

HOWNIIKAN

Dé'mengises | June 2024

**Time running out to
apply for ARPA funds**

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CPN Health Services expands to new locations

CPN Health Services plan to expand to several locations with new clinics near Tribal headquarters. The expansion includes a Behavioral Health clinic and two Dental clinics.

Kasie Nichols, Self-Governance director, said Tribal members will have the opportunity to receive care through these clinics.

"It is important for Tribal members to have access to wonderful and expanding services their own Tribe has to offer," Nichols said. "Currently, Behavioral Health services have relocated to an expanded facility. In addition, two new dental clinics are currently in the planning stages and are projected to open in the fall of 2026."

The expansion of CPNHS is possible due to the Tribe's ability to receive funding from Indian Health Services. The new Behavioral Health clinic was possible through a 2021 IHS Small Ambulatory Program award of \$2 million dollars. The new location will be at 1938 Dr. Leon Combs in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and is set to open mid-June. The dental clinics are funded by two additional Small Ambulatory awards from IHS in 2023. One location will be in Choctaw and the other near the current west health complex just off Interstate-40.

Once established with CPNHS, patients may access all available services, such as primary care, dental and behavioral health.

Establishing care with CPNHS

As the Tribe expands its health services in the surrounding area, Tribal members may access these services if they are a current patient.

"Some of our IHS and other federal funding formulas are tied to CPN tribal members and other Native American patients we serve who reside in Cleveland, Lincoln, Logan, Oklahoma and Pottawatomie counties," Nichols said.

However, if Tribal members reside outside of these counties, CPNHS encourages them to establish care.

CPNHS is a comprehensive outpatient health care system offering Tribal members of all ages access to primary care, optometric, imaging, dental, physical therapy and pharmacy services, among many others.

To receive access to CPNHS, patients may establish care by registering at CPN East, West or the Specialty/Imaging clinic near Shawnee. Adults should provide their CDIB or CPN Tribal ID, Social Security card, driver's license or state ID, and health insurance card. For Tribal members who are minors, the parent or guardian should bring the child's CDIB or CPN Tribal ID, Social Security card, birth certificate, immunization records and health insurance card.

Lauren Bristow, Clinic Operations director, said CPN will expedite the registration and scheduling process so patients may be seen by a health care provider.

"There are multiple options available to assist patients in establishing care with CPN Health Services," Bristow said. "New this year is an electronic fillable form located on the Nation's *Mezodan* platform. When completed, the form is sent securely to our team, who will then contact the patient directly to schedule."

CPNHS hopes to continue to offer efficient methods as they expand.

"Quality and efficiency of care are always at the forefront of our operations," she added. "As a result of recent growth and in effort to expand service availability, three new clinics are on the horizon. We look forward to welcoming patients in our new locations soon."

For more information about CPNHS and establishing care, visit potawatomi.org/services/health.

ARPA Funds Update

Due to recent clarification by U.S. Treasury regarding the ARPA/FRF funding obligations/expenditures deadline, **CPN Executive leadership has decided to set a deadline of 9/30/2024 as the last day to apply for CPN's ARPA Tribal Member Assistance Program (aka \$1,400 program)**. This will help CPN make any final adjustments prior to the ARPA obligations deadline of 12/31/2024 to maximize the Tribe's utilization of this funding.

To apply for assistance, visit portal.potawatomi.org

2024 Honored Families



Daniel Oliver Bressman and his wife, Jimmie Lou Moore

L., Eliza, Lucius, Louis Oliver, Charles Nathan, and the remaining children died while infants.

The Treaty of 1846 required all the Potawatomi who removed west to relocate onto one reservation in Kansas, and the Darling family made their way there in 1847. Under pressure from settlers and business, the Potawatomi signed a treaty in 1861 that offered an opportunity to become



Elizabeth Hardin with grandson, John boy Anderson

Darling

Elizabeth Ouilmette married Lucius (Louis) Ripley Darling on July 15, 1836. Elizabeth was one of eight children born to Antoine Ouilmette, known as one of the first residents of Chicago, and Archange Chevalier Ouilmette. Archange's mother, *Chopa*, was the daughter of Potawatomi warrior and headman *Naunongee* from the Calumet River Potawatomi.

The family removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1837 and Lucius joined *Waubansee's* Potawatomi band, serving as a trader. They had 13 children total: William, Francis

U.S. citizens and receive land allotments. Although Elizabeth passed away before the process was finalized, Lucius and their children chose to receive individual plots of land and became members of the Citizen Potawatomi.

Hardin

Theresa Laframboise Hardin Watkins Beaubien — Chee Chee — and her family removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, before making the journey to the Potawatomi reservation in Kansas. Theresa was the daughter of Chief Joseph Laframboise and Therese Peltier. Joseph held a standing as one

of the Chicago Chiefs, along with Chief *Waubansee*, Chief Thomas "Billy" Caldwell or *Sauganash*, and others. These leaders became involved in treaty negotiations across the Great Lakes region.

Theresa married Allen Hardin, and they had three children: Mary, Theresa and Peter. The Hardin family remained in Iowa until after the Potawatomi signed the Treaty of 1846. This agreement established a reservation near Silver Lake, Kansas, for all the Potawatomi west of the Mississippi. Theresa's descendants would go on to serve as Tribal leaders, both volunteer and elected, through military service and more.



Robert Higbee, his wife Ida and their children

Higbee

The Higbee's Potawatomi roots began with the marriage of Julia Justine Bertrand and Alva Higbee. Julia's parents, Madeline and Joseph Bertrand, were successful fur traders and business owners near Lake Michigan. Madeline was the daughter of Daniel Bourassa and a Potawatomi woman. Her mother was most likely a member of the Potawatomi communities in the St. Joseph River Valley, whose villages were led by Chief *Topinabee*. Julia, born May 25, 1823, also grew up along the St. Joseph River in Michigan near the township named for her father.

A private school at the Carey Mission was run by the Bertrand community postmaster, Daniel C. Higbee. There, Julia met Daniel's brother Alva, who later became her husband. They married in Bertrand on Oct. 4, 1848, before moving to the Potawatomi reservation in present-day Kansas in 1850.

The Treaty of 1861 separated the Potawatomi into two distinct groups and provided an opportunity to receive a land allotment and potentially become U.S. citizens. Those accepting the allotments became the Citizen Potawatomi. The Higbees and their nine children decided to receive allotments and become members of the Citizen Potawatomi.



Elizabeth Cadue Battese, Walter Battese and John Battese

Levier

Under the terms of the Treaty of 1837, the Potawatomi in Indiana gave up their lands in exchange for a reservation in Kansas. From 1837 to the early 1840s, they gradually moved to the Osage River or "Mission Band" Reserve.

Elizabeth Cadue, her father Peter

Cadue, and his wife, Marguarita Kishnonckouy, were among the Potawatomi who established themselves in Kansas. Elizabeth was born in 1834 in Kansas. She married John (Laurence) Battese. Their children were Susan, Frank (*P-nos-wah*), Alice (*Ze-ze-quah*), Mary (*Wa-me-go*), Martha, Michel Lawrence, Walter, Julia and *Ktequa* Lucy.

When Kansas became a state in 1861, squatters and railroad companies eyed Potawatomi lands. The U.S. government pushed the Potawatomi from Kansas to Indian Territory under the Treaty of 1867. The Potawatomi used the treaty funds to acquire a reservation in Indian Territory.

Over the next 20 years, Elizabeth Cadue Battese's descendants were among the Potawatomi who successfully made the treacherous journey and would later establish themselves in Indian Territory.



Lewis family

Lewis

Wesley Lewis was born April 22, 1838, near Asthabula, Ohio, to Sylvester and Anna (Smith) Lewis. As an adult, he traveled with his older brother to Lawrence, Kansas, and later to the Henry Ward Beecher colony in Waubanse County, Kansas.

Wesley married Louise Bourassa in 1859. Sadly, she died. On Jan. 21, 1866, Wesley married Matilda Bergeron, who was of Potawatomi and French heritage, in Louisville, Kansas. Matilda Bergeron Lewis was the daughter of Francis X. Bergeron and *Watch-e-kee* Zozetta (Josetta) Bergeron. She was born on Sept. 26, 1846, in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Wesley and Matilda had a total of 11 children together. In 1891, he sold his Kansas farm and moved to an allotment in Oklahoma Territory, near present-day Wanette. In 1891, Wesley and his neighbors raised money to build the first schoolhouse. The area's first post office was located in the corner of the Lewis living room until a permanent one was established. He was also instrumental in establishing the community's first cemetery by organizing with his neighbors to collect funds for the project.



Josie Nadeau and Jennie Huitt

Nadeau

The Nadeau family's Potawatomi heritage was established when Peter and Mary Nadeau's son, Peter Alexander, married a Potawatomi woman named Madeline Vieux on April 22, 1860. Madeline was the daughter of Louis and Charlotte Vieux.

Peter's brother, Eli Gilbert, also married

a Potawatomi woman named Magdalene Bourbonnais. The couple married on Jan. 1, 1835.

When Kansas became a state in 1861, the U.S. government began its final push to remove the Potawatomi from Kansas to Indian Territory. The Treaty of 1867 certified the purchase of allotments and surplus lands in exchange for approximately \$150,000. The Potawatomi used the funds to acquire a reservation in Indian Territory.

Over the next 20 years, families and individuals gradually made the move from Kansas to central Oklahoma. Members of the Nadeau family who arrived in Oklahoma had to work hard to make a life for themselves, often clearing large acreages by hand and establishing infrastructure, homes and farms.

Continued on next page



Peralee Scott Macarty, Virginia Macarty Navarre, Robert Joseph Navarre Jr., Marjorie Navarre and Mahota Peralee Navarre

Negahnquet

Ne-gahn-quet was married to Tchoksak. Their son was Stephen Ne-bah-qua Negahnquet. Stephen married Angeline Ke-ten-no Wa-was-sug. Their children were Rosalie, Albert, Joseph, John, Mary Fannie (Stephanie), Mary Celeste, Katherine (Mary), Stephen W., Rosalie Wawyotch and Thomas.

Joseph married Minnie Rebecca Couch. Their children were Joseph A., Anthony, Mary, James, Thelma, Maxine and Marie.

Born on the Kansas River Reservation, Stephen Negahnquet quickly rose to become a community fixture in Kansas. After the Treaty of 1867, he removed with his family to Indian Territory and was allotted several sections of land. He is listed on the 1872 Citizen Potawatomi allotment census.

Stephen was elected to the Citizen Potawatomi Business Committee. He was among the first Tribal members to approve the founding of Sacred Heart Mission and provided resources to build the site. His children attended the mission school and his son, Albert, was later ordained as a Roman Catholic priest.



George, Alexander Benjamin and John B. Pambogo, Jr.

Pambogo

Louis Pambogo, born in 1823, married Ojequa, who was born in 1833. They had a son, John Baptiste, and a daughter, Josette.

The Potawatomi entered into the Treaty of 1861 to allot their Kansas lands and become U.S. citizens. Prior to this, the Potawatomi had

held land in common. The U.S. government pressured the Potawatomi to accept allotments so their land could be sold to settlers and railroad companies. Dozens of Potawatomi families would make the dangerous journey to Indian Territory to claim their individual allotments.

John Baptiste Pambogo married *Po-to-go-qua*. They had two children, but sadly, both children died young. John Baptiste then married Caroline Peltier. Sadly, their twins, a boy and a girl, died. They later had George, Alexander B., Josephine Alice, John B., Jr., *Ahs-latt*, Johnnie and Alice.

Josette Pambogo married John (*Wak-shuk*) Megah (*Me-ga*) at the Sacred Heart Mission. They had a son named Joseph. The couple had five other children, but they died at a young age.



60th wedding anniversary for John P. Dewitt and Jane Dewitt

Smith

Frederic H. Countryman (Contramman) was born about 1795 and appeared on an 1823 Michilimackinac County, Michigan, voter list. He married a Potawatomi woman named *En-do-ga* and was fluent in Potawatomi. It is possible that a woman named *Doga* who appears in a George Winter watercolor sketch is actually *En-do-ga*. She was the niece of a respected Indiana Potawatomi leader named *Naswawke*. Frederic and *En-do-ga* had three daughters — Betsey, Nancy and Sarah.

In 1831, the Countryman family joined a large group of Potawatomi who were moving to southwestern Illinois. In 1834, the Potawatomi and the Countryman family were forced west again to Calhoun County, Kansas. Eventually, they made a home on the Potawatomi reservation south of the military road leading from Ft. Leavenworth to Ft. Riley, near Solider Creek, Kansas.

Several of Nancy's descendants were listed on the 1887 Oklahoma allotment roll, including: Josephine Smith Bourassa, Frank Smith, Rachel Johnson Catick, Louisa Smith Storm Hartman, Zoe Smith Denton and Elizabeth Hartman Lynn. 🔥

Respected community leader joins Sovereign Bank

Sovereign Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of Alicia Wade as chief operating officer, marking a significant advancement in the bank's leadership team and its commitment to community-focused banking.

With a distinguished career spanning 27 years in the banking industry, Wade brings a wealth of experience and a deep-rooted passion for serving communities. Her journey began on the teller line while studying finance at The University of Central Oklahoma, where she developed a strong foundation in understanding the unique needs of individual customers and later evolving into strategic leadership roles that have made remarkable impacts on the Oklahoma banking community.

"We are delighted to welcome Alicia Wade to Sovereign Bank as our new chief operating officer," Sovereign Bank President and CEO Bryan Cain said. "Her extensive experience, strategic acumen, and dedication to community banking make her an invaluable addition to our leadership team."

Wade's expertise extends to leveraging technology, developing innovative financial products, and delivering personalized banking services to enhance customer experience and drive growth for community banks.

"I am thrilled to join the exceptional team at Sovereign Bank and contribute to our shared vision of empowering



Alicia Wade has joined the team at Sovereign Bank as executive vice president, chief operating officer

communities through innovative banking solutions," said Wade. "Community banks play a pivotal role in driving local economies, and I am excited to leverage my experience to further enhance Sovereign Bank's impact."

Wade's commitment to the banking industry is demonstrated through her active involvement in key banking associations and leadership roles that advocate for regulatory changes supporting community banks. She is the incoming chairman of the Oklahoma Bankers

Association and serves as chairman of the Government Relations Council, in addition to the American Bankers Association Membership Council and Community Bank Council. She is the co-founder and chairman of the Central Region Fiserv Premier User Group. 🔥

Festival health screenings will be available

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services will be offering primary care and other services on Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29 during the 2024 Family Reunion Festival.

Most Festival guests are looking forward to the cultural activities, but the event is also a good time to consider overall health and wellness.

"CPNHS offers a wealth of health services to CPN tribal members that may be challenging to access or financially prohibitive in their home states," said CPNHS Clinic Operations Administrator Lauren Bristow. "Taking a few moments out of your weekend for preventive screenings or a routine wellness visit supports the overall wellness of our Tribal members and provides the opportunity to catch potential health concerns before they become a problem."

CPNHS operates six health clinics near Shawnee, providing primary medical care, dentistry, optometry, diabetes management, chiropractic care, public health services, lab services, pharmacy, advanced imaging and mammography.

In addition to on-site health services, informational sessions will cover cardiopulmonary resuscitation, automatic external defibrillators and naloxone. The course meets Friday from 9 to 11 a.m., 1 to 3 p.m. and

3 to 5 p.m.; and Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Registration is not necessary, but seating is limited. Each session is limited to the first eight participants. The sessions will take place at Mission Hill, located next to the Raymond Peltier Park and powwow grounds.

While Tribal members attend Festival, a first aid tent will be available from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. to assist with any minor medical issues.

"Our team looks forward to Festival every year, and we especially enjoy seeing and visiting with some of our patients who only come to Health Services during Festival," Bristow said.

Tribal members may call to schedule an appointment during Festival. Clinics will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

East Clinic: 405-273-5236 | 2307 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. Shawnee, OK

West Clinic: 405-964-5770 | 781 Grand Casino Blvd, Shawnee, OK

For more information, visit potawatomi.org. 🔥

Conference invites Department of Education to take part



Rachel Watson, director of CPN's Department of Education, delivers a land acknowledgement at the start of the IDEAL Conference.

Representatives from Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Department of Education presented at a conference in Indiana in April.

Department of Education Director Rachel Watson and Assistant Director Charles Lee III traveled to the IDEAL Conference (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access in Leadership) in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 4 through 6.

The conference opened at the Madam Walker Legacy Center, where Watson delivered a land acknowledgement to attendees before the night's keynote speakers took the stage.

"The Potawatomi do not belong to Oklahoma. We belong to the lands in the Great Lakes region where food grows on water. Many Potawatomi remain here to this day, but Citizen Potawatomi came to Oklahoma through a mix of forced removals, allotments and broken treaties," Watson explained during their statement.

"The story of the Potawatomi Nation and the story of any tribe in the United States when faced with colonialism, is one of resilience. My ancestors persisted so I could be here with you today," they said. "All of us are here together to better each of our respective communities and to support each other in that dream. I look forward to the way we all learn and grow together in the coming days."

In addition to sitting in on panels covering everything from accommodations in education to the impact of rural colleges, Watson and Lee also presented a panel Saturday morning. The two spoke about working with TEDs (Tribal Education Departments), including some of the things TEDs offer and the best ways to approach TEDs to inquire about partnerships.

"It was really pleasant to see all the educators standing strong and leaning on each other in this time of educational uncertainty, especially with

all the legislation passed to hinder or remove DEI departments from campuses," Lee said.

Partnering with IU

It was a partnership with Indiana University that ultimately led to Watson and Lee's attendance at the conference.

Watson said in 2023, three different employees from three different Indiana University departments reached out to CPN to inquire about ways they might partner with the Tribe. Sherene Ing and her assistant, Adin Kawate, from the First Nations Center at IU-Bloomington, made the trip to Oklahoma to meet in person with several tribes who had been removed from Indiana.

When the IDEAL conference was announced as a regional offshoot of NCORE (National Conference on Race and Ethnicity), Watson and Lee thought it would be beneficial to attend. They reached out and were connected with Dr. Monica Johnson, the lead conference organizer, who offered flights, hotel rooms and free registration for all DoE staff, as well as a conference session and the opening slot at the first session.

"Dr. Johnson did not ask for a land acknowledgement, but rather gave me the space to say whatever I and Tribal leadership felt was important to share with that audience and space. Most conference or events that invite local or removed tribes to share a land acknowledgement make a specific ask that the tribal leaders make specific statements acknowledging colonialism, genocide, the theft of land, but without any other action to make reparations or repair what damage they can," Watson said. "Asking a Native person to do the acknowledging of colonialism can sometimes be like asking the victim of a crime to apologize for it; we're allowed to share how we were wronged but there is no expectation that there will be any attempt to make it right."



Assistant Director of Education Charles Lee III speaks during a panel about TEDs at the IDEAL Conference.

Watson appreciated Potawatomi representation at a conference that, in its inaugural year, took place on Potawatomi ancestral land. They also were pleased to have the opportunity to be included in more than just the opening remarks and to have a chance to interact with other attendees.

Though the session led by Watson and Lee was the only one that focused on tribes and tribal citizens, Watson said it made an impact to have that session, and that they hope the conference continues to be inclusive and welcomes more Native representatives next year.

"It was radically different from how other professional organizations and conferences handle including and partnering with tribes, in a way that makes me optimistic about continuing to work with Indiana University in general and this conference specifically," Watson said.

Watson said though it might seem like a small step, it is a good start to lead to something bigger and a good model for other institutions that seek to build relationships with tribal governments.

"There is a lot of work to be done to get equity for Native students at every level of education," they said. "We are fighting an uphill battle against centuries of colonialism and being an overlooked population. To me, this was a huge step in the right direction for strong representation and good relationships between our Tribe and Indiana University."

Learn more about the IDEAL conference at ideal.iu.edu. For more about the CPN Department of Education, visit cpn.news/education. 🔥

CPN hosts Local Hero Day

Children in Citizen Potawatomi Nation's After School Child Development program had the chance to interact with first responders in a positive way when the CPN After School Program hosted Local Hero Day.

The event, a coordinated effort between Child Development and CPN's Workforce and Social Services program Safe and Stable Families, took place in April.

Children had the chance to talk to first responders from CPN and the Shawnee Police Department about their careers. SPD brought their K-9 special agent, as well, and the Shawnee Fire Department arrived with one of the city's firetrucks.

Jerri Mayer, with the After School Program, said it was important for children to feel comfortable talking to first responders and to know that they are safe.

"We aim to support each child in excelling from infancy to their chosen career path," Director of Child Development Donnette Littlehead said, adding that they wanted children to know they were protected, but also to help them grow into healthy adults in the future.

"You never know who may be inspired by these interactions and become our next local hero," Director of Workforce and Social Services Margaret Zientek said. 🔥



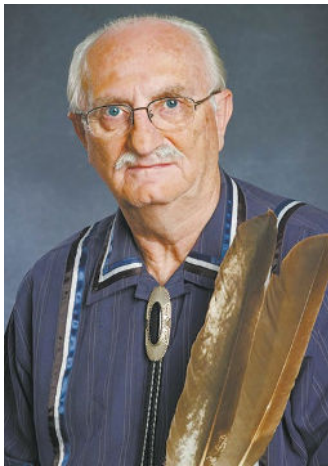
Shawnee, Oklahoma, firefighters help make Local Hero Day fun for children at CPN's After School Program.

COMING SOON: MARKING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP AS "FOR ROOM AND BOARD"

For fall 2024, students applying for the Tribal scholarship will be able to request that the funding be designated as "for room and board." This is to allow students like those who attend University of California schools to access their full Tribal benefits. The University of California system has a program called the Native American Opportunity Plan that will cover a Native American student's tuition and fees, but if they receive the Tribal scholarship, that scholarship goes to cover tuition and the amount the state pays our Tribal members is reduced. By enabling the option to mark the scholarship as "for room and board," students will be able to receive the funding more directly, as the schools will not be allowed to apply the scholarship to tuition.

District 9 election candidates Q&A

Editor's Note - Responses from legislative candidates appear exactly as they were submitted without editing for content or style.



Paul Wesselhöft
Incumbent

Would you like to make a final statement?

My Native American name is *Naganit* meaning Leader.

I have been a leader, in various capacities, all my adult life. Leadership comes to me both naturally and as learned lessons. I have learned leadership traits from numerous peers, legislators,

colonels, generals, CEOs, and prominent government leaders. Most of these people provided me excellent examples of leadership, a couple have demonstrated failures of leadership. I have learned from both.

In our national legislature I am a leader and a respected collogue. Along with the executive and legislative branch, I helped guide our nation into prosperity and national significance. My opinions and arguments are well respected in our legislature. That's not to say I always get my way, I don't. However, my fellow representatives take my questions, concerns, suggestions, and votes seriously.

I'm asking you to trust me with leading our legislature for another term. I'm wholeheartedly dedicated to bringing our legislature into greater prosperity, heighten cultural heritage, and national prominence. Please vote for me. I desire to represent you, Oklahomans, into even greater days and years. Thank you.



Matt Higdon
Challenger

Would you like to make a final statement?

Bozho ndénwemagnek, (Hello all my relations) I wanted to include some of our language in my final statement of this campaign as a promise to use, learn, and grow our language. This is also a part of my promise, if elected, to never stop learning. I do not know how

to be a Tribal Legislator, just as I do not know much of

our language, but I will never stop learning and growing. This is why I chose to get my Masters in Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma. I want to learn how to serve the citizens of this tribe in the best possible way. I have a great example and a very high standard set for me by my elders and past Tribal Leaders.

As I have gone through this campaign, I have come to realize just how valuable my role as Legislator could be mainly just to be the voice for my fellow tribal members. I want to be the legislator that people know and can come talk to at any time, and I want to be the legislator that you see at all our tribal events.

I also want to be truthful in the fact that if elected even I do not know how I will do as your representative. However, I can make a promise and keep it. I promise I will learn from this and learn how to better represent our great tribal nation, protect its sovereignty, and grow our culture. I have never been the type of person to back down from a challenge like this, and I know I will not be alone in this quest as I have my ancestors, the tribal elders, and every citizen of this tribe to learn from and to receive advice from.

I want to say *Igwien* to every past and present tribal official because of you I can run for this office and hopefully serve the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. *Migwetch*, *Migwetch*, *Migwetch* to every tribal member as well for keeping our tribe alive and growing. *Migwetch* to any supporters I may have, I hope to meet you one day. *Migwetch*, to anyone does not support me as well, because you are still engaging in our election process and keeping a healthy debate going. *Chi Migwetch* to my opponent for serving our tribe, you have helped contribute to our tribe just as I hope to one day.

Yours truly,

Matt Higdon. 🔥

IN-PERSON VOTING

7am-2pm | June 29

Tribal Courtroom
(south side of Tribal Headquarters)

Summer star knowledge

Note: The *Hownikan* will share a series of columns this year by Minisa Crumbo Halsey. This is the second in a series that focuses on traditional *Anishnabé* star knowledge. Crumbo Halsey recommends viewing the Star Chart created by Kyle Malott, Pokagon Band Language Department, and downloading the Sky Guide smartphone app to locate the constellations in the series.

By Minisa Crumbo Halsey

*Bozho Nikan,
Ni je na jayek..*

As we *Bodéwadmin* relatives travel and gather, in Shawnee or by word of our “talking paper” the *Hownikan*, our personal medicine wheels are broadened and gladdened. Our minds, hearts, bodies and spirits come forward to sit in a circle to learn, have some fun and dance.

We look up into the summer night sky and remember our *Anishnabé* Creation Story which tells us many stories of our relations, the Star Beings. Our Creation Story tells us of how our ancestors, the first people, were “lowered down” as the star people or hot rocks. That is why some of us learn this story by the ceremony of the sweat lodge. This is also a place where we can go into the lodge, sit with the Creator, pray, be purified and renewed as we sit and remember who we are and from whence we came. AHO!

The Star Being Constellation we would speak of is the big bear or *Mno Mko*, sometimes also called the Big Dipper. This one can easily be seen in the summer northern sky. Sometimes other bands call it the Fisher Star, and this being is honored for helping us to enjoy the summer bird song, different plants and animals that fruit and flower at this time, like the “four sacred berries,” corn and tobacco (*sema*) planting time, the young women’s ceremonies of the “strawberry fast” and the many medicines which help to keep us healthy.

Mno Mko is also in the night sky as relative to the Great Crane, or *Jayek*. Now, *Jayek* was one of the first emissaries that the Creator sent to look and find a home for us two-legged persons in star spirit who were seeking a home. *Jayek* and his friend the loon found us this place. They had their “talks” with all of the beings that lived here. These beings agreed to receive the seekers and to “help us out.” The crane constellation can be seen to fly overhead in the late-night sky of summer. And it is from these ones that we learned how to live in harmony and balance with ourselves and all living things in the name of *Mamogosnan*, the Creator. AHO!

Now, it is told that *Mno Mko* was first to come forward with a medicine teaching lodge in order for the newcomers to gather and learn. Among the first things to learn was always to remember and honor where we came from, who we are and what we have. For then we became “breathed alive” by the breath wind of the Creator. AHO!



Mno Mko, or Big Bear, also called the Big Dipper, can be seen in the summer night sky. (Painting by Minisa Crumbo Halsey)

Mno mko, also called *Ursa Major*, points to the smaller relative of *Ursa Minor*. Two of the stars in the “cup” of the big dipper point to *Ursa Minor* which holds the very important North Star or *Polaris*. This star is not so easily seen but it is always there. It has and continues to guide those lost or seeking direction to the north. By finding true north one can orient the other directions. The north star has guided many home when they knew not where they were. All other star constellations turn with the seasons but the north star is constantly in the north.

Our *Anishnabé* Creation Story contains information that *Sekmekwe Gizes*, the grandmother Moon, the plants, animals, the powers of the directions seasons and weather are always available to us. It is good to keep an open mind and heart that we might be able to hear and know some of these things. Different people have personal medicine gifts and by sharing these things we can come to grow in wisdom and knowledge, in balance and harmony, all ways, all days — now and forever more. AHO!

In beauty it is begun. In beauty it is finished. There is beauty all around.

Chi migwech, Creator for all of the gifts. *Wewene chi migwech*.

We the people of the Milky Way, the trail of spirits which can be seen in the early southeastern night sky as it makes its southwestern passage in the night. We raise our beings in awareness and gratitude for these things. AHO!

Note: Minisa wishes to thank Justin Neely, CPN Language Department and staff for all ongoing and outreach programs; Dolores and Don *Neaseno* Perrot; and Kyle Malott, Pokagon Band Language Department, for his *Bodéwadmin Nengo^sek* Star Chart and gracious support. 🍓

EXTEND YOUR STAY AFTER FESTIVAL

The **First Americans Museum** offers visitors an opportunity to learn and explore Native American cultures in Oklahoma. The museum has two permanent exhibitions, OKLA HOMMA and WINIKO: Life of an Object, and a new traveling exhibition called One Place, Many Nations: Acknowledging the 39. OKLA HOMMA includes the stories of all 39 tribes located in Oklahoma through art, interactive media and film. WINIKO represents the repatriation of objects back to the 39 tribes in Oklahoma for the first time in 100 years. The One Place, Many Nations: Acknowledging the 39 exhibition includes hand-on activities, educational opportunities and rotating objects that share cultural experiences from the tribes, highlighting the dynamic cultural environment that makes Oklahoma unique.

An outdoor installation, 21 Century Mound Builders, is free to the public to explore. This installation honors Mound Builder societies that thrived across North America from about 3,500 BC to 1751 CE, according to FAM website. The mound rises to 90 feet, serves as a cosmological clock, and the walk is two-thirds of a mile around.

First Americans Museums | 659 First Americans Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK | Tickets and more at famok.org | Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; weekends 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays | Admission: Children under 3 are free; youth are \$5; adults are \$15; senior, military, tribal and students are \$10

The **Myriad Botanical Gardens** in downtown Oklahoma City offers a chance to enjoy concerts, movies, classes, children's activities and nature walks. The Inasmuch Foundation Crystal Bridge Conservatory is an indoor space with overlook terraces, reflection pool, tropical plant collections and waterfall. Many of the outdoor features are free to the public.

Myriad Botanical Garden | 301 W. Reno, Oklahoma City | myriadgarden.org | Hours: Crystal Bridge open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; outdoor space open daily, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. | Admission: \$10.50 for adults; \$9 for seniors and military/veterans; \$7 for students; \$5.50 for youth 5-17; children under 4 are free

The **Oklahoma City Zoo** has animals from all over the globe as well as elephant presentations, animal care chats with zookeepers, and a children's petting zoo. Other

activities available include giraffe and Explorikeet feeding, Gorilla Trek VR, and carousel rides for additional purchase.

Oklahoma City Zoo | 2101 NE 50th St., Oklahoma City, OK | okczoo.org | Hours: daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Admission: Adults are \$16; children and those over 65 are \$13; children under 2 are free. Half price for active-duty military, retired members and veterans with valid military ID.

Escape the summer heat by visiting **Shawnee Splash Waterpark**. The park is open to all ages; it includes a regulation pool area, shallow play area, spray ground, diving area, climbing wall, slides, basketball goal and concession with covered deck. Outside food and drink are not allowed in the park, but picnic space is available outside the fenced area.

Shawnee Splash Water Park | 101 E. Highland Street, inside Shawnee's Woodland Veterans Park | shawneeok.org | 405-273-0700 | Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 7 p.m. | Admission: \$6 for children under 48" tall and seniors; \$7 for those over 48" tall

The **Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art** in Shawnee is one of the state's oldest museums. It was founded in 1919 by Father Gregory Gerrer. During his European, South American and African travels, he acquired Renaissance art, Egyptian, Greek and Roman objects, and cultural artifacts from Native Americans, African, Oceanic, pre-Columbian and Eastern peoples.

Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art | 1900 W. MacArthur Street, Shawnee | mgmoa.org | 405-878-5300 | Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. | Admission to the museum is free for the months of June, July and August.

Visit Downtown Shawnee to see some of the town's history at the Pottawatomie County Museum, located next to the Santa Fe Depot. The downtown area is pedestrian and cyclist friendly. Shopping is available at boutiques, art galleries and antique stores. Some of the popular dining options include Hamburger King, The Owl Shoppe and The Lunchbox.

Downtown Shawnee | 2.5 miles north of CPN headquarters | visitshawnee.com 🔥

CHC classes offer chance to engage with Tribal culture during Festival

Whether Tribal members attending the Family Reunion Festival want to learn how to research family history, work on creating items for their regalia or even take a tour of the CPN Eagle Aviary, there are plenty of opportunities to explore Potawatomi culture this weekend.

Absorbing Potawatomi culture and history

For those who want to appreciate and learn more about Potawatomi culture, there are several different options.

Tours to the CPN Eagle Aviary are available each day. Tours begin at 7 a.m. Friday and Saturday and at 8 a.m. Sunday and are available each hour, with the last tour beginning at 11 a.m. Those wanting to participate must register at the CHC. A bus will transport those who have signed up from the CHC to the Aviary.

An Aviary Q&A session will also take place from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday and 1 to 2:15 p.m. Saturday in the CHC Long Room.

For those who want to learn more about the Potawatomi language, there will be Potawatomi Language Research presentations from 2:15 to 2:45 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the CHC Library.

Lacrosse/stickball demonstrations will take place from 10 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. Friday, then from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday.

Author and artist Minisa Crumbo Halsey will give a presentation on her book, *Going to CPN Family Reunion*, from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday in the Long Room. She collaborated with the CPN Language Department to publish the children's book, which she wrote and illustrated. There will also be a kids workshop incorporated in the presentation.

On Saturday, there will also be a presentation about Uniontown from noon to 1 p.m. in the CHC Long Room. Tribal Legislator Jon Boursaw, Tribal member Scott Holzmeister and Dr. Blair Schneider, Ph.D., from the Kansas Geological Survey will discuss findings from the Uniontown Cemetery in Kansas.

Recording family history

Anyone interested in learning about or preserving their family history can attend workshops at the CHC.

Friday and Saturday in the CHC Long Room, there will be demonstrations of *Ancestors*, the genealogical research program, at 10 a.m., followed by a workshop on digitizing documents and photos at 11 a.m.

Tribal members can also schedule family and veteran interviews, where they can document their own history through video interviews. Pre-registration



is available through portal.potawatomi.org. See more about Heritage Interviews on page 14.

Learn to make traditional items

Throughout the weekend, there will be classes about how to make several items. All skill levels are welcome. Seating is limited and on a first come, first served basis. Most classes are free, but the drum class is \$35 per person, and the shawl and moccasin classes are \$40 per person.

From 9 a.m. to noon Friday, classes in the Long Room will include bandolier, loom beading for those between the ages of 13 to 18 (seating limited to 15 students), flat stitch earring, and hand drum making for ages 13 and older (seating limited to 10 to 15 students). In the classroom, classes will include shawl applique and shawl fringing.

From 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, classes in the Long Room will include hair pipe necklace, corn husk doll, bandolier and moccasin making (limited to 15 students). Classes in the classroom will include an applique class and a shawl fringing class.

From 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, classes in the Long Room will include choker, hand drum making for ages 14 and older (limited to 10-15 students), beaded bracelet, and moccasin making (limited to 15 students). In the classroom, there will be classes on applique and shawl fringing.

For more information, view the schedule of events handed out at registration or call the CHC at 405-848-5830. 🔥

Festival offers games, competitions for all

The 2024 Family Reunion Festival is a great time for catching up with old friends or meeting new ones, and one way to do that is entering the many contests happening over the weekend. From traditional hand games to art contests, archery and more, see a list of events below.

Hand games

Hand games is a traditional Potawatomi game that goes back generations. The traditional hand games competition will be Friday night. The family competition sometimes has more than 100 participants broken into groups of seven.

Each team of seven has one captain, one picker and two hiders. The two hiders each hold a colored bead in their hands, which they pass back and forth behind their backs as another team's picker attempts to guess where the beads are. The hiders must stay in the circles painted on the ground but can still use tactics such as dancing and singing to distract the pickers.

Once the judge calls for hands forward, the picker uses a stick to indicate one of four guesses for the location of the beads. If they guess correctly, their team gets a point. If they do not guess correctly, the other team gets a turn.

The winning team will receive \$100 for each of the seven team members.

At the beginning of the game, each team's flag will be sold at auction. The winning team will also receive 25 percent from the auction, with the remaining 75 percent going to the person who bought their flag.

Find more information about hand games on the *Hownikan* Podcast at cpn.news/handgamespod.

Art competitions

For Tribal members who enjoy the arts, there are competitions open for all ages and experience levels. Past entries in the art competitions have included mediums like painting, photography, sculpture and beadwork.

For those age 15 and younger, there are art contests available for four ages groups: age 5 and younger, ages 6-9, ages 10-12 and ages 13-15.

Each participant may enter one piece of art, and art can be submitted between 9 and 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the South Reunion Hall. All pieces must have been created before Festival but within the past three years.

First, second and third place winners will receive a gift card.

There is also an art contest for Tribal members who are 16 and older, with separate categories for amateurs and for professionals.

The professional category is for artists who have been paid for the type of work they are entering, while the amateur category is for those who have never been paid to create work in the medium for which they are entering. Contestants can only enter one of the categories.

Submissions can include all types of modern and traditional art, and the art does not have to include Indigenous themes.

Professional artists can enter only one piece. First place is \$300, and the winner will be selected by a vote of the Potawatomi people taken in the foyer of FireLake Arena.

Amateur artists can enter up to three pieces of art in two categories: photography/painting or other mediums. Winners of the amateur art contest will be selected by a professional artist, and prizes are \$300 for first, \$200 for second and \$100 for third place.

Registration for adult art contests is from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at FireLake Arena. All entries must be the work of the artist without any assistance.

All prize winners will be announced during General Council, where the prize money will be awarded. All entries must be picked up by the end of General Council.

Dance competition

During the powwow, there will be group, social and competitive dances. Competitive dance categories will include men's traditional, women's traditional and women's fancy shawl/jingle dress.

When dressing for the dances, women should have legs covered by ankle-length skirts and should carry a shawl and wear a shirt that covers the shoulders. Slacks and a ribbon shirt are appropriate for men to wear. Everyone should wear close-toed shoes.

Find more information about powwow etiquette at cpn.news/arenaetiquette.

Other competitions

Other competitions open to Tribal members will include fry bread making, softball, golf, volleyball, dominos, checkers, chess, three-on-three basketball, archery and horseshoes. Contests for children include a coloring contest, chess and checkers tournament, and youth softball throwing.

Because of construction at the FireLake Ball Fields, there will be no fishing competition this year. However, new activities will include lacrosse and a stickball skills challenge.

For some of those competitions, prizes can range from \$100 for first-place individuals to \$1,100 for first-place teams.

Look for more details in the Festival registration packet, or learn more about Festival at cpn.news/festival. 🔥



Paid for by Paul Wesselhöft

CHC adds option for online interviews

Each year at the Family Reunion Festival, the Cultural Heritage Center hopes to add to its collection of heritage interviews with Tribal members. This year, staff at the CHC is also implementing a new tech incentive program for members to conduct interviews online.

The heritage interviews project originally sought to capture the experiences of Tribal veterans and elders on video. It is now open to all Tribal members. Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett expressed a wish to get every Tribal member on camera at some point.

"We literally have hundreds of videos, but not nearly enough," Heritage Interview Clerk Christopher Lenggenhager said. "We have less than 1 percent of our Tribe. We'd appreciate more participation."

Interviews can be scheduled at portal.potawatomi.org under the Festival Interviews tab. The Cultural Heritage Center will also have signage around the Festival grounds and at registration with information about how to participate.

Interviews can be scheduled during Family Reunion Festival from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Staff lunch breaks are scheduled daily from noon to 1 p.m. Interviews can be scheduled in time slots of 30, 45 or 60 minutes.

Interviews often start with basic information, such as the Tribal member's name and age, before transitioning into a more fluid discussion that allows the interviewee to talk about whatever they feel they want to discuss. One thing participants are often asked is for thoughts they would like to pass on to their future self or to future generations.

Each interview is unique to the person or persons on camera. Some interviews are solo, and others include family members young and old. Some interviews capture historical or cultural insights, and some simply paint a picture of Tribal members sharing something about themselves and their lives in their own words.

Those who are interviewed have the option to put restrictions on the use of the interview, though that rarely happens. Participants can request a video not be shown to the public or to family, or even request it not be shown until a certain amount of time has passed.

CHC to roll out technology incentive program

The CHC is also in the process of rolling out an incentive program to encourage online interviews by sending a technology incentive package to interested parties.

"The technology package will include an HD computer camera, microphone, tripod, headphones and smartphone stand," CHC Director Blake Norton said. "Our hope



for the package is to mitigate any issues related to travel, cost, time, interview apprehension, etc. that have proven to be interview hindrances in the past."

With the package, CHC staff hope to be able to offer a chance for Tribal members to conduct interviews free of charge in the comfort of their own homes.

The CHC plans to start with interested parties completing an application to be part of a control group.

"Our major goal for the technology incentive is to create an open door of communication with every potential interviewee that will result in not just one interview, but many conducted over years," Norton said. "Rather than preserving a single interview, we have the opportunity to collect an entire biography."

In the past two years, the CHC has captured 73 interviews. The hope with the new technology incentive is to increase those numbers.

In addition to giving Tribal members an easy way of communicating with CHC staff and sharing records and photos, Norton believes the platform will also help CHC staff to manage, catalog and store the interviews.

"For our veteran participants, the online platform will also provide links and information to programs and services available for veterans (mental health, child care, career help, housing, food assistance, etc.)," Norton said.

Look for more information at registration and on signs located around the Festival. 🔥

Variety of activities geared toward youth

If parents and their children have never attended Family Reunion Festival before, there are several activities to keep youth busy during the day. For those who are returning to Festival, favorite activities will return to the schedule.

"We will be offering arts and crafts, we will also be hosting chess and checkers, a coloring contest, and a youth art competition," said Susie Freeman-Harbison, administrative assistant, CPN Child Development Center. "We encourage children to come to see us at the South Reunion Hall."

Friday

Youth arts and crafts begin at 9 a.m. in the South Reunion Hall. Staff will pause for a lunch break at 11:30 a.m.

The 12 and under youth coloring contest takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the South Reunion Hall.

The swimming pool and splash pad at the powwow grounds both open at 9 a.m. The swimming pool at the child care center opens at 10 a.m. Both pools close at 7 p.m. The



pool at the child care center is deep and recommended for older children or experienced swimmers.

Chess and checkers for ages 15 and under gets underway at 1 p.m. at the South Reunion Hall. The games conclude at 3 p.m.

Youth arts and crafts resume at 1 p.m. in the South Reunion Hall and runs until 4 p.m.

The youth dance begins at 7 p.m. just south of FireLake Discount Foods. Dancing continues until midnight.

Saturday

Registration for the ages 15 and under art contest opens at 9 a.m. at the South Reunion Hall. Registration concludes and judging begins at 10 a.m.

Youth arts and crafts begin at 9 a.m. in the South Reunion Hall. Staff will pause for a lunch break at 11:30 a.m.

The swimming pool and splash pad at the powwow grounds are both open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The swimming pool at the child care center is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Youth arts and crafts resume at 1 p.m. in the South Reunion Hall and continues until 4 p.m.

The three-on-three basketball competition for youth ages 14 and under begins at 9 a.m. at the after school facility gym, located next to the CPN Wellness Center. Competition continues until the winners are crowned.

Sunday

On the final day of the 2024 Family Reunion Festival, the swimming pool at the powwow grounds opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 2 p.m. 🔥



Powwow etiquette

The Saturday powwow during Family Reunion Festival is a wonderful way to experience Nishnabé culture, both traditional and contemporary. Here is how to make your experience even better.

Is the powwow social or ceremonial?

Powwows are largely social but still involve some ceremonial elements. It is important to be respectful. The dance circle is reserved for those dancing or singing. Don't walk across the dance circle. Please ensure that small children do not run or play in the dance circle.

The powwow opens with Grand Entry at 8 p.m. Everyone who is able should stand as the eagle staff and flags are brought in by veterans and elders. During the Flag Song, or other honor songs, everyone will remain standing. Men should remove their hats.

I've never danced before, but I'd like to dance. What do I need to know?

Dance demonstrations and practice will take place Saturday prior to Grand Entry. This is an opportunity for first time dancers to practice before the powwow. There are also videos online on the different types of powwow dance styles.

All dancers are welcome during intertribal songs. Listen to the Master of Ceremonies, or emcee. They will announce when all dancers are invited to enter the circle.

Women should wear their regalia or a long maxi-type skirt and a top that covers their shoulders. Women may wear their shawl across their shoulders or carry it folded on their arm. Men should wear a ribbon shirt and slacks. It is acceptable to add ribbons to a commercially made shirt. Everyone should wear close-toed shoes. The dance circle is grass covered, so flat shoes are best.

Dancers will move in a clockwise direction around the circle.

During contest songs, or other special songs, exit the dance circle so that contestants or those being honored may dance.

If you are participating in Grand Entry, head to the Grand Entry point a few minutes before it begins. An arena director will help everyone find their place. If you are participating with one of the honored families, gather with your family members.

I'm not dancing, so how should I enjoy myself?

Seating is available around the dance circle. You may bring your own outdoor-type chair or sit in the bleachers. The benches around the circle are reserved for dancers. Please do not sit on the benches or move any blankets or regalia placed on the benches.



Listen carefully to the singers and observe how slowly or quickly the beat moves. Sometimes you may be able to pick out *Bodéwadmimwen* words or other Indigenous languages being used.

Watch the dancers and note the differences between each style of dance. Appreciate the wide variety of colors, beadwork and other elements each dancer wears. Notice the different materials used, both modern and traditional. Many dancers spend months or even years preparing their regalia. Some pieces are proudly handed down from previous generations.

It is not acceptable to touch a dancer's regalia without permission. Some regalia items may become damaged if casually handled, or they may have spiritual significance and should not be touched by others.

Can I take photos?

Photography is permitted but do not use flash photography during a contest or honor song. It is distracting to the dancers. Do not step in or stand inside the dance circle while taking photos.

Always ask permission before taking someone's photo. Please respect their preference not to be photographed if they decline.

A good opportunity for photos may be found away from the dance circle. Many dancers are happy to socialize and answer questions in between songs.

To respect the sacred nature of the dance circle, food, beverages, smoking and pets are not permitted.

Read more about powwow etiquette at cpn.news/festival. 🔥

RE-ELECT PAUL WESSELHÖFT

District. 9, Oklahoma

Fifth generation Oklahoman
M.A. in Religion, M.Div. in Theology
Married 44 years to Judy— son Justin, daughter Holly
Great-great-great grandson of Abraham Burnett
Native American Name: *Neganit*, meaning Leader

Retired Chaplain, U.S. Army Major
Airborne Ranger, First Ranger Battalion
Served in Army during the Vietnam War era
Served in combat in the First Persian Gulf War

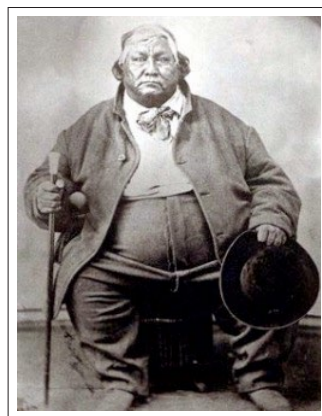
Elected 12 years to the Oklahoma House of Representatives
Chairman of the Joint House-Senate Committee on Tribal Relations
Organized the first committee/forum on Tribal Relations
Debated and voted on thousands of bills, authored many
Authored bill honoring Oklahoma's Billy Walkabout,
Most decorated Indian soldier in the Vietnam War

Elected Oklahoma Representative in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's
National Legislature, discussed and voted on hundreds of Resolutions
Elected Delegate to National Congress of American Indians, 65th Congress

Author of two books: *The Redfeather Pentalogy* (fiction) about a
Potawatomi boy growing up in Oklahoma, and *Eros: Penultimate Love*
(poetry). Next book: *Native* a collection of articles, essays and poems about
Potawatomis.

"I'm legislatively experienced and committed to making our nation
responsive to members, economically prosperous, and culturally great!
I will represent you. **Please vote for me.**"

(Paid for by Paul Wesselhöft, M.A., M. Div.)





CPN graduates celebrated

Whether they'd completed high school or college, Citizen Potawatomi Nation celebrated its recent graduates with a graduation celebration and lunch.

Seven families from as far away as Maryland arrived at the Long Room of the CHC Saturday, April 27, to recognize graduates who had received high school diplomas up to a master's degree.

CPN Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps spoke at the event before the graduates were honored.

Each grad received a limited edition print of the winning piece from the art contest, 8th Generation socks, a padfolio and some traditional medicines before taking photos with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.



In addition to the seven graduates honored at the CHC, 39 who could not attend in person also signed up for a virtual celebration. Those graduates were mailed a copy of the art print.

The celebration originated in 2017 to honor the graduating class at St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, Oklahoma, which has since closed its doors. Since 2019, CPN has continued to host a graduation celebration on the last Saturday of April.

Any coming graduates who are interested in attending — either in person or virtually — can look for the Graduation Celebration tab on the Education portion of the Portal. Students can also apply for an honor cord if they are graduating with a 3.9 GPA. 🔥

Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

It's TICK season! Most of us have experienced the dreaded tick bite after spending the day, or even a few minutes, outdoors in the yard, woods or park. They are so common and there are a lot of myths about what to do when you find a tick, how to prevent them and what diseases they might spread.

What are ticks and what do they look like? Ticks are a type of arachnid, so they have eight legs. They feed on blood from all kinds of animals, including birds, deer and you. Their flat, oval bodies swell when they eat. Ticks are also very small and hard to spot. Although I have personally been in areas where they were so large and numerous that I could see and hear them crawling in the dry leaves around me.

Where do ticks live? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, or animals and your yard. They are everywhere.

What do you do if you find a tick? Avoid "folk" remedies such as applying nail polish, petroleum jelly or heat to cause a tick to detach. The tick should be removed from your skin as quickly as possible. The CDC has a "Tick Bite Bot" that will provide instructions for removing a tick and what to do next. It's important to not jerk or twist the tick, as this could leave its mouth embedded in the skin. The CDC recommends:

Use clean, fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.

Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth parts to break off and remain in the skin. If you cannot remove the mouth easily with tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.

Thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. Note: Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by placing it in a sealed bag/container or fold it into a piece of tape.

How to prevent tick bites: The best way to prevent tick bites is to know where to expect them and avoid those areas. If you are hiking or camping, stay on the center of trails. Clothing and gear can be treated with permethrin to repel ticks, or any insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD) or 2-undecanone. After spending time outdoors, always check your clothing, outdoor gear, skin and pets for ticks, and shower as soon as possible.

After removing a tick, most people will be fine. But keep an eye out for any new symptoms over the next 30 days. Ticks can pass along bacteria, viruses or parasites. Watch for symptoms such as fever or chills,



MY MOM SENT ME THIS BOOK
FOR MY BIRTHDAY!

rash, nausea, vomiting, headache, body aches, joint pain, tiredness or swollen lymph nodes. If you develop any of these symptoms, you should see your doctor. In Oklahoma, the Rocky Mountain spotted fever is the most common tick disease. Be safe and careful. *Migwetch.*

During Thursday and Friday of CPN Festival registration, I'll be drawing caricatures of visitors to the veterans' table. I hope to see you there.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Organization will not have a regular Tuesday evening meeting in June, but we will have a meeting of CPN veterans and visitors on Saturday during the CPN Festival in the second floor meeting room of the golf club house at 9 a.m. Afterward, we will retire flags at the Powwow Grounds and demonstrate the fold of the flag.

Our regular Tuesday meetings will begin again in July on the 23 at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there). We hope to see you then.

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

Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho Jayek, (Hello everyone),

As we head into June, we will be getting ready for Festival. We also have a group of folks with us for an eight-week immersion starting May 13. There will be three apprentices and then four language staff as part of the group. We also have several people who asked if they could join us for a week or two depending on their availability. The more the merrier within reason. So, we should have three to four folks auditing the course. The first week we will be dealing with VAI verbs/basic background, followed by VII verbs in Week 2, VTI verbs in Week 3 and VTA verbs in Week 4. Each week we will be doing conversational skits, cultural activities and listening drills. In weeks 5-8 we will mostly be doing conversational drills, listening drills with TPRS type stories etc. We will try to go live for a few different times each week when possible so that folks can join in with us from all over the United States and world.

For Festival this year we are going to do a series of riddles instead of the scavenger hunt. But this is something we will make available for folks to do regardless of where they live. We will post it in our Potawatomi Language Facebook group. We will also have a number of classes — some for beginners, intermediate level and also for kids — as well as our very popular Potawatomi Bingo.

In the bags this year we will be putting a magnet for your refrigerator with common phrases to use in the kitchen that will also have QR codes on it. We also plan on including some common phrases which will also have a QR code for you to listen to them. Also, we have several books left from our previous grant so we will be putting in different books in the language for you with — you guessed it — QR codes in the back which will read the book to you.

Here is a short sample of those common expressions for you to try out:

Mno magwet — It smells good. (minoh mahg wit)

Mnopkwet ne? — Does it taste good? (minope quit nay)

Mnopkwet — It tastes good. (minope quit)

Ggashknabegwe ne? — Are you thirsty?
(guh gash knah bagway nay)

Bgeji — A little bit (buh geh gee)

Konege — Yes (cone nuh gay)

Dokem — Quiet (doe kum)

Wijeweshen — Come with me. (wee juh way shin)

Neyap byan — Come back. (nay yap bee yan)

Nasena — Be careful (nah sin nah)

Nekshe ebmoseyen — Look where you are walking. (nukshay be moe say yin)

Nizanet — It's dangerous. (knee zan it)

Wi gmowen — It's going to rain. (week mow in)

Wi gmowen ne? — Is it going to rain? (week mow in nay)

Mno gishget — It's a nice/beautiful day. (mino geesh git)

Wi mno gishget — It's going to be a nice day. (wee mino geesh git)

Ggi mno mba ne? — Did you sleep well? (geem nome bah nay)

Konege ngi mno mba — Yes, I slept well.
(cone nuh gay ngeem nome ba)

Byé-wisnen — Come eat. (bee yah wees nin)

Byé-wisnek — Come eat (plural) (bee yah wees nuck)

Jigwek bmozewat — The thunders are walking. (geeg weck buh moe say wat)

(Old saying to indicate the thunders/a storm has approached.)

Gmikwénmego — You are remembered/
thought of. (guh meek win muh go)

(Said when someone sneezes.)

Migwetch (Thank you) 🙌

**Interested in going to the 2024
Potawatomi Gathering?**

Contact our travel department at travel@potawatomi.org or 405-275-3121

From the executives



John "Rocky" Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bozho nikan, (Hello, my friend),

It is time to welcome everyone back for the Family Reunion Festival 2024.

There is nothing better than seeing everyone enjoy each other while celebrating our shared culture. More than any other time, we all become family. Tribal leaders, along with our employees and local Tribal members, work hard to make sure the annual event gets better each year.

After last year's Family Reunion Festival, a planning group gathered to discuss items that were important to continue and others that needed to be improved before this year's big gathering.

One of the most notable changes is the expansion of hours for you to register when you arrive.

This year, registration hours at FireLake Arena will be:

- Thursday – 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday – 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Important Request:

During registration hours, there will be a booth for our Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services to help sign up new patients. ***It is vital that you register your Potawatomi family with our medical system! Here is why:***

Our access to Indian Health Service federal funding is dependent on how many active patients we serve in central Oklahoma. If you and your enrolled family are not signed up as active patients, we lose medical services money!

Chris Skillings and our medical professionals work every day to improve access to and the quality of the medical services we provide. They are working hard to make sure every patient can see top notch doctors quickly to improve health outcomes for all Tribal members in our service area. If you haven't already, signing up to be a new patient during your time at this year's Festival is a Tribal duty! Please help your people to have the best medical services we can provide.

Another important part of every Festival is the Tribal election. This year, Election Committee staff is spending extra time to make sure the voting booths are in good shape and work for our voters. We also noted a minor error on the annual budget ballot. During the printing process, a number was left off the total in one place on the ballot. We have notified voters in several ways. If you have any questions, you can contact any of our election officials or anyone in the Public Information Department.

We also want our people to be more comfortable while they are on the reunion grounds. June in Oklahoma can be quite warm. Depend on it! In past years, a few locations have had misters to help people cool off. Those areas have become so popular that we decided to add even more this year. It is important to us that everyone is safe and comfortable during your visit and this should help.

We also heard many reports that our meat cooker near the pavilion created enough smoke that people trying to enjoy meals were made uncomfortable. Our employees have already begun the process to move the cooker to a new spot where the smoke won't be as much of a problem. While they are moving the cooker, they are also repairing the awning to make sure it will serve the Tribe for years into the future.

There are also plans to hold lacrosse and stickball demonstrations and there is a new cornhole competition at the Mini Putt Building to add to the fun.

As always, we look forward to seeing everyone at the Family Reunion Festival.

Megwetch (Thank you),

John "Rocky" Barrett | Geweoge (He Leads Them Home) | Tribal Chairman



Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

One program at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation that is long-standing, but little known to the public outside of families seeking assistance for their young children, is our Women, Infants and Children program or WIC. What is WIC, who qualifies and how does a family apply for services? The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides nutrition education, supplemental food, healthcare referrals and breastfeeding support to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children up to age five.

The WIC Program is a short-term resource for some of the country's most vulnerable populations. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides grants to WIC state agencies (typically in the Department of Health or Human Services) to administer the program. WIC state agencies in turn recruit and approve local agencies (typically health entities that provide pediatric and obstetric care) to provide health services and nutrition education to clients.

WIC is available in all 50 states, 34 Indian Tribal Organizations, American Samoa, District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. In fiscal year 2022, WIC served about 6.3 million participants each month, including an estimated 40 percent of all infants in the United States. The WIC Program was last reauthorized in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. This act authorizes funding for not only WIC, but also funding for federal school meals and child nutrition programs. It increases access to healthy food for low-income children. The bill that reauthorizes these programs is often referred to as the child nutrition reauthorization bill.

Eligibility for WIC includes women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have recently given birth and infants and children up to the age of five. Applicants must have income at or below an income level or standard set by the state agency in which they live. For example, in Oklahoma the household size and maximum income level per year is \$27,861 for one person; \$37,814 for two people; \$47,767 for three people; \$57,720 for four people, etc. Another method by which to calculate eligibility is by multiplying the annual federal poverty guideline by 1.85 (185 percent) and rounding the results upward to the nearest dollar amount. There is no gross income limit in Oklahoma for homes with a household member who is 60 years of age (or older) or who has a disability. In addition, if you receive Medicaid, SNAP or TANF, you are automatically eligible for WIC benefits.

WIC was established in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, in 1974. This year is the 50th anniversary of the program's service to millions of families throughout the United States and its territories. I am not surprised that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation was close behind 1974 in forming our own WIC program in January of 1979, representing 45 years of dedicated service to WIC families. Director Shelley Schneider has been with CPN's WIC program for 37 of those years. Congratulations to Mrs. Schneider for her years of service to the surrounding area. Her staff is outstanding, with some of them serving the Tribe for over 20 years. CPN's WIC program represents thousands of women, infants and children that have benefited from this healthy, nutritional program.

Cheryl Richardson works for Mrs. Schneider as the Nutrition and Breastfeeding Coordinator. She oversees the BabyMobile, which comes to the WIC program service area on a regular basis. The program serves children from birth to 3 years old. An ad is included in this article that gives information about the BabyMobile. For Oklahoma residents with questions about the application process for WIC, please call 1-888-OKLAWIC (1-888-655-2942).

Thank you for letting me serve as your vice chairman.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Linda Capps | Segenakwe (Black Bird Woman) | Vice-Chairman
Work: 405-275-3121 | Cell: 405-650-1238 | lcapps@potawatomi.org



NEW! Visits now renew every January! Each child can receive up to four visits each year.

- Eligible age: Birth - 3 years
- No appointment needed; while supplies last
- Legal guardian must be present
- Child does not need to be present
- Receive one week's worth of diapers and formula **OR** food

The Infant Crisis Services' BabyMobile will be at

CPN WIC Shawnee 1601 S Gordon Cooper Dr Shawnee 74801

Date: June 4th, 2024 **Time:** 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Text "BabyMobile" to 484848 for full schedule





D. Wayne Trousdale Secretary/Treasurer

Bozho (Hello),

This article should be in the June issue of the *Hownikan*, your Tribal publication. As the CPN annual Festival is always the last weekend in June, let this serve as an additional invitation for you to attend. If you have never been able to attend the Festival, then you have been missing out on a great four days of opportunities to more closely associate with your Tribal Nation. I realize that schedules are fully packed with many obligations and that many of our members live far from the reservation, but if you are able to attend I believe that you would greatly appreciate the experience that you would have. The CPN staff creates a full slate of activities to both entertain and enlighten you. Speaking of the CPN staff, our employees are simply the best and the effort that they put into making our Festival first rate every year is amazing. We could not have a Festival of this proportion if it were not for the CPN employees.

There are many reasons to attend but let me mention a few. Firstly, we have a meeting of the General Council. The General Council is comprised of all of the members of the Nation and we will convene on Saturday afternoon for a presentation of the current events of the Tribe and the annual financial update. Since this is also the weekend where both absentee and live ballots are cast for the appropriate elected officials and budget items, the Council meeting is where the results of those elections are announced and the winning candidates are sworn in. The right to vote is a tremendous responsibility and I encourage everyone to exercise that right. Exercising our rights establishes the legitimacy of our government and us as a sovereign people. We must continue to exercise our rights so that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation endures throughout time, giving future generations the opportunities that we currently enjoy.

There will be many different opportunities to learn about our Tribe, such as touring the Cultural Heritage Center and seeing the many displays from our history when we lived in the Great Lakes area up to our removal to Kansas and our eventual reservation in Oklahoma. You can attend classes on beading, moccasin making and other crafts. The CPN Aviary will also conduct tours where you can observe, at close range, the bald eagles that are so important to the Potawatomi. You will also want to pay a visit to our language education group where you will discover many resources to learn about our native language. Perhaps speaking our language has limited opportunities in the outside world, but it is of vital importance to maintaining our culture for future generations. Our veterans' group will be present and will lead everyone in at Grand Entry Saturday evening. Our people have always bravely fought in the Armed Services, and we are immensely proud of their sacrifice.

There will be a lot of construction going on during this year's Festival, and that indicates how the Nation must keep moving forward to continue to provide the services to our people. We must perform better each year financially so that we may continue to serve our people in need. This is a tremendous responsibility that every one of your elected officials shares. The recent trends in an accelerated inflation curve have created a challenging environment financially for the Tribe as you have no doubt experienced in your own personal lives. The Nation has performed very well financially, even in this environment. Investing in our business units at the Nation is a necessary component of that future success.

I truly hope that you will be able to share in this year's Festival. If you cannot attend, please visit our website and take part in whatever you can and be involved with your Tribe. I thank you again for allowing me to be your Secretary/Treasurer and I continue to commit to act in the Nation's best interest for its people. Thank you for allowing me this honor.

Migwetch (Thank you),

D. Wayne Trousdale | Netemgiwse (Hunts First) | Secretary/Treasurer | 405-275-3121 | dtrousdale@potawatomi.org

JOIN THE NISHNABE NERDS FACEBOOK GROUP

A community space from the CPN Department of Education for Potawatomi students, parents, educators and community members.

Share ideas, resources, questions and goals about learning and education in a supportive environment.

Fanning the flames of the Seventh Fire for the next seven generations through education!

 NISHNABE NERDS

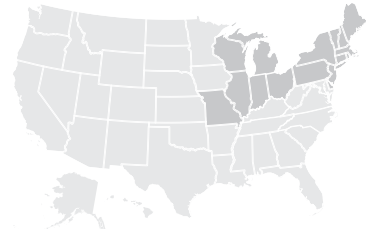
From the legislature



Alan Melot District 1

Bozho, jayek (Hello, everyone),

I hope you are all well. It was good to see everyone who was able to make it to our Chicago meeting, and I sure appreciate Sharon Hoogstraten and District 2 Legislator Eva Marie Carney sharing their hearts and work with us. Meeting in downtown Chicago has definite challenges, but it was a real privilege to visit and meet at the very place where Potawatomi defended our lands so many years ago.



Our annual Festival in Oklahoma is upon us, and I look forward to meeting you there and visiting

with you if you are able to make it. Last year as I walked through our campgrounds, someone pointed me out and told their kid, "There's one of the people who runs the Tribe!" That was kind of a grounding moment for me, and I felt more of the weight of being an elected official who is tasked with representing you within our government. I often think of our ancestors, and moments like that really bring it home. I have a wide variety of characters in my ancestry, both villains and heroes. This past weekend, my parents were talking about family members who have walked on, and the ones we celebrate are the ones who were generous, had wisdom and lived with integrity and love. These are qualities that I have cultivated in my own life and that I hope are evident as I work to represent your concerns in our Tribal government.



Chicago meeting attendees at the sculpture of Chief Naunongee



D1 Legislator Alan Melot presents Dennis Marquis, the wisest in attendance, with a blanket at the April meeting in Chicago

You may notice that the proposed budget looks different than in years past, and I am quite proud of this update. I asked our legislature to consider some additions earlier in the year to update the proposed budget to reflect current priorities. One priority I had was the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association, but it was agreed that funding for that should go through different channels.

When I ran for office, #LandBack was a priority for me; we don't have the infrastructure in place to support land acquisitions in D1, so I've felt a bit defeated on that issue. Vice-Chairman Linda Capps brought this up as an interest of hers recently and I was excited and was immediately on board to move this financial priority to the forefront of the Nation.

We (the legislature) updated this budget, which now includes a significant amount of money to purchase land that is in the boundaries of the Nation. Land in Oklahoma isn't Great Lakes Potawatomi ancestral homeland, but it is Citizen Potawatomi homeland; I'm all for buying as much of it as we can, to return it to ourselves for use as we please. It's #LandBack in the only way we are currently positioned for, and I'm both proud of and fully supportive of this budget.

If you live in the eastern parts of our district, start planning to attend a meeting in Reading, Pennsylvania, in the first part

of October. Details aren't all worked out yet, but I'm working with Amanda Funk to make it happen in her neck of the woods. I'll be excited to travel further east and meet some new faces!

Until then, reach out in all of the usual ways if I can help or if you just want to chat.

Bama Pi! (Later)

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



Eva Marie Carney District 2

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

June 8 beading class

District 2 resident and jewelry maker Sierra Waterman-Wells/Senajewen, taught a brick stitch beading class from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, 2024. District 2 hosted folks at Saltbox, 4700 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia. It's an interesting, shared office/warehouse space, part of which I lease for The Kwek Society. All materials were provided at no charge; class size was limited to 15 and the minimum age for participation was 12 years old.

District 2 Rogers, Arkansas meeting.

Migwetch (thank you) to all who attended our meeting April 20. I've included a group photo documenting our gathering; what isn't captured are the strong family feelings and the various kindnesses extended to each other that day. Folks were surprised and pleased that Chairman Rocky Barrett made the 3.5-hour drive to attend the meeting and they welcomed District 1 Legislator Alan Melot who travelled from Missouri to be with us. Our wisest attendee was Sheila Hill (Smith Family) and our farthest travelled was Dave Hill, from Hot Springs Village, Arkansas (likewise a 3.5-hour drive). Our youngest attendee, Atri (Anderson Family), brought joy to the meeting and was a true gentleman — after a couple hours he needed to get home for a nap but made sure to go over and shake Chairman Barrett's hand before exiting. *Igwien* (heartfelt thanks) to Alan and Paula Johnson (Wilmette Family), and their family members, for so ably hosting us.

Please know that all are welcome to attend District 2 meetings if you can make the trip!

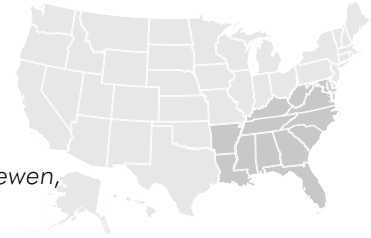
Book report.

I recently picked up an interesting memoir, *Thinning*

Blood: A Memoir of Family, Myth, and Identity, by Leah Myers. Her memoir opens intriguingly with —

No one taught me to be Native American. My mother taught me that I was, but she did not have the context for what that heritage meant. My grandmother mentioned it very little, even though it was visible in her features. Yet from my earliest memories, being Native has always been an integral part of my identity. Even though I was raised far from my tribe, far from any tribe, I heard the drumbeat of our traditions in my heart. My name is Leah Kallen Myers. I am the last member of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in my family line.

I'm looking forward to diving into the book — let me know what you think of it if you do, too!



District 2 Meeting Attendees, Rogers, Arkansas, April 20, 2024



Delighted onlookers as Atri receives his gift blanket

Migwetch (Thank you),

Eva Marie Carney | Ojindiskwe (Bluebird Woman) | ecarney@potawatomi.org | evamariocarney@gmail.com
evamariocarney.com | PO Box 5595 | Arlington, VA 22205 | Toll Free: 866-961-6988

Family news.

Congratulations to District 2's Luke Ziegler/Mnomdwedebanat, who graduated May 6, 2024, with a Ph.D. in Instructional Technology from Georgia State University. Luke's dissertation focused on the relationship between culturally responsive teaching and instructional technology among teachers of American Indian students in the 2019 National Indian Education Study. Luke expects to take a postdoctoral research position at Georgia State, focused on using generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. He shared that his goal is to use his academic career to support American Indian education and amplify Native voices and that this postdoc opportunity would afford him expertise in leveraging AI in education for Native students.

I first met Luke in September 2009, in connection with a Ziegler family naming ceremony held in North Carolina. His grandfather Carl Ziegler/Numat walked on in 2013 and his memory is a blessing to many.

Please keep in touch and share family news when you can.

Hand Games participation.

I look forward to seeing folks during our Family Reunion Festival; contact me if you are interested in participating in our District 2 Hand Games Team during the Friday night of Festival!

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Matt Brown
SVP, MORTGAGE DIRECTOR | NMLS #908374
MBROWN@BANKSOVEREIGN.COM
405.619.8140

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Sovereign BANK



Bob Whistler District 3

Bozho ginwa (Hello everyone),

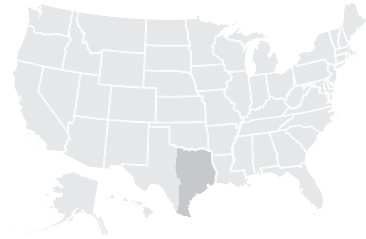
D3 Meetings

There was a meeting on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Emerald Beach Hotel, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

On Saturday, April 20, a District 3 meeting was held in Tyler, Texas, at the Historical Aviation Memorial Museum located at the Tyler airport. Due to very heavy rain that day we had a number of cancellations. At the meeting I covered changes that are taking place with our Nation in Shawnee in 2024 with completion in 2025 as well as a change that will commence in 2025 and be completed in 2026. My presentation included information on our new Sovereign Bank building in Oklahoma City and our new manufacturing facility, Sovereign Pipe Technologies, at our Iron Horse Industrial Park.

Our Eldest, Bill Klotz, was presented with a saddle blanket. Our youngest and also the same person who drove the furthest from Shawnee was Cole Capps. Cole was given a small blanket for being the youngest and a coffee cup for driving furthest. We were very fortunate to have Vice-Chairman Linda Capps in attendance.

The craft I chose for this meeting was a small wooden loom to make a pad for possibly a coffee cup. The loom was partially strung to allow them to get off to a good start with the weaving. I chose to do this with the kit I made to save some time and be sure the loom was setup properly from the start. They had the strung loom, yarn, a plastic needle and a straw that assists with the weaving. I am including a photo of a finished pad on the loom.



Finished pad

1,300 to 130 acres

The second treaty of Prairie du Chien was approved by the U.S. Senate in February 1831. This treaty allowed individuals to settle permanently and legally in specified areas. Prairie Band Chief *Shab-eh-nay* and his band settled in a 1,300-acre area in Illinois. While visiting friends in Kansas in 1849, the federal government declared the land abandoned and sold the land through public auction. That land legally still belongs to the Prairie Band Nation. In recent years, the Prairie Band has been buying land in that same area of Illinois. On April 19, the recent 130 acres now owned in Illinois was put in trust through the Department of Interior. This resulted in the state of Illinois now having them as the only federally-recognized Native American tribe. They are to be congratulated on their persistence in regaining their presence on the land they once occupied.



Cole Capps, Linda Capps, Bill Klotz and Bob Whistler

Festival Backpacks

When you get your backpacks at the Family Reunion Festival this year the language department plans to include a sheet that has various word/phrase areas. It will include Getting to Know Someone, Weather, Food and Miscellaneous. Our director, Justin Neely, and his group put together the means to hear each language phrase on your cell phone by including a QR code on the page. Please go online on your phone if you don't have a QR reading application and download it. This will help you learn our language even easier. It is great to see that our staff continues to come up with ways to help us in different areas such as this example.

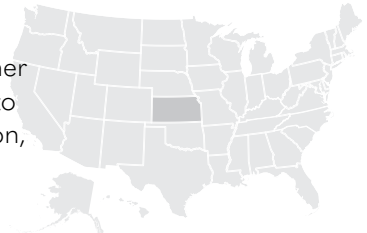
I hope to see many of you at Family Reunion Festival later this month. Be sure to say hello. In the meantime, thank you for the honor of representing you for District 3.

Nagech (Later),

Bob Whistler | *Bmashi* (He Soars) | rwhistler@potawatomi.org | cpn3legislator@yahoo.com
1516 Wimberly Ct. | Bedford, TX 76021 | 817-229-6271 | cpndistrict3.com



Jon Boursaw District 4



Peggy and I, along with Lyman’s daughter, Nicole Boursaw Lux and her husband Tony, want to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to those individuals who have expressed their sympathy and compassion, in person or by mail, regarding the loss of my brother, Lyman.

We were fortunate to be able to hold a Celebration of Life for Lyman in the CPN Community Center in Rossville. Chairman Rocky Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and Housing Director Scott George, along with a large group of relatives, friends, and Tribal members, were in attendance. Chairman Barrett smudged the attendees prior to offering sincere comments and personal reflections about Lyman. The attendees were also honored to have Scott George sing a beautiful Native American song in the Osage language, which he had composed.

In the front of the room next to the podium was a small table containing a very striking handmade drum, a beautifully decorated box containing the U.S. flag, and a magnificent wooden box containing Lyman’s ashes. Next to the table was an Eagle Staff adorned with the head of a bald eagle, badges of the U.S. military services and multiple eagle feathers. All four items were handmade by my cousin, Joe Wulfkhule, truly a skilled craftsman, and yes, an artist.

The plans are for Lyman’s ashes to be inurned in the Tribe’s recently finished columbarium in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Upcoming CPN Elders’ Potluck: No Potluck in July

Two activities during the Family Reunion Festival

During the festival we are planning to have two activities on the calendar. They are:

On Saturday morning, June 29, I will be joined by Tribal member Scott Holzmeister and Dr. Blair Schneider, Ph.D., from the Kansas Geological Survey in the Long Room in the Cultural Heritage Center where we will give a presentation on what we have found at the Uniontown Cemetery. We will have photos and maps of what we have discovered at the cemetery and then discuss what we propose to accomplish in the coming months.

You may recall that last September the participants on the Potawatomi Trail of Death were treated to a breakfast at Heritage Park near Olathe, Kansas, hosted by the Johnson County Parks Department. During that event the Parks Department staff introduced their plans to have a permanent art exhibit at the trail marker in Heritage Park. That plan has progressed to the point where the final three proposed art exhibits will be available for your viewing during the Festival in the Cultural Heritage Center. After you have viewed the proposed exhibits, you will be asked which one you like the best. Your input will be important in the final decision as to which one of the proposed exhibits will be selected. Please take the time to view the exhibits and enter your selection.

Contact Information

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 email me your email address.

Megwetch (Thank you),

Jon Boursaw | Wetase Mkoh (Brave Bear) | jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org | 785-608-1982
2007 SW Gage Blvd. | Topeka, KS 66604 | Office Hours: Tuesday 9-11 a.m. | Thursdays 3-5 p.m. | Other times as requested



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION HEALTH SERVICES

FOLLOW US!   **POTAWATOMIHEALTH**



Gene Lambert District 5

Bozho (Hello),

After years of requesting a return meeting to the Phoenix Zoo, we finally made it back. It only took 20 years. Lots of new faces and many old friends and family but not as many children as I expected.

Last year we did the petting zoo and boarded a train, which unfortunately is no longer available due to insurance issues.

We met at the Butterfly Pavilion in Colorado years ago and we had an entire classroom of 30 children in attendance. They were so excited waiting for the moment to see all the butterflies. It was great watching all the well-behaved little Potawatomi.

These are great meetings and designed to bring the next generation in. We want them to have positive remembrances and choose to attend CPN gatherings or meetings as adults and bring their children.

Scott Holmeister gave a presentation on the work that has been going on in Kansas while assisting John Boursaw, the legislator for that district, in upgrading the neglected gravesites of our people. It is exhilarating to see and heartening to know the years of neglect are over.

Our ancestors must be pleased to know the gratitude we share for all they went through so we would survive and they could be buried with dignity.

There were eight or nine kachinas at every table and a drawing for first choice after a wonderful picnic-style luncheon was served. The ticket drawing assistant was served by our youngest, Peter Daniels.

Thanks and kudos to Shelby Silver, Joshua, and of course, Gabby for the wonderful service and bringing it all together for us.

As usual we had our acknowledgements for our youngest, Peter Daniels, 9 years old, from the Melot family. The distance was won by Suzanne Brown from the Toupin family and, of course, our wisest went to Joy Esch, 82 years old, from the Navarre family.

I am going to have to admit the photos did not come out clear enough to print in the magazine article and I am so sorry. Promise to do better next time.

Just as a side note, did anyone notice or hear about the baby white buffalo born on April 24, 2024? I understand another was born in Texas close to the same time.

Google will have to catch up on the dates and times of the white buffalo. I was shocked to see what it said. Not accurate. Maybe by the time this comes out they will have updated the information.

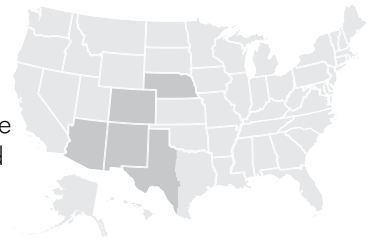
This means better times are on their way according to legend and the white buffalo woman. You can find these stories very quickly online. We did have four white buffalo being cared for in Sedona, Arizona, but have since been moved to Oregon. This is a fascinating legend I wrote about years ago and I am still fascinated by it.

Hopefully we will get to see a lot of you at the Family Reunion Festival the last week of June and enjoy relatives, friends and all the exciting new projects at home. I love it!

In the meantime, take care of yourselves and be sure to say "I love you" to those you care about. Don't think they already know. We all need to hear it sometimes.

Your legislator,

Gene Lambert (Eunice Imogene Lambert) | Butterfly Woman | glambert@potawatomi.org
270 E Hunt Highway Ste 229 | San Tan Valley, AZ 85143 | Cell: 480-228-6569 | Office: 480-668-0509



VISIT US ONLINE

POTAWATOMI.ORG



Mark Johnson District 7

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends),

A whole year has passed since the last Family Reunion Festival in Shawnee, and it is always a great time to visit with family and friends. I hope to see many of you in Shawnee. This year's dates are June 28 through June 30. The Honored Families for 2024 are Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Levier, Lewis, Nadeau, Negahnquet, Pambogo and Smith. It is also important that you cast your vote in every Tribal election, so if you requested an absentee ballot, please remember to hurry and return it — your vote is still important — and make sure your family across our Nation votes also.

If you have never attended a Family Reunion Festival, or if it has just been a while, you should plan on attending, especially if you are among the Honored Families. It will be a trip you will never forget and will bring you much closer to your tribal family and heritage. It will also give you the chance to see our

history in living color at our Tribal Cultural Heritage Center and meet relatives from all over our Nation.

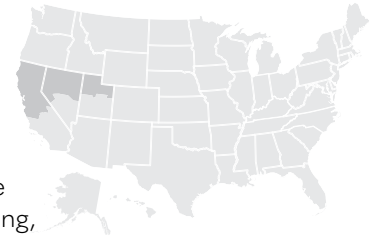
Many craft classes are taught at the Heritage Center during the Festival, and you can take a tour of the Eagle Aviary also. Games and sports are also held throughout the gathering. If you are an artist, you can also enter the Tribal art competition with the winners announced at the General Council meeting on Saturday of the Festival, along with the Grand Entry dancing later that evening. More information and the schedule of Honored Families through 2028 can be found on the Tribal website at cpn.news/festival.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Family Reunion Festival. My number is listed below if you would like to meet and talk while you are there.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always, give me a call, and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have or provide you with additional information you may need to access Tribal benefits that are 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) | 559-351-0078 | mark.johnson@potawatomi.org



Dave Carney District 8

Bozho nikan, (Hello friend),

I hope everyone reading this is enjoying their summer. Some of you may even be reading this while attending the 2024 Family Reunion Festival, and hopefully having a great time.

If you are planning your summer activities and don't plan on braving the heat of Shawnee, Oklahoma, consider coming to one of these regional events in the Northwest:

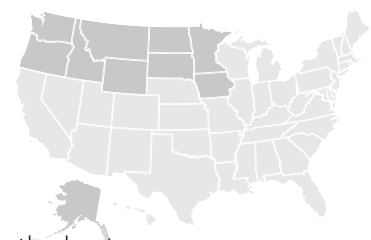
August 17, 2024 — Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

August 18, 2024 — Missoula, Montana

We will have presentations, prizes, an art contest and food. Invitations will be in the mail shortly.

If there is an interest, we may have a Naming ceremony immediately following the meeting. In order to receive a Potawatomi name, I would need to speak or correspond with you at least a month in advance of the actual day, so if you are considering it, please contact me at dncarney@gmail.com. I will provide some information on what I have learned about the significance of the ceremony and gather some information from you in order to arrive at an appropriate name with the help of the language department.

While on the topic, I would like to request something from those I have had the honor to name in the past or those who received a Potawatomi name from another Tribal member in District 8. Please e-mail me with your English name, Tribal ID



number, your Potawatomi name and roughly when and where you were named. Historically, I would send names to Tribal Rolls to have them added to the Citizen's ID. I have recently learned that this did not always occur, and I'd like to rectify that.

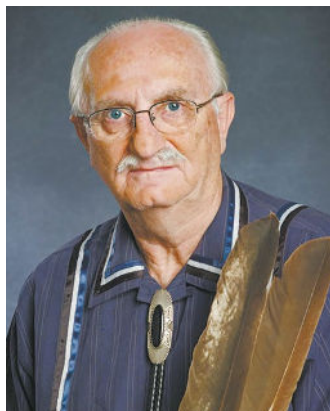
I have had an opportunity to speak with citizens of different tribes around the country about their naming practices, and they are largely similar to our Citizen Potawatomi way. I have had opportunities to sit in on namings officiated by other Citizen Potawatomi and they are slightly different, however, I believe that if they are done in earnest with the idea of honoring our Creator and our relatives that have walked before us, they are meaningful and good.

As with everything these days, please be wise with the use of social media as it relates to Potawatomi ceremony. If you experience ceremony — experience it. Videos aren't to be taken and shared on the world wide web. Still photos are certainly enough to remember the day.

If you reside in District 8 and do not receive e-mails from me, please reach out with your contact information. Since I've doubled down lately in making this plea, I have heard from some people who I have not connected with before. Please consider reaching out if you fall in this category.

It is my honor to serve as your Legislator,

Dave Carney | Kagashgi (Raven) | dcarney@potawatomi.org | 360-259-4027



Paul Wesselhöft District 9

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

ACTS OF OUGHT

I submit that one of the most powerful words in the English language is the five-letter word — ought! Think about it. We ought to be good, do good; we ought not to be bad, do bad. We ought to perform acts of kindness; we ought not to diminish any human.

The word, ought, is pregnant with moral and ethical import. We ought to share a portion of our blessings with humanity. Why, because we love humanity. Is this not the root of philanthropy?

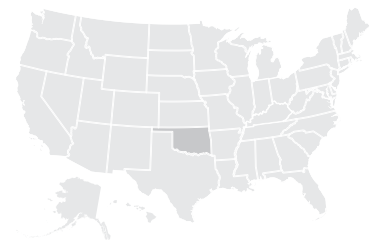
The word philanthropy is a combination of two Greek words: *philos*, "love," and *anthropos*, "mankind." We ought to love humankind. The practice of prudent philanthropy, for the Judo-Christian, is an inescapable obligation. This ethic is probably true for other major religions as well.

And philanthropy does not have to germinate out of any religious foundation. However, philanthropy ought to derive not from shame, blame or coercion, but from benevolent, if not spiritual, motives. Jesus taught: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us...So we also ought to love one another."

We love our families, our Tribe, our neighbors, and strangers by helping them in some measure. Our giving and sharing can be a portion of our goods, time, or money. These acts of ought can help to meet basic human needs like food, clothing, shelter, and medical care; or acts of ought can foster human excellence like supporting and financing art, culture, education and more. Our giving and sharing ought to count. Count me in.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft | Naganit (Leader) | reppaul@gmail.com | pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org




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Walking On

Robert Jon “Bob” Nourie Bourassa Family



Robert Jon “Bob” Nourie passed away at home on March 10, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Kitty; son, Andre (Zlata); daughter, Marisa Phillips (John); son, Nick (Kristi); and three grandchildren, Noah, Andreana, and Avery, as well as beloved dog, Dora. He was preceded in death by his parents, Sherman and Stella, and his brothers, Richard and Lee.

Bob was born in Beaverville, Illinois, and was proud to have been a member of the Potawatomi Nation. After graduating from high school, he began a lengthy military career, which included a tour in Vietnam. He earned his law degree at UMKC and eventually worked in the Legal Assistance Office at Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and served as Judge Advocate General at Quantico. Prior to that, Bob worked as the prosecuting attorney of Nodaway County, Missouri. He also was posted as a judge in Okinawa for a year, an experience he shared with his whole family.

Following his retirement from the military and move to Doniphan, Bob gave his time generously throughout the community. He volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and, as a member of the Kansas State Historical Society, he was on the board that organized the Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemorations. More recently, he was involved with the Doniphan Cemetery Board and the restoration of St. John the Baptist Church in Doniphan, where he and Kitty married in 1970. He enjoyed a variety of hobbies in retirement, including cycling, traveling, painting, woodworking, cooking, keeping a disagreeable horse named Chester, and planting a vineyard to make his own wine.

“They are not dead who live in the hearts they leave behind.”

Dennis Lane Rose Weld Family

Dennis Lane Rose, age 66, passed away unexpectedly April 22, 2024.

Born Aug. 23, 1957, in Hobbs, New Mexico, he was the baby of four children and a twin born to Carl Melvin Rose and Pearl Katherine (Wellinghoff) Rose. Dennis spent his early years in both Hobbs and Carlsbad, where he began school. By 1970, the Rose family settled in Purcell, Oklahoma, and Dennis graduated with the Purcell Dragons class of 1975.

He followed his heart, and in his father’s footsteps, and joined the United States Marine Corps. He was a proud patriot and served his country proudly. After his service, he returned home and began working in the oil field. In October of 1993, Dennis began working for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. He worked at both Mack Alford and the Howard McLeod Correctional Facilities near Atoka, and for Joseph Harp and the LARC near Lexington, in a career that spanned nearly 30 years. He retired from classification and population on Sept. 30, 2022.

While at Joseph Harp, he met the love of his life, and he often recalled how he met his wife in prison. Her name was Julie Marie Wright, and they were the perfect couple. On April 22, 2006, Dennis and Julie were married in Oklahoma City.

Away from work, Dennis was probably hunting, fishing or camping. He looked forward to deer camp and trips to the lake. He was ornery and a little bit spoiled by his family and friends. His greatest joy was being a PawPaw, and he lived every day for his grandkids. He was a wonderful husband and father, brother, uncle and a true friend. He will be dearly missed!

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Pearl Rose, and his twin sister, Dianne Rose Johnson.

Dennis is survived by his wife Julie of the home; daughter Devin Rose of Whitefield, Oklahoma; big sisters, Carol Herron and husband Jerry of Noble and Patty Beaver and husband Melvin of Purcell; his pride and joy, grandchildren, Brynn, Brody and Blake; stepson, Derek Gustafson of Oklahoma City; best friend Ronnie Gibby of Atoka and his beloved fur baby, Ava; several cousins, nieces and nephews and a host of other family and friends.

Funeral services were Friday, April 26, 2024, at Little’s Chapel. The family received friends Thursday at Wilson-Little Funeral Home.

Georganne (Jann) Belle McAlister Wilmette/Darling Family



Georganne (Jann) Belle McAlister was born Oct. 11, 1953, in Honshu, Japan, to Jack and Norma Jones. Already a well-versed traveler at birth, Jann began seeing different parts of the U.S. as the family followed her father’s U.S. Air Force career. The family had lived in Mississippi, Kansas and Texas. Jann graduated from Garland High

School in 1971. Excited to be on her own, she made the journey to Shawnee, Oklahoma.

After moving to Shawnee, she met the love of her life, Randy McAlister. They wed on May 26, 1978, in Eufaula, Oklahoma. They created a beautiful life together with many cherished memories. Some of those memories include spending weekends at her family's lake house, going to their son's ball games, watching their daughter cheer, and celebrating their children and grandchildren's many accomplishments.

Jann adored her children and grandchildren, and she found immense joy in spoiling them. Her love for her family brought her a great deal of happiness. She went out of her way to make sure they all knew how much she loved them. Her love for children led to years of work at various Mother's Day Out programs. She was a proud Tribal member and dedicated employee for 24 years to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Jann passed away peacefully April 26, 2024, with her husband by her side. She was greeted by those who preceded her in death: her parents, Jack and Norma Jones, her brother, Jerry Jones, and her grandson, Brendan Amelotte. She is survived by her loving family: her husband, Randy McAlister; her children, Nikki and Patrick Amelotte, Benn and Desiree McAlister, Janna McAlister and Joey Leone; her grandchildren, Lexi, Edyn, Benson and Bane McAlister, Peyton and Ellie Montgomery, Moira, Nola, Mick and Rowan Amelotte; her great-granddaughter Octavia McIntyre; her sister-in-law, Lisa (McAlister) and her husband, John Sternweis.

They all loved her dearly.

Coy Keesee

Lamirand/Rayfield Family



Coy Keesee, age 90, passed away on Jan. 29, 2024, in Purcell, Oklahoma, surrounded by his family. Coy Allen Keesee was born on Dec. 2, 1933, to Otie Garner Keesee and Myrtle Close (Lamirand). After finishing school, he joined the United States Army and served as a military police officer from 1955-1957. After finishing his time in the Army, he married the love of his life Myranda Allena Jones on June 14, 1958, and together

they raised three children. He enjoyed riding horses in parades and "play dayin" with his family. Coy and his brothers owned a concrete finishing business and did metal building construction for over 20 years. In 1976, the Keesee brothers founded Wanette Tractor and Supply. Coy truly loved his business and enjoyed visiting with his customers and spending time behind the counter, helping folks get the things they needed to keep their tractors and farms up and running. Away from the shop, he farmed and raised cattle.

He enjoyed spending quality time with his loved ones and will be dearly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Otie Keesee and Myrtle Close; his wife of 60 years, Allena Keesee; his brothers, infant Otis Keesee, Kenneth Keesee and Alfred Keesee; and sister-in-law, Gayle Keesee.

Coy is survived by his children, Troy Keesee and wife Sharon of Wanette, Oklahoma, Shirrel Turnpaugh and husband Jim of Macomb, Oklahoma, and Lisa Hilliard and husband Brent of Lindsay, Oklahoma; his sister Katherine Curry and husband, John of Moore, Oklahoma; 12 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, several cousins, nieces, nephews and a host of other family and friends.

Funeral services were Feb. 2, 2024, at Wanette First Baptist Church, and burial followed at Wanette Cemetery.



Hau ndenwémagnek

Ho my relatives

Ébyé yak shote gnom

We have come here today

Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma

To lay our brother to rest

Ngom she épam sét ode

Today he walks

Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek

Among those who have passed on

I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngenwen

That is why we offer this song

Émno shketot wa je zhyat ibe shpemsegok

That his journey will go well where he goes above

Iw énaj moyan

That's all I have to say

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

By Don Perrot

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