

HOWNINKANI

Gtegangises | May 2024



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compact with
U.S. Department
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Program connects students with Potawatomi heritage

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Department of Education held the second annual Coming into the Circle event on March 23 near Shawnee, Oklahoma. High school Tribal members and their families traveled from across Oklahoma and from out of state to learn and experience *Anishinaabé* culture.

The Department of Education developed the program for enrolled high school students who have not had the opportunity to connect with their heritage. The program introduces students to the Tribe's language, history and cultural practices through several activities held throughout the day.

Coming into the Circle began at the South Reunion Hall where participants were introduced to CPN services, played games and ate Indian tacos from CPN's FireLake Fry Bread Taco. After lunch, the group headed to the Cultural Heritage Center where they toured the museum, learned a Tribal honor song, assembled a drum to take home and were taught the various styles of Tribal regalia. To end the day, the group returned to the CPN powwow grounds where they smudged before entering the dance arena, then learned how to dance along with Grand Entry etiquette.

Jason McBride, his wife Rachel, and son Jack, who are descendants of the Bourassa family, drove from Kansas City, Missouri, to attend the event. This was their first time visiting CPN headquarters and meeting Tribal members from other families.

"We really appreciated the opportunity to meet other members, talk and learn about the Tribe," Rachel said. "Also, how our children can become more connected and learn more about the Tribe as they get older. We really felt that this is a critical piece when we were talking, we need our children excited to learn and grow, and become an integral part of the community."

Sampling Culture

Rachel Watson, Department of Education director, encourages other Tribal members to participate in Coming into the Circle.

"Our department was also very intentional about the programming of the day; there is so much Potawatomi culture, history and services it's hard, but we manage to give students and their families the chance to get a sample of a little bit of everything," they added. "We want every Tribal member to know that they are important to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, whether or not they dance, drum, know our ceremonies or access our services."

The department hopes to continue to expand the program further.

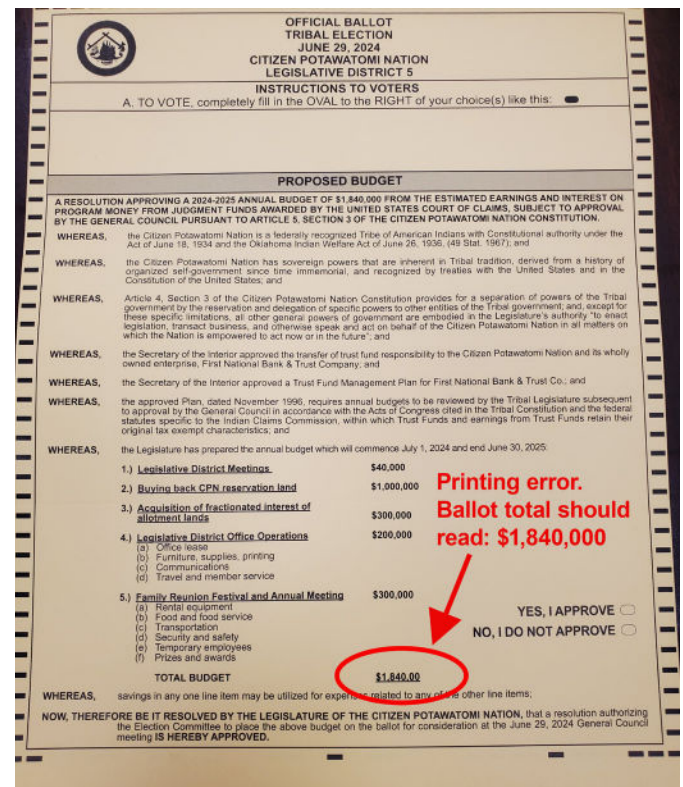
"In the future, we'd love to have more students attending. We have some plans to make registration easier and improve advertising of the event to increase numbers," they said. "It is a very long, full day for our students, and there will be changes in our program as we continue to fine-tune the event and accommodate more attendees."

For more information about the Department of Education's programs, visit cpn.news/education.

To learn more about Coming into the Circle, email education@potawatomi.org.

Ballot correction

There was an error in the printing of the 2024-2025 Annual Budget Ballot that will be arriving in the mail soon. The resolution at the top of the ballot contains the correct annual budget total of \$1,840,000. Below, after the itemized expenditures, the ballot incorrectly lists a total budget of \$1,840,00. The correct total when all expenditures are properly combined should be \$1,840,000.



Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho Jayek, (Hello everyone),

We just wrapped up the OU language Fair.

First place: Prestynn Neely, modern song, Pre-K-second grade

First place: Prestynn Neely and Peyton Neely, prayer, third-fifth grade

First place: Peyton Neely, puppet show, third-fifth grade

Second place: Peyton Neely, book, third-fifth grade

Second place: Peyton Neely, modern song

Third place: Online TikTok

There were also some students from Moore who were Potawatomi who submitted cartoons/posters. Elora Stewart got second place for her cartoon. The CPN CDC got first for their poetry entry Pre-K-second grade. Also, Tayson Embree had a nice poster entry from Moore.

Congratulations to all our young Potawatomi folks for not only having the courage to participate but for also taking home trophies and medals!

We are wrapping up our six-week Spring Beginner Class. We had a nice core group of folks who stuck with it every Tuesday and Thursday as well as some who popped in and out. We had about 10 on site and another 15 online who joined us for class. Nice job, Cole Rattan, Josey Wood and Shelly Watson on teaching the class.

For those of you who missed the course, the entire six-week course is posted on our YouTube channel. Search



Elora Stewart's cartoon placed second at the language fair.



Peyton, Justin and Prestynn Neely are pictured with awards from the OU Language Fair.

Justin Neely and Potawatomi language and you should find one channel more geared for adult learners and one more geared for kids. It is on the adult learner page; look under playlist and you will find the whole six-week course.

We are getting close to starting up our eight-week master apprentice immersion course. If you are going to be in the area during this time and would like to be part of it, we would welcome your participation. We will be starting towards the end of May and will run all of June and part of July. We selected three paid interns to be with us for this program. Two are returning from last year and one is new this year. We also will have three staff members taking the course.

We are working on *Winnie the Pooh* in Potawatomi. The story is now in public domain. We are making it into video episodes. There are 10 chapters so there will be 10 episodes. We have already released the first three chapters and will be doing more in the next few weeks.

If you haven't tried out the sentence builder in our online dictionary, try it out. Some of the verbal patterns in Potawatomi can be kind of hard so the conjugator will help you conjugate VTA verbal patterns in the Independent.

We recognize our new year based on the arrival of the thunders in spring. So, this is a time of celebration and a time to be happy to have survived another harsh winter. In fact, when we talk about how old we are, we say a person is so many snows old. Scan the QR code to hear how to pronounce the words.



Mnokme kedwnen — Spring words

Mnokme — Spring (literally, "good earth time" or time to plant)

CPN students present at Language Fair

When the 21st annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair took place April 1 at the Sam Noble Museum, young Citizen Potawatomi Nation students were some of those represented.

Robert Collins, the interdepartmental Potawatomi language lead for the Child Development Center and the Cultural Heritage Center, said he worked with the CDC's Pre-K all-day class to prepare to perform in the spoken poetry category.

Over the course of two months, students dedicated four days a week to learning a poem titled "Ke Penojéyek Ndawmen" ("Children of the Land") by Lila Tabobondung *Waubenopitchikwe*. In the mornings, they spent around 15 minutes practicing, and in the afternoon, they devoted 5 to 10 minutes perfecting their recitation. The poem was translated by Kim Wensaut, a student of Jim Thunder, and it explores the significance of preserving the *Neshnabé* language as a means of connecting with cultural heritage and traditions.

"I put *séma* down way back in 2000 and asked for a song for the kids," Tabobondung said. "Two years later, I received that song. So, I guess you have to give credit to our ancestors. I just wrote down what they sent to me."

Leading up to the language fair, the class also performed twice for elders at the Elders Center.

"We worked hard," Collins said. "There was a lot of improvement. I'm very proud of how they stepped up at their age to perform that."

Twelve students performed in the spoken poetry category, for which they received a first place ribbon.

Collins said being at the event and hearing students from different communities speaking their languages was a great experience.

"Watching those kids get up there and perform with that pride, it was pretty awesome," he said.

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Gtegan — Garden (guhtuhgan)

Waskonédo — Flower

Waskonédoyen — Flowers

Jigwek bmozewat — The thunders are walking.

Niskadet — It is stormy.

Gmowen — It's raining.

Amo — Bee

Amoyek — Bees

Mekchako — Frog (The frogs returning is another sign that spring has arrived.)



The CDC's Pre-K all-day class perform at the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair.

Students are working with their regular curriculum again now that the event has passed, but looking to next year's language fair, Collins said he hopes to enter more categories and to take students from other age groups as well.

He spoke highly of the teachers at the CDC who helped him make sure the students were prepared.

"Those teachers really stepped up with getting the kids ready. They took responsibility of what we were going to do, and it was very important for them as well," he said.

The language fair is held each year in early April at the Sam Noble Museum on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. It is the largest event for linguistic diversity in Oklahoma, with more than 40 Indigenous languages represented. The event is free and open to the public and includes live presentations of songs, speeches and stories, as well as films, books, cartoons, posters and writing.

For more information about the language fair, visit cpn.news/ONAYLF. 🔥

Jejak — Crane (as well as the cranes returning)

Gtege — He/she is gardening/planting

Mno majishka — It is growing well.

Zagki — Sprout

Pskazhé — Bloom, it does.

Tkabawton — Water something

Swéswéwébnan — Sow something (spread seeds)

Minkan — Seed

Migwetch (Thank you) 🔥

Program helps save Tribal members' homes

When two Tribal members in different parts of the country fell on hard times and their homes were in danger of being lost, they found assistance through Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

CPN's Mortgage Assistance Program is available to CPN tribal members who need financial help with a mortgage, homeowner's insurance, property taxes or HOA fees.

Jamie Harbert, a member of the Peltier family living in Crestview, Florida, has lived in her home for 11 years but needed some help about three years ago.

Harbert was working at Eglin Air Force Base as an engineer technician and manager of the Engineering Data Service Center, assisting in the design development of weapons systems, aircrafts and vehicles.

"I had a heart attack with complications and then had to be in and out of the hospital," she said. "And COVID had hit, and because of my heart situation, I could no longer go into work and had lost my job."

Though Harbert had enough to carry her and her teenage son through for a while, as her savings dwindled, she ran into a time when she couldn't make payments for about six months. It was then that she found out about assistance from the Tribe.

"It saved my life," she said. "It saved me from losing my home. I don't know what I would have done."

Malisha Robertson assisted her through the process, and Harbert said she was compassionate and understanding about all the stress and pain she was going through.

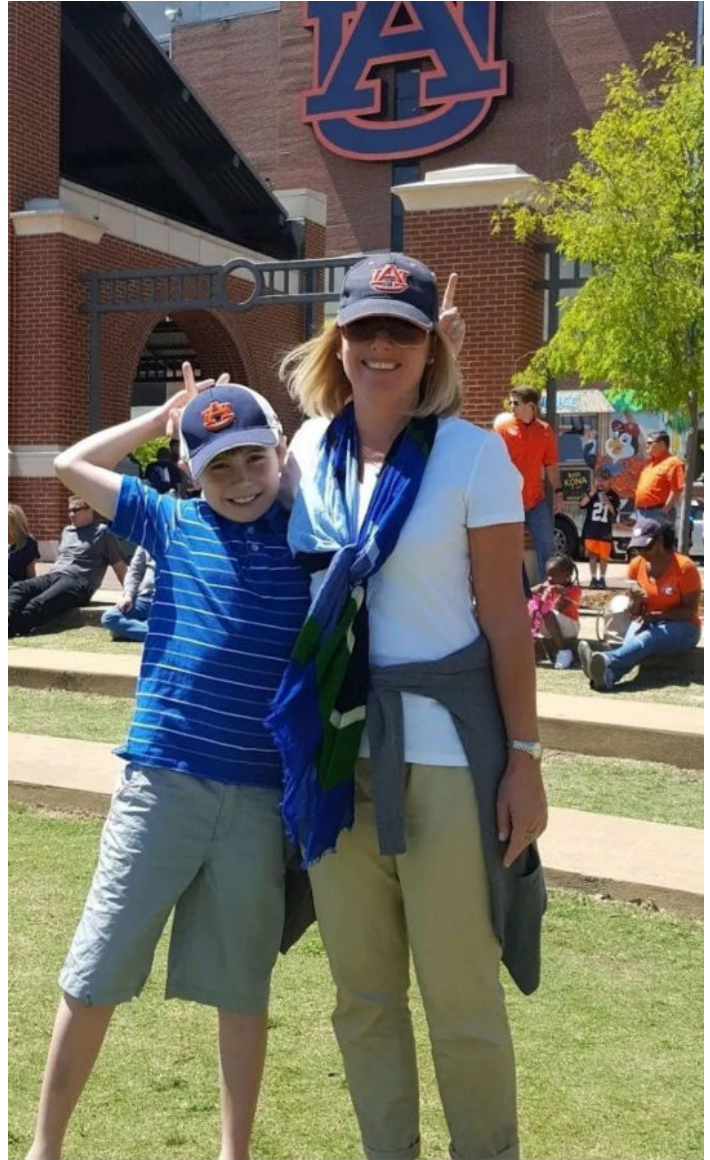
"She was very kind and patient and helped walk me through everything step-by-step. She kept me in the loop on the status of my application, making the process easier and stress free," she said. "I will forever be grateful to her and my Tribe for taking care of me and my son in our time of need."

Harbert, who is originally from Shawnee, Oklahoma, said her father, James Leslie Schimmel, was a Tribal member who passed away when she was 16 years old, and that receiving help from CPN is especially meaningful to her.

"I always feel like he's looking down, and when my Tribe helps me, I feel like my dad is helping," she said.

Kathijo Bourassa, a Bourassa family member from Glendale, Arizona, also spoke about help she received through the Mortgage Assistance Program.

With the fallout from COVID, Bourassa said things ended up snowballing as she worked to find a new position and went almost 18 weeks without being paid until that position was in place.



Jamie Harbert is pictured with her son, Harry. (Photo provided)

"I had my son and daughter-in-law and granddaughters living with me. It wouldn't have only displaced myself, but two generations of family," she said.

They, like many families, were struggling to pay for the mortgage and groceries and to keep it all together. And then, after praying about what to do, she saw an advertisement for mortgage assistance in the *Hownikan*.

Once in touch with the Mortgage Assistance Program, she said they set everything up very nicely and walked her through the process for getting help, making it user friendly and even emailing lists of what documents were needed and a synopsis of how things were going.

"It was so nice to speak to someone who understood and made me feel like they completely understood how

someone could end up in this situation," Bourassa said. "That alleviated any stress or nervousness immediately."

She added that once she informed her mortgage company that she was receiving help from her Tribe, the mortgage company said that was all they needed to hear and stopped calling and sending letters.

"When someone feels hopeless and you have all these people you need to take care of, that feels so amazing," she said. "You just feel like you have the whole Tribe on your side. You're not alone."

For anyone who needs to reach out for help, Bourassa said the process is easy and she never felt like she was being judged or treated badly.

"When you're feeling totally lost, call on your people," she said. "Whatever they tell you to have, get all your ducks in a row. You're helping them help you. If they tell you they need a, b, c and d, put those together, and there is no waiting on the Tribe. They're right there to help you."

Bourassa especially spoke highly of Denise Wiley, who helped her through the process.

"She's been part of our daily prayer and part of our Thanksgivings," Bourassa said. "All of the Tribe has, of course, but when you're a woman that takes care of everything then all of a sudden find out you can't take care of this, and someone treats you with that sort of kindness and professionalism ... she's part of our Thanksgiving now, always."

Tribal members in need of help can apply online through the CPN Portal, by emailing cpncares@potawatomi.org or by calling 1-833-481-0638.

"It makes our hearts full to assist the CPN citizens in need," Malisha Robertson, who works for CPN's Mortgage Assistance Program, said. "All of the Tribal members have been very grateful for the assistance that the Tribe has provided since COVID." 🔥

House of Hope hosts MMIW Remembrance Walk

Red is the color of strength, of power and of success. It is the color of the Earth and the powerful mountains that shoot from its bosom. Its boldness breathes life and direction into Native people. It also shows the bad with the good as the color of violence and wounds. The hurt and pain sweeping our women and young girls.

With nearly 85% of all Native women experiencing violence, red is the chosen color to represent those that are missing and murdered. It is not only used to represent the many hearts broken by the loss of these stolen sisters but also to show just how sacred the women of our tribes are. This month is a time to remember these lost. A day to call back these missing spirits of our women and children so they can be laid to rest.

The CPN House of Hope brings acknowledgment to the #MMIW movement this year with a remembrance walk to honor the murdered and missing and to bring education to the community about this plague of violence that is being turned against our Native women and children. The walk was held on Friday, May 10 at the round house on CPN Festival grounds. Families who have lost loved ones were invited to share their stories with those participating. The public was invited to come and honor those lost.



Attendees watch House of Hope's first MMIW event Friday, May 10.

If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault and would like more information, please contact the House of Hope at 405-275-3176 or visit us online at facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope. 🔥



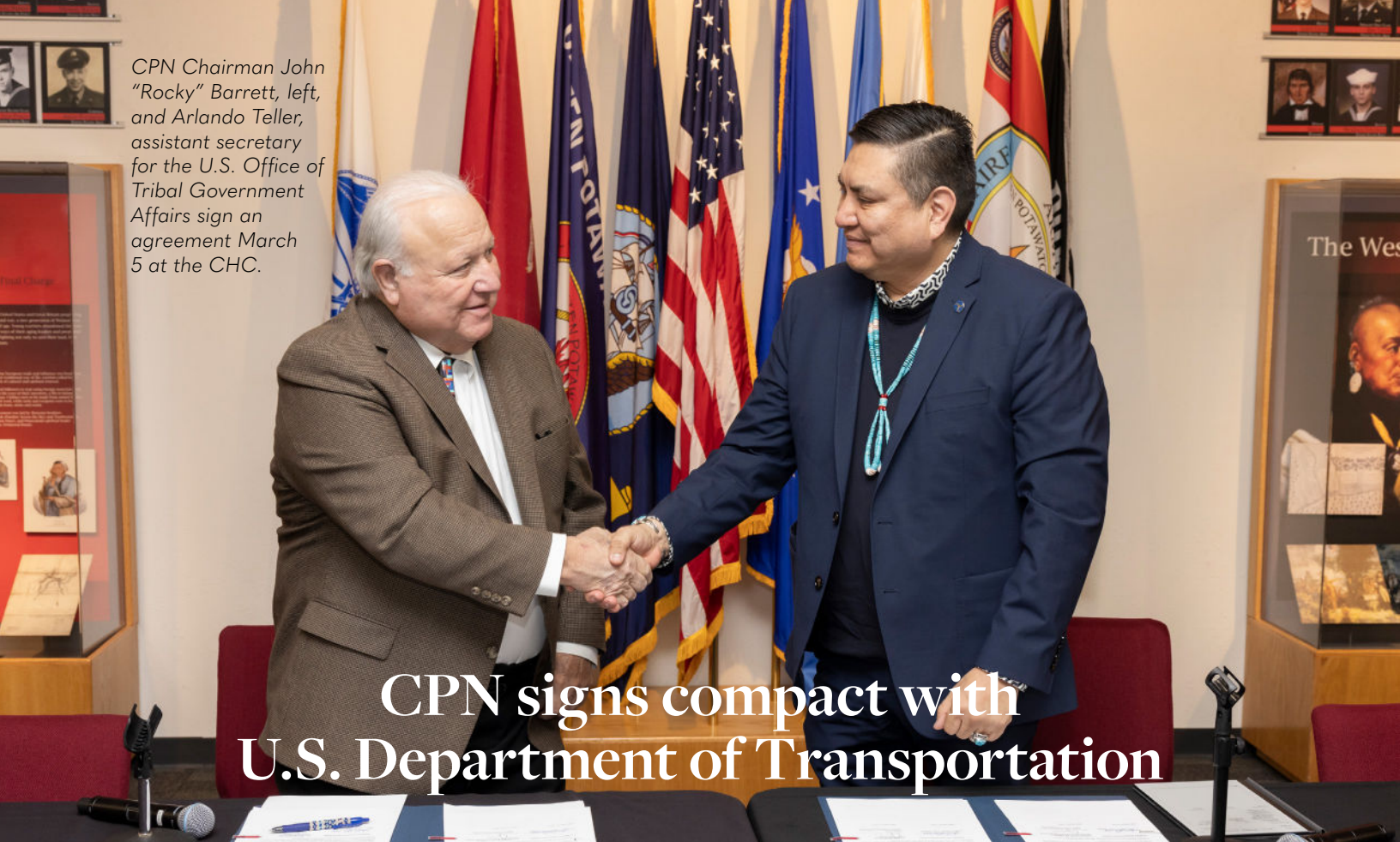
CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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CPNEDUCATION

CPN Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, left, and Arlando Teller, assistant secretary for the U.S. Office of Tribal Government Affairs sign an agreement March 5 at the CHC.



CPN signs compact with U.S. Department of Transportation

Citizen Potawatomi Nation took a huge step forward in March with the signing of a compact with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

CPN Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Arlando Teller, assistant secretary for the U.S. Office of Tribal Government Affairs, inked the agreement Tuesday, March 5, in the Long Room of the Cultural Heritage Center near Shawnee, Oklahoma. CPN is only the third tribe in the country to have this sort of agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"CPN has made vital contributions in building and maintaining Pottawatomie County roads and other transportation infrastructure in our communities," Chairman Barrett said. "This compact allows us more flexibility and gives us the ability to continue investing in improvements for the safety of our Nation, our neighbors and visitors traveling through our lands."

The compact sets up guidelines for how CPN uses federal dollars for transportation projects. It will streamline the approval process, allowing the Tribe to be more efficient with projects such as road repairs.

"This Compact reflects the tribal commitment to plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain transportation facilities, transit systems, and related infrastructure to promote the health and safety of citizens of the Nation, other residents, and visitors traveling on and through the Nation's lands," reads the introduction to the compact.

The compact will grant CPN "greater control, flexibility, and decision-making authority" for decisions regarding Tribal transportation programs, services, functions and activities. The compact initially provides nearly \$4 million in Fiscal Year 2024 to support CPN's current and ongoing transportation and transit operations and projects.

"The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Self-Governance Compact and Funding Agreement elevates our government-to-government relationship with the Department of Transportation," Kasie L. Nichols, CPN's self governance director, said. "Self-Governance authority enables us to have more control of and flexibility with our Tribal transit and transportation programs while streamlining program administration and funding."

Following the signing, USDOT representatives toured the CHC and CPN Eagle Aviary.

"USDOT's Office of Tribal Government Affairs is excited to welcome the Citizen Potawatomi Nation into the Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program," Assistant Secretary Teller said. "The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is now able to fully carry out Self-Governance and Self-Determination on Tribal transportation programs and projects that will tremendously benefit Tribal citizens and others in the community who, on a daily basis, rely on safe and dependable transportation. We are here to support and continue our assistance to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in the advancement of its Tribal transportation programs." 🔥

Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

I have decided to make this CPN Veterans Organization report on the lighter side for a change. All U.S. Military personnel and veterans, including me, are haunted by superstitions. Superstitions are found in every unit, from the battalion headquarters down to the fire team, the chief's mess to the flight line, or the cockpit of a fighter jet to the depths of a nuclear silo. Some are rooted in military history, and others are born from a series of unfortunate events. Something is always happening to someone. That's life. A survey of military personnel and veterans revealed what superstitions service members carried with them while serving or even after leaving the service. Some are very interesting.

One of the best-known superstitions is that tankers will not allow apricots in their tanks. This belief is prevalent throughout any armor profession in the military, including U.S. Marine Corps amphibious landing vehicles. Having that devilish fruit on board is believed to cause equipment failures, or even death.

Sometime in 1985, a superstition was started about not having a spoon with your M.R.E.s (Meals Ready to Eat) leading to bad things happening. A year later during a training static line parachute drop, one of the guys had no spoon in his M.R.E. and he broke his leg on the jump. Ever since that jump, the M.R.E. spoon is a superstition.

Another strange superstition has to do with the opening of a can of Dr. Pepper within the Base Defense Operation Center. If someone opens a can of Dr. Pepper in the BDOC, then bad stuff begins to happen. Everything on base can be quiet and peaceful, but a person opens that can of soda and the whole base goes crazy with nonstop 911 calls. Crazy and stupid stuff begins to happen. It's a superstition that reverberates throughout the Military Security Forces.

The Coast Guard has a banana superstition. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, bananas were one of the foods rumored to help, because of their high vitamin B6 content. A boat's chief culinary specialist brought bananas along on a patrol for the crew's welfare. Sailors are superstitious that having bananas on board before getting underway and while underway is bad luck. Either the patrol can be extended, or the ship will experience an unexpected equipment failure. Well, the boats patrol got extended by double. But this superstition is not limited to the Coast Guard; the U.S. Navy recognizes it as well. This superstition dates back to the early 1700s. Sailors back then didn't realize the bananas would break down and release a gas that made them ripen faster and they could break down into alcohol, creating a fire hazard that plagued ships. Wow, and I love bananas.



The Airborne Divisions have a beret superstition. A paratrooper's beret is his "good-luck" charm. If the paratrooper is in uniform, they must have their beret with them, either wearing it or carrying it on their person. Not having it on your person is "bad luck."

Another superstition in the military is "never curse the rain-god" three times. It will bring on a downpour. There are times when this might be a good thing.

There is a very strange superstition about M.R.E. applesauce. Eating the applesauce that comes in the M.R.E.s is bad luck. Every time someone in your team eats the M.R.E. applesauce, equipment will malfunction, or someone will be injured. I love applesauce, too, and I've eaten it from an M.R.E. That could explain a few things.

What superstitions do you know of? Or have?

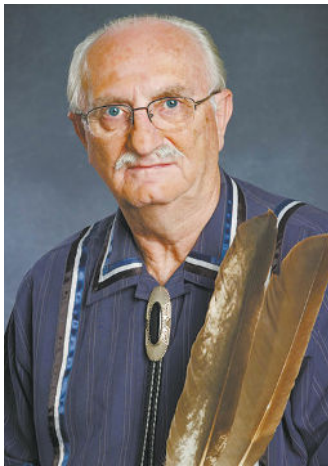
Migwetch (Thank you).

Remember, our monthly meeting of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization is the fourth Tuesday of each month, May 23 (unless otherwise notified due to weather or conflicting events) at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the CPN Powwow Grounds. All CPN veterans and spouses and their families are welcome. Membership in the veterans organization is not required; come and visit us and enjoy our socializing. For more information, you can contact Daryl Talbot.

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

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**

How do you plan to engage Tribal citizens?

My personal email is: reppaul@gmail.com and my phone number is: 405-517-7148.

I have always made my personal contact information public and available to our members. I like visiting with fellow members. I

dialogue publicly and privately with many members on the three unofficial Potawatomi Facebook groups with a combined membership of 11,437. I founded and administer, "Potawatomi Artists," a 4,803 member Facebook group. I want to get to know as many members as possible. As a professional, I always return calls and emails. I'm available and always willing to engage with members.

What do you feel is the Tribe's most pressing issue it currently faces?

Like myself, most of our members are not of dark skin. Some of our members may feel like they are less Indian. This is false. We are all fully, 100% Native Americans. We do not govern by blood quantum. From centuries of intermarriage, our skin will continue to be whiter. All of us, starting with our leaders, must educate our members on the importance of our heritage, culture, and the reality that we are all proud Native Americans of various skin colors.

How can CPN better serve and engage its Tribal members?

We are trying to better serve and engage our members. This is our mission and desire every time we conduct our legislature. We consistently ask how we can connect with our members and deliver better and more effective services to the nation. Our legislature is public and recorded for online hearing. Meeting annually at our Family Festival is probably not enough. We added our hot air balloon festival. Perhaps if we gathered biannually, it would enhance our community and strengthen our bonds even more.

Describe what in your life has made you appreciate your CPN heritage.

I was aware of my Native American heritage as a child. I knew I was a blue-eyed Indian. In my teens I read our tribal heritage, and such a great history it is. When I discovered that my Great-Great-Great-Grandfather was Chief Abraham Burnett, I was hooked. Knowing that he

was involved in leadership of the tribe and negotiated treaties and other business, made me proud. We are of the same blood. He is my model, mentor, and inspiration. His photo is posted on my wall. I like to think that I am a type of modern-day Abraham Burnett. I hope one of my future descendants will consider me as their model as well.

What kind of future do you envision for the Nation?

Currently, as well as when I first ran for the legislature, my primary goals and vision of our future has not changed. They are twofold: I want the financial income from our enterprises and businesses to exceed our financial income from gaming and federal grants; and I want our college and technical school scholarships to increase in number and amount every year. I want our nation known nationally as the tribe financed primary by their business enterprises, and the tribe who educates their youth for success today and into the future.

What do you think is the most difficult thing for CPN members who may live in Oklahoma but may feel disconnected from the Tribe? How can you, as legislators, help with that?

In my personal and public communication with members as well as in my published articles in the HowNikan and in various social media, I hope to generate interest in our heritage and culture. Not every member of our nation feels connected to their tribe. That's unfortunate. There is only so much a legislator, or any fellow member can do to engender interest in our tribe to those who don't care about their heritage. No one reached out to me. If they had I would have probably become involved in the tribe at an earlier age. It is my mission and goal to engender pride and ownership to all our members in our shared history, heritage, customs and culture. We are one.important committees as well as Chairman of the Joint House and Senate committee for Native America Affairs. I founded the 21-member Native American Caucus in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.



Matt Higdon **Challenger**

How do you plan to engage Tribal citizens?

Well, I know sometimes people do not know everything that our tribe has to offer so as someone who has used a lot of the resources provided and grown up around the tribe, I would open my email to the public and let all tribal members, whether they are

in my district or not, send me questions. If I do not know how to help them I will find out who to put them in contact with so they can find the resources they are looking for.

While I also do not want to make false promises I will do my best to attend every Tribal event that I can. I do love attending our festival, and growing up I have always been excited to participate in the games and competitions. That will not change, I love the competitiveness and the relationships that can be built through it. I am also excited at the possibility of attending the Gathering.

What do you feel is the Tribe's most pressing issue it currently faces?

In my opinion, I would not say that the tribe has a lot of "problems," There are some steps that I would like for us to take though. One being, I would like for us to try to work towards reducing our single use plastics. I would also like to look into avenues to install solar panels on at least our senior housing.

On the business side, I would like to learn how the tribe can increase our marketing efforts. When I was bartending the ZZ Top concert at the Firelake Arena I spoke with a young lady who lived nearby who had no idea about the Firelake Arena and all of the events that are put on out there.

How can CPN better serve and engage its Tribal members?

First and foremost, we should continue to build on the outreach we currently have such as the Festival, Potawatomi Leadership Program, Mdamen, Talking Circle, Sports Camps, the Cultural Heritage Centers quarterly newsletters, the Hownikan, and the Education Departments Internships, as well as our virtual and in person Language Classes. As someone who has gone through the Potawatomi Leadership Program, Tribal Sports Camps, Internships, and subscribe to the Hownikan, I have always felt more connected with my tribe. And before I even understood what it meant to be proud of my heritage, I always felt an immense amount of pride anytime I attended a sports camp or Festival or even just driving by our Tribal Headquarters.

A few ways I think we can build on those, is by having more virtual events that all tribal members can attend, even if they are out of state or cannot make it to Tribal Headquarters. Also hosting meetings and events after most people get off work so they can attend easier. I would also want to make information and dates more readily available for people who want to engage in cultural activities such as sweat lodges, dancing, drumming and singing, and moon ceremonies.

Describe what in your life has made you appreciate your CPN heritage.

This may sound kitschy or cliché, but when I think back upon my time growing up around the tribe, and as I have gotten older learned more about the history of our tribe, I really find pride in three things: our resiliency, our capacity to build, and the sense of community and family that is shared throughout the tribe. Growing up in school I was always taught about the Trail of Tears and never about our tribes Trail of Death, but as I grew older I learned more and realized how much the tribe has evolved and grown despite clear efforts to diminish us. This leads

into our capacity to build not only casinos, but grocery stores, restaurants, a golf course, ball fields, the Arena, a professional basketball team, and so much more. I mean it is truly awe inspiring and sets the bar for the next seven generations to build on ,but also really helps the next seven generations ingrain the CPNs legacy into the history books. And finally, my biggest source of pride is the family and community that has been built in our tribe. Growing up whenever I would find out that one of my classmates or friends was CPN, I was always so pleasantly surprised because we immediately had a deeper bond through the tribe. I also have very fond memories of spending the night with one of my best childhood friends so we could go to festival together. I mean for me it is really hard to put into words how much pride I carry in my heart for our tribe.

What kind of future do you envision for the Nation?

For me, when I picture our future as a tribe, I almost want to describe our Tribal Headquarters as a destination. A place where everyone, tribal or non-tribal, indigenous or not, can come and see and be inspired by our culture, our businesses, our people, and just be taken aback by how resilient we have become. I want our businesses to thrive because not only will that protect our tribe's sovereignty but also help to ensure that our tribal citizens have access to as many resources as possible, while also providing as many jobs as possible for our tribal members. On top of that, I want tribal members to be able to come visit and always have a home here. Not just a place to stay, food to eat, but also something to do so they can connect with their tribe's culture and their ancestors. But I do not want to limit it to just tribal members but I want everyone to be welcome, when appropriate, so they can learn about our culture and be inspired by our people. Then when I picture the future of our tribe, I picture us as an example of how to live with the earth, and not just living on the earth.

What do you think is the most difficult thing for CPN members who may live in Oklahoma but may feel disconnected from the Tribe? How can you, as legislators, help with that?

Even from personal experience as much as I have grown up around the tribe, I have had times where I have had trouble finding ways to build a connection. However, the one thing that has always helped me are the people that I have met along the way; friends and connections I have made over the years have made a huge difference in being able to connect with our culture. So for me, I want to be that person, I want to make sure that I am always there for anyone that be having a hard time connecting. I am a big believer in community and have always relied upon that as a way to connect. This is a very roundabout way to say that I want to be the guy everyone knows and everyone is comfortable enough to ask questions. But the biggest way I think I can achieve this is by being available physically, by that I mean going to every tribal event, being around the community, talking to as many people as possible, and just staying involved. 🔥

Health care employee earns ‘hero’ award

A Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services employee was named a 2024 Health Care Hero by an Oklahoma publication.

Katie Brown, MS, RDN/LD, CDCES, was among the 23 honorees at the March 28, 2024, event in Oklahoma City. Brown is the Diabetes Program coordinator for CPNHS.

The Health Care Heroes program recognizes individuals who go above and beyond to help make Oklahoma a healthier, safer and happier place to live and work, according to the *Journal Record*. *Journal Record* readers submit nominations. *Journal Record* newsroom staff choose the award winners.

Brown told the *Journal Record* she went into health care because she knew she “wanted a career that was meaningful, where the work was the reward, and that each day would be different. I wanted to know at the end of the day I had helped someone improve their quality of life while still having a healthy balance to be present in my homelife.”

A team award

Brown and her department colleagues attended the event. Although Health Care Heroes honors individuals, Brown said she felt like she represented the entire team.

“It was important to me that they were all there because even though I was named, I was representing everyone and what we’re doing here as a team because it’s definitely not a one-woman show,” she said. “It felt like our efforts and everything that we’re doing is paying off. It felt very validating that we are on the right path.”

The Diabetes Program has been offered at CPNHS for years, and the team all have prior experience that they combine with the latest technology to best serve their patients.

“Although diabetes has not changed, the way we manage diabetes is better today than it was even five years ago. Diabetes related mortality, incidence of diabetes related kidney failure and hospitalization for uncontrolled diabetes in American Indians and Alaska Natives have all significantly decreased,” she told the *Journal Record*.

The Diabetes Program staff feels fully supported by CPNHS, Brown said.

“I have had the opportunity to work in a variety of areas in both nutrition and diabetes and I am thankful for each job I have held as it has shaped me into the educator I am today. Finding an employer that values their employees and departments and places patient care at the forefront of each decision has been



Katie Brown, MS, RDN/LD, CDCES

instrumental in the patient and program success I have had the opportunity to be a part of,” she said.

Patient-focused care

The program provides patient education through groups or individual sessions, nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, a diabetes technology program, medication assistance and foot care. The Building Education About Diabetes, or BEAD, is a five-session group program designed for those newly diagnosed or those who need a refresher course.

The wide range of services helps the department to tailor treatment to suit each patient’s needs, Brown said.

“We have staff that can spend hours on providing education and training, and we can provide that weekly follow up or however patients need that education and training. We’re also trained in how people receive education. Some of us are auditory learners, visual or hands on,” she said. “I think we are improving how we provide education and training and really assessing people’s readiness to change.”

Advances in diabetes education have produced some encouraging results. Brown said incidences of

the disease's most serious complications, including blindness and amputation, are decreasing.

"It does require a lifestyle change, and we definitely are seeing improved health outcomes from diabetes. That part is really encouraging because I think a lot of times, we just hear the worst and see the worst. But we have better therapies and better ways of checking our blood sugar and things like that," she said.

In addition to education, new technology, such as continuous glucose monitors, has improved diabetes care. Many of these new advances are available through CPNHS.

"Those CGMs (Continuous Glucose Monitors) are changing the face of diabetes for sure. I said the one thing I want to see in my career is to have CGM completely replace finger sticks, because finger sticks hurt, it's inconvenient, it's messy and no one wants to deal with that," Brown said. "It's been really exciting to see how quickly CGMs are replacing those finger sticks. I am thankful that they are available here at CPN, because I know not all tribes or facilities are offering them."

For those newly diagnosed with diabetes, Brown hopes to encourage them to seek care at CPN.

"My favorite part about my job is being their cheerleader and telling them that they can do it," she said. "We have different classes, we can do one-

on-one appointments or put you in a group. We're always willing to meet you where you are. We don't expect you to come in being a diabetes expert."

Brown tells her patients it's okay to not be perfect. Many patients will experience both good and bad days, she said, but the Diabetes Program staff is available to help.

"We are not going to tell you that you can't eat your favorite food or do what you enjoy. We want to make diabetes work in your life. We understand that diabetes now is a part of your life, but we don't want diabetes to be your whole life. We want to find that healthy balance," she said.

Brown recalled meeting a new patient who feared the staff would only criticize how he managed his disease. She explained to the patient that the staff never treat their patients this way.

"I'm never going to tell you that you're not working hard enough. That's what I want to change about diabetes, that we will always have grace with our patients, and we're never going to tell them they're not doing good enough," Brown said. "I want them to do well and I want them to feel well."

To schedule an appointment with the Diabetes Education Department, call 405-214-5117 or visit cpn.news/diabetes program. 🔥

Paul Wesselhöft, M.A., M.Div. for the CPN Legislature

**Paul is a fifth-generation Oklahoman, Tribal Elder, Poet, Author,
and Great-Great-Great Grandson of Chief Abraham Burnett.**

Paul was an elected Delegate to the 65th National Congress of American Indians.

While serving in the Oklahoma House of Representative for 12 years, Paul was the Chairman of the Joint House & Senate committee on Native American Affairs, and he founded the 21-member Native American Caucus.

He is the founder/administrator of the active 4,800 member Facebook group, "Potawatomi Artists."

Paul is a highly decorated military veteran of 20 years, having served as a U.S. Army Airborne Ranger, a Chaplain and a Major officer, a Persian Gulf War combat veteran, and he served as a Sargent in the Vietnam War Era.

Rev. Paul Wesselhöft is a retired ordained Southern Baptist Chaplain having pastored four different chapels in the United States and abroad.

Paul has been married to Judy for 48 Years, and is the father of CPN members, Justin, and Holly.

Your Representative is a proven, trusted leader and tribal elder worthy of your vote. His Indian name is, *Naganit* meaning Leader. He was named by Linda Capps. He has been a leader from the beginning and is an experienced leader now.

"I would appreciate your vote by absentee ballot request from March 1 to June 9th, or at our Family Festival on June 29th. Thank you!" (Paid for by Paul Wesselhöft)

Protecting eye health can affect classroom success

Protecting a child's eye health could also help them succeed in the classroom, a physician said.

Dr. Stephanie Rice is the pediatric optometrist at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's west clinic. For 20 years, she has been helping her patients support their vision and eye health. She has a special certification in vision development, which means she works with children from infancy through their teenage years.

One way of helping a child succeed in school could be overlooked. Sometimes, a patient comes to Dr. Rice after struggling in the classroom.

"I can help them to function better and get better vision. And that way they can succeed in life and in the classroom," she said.

Rice said one in four children have an undiagnosed vision-related learning problem.

"Kids will often be struggling to read or even copy from the board. Maybe math skills are difficult for them. They don't understand why they're struggling when other kids around them seem to be succeeding at these things. They may start having a lot of self-confidence issues, and then they become more reluctant to try in school," Dr. Rice said.

There are other signs parents can look for that could indicate their child might have a vision problem. Those signs include excessive blinking, rubbing and head tilts. A child may close one eye, or squint. Vision problems can also show up as behavioral issues or even as symptoms of ADD or ADHD, she said.

Even with those signs, some children may still be able to learn their sight words easily, Rice said. However, problems can emerge later.

"When they begin reading on a page, they struggle to read the sentences, or follow along. If they lose their place frequently when they're reading or if they're writing their letters or numbers backwards after age seven, that can indicate that they might have a vision related problem," she said.

Routine eye exams, beginning at six months of age, can help parents catch potential problems before they develop. Dr. Rice participates in a special program that provides free eye exams for infants from six months to one year of age, regardless of insurance or income.

"We can detect a lot of health problems or even potential for lazy eye at that age. That's why we like to start them (early)," Rice said. "I like to see them at age three and then every year through school so we can detect those problems early."



Prevention

As a child grows and becomes more active, there is a possibility they might experience an accidental eye injury. Parents can help prevent some of those accidents.

"Firework safety is very important. Sparklers burn at over 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit so they can really injure an eye very quickly," she said. "Toddlers can accidentally get cigarette burns on their eyes. And then if they play sports, we want to try to encourage them to wear sport safety goggles so that they don't get any injuries to the eyes."

Even if a child isn't participating in sports, outdoor time should include eye protection. Ultraviolet rays can be harmful.

"UV protection is also super important for kids. The younger they can start wearing UV protection, the less likely they will have cataracts or macular degeneration when they become adults. The sunglasses should say 99% or 100% of the UVA and UVB rays," Dr. Rice said.

Many children use mobile devices, both in school and for entertainment. Dr. Rice encourages parents to monitor the use of these devices.

"I always like to tell my parents and my patients about how to prevent nearsightedness. It's related to how close we (hold devices) to our face and how long we do it before we take a break," she said. "I recommend a good working distance of about 16 inches from their face, which is usually about the distance from their middle finger to their elbow from their eye bone. So, just below chest level and right above the belly button."

Dr. Rice said it's important for children to take breaks when using mobile devices. During the pandemic, some research suggested children under age nine that have a lot of handheld screen time are more likely to become nearsighted at an earlier age, and then need much stronger glasses before they become adults.

"I recommend always following the 20-20 rule. So, 20 minutes of near work, then a 20 second break where they look off in the distance. I play 'I Spy' with my child and entertain him during that 20 second break," Rice said.

A child's diet can also impact their vision. She recommends eating leafy, green vegetables and dark, orange vegetables to help maintain eye health. Leafy greens contain lutein, zeaxanthin and vitamin C, antioxidants that protect eyes from harmful UV rays, according to WebMD. Orange vegetables contain beta-carotene, potassium and fiber, which protect the eye's surface and over time, may prevent macular degeneration.

Wearing glasses

If a child needs glasses, sometimes it can be a struggle for the child to accept them. Fortunately, the selection of frames available for children includes fun colors, styles and other ways the child can express themselves.

"Luckily, the frames are so much cuter than they used to be. But it's important to let them kind of choose their frame color and their style a little bit, so that they like what they get. You can encourage them and let them know that they look good in their glasses, so that they can start feeling better about themselves," she said.

Dr. Rice said newer technology like transition lenses, which turn tinted in the sunlight, also helps kids adapt to new glasses.

Rural health

She appreciates the opportunity to serve a rural population.

"I love working with rural populations because sadly, they're underserved. Sometimes they have a lot of visual problems. Being able to reach these kids, especially when it's no cost to come see me, is fantastic. I'm really excited to be here," she said.

Her experience with pediatric eye care has taught her to listen to her patients and carefully evaluate their symptoms to identify problems and solutions.

"Some parents have said, 'Well, they passed their vision screening test,' or 'They've gone to other eye doctors, and no one's ever caught this.' But because of my specialty, I'm able to listen to their symptoms and then dig in a little deeper than what you might get at a regular eye exam," she said.

Since she has been with CPNHS, she appreciates the opportunity to help parents identify what may be causing their child's challenges. When parents learn it can be solved with eyeglasses, they are often relieved.

"I think that it's really kind of kind of awesome because, the parent knows something's wrong and they feel like their child should be succeeding, but they can't understand why," she said. "They just feel so relieved. They're like, 'Oh, there's something I can do about this.' I think that's really, really cool to help that parent get the answers they've been looking for."

For more information about CPN Health Services, including optometry, visit cpn.news/health. 🔥

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

1 District 6 meeting from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Temecula, California, at the Temecula Community Center, 28816 Pujol Street. Lunch will be provided.

28 Family Reunion Festival for all CPN members and their immediate households will take place in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

JULY

29 2024 Potawatomi Gathering, hosted by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, will take place in Dowagiac, Michigan.

AUGUST

9 CPN's Annual Fireflight Balloon Fest will take place in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

17 District 8 meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, will be in a park setting with a meal, presentations and prizes.

18 District 8 meeting in Missoula, Montana, will be in a park setting with a meal, presentations and prizes.

OCTOBER

19 District 8 meeting in Portland, Oregon, will be the Annual Fall Feast.

Lewis family history

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

Family beginnings

The roots of the Lewis family are intertwined with the Bergeron family. Both families would later play a crucial role in the development of what would become Pottawatomie County in Oklahoma.

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. She was the daughter of Jude Bourassa and Mary Catherine Charet. Together, Wesley and Louise had a daughter named Laura. Sadly, Louise died about a year later. Laura would later marry Frank Gilbert and have three children: Will, LeRoy and Nell Gilbert.

Enduring tumultuous times

Like many Potawatomi families, the Lewis family endured the turmoil of removal.

Under 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. The Treaty of 1847 then forced the Potawatomi to move from the Osage River Reserve to a new location north and east of the Kansas River.

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.

The couple were parents to Francis Lester, Ivy Bell, Josephine, Charles Wesley, Omer Dee, Flora May and Edward James. Sadly, three of their children died in infancy: Sylvester, Albert and Annie. The family lived on a 170-acre farm near Louisville, Kentucky. Matilda died in childbirth on March 7, 1886, leaving Wesley to raise their surviving children. Matilda was buried with her unnamed infant in her arms.



Rosella and Lester Lewis

After Kansas became a state, settlers and railroad companies clamored for Potawatomi land in Kansas. 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, and the government sold the Kansas allotments to the railroad.

The Lewis family accepted allotments and moved to Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma Territory. There, they established another farm near present-day Wanette and Wesley lived there for the rest of his life.

Life in Oklahoma Territory

In 1891, Wesley and his neighbors raised money to build the first schoolhouse, a 16-by-16 structure. 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.

Francis Lester Lewis married Letitia Hartman on Feb. 13, 1889 at Westmoreland, Kansas. Their children were Clifford Edward, Arthur Kirkwood, Clara Belle, Charles

[Continued on page 17](#)

Re-Elect Rep. Paul Wesselhöft, M.A., M.Div. To the CPN Legislature

Please vote by absentee ballot request from March 1 to June 9th. CPN # is 405-275-3121
or vote at our Family Festival on June 29th.

Read about, "Paul Wesselhöft" on Wikipedia. repppaul@gmail.com Thank you!



Paid for by Paul Wesselhöft



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION COLUMBARIUM NICHE APPLICATION FORM

TO BE COMPLETED UPON THE DEATH OF TRIBAL MEMBER OR LOVED ONE

Name _____ Date _____
(Last, First, Middle)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please check preferred phone number.

Home _____ Work _____

Cell _____

Email _____

Niche Information

A niche is a space in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Columbarium (CPN Columbarium) to inurn cremated remains. Please include the name(s) of those to be inurned. At least one must be an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Designee #1 is the name for the remains that will be inurned first.

Name of Designee #1 _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

Name of Designee #2 _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

CPN Tribal Veteran? Yes No Branch _____

Terms and Conditions

The Application Form is not intended to reserve a spot for future use. Upon the death of a Tribal member or loved one, the application is to be filled out and submitted to **Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Rolls, 1601 Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 74801** or **scleveland@potawatomi.org**. CPN Tribal Rolls will provide confirmation of the enrolled Tribal member. Once the confirmation process is completed, a copy of the application will be provided to CPN Public Information Department for engraving purposes. If the cremated remains of the person that will be inurned first is a non-CPN Tribal member, the enrolled CPN member's name and information must be included. Signing this application in no way places financial responsibility on CPN to pay for the cremation of the listed Tribal member(s) or pay for the transportation of cremated remains.

Niche Assignment

The niche location will be assigned as the cremated remains are received. There are 400 niches in the CPN Columbarium. Each niche is designed for two urns. The CPN Columbarium has been

financed through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The proper sized urns have been purchased by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. There may be a charge for inurnment when future columbariums are built as the need arises.

Applicant Signature

Date

In the space below, please provide an additional contact in case the applicant cannot be reached in a timely manner if or when needed.

Name _____
(Last, First, Middle)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Relationship _____

Please check preferred phone number.

Home _____ Work _____

Cell _____

Email _____

.....

Lewis family continued...

Lester, James Wesley, Flora Esther, Omer Hartman, Jesse David, Francis Lee, Josephine and Alfred LeRoy.

Ivy married Anthony Gilbert after her father, Wesley, died. Ivy had helped her father raise her brothers and sisters.

Flora married Martin Archiquette and they had two children, Floyd and Vera.

Edward married Dovie and they had Chauncey Edward and Omer.

Omer married Pauline and they were the parents of Cecil, Glenn, Omer, Pauline, Mary and Oma. Omer served as vice-chairman of the Citizen Band Potawatomi in the mid-1930s.

Francis married Rosella and their children were Clifford, Kirk, Clara, Charley, James, Flora, Omer, Jesse, Lee, Josephine and Alfred.

The contributions Lewis family members made to what would become southern Pottawatomie County helped bring additional infrastructure to the area. In 1903, the Santa Fe Railroad was built through the county and the citizens of Wanette voted to move the town one mile north to its present-day location in order to have access to the railroad, a 1995 *Shawnee News-Star* article said.

Wesley Lewis died on April 21, 1910. However, the contributions of his descendants continue today. Robert (Bob) Lewis served as a councilman from 1981 to 1983. Bob's brother, Jerry W. Lewis, was a tribal historian in the 1970s. It was Jerry who made the connection between artist George Winter's images and Potawatomi ancestors. Jerry and Bob made many trips together researching art and history on behalf of the Nation. Both were described as strong advocates for their Potawatomi people and for Native people everywhere. Jerry Lewis walked on in 2015. Bob Lewis walked on in 2021.

The Lewis family were among the Potawatomi who endured the dangerous journey from Kansas to Indian Territory in the late 1800s. Those who safely arrived worked hard to make a life for themselves, clearing large acreages by hand and building farms where there had been empty prairies. The contributions of the Lewis family helped develop large portions of southern Pottawatomie County and established communities that are thriving still today.

If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830. Schedule interviews online at portal.potawatomi.org. Learn more about the Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/festival, and find research resources online at potawatomiheritage.com. 🔥

From the executives



John "Rocky" Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bozho nikan, (Hello, my friend,)

Our annual Family Reunion Festival is almost here.

If you haven't been to CPN headquarters in a while, you are missing out on seeing some amazing progress. Construction of the new FireLake Hotel and Casino is underway with great rapidity and skill. My hat is off to Crossland Construction for the efficiency and quality of their work. The new casino will replace the current casino next to FireLake Discount Foods, which was built in the 1980s. It is nearly completely enclosed and ready for interior work.

When complete, the new three-story hotel will include 126 rooms. Also notice construction at the FireLake Ball Fields, where we are adding six new turf softball fields in the hopes of becoming a World Series destination for NCAA Division II and lower softball teams. All this is a reminder that your Tribe continues to grow and to thrive.

Each year, Festival coincides with the Annual Meeting of the General Council of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation on the last Saturday in June. At one point in our history, that one in-person meeting of the Nation was the only way any Citizen Potawatomi had to participate in our Tribal government. This changed much for the good when we altered our form of government from a pure democracy to a representative republic. Now, we elect representatives to our Tribal Legislature, which uses the internet to meet by digital conferencing, to regularly debate and vote on Tribal laws and regulations that affect us all. The annual General Council is held in memory of our past ways of governing and for the purpose of providing reports and information about the Nation in person.

Another important thing we often do at Festival is receive our Potawatomi name. If you want your Potawatomi name, present a small packet of tobacco to any Potawatomi that you know already has his or her name. Offer the tobacco to them and ask for a name. If that person takes the tobacco for use in your naming ceremony, a date and time will be set for the ceremony. You will receive your Potawatomi name, but you will also become a "namer" yourself, able to give names if you are asked and wish to perform the ceremony. I will show anyone who is named the way to do the ceremony or help anyone with their first naming. The Language Department will help you pick a name if you are a "namer," and we also have a form for you to fill out that will help you think of or dream of a name that fits. Only the namer can choose the name, and only the namer can decide the time and place. If a namer returns your tobacco saying he or she cannot do as you ask, thank them and take your tobacco to another named person. I have been grateful to name over 300 people.

While you are here, you should also consider participating in one of our Heritage interviews at the Cultural Heritage Center. We originally started doing these videos with Tribal veterans and elders, but they are open to all Tribal members now. The intention is to capture the experiences of Tribal members from all walks of life in the hopes that family stories and traditions can be passed down to future generations. Interviews can be scheduled at portal.potawatomi.org.

Of course, one of the most important things you can accomplish at Festival is to meet family you have never met before and to catch up with those you may not have seen in a long time.

It has been a great honor to serve in our Tribal government. Thank you for choosing me to serve as your Tribal Chairman. I look forward to seeing you all in June.

Megwetch (Thank you),

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





Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

My heart-felt compassion goes out to the people of Oklahoma and other states that have suffered personal and property loss during the recent treacherous weather pattern. Oklahoma has endured a total of 54 tornadoes during March, April and the first week of May of 2024, with various EF ratings, including at least one EF4. The Enhanced Fujita (Foo jeet uh) Scale Rating uses the EF abbreviation to measure tornadoes. This measurement method has been used by the National Weather Service since 2007. The EF rating system goes from F0 to F5, depending on the strength of the wind. Four Oklahomans, including a baby, have lost their lives during slightly over two months. According to the National Weather Service, tornadoes have caused damage in 38 of Oklahoma's 77 counties. (The tornado information may have changed by the time you read this column).

Columbarium update

The Niche Application Form for CPN's Columbarium can be found on page 16 and 17 of this edition of the *Hownikan*. Hopefully, the content of this form will clear up the questions that numerous Tribal members have asked during calls to the Tribe. The calls and emails have resulted in an abundance of pleasant correspondence and conversations with Tribal members recently – members like Charles Green of Tennessee, inquiring about the inurnment of his mother's cremated remains in the Tribe's columbarium. As we visited, I discovered that Charles is the uncle to Kabl Wilkerson, former Potawatomi Leadership Program (PLP) student and language internship participant. Kabl, a Harvard student, is well-known within our Language Department and at the Heritage Center. Charles Green is equally as interesting a conversationalist as his nephew, so we visited a good while by phone. I look forward to the time when Charles, his sister Courtney, and her son Kabl can visit the Tribe for the inurnment of their mother and grandmother's crematory remains.

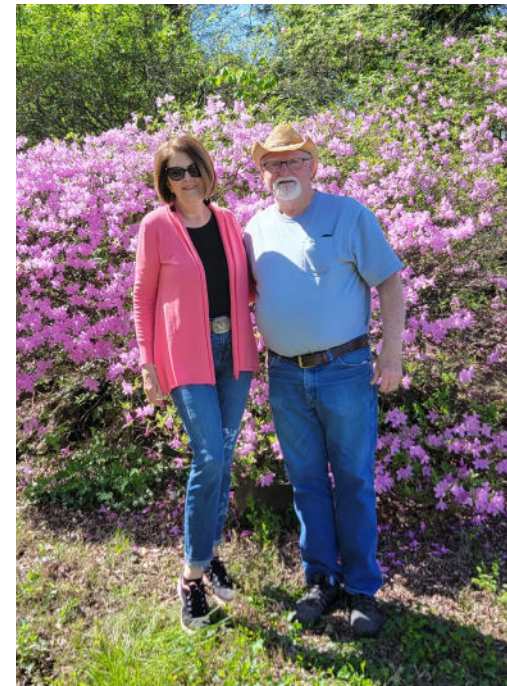
The columbarium is a great reason to come home to your Tribe and visit a loved one's memory at the same time. That is how Tribal member Dean Denton of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, feels. He and his wife, Donna, wish to be inurned in the CPN Columbarium someday. I truly enjoyed visiting with Donna about their final resting plans. Hopefully, that will not occur any time soon due to their diligent attention to a healthy lifestyle. They now understand that the application process for inurnment in the columbarium is intended only at the time of death.

The 76-year-old Denton stays active by walking 2 miles every day, rain or shine. In addition, he attends line dance classes three times a week taught by his wife (also 76) at the 55 Plus Activity Center in Bartlesville and at the American Legion in Talala, Oklahoma. They have discovered that line dancing is a fun way to get great cardio exercise. Donna says, "Any age can participate; you don't need a partner; the music is amazing; and it is a wonderful mental exercise for the brain to focus on the steps that are being taught. It is good for the body, mind and soul!" I appreciate Dean and Donna for their positive attitude and good disposition. They can be complimented on their good health and robust exercise routine.

June is just around the corner! It will be Festival time soon. I hope many of you can travel to Shawnee to attend the Festival. It is a perfect time for you to see the columbarium, plus all the construction work that is in progress at the Nation. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your vice chairman for so many years. I truly love our Potawatomi people.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



Dean and Donna Denton (Photo provided)

VISIT US ONLINE

POTAWATOMI.ORG

From the legislature



Eva Marie Carney District 2

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

June 8 beading class. District 2 resident and jewelry maker Sierra Waterman-Wells/*Senajewen*, will be teaching a brick stitch beading class from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, 2024. District 2 will be hosting 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 will be provided at no charge; class size is limited to 15 and the minimum age for participation is 12 years old. I am accepting RSVPs now. I expect to run a waiting list and, if the class goes as well as I expect it will, there will be future opportunities to learn from and build your skills with *Senajewen's* help.

Thank you for the invitation to District 1 Chicago meeting. *Migwetch* (thank you) to Alan Melot for his invitation to participate in District 1's

informative and fun meeting on April 6 in Chicago. It was terrific to see so many familiar faces, and to visit with fellow Potawatomi and family members.

Before the meeting, many Potawatomi gathered at the SW Michigan Avenue Bridge House to hear from District 1 citizen Sharon Hoogstraten about the monument titled *Defense by Henry Hering*. The monument depicts Potawatomi warrior *Naunongee*, Sharon's direct ancestor, fighting in the Battle of Fort Dearborn.



Sheila Giwekwe Kelly and I at the Walpole-hosted 2017 Potawatomi Gathering

Sharon is fighting to keep the monument intact (it is on the Chicago Monuments Committee's list of monuments slated for removal), and to ensure the Potawatomi roots of Chicago are widely known. You can read more about that history, and Sharon's efforts to reverse a decision to remove the monument depicting her ancestor, at cpn.news/monument.

Family news. With sadness I share the news of two Potawatomi friends who recently walked on.

The first, Sheila Giwekwe Kelly, was a fellow District 2 citizen living in Florida (Greemore family). We travelled together to the 2017 Gathering hosted by Walpole First Nation and came home with memories for a lifetime. You can read on Sheila's Facebook page a lovely remembrance and sketch of Sheila's eventful life, shared by her aunt Marianne Welch.

The second, Lyman Boursaw (Bourassa and Ogee families), was a dear gentleman and Citizen Potawatomi known to many. Lyman, a veteran and respected Citizen Potawatomi elder, carried our eagle staff in many grand entries, among other undertakings. I'm sharing a photo of him, with his brother, District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw. I will miss Lyman's smile and engaging conversation.

May their memories be a blessing forever.

Please keep in touch and share family news when you can. In my June column I'll share photos and a recap of our April 20 meeting in Rogers, Arkansas.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



Lyman Boursaw with our eagle staff



Bob Whistler District 3

Bozho ginwa (Hello everyone),

SWOC

In late March, we had the Francis Scott Key bridge in Baltimore harbor damaged and six or seven on the bridge perished. It reminded me of a similar incident in Minneapolis/St. Paul several years ago where the bridge collapsed, and a number of automobiles went into the water with loss of life. Many owners of automobiles today do not realize that the windows are made of a very special glass that will not fracture and collapse. That is so you are not injured by flying glass in an accident. While this may be fine on the highway, it is all but a death trap if your vehicle becomes submerged in water. The electric windows won't work. You need to think about this and have a plan. So, the actions you need to be prepared to take are as follows. Get your seat belt unbuckled as quickly as possible! Get the window rolled down or broken

out! Next, get your children out of the car first (oldest to youngest)! Then yourself! This must be last, since once you leave the car, it will be almost impossible to return to assist others. Now that covers the SWOC (Seatbelts off, Windows open, Out immediately, Children first) area. In addition to your plan, you need a tool. There are several on the market that have a very heavy internal spring that will trigger a very sharp hardened point that will break your car window. I have been hearing of a number of them and they are around \$30. I will be purchasing one for each of my autos and suggest you consider doing the same thing. If the time ever comes where it is needed, be glad you planned in advance on the order of actions to take and have the tool to help you at that important moment.

Texas Native Health

On March 22, I attended the opening and ribbon cutting of the new Texas Native Care facility. It happened that District 3 Tribal member Elisa Berger was also at the ceremony and she had a better photo of the ribbon cutting that I am submitting. The new facility encompasses 27,000 square feet compared to their recently small 7,000 square feet medical area. Texas Native Health is a non-profit organization providing services to Texas Native Americans for over 50 years. There are 233 CPN citizens, myself included in that number, who currently may use their services. In their smaller facility, the waiting time for some areas like dental had a one-year wait. They expect the new waiting time will be around three months. They offer: Primary Care, Dental Care, Diabetes Management, On-Site Pharmacy, Cultural and Educational Activities, Tuition Assistance and Career Training. For many CPN elders that meet certain requirements, CPN has a mail order medical prescription program. For those of you who are not eligible for the CPN plan and need help in affording medical prescriptions, and live in the Texas Native Care area, I suggest you check to see if they are able to provide you with their service. All services they offer are 100% free to members of all federal and state recognized tribes. They are located at 1283 Record Crossing Rd., Dallas, TX 75235. Their telephone number is 214-941-1050.

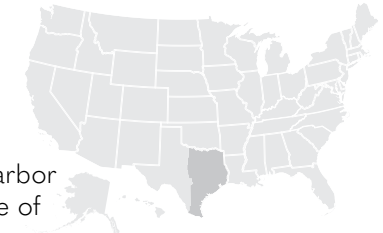


Texas Native Care celebrates the opening of a new facility with a ribbon cutting March 22.

My thanks to you for electing me to represent you in District 3. I am your voice and here to help. Please call or email me if there is an area where I may help you relative to our Nation.

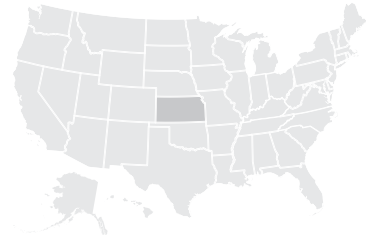
Nagech (Later),

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 Flint Hills conference in Wichita



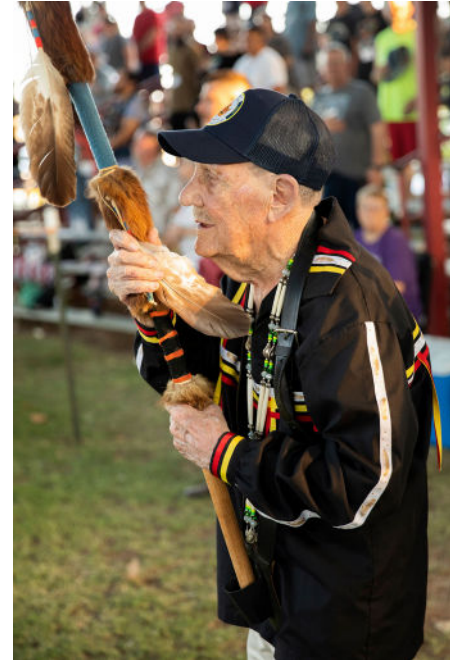
Dr. Blair Schneider and her students attended the Flint Hills Conference at Wichita State University on Saturday, March 23 to present the results of Abby Vaughn’s work at the Uniontown Cemetery. Abby has collected additional ground-penetrating radar (GPR) data and electrical resistivity data to try and determine if anyone is actually buried within the Bourassa enclosure. Abby collected the GPR in both North to South and East to West directions, which allowed us to create a 3D cube of data. No burial signatures were identified within the enclosure with either method. This is a case of having tomb stones from the 1860s and 70s and no graves. Stay tuned for the next episode.

New surveying in the search for site of Uniontown

Dr. Schneider, Scott Holzmeister, Blake Norton and I are now expanding site geophysical surveys to search for the town site of Uniontown. With landowner permission, Dr. Schneider’s students have begun a magnetic survey north of the cemetery in a hayfield. By the time this issue is printed they will have collected three-quarters of an acre of data with a magnetometer. Data processing and interpretation will occur over the summer, and then a pedestrian survey will be conducted over the same area in the winter when the grass is gone. More magnetic surveys are planned for winter and spring of next year. The goal of these surveys is to try and locate the remains of any burned buildings and/or structures to help identify the actual location of the old town site.

My Brother Lyman

As many of you know, my brother, Lyman, passed away in early April. Since we were seven and a half years apart we did not have a close relationship as brothers until I graduated from college and began my service in the Air Force. The years leading up to that were filled with his time in college followed immediately by his time in the Army. Of course, I saw him occasionally during holidays and family functions, but that changed when I entered active duty. He visited me when I stationed in Northern Ontario, Canada. Yes, we did play golf in a snowstorm in August. We also fished from a canoe on a rather large lake which we had all to ourselves. He visited again when I was in Washington, D.C., Kansas State University and again in California. But we only became truly close brothers when I moved back to Topeka 25 years ago. Although we knew we were enrolled in the Tribe, we knew very little about it, but that quickly changed. Together we expanded our knowledge of the Tribe’s history and the histories of our two tribal families. We also shared in conducting numerous Namings. But most important was our involvement as Tribal veterans. We have participated in countless Grand Entries not only in the CPN arena, but at numerous Gatherings throughout Potawatomi country. It won’t be the same entering an arena without him.



Lyman Boursaw

Upcoming CPN Elders’ Potlucks

The date for the next Elder Potluck held in Rossville at noon is:

June 14, 2024

Hamburgers and hot dogs

RSVP by the 11th

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Tracy at 785-584-6171

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



Gene Lambert District 5

Bozho (Hello),

You start to wonder what you can write about that will trigger thought or perhaps be helpful in someone's life. One could say we are living in difficult times, regardless of your ethnicity.

Our countries, states and cities encompassing the family unit will tell you, it is confusing.

We are divided by our religious or spiritual beliefs, politics, culture, wealth and limitations as the list goes on.

Some of us exist pretending there is nothing happening that affects our small groups within.

Worst of it all, we sit back in fear waiting for the other shoe to fall.

Fear is the least of survival tools we could utilize, yet the station of most.

With fear the ability to make responsible decisions is turned off or at least muted. Now the power is easily obtained.

What can we do?

Stop looking at the big picture is my way. Not necessarily the right or best way, but mine.

The scenario goes like this; there is a roof over my head, I am not hungry, my children and I are healthy, and the shifting power in the world has been going on for over 500 years. I have done all I know to do so it is time to let go.

The Creator will decide our world's future and it is much too big a picture for me to even think about.

If we all just take care of ourselves, friends and neighbors it can change the world.

There are many worlds existing within the one world and you can only contribute to the one you live in.

What that means is the good Lord has taken care of us all these years and I have no reason to think it will stop happening in the way he sees best.

Fear is the lack of trust in the Creator.

So, when you feel that coming on, just check your link and reactivate.

Hopefully you don't think I am being condescending. Truth is I am rekindling my own personal concerns sometimes.

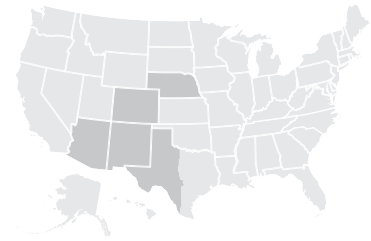
To not know leads to confusion.

Just stay in the moment as that is life itself.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to make your path easier.

Love you all,

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



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!

f NISHNABE NERDS



Rande K. Payne District 6

Bozho Nikanek (Hello friends),



It's mid-April here in the Golden State and the hills are still quite green. Late season rain has helped delay the inevitable drying that turns our state golden brown. The cooler temperatures and bonus moisture have been a welcome occurrence as those hot sunny days will be here soon enough.

I want to remind you of a few dates that you may want to take note of. The summer semester Tribal Scholarship Program application period that opened March 15 closes June 15. The fall semester application period opens July 15 and closes Sept. 15. The Tribal Scholarship Program provides financial assistance for payment of tuition for Tribal members pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees. Enrolled CPN tribal members who complete the application by

the deadline and meet criteria will be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 (full-time status) or \$750 (part-time status) per semester. Information and applications can be accessed through portal.potawatomi.org.

On Saturday, June 1, we will be in Temecula for a gathering. On the agenda are updates on Tribal enterprises, services and benefits. There will also be a cultural presentation on Seven Generations, Seven Grandfather Teachings and the Seven Fires Prophecy. The gathering is being held at the Temecula Community Center located at 28816 Pujol Street. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. and concludes at 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided. To register go to cpn.news/D6gathering. Space is limited to 75 people so if you haven't already registered, do it soon!

Our Family Reunion Festival is just around the corner. The Festival runs from June 28 to the 30. Festival is a celebration of Native culture for the Potawatomi. The Festival is for CPN members and their immediate households (spouses and those dependents living in the home of the Tribal member). Activities include Grand Entry, cultural classes, a dance contest and General Council. Tribal elections are decided during the Family Reunion Festival. In-person voting is available as well as an opportunity to have your Potawatomi story video recorded for the archives. The Eagle Aviary is also open for tours during Festival. There is something for everyone!

The 2024 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations is July 31 to Aug. 3. The Pokagon Band in Dowagiac, Michigan, is this year's host Nation. The Potawatomi Gathering provides an opportunity for *Bodéwadmí* people from across North America to come together for language and cultural demonstrations, recreational activities, meals, socializing and a powwow. The tribal councils and service programs from the various Potawatomi bands will also meet to discuss business and issues affecting Potawatomi communities across the U.S. and Canada. The idea for the Gathering began over 20 years ago when Potawatomi leaders recognized they had been separated for too long and needed to come together to share experiences, ideas and to reconnect as family. It has grown into a multi-day event attended by several thousand *Neshnabék* annually. Hosted by a different band every year, this will be the fourth time Pokagon Band has served as host. Details and registration can be found at potawatomigathering24.com.

It is my great pleasure to serve as your Representative. I would like to wish everyone a great spring into summer! I hope to see you at a Potawatomi event soon!

Potawatomi Word of the Month: *Wij* – Together

Wisdom from the Word: "So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together." 1 Corinthians 11:33

Jagenagenan (All my relations)...

Migwetch! Nageetch (Thank you! Later),

Rande K. Payne | *Mnedo Gabo* | rande.payne@potawatomi.org | 31150 Road 180 | Visalia, CA 93292-9585 | 559-999-5411



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Dave Carney District 8

Bozho nikan, (Hello friend),

Spring has sprung in District 8! Daffodils and tulips seem to be everywhere as is the sound of lawn mowers and pressure washers.

I've purchased my plane tickets for the Potawatomi Family Reunion Festival in Oklahoma and I hope many of you have too. The Family Reunion Festival (pow-wow) is June 28 through June 30 this year. As we have gathered together locally over the last few years, I generally ask if folks have ever attended it. I am always glad to see just how many have, and I'd encourage those who haven't gone to consider it one year — perhaps the year that your founding family is being honored. For a list of the honored family by year, go to cpn.news/honoredfamilies24.

If you are planning your summer activities, consider coming to one of these regional events:

Aug. 17, 2024 — Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Aug. 18, 2024 — Missoula, Montana

Generally, we have some Citizen Potawatomi presentations that I hope are educational, a presentation of prizes to honor the wisest and youngest enrolled Tribal members, a Native American art contest and a meal. If there is an interest, we may put together a private Naming ceremony after one or both of these events. If you plan on attending and would like to get more information on all that involved in asking for and receiving your Potawatomi name, please contact me directly at dncarney@gmail.com. This must be pre-arranged far in advance.

I am planning on a return trip to Alaska in the summer of 2025. I've been up there a few times and I am always impressed with the natural beauty and uniqueness of the area. One summer I hosted a cookout at a Tribal citizen's home in the evening and planned on showing an outside PowerPoint presentation. I'd forgotten that it did not get dark — oops! Time to regroup and switch to plan B!



Veronica Cortez

Of the many Tribal citizens I've connected with in Alaska, several will update me on how their children are doing with educational and vocational goals. Recently, Heather Cortez of Anchorage updated me on her daughter, Veronica, who was just accepted into the Ascend Pilot Academy, which is a 10 to 12 month flight training program. This is a collaboration between Alaska Airlines and Hillsborough Aero Academy (Redmond, Oregon). The successful completion of this program will put Veronica on the path to her ultimate goal — to become an airline pilot with Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air. I love this news for several reasons — female Tribal citizen reaching her goals and representing our Tribe and our district! Congratulations Veronica!

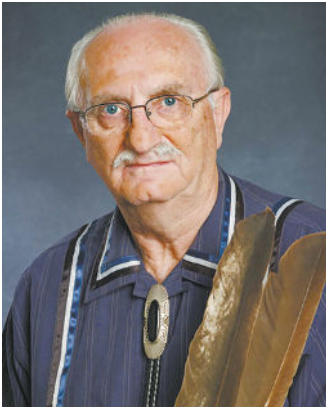
If you reside in District 8 and do not receive e-mails from me, please reach out with your contact information. District 8 citizens in the eastern part of the district especially!

It is my honor to serve as your Legislator,

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

Interested in going to the 2024 Potawatomi Gathering?

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



Paul Wesselhöft District 9

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

Bison

Bison,
Buffalo, Bovine,
Big, black, brown, broad,
Stand tall, stand muscular.
These created creatures,

The largest on America soil,
Are sacred to Native Americans.
The survival of Indigenous people
Depended upon them.
Traveling in herds,
These nomadic beasts kicked up dust clouds
With their thundering hoofs.
Medicine men prayed to find them.
Plains tribes migrated along with them.
Hunted by Indians for daily food,
Their skin for teepees,
Their hides for water bags, beds, blankets,
Coats and drums.
Their horns were crafted into tools, spoons,
Their hoofs into baby toys,
Their skulls into ceremonial regalia,
Their bones into knives, their sinews into bowstrings.
Around fire pits, Indians dance, sing,

Celebrating their existence.
Bison were sacred to the Indian.
Then white men conquered
the Great Plains
Killing over 50 million bison mostly for sport,
And to deprive Indians of meat for survival,
Driving Indians onto controlled reservations.
Government paid bounty to have bison killed.

Buffalo Bill alone killed over
four thousand in a year.

In train cars, men fired
rifles from roofs, windows.

From horseback
bison were shot.

If not killed, they were
wounded to suffer.

Bloody bison were
left on the prairie to
rot in the hot sun.

Their foul stench
filled the air.

Their spoiled meat
feed flies, vultures.

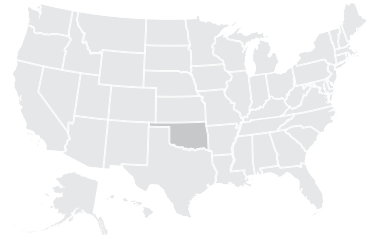
Only a few hundred
survived the onslaught.

Bison were not sacred to the white man.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft | *Naganit* (Leader)

reppaul@gmail.com | pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org



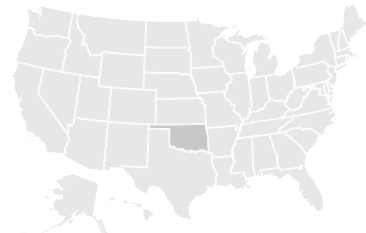
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Andrew Walters District 11

Bozho (Hello),



Later in the day on March 16, my neighbor, John, and I were huddled up where our fences meet talking about the flora and fauna of Oklahoma and how he wants to landscape his yard with some trees called "Texas Lilacs." John is fairly knowledgeable about plants and animals, and I was listening with rapt attention.

I don't know the exact time, but we had almost finished our discussion when suddenly a loud bang blanketed the field. It was so loud that it pushed the birds out the trees and started my attention to be turned to roadway that runs north to south in front of the house. There I saw a white car lift from the pavement and fly into the corn field on the west side of the road while another car kept going straight north at a fair clip. Then came the sound of metal falling on the road and radiators hissing. Well... John had his truck close, so we jumped in and rode over to the apparent accident. The white car was owned and occupied by a little couple I'd judge to be in their mid-to-late 80s. Farm folk through and through. The missus was a little banged up but the husband was large and in charge. The other car, the one that went down the road, was driven by a good-lookin' kid. About 21 and way taller than my 6-foot frame, respectful and scared. He was concerned about the folks in the other car. I talked to him a bit and noticed he had beer on his breath. His little puddle-jumper was pretty wadded up. I doubt if the paper tags on it will ever be replaced by metal ones. The Sheriff came as did the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. It was determined that the one boy had been drinking and he was cuffed up and taken to jail. The older folks in the other car were both transported to the hospital and both cars towed.

This whole thing started me thinking. With Spring Break coming up and then the end of school and the start of summer, a lot more young folks are going to make "bad decisions" that may cost them their careers, their health, their life, their friends lives, or just someone who was in the wrong place at the wrong time getting killed. Now I called it a "bad decision" and I can buy that idea... once. That first DWI will cost them, but if they do what they should, they'll get past it. The second, third, fourth and more... that's not a bad decision... that's a problem. And unfortunately, that's what jails are for... and sometimes funeral homes. For me the whole experience brought back really bad memories of really bad things I've had to do as a Police Officer. Going to hospitals, notifying families that their kids won't ever come home again.

So with these thoughts, could I ask... y'all be careful. Don't drink and drive. Don't drive like your tail end is on fire. Be careful. The leading cause of death for folks under 25 is accidents. Our Tribal Youth are so very important to us. The Tribal Youth is our future. The carriers of our traditions and ways. We can't afford to lose even one to a senseless act. And no family wants to mourn the passing of a child. So please, take care. Be responsible. And come to Festival... please.

Bami pi (Until later),

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



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thesovereigntysymposium.com

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Walking On

Cynthia Diane Bibb-Cheatwood

Willmette Family



Cynthia Diane Bibb-Cheatwood, beloved wife, sister, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at her childhood home in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, after a courageous two-year battle with cancer. Cynthia was born at the University of Oklahoma Hospital (OU) on Aug. 29, 1957. She was the 10th and final child of Roy and Leota Cheatwood. She is preceded in death by father, Roy;

mother, Leota; brothers, Tommy and Charles "Gilbert"; sisters, Lucille, Mary, Irene, Linda and Sharon. Cynthia is survived by her children Bobby, Amanda and Amber; husband Bobbie; sister, Karon; and brother, Edward.

On March 13, 1978, Cynthia married her soulmate, Bobbie Bibb, with whom she shared a lifetime of love, many fishing trips and cherished memories. Together, they raised three children and opened their home to Bobby Bibb; daughter-in-law Jennifer Bibb and her husband Jim Higginbotham; Amanda Haines, and son-in-law James Haines; Amber Rose and her husband Delvin Rose and adopted daughter Nicole Mosqueda. Cynthia's nurturing spirit extended beyond her own children as she lovingly raised many others who found a home in her heart.

Cynthia adored her grandchildren including Caden, Logan, Aspen, Jenna, Jace, Ariana, Brooklyn, Dallas, Andre, Allie (who she joins in heaven), Astoria, Matthew, Heaven, Bradley, MJ and Abigale. She found joy in spending time with them doing many things, cooking ramen, oatmeal, eggs, among many other things. Many memories were made during family fishing trips where laughter and love filled the air. All her grandchildren fondly remember her rubbing their backs until they fell asleep, teaching them to crochet and hula hoop, playing in the sand box and blowing bubbles in the yard.

A compassionate and devoted woman, Cynthia dedicated her life to caring for others. She often spoke of her career as a school cafeteria worker. Cynthia's kind heart and generous spirit touched the lives of many, leaving her mark on all who had the privilege of knowing her.

In her free time, she found solace in gardening, where she cultivated beauty and loved watching the hummingbirds flutter by. She enjoyed the simple pleasures in life, always ready to share a cup of coffee, and dance with

loved ones. You would often see Cindy in the kitchen dancing and singing while she cooked or cleaned. It was rare to see Cindy without her Kindle in her hand reading another book. She and husband Bobby also enjoyed many evenings drinking a cold beer and listening to their favorite music from their younger days.

Cynthia's legacy of love, kindness, generosity and unwavering strength will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know her. She will be deeply missed but forever remembered in the hearts all of those touched by her grace.

Lyman E. Boursaw

Boursaw Family



Lyman E. Boursaw, Jr., 91, of Topeka, Kansas, passed away Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at Midland Hospice House in Topeka. Lyman was born at home on June 4, 1932, in Topeka, the son of Lyman, Sr. and Grace (Delk) Boursaw. He was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) and his Native American name was *Shabbona*. Lyman grew up in Topeka and he attended Highland Park Schools from kindergarten through high school, where he played

football and basketball and was in the band. He then attended Washburn University where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Lyman served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956. After his discharge, Lyman held several positions with life insurance companies, followed by being a partner in Met-Con Products in Topeka. Later, he was employed by the U.S. Postal Service as a mail routing machine operator and trainer. In 2005, he was asked by the CPN Chairman to be part of the team that designed and later oversaw the construction of the CPN Community Center in Rossville, Kansas. This was followed by the construction of 10 duplexes located near the center. Lyman served as the CPN Housing Manager in Rossville since 2007. Lyman enjoyed listening to jazz music and dancing to the sounds of the big bands. An avid golfer, Lyman played countless rounds of golf and bad weather was never a deterrent, as evidenced by playing in a snowstorm in August in Canada with his brother, Jon.

Lyman is survived by his daughter, Nicole Boursaw Lux (Tony) of Shawnee, Kansas; grandchildren, Mallory and Wyatt; and his brother, Jon Boursaw (Peggy) of Topeka.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to TOP City Supports Ukraine and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Condolences may be sent online to kevinbrennanfamily.com.

William Charles Martin
Burnett Family



William Charles Martin, 88, entered the arms of his Savior March 5, 2024, at SSM St. Anthony's Hospital in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Charles was born March 4, 1936, to Jack and Anne Martin in Macomb, Oklahoma. At the age of 12, Charles accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior under the influence of his Sunday School teacher, Grace

Harrington. This decision planted in Charles a determination to lead a life of loving and serving others in hopes of pointing them to Jesus. With a pounding in his heart, he yearned for his friends and family to experience the joy, peace and love he had found.

Charles attended school in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, and graduated in Big Lake, Texas, where he was a decorated athlete, scholar student and natural leader at a height of six feet, six inches. Charles attended San Angelo Junior College of San Angelo, Texas, where he played both football and basketball. It was there he met his sweetheart and wife of 54 years, Elizabeth Allene Dickson.

Charles left junior college with an Associate's Degree in Civil Engineering. He and Allene then headed north where he played quarterback and other positions for the Iowa State Cyclones in Ames, Iowa. He graduated from ISU in 1959 with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture. After graduation, he was drafted to play football for the Cleveland Browns. But trusting in his favorite scripture verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, he walked away from football with his wife and baby daughter, and worked as a foreman of an ISU experimental beef farm.

After two years in that position, Charles returned home to Tecumseh where he worked one year as a junior high teacher and athletic coach, then later for the Production Credit Association as an agriculture loan officer.

Charles's career path took an interesting turn when Tecumseh's mayor recruited him to serve as City Manager. This God-directed path resulted in a 34-year career in city administration. He served in Tecumseh for 15 years; Federick, Oklahoma, for nine and half years; and in Altus, Oklahoma, for nine years. He and Allene retired in Altus in 2001.

All three cities derived a major portion of their revenue for public works from the sale and distribution of electricity. This led to Charles's election to serve on the first Board of Directors, and later as Chairman of the Board for the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority.

Charles also volunteered with the Jaycees and Rotary Clubs. He joyfully served as member, teacher, department leader, and deacon at the First Baptist Churches of Tecumseh, Frederick and Altus. In addition, he was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

He passionately supported various charities including Baptist Children's Homes, St Jude's Hospitals, Gideon's International and Navigators.

Outside of work, Charles delighted in playing golf and spending time with his daughters, Kim, Patti, and Jenifer. He was their coach and biggest fan in softball, basketball, tennis, and other pursuits. He and Allene continued these favorite past times in later years with their seven grandchildren, and "adopted" grandchildren.

Charles is preceded in death by his wife, Allene; parents, Jack and Anne; sister, Barbara Phillips; grandson, Timothy Nootbaar; brother-in-law, Herbert Holton and niece, Leslie Holton Martin.

He is survived by his sister, Patricia Holton; his three daughters, their spouses, and children: Kim Nootbaar Leech (Paul Leech); Patti Lamle (Adam Lamle); Jenifer Siemens (Dwight Siemens); Grandchildren: Steven Nootbaar, Michael Nootbaar (Rebekah); Autumn Lamle Cameron (Jeremy); Brock Lamle (Whitney); Will Siemens (Emily L.); and Emily E. Siemens; 10 great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and cousins.

The Memorial Service and Celebration of Life for Charles was held at Wm. Charles Martin Park in Tecumseh with Rev. Adam Lamle, Dr. Jeff Moore and Rev. Tony Peak officiating under the direction of Cooper Funeral Home of Tecumseh.

The CPN Burial Assistance Fund is available to all enrolled CPN members. Notify Tribal Rolls office of member's passing to receive \$2,000 aid. Burial process information and instructions sent to next of kin. Contact Tribal Rolls at tribalrolls@potawatomi.org or 405-878-5835.

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