

HOWNINKAN

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Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho Jayek, (Hello everyone),

We have several new class options coming up. We are just wrapping up our fall eight-week class with Cole Rattan. He did the course online and also on-site. We are getting ready to offer a basic Potawatomi course at the Cultural Heritage Center every Tuesday from Oct. 15 to Nov. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. We are also starting a family class being taught by Josey Wood every Thursday from Oct. 17 until Nov. 21 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Citizen Place North Community building. We also have an online self-paced course which can be done at any time. It's located at learning.potawatomi.org and there is an introduction course, grammar based course and middle school course.

We are starting a new school year here in Oklahoma with our Potawatomi Language high school course being offered in Shawnee, North Rock Creek and Tecumseh this school year. It's always exciting that we can make the language available to count for the language credit needed for graduation. So instead of a student having to take Spanish or French, they can take Potawatomi.

If you haven't checked it out, make sure to look at our online Potawatomi dictionary at potawatomidictionary.com. We are constantly working to add words, audio, example sentences, videos and images. We also have a verb conjugation tool on the side of the dictionary, which is really helpful with Independent TA verbs. TA verbs can be some of the most complex to conjugate and have more than 34 forms in their base form. This tool will allow a person to choose different TA verbs, which end in MA, and it will conjugate them out. This is a very handy tool as this particular verbal pattern can be a challenge for students.

Some everyday words you can say daily

Nasena! — Be careful (Nah sin ah)

Dokem! — Be quiet (Doe kum)

Mno gishget — It is a nice/beautiful day. (Mino geeshgit)

Waseya mget. — It's bright/ sunny. (Wahsay yamgit)

Gbekte ne? — Are you hungry? (guh buck tay nay)

Ehe Mbekte. — Yes, I am hungry. (eh heh muh buck tay)

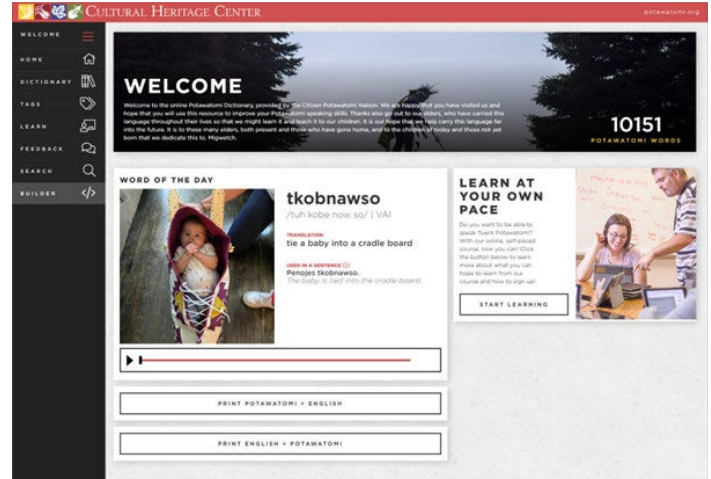
Wé ni je o? — Who is that? (Way knee juh oh)

Wé ni je o kwe? — Who is that woman?
(way knee juh oh kway)

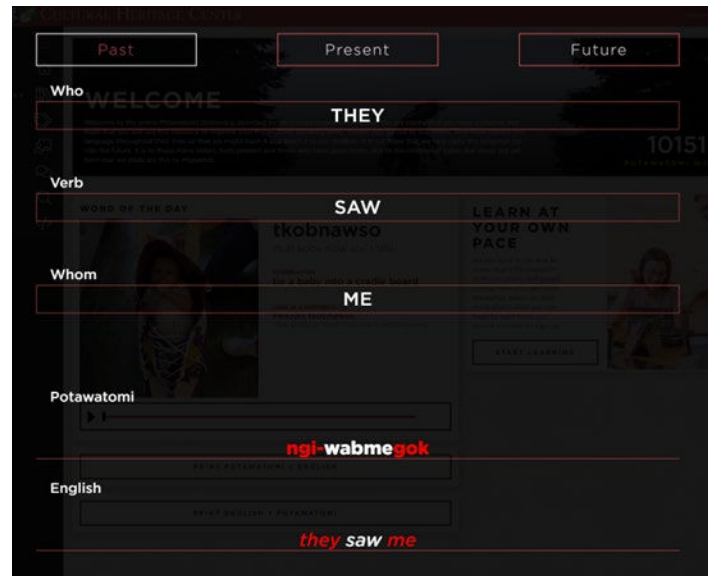
Wé ni je o nene? — Who is that man?
(Way knee juh oh nuh nay)

Nekshe ibe — Look over there. (Nuck shay eebuh)

Kyénepl! — Hurry! (Kay nup)



Potawatomi Dictionary



Dictionary configuration tool

Ni pi je ezhyayen? — Where are you going?
(Knee pee juh ezh zhee yah yin)

Ni je ga zhewébek? — What happened?
(Knee juh gah zeh way buck)

Ni je na? — How are you? (Knee juh nah)

Nmno ye — I am well. (nuh mih no yay)

Anwe she shena. — I am well. (ahn way sheh shina)

Nde-yekwes. — I am tired. (nduh yuck wis)

Bgéji ndaknoga. — I am a little sick.
(Buh geh gee nuh dack no gah)

Byan shode — Come here. (bee yawm sho duh)

Wijeweshen! — Come with me/
accompany me. (Wee juh way shin)

Migwetch (Thank you) 🔥

Working to expand access to care

A recent report on health care access revealed Oklahoma's Native American population faces significant barriers to receiving health care. However, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services is working on plans to address some of those challenges.

Oklahoma ranked above only West Virginia and Mississippi in the Commonwealth Fund's 2024 state health disparities report. (cpn.news/healthdisparities) The report ranks each state's health care system based on how well it provides high-quality, accessible and equitable health care. The Commonwealth Fund is a New York-based foundation that supports health care equity.

The Oklahoma health care system score for American Indians and Alaska Natives was 11 out of 100. Oklahoma ranked fourth among the 10 states with a large enough AI/AN population to measure.

"The Commonwealth Fund's findings are on par with what we're seeing reported for Native American populations in the state of Oklahoma. I sit on several boards with the University of Oklahoma, one of which is specifically focused on health equity for Native Americans due to the identified gaps in equitable health for our population," said Lauren Bristow, CPN clinic operations administrator.

Barriers to care

High poverty rates and large numbers of uninsured individuals are just two of the factors that contribute to health care inequities. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Oklahoma has the sixth highest poverty rate and the third highest uninsured rate in the country.

Nearly 20% of Native Americans in Oklahoma live below the poverty threshold.

"People who are experiencing poverty are understandably in survival mode," Bristow said. "Adding lack of insurance to this equation increases the likelihood that health care will be put off."

Once an appointment has been scheduled, the ability to get there could also prevent someone from receiving care.

"Transportation also seems to be a large barrier," she said. "While we are only 40 minutes from a large, academic health care center, sometimes traveling this distance is simply not an option. Transportation concerns can present both physical and emotional barriers, when considering the dynamics of driving in a metropolitan area."

Bristow has voiced these concerns to the many boards and organizations she participates in, one of which is the Tribal Advisory Board of the Stephenson Cancer Center at the University of Oklahoma. Stephenson is the state's only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center and has been named Oklahoma's top facility for cancer care by U.S. News & World Report.



Oklahoma's Native American population has a notably high rate of cancer diagnoses, some of which are easily treatable if detected early. However, when patients do not receive regular screenings or preventive care, many cancers can go undetected, sometimes leading to premature deaths.

Some cancers and infant and maternal mortality rates figured into the Commonwealth Fund report. The report said premature deaths from treatable causes among Native Americans in Oklahoma were 697.6 deaths per 100,000 population. The lowest rate was 234.8 deaths per 100,000 population among Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders in Oklahoma.

The health care access report did contain some hopeful news. The Native American population in Oklahoma does have better health care access than their peers in the northern and southwestern regions of the U.S.

Bristow said it is possible that the number of Oklahoma tribal clinics available may account for the data, as well as the fact that Oklahoma tribes are located in closer proximity than in states like North Dakota, Arizona and Utah, where patients may have to drive for hours to reach a provider.

Increasing access

The U.S. Indian Health Service is responsible for most of the funding for tribal health clinics, however the agency has been chronically underfunded for decades. Bristow urges Tribal members to advocate for additional IHS funding.

Bristow said CPN works diligently to make the budget stretch to serve growing tribal populations without additional funding. It is a point she makes each Tuesday when she participates in new hire orientation and explains how CPN Health Services is funded.

"We're trying to break the misconceptions of what tribal health is and how we're funded. It's not just a blank check for us, and it's certainly not 'Indian insurance,'" she said.

CPNHS, with the assistance of the CPN Office of Self Governance, also seeks out any available grants from the National Institutes of Health and other sources. NIH has offered grant opportunities to specifically address health disparities in Native American communities.

“The University of Oklahoma recently applied for a nationwide grant which seeks to reduce inequity in cancer care among Native American populations, and also provide additional funds to support preventative screenings. I am honored to sit on the Tribal Research Advisory board, along with several other representatives from tribal nations here in Oklahoma. The Tribal Research Advisory board and numerous health professionals from Stephenson Cancer Center and the University of Oklahoma, collaborated on the grant submission for this opportunity,” Bristow said. “I do think if we continue to advocate in every available avenue that we can push towards change.”

Other ways CPNHS is working to serve a growing patient population is the new CPN clinic site currently in the planning stages, which will be located in Choctaw, Oklahoma, as well as maximizing existing resources.

“In addition to expanding physical locations, we work to ensure that we are operating at the highest efficiency, with the highest quality of care possible.

That means reviewing processes frequently and implementing creative solutions where possible. I think that's the best way that we can serve our people with the resources we have today,” she said.

Bristow added that it is important for Tribal members to use CPNHS because that influences IHS funding.

“The number of patients attributed to our health care facility makes up our user population. And that user population number goes into a calculation with IHS to determine our funding,” she said.

She urges patients to sign up for care early instead of waiting until they have a health problem.

“Establishing care with a primary care provider before you have an urgent need makes the process more seamless and expedites our ability to provide care when or if you do have an urgent need. New patient appointments tend to schedule out further than established patient appointments, so waiting to establish care until an urgent health care need exists, could potentially delay care,” Bristow said. “Being proactive is certainly very beneficial.”

For more information about the CPNHS facilities, visit cpn.news/health or @potawatomihealth on Facebook and Instagram. 🔥



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Mosteller takes the reins at FAM

Just weeks after settling in as executive director of the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Dr. Kelli Mosteller is enjoying being home.

"It feels good to be home. I am still adjusting back to the heat, but I'm excited to be back with friends and family. I like being able to get Dr. Pepper in every restaurant. I really missed fried catfish," she laughed.

Most recently, Mosteller was the executive director of the Harvard University Native American Program since 2022. Previously, she was the executive director of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center for 11 years.



On Sept. 3, 2024, Mosteller replaced FAM Executive Director James Pepper Henry, who stepped down in March 2023. Henry is now the museum's director emeritus, with a focus on fundraising and special projects.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Mosteller to lead FAM into its next chapter," said Gregg Wadley, chair of the FAM board of directors, in a July statement announcing the appointment. "Her extensive experience in Indigenous cultural preservation, museum management and community engagement makes her ideally suited to build on FAM's success and further our mission."

Mosteller, a member of the Ogee and Weld families, is concentrating on getting to know the FAM staff and learning as much as she can about the facility's operations.

"It's a lot of information to take in and process. There are some deadlines that are looming, but it's been really good. The staff is phenomenal, and it's been everything I hoped it would be and more," she said.

She is grateful that the FAM staff has helped her settle into her new routine.

"I've been able to go to lunch with almost every staff member to just get to know them. They're being intentional about making sure that I'm getting the chance to get acclimated," she said. "They've been good about balancing the need to give me new information, but also let me meet people and just get to know them a little bit."

Busy months ahead

Mosteller plans to hit the ground running because the next several months are going to be busy, she said. The OKANA Resort next door is expected to open in the spring of 2025 and FAM has new features slated to open next summer as well.

"We have Indigenous Peoples' Day and this is a huge event of around 3,000 people who come in for that. We're really looking forward to it, but we also want to make sure that we're prepared to give everybody the best experience we can," she said. "Now that school's back in session, we have our school groups coming through again. Fall brings a whole other sort of audience and pace to the museum."

Adjacent to FAM's grounds, the Chickasaw Nation's OKANA Resort will include a 100,000 square foot indoor waterpark, 404-room, 11-story hotel, a 12,000 square foot family entertainment center, 39,000 square foot conference center and 36,000 square foot retail space and dining options.

"We have OKANA opening in late winter or early spring, I think sometime in February or March. We're obviously excited about our partnership with them. We have regular meetings with the OKANA team to make sure that we're all in the loop and know what each other is doing and how to make it the best experience it can be," Mosteller said.

Now that fundraising for the museum's Family Discovery Center is complete, fabrication of the exhibit's features is next. FAM is planning for its long-awaited opening in the summer of 2025.

"We're working on the Family Discovery Center, which is the children's exhibit. There's a lot of work that goes into it. The action is happening behind the scenes and it's really taking a lot of focus. And that's the part of it that's at the critical stage where it needs a lot of attention," she said.

The Family Discovery Center will include a fully illustrated, multi-plane immersive world, according to FAM's website, where day turns into night and guests can experience all four seasons. Multiple generations will be able to learn about respect, resilience and the importance of stewardship.

Showcasing tribal history

FAM has become a center where Oklahoma's 39 tribal Nations can showcase their cultures and history. The diversity of each Nation is something Mosteller calls "our superpower" and Mosteller is looking forward to celebrating that fact.

"This museum really is committed to representing and being a place for all 39 of the tribes in Oklahoma," she said.

In November, the museum is hosting a veteran's event. FAM officials invite veterans from all branches to share their stories of service. Historically, Native Americans have volunteered for military service more than any other demographic group in the United States.

"They can come in and tell their story and we'll help them scan any of their documents, if they have any letters home that they wrote during their time of service, or if they have any official documents they want scanned. We'll help process that for them and send them home with the originals and a digital copy. We'll take a photo and record their story," Mosteller said.

She is happy to be home and to help educate FAM's visitors about the unique tribal cultures and histories in Oklahoma. It is a community unique among other regions in the United States, Mosteller said.

"In New England they have a different history and intertribal politics, and the nature of the tribal community is so different than here, where we have southeastern tribes, we have woodland tribes, we have plains tribes, we have tribes who ranged farther west," she said. "To have all of those really unique, distinct cultures here in the same state calling Oklahoma home, it's a really unique opportunity to celebrate all of our cultures, but also our shared history."

For more information about the First Americans Museum, visit famok.org. 🔥

Domestic Violence Awareness

By Kayla Woody,
CPN House of Hope Prevention Specialist

Don't stay silent. It's time to speak up all month long.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation House of Hope is here to help you become more aware of domestic violence in the community and provide support to those who are affected by it every day.

Every year, more than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the U.S. deal with domestic violence daily. This abuse accounts for 15% of all violent crimes shown in a report by the U.S. Department of Justice. In the state of Oklahoma, nearly half of women and 40 percent of men in the state either have experienced or are currently experiencing abuse from an intimate partner. These staggering numbers mean there is likely a handful of people that you know who are experiencing abuse.

The House of Hope wants to raise awareness of this epidemic and teach the community to speak up and see that their voice matters.

With knowledge comes responsibility. If you find yourself in a situation where domestic violence has shown its ugly face, do not stay silent! Amelia Earhart once said, "The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity." You may believe it is not your job, your business, or your responsibility. However, the only way to change the cycle is to bring attention to it and take the proper steps to extinguish it.

If you are unfamiliar with the signs, here are some things to look out for:

- Isolating partner from family and friends
- Controlling finances
- Blaming partner for their mistakes or problems
- Destroying property or hurting pets



- Monitoring of texts or social media accounts
- Using threats or verbal putdowns
- Frequent physical injuries

If you are unsure who to notify in a situation, contact your local law enforcement or seek out programs in your area, like House of Hope, that offer services for victims.

The CPN House of Hope provides services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation or financial status. It provides victim advocacy, support groups, parenting classes, transportation, court advocacy and safety planning. To contact please visit cphouseofhope.com, find us on social media [@cphouseofhope](https://www.instagram.com/cphouseofhope) or call 405-275-3176. 🔥

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Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

This is a call for all Citizen Potawatomi veterans to join us (the CPN Veterans Organization) in a very special and personally rewarding parade in Wewoka, Oklahoma, on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, at the "world famous" WEWOKA SORGHUM FESTIVAL PARADE. We have a trailer with chairs and flags, the Big Red Golf Cart, and my mini Jeep displaying all the military service flags, including the U.S flag, Potawatomi flag and the POW/ MIA flags. To participate in this event is a great honor and we welcome you veterans and your families to join us in this rewarding event. Line-up starts at 8 a.m., but the parade doesn't start until 10 a.m., so, that gives you plenty of time to find a seat on the trailer or the red golf cart. I have room for one "small" person in my mini Jeep. Please join us in this rewarding event. The parade line-up is just north of town on Highway 56, which runs into the Wewoka main street. Migwetch (Thank you)!

The Sorghum Festival includes a car show, food booths, arts and crafts, quilt show, an art show, a sorghum bake off and free entertainment. You can't get any more fun than that. All the attractions (and parade) start at the Wewoka Chamber of Commerce (101 West Park) and go seven blocks to Seminole Nation Museum at 524 South Wewoka Street. Uphill all the way and you get to ride. What fun that will be!

Remember the Citizen Potawatomi Veterans Organization meets at the North Reunion Hall every fourth Tuesday



HEY! I'M YOUR CO-PILOT, SO, STOP CALLING ME "BACK-SEAT-DRIVER"!

of each month at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there). You do not have to be a member and families are welcome. Pizza is served and kids will play while we eat.

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

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.

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 NISHNABE NERDS



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Louisa Smith Storm Hartman (third from left) and her family. The photo was taken in about 1898 or 1899.

Smith 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.

Roots in Illinois

In 1825, a Methodist Church delegation traveled to northern Illinois to establish a mission near the mouth of the Fox River. There, they met Frederic H. Countryman (Contraman) and about 200 Potawatomi. Countryman had been living among the Potawatomi long enough to learn *Bodéwadmimwen* and serve as the missionaries’ interpreter.

Countryman had married a Potawatomi woman named *En-do-ga*. It is possible that a woman named Doga who appears in a George Winter watercolor sketch is actually *En-do-ga*. She was the niece of a respected Indiana Potawatomi leader named *Naswawke*. Frederic and *En-do-ga* had three daughters — Betsey, Nancy and Sarah.

Notes in “The Journals and Indian Paintings of George Winter” refer to a Potawatomi woman named Doga who could speak English with some fluency. Winter described her as “shrewd, humorous and entertaining,” and having a “cheerful disposition.”

The family lived near Kellogg’s Grove, Illinois, in a log cabin and a bark wigwam. Frederic was appointed county constable in 1825 because of his established relationship among the Potawatomi.

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced thousands of Native Americans to leave their respective homelands in the Great Lakes region and move west. In 1834,

the Potawatomi and the Countryman family removed to Calhoun County, Kansas. Frederic appears in the Kansas Territory Census of 1855 and 1857. Their home was on the Potawatomi reservation south of the military road leading from Ft. Leavenworth to Ft. Riley, near Solider Creek, Kansas.

Following the 1833 treaty, the U.S. government paid Nancy, Sarah and Betsey cash grants in lieu of allotments, each for \$600.

Smith family establishes Kansas ferry

Nancy Countryman married Peter McClain in 1839. Together, they had Albert and Josephine. Nancy then married Andrew Johnson in 1845. They had Rachel and Matilda. Sadly, Matilda died at age 3.

Nancy later married Sidney W. Smith in 1853. Sidney and Nancy had Louisa, William (Smith McLane) and Thomas.

Thousands of people traveled through Kansas from 1840 to 1870 as they followed the Oregon Trail. Sidney established Smith's Ferry, and the southern landing was near the Potawatomi Mission.

The route had many branches that cut through the area. Travelers picked the pathway which was easiest to follow, avoiding mud and crossing the Kansas River at different points. Smith's Ferry ran for eight years.

Nancy and Sidney divorced in 1860. Sidney is then documented as remarried to Nancy in 1861. Nancy died in approximately 1876. Sidney died in May of 1887.

1887 Oklahoma allotment roll

With more people settling in Kansas, railroad companies and squatters began eyeing Potawatomi lands for development.

In 1861, Potawatomi leaders met with representatives of the U.S. government to sign a treaty that provided land in Indian Territory in exchange for U.S. citizenship. The Potawatomi who accepted the terms became known as the Citizen Potawatomi. The government's purpose was two-fold — to force Indigenous people to assimilate into mainstream society and to claim lands previously held by tribes.

Having endured a series of forced removals, the Citizen Potawatomi likely hoped to find security and permanency on land that could not be taken away. Over a period of several years, Citizen Potawatomi families began the arduous process of moving to Indian Territory.

Several of Nancy's descendants were listed on the 1887 Oklahoma allotment roll.

Nancy's daughter Josephine married Andrew Smith in about 1860. Together, they had Martha (Mullen), Nancy (Fehlg), Frank, Zoe (Denton), Eliza (Edwards Calvin) and

Sidney Jr. Josephine later married James Bourassa. They had a daughter named Nellie "Ellen" (Bourassa Wiley).

Josephine's son was born in 1872 in Kansas. He married Sarah Cook on May 3, 1893, in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. The couple's son, Willie Bryant Smith, was born in Maud, Oklahoma, in 1898. Frank died in 1928 in Shawnee and was buried at Tecumseh Mission Cemetery.

Nancy's daughter, Rachel Catick, received an allotment in 1887 in Oklahoma. She is listed in the roll, age 39, along with her children, Louise, 19, Blanch, 6, and Benjamin, 1. Nancy's daughter Louisa married a Dr. Storm in St. Marys, Kansas. They had two daughters, May "Mary" (Hammer) in 1871, and Zoe (Whitmere) in 1874. After Dr. Storm died, Louisa then married John Hartman in 1881. Their daughter, Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Lynn) was born in 1882. Another daughter, Dora (Stewart), was born in 1884. Their son Thomas followed in 1886. Two daughters were also born: Nettie (Peck) in 1888 and Henriette (Beeler) in 1891.

Nancy's granddaughter Zoe married Reuben Denton in 1880 at Dover, Kansas. Together, they had Minnie (Cook), Hattie (Bixby), Nellie (Allen), Pearl, Anna, Mary (Powell Devine), Ellen, Josephine (Smith), Clinton, Jesse, Leroy and Dorothy. A family history document reveals the heartbreaking loss of four daughters. Anna and Pearl, twins, died in 1908 at age 16. Dorothy died at age 12 in 1908. Lily died at age 1 in 1908.

Zoe and Reuben enjoyed nearly 55 years of marriage. Tragically, they both died within 60 hours of one another. Reuben suffered from a stomach disorder for years. On Feb. 8, 1935, he learned that his beloved wife had suddenly died of a heart attack. The 79-year-old farmer died on Feb. 10, 1935. They were remembered by their family and loved ones during a funeral mass and buried on the same day.

Nancy's granddaughter Elizabeth married Tom Lynn, and they had a son named Graydon D. Lynn. A daughter, Dora, lived to adulthood and married J.C. Stewart. They also had a daughter named Martha Louise (Green) and two sons named Lewis and Thomas. An unnamed baby died in infancy.

Members of the Smith family were among the Potawatomi who stood against the odds and made a new life for themselves in Oklahoma. With little but their own determination, the descendants of the Smith family bonded together and established a foundation that would serve future generations.

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. 🔥

Autumn star knowledge

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

By **Minisa Crumbo Halsey**

GAA BIBOON KED

Winter Wisdom Teachings

Ahau and Bozho nikanek,

We enter the fourth quarter of the Medicine Wheel on a resonant completion chord of our *Nishnabé* Creation Story and the seasonal Star Map...it is by these original gifts, teachings and certain things that we do find our WAY.

BIBOON

This season of *Biboon* brings the gathering and harvesting season, which invites us to celebrate the harvest and the preceding year's labors and gifts with remembrance, gratitude and honoring words. This season seats but one of the times within which we may individually or collectively consider setting aside four days of ceremony...for we would remember that if one can take one's life into four days of dedicated, personal ceremony, we can change it. How? For moving into a dedicated structure of this kind. These days can and will lead us, through feasting, speaking, dance and song, onto a renewed path connecting us with the mind of *Giche Manidoo* and the original dream of life that opened a vital chord for us to travel to this Sacred Land.

The Original Thanksgiving

The honoring memories and words are fused with the hearts, minds, bodies and Spirits of *Sekmekwe*, *Gizes* and



Winter Maker by Minisa Crumbo Halsey



Mother Earth Holds Vision of New Life

The child within carries a dream of the Creative Forces to manifestation. Mother is both childbearing woman and old woman, her head and hair lines know wisdom of the evergreen tree and her garments speak of the flight of the winged ones. Her vision is at peace in he4r Sun-Moon home.

Mother Earth by Minisa Crumbo Halsey

all of the other Powers, Directions, Colors: the elemental helpers of the *noden* (wind beings), *mine* (water beings), *sen* (rock beings), *shkodé* (fire beings) and the *skebyak* (green beings). The ones that fly, swim, crawl and walk as well as those sentient and insentient beings of which do not or cannot know or name. These ones that came into original agreement with the sacred emissaries of *Jijak* (the crane), *Maak* (the loon), to receive and support those of us making a petition to *Giche Manidoo* for a place to live.

Jijak and Maak

It is for these things that we make the gratitude and recognition prayers. These two beings were the first of the physical celestial beings which journeyed from their constellations and their star bodies are among those that announce the changing of the seasons. *Jijak*, known as the Summer Cross, and *Maak*, known as the North Star. Other winter constellations are *Ajik Negos*, known as Fisher, or Ursa Major, and *Majo Negos* (moose), known as Pegasus.

Ponde'se' Negos

WINTER MAKER OR THE CONSTELLATION OF ORION

It is Winter Maker, with the three sacred center stars known as the Belt of Orion, that positions itself to be easily seen in the early night sky, riding above the southeastern horizon. This constellation unmistakably announces to all that winter has arrived.

The winter migrations are complete. *Mko* the bear has made the fat and sought the winter dream time hibernation deep within the resting body of *Sekmekwe*.

The *Neshnabé* Creation Story is who we are and what we have. We “make marriages” with these gifts and by doing so, “we are breathed alive.” By doing so we breathe with all of Creation. When we took two-legged physical form, as Spirit Beings living within the concept of duality, we are told that there were two things we wanted. Firstly, we wanted to know. Secondly, we wanted things to do. From these things, we lived and grew.

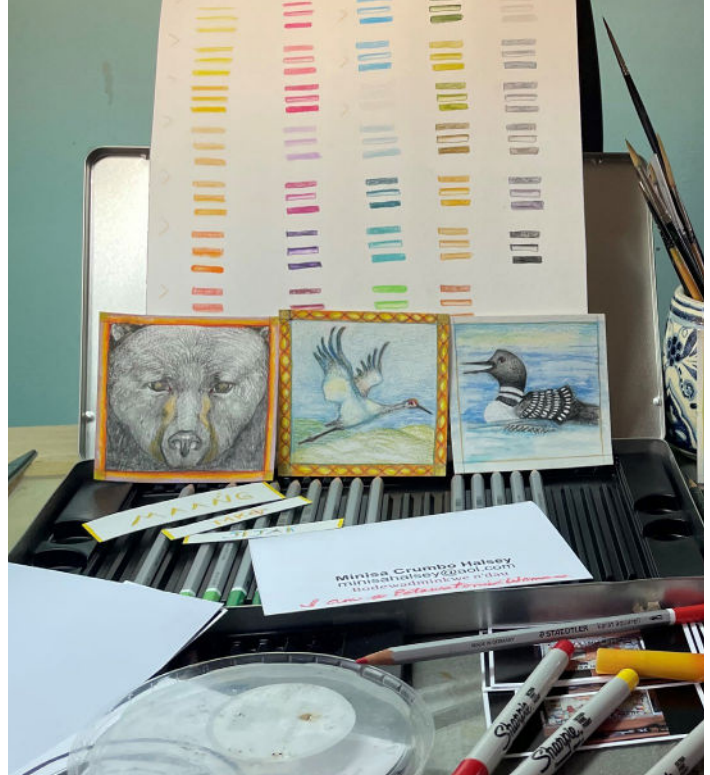
There are many, many Creation Stories, blessed and given by the Creator to the myriad individuals, tribes and cultures upon *Sekmekwe mine Gizes*, for which the various peoples may live and grow in peace, truth and beauty, now and forever more. For these things we are grateful and raise voices of praise and connection with you, of which many are the names by which you are known, Creator.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings

These teachings and the story are inextricably intertwined in beauty for all wisdom and knowledge are encoded in the heavens, earth and being of every being.

Some would suggest to now, to consider telling or thinking the Creation Story back to source, thereby completing the sacred hoop, the original sacred Medicine Wheel...and then, to return home again to the center of our personal Medicine Wheel upon *Sekmekwe* as the sacred two-legged beings that we are. To gather this season by the deep internal fires, to feed the *Shkodé* (fire) a tobacco offering — that the fire spirit has everything it needs to live in “a good way,” to count, sort, bless and pray over the seeds of the coming season...tell the stories, sleep, heal, make fat and laugh...for this is the time, way and ceremony of the past, the now and of the coming *Mnokme* or Spring.

AHO! IGUIEN...MAMOGOSNAN,
FOR ALL OF THE GIFTS.



From left, Mko (bear), Jijak (crane) and Maang (loon) images by Minisa Crumbo Halsey

CHI MIGWECH, WEWENE MIGWECH

The following books are available in the CPN gift shop to learn more:

Inhabiting the Earth, by Leonard and Mary Moose

Nishnabé Creation Story

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

CONTROL IS NOT REAL LOVE



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
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Researchers search for Uniontown

Somewhere in Kansas is a ghost town that was once a flourishing Potawatomi trading post and crossing for the Oregon Trail, but the location has been lost to time. Today, more than 150 years after the town ceased to be, research is underway to try to find it and a possible mass grave associated with it.

Uniontown gets its start

Once located in Shawnee County, Kansas, near present day Willard and Rossville, Uniontown was established as a Potawatomi trading post in 1848. This was the same time gold was found in California, prompting settlers to move west on the Oregon Trail.



The Bourassa enclosure was in disrepair as research began to search for evidence of Uniontown in the area.

"That's the main thoroughfare, so there are 400,000 travelers who came across the Oregon Trail at that point in time. When you think about the Oregon Trail, it's not one or two wagons. It's this big, wide swath all traveling down the trail together," District 5 member Scott Holzmeister said. "They would set up camp around Uniontown, and that's where they could cross the Kansas River."

In its heyday, several ferry crossings were set up on the river, and travelers would pay to get their wagons across.

"On some days, there were no less than 70 wagons ferried across on each boat. Roughly 225 wagons and teams came across per day on the Oregon Trail," Holzmeister said. "When you're pulling 75 to 200 people across at \$2 a ride, you're making a pretty good living at that time. The ferry crossings were very profitable."

The location served as a crossing but also as an opportunity for commerce for the Potawatomi.

"Tribal members became very adept at convincing pioneers on the Oregon and California trails that they needed fresh teams of oxen or horses to continue the

trip west, and we were their last opportunity to obtain their stock," CPN District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw said. "We then rested and fed their old stock and had them available for sale to the next group passing through."

Boursaw said Tribal members sold food and supplies to travelers, as well as offering services such as wagon repair. They also bought excess or heavy items, such as pianos or iron stoves, from travelers who wanted to lighten their load before crossing the Rocky Mountains. Those items were often used in Potawatomi homes or resold.

During this time, Holzmeister said Uniontown had a population of about 300 people with around 60 buildings. Not much is known about the town, but they do know there was a doctor, blacksmiths, boarding houses, several taverns and trading posts, a sawmill and a gristmill, as well as a government building where residents could collect pay allotments.

Tragedy strikes Uniontown

The influx of so many people through the area led to tragedy when Uniontown suffered a cholera outbreak.

Cholera, a bacteria that thrives in fecal contaminated water, causes diarrhea and dehydration. At that time, there was no understanding of how it was transmitted or how to treat it, and there was a fatality rate of around 30% among those who contracted it, Holzmeister said.

"Because of those camp sites, you had the wagon trains in there and all those oxen, horses and people, but you had no sewage system," he explained. "It all ran into the stream, and now you have a cholera outbreak."



The Bourassa enclosure is pictured after being reconstructed in 2023.

When Uniontown had its cholera outbreak in 1849, settlers fled as hundreds of people died. During this time, a legend originated of a mass burial of 22 people, all buried around a tree.



Dr. Blair Schneider with the Kansas Geological Survey uses a ground-penetrating radar to collect data in an area believed to be close to what was once Uniontown.

Residents at the time, assuming cholera was spread the same way as diseases such as smallpox, burned the town to stop the spread of the disease.

The town was re-established in 1851 when traders returned. However, the revival was short lived.

"Kansas Territory opened up in 1854, and by 1858, 10 years after it was established, nobody's left and Uniontown becomes a ghost town," Holzmeister said.

The search for Uniontown

The exact location of Uniontown is unknown today, but Dr. Blair Schneider, associate researcher and science outreach manager with the Kansas Geological Survey, and other researchers from the Kansas Geological Survey have spent the past several years collecting data at a cemetery in Shawnee County.

The cemetery holds a Boursassa enclosure as well as a plot for the Green family, who owned the land in the years following the existence of Uniontown. Today, the land is owned by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Schneider started her research by using the magnetic method to search the area and record the strength of the magnetic field. Metal items and areas that have been burned have higher magnetic signatures, she said, and the burning of Uniontown means any potential sites should be easy to detect.

She also used a ground penetrating radar (GPR), which uses radio waves to send out a signal to detect any changes in underground electrical properties.

"When you hit something, you see shapes," she said, adding that a shape she looks for is a "frowny face."

Schneider broke the area into a grid, and through her work, they were able to find two possible structural features that were likely either metallic or burned. One was a linear feature under the surface, which she suspects might be a modern drainage feature. The other is a rectangular shape she thinks could be a foundation.

In another area, there was a tree that they thought could have been the site of a mass burial, but research showed no evidence of any mass burials there. Also, Schneider explained that the tree existing today isn't old enough to be the tree mentioned in the legend.

However, in another area, the GPR detected several "frowny faces" with a depth up to a maximum of three feet that she believes could be a mass grave. Despite the popular saying of graves being "six feet under," she said the shallow depth is closer to what she would expect.

"They didn't have resources to dig holes that deep. They were dealing with an epidemic at the time, and this is thick clay that they were digging into," she said. "So, right away, we're looking for shallow burials."

In 2021, Schneider returned to the site to try out a new electrical method to draw research, using electric currents to measure resistance and look for any anomalies in the subsurface. The results showed a substance, such as bone or rock, that is less conductive than the clay

Continued on page 14

Uniontown continued...

surrounding it. That, combined with a surface depression in the area, adds to evidence of a likely mass burial.

In 2023, further research into the suspected mass burial showed it covered an area about 11.5 feet long by 3 feet wide, around the dimensions she would expect for a shallow burial that was hand dug during an epidemic.

Also in 2023, the Boursassa enclosure, which was crumbling, was taken down to be rebuilt and repaired. While the wall was down, Schneider used GPR to examine the area.

"I had a suspicion, at this point, that there weren't actually any Boursaws in the enclosure," she said. "I had a suspicion the monuments were actually moved to that area away from the Green enclosure."

After surveying the area, she could find no evidence of any burials within the enclosure.

Next steps

Going forward, Schneider hopes to attempt to examine the Green enclosure and see if perhaps the Boursassa family members might be buried there. She would like to try to use a technique called Optically Stimulated Luminescence, where she would collect soil at night from underneath the monuments. The soil would then be sent to a special lab, where they could potentially identify when that soil was last exposed to light. If it works, this might give them clues to if the monuments were placed around the time of the deaths or much later.

In the Green enclosure, there's also an old, hand-carved headstone that is no longer readable and some rocks Schneider thinks could be markers. Research also showed an anomaly called a polarity reversal that could indicate a burial container or buried headstone. While there are tree roots in the area that could be causing some of the anomalies, she thinks there could be something there and hopes to search for unmarked burials in the area.

Another possibility she would like to consider is testing the soil for cholera DNA.

In addition to Schneider's survey work in that area, she said she has also received permission from a nearby land owner to do further research looking for the Uniontown site on their property.

"They have a big alfalfa field, which is amazing, because that means they haven't tilled it," she said, adding that they're planning to do a survey of the field this fall and collect anything at the surface, then catalogue and analyze their findings.

For now, there's still much that is unknown about Uniontown's location and what life was like within the ghost town. Holzmeister and Boursaw encourage anyone who has stories or information to share with them so they can help add to the history of the place.

"If anybody knows something about it, come and talk to us. We'd love to hear your stories," Holzmeister said.

Anyone with stories or information about Uniontown can contact Boursaw at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org or 785-608-1982. 🔥

CPN Housing Department

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department is requesting that any Tribally or Native American owned businesses interested in bidding on future work projects submit the following documentation:

- A statement of intent
- Articles of organization or articles of incorporation
- Social Security cards or federal tax ID
- Verifying documents identifying 51 percent Native American owned and operated

- Partnership agreements
- Tribal membership cards
- Driver's license
- Current trade licenses
- Work resumes

These documents may be submitted to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department at 44007 Hardesty Rd., Shawnee, OK 74801. Please contact Cindy Anderson, CPN Development Assistant, at 405-273-2833 for more information. This request is pursuant to Indian Preference/Tribal Preference requirements of 24 CFR sections 1000.48, 1000.50 and 1000.52. There is no deadline for submission; however, untimely submissions may not be included on future bidding contact lists.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

3 District 4 meeting at 12:30 p.m. at the Mid-America All-Indian Center, 650 N. Seneca St., Wichita, Kansas. Lunch will be served. Kelli Mosteller will speak. RSVP by 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 29, to 785-608-1982 or jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org.

8 The elder potluck in Rossville, Kansas, at noon will be a traditional Thanksgiving feast with turkey. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert. RSVP by Nov. 5 to Tracy at 785-584-6171.

9 District 2 Fall Feast will be from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Social Hall of Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA. Bring favorite dishes to share. Turkey, a vegan main dish and beverages will be provided. Children are welcome. Visit, work on a cultural craft and share a family meal. The craft will be appropriate for children ages 10 and older with one-to-one adult supervision. RSVP by emailing evamariecarney@gmail.com or by calling 888-849-1484.

14 Taste of the Season *mnomen* (wild rice) tasting Seasonal *ti* (tea) | tasting *Additional autumn dishes available. For more info: chcculturalactivities@potawatomi.org

NOVEMBER

23 District 4 meeting at 10 a.m. at the CPN Community Center in Rossville, Kansas. Lunch will be served. Speakers will be Doug and Melissa Brunner Brown, from WIBW-TV in Topeka, and Tom Hoffman, from the MODUS Group. RSVP by 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 19, to 785-608-1982 or jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org.

DECEMBER

10 The CPN Veterans group will have its annual Christmas dinner at the North Reunion Hall of the CPN Powwow Grounds. It will begin at 6 p.m.

13 The elder potluck in Rossville, Kansas, at noon will be a traditional Christmas feast with ham. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert. RSVP by Dec. 10 to Tracy at 785-584-6171.

21 District 2 lunch meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Loveless Café in Nashville, Tennessee. Meet your legislator and other relatives, enjoy a southern buffet and participate in an art contest. RSVP by Dec. 13 to evamariecarney@gmail.com or 888-849-1484.

OPEN SEW CLASS

Mondays: Open Sew class for all levels from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Cultural Heritage Center

Second and Fourth Thursdays: Bead and Tea class for all levels from 1-4 p.m. at the Cultural Heritage Center

Event promotes holistic health and wellness

Health and wellness in older adulthood is a realistic possibility, and older adults are resilient and important members of our community with unique strengths.

On Sept. 12, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Behavioral Health Services hosted a panel discussion at the Cultural Heritage Center featuring experts from several fields to speak about the topic.

Panelists included Burt G. Patadal, Healing to Wellness Cultural Leader; Michael Brand, Ph.D.; Alicja Carter, MHR, BHWC; J.J. Jones, PMHNP; Jeanie Jones, LADC, LBP, CPN Behavioral Health; Tribal member Crystal Marcum, APRN, CPN West Clinic; and Tribal member Pamela Vrooman, Ph.D.

Dr. Julio Rojas, Ph.D., moderated the discussion. The event was funded by the Tribal Opioid Response Grant and the Community Opioid Intervention Pilot Project. Alicja Carter led a low-impact exercise activity for attendees during the event (cpn.news/chaironefitness).

Nine Dimensions of Wellness

Panelists began by introducing “9 Dimensions of Wellness” paradigm. Each of these dimensions, including emotional, spiritual, cultural, intellectual, financial, environmental, occupational, physical and social wellbeing, are essential aspects of overall health and wellness at any stage of life.

This framework builds on 8 dimensions of wellness by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), differing from SAMHSA’s model by

including cultural wellness as the ninth dimension — an integral component in culturally responsive care.

Panelists said each of these dimensions impacts the others, so considering each of them together is important for maintaining wellness.

“As adults, a big part of our identity is the work that we do, and as we stop doing that work, we can flounder,” said Jeanie Jones, a licensed alcohol and drug counselor at CPN Behavioral Health Services. “Work can also be a social function. As we lose identity and social relationship, there might be a sense of isolation, which can lead to boredom, which can either exacerbate or cause a depression, and all of the above can lead to increased substance use.”

Additionally, without a work schedule, some older adults may experience changes in their sleep patterns that negatively impact other areas of their health.

Dr. Vrooman, a therapist working in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Alicja Carter, Gateway to Prevention and Recovery wellness director, advised that classes and activities that engage an individual’s interests and hobbies can help cultivate a resilient sense of self during this phase of life.

Carter emphasized that a friend or loved one providing a ride to such an activity can be invaluable.

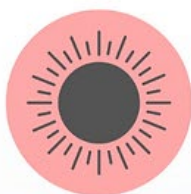
Primary care

Crystal Marcum, APRN, discussed the importance of regular visits to a primary care provider in older

9 DIMENSIONS OF WELLNESS



Emotional



Spiritual



Cultural



Intellectual



Financial



Environmental



Occupational



Physical



Social

adulthood, even if a patient does not have a complaint. Primary care providers are in a unique position in a patient's life and care team, she said, to flag any concerns about polypharmacy or to make connections between various complaints the patient may be experiencing.

If a person is being treated by multiple specialists for various health concerns, they may be prescribed multiple medications, some of which might be contraindicated.

A good practice, Marcum said, is to talk with your primary care provider about your medication list so that they can check for any contraindications that may be missed by specialists treating one condition rather than the whole patient.

J.J. Jones, a psychiatric nurse practitioner in private practice, added that some complaints may be side effects of a medication, and simply medicating that complaint may not get to the root cause of the issue.

A primary care provider can also help patients create healthy patterns around physical activity, diet, sleep hygiene and even getting outside — which are all important parts of a proactive approach to wellness.

Older adult patients are encouraged to discuss concerns about mental and emotional wellbeing, or any other dimension of wellness, with their primary care physician, as primary care providers are uniquely situated to have the patient's holistic wellbeing in view and can help a patient build a team to support all their needs.

Caregivers

Caring for others can be a beautiful expression of love, respect and healthy interdependence, but it can also be a demanding and challenging experience. The wellbeing of caregivers is an essential component not only to their own health but also to their ability to care for those around them.

Panelists advised caregivers to make a regular practice of taking breaks for something that brings them enjoyment and refreshment. It may take some time to be able to do so without a lingering sense of guilt, but this is what makes dedicating oneself to the routine even more important.

"If you're not taking care of yourself, it limits your ability to care for your loved ones," said J.J. Jones.

Dr. Michael Brand noted that, increasingly, there are many older adults who are also caregivers themselves, whether of older parents or of younger children. He recommended caregiver support groups, where individuals can share stories and understanding, as well as access information and resources particular to their experience.

Wellness is possible

Health and wellness in older adulthood is possible, and it starts with reducing stigma and stereotypes about older adults and older adulthood.

"We always talk about 'normal changes in aging,'" said J.J. "But is it normal or is it common? Because not getting sleep is not normal. Common does not mean normal."

It's important to advocate for oneself and one's loved ones in health care settings, and it's important for medical providers and caregivers to recognize the agency, wisdom and dignity of their older patients.

"People are not just their accumulated weaknesses, they're also their accumulated strengths," said Dr. Vrooman.

"Older adult patients are wiser, committed to getting better and more patient with the process," added Jeanie Jones.

"It's one of the things I love about Indigenous culture," said Dr. Vrooman. "It feels like, under settler colonialism, most people view elders as a throwaway, like they no longer have purpose or value. But that is intrinsically reversed in Native cultures. Elders are the wisdom keepers, the story keepers, they also are the ones responsible for passing on traditions, they are there for advice and guidance and counsel, they are consulted for many different things depending on their areas of expertise. So in most ceremonies that include feasting, elders go first. It is acknowledged that they have an important part in the culture, and that their life experiences and traditions enrich the lives of other people."

Learn more about CPN Behavioral Health Services at cpn.news/health. 🔥

Legislative meeting highlights

Here's a look at some of the measures approved by the CPN Legislature at the Sept. 26, 2024, meeting.

- Legislators approved a resolution to confirm the appointment of members of the Election Committee and to designate Gary Bourbonnais as the committee chairman.
- Legislators approved a resolution to approve the operating budgets for CPN for Fiscal Year 2025.

- Legislators approved resolutions to authorize filing an application with the United States Government for a mandatory fee-to-trust land acquisition for multiple TAAMS Trust Tracts.
- A resolution approved the enrollment of 209 new Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal members.

To read the full meeting minutes, visit cpn.news/legsept2024 🔥

From the executives



John “Rocky” Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bozho nikan, (Hello, my friend),

There has been a lot going on with our Aviary this year — from the hatching of two Golden Eagles to being featured in an award-winning episode of a docuseries.

Jennifer Randell and Bree Dunham first approached me about the Aviary after their mother walked on in 2008. The presentation of an eagle feather in her honor led them on a series of eagle watches and eventually a presentation at Kaw Lake Eagle Watch about Native American eagle aviaries.

When they heard about how many eagles were being lost simply because there were not enough placements for injured and non-releasable birds, they knew they needed to get CPN involved, and so they approached me about the idea of starting an Aviary. I asked them to research more about

how to open a Tribal aviary, and after years of planning and construction, the Aviary opened in 2012.

Since then, many eagles have come to make the Aviary their permanent home. Some have walked on. We have been privileged to release some back into the wild. Though the Aviary wasn't originally permitted to rehabilitate and release birds, its role has changed with the needs of the eagles. In 2013, *Wadasé Zhabwé* (Brave Breakthrough) recovered from a wingtip fracture and was released. In 2017, *Mko Kno* (Bear Eagle), a chick fostered by two of the Aviary's bald eagles, was also released.

This spring, *Kishko* was one of two Golden Eagles to hatch at the Aviary. We hoped to release *Kishko* and his sister into the wild, but after his health started to fail and it became necessary to intervene to save him, we are now honored to offer him a home for life, as we do so many eagles.

It is a great honor to have *Kishko* with us, and he is currently being glove trained so he will be able to make appearances at events like our Family Reunion Festival, but also smaller ceremonies or to help Tribal members in need of healing.

Much of this is highlighted in *Protecting the Messengers — Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Eagle Aviary*, which is part of a *For Our People* docuseries produced by Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium (SGCETC). SGCETC did a wonderful job of telling the story of our Aviary, and the episode won a People's Telly Gold award as well.

Perhaps other tribes will see our story and be inspired to also take steps to care for our eagles.

After more than 10 years, I am proud of what we've accomplished with our CPN Aviary and the eagles we have been able to help. This is especially important because we regard eagles as our messengers, and they are an important part of our culture and the story of our people.

If you have never been to the Aviary, consider scheduling a tour. You can also learn more about the Aviary and the eagles who live there by visiting cpn.news/aviary.

Remember to vote in November

Tuesday, Nov. 5, is an important election, and I encourage all of you to get out and vote. We must all do our part and make our voices heard to influence the direction we want our country to take. According to an article at cpn.news/voterturnout, Oklahoma is ranked last in the nation in voter participation and registration. Native Americans are among the lowest voter turnout rates, and yet we make up 13% of the population in Oklahoma. Wherever you live, don't forget to vote.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. It is an honor to be your Tribal Chairman.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

The International Day of the World’s Indigenous People is Aug. 9; however, many Native Americans celebrate and honor Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the second Monday of October. Native Americans celebrate their histories and cultures on that day. It is celebrated across the United States and is an official city and state holiday in various localities. Although it is not a federal holiday, 17 states — including Washington, South Dakota and Maine — as well as Washington, D.C., have holidays honoring Native Americans, some of which are on the second Monday in October, according to the Pew Research Center. This is not to be confused with November, which is designated as the Native American Heritage Month. President George H. W. Bush in 1990 signed a joint congressional resolution to officially establish November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

The World’s Indigenous Peoples are the descendants of the peoples who inhabited the Americas, the Pacific, and parts of Asia and Africa prior to European colonization. Indigenous peoples continue to thrive throughout the world today. Generally, Indigenous refers to those peoples with pre-existing sovereignty who were living together as a community prior to contact with settler populations, most often, though not exclusively, Europeans. Indigenous is the most inclusive term, as there are Indigenous peoples on every continent throughout the world. Native American and American Indian are terms used to refer to peoples living within what is now the United States prior to European contact.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres gave the following speech on Aug. 9, 2024:

Indigenous Peoples represent around 6 percent of the world’s population. Yet their stewardship signifies an outsized contribution to our global community. They are the keepers of knowledge and traditions that help safeguard some of the most biodiverse areas of our planet. As guardians of the environment, their survival is our survival. Their unique way of life is a testament to the rich tapestry of humanity. But they also face serious challenges that threaten their very existence. Indigenous Peoples are often the victims of threats and violence. Extractive and productive sectors, like mining, agriculture and transport have accelerated deforestation and land degradation. Ancestral homelands and natural resources that they depend on for survival are coming under siege. And their rights to self-determination and agency—enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples—are yet to be fulfilled. This year’s theme reminds us of their right to protect themselves from unwanted contact. Contact that can have a devastating impact. Exposure to infectious diseases, forced assimilation, and the disruption of culture, language and livelihoods. Today and every day, the world must stand behind the right of Indigenous Peoples to chart their own futures. Together, let us safeguard their rights to live in peace and dignity.

The information contained in this article about the World’s Indigenous Peoples is just the tip of the iceberg of the hundreds of accounts pertaining to the topic. U.N. Secretary-General Guterres’ speech is very insightful. I love his last sentence about safeguarding the rights of Indigenous peoples. I realize that the Indigenous peoples around the world must constantly fight for their rights. Native Americans are not exempt from this fact. We fight every day for our rights locally, statewide and nationally. We plan to win the fight because we are a resilient people, the salt of the earth, the ambassadors of the Seven Grandfather Teachings: Humility, Bravery, Honesty, Wisdom, Truth, Respect and Love.

Some of the content of this article is taken from UCLA’s Equity, Diversity & Inclusion publication. Thank you for allowing me to share this timely information with you. I cherish my role in serving you as vice chairman. May you have a great fall season!

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION **HEALTH SERVICES**

FOLLOW US!   **POTAWATOMIHEALTH**

From the legislature



Eva Marie Carney District 2

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

District 2 Outing to New Exhibit at the National Museum of the American Indian?

“Sublime Light: Tapestry Art of DY Begay” (cpn.news/sublimelight) opened at the NMAI on Sept. 20, 2024, and will be viewable through July 13, 2025. In what may become a District 2 tradition, I would like to meet up with interested folks to see the exhibit and have coffee and visit together after. (We did this last year, when several of us visited the National Gallery’s exhibit “The Land Carries Our Ancestors – Contemporary Art by Native Americans.”)

I am thinking of January or February. Please contact me if you are interested and we can plan.

The NMAI promotional card mailed to me notes that DY Begay’s “tapestry art is at once fundamentally modern and essentially Diné. This exhibition is the first retrospective of Begay’s career, showcasing 48 of her most remarkable tapestries.”

Reminder to RSVP for Our Fall Feast; Get Ready to Rock Your Mocs

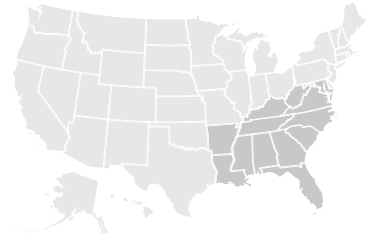
Closer in time, please RSVP today for our District 2 Fall Feast planned for Nov. 9, 2024. All details are in the invitation shown here and on the calendar page of my website (cpn.news/d2calendar). Please know that you are most welcome, even if you did not receive the postcard — I do need your RSVPs before the Feast date, however!

I hope you will wear your *mkesinen* (moccasins) to the Feast. The “official” Rock Your Mocs 2024 is Nov. 10 through Nov. 16, 2024. You can, of course, choose one day or the whole week of Nov. 10 or the whole month of November or every day of the year, for that matter, to wear your *mkesinen* — the idea is to celebrate with and to honor our ancestors and Indigenous peoples worldwide. To participate, wear your *mkesinen*, take a photo or video, add the hashtag #RockYourMocs and upload to social media. You will be helping to create an online photo album for the world to see and enjoy, and that will underscore that #WeAreStillHere.

TreeSnap: Mobile App By Which You Can Report Resilient Trees

I’ve followed the work of the Nature Conservancy ever since our family enjoyed summers in Cape May Point, New Jersey, exploring South Cape May Meadows (cpn.news/capemay), a Nature Conservancy-protected place. The most recent issue of its magazine reports on its collaborations with the USDA Forest Service and experts from academia, research organizations and other partners to develop ways to monitor and breed trees that are resistant to pests and diseases. It notes that “Forest pests have huge implications for forest health, wildlife, culture and local economies,” and highlights that, as some of you may know, the emerald ash borer “has been killing ash trees throughout forests and cities since at least 2002, disrupting many ecosystems and communities.”

Want to assist these efforts? You can download Tree Snap (cpn.news/treesnap) to help identify and locate “tree survivors” — resilient North American iconic trees that are growing strong despite pests and diseases. Collaborators then can use



DY Begay (Diné, b. 1953) in her studio. Santa Fe, New Mexico. Photo by Peter Ellzey, 2022



CPN District 2 *Fall Family Feast*

Saturday, November 9, 2024 | 10:30AM-2:30PM

**Little Falls Presbyterian Church Social Hall,
6025 Little Falls Rd, Arlington, VA 22207
703-538-5230 | littlefallschurch.org**

Bring favorite dishes (with recipes, if you'd like) to share. I will provide the turkey and a vegan main dish, along with beverages. We will visit, work on a cultural craft together, and share a family meal. Children are welcome! The craft will be appropriate for children 10 and up with one-to-one adult supervision.

Please RSVP by November 6
to evamariecarney@gmail.com,
or call the D2 voicemail number at 1 (888) 849-1484. Please include contact info, and names of attendees (including children and their ages).



that information to identify lingering and surviving trees to create the next generation of healthy forests. Want to learn more about the project? Visit cpn.news/treesinperil.

Keep in Touch

Our District 2 Facebook page (District #2 Citizens of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation) grows by a member or two each month. You are welcome to request "admission" to our group if you are CPN and living in one of the states within District 2. I moderate the group and will add you promptly. If you aren't on my email list, please write to me and I will add you to receive timely updates and announcements.

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: 866-849-1484 (voicemail)

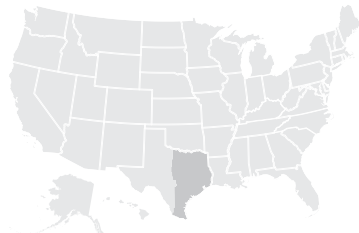


Bob Whistler District 3

Bozho ginwa (Hello, everyone)

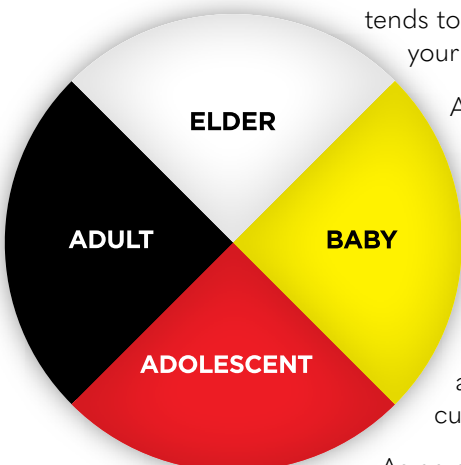
Nov. 16, 2024

My next district meeting will be on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Texas Native Health care facility in Dallas, Texas at 1283 Record Crossing Road. A post card with details is being mailed out. Please RSVP by the deadline noted on the post card.



Four Quarter Circle

The circle seen frequently in our culture many times reflects four areas that are earmarked with the colors: yellow, red, black and white. Sometimes it is referencing the four directions or the four natural elements we use, which are tobacco, cedar, sage and sweetgrass. For the circle today I plan to cover areas of learning and/or responsibility. For yellow, since it tends to be the start of the day, it reminds us of being a baby. Red or south would be your life as an adolescent. Black I am calling adult. And white is assigned to elder.



As a baby and for the first three or four years of school, we are expected to learn how to read and communicate. After that, it is our responsibility to simply learn language, basics in many areas and grow.

As an adolescent we are expected to continue learning, be respectful and, where the opportunity surfaces, to teach others or help them in challenges they may face.

As an adult, we are now in the role of teacher and learner. As a teacher we are the one who has the responsibility to guide the baby and adolescent. As a learner, we need to be listening to the elder to learn more about our history, culture and look for what we will next be expected to teach and follow.

As an elder we need to be teaching the three earlier generations about not only our culture and history, but about planning for their role in handling family matters when they become elders.

District 3 Meeting

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024

10:30am-2pm

TEXAS NATIVE HEALTH CENTER

1269 Record Crossing RD., Dallas 75235

Food will be served | Meeting topic will include history of Quantum by TCU Professor Scott Langston

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 12

to rwhistler@potawatomi.org or call 817-229-6271

Please indicate the number in your group who will be attending including yourself.

One important area is what our heirs will have to deal with when we walk on! We need to plan for this and maintain control. You need to avoid probate law taking responsibility for whatever assets you have left behind.

The first thing you need is a will. There are online downloadable programs to complete a simple will. However, for best results, an attorney is recommended and you can expect to pay between \$200 and \$500. Depending upon the complexity of your estate, it may be more.

A second option would be to setup a trust. It may be either a non-revocable or revocable living trust. Each has its advantages. The cost here starts around \$2,000 or more, depending upon what is needed.

You also need to make sure a spouse or the person you delegate as an executor is briefed on what you have, what you owe and where to find all necessary information. Creating a simple spreadsheet with that information would be a great help. Check all financial documents, like IRAs, insurance policies, bank accounts, your home, etc., and verify they have the beneficiary designated that you wish that item to go to.

In summary, in life we need to learn, teach, guide, and then take control, plan for the future, and cover our wishes after we have walked on. And finally, make any transitions easy for our heirs without getting into probate court and the associated expenses, which may cost thousands.

I thank my District 3 constituents for electing me to represent them and be their voice in the legislative branch of our government.

Nagech (Later),

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



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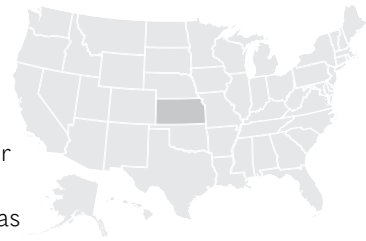
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Jon Boursaw District 4

Young Burnett Descendant Visits Local Sites



A few weeks ago, I received an email from Caroline Gombas, a young Burnett descendant, asking if it would be possible for her to visit Abram Burnett’s burial site in Topeka, Kansas. I told her of course she could visit the site and offered to escort her to the site as there is no public access to the site. Before visiting the burial site, I took Caroline to see the three-panel exhibit located at the entrance to the Shawnee County Park located on Burnett’s Mound in Topeka. This exhibit gives a brief historical account of how Burnett and the other Potawatomi settled in Topeka. Caroline was a member of this year’s PLP class and is a student at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. She is pursuing a Liberal Arts degree, combining environmental science and Indigenous studies.



Caroline Gombas at Abram Burnett's gravesite.

Upcoming District 4 Meetings

Wichita: Sunday, Nov. 3 at 12:30 p.m. at the Mid-America All-Indian Center located at 650 N. Seneca St. in Wichita. Lunch will be served. Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., will speak about the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City, where she is now the Chief Executive Officer. Kelli was the Executive Director of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma, for 12 years before her most recent position on the faculty at Harvard University. Please RSVP no later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 29 by calling me at 785-608-1982, or email me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. Please identify which meeting you plan to attend. For those KC Chiefs fans, not to worry, their game is Monday night, Nov. 4.

Rossville: Saturday, Nov. 23 at 10 a.m. in the CPN Community Center in Rossville. Lunch will be served. The speakers will be:

Doug and Melissa Brunner Brown from WIBW-TV in Topeka, who will describe what is involved in preparing for a newscast. Doug is a member of the Boursaw/Ogee families.



Caroline at Burnett's Mound exhibit.

Tom Hoffman, Managing Partner of the MODUS Group, which is located in that large building at entrance to Nishnabe Trail in Rossville, who will tell us about their operation.

Please RSVP no later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 19 by calling me at 785-608-1982, or by email at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org. Please identify which meeting you plan to attend.

Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

Dates for the next Elder Potlucks held in Rossville at noon are:

Nov. 8, 2024 Traditional Thanksgiving Feast RSVP by the 5th
(Turkey and mashed potatoes)

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

Permanent art exhibit near Olathe, Kansas

I have been informed that the two selected artists for the Potawatomi Public Art project, *Fire Keepers Circle*, Leah Yellowbird and Aaron Squadroni, want to connect with CPN members directly to explore outreach opportunities for community engagement aspect in the art exhibit. They are looking for ways to connect to the CPN and engage members in creating images that can be “pressed” into the metal and become part of the design. Leah is the lead on this particular exhibit so feel free to email directly to Leah. Her email is: ogimakwee@gmail.com

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),

We have taken a few trips here and tried to bring new awareness of our Native history to your attention. Wondering what to write about this time and having covered the largest totem pole, sun dial, astronauts, etc, I wondered what in the world I could tell you about today.

Just as I wondered I received a call from Ray Strange, whom I had the honor of naming several years ago, a Tribal member in Texas telling me about a military ship in WWII, The USS POTAWATOMI (ATF-65). Wow! I had no idea. Might be of interest to our veterans and honor wall.

Thanks to Ray, as he had been researching and sent me a lot of photos along with information, we will start our journey together.

According to military records, the Potawatomi (ATF-65) ship was laid down on Oct. 19, 1942, commissioned Feb. 12, 1944, launched on April 3, 1943, and decommissioned on April 28, 1948. According to these records, the ship was reclassified Fleet Ocean Tug (ATF-109) on May 15, 1944.

The life of the Tug was then sold to the Chilean navy, where they renamed her Janequeo. The ship sunk on Aug. 14, 1965, during a life-threatening storm in the Bay of Manquemapu, during her last rescue of the ship Leucoton, which was aground, and 51 men lost their lives.

Seeing the USS Potawatomi (ATF-65) ship coming to your rescue during a time of war when the ship you are on is inoperable had to be an OMG moment. Reading some of the rescue records and thinking of the unstable world, much less an inoperable ship at sea during war time, is frightening.

I would have had moments envisioning myself being eaten by sharks or blown to bits by the enemy. (Maybe a little exaggerated.)

There were several records located and not all agreed with Google, Wikipedia or some of the military records. I have included some of the addresses where you can examine the information for yourself: cpn.news/Janequeo, cpn.news/Janequeo2 and cpn.news/Janequeo3.



USS Potawatomi (Photo provided)

There are three different addresses here if you are as excited about this being discovered as I am.

It appears she was a successful rescue ship at a time when the world was at war and lives threatened.

At the end of her service, the USS Potawatomi (ATF-65) was awarded Navy Unit Commendation, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal (2), WWII Victory Medal, Navy Occupational Service Medal (with Asia clasp) Presidential Unit Citation, Philippines Liberation MEDAL (2).

In addition to her military contribution, she participated in several campaigns for the Atlantic-Pacific after the war ended.

Some records say she was retired, sold or used for scrap metal or laid up in the National Defense Reserve Fleet. Had that been the case she couldn't have sunk rescuing her last ship where so many lost their lives.

If you are a Navy veteran reading this article and some of my terminology is misused due to a personal lack of experience, that does not change the extraordinary service of this rescue ship nor lessen the pride in learning it served in our name.

When you look at history and the more years you examine our participation in the generations past and present, the sense of pride explodes. That's why the first thing I do in all the District 5 meetings is ask, "Are you proud to be Potawatomi?"

You definitely should be, and if you aren't, you just don't get it. I know that isn't any of our people.

Love you all and thank you for allowing me to serve.

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



Rande K. Payne District 6

Bozho Nikanek (Hello friends),

Let me preface that this month's column comes from a Christian perspective. I feel the topic is relevant not only to government elections outside of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation but to our elections as well. Most of the concepts apply to any voter whether Christian or not. None of this is intended to endorse or steer anyone in the direction of any political candidate or political party.

Voter participation in Tribal elections is dismal at best. As a people with dual citizenship, we are doubly blessed with the privilege, the right and the duty to vote. My goal is to help people understand why it's important to participate in the process and help voters work through the process. The same principles apply for deciding on judges, ballot propositions, etc. My deepest desire is that God is pleased with what I have to say and that someday my great-grandchildren and their children will read this and think fondly of me. This is for the next seven generations.

I believe that God created and reigns over the entire world. I also believe that we were created in his image. Therefore, I believe his desire is that we seek him, know him, learn his ways, follow his ways and teach his ways. The Seven Grandfather Teachings are very clear about this.

God created these three institutions. Each with its own unique purpose.

FAMILY is the foundation of society (See Genesis 2, 9). Children are the fruit of the love a man has for his wife and the love a woman has for her husband. This sacred bond is what God uses to populate the earth from generation to generation.

GOVERNMENT is established by God (See Romans 13) to help restrain evil and protect the citizens (see Daniel 2).

THE CHURCH was created to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ (See Acts 2).

In a letter Supreme Court Chief Justice John Jay wrote on Oct. 12, 1816: "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

While we are a nation guided by Christian principles, selecting leaders based on their faith makes about as much sense as selecting a leader based on their race or sex. In my opinion, most people would rather have a competent non-believer than an incompetent Christian leader. That proved to be the case with the election of Ronald Reagan over Jimmy Carter. Carter was a fine and decent Christian man but his inability to successfully lead the nation in his first term ended his presidency.

Whether a Christian or not, the candidate's policies should align with the Bible. Not all political issues are biblical issues, such as immigration and the economy. But what does the Bible say about the sanctity of life and sexual perversion? It's important to remember the government's primary function when considering this. Proverbs 29:2 says this: "When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan."

Commentator Chuck Colson says this: "The popular idea that 'you can't legislate morality' is a myth. Morality is legislated every day from the vantage point of one value system or another. The question isn't whether we will legislate morality, but rather *whose* morality we will legislate."

When our opinions may differ, there is debate. There is never room for hate. See you at the polls!

Jagenagenan. Migwetch. Nagech (All our relations. Thank you. Later),

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



Dave Carney District 8

Bozho nikan, (Hello friend),



I hope this edition of the *Hownikan* finds all in District 8 healthy and doing well. It was a pleasure to meet and connect with almost 100 Tribal citizens over the course of two days in August at our District 8 events. The first event was Aug. 17 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and the second was Aug. 18 in Missoula, Montana.

At both events we had presentations, prizes, a taco bar, Potawatomi storytelling and a Naming ceremony afterwards. In Coeur d'Alene we recognized four veterans with Citizen Potawatomi Veteran coins. These were awarded by veteran "Ndobwakawzet" (Robert White), who with his partner, "Nawgishgok" (Julie Jackson), attended both gatherings. I am very grateful for their help, support and assistance during the weekend.

I am very happy to say that there were several citizens who had never attended a CPN gathering of any kind before, so it was very special to meet them and share a little information.



The Coeur d'Alene, Idaho gathering

We had arranged to have a Potawatomi Native art contest at both venues, but only had entries at the Idaho event. The two winners of the contest were "Penmot" (Delbert Reisenauer) for some amazing beadwork he entered and "Jetkekwe" (Karen Davis) for a lovely, beaded bracelet.

Topics for presentations were varied. I provided an overview of benefits available for citizens outside of Oklahoma and learned that many in attendance were accessing several programs. We

discussed the cultural and spiritual meaning of eagle feathers as well as their care and acquisition. Additionally, we talked about smudging and the sacred medicines, the medicine wheel, the Seven Grandfather teachings, the history of the Citizen Potawatomi and the current enterprises the Nation is operating.

As is our tradition, we recognized the Wisest Potawatomi at both gatherings: Norma O'Reilly of Greenacres, Washington, (Idaho event) and John Loehr of Ronnan, Montana (Missoula event). Both were presented with a full-size Pendleton blanket.

Our youngest member in Idaho was 2-year-old Odette Lee Rose Gilbert and Adalind Peterson in Montana. These children were awarded children's size (saddle blanket) Pendleton blankets.

Kathy Notter drove from Belfair, Washington, to Idaho and received the farthest traveled award on day one, while Fred Clark of Condon, Montana, received the farthest traveled award on day two.

We had quite a few citizens receive their Potawatomi name after the Idaho meeting, many from the Darling family. After the Montana meeting, it was my pleasure to assist "Ndobwakawzet" (Robert White) with the Naming of his three great nieces and one great nephew. *Chi migwetch* (Many thanks) to Justin Neely for all his help.

In closing, I'd like to say it is my honor to serve as your Legislator,

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



The Missoula, Montana gathering



Paul Wesselhöft District 9

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

UBI

A Look into the Future

UBI or Universal Basic Income is a governmental stated amount of guaranteed income for all.

It may take several or many years from now, but America will inevitably institute UBI. Why? When the haves and the have-nots are dramatically and critically divided, revolution or total societal breakdown will occur. When the unemployment rate reaches a critical mass, revolution will occur. And Native American and African American unemployment is always much higher than the general population. Historians postulate that a revolution can occur with only 10 percent of the population determining it.

UBI is inevitable. Why? With massive automation, quantum computing, and advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI), jobs will continue to disappear. This is happening now but will accelerate in the next few years. There will simply not be enough jobs, and unemployment will skyrocket.

UBI is inevitable. Why? Those of us with food, money and property want to keep our food, money and property. And we don't want revolution, massive theft, crime and total societal breakdown especially in our city, neighborhood and home.

UBI is inevitable. Why? When a person gets hungry, their stomachs shrinks, they have no food, job, prospects, and money, then they will take food, money or property from you. They will not go hungry long, nor will they allow their family to go hungry. It's basic human nature and survival. Revolution would be conducted not with historical clubs and pitchforks, but with modern firearms, which are plentiful. This must be avoided at all costs, therefore UBI.

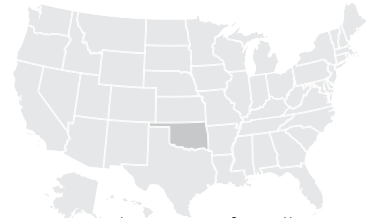
My prediction is that there will be a modified UBI, that is BI. Some will voluntarily forfeit federal and state government payouts because they don't need it. Those who have jobs or on Social Security or with a retirement income would be exempted. Unlike welfare, UBI would provide citizens and probably non-citizens with recurring cash payments with no strings attached.

It's also possible or probable that more Native American tribes will have to institute per capita payments, which would be detrimental to their growth, infrastructure and enterprises but necessary. It will be incumbent for all of us in this future scenario to help those who are no longer able to help themselves.

UBI is in our future. Please understand that I'm not calling for UBI just predicting it. Yes, I know UBI is socialism and violates meritocracy, but it will happen, and those on the political left and right will support it out of self-interest, and out physical and material survival.

Migwetch (Thank you),

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



Walking On

Patricia Elaine "Pat" Hargus

Vieux/Bourbonnais/Rhodd Family



Patricia Elaine "Pat" Hargus, age 79 of Maud, Oklahoma, passed from this life Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at her home.

She was born June 3, 1944, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, to Hubert Wilton and Ines (Vieux) Silas.

Pat grew up in St. Louis, Oklahoma, and attended school in St. Louis.

She married Ronnie Keith Hargus on Dec. 22, 1965. She was a loving wife to Ronnie for 58 years.

Pat was a loving mother to many in her family. She was proud to be an elder in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She was a homemaker most of her life. She was a talented cook, and in her younger days she decorated cakes and baked pies.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her son, Logan Hargus; her siblings, Kenneth Ray Silas, Marieldean "Dean" Laxton, Carol Wilton Silas and Connie Darlene Wood.

Survivors include her husband, Ronnie Keith Hargus of the home; her son, Tyler Hargus; her daughter, LaDonna Holt; her granddaughter, Sara Holt; her brother, Roy Silas; her two sisters, Sue Milburn and Delta Silas; and numerous nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements were by Cooper Funeral Home of Tecumseh.

Nadine Marie (Fitzgerald) Weishan

Vieux/Bertrand/Bourassa Family



Nadine Marie (Fitzgerald) Weishan, of El Cajon, California, passed away peacefully on Aug. 11, 2024. She was 94. Nadine was born May 18, 1930, in Manhattan, Kansas, to Marie (Vieux) and Fred Durant Richey.

Nadine's family moved to California in 1936, eventually residing in North Hollywood, California. She married the love of her life, Robert L. Weishan, on Feb. 9, 1952. He survives.

Bob and Nadine moved to San Diego, California, in 1966. Nadine was a stay at home mom, raising their family, and eventually went to work in 1981 as the attendance clerk for El Capitan High School in Lakeside, California. She retired in 1994. She volunteered her time with the San Diego Visitors Bureau for the next 15 years.

Nadine and Bob spent their retirement years traveling all over the globe, enjoying cruises and visiting countries while tracing their ancestry. Nadine had a host of hobbies: she loved to sew, crochet, knit, garden, travel and explore hers and Bob's genealogy. She was extremely proud of her heritage as a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and is a descendant of the Louis Vieux III and Bessie (Bertrand) Vieux families. She attended many of the district meetings along with the Family Reunion Festivals in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and encouraged her family to attend as well.

In addition to her husband Bob, Nadine is survived by her four children: Michael Weishan (Kathy), of Queen Creek, Arizona, Theresa Dillman (Larry), of Lakeside, California, Patrick Weishan (Monica), of San Diego, California, and Kevin Weishan (Misty), of El Cajon, California, 15 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. Nadine loved her family deeply and we will miss her forever.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Marie and Allan Fitzgerald and Fred Durant Richey, and her brothers, Joseph Fitzgerald, Jerry Fitzgerald and Richard Fitzgerald.

A mass of Christian burial was held Aug. 21, 2024, at The Church of Saint Luke, El Cajon, California, followed by burial at Miramar National Cemetery.

Ronda Thomas

Rhodd Family



Ronda Thomas, 62, of Winfield, Kansas, passed away early Friday morning, Sept. 6, 2024, at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita.

Born June 20, 1962, in Winfield, she was the daughter of Max L.R. and Vivian R. (Caudill) Rhodd. She was raised and received her education in Winfield, graduating from Winfield High School in 1980.

Ronda was united in marriage to Jimmy "Jim" Thomas on May 7, 1982, in Miami, Oklahoma. The couple made their home in New Salem, Kansas. Ronda began working at the canteen at the Winfield State Hospital and Training Center, where she remained until its closing in 1996. She then

began her career as a field appraiser for the Cowley County Appraiser's Office. She remained with the county until retiring in 2013. After retiring, she worked at Murk's Corner Store in New Salem until Jim's passing on April 30, 2022.

Ronda was proud of her Native heritage and was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and a descendant of the Cherokee Tribe. She enjoyed going to Bluegrass with her family, taking road trips with Jim, and going to the casino with her sister Michele. She especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, including attending their sporting events and going on picnic lunches.

Her family includes her daughter Monica Kelley and husband, Tyson of Winfield; her son Matthew Thomas and fiancée, Brandi Scarth of Winfield; her sister Michele Sweeney and husband, Mike of Winfield; her brother Lance Rhodd and wife, Ashley of Cedar Vale; her aunt Loyce Crow of Winfield; her grandchildren, Lauren and Liam Kelley; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and her Bluegrass family.

In addition to her parents and husband, Ronda was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Hatton Gene Rhodd.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, at Miles Funeral Service. Interment followed at New Salem Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in Ronda's name for her grandchildren's education. Contributions may be made through the funeral home.

Betty Doris Crook

Juneau Family



Dec. 12, 1923 to July 26, 2024

After celebrating her 100th birthday on Dec. 12, 2023, Betty passed away peacefully on July 26, 2024, in Laguna Niguel, California.

She was the daughter of Oscar Amel Schwartz and Nancy "Nannie" Maude Schwartz of Topeka, Kansas. She graduated from Topeka High School and Strickler Business College of Topeka. She also attended Strayer College in Washing-

ton, D.C., San Bernardino Valley College and Riverside City College. Betty and her husband, Everett Crook, were married in 1945. They moved to San Bernardino, California from Virginia in 1960. They raised their seven children (Robert, Michael, Cheryl, Gary, David, Donald and Sandy) in Southern California. Betty was married to Everett for 72 years at the time of his passing in 2017.

Before retiring, Betty worked for U.S. News and World Report magazine in Washington, D.C., the Grand Terrace Gazette and the Press Enterprise newspaper of Riverside, California, starting in 1963.

She worked at the Press Enterprise for over 30 years as a proofreader/technician in ad makeup.

Known for her bright smile, good laugh, sharp wit and generosity, matriarch "Mama Betty" will be missed by all. She is survived by five of her seven children; her sister, Norma Dornan, of Camarillo, California; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She blessed her family with her loyalty, integrity, humor, hard work, devotion, love and an enduring positive spirit.

A memorial service was held on Sept. 15 in Laguna Niguel, California. Her ashes were placed alongside those of her husband at the Miramar National Cemetery Veterans Burial site in San Diego, California.

Janice Sue Degraffenreid

Peltier/Bourassa/Moose Family



Janice Sue (Schimmel) Degraffenreid, 77, passed away Sept. 26, 2024, at her home.

Memorial services were Oct. 3, at Walker Funeral Chapel with CPN Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett officiating. Burial of cremains followed at Johnson Cemetery.

Janice was born Oct. 17, 1946, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, to Vernon Doc Schimmel and Mildred Louise (Peltier) Beagle. She attended Shawnee schools before earning her associate's degree from Claremore Junior College. She then began her career in health care where she was a long-time care giver. She also worked for the CPN softball complex and CPN East Health Clinic with her CPN family, whom she loved and cared for deeply. Janice enjoyed her animals and everyone else's animals, especially her dogs and cats, and grand-dogs and all other grand-animals and spending time with her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Jerry Martin; brothers, Richard, James, Robert and Gerald Schimmel; and two sisters, Mildred Ann Henry and Phyllis Treat.

She is survived by three children, Alan Martin and wife Cindy of Franktown, Colorado, Andy Martin of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Tammie Giem and husband Joe of Muskogee, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Thomas Martin, Christy Martin, Coy Martin, Jared Giem and wife Bethany, Joshua Giem and Sydney Patton, Emrie Patton and Noah Patton, Jamaul and Lindsey Collum, Isaiah Cullom and Jayden Cullom; one brother, Dennis Schimmel and wife Crystal; nieces, Stephanie Clutter and Susan Gregg; and numerous other nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.

The obituary photo is of Janice (left) and her late sister Phyllis Treat.

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or log on to portal.potawatomi.org.

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