer, electric and telecommunications infrastructure and open for immediate development.

Benefits

Dr. Collard and his staff in the Department of Planning and Economic Development secure the future and financial well-being of the Nation through projects like Iron Horse.

While only one element of the Tribe's economic and industrial development, the park is currently the largest project the team oversees in terms of cost and land, spanning 700-acres.

"Iron Horse is designed to be a profit center, meaning that there will be excess revenues coming off the park that will support the general services of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation," Dr. Collard said. "And, of course, it's a location for creating jobs for Tribal members and others."

The team is excited to see warehousing already underway at the park. They also look forward to seeing current tenant Sovereign Pipe Technologies begin production in the new year, bringing job opportunities to the community.

"Any Tribal member who wants to talk about opening a business or going to work for one of the companies at Iron Horse can give us a call," he said.

Find Iron Horse Industrial Park online at ironhorsecpn.com or at cpn.news/IronHorseLinkedIn. 🔥

Anderson continued...

never made it to trial. An article in the Dec. 31, 1892, edition of the *Oklahoma State Capitol* newspaper published at Guthrie told the story that apparently brought John Bly's involvement in the Pete Anderson murder case to an end.

Cheated the Gallows

A Noted Outlaw Dies in the Guthrie Prison

The notorious outlaw, John Bly, wanted for several murders and many highway robberies and horse stealing has escaped beyond the law's clutches. He died in the United States jail. The authorities of Purcell telegraphed up for the body, and Coroner Reder embalmed and shipped it to them. The outlaw died of consumption.

The other individuals involved in the incident apparently spent some time in prison, but the details are not known. It is known, however, that James Bly, the father, died in Purcell in 1891. Also, in the late 1920s, Victor Gene Anderson remembers as a child a man coming to his home and talking to his father, Davis, about the incident. He was one of the men involved. Davis became angry and told the man to leave and never come back. Givens Bly went on to live a long life and died in 1959 in Dale, Oklahoma.

The Dec. 27, 1890, edition of *The Evening Gazette* described Pete Anderson as "well known in this city by a great many of the businessmen who speak in the highest terms of him. He was a man of considerable means and well known all over the Pott country." However, in a

1937 interview, Pete's daughter Isabelle stated, "Father was not a cattle man, just a farmer, but a good provider."

I guess that will have to serve as Pete's epitaph, because we do not know where Pete is buried or if he had a memorial headstone at that location, wherever it may be. There is a cemetery at Choctaw, The Elmwood Cemetery (or Choctaw Cemetery), that is on land once owned by Pete's friend Frank Cook who was with Pete when he was shot. We thought Pete may have been buried there. A City of Choctaw historical book identified the Elmwood Cemetery beginning as a boot hill for cowboys of the 7C Ranch. On the other hand, Pete's wife, Julia, died during the birth of Ben Anderson, and we think she was buried near Wanette, perhaps at the old abandoned Pleasant Prairie Cemetery about a quarter mile

east of Julia's allotment. It could be that Pete was taken down there to be buried near Julia. It has been many years since any tombstones were visible at Pleasant Prairie. Cows graze there now. If anyone out there has any idea of the final resting place of Pete and Julia (Hardin) Anderson, we would like to know it. *Migwetch* (Thank you).

This year is the 132nd anniversary of Pete Anderson's death on December 26. He died in gunfire while assisting with the capture and arrest of members of the Bly Gang in 1890. Tommy Craig Bokegway Anderson, a Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member and descendant of Pete Anderson, continues to search for the burial sites of Pete and his wife Julia in present-day Oklahoma. Please send any information to hownikan@potawatomi.org. 🔥

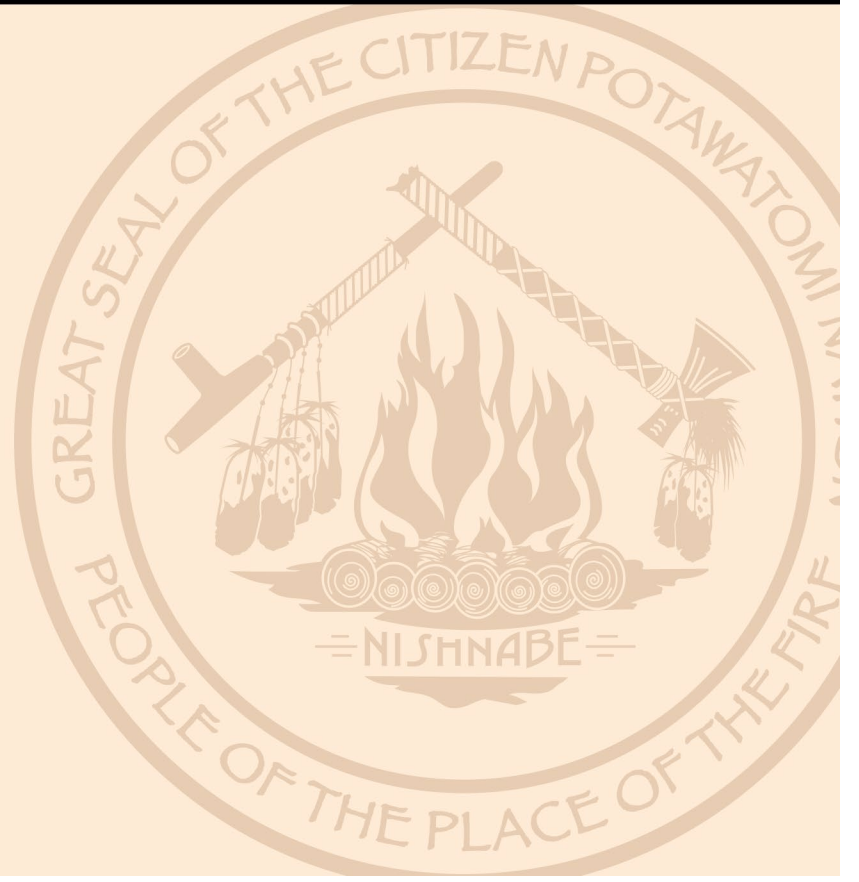
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Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

In November, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case that could dramatically harm Native American families across the country.

The case challenges the constitutionality of the Indian

Child Welfare Act, often known as ICWA. One of the most important parts of the act concerns Native American children who have been removed from their parents' custody or who are orphaned, among other situations.

The act created a federal law that requires Native American children who need homes to be placed with Native American relatives and families. The act protects tribal sovereignty by federally recognizing a tribe's ability to care for Native children, not through state courts. As one would expect, tribes prefer a placement with blood relatives and members of a child's own nation.

Opponents of the act say this is an unfair form of discrimination against non-

Native people who may want to adopt a Native child. However, claiming this is a racial issue ignores history and disrespects tribal sovereignty.

When the legislation was enacted in 1978, between one-quarter and one-third of Native American children who were removed from their homes were placed with non-Native families, and many never returned to their tribes. Even under the act, our tribe has seen precious children who represent our future torn away from us. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation lost touch with eight children taken by state court order between 1975 and 1985.

To keep our culture alive, our children should be in homes where they can develop a full connection with their ancestry.

It is the only way to ensure our traditions continue.

Tribal sovereignty is not racial. It is legal and political. Tribal governments govern by personal consent. Being a sovereign nation is different from a race. The United States needs to honor the agreements it made with sovereign tribal nations, who are best equipped to determine their own course and care for the welfare of their people. Tribal leaders want to keep children out of state welfare systems and find them homes where their full identity can be celebrated and nurtured.

For decades, the Indian Child Welfare Act has helped prevent the incalculable harm caused by removing children from their tribes and begun to repair the damage caused by

discriminatory policies of states and the federal government.

If the act is overturned, Native nations would face genocide by separation. It would be like reviving the boarding school system that devastated so many families and traumatized so many children.

The Supreme Court must not allow this echo of a dark, bloody history of stealing children to continue.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



Bozho
(Hello),

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation partners with many nonprofit entities in Shawnee, Tecumseh and the surrounding area. We are especially proud of what we do for such a deserving organization as the Salvation Army. Each year, the Salvation Army puts out an impact report. The most current one for October 2021 through September 2022 lists the advisory board, which includes many prominent community members leaders. Our own Richard Driskell with FireLake Discount Foods and Amanda Estala with First National Bank are two of the members. Richard works diligently with the organization to help provide food and other necessities for our neighbors and brings hope to the individuals and families that are served.

The Salvation Army offers transformative programs to improve the lives of those who find themselves in dire need

of food and overnight shelter. The organization represents a trusted source of help, hope and compassion to the disadvantaged. For over 121 years, the Salvation Army of Shawnee has carried out its mission to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Captains Patrick and Stacey Connelly operate the organization and proudly maintain a Boys & Girls Club, worship services, family store and online information via Facebook @SalArmyShawnee. The community impact during the last year included 2,796 persons served, 33,861 meals served, 4,929 nights of lodging provided, 1,160 first-time clients and 2,976 volunteer hours donated. They also provided 2,182 toys and gifts, 583 grocery orders and 10,237 items of clothing.

The Salvation Army Christmas Gala event each year provides an opportunity for community individuals and businesses to offer sponsorships for food and other programs. This year's guest speaker was Sherri Coale, long time girls' basketball coach at the University of Oklahoma. She is an Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee, former coach, writer, speaker and a believer in people. An entertaining and popular personality throughout Oklahoma, Sherri talked about her recently released book, *Rooted to Rise*. She would, indeed, be a hit for any audience, but she particularly fit in to speak at the Salvation Army Gala due to her message about how the



FireLake Foods Director Richard Driskell represents Citizen Potawatomi Nation as he accepts the Salvation Army's Doing the Most Good Award in November 2019.

intersections of people's lives make them who they are. The stories in her book are about those whom she has cherished throughout her lifetime.

I am proud of how CPN works with nonprofits throughout Pottawatomie County. In addition, CPN reaches out to each school district in some manner. There are Potawatomi children in each school district in the county; therefore, every school is important to the Tribe. The best example is our

vehicle tag operation. Profits from the CPN Tag Agency are sent to schools around the state. Of course, those schools reaping the most dollars are those in Pottawatomie County because that is where most of our Tribal members reside.

Thank you for allowing me to share with you some important things that our Tribe does for the community. There is much more than is listed in my article, so I will cover other organizations that we support in another

article. I appreciate having the honor to be your Vice-Chairman for so many years.

Migwetch
(Thank you).

My best,

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

ARE YOU GRADUATING IN DECEMBER?

SEND THE FOLLOWING INFO TO GRADUATION@POTAWATOMI.ORG BY DEC 20 AT 5PM

FULL NAME, HOMETOWN, POTAWATOMI FAMILY NAME, HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE, AND DEGREE TYPE AND MAJOR

District 1 – Alan Melot



District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



qualify for help paying for a Marketplace health plan or for free or low-cost coverage through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). (You can apply and enroll in Medicaid or CHIP at any time of the year.) *If you enroll by Dec. 15, 2022, your coverage will start Jan. 1, 2023.* To learn more about coverage through the Marketplace, visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users can call 1-855-889-4325.

Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

Health insurance coverage

Marketplace Open Enrollment

Are you in need of health insurance coverage, or are you thinking you need to investigate alternatives to your current coverage? Please be aware that the Marketplace Open Enrollment is November 1 to January 15. You may

CPN Care

Please also consider enrolling in free-to-you telehealth coverage through CPN Care (cpn.news/cpncare). Services include telemedicine, life assistance, discount prescriptions and a medical bill review. To get started, you must activate your benefit by logging into portal.potawatomi.org. If you have any issues with your CPN Care account, call 888-565-3303 or email support@allyhealth.net.



Aurora, our youngest attendee, is awarded a crib blanket.



Fall Feast 2022 group photo

(Ally Health is the company that operates this benefit program for CPN.)

Fall Feast celebrated during Veterans Day weekend

The second weekend in November was a busy one. It started with events celebrating Native American veterans and the dedication of the National Native American Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian on Nov. 11. Several of our CPN veterans marched in the beautiful processional, including District 2 resident Kimberly Chatfield Pratt. The National Mall was filled with Indigenous visitors and sage smoke. While in the museum, I was able to view the original 1829 Prairie du Chien Treaty in which the Council of the Three Fires ceded land to the U.S. The next day, about 45 Potawatomi and our families gathered for District 2's traditional Fall Feast. *Migwetch* (thank you) to our speakers Sharon Hoogstraten, who presented on the process for producing her gorgeous

you plan to go too; I hope we can meet up and maybe grab a coffee together.

Montgomery, Alabama, gathering/memorial tour

District 2 will visit the Museum and Monument at The Legacy Museum and The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, from noon to 3 p.m. (CT). The memorial is informally known as the National Lynching Memorial; it commemorates the Black victims of lynching in the United States and is intended to focus on and acknowledge past racial terrorism and advocate for social justice in America. I've scheduled this for the long Presidents Day weekend. We will start with lunch and visiting together at the museum café and then tour the museum and memorial. All facilities are wheelchair accessible. There is no cost to guests for this event! RSVPs required by Feb. 3, 2023.

Please keep in touch

I look forward to hearing from you! *Migwetch* (thank you) for the honor of representing you. Wishing you warm and comforting winter holidays; see you in 2023!

Bama mine
(Later),

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe (Bluebird Woman)
she/her/hers
Legislator, District 2
5877 Washington Boulevard
P.O. Box 5591
Arlington, VA 22205
888-849-1484 toll-free
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Upcoming events

Native Art Market

The always-terrific Native Art Market will take place at the two National Museum of the American Indian sites (Washington, D.C. and New York, N.Y.) on December 3 and 4. Come meet Indigenous artists from the United States, Canada and Central and South America. I plan to attend in Washington, D.C., one of the two days. Please reach out if

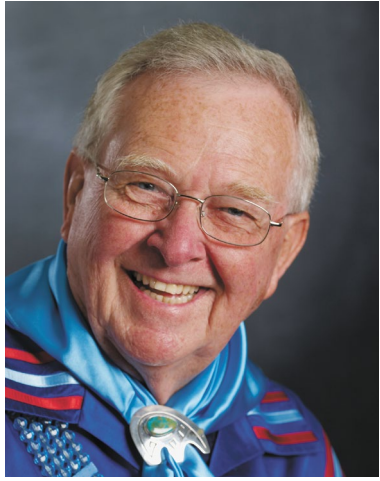


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District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho ginwa
(Hello everyone),

At the beginning of November, I was advised by our landlord that they were terminating our month-to-month lease. Our last day in the office will be on November 30. As I write this article, I do not have a new address for mailing. Look for it in my January column.

Paint

With leaving an office that we had been in for quite a number of years, it meant looking at items that really weren't needed any longer. It made me think about some of what I also have in my home. That item is old paint that I have kept for those small blemishes that we get over time on painted surfaces. I had recently disposed of some old cans of paint and looked at the dates on the cans. Some I had were over 10 years old. If you have any old paint for later use, you might check to see when you purchased them. Old, opened paint shelf life on average is five years. If you have any old but unopened paint, it is usually good for up to 10 years. So, you may want to look at what you have on-hand and dispose of that expired paint.

Native American poetry and culture

District 3 Tribal member Elisa Berger sent me this wonderful link to a great collection of Native American poets. Some are widely known while others are voices of a new generation from many of the various Nations in the U.S. I suggest you take a look and enjoy some of these wonderful poems available at cpn.news/nativepoets.

Medicare

By the time you read this article, the December 7 deadline for signing up for seniors using Medicare will have closed. For those of you who are on Medicare and did sign up, I recently attended a meeting with the firm that I use as an alternate to basic Medicare. The program I use is an advantage plan, and I do pay a monthly premium for that plan. For everyone receiving a Social Security check, the government

is deducting over \$140 monthly that you are paying for your Medicare benefit. Between January 1 and March 31, you have the option of changing companies if you remain in the same type of plan you have paid for. The firm I use is Care N Care, and they have a basic plan similar to Medicare that you may sign up for, and the government will send them the funds deducted from your Social Security for that coverage. From what the person at the meeting I attended said, their plan may provide better coverage. I am not selling insurance and am simply telling you of another option. Up until this year, Care N Care insurance was only available to three counties in north Texas. They have now expanded to seven or eight more counties, some of which are near Austin, Texas. You may want to give them a call to see if they are able to provide you better

coverage that you have now with no added monthly premium. For those of you who turn 65 later in 2023, you may also want to look at this option. Call Care N Care at 817-529-9230.

In closing, let me say have a *Jesos ga nigit mine mno weponget*, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I thank you for the honor of being your district representative.

Nagech
(Later),

Bob Whistler
Bmashi (He Soars)
Legislator, District 3
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Bedford, TX 76022
817-229-6271 cell
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cpn3legislator@yahoo.com
bobwhistler.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. I look forward to 2023 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 endeavor to connect with and serve CPN members across the state.

Indian Education Formula Grant (Title VI) Program

Are all the enrolled members of your family attending public schools registered with their school under the Title VI program? If not, the parents need to reach out to the appropriate school's front office to register. All it takes for the student to be eligible is proof of membership with the Tribe, such as an enrollment card. The U.S. Department of Education programs funds the Indian Education Formula Grant (Title VI) program. It supports the efforts of school districts, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other groups to meet the unique educational and culturally-related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students. These efforts help these students meet the same challenging state academic standards as all other students.

This is also another reason to ensure that all eligible children are enrolled with the Tribe.

If Tribal members who have children in USD 501 (Topeka) have any questions or need assistance, they can contact Yale Taylor, the USD 501 Consulting Teacher for Native American Studies, at 785-295-3116.

Current Historical Sites Renovation Projects

The Nation has received a federal grant to perform much needed work at the Uniontown Cemetery near Willard, Kansas, which is located across the Kansas River from Rossville. The grant will allow us to complete the Ground Penetrating Radar Survey of the site, rebuild the rock wall surrounding the burial site of a Tribal family (circa 1860s), and add signage to the site, which will tell the story of what happened there in 1849.

Work is currently underway at Abram Burnett's burial site in southwest Topeka. The

project includes installing a new fence surrounding the site, cleaning the monument, removing a couple of trees, adding signage to the site and a general cleanup of the internal area of the site. This is a small project but long overdue.

Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

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

- December 9, variety of soups. RSVP by the 6th.
- January 13, meatloaf. RSVP by the 11th.

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

Honored to serve you

It is an honor to serve you as your district representative. I appreciate hearing from CPN

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),


Jon Boursaw,
Wetase Mkoh (Brave Bear)
Representative, District 4
2007 SW Gage Blvd.
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jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
Office hours:
9-11 a.m. Tuesdays
3-5 p.m. Thursdays
Other times: please call



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LEGISLATORS ARE NOT ABLE TO RETRIEVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION FROM TRIBAL ROLLS

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District 5 – Gene Lambert



Bozho
(Hello),

Let's just take a moment for first things first. It is the month of December, and the most important thing to acknowledge is the birth of Jesus Christ.

How we celebrate may vary from home to home but remembering the hardships Joseph and Mary endured giving birth to our baby Jesus would supersede all else.

As we move out of 2022, let's give thanks for the many gifts and opportunities given to each of us.

I would also like to share moments of a wonderful year in reconnecting with our Tribal members, friends and families after a long absence from the norm:

1) We had a very successful meeting for Arizona



Youngest in attendance, Cedric Truth Charlier, and mom; furthest traveled Areta Bloodinghaird and Sylvia L. Weeks; and wisest in attendance, Carolyn Koester

at the Goldfield Ghost Town, and it was only the beginning. Winners were posted in the last article.

2) We had four naming ceremonies in my backyard for George Valencia's two daughters, Sophia and Bella from Arizona; Lucas Whitman from Colorado; and Lori Ketterman, new to Arizona from New Mexico. What a grand day it was with their families attending and our awesome Native foods prepared in love by Lori and contributed to by Lucas and George. We had about 20 to 25 in attendance for a spirit-filled day.

3) Our next stop was Denver, Colorado, and we had another wonderful gathering of Potawatomi for an afternoon learning about our ceremonial customs and why we do them. Our winners of the day were Carolyn Koester, our wisest; Cedric Truth Charlier, age 2, our youngest; and Areta Bloodinghaird and Sylvia L. Weeks, the furthest traveled. Seems we had a tie.

4) Hopefully you were able to participate in the bow and arrow contest. I do not have a winner given this article is being written before the contest deadline. I will keep you posted as soon as I know.



District 5 Legislator Gene Lambert with Cedric Truth Charlier and mother at recent meeting in Denver.

Having had the opportunity to reconnect has been wonderful this year, and I am looking forward to more meetings in all of District 5's states in 2023. This would include Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska and parts of Texas. Legislator Bob Whistler carries most of Texas, but we have had a couple of meetings planned together in the past. Perhaps we can do that again in 2023.

Again, I hope this year finalizes itself into a huge win for everyone. It certainly has been a win-win for me.

Take care and love each other as friends and family are truly your greatest asset.

Thank you to all the members that have supported me

in the ups and downs throughout the years as you have been my greatest asset.

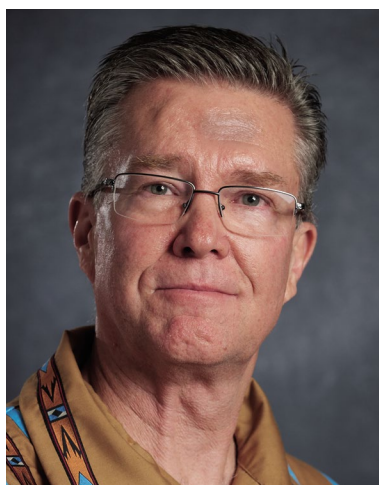
Merry Christmas. Enjoy your holidays, and let me know if there is anything I can do to assist in that process.

Love you all.

Your legislator,

Eunice Imogene Lambert
Butterfly Woman
Legislator, District 5
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glambert@potawatomi.org

District 6 – Rande K. Payne



Bozho jayak
(Hello everyone),

As drought conditions persist here in California, I try not to think about how vulnerable we are to the lack of rain and

snow. No matter which side of the climate change argument you're on, the bottom line is that we're quickly running out of water. It seems that just like everything else, it has become extremely political. Unfortunately, banning the sale of fossil fueled vehicles by 2035 doesn't do anything to address today's water woes. Forecasters are predicting a third consecutive La Niña rain season at least into the first part of next year. Let's hope and pray it changes and we get lots of rain and snow soon! And let's hope and pray that last month's election cycle results in politicians that produce water security solutions for our great state.

On a much brighter note, I want to thank all who attended the District 6 and 7 Fall Heritage Festival. I also want to thank District 7 Representative Mark Johnson for helping make the gathering informative and enjoyable. Mark and I both appreciate the assistance and support from Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and Administrative Assistant Jamie Moucka. They both make our jobs so much easier. And a big shout out to my sisters Sharon and Karen and brother Terry for helping set up and sign everyone in.

It was a delightful day to be outside. After our traditional smudging ceremony and teaching on the four directions and medicines, Tribal member Scarlette Almero gave an informative talk about ways to get involved locally with Native American events. Scarlette also provided information on resources available to all Native Americans. Mark and I appreciate Scarlette taking the time to share with us. We had several Tribal members attend a gathering for the first time. In honor of our ancestors who were on the Potawatomi Trail of Death during October, a brief presentation was given on that period in our history. Tribal members were also



Farthest traveled, Debbie Johnson, Ogee family, from Shawnee, Oklahoma.

encouraged to participate in the 2023 Potawatomi Trail of Death caravan.

We took a break to feast on some delicious homemade tacos provided by Lucy's Tacos. We had the choice of asada, chicken or pork and all the fixings and choice of salsas. After lunch, Mark provided information about resources available to Tribal members. All were encouraged to take advantage of the telemedicine program, CPN Care (cpn.news/CPNCare). It is free and anyone living in the Tribal members' household can use it.

Christine Divine was our wisest member in attendance. Christine turned 90 last month. She is a Toupin family descendant and resides in District 6 in Visalia, California. Debbie Johnson traveled the farthest. Debbie is from Shawnee, Oklahoma, and is a descendant of the Ogee family. Our youngest Tribal member was Barbara Jean Leyva, a Tescier family descendant from Corcoran, California, in District 7.

We had a coloring contest for the kids. Harlee Welch from Kerman, California, in District 7 took first



Youngest Tribal member, Barbara Jean Leyva.

place honors. Harlee is a Tescier family descendant.

Then it was time for the hand games. After a few teams were eliminated, it was District 6 vs. District 7 in the final round. Because it was getting late, it was decided to play a sudden death round. Sharon Welch guessed correctly on the first play giving District 7 the win!

Congratulations District 7. We're looking forward to next year, and hopefully District 6 comes out on top next time!

I truly felt like I was with extended family at this year's event. It seemed like we had just started, and it was already time to go. I guess that's the joy of being with family.

In closing, I want to wish all a joyous holiday season. I'm looking forward to Christmas and the hope that each new year brings. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Potawatomi Word of the Month: *bbon* — winter

Words of Wisdom: "Happiness is having a large, loving, caring,

close-knit family in another city!" — George Burns

Wisdom from the Word: "Who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." 2 Corinthians 3:8

Migwetch, bama pi (Thank you, until later),

Rande K. Payne
Mnedo Gabo
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District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

On October 22, many District 7 members gathered together at the fall Family Heritage Festival that was co-hosted by Rande Payne with District 6 members in Visalia, California. It was great to be in the company of so many great Potawatomi families after the last couple of years. Rande did an outstanding job presenting our heritage and cultural traditions and medicines. After his presentation, I had the opportunity to discuss current topics in Tribal government and the legislature, including topics from benefits to voting. The afternoon was spent

playing hand games with the winning team from District 7.

In October, I also had the opportunity to help a Tribal member while learning about Medicare Part D Letters of Creditable Coverage. Our mail order pharmacy meets the requirements of Medicare, and the Tribe will issue you a letter that will satisfy their requirements to avoid any penalties. Additional information is available in this issue of the *Hownikan*.

As we gather this holiday season, make sure you take the time

to share your family history and stories. We owe it to our younger generations to keep the fire of our heritage burning brightly. Also, it is never too early to start planning your trip to the Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee next year; remember that it is always the last full weekend in June.

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

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Mark Johnson
Wisk Mtek (Strong as a Tree)
Legislator, District 7
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mark.johnson@potawatomi.org

District 8 – Dave Carney



Bohzo nikan
(Hello friend),

Happy holidays and Merry Christmas!

With so many new members enrolled last year, I find that I am communicating with individuals of all ages that are curious about their Potawatomi past and what it means to be a

dual citizen of the United States of America and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. This year, I met some newly enrolled and engaged members at the Portland Fall Feast in October and the Olympia cookout event in May. The journey to discover what it means to be Potawatomi is unique to each one of us. Many people 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 where there is a virtual tour available. Other assets found on this site are family allotment

records, family manuscripts and a link to *Ancestors*.

To explain this, I defer to the site itself: "*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 and potawatomiheritage.com/language, there are links to our Potawatomi (*Bodéwadmi*) language. With the leadership of Justin Neely, our Language Director, 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.

As the coronavirus crisis is waning, we can once again experience gatherings with our Citizen Potawatomi family. Please consider attending the 2023 Family Reunion Festival.

The honored families this upcoming year will be Johnson, Laframboise, LaReau, LeClaire, Melott, Rhodd, Tescier, Weld and Young.

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 design. The purpose is to celebrate five to

10 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 powwow dance arena.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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



CPN HEALTH SERVICES

Do you have prescription needs not available through current preferred medication lists for CPN clinic pharmacies or mail order service?

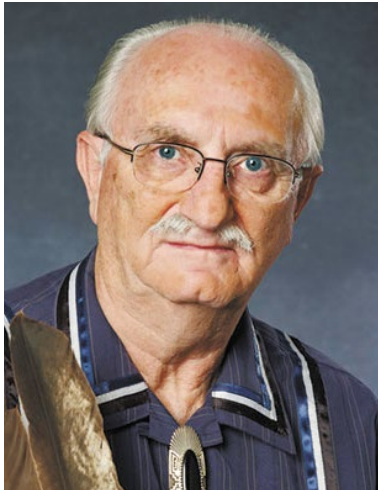
If so and you are considering a delayed enrollment in a Medicare Part D plan, CPN Health Services can provide you with a letter of creditable coverage if you enrolled in a traditional Medicare plan.

This creditable coverage letter will exempt tribal members from the penalty for late enrollment.

For more information, contact:

Annette Pratchard
Insurance & Benefits Coordinator
405-964-4132, ext 3220
annette.pratchard@potawatomi.org

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Aborted creativity

Michelangelo created a sculpture called the Florentine Pietà or The Deposition.

The Italian High Renaissance artist worked on this piece for eight years and in 1555 at age 80, he found himself displeased with a vein in the marble. In frustration, he attacked the work, broke off its limbs and virtually destroyed it. Fortunately, for us, his assistant rescued it and partially restored it, but Michelangelo never touched it again.

Likewise, Mark Twain in the late 18th century wrote several

stories and novels that he gave up on because of lost creativity, including one with 400 words. The great writer realized that the novel was not up to his creative standard. He “put the whole thing in the fire.”

These historical events cause me to have contradictory emotions: courage and disappointment. Courage that it takes such to realize that your artwork is less than your standard, and you destroy it, and disappointment in that these great artists deprived us of their creations.

As a writer, I have written poems, plays, essays and fiction

where I stalled somewhere in the middle and gave up — but for a time. I refused to delete or destroy them. It seemed to me that my writings were interrupted in their creative process. But to destroy them would be like an abortion — killing the seed of a creative work of tomorrow. Of course, I would never compare my minute creativity with that of these two great masters. Perhaps they knew precisely what was best for them and us.

A beautifully framed print of Michelangelo’s Florentine Pietà hangs on my wall. Even in its distorted state, I often admire

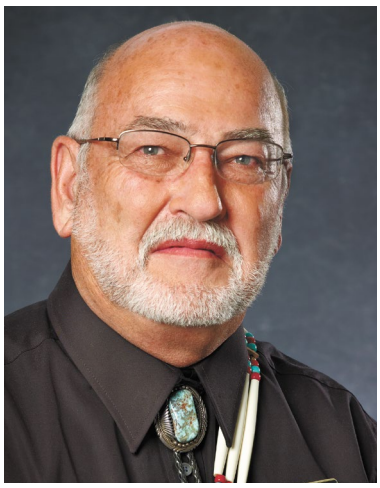
it and wonder what it would be like with the master’s last touch.

Also, I wish I had those lost 400 words of Mark Twain. Better yet, I wish he had laid down his pen to take it up again when creativity may have enlightened his soul.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

District 10 – David Barrett



Bozho
(Hello),

Here we are at the closing of another year, and I will use the term “changing times” before we make any resolutions for the New Year. When I was growing up, there seemed to be certain things or core values that you took for granted. Let’s look at several things that you used to be able to depend on most of the time when I was in the

workforce. If you did a good job at work, your company would back you up on protecting you. Most people would stay for a long time and even retire from that company. Nowadays, do we have that stability, dependability and predictability about our workplace? Don’t we owe our employer a good day’s work for what we agreed to work for? I have been told that some in the workplace seem to think that if they don’t feel like doing different things, they don’t have to. “Quiet quitting” is the latest workplace buzzword. Although it sounds like it refers to someone resigning from their position, it describes a rebellion against the hustle culture of going above and beyond what a job requires.

The coronavirus pandemic not only disrupted everyone’s lives with restrictions and a lockdown on public gatherings, but it also made some people rethink their career choices. Not

only are people resigning from positions, but they also want to limit their workloads. Enter quiet quitting — the new way of doing a job’s bare minimum.

But what about other things that are changing our lifestyles today? Fentanyl death in our younger population, the suicide rate of our veterans and crime in our country.

Does each of us have involvement in our schools, in our local and national policies, and our communities?

We all make choices daily. Those choices that you make now and later will stay with you forever, and you will more than likely be held accountable for them sooner or later. We all should have accountability for our actions, and there should be repercussions for the injustice to others. Does it seem like we are heading in that direction, or have we gotten off-road?

When is it not the polite or correct way (out of respect) to not be able to listen to another’s opinions, feelings or ideas on certain issues? We can’t sit back nowadays and think things just will turn out okay. We still need God’s guidance, and we all need to research our daily matters to educate and know where we will stand on certain issues. Don’t trust the media, but absolutely verify what they are saying, *especially who’s saying it and what they will gain by saying it.*

With inflation and our economy, CPN will continue to try to still be consistent in our programs. To give our members a good as possible, stable environment, to be able to depend on our health care and all of the other benefits.

On Veterans Day, I attended the National Native American Veterans Memorial dedication in Washington, D.C., and the District 2 fall feast in Arlington, Virginia.

Looking forward to running again next year, and it goes without saying that it is both a pleasure and an honor to serve you and our great Nation.

Merry Christmas, and have a happy and healthy New Year.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

David Barrett
Mnedobe (Sits with Spirit)
Legislator, District 10
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dbarrett@potawatomi.org

District 11 – Andrew Walters



Bozho
(Hello),

Personal responsibility. There’s a phrase you don’t hear much anymore. Used to mean that you are responsible for your actions and how your actions affect others. Now it’s a clause in an insurance policy. Have you ever wondered what the country would be like if we didn’t have car insurance? OMG... That would mean people would be responsible for their driving discourtesies

and violations. Having a wreck could wreck your life. You’d have to be more careful, more responsible, more aware that there are actually other people around you. But instead, we pay some company to pay for our mistakes and irresponsibility, just in case things catch up to us while we go our own way.

You see, there are other facets in life where the same is true. Health insurance for example. We can eat, smoke, do whatever we want because we don’t for the most part have to be cognizant of our health. When something really bad happens, don’t worry, the insurance will pay for it.

This even extends into our everyday conduct. At one time, morals, pride, work ethic and family were guiding factors in our lives. Those things taught us and reminded us of personal responsibility. But with the breakdown of morals in today’s world — the destruction of family, the confusion born by an absence of religious beliefs or

any belief for that matter, and the push toward an overinflated, *amour-propre* personal identity — they matter little. The “woke” attitudes of today go toward confusing relationships and obfuscating identities. Instead of making us individuals, the “wokeness” just makes us a part of the herd. You know... everybody’s special... just like everybody else. My mother used to tell me that the only thing you truly own is your name. And that your name is what makes you special, makes you who you are and, most importantly, makes others know of you and your family.

That’s where the Tribe comes in. You see, our Tribe has customs and beliefs that are ancient. And those customs and beliefs, like an anchor in a troubled sea, hold us fast. They let us know where we are in life, in the world. They make us feel like individuals, yet parts of a greater whole. Practicing our beliefs, learning our past, using our

words, participating in our Tribe connects us to our past and holds us firmly in place during this tempest we call “life.”

I can trace my family lines through history, from Francis and Catish Bourbonnais through the Coders, and Dikes, and Peddicords, the Frys, the Churchills, Cuyons, Byllesbys and Langenkamps. The Jenks, Posts, and Buckmasters, the McClungs, Stephens, Stringers and others. Along with all the history, hardships, friendships, travels, intrigue and romance. Our history, the Tribe’s history, is glorious, beautiful and humbling. We are all inter-related through the journeys of our ancestors. We are all part of each other. Living pieces of the whole.

But all of this comes with a responsibility. That’s how this article started. Our personal responsibility to each other is to participate, to learn, to search and be a part of this group called the Citizen Potawatomi. As I’ve

said before, being a Potawatomi is an honor, passed to us through generations of hardships. But it is also a responsibility to be handed down to future generations when the “we” of today will become part of “our” story for the Tribe of tomorrow.

We are all family. And in that spirit, may Cora and I wish our Potawatomi family Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We love y’all.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Andrew Walters
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