



HOWNIIKAN

Gtegangises | May 2021

Top photo: Many beautiful *waskonédoyen* (flowers), such as dandelions, make delicious and healthy teas.

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FEMA vaccine partnership shows importance of tribal-federal cooperation

The past year presented extreme challenges for public health professionals and first responders. When the pandemic began, agencies across the United States scrambled to find enough personal protective equipment for those on the front lines treating patients. Following the rise in cases through summer and fall 2020, officials in these sectors turned their focus on sorting logistics for mass coronavirus testing drives. As the winter spike in cases raged throughout the country, they then geared up for what many hope will be the final stage of this pandemic — mass vaccination drives.

Administering the first vaccines as they became available posed severe logistical challenges that federal, state, local and tribal professionals had to navigate. For instance, the Pfizer vaccines, the first approved in the U.S., required ultra-cold storage that many public health providers could not readily afford. Strained supply chains on syringes and the significant number of health professionals needed to administer vaccines were additional complicating factors.

“This isn’t as simple as just sticking a person with an injection,” Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett said in a February op-ed. “It takes months of planning and millions of dollars that wouldn’t be in the state without the presence of tribes.”

CPNHS began administering doses of the vaccine in December, just hours after they received the first Pfizer shipment. By February CPNHS has administered more than 3,000 doses. These events involved dozens of staff and hundreds of patients who either drove or walked through quickly established vaccination events. For someone in the middle of this logistical challenge, like CPN Tribal Emergency Manager Tim Zientek, the key to the Tribe’s success is a culmination of years of preparedness and practice.



Cars line up during a COVID-19 vaccination drive at the Grand Casino Hotel Resort, Friday, Jan. 22, 2021.

“I would rate our challenge for mass vaccination drive about at 5 out of 10,” he said. “Collaborating with the Pottawatomie County Health Department and surrounding communities, the Pottawatomie County Mass Immunization Plan has been a joint exercise every year since 2005. As a ‘push partner’ with the county health department, CPN Health Services works directly with them and the state health departments to develop and manage mass immunizations.”

Years of running through various practice scenarios and attending conferences for Tribal emergency management professionals like Zientek proved beneficial as CPN opened vaccine drives to the general public in mid-March. CPNHS’ collaboration with external entities in recent years also provided a framework to shape the response.

“CPNHS has for a number of years been holding flu vaccination drive-thrus for the local communities,” Zientek said.

“This gave us the practice to adjust the size and scope of the vaccine drives. Partnering with the local communities has also been a huge help as we continue to work together to improve from each drive.”

In emergency management, the key to handling swiftly moving, life-threatening situations is being ready for the unthinkable. Describing the events of

the last year to your average Citizen Potawatomi in January 2020 would likely have left some blank stares. For emergency managers at all levels, bracing for the indescribable is just a training exercise. The government often tasks the Federal Emergency Management Agency with preparing for the worst, and FEMA shapes its mission around The National Preparedness Goal.

It focuses on creating “a secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.”

Zientek collaborated closely with the FEMA Region 6 Tribal Relations Specialist Rachel Nutter. This cooperation proved integral to creating successful federal, state, tribal and local resource partnerships.

FEMA is currently partnering with more than 90 tribes across the U.S. as a result of their COVID-19 emergency declarations. In March 2020, CPN’s emergency declaration paved the way for the Tribe and FEMA Region 6’s teamwork. Six medical personnel from the FEMA region served on 60-day deployments to assist with CPN’s mass vaccination efforts, while 23 tribes across Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico have received similar support.

Nutter previously worked for the Choctaw Nation and spent 10 years involved with the Oklahoma Intertribal Emergency Management Coalition, which Zientek chairs. FEMA created her position in November 2019 to focus on more traditional needs of the country’s National Preparedness Goal. That all changed in March 2020.



CPN member Matt Higdon receives a COVID-19 vaccine during a recent drive.

Continued on page 6

Melot family descendant combines love of business and law

Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Reese Dollins accomplished a feat sought after by every hopeful lawyer when a prestigious firm hired him immediately following law school. At 25 years old, he began his career as an attorney with Smith Hurst, known for its practice helping businesses, entrepreneurs and investors in northwest Arkansas.

“Smith Hurst is a really specialized and niche corporate and business law firm. Given my background and the background of all the other attorneys that work here, it was really just a natural fit and mesh for me to step into this role. And I couldn’t have asked for a better situation, to be honest,” Dollins said.

School and experience

After graduating with a bachelor’s in business administration from the University of Central Arkansas, he began law school in fall 2017 at the University of Arkansas School of Law. He graduated magna cum laude in May 2020 after a three-year program and took the bar exam in July. Dollins described the moment finding out he passed as somewhat “surreal,” but he mainly looked forward to beginning his career.

“My goal going into law school was to incorporate my business background with my legal education and kind of provide services to a different sector of clients,” he said.

“It’s such a unique skill set that not everyone has, and once you sink your teeth into it, it really kind of consumes

you. And I say it consumes you, I meant in a good way, and it’s all-encompassing.”

Driven by hard work, he focused on internships while attending law school and worked for the Arkansas attorney general’s office, corporations and served as a temporary clerk at Smith Hurst while he was a student. Dollins impressed the firm, and they invited him back for a full academic year before hiring him as a lawyer.

“I think having that kind of broad experience helped me focus in school on the subjects that I cared the most about and allowed me to devote more of my attention to those areas,” Dollins said. “To a large extent, I think that those internships and clerkships did their job in the sense of exposing me to things that I otherwise wouldn’t have been exposed to had I not taken them.”

While he learned law itself and legal theory, Dollins said experience makes an attorney a talented practitioner. He eagerly joined Smith Hurst for the chance to oversee and assist on various transactions.

“Jumping into it right off the bat, it was a little bit of a learning curve, a challenging and rewarding learning curve and one that I’ve appreciated greatly. I’ve stayed really busy, and I’ve been given great work and had the opportunity to develop my skills with clients,” Dollins said.

During his short time at Smith Hurst, he has helped close large stock purchases, merged privately held



Distinguished law student and CPN member Reese Dollins now works for business law firm Smith Hurst, PLC (“Smith Hurst”) in northwest Arkansas. (Photo provided)

companies, and advised clients on expanding and growing their businesses.

Helping businesses

Outside of work, Dollins also assists businesses as a member of the Rogers/Lowell Small Business Council, part of the area’s chamber of commerce. He enjoys meeting new people and helping those around him succeed.

“We help put small businesses on the map, pretty much. We advocate for them, what their needs might be within the community, where we think city spending could improve to help promote their small business interest and things of that nature. We’re just kind of the voice of the community on a smaller scale,” he said.

Dollins uses the the other side of his skill set while helping local businesses grow, and it allows him to be a part of something bigger than himself. His term as a member began recently, and his enthusiasm is high.

“I’m excited to meet new people and new small business owners, and hopefully it can lead us all somewhere that we want to be.” Dollins said.

His career goals meet those of many other beginning lawyers — become a partner at a firm.

“I think in due time, I would love to take on that kind of responsibility. I know that I’m a ways away from that, but I think Smith Hurst is providing me with a wealth of opportunities to develop my professional career and potentially achieve that kind of goal,” he said.

Dollins is the first lawyer in his family, and he hopes to pass along his skill set and passion for the law, and a sense of community responsibility. ♡

Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett has represented you with compassion, commitment, innovation and integrity...

A statement that has held true throughout the years.

**KEEP A PROVEN LEADER
VOTE FOR JOHN “ROCKY” BARRETT**

Cultural Heritage Center expands offerings through new website

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center exists to protect CPN history and educate Tribal members and the public. Its revamped website, potawatomiheritage.com, features six state-of-the-art components that help connect Citizen Potawatomi to their heritage, including an online encyclopedia, family manuscripts, archives, allotments, veterans and *Mezodanek* — a genealogical research platform. These resources honor those who came before, highlight CPN servicemen and servicewomen, and build inner-Tribal community.

"Our main mission is to make the resources that we have here at the Cultural Heritage Center available to all Tribal members," said Dr. Kelli Mosteller, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center director.

Process

Creating the new CHC website features required imagination, teamwork and dedication over a five-year timespan. CHC staff, Dr. Mosteller and CHC Curator Blake Norton worked closely with CPN Information Technology Department software developer Jonathan Cervone and web developer Nathan Hawkins.

"It's taken a lot of conversations between us all saying, 'We think this is possible, but is it possible?' and it turns out that yes, with enough hard work and time spent working out the bugs, it really is," Dr. Mosteller said.

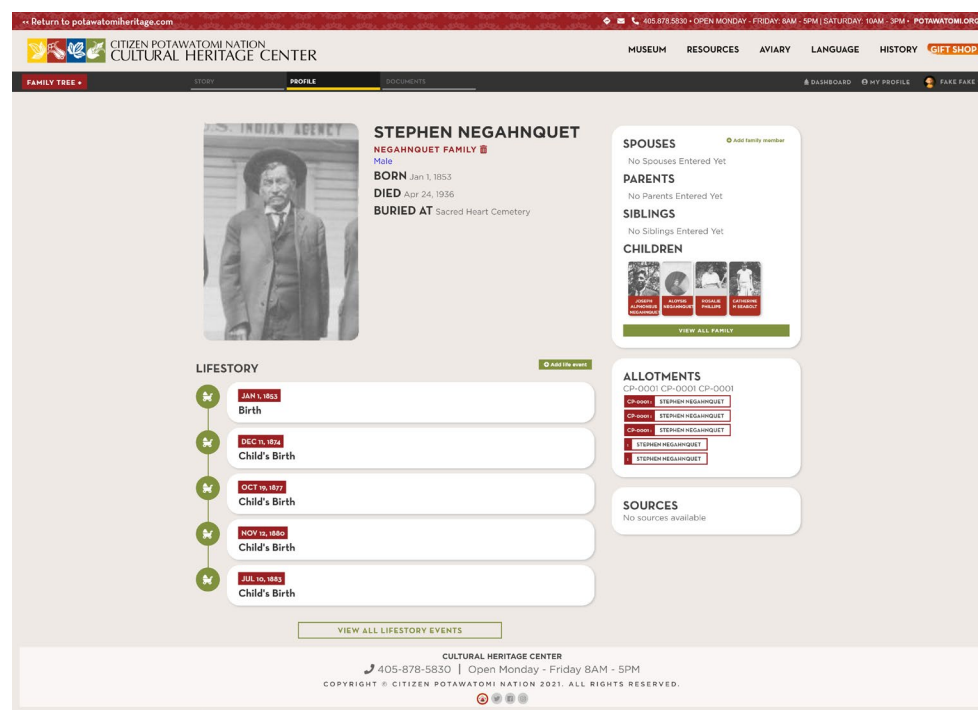
The project has also provided educational opportunities, enlightening CHC staff on important Potawatomi who may or may not receive the recognition they deserve.

"It's still surprising to me to be able to learn new things about the families and how many of them are so intertwined ... hopefully, we'll be able to shed light on all of them now," Norton said.

While in the development stages, staff realized some key historical information was missing and set out to find external resources to help.

"We wrote a grant, and we have gotten copies of the Individual Indian Files Collection from the Oklahoma History Center," Dr. Mosteller said. "It's only helpful up to a point if there are all these holes and gaps, so we had to do a lot of legwork and move all those pieces around to get everything to line up."

With a sound structure now in place, the CHC looks forward to the opportunity



Researching Potawatomi family history is easier than ever through the *Mezodanek* platform.

to offer its resources to CPN members through the website and expand its archives for generations to come.

Encyclopedia

The CHC's encyclopedia features entries on key people, places, events, objects and culture tied to the Citizen Potawatomi people.

"The encyclopedia is growing, and we will continue to grow it as time goes on and staff complete drafts on a variety of topics, people and more," Dr. Mosteller said.

Website visitors can browse alphabetically, use the search bar to look up specific pages or click on 26 different subjects.

"It's an excellent resource that is already getting a lot of visits and uses as well as positive feedback," she said.

Family manuscripts

Conducting Citizen Potawatomi family history is easy through the Family Manuscripts Collection. Users can search by founding families and individuals to uncover documents, genealogical records, photos and more. It features more than 300 years of Potawatomi culture and history that CPN members have donated.

"Let's say you're looking for information on someone you descend from, so you search within the Family Manuscripts Collection for information on him. If (the CHC) has an article about him, a portrait and maybe a family record highlighting when he married, we would have all of those individual files under his file," Dr. Mosteller said.

The CHC eventually plans to incorporate the 30,000-plus records housed within the Family Manuscripts Collection into its new platform *Mezodanek*. But for now, website visitors can still utilize the online database for research.

Mezodanek

Translated as "family" in English, *Mezodanek* offers CPN members a digital space to build family trees and connect with fellow Tribal members. While it operates much like other online genealogical websites, CHC staff have built family tree foundational structures and oversee community input for accuracy.

"We have dedicated individuals that are researching each family and being able to verify who is connected to who based upon government records, family manuscripts, Tribal enrollment, vitals and more," Norton explained. "So we have a lot of angles that we're playing here to verify this information."

Mezodanek is available to CPN members and spouses. To access and add profile information, users must provide a CPN Tribal ID card to receive a login.

"Members will be able to build a family tree, just like you would on other genealogical sites, connecting respective ancestors because it's their own, unique profile," Norton said.

CHC staff have formed foundational trees for every Citizen Potawatomi family to assist Tribal members with their genealogical research.

"Beginning with ancestors on the 1872 and 1887 censuses, and then going back to their common Potawatomi ancestor, all of that research and lineage has been created, and for some families, it goes further," Norton said. "In some instances where a Métis family married into another Métis family, we can trace back to their common Potawatomi ancestor as well. Some of these trees are going back to the 1700s."

Although not included in the May 1 launch, the CHC hopes to add sharing features in the future for users to be able to send their research directly to others and connect with distant family members.

"You will be able to either share it with specific email addresses, share with a specific user or make it public where the entire family can see it," Hawkins said. "So if somebody else in your family has built out this elaborate tree, then it could show up on another family member's profile that's connected."

While the platform helps preserve current and recent history for later access, to protect Tribal members, their identities, and for confidentiality reasons, research-based information will only be available on those who have passed away more than 25 years ago.

"A lot of effort has gone into creating public information policies to keep member information safe and secure," Norton explained. "We're very careful about that."

Users are able to include current and recent family in their trees. Specific CPN-housed documents, such as governmental papers and more, will not be available for online research purposes until 25 years later.

"But if you build your own family tree and add records, you will not be limited," Hawkins explained. "You'll be able to build out your tree and profile however you want."

Mezodanek also provides an opportunity for CHC staff to connect with Tribal members and expand its archives and collections.

"It will allow us to open avenues of discussion regarding what types of research our users have conducted and possible records they have acquired. From there, we can determine if they would be interested in donating that

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Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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The *Hownikan* is published by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and is mailed free to enrolled Tribal members. Subscriptions for nonmembers are \$10 a year in the United States and \$12 in foreign countries. The *Hownikan* is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Reprint permission is granted with publication credit to the *Hownikan*. Editorials/letters are subject to editing and must contain a traceable address.

All correspondence should be directed to *Hownikan*,

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Questions: hownikan@potawatomi.org or 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls,

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Fostering teaches Hodgkins family to build community, spread love

May is Foster Care Awareness Month, and Citizen Potawatomi Nation's FireLodge Children and Family Services constantly searches for new Native American families to welcome a child into their home. Norman, Oklahoma, residents Jimmie and Greg Hodgkins began fostering through FireLodge in April 2020.

The Griffin and Bourassa descendant and her husband wanted to foster but knew little about the process. Jimmie asked for advice from a high school friend in social work. Then she thought of reaching out to CPN, and her desires matched their mission.

"I think it's really important to keep as much of the cultural heritage we have alive. And then it's really nice to think in a way they could be my very distant relative or just the fact that we're part of the same Tribe brings a bigger connection if we were able to adopt," Jimmie said.

Working with FireLodge became the natural choice, and they both have enjoyed creating a loving environment for the child placed with them.

"I feel like the first couple of months we had him are just a blur — just a complete blur of learning how to be parents because we don't have our own kids. And since then, we can remember the milestones with him a whole lot more," Jimmie said.

"It's not my kid, but I can still treat him or her like they are our kid and just care for them. ... Through no fault of their own, they're put in some pretty



Jimmie and Greg Hodgkins often discuss their journey as foster parents with friends, family and others they meet throughout their daily lives. (Photo by Samantha Legler)

incredible circumstances sometimes. And we're a first-world country, and it really shouldn't be like that for any kid. No kids should suffer. So if we can do something to help, then that's what we're going to do," Greg said.

Since then, the Hodgkins have talked with many friends, family members and even acquaintances about adoption. Jimmie's father is Oklahoma State Rep. Mark McBride, a descendent of the Bourassa family. Jimmie noticed a change in how he helps constituents looking to foster and adopt, taking their calls and offering to establish connections.

"It seems to me he's a large advocate for foster care and adoption up at

the Capitol just because now he sees it, and it's more out in the open to him. So that has been very cool to see that what we have done has impacted him, and hopefully, that has impacted lots of other children," Jimmie said.

Greg also feels like their network has grown through fostering.

"It seems like ... there's always one person who can be like, 'Oh, I know someone is trying to adopt a kid,' or 'I know someone who is fostering.' So it's a much bigger network than I guess I originally thought as well," he said.

Fostering has strengthened their relationship, communication skills

and ability to assess themselves as well. Jimmie feels she better understands mothers and their struggles and tries to vocalize when she needs a break without the guilt — both of which she considers good things.

"It's a great investment because no matter what, you come out helping them and yourself," she said. "I mean, there's so many things as an individual I've grown from and become a better person and much more patient."

Greg often thinks about raising and providing love for the next generation while he cares for their foster child, and he feels like it serves a bigger purpose.

"It's so important to give kids stability because it's very cliché to say that they're the future, but raising a child with a stable environment is going to provide a lot more to our society than a child that's raised in a turbulent household," he said.

After a year, fostering remains one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives.

"You can donate your time, but you can't donate love unless you really take those kids in. And it's much easier than you think to give love, and that's the most important thing they need," Jimmie said.

"If you're on the fence, if the opportunity arises, just take it because you're not going to lose. Fostering, there is no losing unless you choose to not do it."

Find FireLodge Children and Family Services online at cpn.news/firelodge or on Facebook @CPNFireLodge. ♡



THE CARNEY FAMILY SUPPORTS CHAIRMAN BARRETT



Paid for by Dave Carney



Your vote matters!

I am voting for Rocky Barrett for Tribal Chairman and I urge you to do the same.

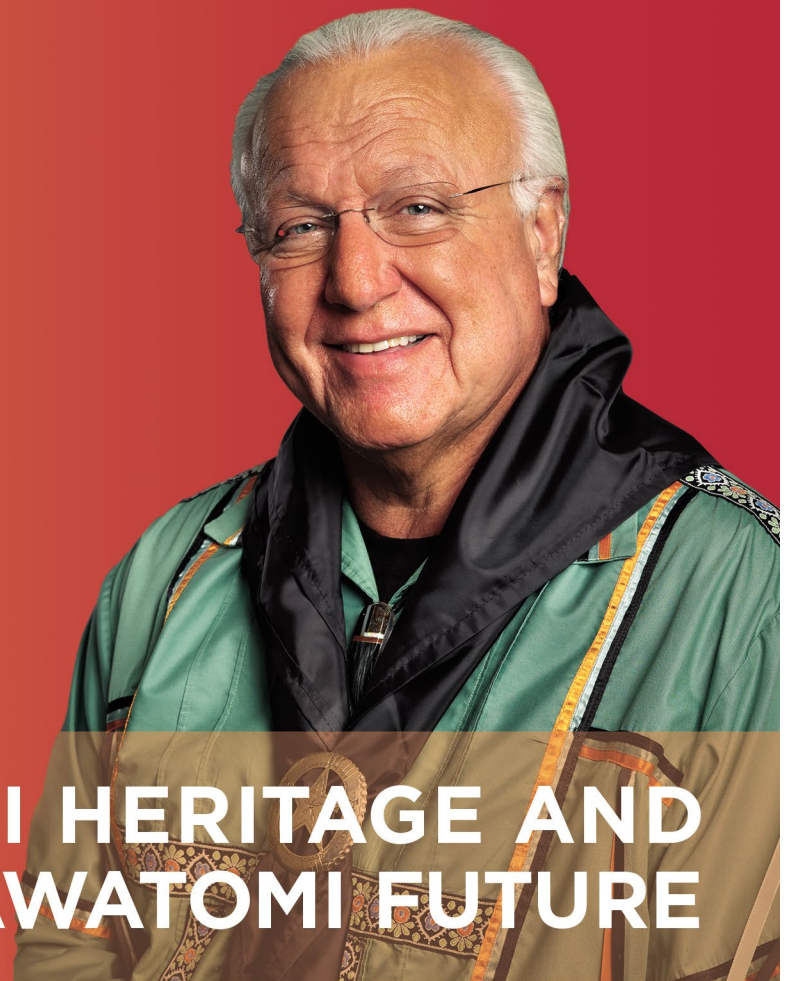
Representative
Eva Marie Carney



Paid for by Eva Marie Carney

ROCKY BARRETT

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION CHAIRMAN



PRESERVING POTAWATOMI HERITAGE AND STRENGTHENING THE POTAWATOMI FUTURE



CULTURE

The history of our families is preserved at the Cultural Heritage Center, which proudly displays information on our heritage and culture. Research resources are available to Tribal members wherever they are. Our language program is flourishing, with multiple options for Tribal citizens around the world. Our eagle aviary protects our prayer messengers and provides a final home to these sacred animals.

BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENT

Our Tribal government has grown under Chairman Barrett's leadership into an independent and thriving Nation, with representation for citizens across the United States. The constitutional reform spearheaded by Chairman Barrett gave citizens the most rights they have ever had. Under Chairman Barrett's leadership, revenue has had a 20% average annual growth for 30 years and CPN owns America's largest tribally-owned bank. Current plans for the bank will double its size in the next year.

Vote for the preservation of the Potawatomi past and for a stronger Potawatomi future

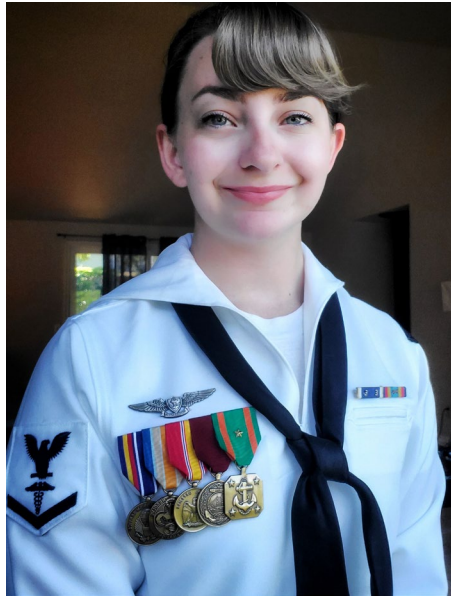
**RE-ELECT
ROCKY BARRETT
FOR CPN CHAIRMAN**



Navy member sets sights on career in neuroscience

Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Jazmine Striegel has dedicated much of her youth to the U.S. Navy. After considering many options, she joined the military upon graduating high school in 2014. While college seemed essential and worthwhile, serving filled several desires for the future at once.

"I've always wanted to serve my country," she said. "I was planning on joining the military either way, either before or after college. It just turned out before college was the way to go for financial reasons ... and also trying to become my own person out of high school and figure out what I wanted to do and travel the world."



Darling family descendant Jazmine Striegel enjoys serving others, both in the Navy and in the medical field. (Photo provided)

The Darling family descendant completed boot camp, hospital corpsman training and medical technician school at stations across the country. Then, she spent more than five years on active duty as a squadron corpsman on the HS Truman, a naval aircraft carrier. She was deployed most of that time in the Middle East and Gulf Coast around Dubai and Bahrain. However, she also explored Marseille, France; Crete, Greece; Lisbon, Portugal; and Singapore.

In 2019, Striegel decided to pursue an undergraduate degree and entered the Naval Reserves as a hospital corpsman. She currently studies integrative physiology and neuroscience at the University of Colorado Boulder.

"I can't imagine doing it any other way. It's definitely been a really good experience being able to travel the world, meet new people, while learning a lot of medicine," she said.

Firsthand experience

Striegel's passion for the medical field took root as a child. Besides serving her country in the armed forces, she also wants to help people through illnesses and injuries. Her time in the Navy solidified her career choice. It allowed her to see the health care facility's day-to-day operations before beginning her medical studies, including the chance to participate in minor procedures and watch physicians deal with different types of cases.

"The physicians would help walk you through the process of treating a patient and while explaining their reasoning for their diagnosis, and why they were treating the patient in this way. It was really cool to see the wheels turning in their minds, and that really made me want to do the same thing in the future," Striegel said.

The one-on-one time with acting physicians made giving back to the Navy a priority for her. She now either wants to work as a Navy physician or a flight surgeon.

"They've definitely given me a lot of inspiration to continue to serve others. It's hard to put into words what the Navy's done (for me)," Striegel said.

During much of her deployments, she worked as part of a growler squadron, performing pilot evaluations to ensure they met the physical and mental qualifications required to command an aircraft.

Understanding the brain

"Neuroscience is actually a fairly new field of study," Striegel said. "Within the past 100 years, we have made some incredible medical advances in our knowledge on the brain and the nervous system as a whole."

She plans to contribute to that branch of health care, hoping to become a neurologist or neurosurgeon. She enjoys the challenge of researching and treating the brain in particular. It fascinates her and has for most of her life.

"Alzheimer's, dementia and schizophrenia — those have all become fairly prevalent diseases as medicine has prolonged the human life span. Those diseases can bring a lot of harm not only to the patient but also to families that are involved with that process in the later stages of life. Easing those troubles and potentially finding a cure for Alzheimer's would be great for a lot of people," she said.

In the next couple of years, Striegel will apply to medical schools across the country and take the next step toward becoming a doctor.

She feels her time in the Navy gave her the work ethic and the opportunity to pursue her passions, such as neuroscience, and overcome challenging obstacles.

"In the Navy they always tell you, 'It's your own career; make what you want out of it. Nobody's going to do it for you.' So, I think that was really good advice that I received from the start. And taking my career into my own hands has definitely benefited me instead of just waiting idly by for something to happen. You have to take initiative and make your career your own," Striegel said.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center honors Tribal members who served and places their pictures on the Veterans Wall of Honor. If you are a veteran or active duty military and would like your place on the wall, provide your information at info@potawatomiheritage.com.

Citizen Potawatomi virtual Graduation Banquet 2021

By Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education

The Citizen Potawatomi Graduation Banquet is going to be a little different this year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPN Department of Education will host the banquet virtually.

Instead of doing a live event, the education department is asking all high school, college and technical graduates to submit a short 1-minute video or a 200-word answer to one or all of the prompts. If you choose to submit a video, please ensure the video is in landscape

orientation and has minimal background noise. These submissions will be included in a video that will be compiled after the deadline of June 1, 2021.

Students who graduated in summer 2019, fall 2019, spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020 or spring 2021 are all eligible for this event. Please apply at portal.potawatomi.org before June 1, 2021, to be included in this celebration. We hope to see our 2022 graduates in person next year, but we look forward to honoring those graduating in the most responsible way we can in 2021. ♡

CPN EDUCATION Art Contest

CRITERIA TO ENTER

1. Must be a Tribal citizen
2. At least 18 years of age
3. Be a current or former recipient of the CPN tribal scholarship program

ALL ARTWORK MUST INCLUDE AN EDUCATIONAL THEME

ALL STYLES ACCEPTED
(ABSTRACT, REALISM, ETC)
3D PIECES WELCOME

HOW TO ENTER

Please include name, age and a brief paragraph explaining your artwork
Email digital submissions to college@potawatomi.org by June 11
Physical submissions can be mailed by June 11 to
Tribal Administration - Attention Department of Education
at 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. Shawnee, OK 74801

WINNING ARTWORK WILL BE PRINTED AND GIVEN TO THE GRADUATES AT THE 2022 CPN GRADUATION CELEBRATION

ALL ARTWORK WILL BE JUDGED ON CREATIVITY, ORIGINALITY, QUALITY OF WORK, OVERALL DESIGN AND INTERPRETATION OF THEME

WINNER GETS A \$350 CASH PRIZE!

QUESTIONS? Contact CPN Department of Education at college@potawatomi.org

FEMA continued...

"For COVID, we have assisted the tribal nations with plan development, PPE donation coordination, vaccination staffing support, resource requests and reimbursement for COVID-19 eligible emergency protective measures under the FEMA Public Assistance Program," she said. "I feel honored to continue working with tribal nations to provide information and coordination on FEMA programs to support their emergency management capacity building."

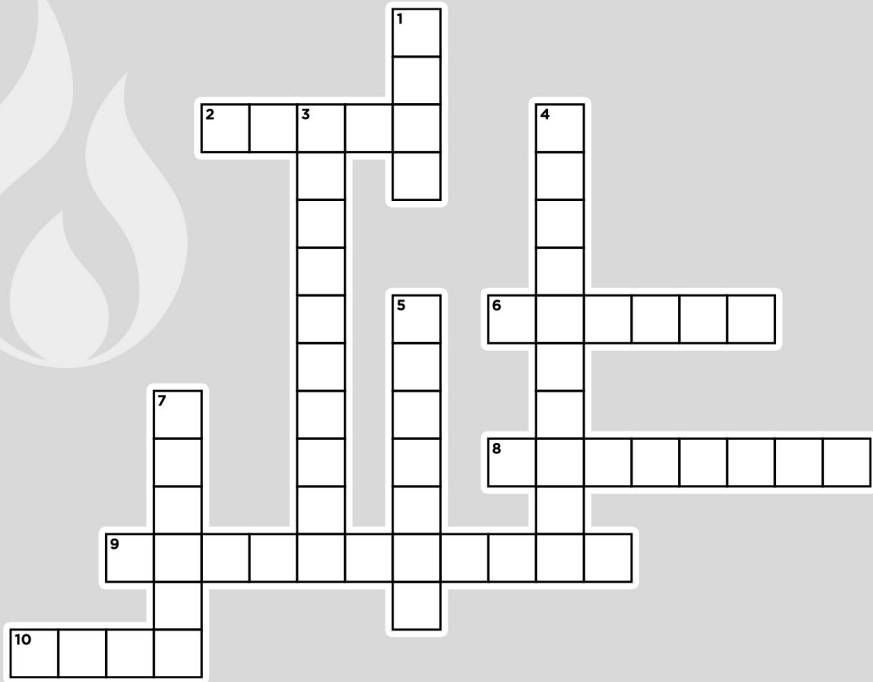
For Zientek, having a former tribal emergency planner on the federal side who understands the challenges he and his ITEMIC colleagues face, the collaboration has been a Godsend. Following the approval from FEMA on CPN's emergency declaration, he and Tribal staff here crafted an administration plan that, when approved by Region 6, allowed for an open line of resources.

"Once it was approved, we could then go directly to FEMA for resources

including PPE, disinfectants and even manpower," Zientek said. "The administrator at FEMA R6 assembled a team of staff members to work specifically with tribal nations to obtain whatever resources was needed. They even worked with outside vendors to find those who could provide us the supplies we needed when we asked."

As April begins, CPN has administered more than 13,000 doses at its clinics and mass vaccination drives. In a county of 72,000, this is a small but significant impact on the area's vulnerable populations. Through collaboration with FEMA and other tribal nations in the state, those response efforts will continue to benefit mostly rural communities hit hardest by the pandemic in Oklahoma. The pandemic again demonstrated the impact tribes have on the communities within their historic jurisdictions. ♡

Paid for by Alan Melot



ACROSS

- 2. CPN founding family from Joe and Katy, sometimes spelled with two T's
- 6. A person who leads
- 8. "Thank you" in Potawatomi
- 9. CPN region containing ancestral homelands
- 10. Candidate who would appreciate your vote!

DOWN

- 1. To cast a ballot
- 3. A person elected to represent a CPN district
- 4. Joining together, song by OneRepublic
- 5. The action of helping or doing work for someone
- 7. Outlook for an improved future

FOR PUZZLE SOLUTION, VISIT CPNDISTRICT1.COM



RE-ELECT CHAIRMAN BARRETT

Tribal support and involvement are what is needed

As Chairman, Rocky Barrett has been involved and used his leadership to expand benefits, services, and enterprises to create the revenues needed during his tenure. I believe that anyone who aspires to be Chairman needs to attend meetings and

events, both in Shawnee and at the Potawatomi Gatherings at the other nations facilities, in order to gain friendships and associations to make them a potential leader of our nation as well as understand our nations operation. I believe that Chairman has built these relationships over the years and he is held in high regard throughout Indian Country.

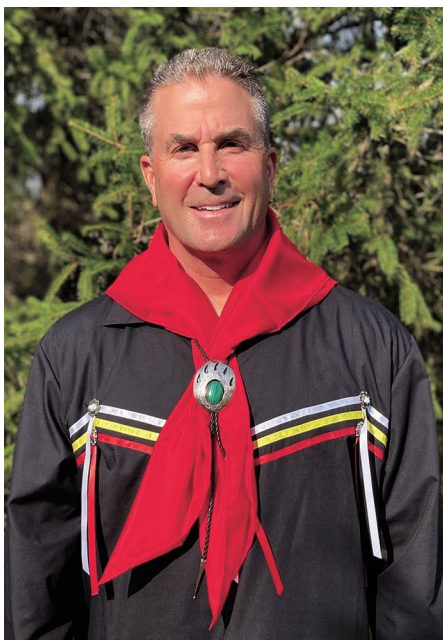
The Chairman must also do what is in the best interest of CPN, not themselves. I know that Chairman has worked for our Nation without pay and has even declined pay raises when other legislators, including his opponent, suggested it. Our Chairman is not even the highest paid position at the tribe—he falls at about number 21 on the list. I believe that this is an example of our leadership putting the Tribe first.

Other candidates might talk about increasing pay, hiring a multitude of new positions, and increasing services across the Nation, but Chairman Barrett has done it. He's grown our enterprises, number of employees, and Tribal services. He has done this at the pace that our Nation can afford. I am curious where his challengers will take money from in order to fund their new endeavors. Will they cut health care? Scholarships? Burial benefits? Mail order pharmacy?

I AM BRINGING ALL OF THESE THINGS TO YOUR ATTENTION SINCE I KNOW THE CHAIRMAN IS TOO GRACIOUS TO SHOW YOU THESE POTENTIAL ISSUES. YES, THERE ARE SOME OF YOU THAT WANT US TO GIVE OUT A PER CAPITA. IF THAT DECISION IS MADE IT WOULD MEAN OTHER AREAS MUST BE CURTAILED. I URGE YOU TO THINK OF YOUR FUTURE AND THAT YOU MAY ELIMINATE A FUTURE NEED.

VOTE TO RE-ELECT CHAIRMAN BARRETT

Paid for by Bob Whistler

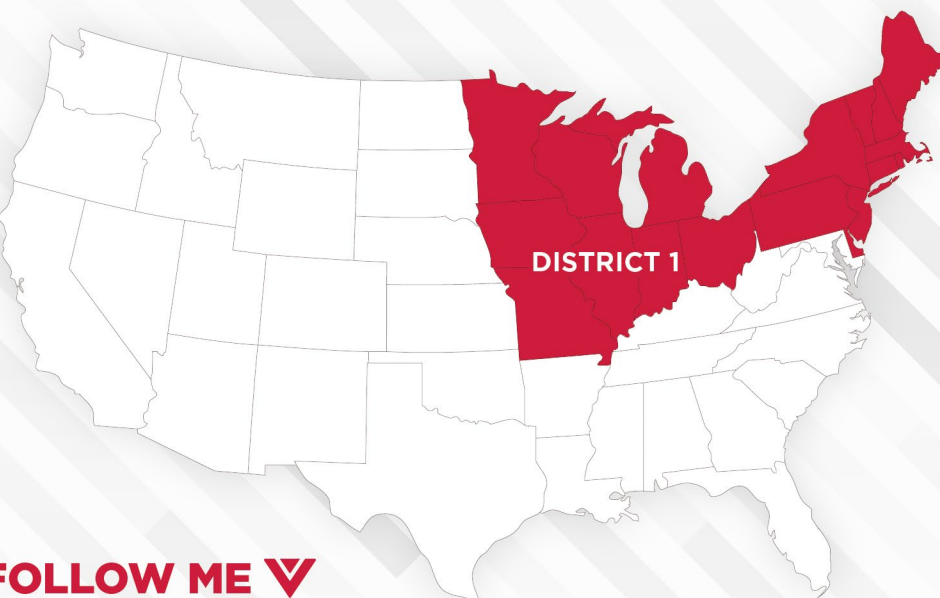


VOTE KEVIN ROBERTS

DISTRICT 1 LEGISLATOR

ABOUT KEVIN

- Married 37 years to Diana
- ◀ Son, Cody (wife Jess & son Beauden) & daughters Emily and Sarah
- Neshnabe name: Kakingeshi (Grizzly Bear)
- ◀ 3rd great grandson of Joseph Bertrand Sr.
- Retired, Assistant Vice President, State Farm Insurance Company
- ◀ Owner/Operator, Migwetch Mtek Designs (wood decor)



COMMUNITY

➤ CONNECTION

➤ PROGRESS

➤ SPIRIT



BERTRAND



Kevin Roberts Candidate for CPN Dist 1 Legislator



Kakingeshi

Paid for by Kevin Roberts

Bodéwadmimwen: Potawatomi language update

By Justin Neely,
CPN Language Director

We are rounding out the last semester of our online self-paced high school course. We are currently offering the course to the following high schools: Tecumseh, Maud, Wanette and Shawnee. The State of Oklahoma has certified the course to count toward the world language credit required for graduation. We hope to be able to expand. If you have a student in a different district in Oklahoma, please get them in contact with us. Since it's online and self-paced, there is really no reason we cannot offer the course in your district, but we need to get the process started early to make it available next year. We are happy to expand into other school districts as interest dictates. We have had one other person take the course in Michigan and also one student take our collegiate version at Arizona University.

We would love to be able to offer it in other states, but the only issue is each state has its own education department that decides whether the course can be offered for credit. We are certainly willing to discuss partnering with

other states, but there is no guarantee that they will be willing to accept the course. It's really a state-by-state basis.

Our staff is working on a grant we received to make a series of original children's books. This project is very fun, and my staff is doing a great job with it. Language staff members also go to the Nation's Child Development Center Monday through Thursday. For updates and additional language questions, check out Potawatomi Language group on Facebook at [cpn.news/langfb](https://www.facebook.com/cpn.news/langfb).

In-person classes

I have been asked a couple of times about onsite classes. We will take into consideration the suggestions of our medical staff, and as things change, we will definitely let folks know. We may be able to hold some classes in the Cultural Heritage Center with folks doing a temperature check on the way in, wearing masks, and also practicing social distancing by limiting number of folks at tables. If would like use to keep you in the loop on this, please send me an email at jneely@potawatomi.org.

Dictionary

Also, we are continually updating and adding to our online dictionary. One project we have been working on is doing a conjugation video with different types of verbs. For example, for intransitive animate — VAI normal verbs — we are adding a video that shows how to conjugate these basic verbs. We are going to eventually add one for each type: inanimate intransitive — VII; transitive inanimate — VTI; and transitive animate — VTA. These videos will show how to conjugate in the independent, conjunct, command form, prohibitive form, past, future and negative. The dictionary is at potawatomidictionary.com.

Online resources

We also have a number of online platforms for learning the language. We have two YouTube channels at [cpn.news/JN](https://www.youtube.com/c/cpn.news/JN) and [cpn.news/langyt](https://www.youtube.com/c/cpn.news/langyt). One is geared toward children and the other to adult learners. We also have two courses on Memrise at [cpn.news/memrise](https://www.memrise.com/course/cpn.news/memrise/).

We also have our starter courses: Beginner I, Beginner II and Intermediate Moodle courses at language.potawatomi.org.

Mnokme kedwnen Spring words

Mnokme — spring (mih nok may)

Mnokmek — in the spring (mih nok muck)

Gtegan — garden (Getuh gone)

Nwi-gtege — I am going to plant/garden. (nuh wee getuh gay)

Minkan — seed (meen con)

Zagbek — sprouting leaf (zahg buck)

Waskonédoyen — flowers (was cone nuh do yin)

Waskonédo — flower (was cone nuh do)

Shkegi — new growth/new sprout (shkuh gee)

Jigbekwegas — spade/small shovel (jeegbuck kway gahs)

Mon'agen — hoe (moan ah gihn)

Monshké — weed he/she does (moan shkway)

Zagwewen — sprout (zahg way win)

Zagki — It's emerging from the ground. (zahg kee) ♪



Bozho, Nikanek.

My name is Stella Waskonedoket LaClaire Hackler Malone and I am 92 years old. I remember when our tribe did not enjoy the status and assets we have today. Rocky Barrett's leadership is the major reason we have come as far so fast.

I support Rocky Barrett and I hope you will, too!

Paid for by Stella Waskonedoket LaClaire Hackler Malone



WHY DO I SUPPORT ROCKY FOR CHAIRMAN AND JON BOURSAB FOR DISTRICT 4 REPRESENTATIVE?

◀ A tribal leader in today's world involves being able to work with governments and bureaucracies that tend to operate by the laws and legal interpretations created hundreds of years ago. They have both been effective in working in this environment in

in their respective areas with various government agencies and other Native American nations.

◀ Chairman Barrett and Legislator Boursaw have several different educational certifications or degrees beyond high school which gives them the broad advanced education needed to deal with the various types of enterprises we have.

◀ Tribal politics is very complex given that in addition to dealing with federal and/or state offices and agencies, you need a good grasp of just how business works and you need leadership experience. The Chairman has had several businesses and now runs our nation and has that experience. Jon Boursaw is a retired veteran who oversaw Air Force personnel as a colonel. To the best of my knowledge their challengers have no experience in supervising and managing a full complex business with subordinates

IN SUMMARY CHAIRMAN ROCKY BARRETT AND REPRESENTATIVE JON BOURSAB HAVE THE EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE NEEDED FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES AND THEIR OPPONENTS IN MY OPINION DO NOT!

THAT IS WHY I SUPPORT THEM - BOB WHISTLER

Paid for by Bob Whistler



Physical copy of foundational document kept from Citizen Potawatomi Nation

The Potawatomi census book of 1862 remains a vital foundational document for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation; however, the Tribe does not have possession of it. CPN staff first saw it in 2006 at St. Marys Indian Pay Station Museum in St. Marys, Kansas. The artifact documents the Nation's beginning, and members and staff of CPN have spent almost 15 years attempting to gain custody from the city's historical society.

"There's something really personal about being able to see the tangible history of your people and being able to see those names as they were written and know that they were in the room and see that part of the living history," said Dr. Kelli Mosteller, director of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center.

History

The Treaty of 1861 presented Potawatomi in Kansas the option to either continue living on a communal reservation or accept a small allotment for their families and begin a path to United States citizenship. Those who took individual parcels later became known as Citizen Potawatomi. Part of the treaty also guaranteed a census of those living on the reservation accepting allotments, which the government carried out the following year.

"The census book is the list of people making decisions for themselves and taking ownership of their futures and deciding for themselves what their future is going to look like and what that would mean for their families," Dr. Mosteller said. "Either way, it was choosing a very different path from the one that they were presently on of just living together communally on the reservation that had been promised to us for eternity."

It includes the names of several influential Citizen Potawatomi, many of whom represent the Nation's founding families, as well as their relatives and the parcel of land that belonged to them. CPN District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw is passionate about sharing and protecting Citizen Potawatomi history, and he looks at the book every time he visits the St. Marys museum.

"The first name on the census book is Louis Vieux, who at that time was very prominent in the Tribe and operated a toll bridge on the western edge of the reservation that serviced a bridge (that) was part of the Oregon Trail. And he charged a dollar a wagon, and, according to the Kansas State Historical Society, some days had 300 wagons cross his bridge," Boursaw said.

Following the census, a Bureau of Indian Affairs agent took the book and provided no copies to any signatories. The path of ownership remains unclear, but afterward, it passed between local officials until eventually landing in the hands of the St. Marys postmaster.

"You can see the line of thinking that it kind of was going from ... a federal official on one level and a local official on another," Dr. Mosteller said. "So, I do think that people were trying to think through how to keep this item safe, but there is no logic when you're looking for lost records to think, 'Could the postmaster have it?'"



Julie Slavin, widow of Citizen Potawatomi Nation District 1 Legislator Roy Slavin, studies the census book of 1862 at St. Marys Pay Station Museum during Potawatomi Gathering in 2018.

After he passed away, his family donated the book to the St. Marys Historical Society and Pay Station Museum, where it is currently displayed. The historical society maintains it is the rightful owner.

"People have argued it was never the Tribe's to own, and it had always been in the hands of this postmaster," Boursaw said.

Condition

In fall 2006, Boursaw was director of the Cultural Heritage Center and traveled with curator Blake Norton and Stacy Coon, then the collections manager, to Rossville, Kansas, to visit the Kansas Historical Society and other Tribal landmarks. They also stopped at the St. Marys Historical Society and Pay Station Museum, where Norton saw a woman thumbing through an old ledger.

"We realized what it was, and Blake said, 'Stop using your bare hands.' So they made this woman, who is actually a widow of a Tribal member, put on gloves to look at the book," Boursaw said.

The museum eventually placed it under harsh light and improper covering, adding to the degradation of the ink and pages. Dr. Mosteller, Norton and others have provided suggestions to retain its quality throughout the years, including installing it in a secure case in a darker room under LED light instead of UV light.

"I do think the staff at the Pay Station has recognized how valuable this is, probably because we continue to tell them, and taken steps to improve the care of the book," Dr. Mosteller said. "But, it's a book that's 150 years old. If you're not paying attention and doing everything you can to preserve it, each decade can really put wear and tear on the book."

According to her, a historical document conservator needs to assess it for possible improvements, which has not happened.

Offers

In 2007, the Tribe hosted several members of the historical society in hopes of securing their faith in the ability of CHC staff to preserve and display the document. After touring the museum and discussing the book, the Nation offered to purchase it and provide a professional copy to the

Pay Station. However, they returned to Kansas and sent a letter declining the offer.

"It just boggles our mind," Boursaw said.

"To me, that is one of the most sacred documents we would have, we could ever have, would be that census book."

The Tribe then increased its offer, including a new computer system for the Pay Station, which officials rejected. Boursaw also emphasized that the museum in Kansas has limited accessibility, opening only from Memorial Day to Labor Day each year or by appointment.

"They draw like 4,000 people during that period of time. ... Our point was in one weekend in June (during Family Reunion Festival), we can have more than 4,000 people see the book in a display case, and that didn't faze them at all," he said.

Dr. Mosteller agrees that historical documents thrive when people experience them in the flesh.

"It's the same reason school kids go to D.C. to look at the Constitution and you go to these places to see these great founding documents. It's really powerful to see the beginning of your history or a new stage in your history in writing and see those names written and sometimes see the signatures. Foundational documents have a lot of emotional impact, and this was a foundational document for us," she said.

Before he passed away, CPN member and lifelong St. Marys resident Jim Pearl wrote a letter to the town's historical society in 2008 requesting the book's transfer. He also presented more than 300 signatures from patrons of the CPN Rossville Community Center and CHC, showing their support.

"My great-grandmother, Theresa Slavin was a young girl when she arrived here with the Jesuits and Sister," Pearl wrote. "She received an education in the school for girls in Sugar Creek and in the St. Marys Mission. ... Access to the contents of this book is so valuable and will be a great drawing card to the St. Marys Museum in the future when this generation has passed the gavel."

Additional offers have been presented throughout the years, most recently in 2020; CPN and the St. Marys Historical Society have reached no agreement.

"To have this tangible piece of our history that we actually could have access to and could incorporate into this space that we have set aside here at the cultural center to become a place where you learn, and it's a central place where people can come in and really connect with our history, and to have this one piece, yet again, ripped away and kept away from us, it's very frustrating," Dr. Mosteller said.

She and Boursaw work to keep the census book of 1862 at the forefront of people's minds and strive to make it part of the CHC's permanent collection. ♡

Remembering lost sisters

By Kayla Woody, House of Hope DVPI Prevention Specialist

Red is the color of strength, power and success — the color of the earth and mountains. Its boldness breathes life and direction into Native people. It also shows the bad with the good as the color of violence and wounds, representing the hurt and pain that our women and young girls experience.

Nearly 85 percent of all Native women experience violence, and red is the chosen color to represent those that go missing and murdered. It's not only used to represent the many hearts broken by the loss of these stolen sisters but also to show just how sacred the women of our tribes are. May 5 is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls — a day to call back

these missing spirits of our women and children so they can be laid to rest.

The CPN House of Hope wants to help bring acknowledgment to the #MMIW movement and educate the community about this plague of violence targeting our Native women and children. We aim to help build resistance to the normalization of this violence and actively change the mindset of our society.

The cycle can be broken with perseverance and determination.

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



In honor of missing and murdered Indigenous women, the HOH office designed this T-shirt and staff handcrafted this skirt.



“Dance with them what brung ya”. It’s an old saying. Y’all have probably heard it before. If you haven’t, it means to stay with those that have done you benefit. Not to abandon them. Great saying. In this day of “cancel culture” and “progressive ideas”, I guess it loses some shine, but not its truth.

Over 35 years ago, Rocky Barrett stepped up to bat and became our Tribal Chairman. Those of us “long of tooth” remember when the Tribe was nothing but a beat up old temporary building with rotting walls. We had very little in the bank and owned 2 1/2 acres of land in common. From that time to now, the Tribe has grown under Rocky’s leadership into a thriving \$500 million dollar plus enterprise.

Before Rocky there were no Casinos, there were no Grocery Stores. We didn’t have a Police Department nor an Eagle Aviary. We didn’t have a Housing Authority to provide housing for the elders in the Tribe. Nor did we have Health Services to provide Primary Care, Dentistry, Optometry, Audiology, and Pharmacy services for any tribal member.

We didn’t provide Career Training for our employees, Direct Employee Assistance, Education Counseling, or Education Assistance because...well...we barely had employees. We now employ over 2000 people in Pottawatomie County. We did not provide child care for working single parents, children and family services, and youth support programs. We didn’t have a Child Development Center. We didn’t have Child Protective Services to shield our children from harm. We didn’t have a foster parent program, or advocate for adoptions of our children back into Potawatomi families. We didn’t have a shelter for battered women, “The House of Hope”. We didn’t have the Firelodge Tribal Youth Program to enhance our youth’s ability to successfully connect with, embrace and contribute to the community and their traditional Native American culture.

Back then, there was no Potawatomi Leadership Program to mold our exceptional youth into future leaders. There were no scholarships for our Tribal Members to attend Colleges and Universities. I can go on, including the Tag Agency, our state-of-the-art Wellness Center and the WIC Program, our bus Transportation, Public Works, Office of Environmental Health, The How-ni-kan, KGFF, our AM and FM Tribal Radio stations, our many grocery and restaurant enterprises, our successful banks, our hotel, golf course, ball fields, plus life insurance and burial insurance. And sadly, there was no Veterans Service Outreach to acknowledge and assist our Warriors who fought for this Country.

None of these were here before Rocky Barrett became our Chairman.

So now I’m told in an opposition election ad to help “rekindle the fire”. I’m told that “new” ideas are better. I’m told that things need to “change”, and I that need to join a “historic” campaign. Well, the one thing I’m not told is how “new” and “historic” is going to get paid. Will we be better off? We don’t get income taxes from our Members. The Tribe operates solely from business earnings, grants, federal programs, and interest on our savings. We make money from the Casinos, but the State of Oklahoma gets a share of that. All of our enterprises are profitable, but those “profits” go into a general fund to pay for vital services that were established while Rocky’s opponent was in office -and she voted for them. So how does this “new” get paid? The other question that needs answering is simple; if someone has been in the Legislature for 4 terms...16 years, why does a “fire need to be rekindled”? Seems like 16 years is a long time without a spark of your own flying up.

I guess I am worn a little thin these days. I’m tired of angry people. And I am tired of being told we need to do something “more progressive”. Going from \$575 in the bank to over \$450,000,000 in assets seems pretty dadgum progressive to me.

Like I said at the beginning of this letter, I think we need to “Dance with them what brung ya”. And Rocky Barrett has brought us a very long way. Just look around. Seriously. Come to the Reservation and look around. Everything you see is due to Rocky Barrett’s dedication and vision. We have a Representative form of Government that is unique, like no other tribe in the Nation. We owe that to Rocky Barrett too. We as Tribal Members have a say. We just need to exercise that voice. Vote for Rocky Barrett ...as the meaning of his Potawatomi name says: Keweoge - “He Leads Them Home”.

Special education teacher named Shawnee Public Schools' 2021 Teacher of the Year

Among eight finalists, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member and special education teacher Sandra Bradley received recognition as Shawnee Public Schools' 2021 Teacher of the Year. She works with fourth and fifth-grade special education students at Horace Mann Elementary School, where she started six years ago.

The district held a ceremony and small reception with pandemic precautions at the beginning of March. It was the first such award for the Tescier family descendant.

"It was overwhelming. I was in awe that they had said my name aloud and was kind of in shock, like, 'You've got to be kidding me.' And so I think, all in all, it's been very much a dream that I think I'm going to wake up from," she said.

Educators faced many challenges throughout the pandemic, including how to teach students in person and online using digital platforms. Bradley thought of her colleagues in her building and across the country while she accepted the award.

"I think that there are outstanding teachers everywhere and every district that go above and beyond to do their job to meet the needs of those students and the families in each area that we're at," she said. "And so I feel like my nomination is just a reflection of saying,



Special education teacher Sandra Bradley focuses on interactive lessons and fun experiences for her students at Horace Mann Elementary School in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

'Hey, congratulations to all of you.' ... Because I think that every teacher deserves recognition because of not only what we've walked through but how much we have the opportunity to invest in these lives that are put before us."

Bradley received a plaque as well as a \$500 check for improvements and supplies for her classroom. She plans to spend some of it on her "classroom store," where her students trade in the "money" they earn for prizes such as notebooks, toys, snacks, toothbrushes and more.

"They look forward to getting paid every day to do their work because I want them to learn that when you do your job well, then you're going to get paid for that. It is not just going to be given to you, and I think it's very important to instill those things early in life," in particular for special education students, Bradley said.

"There's just an opportunity to help them find out who they can be and how they can be the best that they can be in their environment and contribute to their community as they get older."

She creates the most comfortable and productive learning environment available for her students. She challenges them to take on new skill sets and improve upon their existing knowledge. Helping them keep an open mind allows them to achieve more.

"In my class, we don't say, 'We can't.' So we try everything. So whatever it is — if it's an experiment, if it's a new subject, if it's multiplication — we're going to try. And so it's part of my philosophy of teaching. And the kids know that because they hear someone say 'can't,' they're like,

'No, don't say that. Ms. Bradley doesn't like that word,'" she said and laughed.

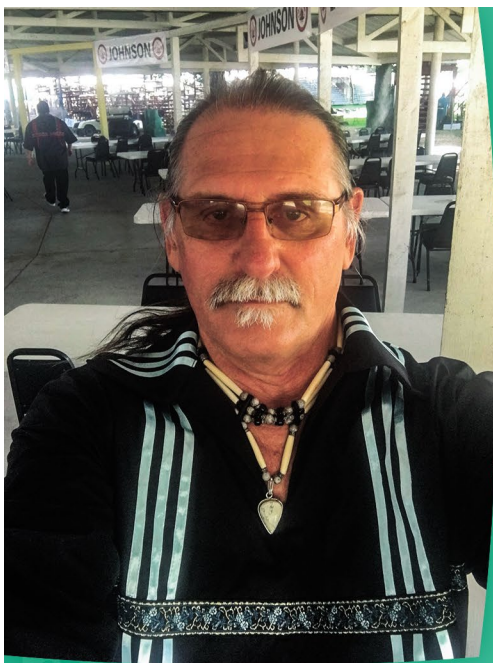
Bradley realizes now her third and fifth-grade teachers profoundly influenced her life — one of the many reasons she enjoys spending her time with elementary-aged children.

"It has been cultivated by other teachers who themselves being good teachers kind of plant that even deeper into your heart. And so you want to be like them, or you want to be able to do what they have done so well," she said.

With 25 years of teaching experience, Bradley still keeps others at the forefront of her mind in her classroom, even while winning an award.

"I'm thankful, very, very, very thankful that so many in the community blessed not only myself but many teachers who were nominated because the community, various businesses in the community, donated prizes and gift cards to say, 'Thank you, we appreciate you,' and that was overwhelming," she said.

Bradley looks forward to having all students in person for the following school year. Find more about Shawnee Public Schools at shawnee.k12.ok.us.



ELECT
DAVID SLAVIN
GZHIPTOT

DISTRICT 1 LEGISLATOR

My goal as District 1 legislator is to help meet the challenges we face as a Nation. Such as assisted living for the elders. Lower our carbon footprint. Welcoming and assisting the new enrollees.

Paid for by David Slavin

1 REGION ONE
Please vote for:

DREW BOURSAW
penoje niganit
"Leader of Youth"

High School Educator Masters Degree - Education

I WILL WORK FOR YOU!
Economic Development
Maintain and Expand Benefits
Support Education
Conduct Regional Meetings

drewboursaw@gmail.com

Paid for by Drew Boursaw

Tribal election candidates 2021

Chairman candidates



John "Rocky" Barrett - Keweoge (He Leads Them Home)

Horse Industrial Park. These residences and on-reservation jobs allow homebuyers exemptions from Oklahoma income and property taxes with lower housing and utilities costs. This will truly be the most thorough extension of opportunity in our history, and one we can provide our younger working population. For our elders, we will provide the next step to Elder Housing in the operation of a state-of-the-art Assisted Living Center.

"In addition to housing and jobs, we will bring a new medical clinic to Choctaw, Oklahoma, plus a housing addition, grocery store and business park. These homes will be financed under the HEARTH Act, which will allow us a much lower land cost to the new homes. These developments open access to the business expansion developing with the opening of the new Kickapoo Turnpike. This will

also bring new medical services to our population in eastern and northern Oklahoma City.

"I predict that our bank will more than double in asset size after the economy opens back up from the pandemic. This will allow the bank to accommodate all of the new business created by the building expansion. It will also allow us to expand our lending to Tribal members out of state.

"We are planning for the construction of an outdoor performance venue backed up by a drive-in theater on a new frontage road from the Grand Casino to the McLoud Exit on I-40 if approved by the Legislature. We will finally build our columbarium on the land in front of the old Quaker Church. The new medical administration facilities at Mission Hill Hospital will be completed

in the next term, as well as a new emergency care facility."

CPN's Tribal enrollment grew by historic numbers in 2020. How do you propose that the Tribe engage and serves its growing population?

"The projects I described are about the participation of our new working Tribal members. We must help them realize greater opportunities in working for the Nation or one of the new businesses. While they work the same as any other employee, their additional benefits will be commensurate with success in their new jobs – because they have an ownership stake in it all. Engaging our new student population will be a matter of growing our scholarship and education capability. My opponent is advocating tuition for all Tribal children from kindergarten through 12th

grade. This is impossible based on the cost. The amount of money this would require cannot even be calculated. It is an empty promise she cannot keep. The most important knowledge our new members can have is the sacrifices our elders made to get where we are. It was not free. We grew from being broke on one of the poorest reservations in Oklahoma to where we are now through hard work and wise planning; not reckless spending that will sacrifice our existing elder care and higher education programs. We need to continue to increase the access our people have to the leadership in their government as a means of learning. One way could be new Tribal cultural events to educate our people on the Potawatomi ways and language."

What is something you hope to accomplish during your first (or next) term?

I hope my next term in office is one we provide access to the benefits Citizen Potawatomi can receive living on Tribal land and financing their new homes through the Nation's financial institutions. We are developing new housing subdivisions a short commute to the preferential-access jobs in industries, like our ProPipe factory and other tenants of Iron



Lisa Kraft

to take a census of needs and talents to determine a justifiable plan forward. I can't wait to tackle it. I want to hear from each of you to help tell your story and let's see what we can do to help each other.

Please visit CPNchairman.com to learn all about who I am and what changes I want to bring on June 26. My campaign team has done an amazing job rebuilding my campaign and all social media. Thank you all for the prayers to Larry and Michelle Briggs. Larry is our former bank President of 25 years. Their son, Lee Williams, was my campaign manager, and has been by my side on this journey so I can run my fulltime business while also campaigning.

Lee went missing for almost a week before his family found him in a hospital from a severe accident. His recovery will be long. Please send warmth and prayers for his healing to the Brigg's family.

I hope to give him good news on June 26. I hope many of you living in Oklahoma can come meet me in Shawnee on April 12 from 7 to 9 at Coffee and Crafts downtown. We will upload the video to our YouTube channel so you can learn what I would like to accomplish in my first 6 months to 4 years. My billboards are going up all over the state the first week of April, so look for pictures on my website.

CPN's Tribal enrollment grew by historic numbers

in 2020. How do you propose that the Tribe engages and serves its growing population?

Our tribal population is at or nearing 36,000 members. What an amazing time for us all. Our Nation knows no bounds. Geography has no limits in today's world when it is used to deny services, create political strife over "in or out" of one state distinction of our membership, and where our government holds itself unaccountable to its people by locking information into some tiny black box only the Chairman holds.

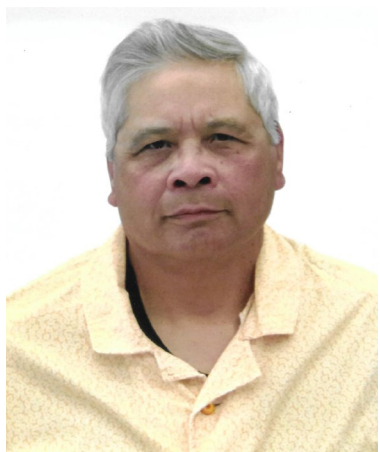
A new Kraft Administration will include a Press Secretary that knows and reports my daily activities on my

CPNchairman.com website. Our news media will be independent of the government. As a sample of what I want to bring, please follow us on Instagram and FaceBook. Please sign up to receive emails as I do not have access to tribal rolls names and addresses.

Please be sure to request your absentee ballot and make sure Tribal Rolls has your current address. I need your vote to bring the voices of our Nation strongly through in how we make decisions, decide who to serve, and spend our money. The present belongs to us all, let's bring change on June 26 together. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is We the People!

What is something you hope to accomplish during your first (or next) term?

It would be near impossible for me to sum up what my first six months in office will look like in 500 words or less. Plus, it will take a weeklong session of General Council, broadcast on all social media, with an encrypted tribal member portal,



Steve Castaneda - EConOush (Little Leader)

What is something you hope to accomplish during your first (or next) term?

To bring Pride back to the members of the tribe young and old.

CPN's Tribal enrollment grew by historic numbers in 2020. How do you propose that the Tribe engages and serves its growing population?

The first is to educate the young about their Tribal blood, where we came from, how we got here, and where we are going. Second is to make education funds easier to obtain across the board. The

third is to make medical funding easier for all the members to get where ever they are?



SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

JUNE 15 AT 5 PM CT

Apply at portal.potawatomi.org

District 1 candidates



Kevin Roberts - *Kakingeshi* (Grizzly Bear)

District 1 tribal member, beyond the Hownikan. Where appropriate, these could include but not be limited to the following:

- District Web site
- Email
- Facebook
- Messenger
- Instagram
- US Mail
- Zoom meetings.
- ** The options would be managed appropriately.

- Publish my contact information & availability for District 1 members to connect with me whenever needed.
- Conduct two (2) District 1 meetings during remainder of 2021 and establish & conduct four (4) District 1 meetings annually across the

multiple state area of the District beginning in 2022. This will include engagement of CPN tribal & other experts relating to language, cultural topics, history, family research, regalia, etc.

- Connect and ensure consistency with other CPN Districts as appropriate.
- Encourage and engage District 1 tribal members with our Language Dept. and related language courses, including assistance available to all members.
- Assist the District 1 tribal members with pursuing available CPN services, resources, or benefits and helping address related questions.
- Establish a District 1 priority list based on the District's tribal member's input.

CPN's Tribal enrollment grew by historic numbers in 2020. How do you propose that the Tribe engages and serves its growing population?

- Communication is key! We need to ensure we have everyone's correct contact information & preferred method of communication.
- In addition to the Hownikan as a communication tool, when & where appropriate, execute communication campaigns similar to the 2020 Covid Relief effort to ensure all tribal members are informed timely on critical / important issues, services, and benefits. (Hownikan, US Mail communications, Facebook, person/person via established buddy system within Districts)
- District reps should reinforce information, acting as liaison

for tribal members, educating them on resources, benefits, and services available to enrolled tribal members via district meetings, newsletter / email, etc.

- A Key Source, (Go To source) for information should always be the CPN.org web page. Ensure folks are informed about this resource and how to navigate.
- Working with the Executive & Legislative branches, ensure individual departments are appropriately resourced, and procedures for acquiring services, resources, or benefits available are appropriately outlined, published, and adequately supported for those within & outside the state of Oklahoma.

What is something you hope to accomplish during your first (or next) term?

Adhering to strict privacy guidelines associated with public/personal information & related security, establish an updated repository of tribal members located within District 1 & their desired contact method.

- Establish preferred connectivity method that accommodates each



Alan Melot

how we craft and introduce legislation so I can bring about the changes citizens in District 1 want. One thing that I've heard consistently is that we need to have better access to services for citizens outside of Oklahoma, so crafting and presenting legislation to improve accessibility will be an important goal. Another consistent request is that we implement term limits for our leadership, so I will work with like-minded Legislators to make term limits a permanent part of our political process.

I've spoken of the importance of tribal sovereignty and a foundation of cultural competency. Our political existence as a sovereign, independent indigenous nation rests on the strength of our culture, language, and

community. We need to ensure our language and culture not only survives, but thrives in the generations to come. My biggest goal is for us thrive in our homelands. I have a vision that we use our foundations of sovereignty and cultural competence to thrive in our homelands. District 1 is unique in that it is made up of our homelands. Our headquarters being in Oklahoma is the result of forced removal, and I believe it is the obligation of the District 1 Legislator to diligently work toward having land that is rightfully the tribe's returned to our control. With the appointment of Deb Haaland to the Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, we have unprecedented opportunity to appeal to a Native American leader who understands the

importance of land to Native people. I will take advantage of this opportunity and work to regain stewardship of the land we came from.

CPN's Tribal enrollment grew by historic numbers in 2020. How do you propose that the Tribe engages and serves its growing population?

Personal connection is key to our survival and growth. Individual citizens need to be connected to the Nation, both serving the Nation and being served by the Nation. Our leadership must be accessible to our Tribal citizens, and I propose that the Nation works to remove barriers between leadership and citizens. Citizens should have the right to review

legislative actions and give feedback to Legislators *before those actions* so the will of the people is done. Our people are smart and capable, and deserve to see clearly how the tribe operates. Citizens should be invested in the Nation, learning Potawatomi language and culture, and in so learning will be able to direct their Legislators to create a healthier Nation that remains loyal to our unique heritage as we see historic growth.

I'm here for you, and want to connect with you. You can find me on Facebook, at www.cpdistrict1.com or email at asmelot@yahoo.com. As always, I ask for your prayers and for your vote!

What is something you hope to accomplish during your first (or next) term?

In my first term, I'll be busy! Initially, my priorities will be to learn and to connect. There are many programs and services I need to be more familiar with so I can share with the citizens I represent. I will learn about our legislative process,



Drew (Jon) Boursaw

What is something you hope to accomplish during your first (or next) term?

During my first term, I plan to represent the Tribal members of Region One to the best of my ability. I plan to hold regional meetings at various locations throughout Region One. I also feel it is imperative to create a communication system that is quick and easy for members to

reach me. I plan to utilize social media (Facebook, Instagram) to announce any information or updates that concern CPN and the members of Region One. The social media platforms have direct messaging, so members can reach me quickly. I also plan to use the telephone and email for communicating. As you can see, I believe communication is vital to my representing

the member of Region One to my fullest potential.

CPN's Tribal enrollment grew by historic numbers in 2020. How do you propose that the Tribe engages and serves its growing population?

I believe that the best way for the Tribe to serve its members is to expand economic

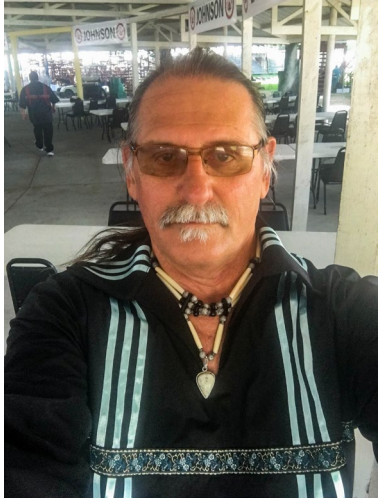
development plans that produce maximum revenue for the Tribe. We need to ensure that the existing Tribal enterprises (casinos, hotel, grocery store, golf course, etc..) are being properly managed to achieve the maximum revenue return for the Tribe. This will allow us to continue to offer and expand the great services CPN offers its Tribal members.

ARE YOU GRADUATING IN MAY?

SEND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO GRADUATION@POTAWATOMI.ORG BY MAY 15 AT 5PM

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

District 1 candidates

David Slavin - *Gzhiptot* (He's Fast)**What is something you hope to accomplish during your first (or next) term?**

The most pressing issue that face's the nation is to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. One issue I hope I can be part of is to continue to lessen our carbon footprint. The nation has made great strides in this area. Another issue I think is important and I want

to accomplish, is to provide assisted living for our elders in an outside of Oklahoma. And I look forward to the challenges.

CPN's Tribal enrollment grew by historic numbers in 2020. How do you propose that the Tribe engages and serves its growing population?

I would encourage each new member to learn their family

history. Talk to their elders. Get online and study our traditions. What are the four color and there meaning? Why is tobacco so important? There is a question in the form filled out for a naming. What is your favorite time of day? Sunrise or sunset. It is important for the new members to learn their history. And as a legislator help the members to find the information they may want. My

dad Roy Slavin was a legislator. One of the things he enjoyed the most was meeting members and hearing their stories their history. And telling members young and old the creation story during a naming ceremony. I would encourage each new member who is a veteran to be part of the veteran wall and record their time in the military. Be part of veterans organization.

District 4 candidates

Jon E. Boursaw - *Wetase Mkoh* (Brave Bear)**What is something you hope to accomplish during your first (or next) term?**

My biggest problem as a Legislator outside of Oklahoma is the inability to communicate with the majority of members in District 4. If re-elected my

goal over the next 4 years is to expand my contact with and availability to CPN members in District 4 through a variety of means in order to answer their questions, meet their needs, keep them informed of tribal events and activities, announce new services and updates to existing programs. I plan to use the following to accomplish this: social media, dedicated email; direct mail, my Hownikan column; increase in the number of District meetings, including new locations and being available in my office.

CPN's Tribal enrollment grew by historic numbers in 2020. How do you propose that the Tribe engages and serves its growing population?

How the Tribe engages and serves it members in future years will be severely impacted by the continued increase in enrollment. I'm not a statistician but I did a simple comparison of growth over the past 5 years. In 2016 Tribal Rolls reported the enrollment was 30,695 and just recently I was told the current enrollment is 36,317, with several hundred waiting to be approved. That equates to a 20% increase in 5 years. Assuming the same 20% growth continues every 5 years my projection is that in 2036 enrollment will be slightly over 60,000 members. Remember many of the members who are older teenagers or young adults now will be adding their own children to the rolls in the next 10-15-year span.

To meet the needs of the members and continue to provide the services we currently offer the Tribe must aggressively strive to expand economic develop projects which will return substantial revenue to the Tribe. In addition, we must ensure existing tribal enterprises, like the grocery store, casinos, hotel, and golf course, are being effectively managed to maximize their return to the tribe. This tribal revenue is what funds services and benefits such as Scholarships, Mail Order Pharmacy, Health Aids, the Hownikan and the Burial Fund. Likewise, those tribal programs which provide non-revenue producing services will need to perform their functions in the most efficient and economic method possible.

The oversight of this need for expansion of economic develop projects is the responsibility of the CPN Legislators. It is their role to ensure these projects will serve the Nation in accordance with Federal, State and Tribal laws and regulations.

Bottomline, before we consider increasing, expanding or adding new tribal funded services or benefits we must consider what will be the impact in 7, 10 or 15 years and beyond. Remember once you offer a service or benefit it is almost impossible to take it away.



Photo by Dave Leiker

What's something you hope to accomplish during your first (or next) term?

My main priority will be community, and I hope to reestablish a culture of gathering,

Alexa "Amo" Dawson

sharing of food, speaking our language, learning, and doing ceremony together. I want to see our families connecting, supporting and encouraging each other. The loss of our culture through assimilation into individualism has affected our families in many negative ways. When it comes to language and culture, there is no replacement for community. I hope to facilitate the strengthening of our families and Nation through relationship. Planting days, community gardens, musical concerts, camping getaways... These are some of my ideas that I'm already implementing, and I will continue to organize in the

community whether as legislator or as citizen. Please join us April 24th, at Canning Creek Cove, Council Grove Lake, Kansas

CPN's Tribal enrollment grew by historic numbers in 2020. How do you propose that the Tribe engages and serves its growing population?

First, welcome to anyone who is a new citizen of CPN! You belong. We are all in different stages of learning what it means to be Potawatomi. Our culture, including our language, food, clothing, lifeways and values, is practiced in community, and is the only thing that distinguishes us as Potawatomi. The need for

connection to elders and peers has been repeated over and over by those who are reconnecting with the Nation and looking to find their place in it.

I have always loved our summer festival, but one gathering annually is not enough to maintain our cultural connections. Each legislator can commit to building stronger connections within the community by hosting and funding language and cultural classes and gatherings.

We stay connected when we grow food and tend fires and share meals together. Food is the quickest and most enjoyable way to introduce someone

to their culture, because it demonstrates the connections we have with our relatives, the plants and animals, and it allows us to practice our roles in the community. Also, our traditional foods are delicious! We have seeds in the community who fed our ancestors, and who are coming back to us, and gardeners can become acquainted with them. We have artists coming into the community, learning about their culture through relationship, and creating from that inspiration. I'm glad we're growing and will continue to play my part in facilitating connection and encouraging others to do the same.



THE Hownikan PODCAST



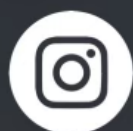
PASS THE TORCH

ON JUNE 26TH



Photo by Sharon Hoogstraten

Vote Kraft for Chairman



@LISAKRAFTCPN



LISA KRAFT FOR
CPN CHAIRMAN

WWW.CPNCHAIRMAN.COM



Paid for by Lisa Kraft

CHC website continued...

information to the CHC and sharing it with the community," Norton said.

Those willing to share pieces of family history and/or modern information, CHC staff are happy to help. Call 405-878-5830 to begin the process.

"People don't often think of themselves as future ancestors, but a lot of people today are going to be somebody's great-great-grandfather or great-great-grandmother one day, and they're going to think that they are just as interesting as we think our great-great-grandparents were," Dr. Mosteller said. "I think people sometimes have a hard time seeing themselves in that role, but that's how history gets lost is when you don't see the value of preserving what you have today."

Archives

One of the best ways to begin learning about Potawatomi history is through the online archives, which includes cultural artifacts, art, photographs, historical records and manuscripts. Website visitors can access the archives from the "resource" tab and use the search function to look up information on specific individuals, families and more.

The archives are also accessible via the *Mezodanek* platform to assist with research and building geological records.

Allotments

The Citizen Potawatomi received allotments within the 900-square-mile Indian Territory reservation, which is present-day Oklahoma, in 1872 and 1887. The CHC's website features a searchable, interactive map that shows

each Citizen Potawatomi allotment and cemetery within the original reservation boundaries. Citizen Potawatomi were able to choose their plots of land, and each person's age and status determined the number of acres they received: 160 acres for heads of households, 80 for unwed adults and 40 for those under 18. CHC staff are also researching each cemetery to list burial information for Tribal citizens.

"It's a great resource and provides a visual reference for those who are interested in learning where their family's allotments and burial plots were or are today," Dr. Mosteller said.

The map also features a QR code and Google Maps location for each allotment, helping website visitors and CPN members gain a greater understanding.

Veterans

"It's important to honor the sacrifices of those who have done a lot — in some cases, given everything — for us," Dr. Mosteller said. "Taking the time to honor those people who have fought for us, who have volunteered to take on this act of service, is a Potawatomi tradition. We've always honored our veterans and our braves and the people who have fought to defend us."

The veteran portion of the website is an expansion of the CHC's *Wédasé* gallery and memorial, and provides greater research capabilities by separating CPN veterans out by last name, family group, branch of service, campaigns and awards. It also includes interviews with veterans and more.

"It makes it a bit more user-friendly so people can select their filters — what they're wanting to search for — and it also helps us on the back end. Say we



MEZODANEK
DEMO EVENT

MAY 19, 2021
3-4 P.M. CST

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT
CPN.NEWS/MEZODANEK

wanted to highlight Tribal members that were awarded Purple Hearts or fought in the Pacific Theatre of World War II, we'd be able to key in that search criteria and get immediate results," Norton said.

While other components of the new website limit access to CPN members and family only, the veterans' platform is open to the public.

"It has an element of user-friendliness in that anybody can come and learn so that they have more respect for how many of our Tribal members really did volunteer and/or were drafted but served honorably to defend us," Dr. Mosteller said.

The CHC also hopes the new website features help connect the Nation to those who have served in the past few decades.

"We have a lot of interviews of our older veterans, but there are quite a few of our younger veterans and those who participated in more recent conflicts that are hesitant, and we aren't getting their information or interviews," she said.

The portal includes an area to capture information through a questionnaire and provides an opportunity for CPN veterans to share their story, helping fill in the gaps within the CHC's archives and increase the Nation's oral history program.

"We'd very much like to conduct interviews, if willing, for both our veterans and service members on active duty," Norton said.

He stressed that keeping Potawatomi military history alive requires both veterans and active-duty members' input, including documents, photos, interviews and more.

"We want our Tribal service members to understand that those who are on active duty, they're part of the memorial as well. We want to celebrate what they're contributing and what they're sacrificing and let them know that they are part of a bigger community," Norton said.

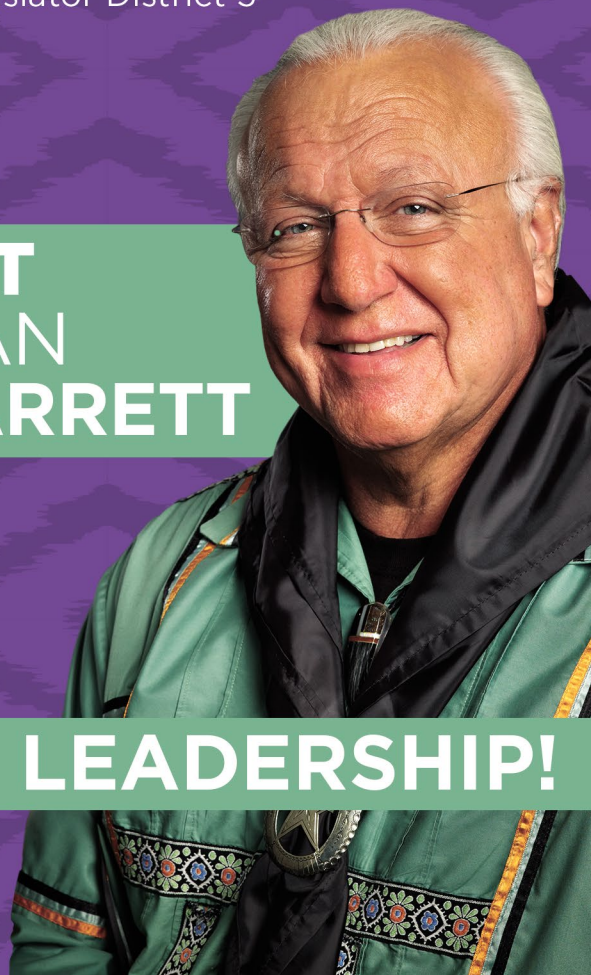
To learn more about the new website features, attend the *Mezodanek* demo event on May 19 from 3 to 4 p.m. CST.

Those interested in helping provide additional family history through photographs, documents and more, contact the Cultural Heritage Center at 405-878-5830 or emailing info@potawatomiheritage.com. Check out the new website and its offerings at potawatomiheritage.com. ♠

“We don't need change,
we need unity.
Together we stand
and divided we fall.”

- **GENE LAMBERT**
Legislator District 5

**RE-ELECT
CHAIRMAN
JOHN BARRETT**



PROVEN LEADERSHIP!

Paid for by Gene Lambert,
Legislator District 5

**Our ancestors lived by the gifts
given by the Seven Grandfathers:**

**Wisdom
Love
Respect
Bravery
Honesty
Humility
Truth**

John "Rocky" Barrett

exemplifies these gifts needed in a leader. Don't step off the path that he has helped lead us down, vote Rocky Barrett for Tribal Chairman.

Paid for by Mark Johnson and Rande Payne

Burnett descendant wins \$125,000 Dr Pepper scholarship

In honor of Dr Pepper's 12th annual Tuition Giveaway Program, the company awarded \$2 million in scholarships throughout the 2020 college football season — more than ever before. Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Tate Lewis rose to the top of the competition and received the company's largest scholarship of \$125,000.



Because of Dr Pepper, CPN member Tate Lewis can attend college without worrying about tuition. (Photo courtesy of Tiana James, associated manager, PR & branded entertainment for Keurig Dr Pepper Inc)

"We are proud to offer the gift of tuition in support of students who are passionate about their dreams and are driven to pursue their goals, despite the challenging year we've had for sports and academics," said Derek Dabrowski, vice president of brand marketing for Dr Pepper.

To qualify, Lewis completed a video application detailing his educational and career aspirations. During the initial, one-minute video entry, he said, "Actual doctors have kept me alive for 18 years. Now, I just need one more 'Dr' to truly change my life."

Lewis has hypoplastic left heart syndrome, which is a congenital heart birth defect that hinders blood flow.

"Not everyone understands how hard things can be, so by telling my story, I was hoping to spread some light and to encourage people like me with conditions and health problems that they can do what they want and what they feel they're capable of," Lewis said.

Thirty seconds

Out of more than 100,000 entries, Lewis became one of six students to participate

in the head-to-head contest. For the final round, Dr Pepper invited him to its headquarters in Frisco, Texas. There he met company employees and executives and competed in a 30-second football throwing challenge. The competition aired during halftime of the Southeastern Conference championship football game between the University of Florida and the University of Alabama.

"Social media went crazy — thousands of people were tweeting about the throw, and everybody was talking about it," Lewis said.

Although this was his first time contending in a football-related

competition, Lewis has first-hand experience employing positive, focused determination to overcome any obstacle.

"I wasn't ever able to play contact sports growing up with a pacemaker," he said during a phone interview with the *Hownikan*.

Concentrating on his goals, Lewis threw as many footballs as he could through the target shaped like a Dr Pepper can, and earned the top prize.

Dreams into reality

Due to his HLHS, the Lewis family has accumulated a tremendous amount of

medical debt. The tuition scholarship eases their concerns and allows him to look toward the future with hope.

"College was always going to be hard financially because we already have the bills for my five open-heart surgeries," Lewis said. "To be able to say that I can fully pay for college is really cool, and I am very, very grateful."

The Paris, Texas, high school senior plans to study entrepreneurship and business at the University of Texas at Dallas and establish a business or nonprofit upon receiving his degree.

"I would love to give other people like me opportunities to work — people that would not necessarily get the opportunity to work because of their condition. I want to give them a chance — the underdogs a chance — that I was given," he said.

After winning the grand prize, Lewis said, "I promise to use this money to support others like me for the rest of my life. ... This all still feels like a dream, but I am glad I never have to wake up. This is only the beginning."

Lewis has committed to joining the University of Texas at Dallas golf team, and he looks forward to the future with optimism.

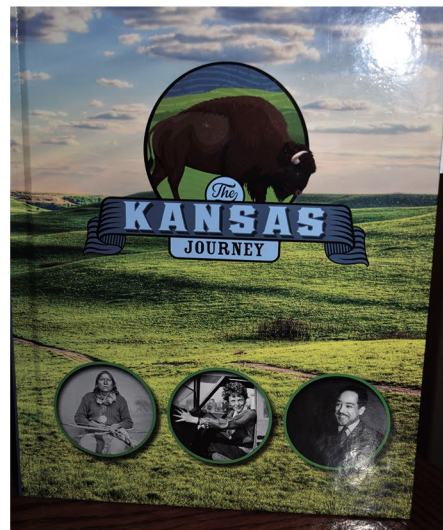
Learn more about the Dr Pepper Tuition Giveaway at drpeppertuition.com, and keep up with UT Dallas golf at utdcomets.com/sports/golf.

RE-ELECT JON BOURSAW | DISTRICT 4 LEGISLATOR

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE PROJECTS I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN



Burnett's Mound exhibit



Reviewed & edited Kansas 7th grade history textbook, CPN history will be taught statewide.



I've created and given over 100 Indian names



Discussing project with Chairman Barrett



Exhibit installed and open to the public



Asked to tell CPN history in video produced by Kansas State Museum for the reopening of the Potawatomi Baptist Mission



Instrumental in ground penetrating radar project at the Uniontown cemetery.

REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT AND VOTE!!!

Paid for by Jon Boursaw

Tribal Chairman – John “Rocky” Barrett



Bozho
(Hello),

At the end of March, the Tribal government received a request for comment from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. The BIA is exploring restoring a federal policy on the Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood and issuing CDIB cards. Some may know this by its more common usage, blood quantum or “blood degree,” a practice that has been more destructive to tribal sovereignty than any other since the outright killing of Indians on sight by government troops.

As I wrote to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, any thoughts of entertaining a federally-imposed mandate on tribes to use blood degree is a non-starter for our Tribe. If there is any issue of tribal sovereignty that is sacrosanct, it is the power of a Tribe to decide its citizenship.

Citizen Potawatomi know this race-based qualifier is a centuries-old tool intended for only one purpose: to eliminate tribes and their people and allow the United States to abdicate its treaty obligations. The issue is nationality, not race. We are dual citizens by law — not skin color or hair length or spotted ponies we can ride. Our sovereignty as a government is based on the U.S. Constitution

and subsequent federal law and Supreme Court decisions.

The first blood degrees of the Citizen Potawatomi were the opinions of one federal government contract employee in a log cabin in Sugar Creek, Kansas, in 1861. He was told to do a census of the Potawatomi, dividing the Citizen Band Potawatomi and Prairie Band Potawatomi into two Tribes. As Potawatomi came for the treaty census, he assigned a blood degree based on his opinion of the color of their skin. Full-blooded siblings ended up with different blood degrees based on sun tan. Children received more blood degree than their parents because they were outside in the summer sun. Furthermore, the blood degrees for Potawatomi were later reduced by half if they were using their Christian names rather than their Potawatomi names. There was also a penalty for those who were not of mixed blood, while non-Indians married to Citizen Potawatomi were enrolled in the census and allotted land. Those mistakes were still in our rolls when we were relocated to Oklahoma in 1872.

These obscene actions continued in Oklahoma, when the superintendent of the Shawnee Indian Agency threatened any Indian who wanted to keep his allotment in trust with non-citizen “dependent” status and the loss of control of the revenue from that allotment. This travesty brought hundreds of denials of blood degree by Shawnee Agency Indians in acts of self-preservation. Later, thousands of Citizen Potawatomi blood degree appeals were filed with the BIA when the 1946 Indian Claims Commission mandated a new tribal roll with a minimum of 1/8 degree of Indian blood for the per capita payment. At

the time of my first election as Vice-Chairman in 1973, the BIA had received over 3,000 blood degree appeals from Citizen Potawatomi. Ultimately, the Nation amended its Constitution to recognize descendants rather than BIA-determined blood degrees because of the chaos created by every amendment to the Tribal roll of the descendants of our original 41 families.

CDIB is a return to the federal policy stated to me in my first meeting with John Taylor, superintendent of the Shawnee Indian Agency, in 1973. He said, “The BIA is not in the business of dealing with tribes. We serve Indians.”

This same self-contradicting policy was the basis for the Eisenhower era “termination” actions, which we escaped only because of our Indian Claims Commission lawsuit. During this Termination Era, the federal government, under the authority of the U.S. Congress, managed to eliminate more than 100 tribal nations under the guise of “mainstreaming” Indians into American society. According to the American Indian Relief Council, approximately 2.5 million acres of trust land lost its protected status, while around 12,000 Native Americans lost their tribal citizenship because the U.S. no longer recognized their tribes.

That will not happen under my leadership.

Over 65 percent of the Citizen Potawatomi in Oklahoma relocated to California, Texas and Colorado during the 1950s under the Urban Relocation Program. Many of these people were lost to us. Even for those who endured the trials and tribulations of such programs, the ticking time bomb of

federal government-motivated restrictions on Tribal citizenship policies began to catch up with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation near the end of the 20th century. Our population was growing older and smaller.

Our enrollment change was part of an overall effort in 1982 by the Tribe to control its own affairs in the decade after the passage of the Indian Self-Determination Act. The campaign to amend our Constitution turned into a long slog of legal cases and five years of obstructive meetings from 1983 to 1988 with federal officials from the U.S. Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs. I was a principal in that campaign and the author of our Constitutional changes.

By spring 1989, Citizen Potawatomi Nation members voted to open Tribal enrollment on the basis of decendency. Any person who was enrolled, or entitled to be, on the January 1937 Tribal rolls thereby qualified for membership. On May 5, 1989, the BIA finally authorized a Secretarial Election to approve the constitutional change, including new enrollment conditions.

Our Tribe has worked relentlessly to reclaim and exercise its right to determine citizenship according to its own criteria. Self-determination and self-governance mandates that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and all tribes control their conditions for citizenship. If a person is a Citizen Potawatomi descendant, then they are 100 percent Citizen Potawatomi. It’s that simple. They are not “part Indian” or some “degree” of Indian. They are fully Citizen Potawatomi by Tribal custom and federal law. Only a tribe has the power to decide its

own conditions of citizenship, not the federal government. A federal policy of issuing CDIB cards is a step back to the days when we were denied that sovereign right. It violates the Congressional mandates of the Indian Self-Determination Act and the Self-Governance Act.

Many of you reading this today are descendants or recipients of Tribal citizenship thanks to our collective action in 1989 to expand our citizenship criteria. I championed that cause to many of you, your parents and grandparents in the years before the vote. We made the right choice then, and I have not wavered in the decades since. As your Tribal Chairman, I will continue to defend our right to determine *our Tribal citizenship*, sovereign from federal overreach coming out of Washington D.C. I hope you stand with me in this fight to defend sovereignty as Citizen Potawatomi as we move forward as a Nation.

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

Vice-Chairman – Linda Capps



Bozho
(Hello),

During the past few months of 2021, CPN has made progress each day ending the lengthy lull that the pandemic of 2020 created. CPN enterprises are picking up business. We no longer serve “takeout only” at FireLake Fry Bread Taco and FireLake Pizza restaurants. It is

a pleasant upgrade to be able to sit and dine. The journey since 2020 reminds me of another journey that our Tribe has endured. It is the journey from where we were 15 years ago to where we are today. I am so proud that I have experienced a portion of that journey. Mainly, I have been involved with our leadership of yesterday and today. I like to think that I have been instrumental to the successful stewardship that Chairman Barrett has experienced. My perspective of “yesterday’s” leadership is with the five-member business committee, and today is with our 16-member governmental body. Each leader of this great Tribe has tasted a certain amount of success. I have been involved since 1990 as a leader, and from that time until today, we have advanced in membership, assets, infrastructure,

meaningful programs, land base and many services. We celebrated the Grand Entry in 2008 when our legislators began their own journey.

The CPN constitutional reform history is now a matter of record, but I do not want our people to forget the journey that we, as a Nation, endured to reach a more efficient, effective Tribal government. This is what we have today — the type of Tribal government with increased citizen participation and cultural identity, decentralized governmental powers with checks and balances, and the removal of federal oversight. These are a few of the benefits to our “new” government, which is not considered so new in 2021. I encourage you to read the account of our 2007 constitutional reform at cpn.news/reform. The Native

Nations Institute, housed at the University of Arizona Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, has done extensive research of our CPN constitutional reform. We owe that honor mainly to the fact that Chairman Barrett has been an active member on their International Advisory Council for years. We are thankful for the many years Chairman Barrett has served, which gave CPN insight on being a top contender in the concept of “Native nation building.”

You can consider this article as my affirmation that I am proud of our 2007 constitutional reform. I am proud of our legislative process and of our current legislative members. I salute their efforts and determination to continue to be a positive change for representation of our Tribal members. They have done a

superb job in reaching out to their constituents to make a difference. I am also proud of Chairman Barrett with his knowledge of nation building that led us to where we are today. CPN is an excellent example for tribes across the country due to the leadership that we have enjoyed.

As usual, I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Vice-Chairman.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

District 2 – Eva Marie Carney



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends)!

National Poetry Month (a month late)

I only just learned that April is National Poetry Month. It's a bit late to celebrate perhaps, but I want to share with you National Poet Laureate Joy Harjo's recitation of her poem *Remember*. In the video accessible at cpn.news/remember, Joy Harjo of the Mvskogee/Creek Nation also shares her views about poetry. When The Kwek Society, the nonprofit I operate, stuffs our moon time bags with period supplies, we include a printed card that contains the first three lines of *Remember*. It's such a meaningful poem that virtually demands each of us to celebrate life.

To commemorate National Poetry Month 2021, you also can download a copy of the 2021 celebration poster at cpn.news/poetry21, designed by 12th grader Bao Lu from Edward R. Murrow High School in Brooklyn, New York, the winner of the 2021 National Poetry Month Poster Contest. It features an excerpt from Joy Harjo's poem *For Keeps* from *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*.

Meeting links and PowerPoints available

In March, I hosted a virtual District 2 meeting on the topic of family research. About 40 of us met and enjoyed learning from our presenters.

I'm very happy to report that the presenters' efforts will live on beyond the meeting. I've posted to my website the following resource links, which you may find helpful as you explore your own family's roots. I hope you will share these links with your family members:

1. CPN Family History Specialist Czarina Thompson prepared a valuable PowerPoint for the group, focused on Potawatomi heritage research resources and source materials; you can find the link to it at cpn.news/d2services. Czarina's meeting remarks are available at cpn.news/d2fam.
2. CPN Tribal member Dennis Johnson prepared and presented a PowerPoint guide to family research, titled *May Your Moccasins Walk the Footsteps of Your Ancestors*. The PowerPoint and the organizational documents that Dennis discusses — an ancestral chart and a family group record — are posted at cpn.news/d2services. Dennis's presentation during the virtual meeting can be viewed at cpn.news/d2history.
3. CPN Chairman John A. "Rocky" Barrett also shared his own family history during the meeting; his remarks are available at cpn.news/d2march.

Please also remember that at any time you can visit evamariecarney.com and select the "Services" tab to access all these materials. I am so

grateful for the presenters' gifts of time and effort. *Igwien* (heartfelt thanks).

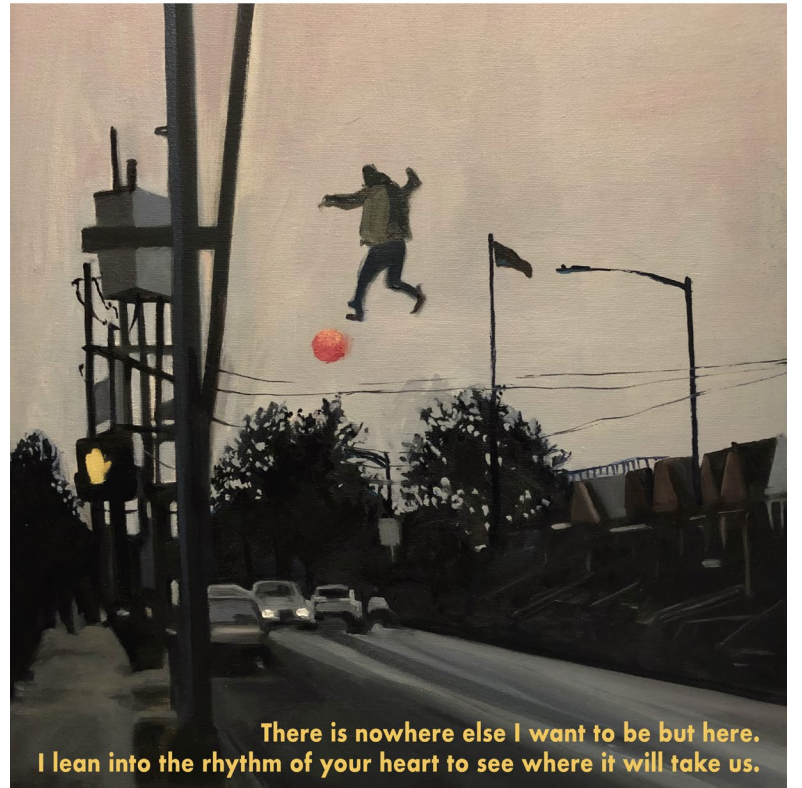
Coverage of the scourge of violence against Native women

I was surprised to open the March/April 2021 edition of *Washington Lawyer*, the District of Columbia Bar magazine, and see a thoughtful article on the issue of "elusive justice" in violence against Native women. You can read the piece at cpn.news/dcbar. The article quotes, among others, Mary Kathryn Nagle, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, a law firm partner, and the author of a significant play on the topic of violence against Native women, *Sliver of a Full Moon*. I highly recommend the play, which is tough to watch, as it features survivors of domestic violence as characters telling their true stories. Various productions of the play can be viewed on YouTube, including this one at cpn.news/unwc, presented as part of the United Nations' World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014.

Indigenous comedians, finally heralded

My husband Alan offers a great clipping service. When he runs across articles he thinks I should read, he clips paper copies and leaves them on my desk, or copies and pastes links to the e-versions and emails or texts them to me. *The Washington Post's* Book World (March 14, 2021, edition) recently reviewed a book that I'm eager to dive into, *We Had a Little Real Estate Problem: The Unheralded Story of Native Americans & Comedy*, by Kliph Nesteroff. You can read the review at cpn.news/nesteroff.

National Poetry Month April 2021 Celebrating 25 years



There is nowhere else I want to be but here. I lean into the rhythm of your heart to see where it will take us.

Bao Lu's National Poetry Month poster

The book takes its title from Charles Hill's most famous joke. Charles Hill is the first Indigenous comedian to appear on primetime television. (He debuted on *The Richard Pryor Show* in 1977.) The joke is: "My people are from Wisconsin. We used to be from New York. We had a little real estate problem." The book covers, among others, the groundbreaking Indigenous sketch troupe, the 1491s, which made a breakthrough appearance on the *Daily Show* in 2014. Some of us were fortunate enough to see the 1491s in performance at a recent Potawatomi Gathering. I'll be adding the book to my library, and it will be available for loan as are all the books listed under CPN District 2 library holdings at cpn.news/d2services.

Voting: request your absentee ballot, and

mail your ballot once you receive it

The upcoming election is quite an important one. The position of Chairman is on the ballot. I urge you to exercise your rights as a CPN citizen by requesting, and then filling out and returning, your absentee ballot. I am happy to share with you my thoughts on this election if you contact me directly. Please vote.

I so appreciate the honor of representing you. Let me hear from you!

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe (Blue Bird Woman)
Representative, District 2
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ecarney@potawatomi.org
evamariecarney.com

District 3 – Bob Whistler



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Website

In my April article, I advised that I had created a website for District 3. Check it out by going to cpndistrict3.com. Given the size of the district and the state of Texas, I went to Shawnee

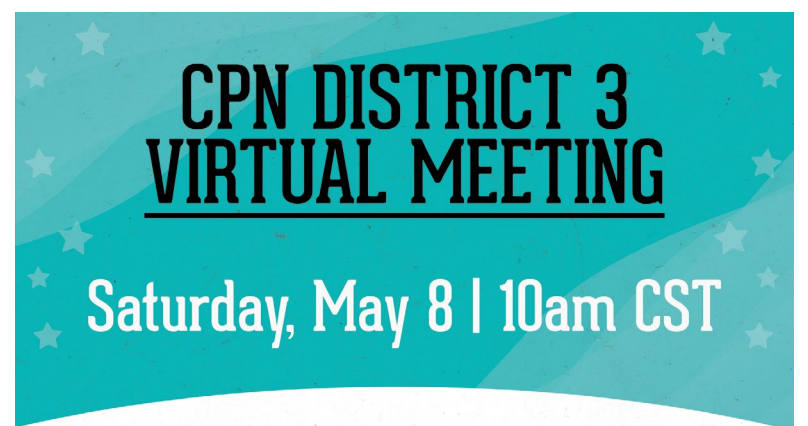
during the creation of the site to get some photos of our redesigned Cultural Heritage Center for those of you who have not been able to visit there.

I have posted the photos of the exhibit area, the gift shop and the veterans room in the calendar section of the website. When future meetings are again in place, photos will be taken then and posted on that page. In past articles, I, along with other elected representatives, have asked to get your email address. The website has a very easy link button to reach me with that information, and I hope that you use it.

Environmental/waste items

Due to the pandemic, most of us are wearing masks daily and using sanitary wipes. When disposing these items, remember

that there is a right way to get rid of them. The used sanitary wipes should simply be thrown out into the trash. They, like tissues, have too much fiber and will not dissolve like toilet tissue. Many cities are finding that their sewage facilities and drains are becoming clogged because of these wipes being flushed down the toilet. In time, if you dispose of them in the toilet, your own waste line to the main sewer could become clogged and require necessary repairs. In regard to the masks we wear, many are getting into the environment, and wildlife may become tangled up in the mask bands. I routinely see these masks on the ground in the city, and at times, just blowing along with the breeze in the gutter. When you have a mask that can no longer be used, simply put it in the trashcan. I know



Register online at cpn.news/D30508

this might sound like, "Well, Bob, that's what we do with these things." Unfortunately, it is too easy to dispose of wipes in the toilet, and it may be done without thinking and realizing that they may cause a backup and problems. With discarded masks, I am also

concerned that they may pose a medium for transmitting COVID-19. So, just a reminder.

Absentee voting

For those of you wishing to vote absentee, your request for an absentee ballot must be postmarked by June 6. Then

Legislators are not able to retrieve your contact information from Tribal Rolls

Please contact your legislator and update your contact details so that you can receive important information.

the ballot must be received in the P.O. box in Tecumseh on Saturday, June 26, before it is emptied to count the votes cast. For those of you wishing to vote in person, the polls will be open for on-site, in-person voting on Saturday, June 26 in Shawnee at FireLake Arena. The election results should be announced at General Council held at 3 p.m. in the arena.

Mosquitoes

It is that time of year again when the mosquitoes are getting ready to hit their normal breeding grounds around our homes and yards. Female mosquitoes need very little standing water to lay

anywhere from 100 to 250 larva eggs, which hatch in seven to 15 days. The following items or areas around your residence that they seek out are: bird baths, gutters, pet bowls, old tires, trash can lids, planter basins and water troughs. For any of these items or areas in your yard, you need to check them out weekly and clean out standing water. For larger areas like pools, ponds and drainage ditches, you can use mosquito dunks. They come in a red and yellow package and are available at most hardware or home improvement stores. The dunks themselves are white with brownish flecks in them. They are circular and are about .5 inch

thick and 2 inches wide. They have a hole in the center and look like a very large white lifesaver. And that's what they stand for as a life saver to you. The dunks will float on the water and will normally last up to 30 to 45 days. For those of you that live in a city that sprays for mosquitoes, you may not need to use the dunk program; however, you should keep an eye out for mosquitoes breeding around your home.

District 3 meeting

On May 8 at 10 a.m., citizens of District 3 are invited to join Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, and

myself for an update about Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Cultural Heritage Center staff will also demonstrate digital genealogy and family resources they recently made available online, and the CPN Language department will also provide an update. In addition to the information, participants will have a chance to win prizes for attending. Register for this virtual event at cpn.news/D30508.

In closing, as my new website states, I am your voice to Tribal headquarters and am here to assist you if needed. Please feel free to call or email me. For ease in reaching me, use the

subscribe button on my website to submit any questions. In the meantime, please vote in the forthcoming election.

Bama mine
(Later),

Bob Whistler
Bmasbi (He Soars)
Representative, District 3
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cpn3legislator@yahoo.com

District 4 – Jon Boursaw



Bozho
(Hello),

CPN graduate student needs help

CPN member Alyssa Frey is a graduate student at Kansas State University and needs your help. Alyssa is studying drama therapy for her master's project and is looking to create an intergenerational group of CPN members. The purpose of this group is to share traditional Native stories, language, history and more with younger members. Participants will meet for one hour, once a week, for 12 weeks in the fall semester. Participants will get to create puppets, friendships and have the opportunity to learn more about our Tribe through this group. Group members should be either between the ages of 8 to 13 or 50 and older. For child participants, parental consent is required, and no previous knowledge of the Tribe is necessary. For participants 50 years and older, some knowledge or access to knowledge is required (even specific family memories centered around Tribal happenings would be appreciated). If you are interested or for more information, please contact Alyssa via email at alyssafrey96@gmail.com or leave a voicemail for her at 785-341-4449.

CPN member receives her master's degree

Emmalee Chrest of Wamego, Kansas, earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in May of 2019 from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, and is scheduled to graduate this May with a Master of Business Administration. She has been on the dean's honor list most of her career at Drury. She has maintained a 4.0 throughout graduate school and has been invited to become a member of the Drury University chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi for ranking in the top 10 percent of graduate students.

Emmalee played volleyball for all four years of her undergraduate study. In 2018, she helped lead her team to the most successful season in Drury volleyball history. They earned the co-league champion title and ranked number one in the Midwest region, which allowed them to host the first three rounds of the NCAA national tournament on their home court. Her senior year, she received all-conference honors, all-region honors, and national honors as the NCAA-II national player of the week (Sept. 11, 2018). She was the first player in Drury volleyball history to receive this honor.

Emmalee is the daughter of Richie and Joni Chrest and is a descendent of the Peddicord tribal family.

Tribal member graduates college in three years

I recently learned that Makalia Cowdin was graduating from Ottawa University in three years. I sent her a group of questions on how she did it and here are her answers:

What did it take to finish in three years?

"To finish in three years took a lot of hard work and dedication. I began taking dual credit courses as soon as I could

in high school and took as many that would fit into my class schedule. By the time I graduated high school, I was already half-way through my sophomore year of college. Through my three years, I've basically been in school year-round taking courses in the summers and winter to put me ahead of schedule. There have also been a couple semesters where I've had to take around 20 credit hours in order to stay on track to finish in three years. I have always been a very motivated person, especially when it comes to schooling. When I discovered that I would be able to graduate in three years, I decided to put my head down, push forward and do it. I figured that if it was possible to finish in three years, I should do it so that I could start on my career sooner and not spend more time than needed to get my degree."

What was your degree and major?

"I will be graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology."

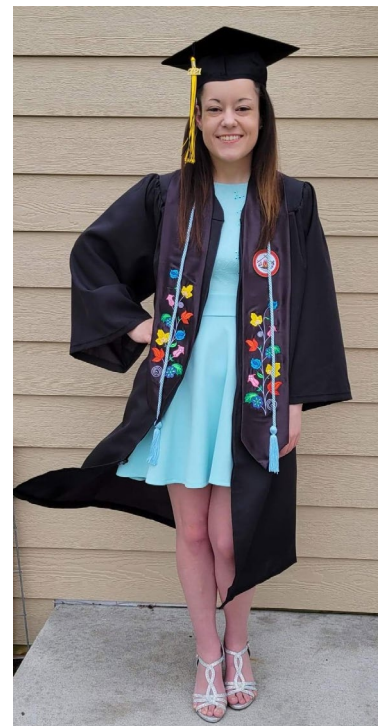
I assume you were on the bowling team.

"I have been on the bowling team all three years while at Ottawa. I have not had any individual awards; however, the JV team that I have been on all three years has won numerous tournaments through my time at Ottawa."

What are plans and/or goals for the future?

"After graduating this year, I plan on attending Rasmussen College in Topeka, Kansas, and completing their accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in the next year and a half. After the completion of this program my goal is to attend medical school."

Just three years ago, I had the honor of naming Makalia,



Makalia Cowdin proudly wears the CPN graduation stole after finishing her degree in just three years.

Neta medagwendek Kwe (Woman who is skillful in many things). Makaila is proud of her Native American heritage and is a member of the Bourassa/Peltier family. Congratulations, Makaila.

Support a Tribal member-owned business – Electrical Specialists

A couple years ago, CPN member Brandon Hogan decided that his extensive training and experience as an electrician prepared him to start his own electrical service company, and thus Electrical Specialists was established. The company is capable of servicing both commercial and residential needs. The service staff have multiple years of experience, providing high quality electrical service to Topeka, Lawrence, and surrounding areas. The mission of Electrical Specialists is to provide all customers the highest professional service at a competitive rate. The firm is located at 2611 SW 17th St, Ste 262 in Topeka and their

phone number is 785-845-4624. Call them whether it is installing an electrical panel or a ceiling fan. Brandon is a descendent of the Juneau and Vieux Tribal families. You can contact Brandon for further information about his business at [electricalspecialists.pro](https://www.electricalspecialists.pro).

June Elders' Potluck Luncheon

The June CPN Elders Potluck Luncheon will be held in Rossville on Friday, June 11, 2021, at noon. This month will be a BBQ as we kick off the summer. Please join us. You are asked to bring a side dish or a dessert. If you plan on attending, it is absolutely necessary to RSVP to Tracy or Brenda at 785-584-6171 no later than Tuesday, June 8.

Honored to serve you

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

Migwetch
(Thank you),

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

**FOLLOW US!
ONLINE**



District 5 – Gene Lambert



Bozho
(Hello),

Here we are in the month of May 2021, and just yesterday, we celebrated New Years. It's amazing!

The world and all the things going on never cease to amaze me either. It is as if there is a giant puzzle out there, and you have to figure out where the pieces fit.

My last article highlighted the amazing missions around the country and how we inherited them and their initial dedications.

Today, I would like to talk about something maybe you heard of but I never had. It is heartwarming and historical, and reminds us of the great people out there who do still exist. This is about people helping people and tribes helping tribes to get through the difficult times.

We are going to combine the two-legged connection as in the Irish and the Choctaw People. For those of you who do not know, the Choctaw Nation is an Oklahoma-based tribe originally from the southeastern United States.

Some of the information may vary as you research reporting from *CNN*, *New York Times*, Wikipedia, websites, and of course, Google. The information is not always exactly the same but the gestures are.

From 1845 to 1849, a great famine occurred in Ireland, we have all heard about it. The

tribes were being moved and forced onto reservations, and at the same time, the Irish people were having similar, difficult experiences. It was an attempt of the British government to control the Irish and take over, as removal was here for the United States and tribes.

While there was no guarantee there would be anything here to eat today or tomorrow, the Choctaw Nation heard about the Irish famine and gave food, blankets and \$165 to help.

Some say \$585, but it doesn't matter at this point, as it was a lot of money back then.

The Irish, to this day, have continued a connection of gratitude with the Native American people. They have not forgotten the kindness bestowed upon them by the Oklahoma tribe. This truly was a time when they themselves could have starved to death, yet they went over above and beyond to help the Irish. Some research indicates that over a million Irish died from starvation.

Still today, the Irish and Choctaw Nation celebrate annually by including both traditions and acknowledging the bond they have shared for 170 years.

Today, the celebration is called Kindred Spirits, and a sculpture depicting the Kindred Spirits was gifted to the Choctaw Nation on June 18, 2017. Alex Pentek, an Irish artist, was commissioned to create Kindred Spirits, and it stands to commemorate those times and to never forget the kindness.

The sculpture was designed and made from marine-grade stainless steel. There are nine feathers that weigh 1,600 pounds each, and they form a perfect circle. The feathers represent the Choctaw Nation and their generosity. The circle represents empty bowls and the Great Irish Famine where a million people died.

Pentek stated during an interview that it was his hope

through his sculpture, people of different cultures and worlds would unite. We have all come full circle. The full circle brings us to a place of strength and shapes who we are today.

"It is my hope to visually connect with people, this uplifting image that symbolizes generosity, strength, and humanity rising up over times of adversity and unimaginable suffering," he said. "For me, this shows art as a universal language that can connect with people, regardless of age, culture or geography, and can help to dissolve traditionally perceived boundaries."

I love that statement. If we could capture it here in the USA, we could accomplish a lot and serve many.

Chief Gary Batton of the Choctaw Nation said it was very emotional and moving to know his ancestors had such generosity.

"We as people were willing to sacrifice and give something after we went through our own trials and tribulations," Batton said. "I'm proud that the donation displayed our values as a nation."

During one of these celebrations, the President of Ireland Mary Robinson visited the Choctaw Nation and paid her respects and gratitude for a deed that happened 170 years ago. (I like these Irish people and their sense of gratitude.) It was definitely an historic visit.

Then in 2018, Mr. Leo Varadkar, the taoiseach — Irish Prime Minister — at that time, visited the Choctaw Nation just before St. Patrick's Day to once again acknowledge their warm generosity.

The Choctaw Nation considers the continued acknowledgement of deeds in the past supports their sacred bond still today.

Now under the President of Ireland today, Michael Higgins authorized that a "pay it forward" was instituted once again for the Native Americans.

CPN DISTRICT 5 MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 15
10AM, ARIZONA TIME

Citizens of District 5 are invited to join Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, and Legislator Gene Lambert for an update about Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

REGISTER ONLINE:
<https://cpn.news/D5May15>

A Go Fund Me page was set up by the Irish to help the Hopi and Navajo Nation during the devastating coronavirus pandemic.

Many Irish people donated independently, and to date, they have raised almost \$4 million with a goal of \$5 million to assist other Native American tribes. (Again, this figure changes depending on source. This figure came from the *New York Times*.)

Their public comment was they hoped to build a bond with all Native American tribes resembling the one still present with the Choctaw Nation.

"Your act of kindness has never been, and never will be, forgotten in Ireland," Varadkar said.

"From Ireland, 170 years later, the favor is returned! To our Native American brothers and sisters in your moment of hardship," said Irish donor Pat Hayes.

Ethel Byrne, one of the funding organizers, wrote, "A beautiful act of solidarity from our friends in Ireland. They remember the kindness shown to them by our Choctaw brothers and sisters, who sent them aid during the great potato famine in 1847. Thank you so much, Ireland!!!"

Wow! I was so impressed by this story. I hope you enjoyed it too. If you want more information on this article, you will find there is a great deal more.

This is who we were meant to be and many still are. Thanks to the Creator, the right person is always there. It may not be the person you expect, but the right one for that time.

Now, on a different subject: we have elections coming up for Chairman and other district legislators as well. While District 5 is not included in this election cycle, please choose your person, and ensure you are able to vote. If nothing else, the last year or two has shown us how very important that is.

If you are happy with the present administration, say so with your vote. Should you have any questions, you can always reach me on my cell phone, 480-228-6569. That is the best number to contact as it is with me 90 percent of the time.

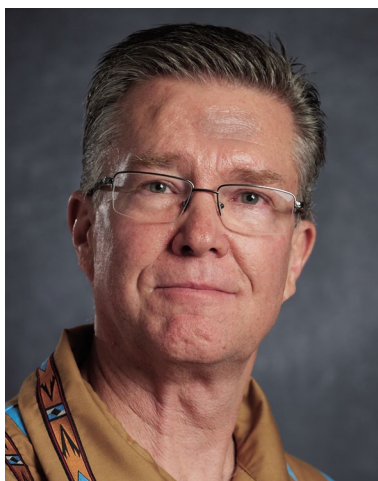
Additionally, please join me for a virtual legislative meeting on May 15 at 10 a.m. Find registration information at cpn.news/D5May15.

Take care of each other, and remember to accept your blessings with gratitude and "pay it forward."

Love you all,

Eunice Imogene Lambert
Butterfly Woman
Representative, District 5
270 E Hunt Highway, Ste 229
San Tan Valley, AZ 85143
480-228-6569
euniceilambert@gmail.com

District 6 – Rande K. Payne



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

Elections have consequences. We've all heard this term, mostly as it relates to federal

elections, but the same holds true in tribal elections. Just a few years ago, we watched as a California tribe self-destructed as two factions of the tribe battled for control, leaving many members embarrassed and deeply concerned for the tribe's future. Greed over per capita payments left many long-standing members of the tribe dis-enrolled and in disbelief. Even though the vote followed largely along family lines, ironically, a few that supported the faction promising bigger per capita payments were among the dis-enrolled. Yes! Elections have consequences.

The Seven Grandfathers left us their guiding principles for a good life. These teachings apply

to practically every area of our lives. A person that embraces these qualities and strives to incorporate them into their core beliefs is most likely looked upon favorably by our Creator. I wholeheartedly believe this.

The best leaders I've encountered throughout my professional career possessed many or all of the traits in the Seven Grandfathers Teachings. Whether intentionally or unknowingly to them, I recognized that their character aligned with The Seven Grandfathers Teachings. I believe so much in the value of these teachings that my wife and I have used them as the guiding principles for our business. They are talked about with every employee

during their handbook review at orientation so that they know what to expect from leadership.

One of the Seven Grandfathers Teachings is truth. I believe that everything good starts with truth. Without truth, everything can be called into question.

Wisdom is another teaching of the Seven Grandfathers. Potawatomi culture strongly believes in the power of wisdom. Foolishness leads to a person's downfall and sometimes has effects on others. The wise person thinks not only of himself but others as well.

The teaching of love is important because it's the driving force

behind how we interact with others and the motivation behind our actions. It's hard to love what you do if it is for self-gratification. Most of the people I know that love what they do focus on serving others. Just recently upon reopening our restaurant, a guest was leaving and stopped to say that she was so glad that we were able to reopen and that she was praying for us and our restaurant. I turned to the employee next to me and said, "That's why we do what we do."

Courage is one of the teachings that some leaders struggle with. We all want to be liked. Good leaders want to believe the best about others. But sometimes

in leadership, hard decisions must be made, whether it's the termination of an employee or having to say no for the sake of the greater good. It takes courage to do what is right. It takes courage to fight what is wrong in spite of unsurmountable odds.

Pride gets in the way of admitting when we're wrong, but unfortunately, that's human nature. I hate to admit it, pun intended, but my wife says I

struggle with admitting when I'm wrong. Humility isn't one of my strong suits, but I'm working on it. The humility teaching is more about thinking of others and less of self while recognizing that we're all equal. Good leaders don't ask others to do the jobs they wouldn't do or haven't already done.

Space is limited, so I have to wrap it up for this month. God willing, if I seek your vote for another term next year, I

would ask you to measure my leadership by the Seven Grandfathers Teachings. As always, I will do my best to apply them in my life and use them to guide me as your District 6 representative. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve you the people of our great Nation. I would also suggest that you might utilize The Seven Grandfathers Teachings for your yardstick as you contemplate who should lead our Nation for the next four years. It has been

my honor to serve alongside Chairman Barrett, and I consider him one of the great leaders I've had the opportunity to work with throughout my life. I wish him and our Nation nothing but the best.

I'll leave you with this thought: "If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools." – Plato

Wisdom from the Word: "He grants a treasure of common

sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity." Proverbs 2:7

Migwetch! Bama pi
(Thank you! Later),

Rande K. Payne
Mnedo Gabo
Representative, District 6
31150 Road 180
Visalia, CA 93292-9585
559-999-3525 office
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rande.payne@potawatomi.org

District 7 – Mark Johnson



Bozho nikanek
(Hello friends),

For the last couple of articles, I have stressed the need to get vaccinated against COVID-19. I know that many of you feel a bit of anxiety about getting the

shot, and it is understandable. This is a new virus and a new vaccine, but not really. The technology used to make the vaccine has been around for several years, and it has been used to make other vaccines. The first test subjects started receiving this vaccine a year ago, so I felt confident when I rolled up my sleeve for the shot that it would be okay. My wife was a bit more hesitant than myself, which I totally understood. That was until we received word of a dear friend, younger than both of us, who was being placed on a ventilator. She walked on 10 days later. I am sure that she would have taken the shot had it been available to her at the time. My wife had her first shot two days later and was fine, just like I was after the shot. It does bring a comfort to know that we

have done all we can to protect ourselves and those we love.

Just looking at the Indian Health Services website, California has about 100,000 vaccines available for tribal members, and do not forget that ihs.gov/findhealthcare can help you locate a health care facility around the country that will treat you with proof of your tribal citizenship. If you do not have a tribal ID, please contact CPN Tribal Rolls immediately at cpn.news/tribalrolls or by calling 800-880-9880.

I hope that you were able to join our District 6 and 7 virtual meeting on April 24. Unfortunately, with the infection rates still too high, it looks like this is how we will share information with you

this year. We will pray along with you that we will return to some form of normal next summer and will be able to see you in Shawnee then.

And I hope you are aware that election season is here. Please take the time to return your ballot request and vote when you get it. I urge you to examine the records of the candidates along with the growth and stability our Nation has enjoyed. Contrary to what some may want you to buy into, the sky is not falling, and there is no need to clean house. Let us not step off the path that's gotten us to where we are as Citizen Potawatomi.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 representative.

As always, give me a call, and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have or provide you with additional information you may need to access benefits that may be available to you. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and District.

Migwetch
(Thank you),

Mark Johnson,
Wisk Mtek (Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
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District 8 – Dave Carney



Bohzo nikan
(Hello friend),

I am writing my column for the May *Hownikan* on Easter Sunday. It's really has been a pretty special day with visits with family and friends. It seems like things are getting much more back to normal due to the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Today, for example, was the first time in over a year that I was able to attend a live church service. All attendees, including the pastor, were masked. However, that did little to dampen the spirits of the worshippers. My wife and I recently downsized our home and moved across town. Between the pandemic and relocating, it would be easy to continue online attendance at a variety of churches, but I have

to tell you that it is a far better worship experience in person.

Along with family gatherings and church, Easter brings to mind not only the history of the Bible but the history of many of our ancestors — on the Irish side. I'm thinking specifically of the Easter Rising in 1916. The armed rebellion was launched by Irish republicans against British rule in Ireland while the British were distracted fighting World War I. This event was unsuccessful and led to the execution of most of the leaders. Yet, it did lead to an increase in popular support for Irish independence.

One might think that the French are the most influential European group in Potawatomi history, but many Potawatomi families have quite a bit of Irish blood. I remember a few years back, a Slavin family member noted that their Irish ancestor fled the Potato Famine and the inability to own land in the old country resulted them ending up on an allotment with a Potawatomi wife.

In May of last year, there was an article in the *New York Times* about a special connection in history between the Irish and Native Americans. One hundred seventy years ago, the Choctaw Nation collected and sent a contribution to starving



Choctaw Monument in Mudleton, Ireland

Irish in County Cork during the Potato Famine. This money helped feed hundreds of hungry Irish. In 2020, hundreds of Irish citizens raised \$1.8 million for COVID-19 relief for the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation.

If you've ever considered doing your ancestry DNA, I'd recommend it. You may find out some surprises. I think I got the discount version or at least the discount treatment on the graphics. I received a world map, with Ireland circled, an area where Germany and France touch circled and the entirety of the Americas circled for my Native ancestors.

I have several Native friends in the area I live, and some

CPN District 8 Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 22
NOON PST

Citizens of District 8 are invited to join this meeting.
Please join your legislator Dave Carney.

REGISTER ONLINE:
<https://cpn.news/D8May22>

of the tribes they are affiliated with require at least an eighth blood quantum for membership. This creates a lack of identity and community. I think the Citizen Potawatomi Nation does it right by enrolling members who can trace their ancestors back to several Tribal allotment records, which later were the basis for Tribal rolls. We are approximately 36,000 members strong.

If you are on my email list for District 8 or in our Facebook group, you have received a downloadable request for absentee ballot in addition to the one sent out from the Election Committee. Please fill one and send it in. Let's get out the vote in our district.

Additionally, please join me on May 22 at noon for a

Virtual District 8 meeting. The event will include an update on our Nation as well as giveaways and more. Register at cpn.news/D8May22.

As always, it is my honor to serve as your legislator,

Dave Carney
Kagasghi (Raven)
Representative, District 8
520 Lilly Road, Building 1
Olympia, WA 98506
360-259-4027
dcarney@potawatomi.org

District 9 – Paul Wesselhöft



Bozho nikan
(Hello friend),

Native American “Artist”

(First published in the “Potawatomi Artists” Facebook group by Paul Chrisstarlon Wesselhöft)

Historically in Indian culture, the role of “artist” as a vocation or avocation is not only not prominent but also virtually non-existent.

Native Americans, male and female, created beautiful baskets, blankets, jars, jewelry, paintings, pottery, raiment, regalia, weapons, wigwams, etc. However, when Indigenous people created and crafted these beautiful, colorful, creative things, they did so out of functionality and practical use. They created objects, beautiful as they were, to be useful and purposeful.

Native Americans were motivated to create things that were both utilitarian and lovely. For some, their crafts were made for family members or friends; for others, their “artistic” or beautiful creations

were tributes to the deity or The Great Spirit, but they were still essential items of use.

Indians were not motivated to create what we now know to be art. They did not create “artistic” objects for their own sake as stand-alone objects to be admired. In our Potawatomi language, as in other Indian languages, there is no ancient or historical word for art or artist. They didn’t think of themselves as artist, which was then a Western concept.

Keep in mind that most tribes did not have the luxury of toting “artful” things from one place to another — from one land to another. Some tribes were nomadic by nature or seasonal necessity; others were forced by the federal government to relocate several hundred miles from

their ancestral homelands. Tribes packed lightly and with objects that had practical use to them.

It was only later in modern history that Indians realized that they were creating objects of artistic value and even later did they realize the market and commerce potential for their works in white, Western society.

As a Potawatomi, this is of interest to me because I began writing poetry almost daily at age 15. As I was moved, actually inspired, to write these pages of poetry. I had no idea that they were works of art. I thought of them as revelations of my deepest thoughts on paper to my Creator and myself. It was only later that I shared my “art” with others.

What I take from our Native American history is that Indians

created works of beauty, yes, thinking only that they were creating beautiful works of functionality. It was a great discovery to the Western world when they first looked upon Indian objects of beauty and immediately knew of their artistic value.

Therefore, I surmise that most Indians were and are natural artist. I, too, like to think of myself as a natural artist. And I, too, create words of beauty as tributes to the deity or The Great Spirit.

Migwetch

(Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft
Naganit (Leader)
Representative, District 9
reppaul@gmail.com
pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org

District 11 – Andrew Walters



Bozho
(Hello),

My faithful companion and sidekick, Cora, and I travel a lot. We overland, which means that we four-wheel out to remote places and camp for sometimes weeks at a time. It’s kind of refreshing to be away from the hustle and bustle of life: no phones, no TV, no internet and no bad news. Seems like that’s all you hear anymore is folks moaning and complaining about this and that. I wonder at times why I should even care about some of the so-called “news.”

Anyway, I digress from my tale. Some years ago, on one such trip to Anza Borrego in California, we decided to stop at an RV park. Occasionally, we stop at

a park to fill our water tanks, empty our other tanks, and take a much-needed shower. When you’re out camping and the dog rolls back and forth on top of you and tries to bury your clothes, it’s a good indication you need a shower. Rain was coming in that night. You could smell it coming off the desert. That cool, earthy rain smell mixed with mesquite. If someone ever bottles that, I’d buy all they had. We pulled off the road the other side of Gila, Arizona, and headed north up a county road to the RV park, passing an Exxon Gas station that had a mess of so called “Indian” sculptures on the parking lot, Mexican metal art and blankets hanging out front for sale. I think it was supposed to be a mixture of Mexican pottery and “ancient” Native American artifacts, but in truth, it all had been hauled up from south of the border.

We got to the park and camped up, ate dinner and luxuriated in the shower. Exhausted, we fell asleep. We had a Jeep at the time — good vehicle. It would go anywhere, and with the rooftop tent, we saw some of the most beautiful and desolate places in the United States. I’m lucky that Cora likes going into the boonies as much as I do. Bless her heart. She never complains and always has eyes

filled with wonderment. As we laid there, the wind came up, and as predicted, the rains started. The sound of rain against the tent and the gentle rocking of the Jeep lulled us into a deep sleep. Early the next morning, we were up before the sun, packing our stuff and heading out. I needed a little gas and a lot of coffee, so we drove back south to Interstate 8 and the multi-cultural museum known as the Exxon station.

As I pulled into the parking lot, under the covered pump area, I noticed a car there that had Potawatomi license plates. Well, Lord love a duck! I started smiling. I mean, what were the chances of being in this remote area, so far from Oklahoma, that we’d find a car with our Tribe’s license plate? I started fueling and saw a woman with children coming out of the store. As they walked toward the car, I inquired from a distance, “Y’all Potawatomi?” The woman smiled and responded that indeed she was. I told her so was I. Well, right there in the parking lot, we had a family reunion. Her husband came out, and we talked about Oklahoma, the Tribe, Shawnee and what we were all doing out there. Turned out, they were in the Navy and stationed in San Diego. That touched my heart because I had two boys in the

Marine Corp who graduated out there. They were on vacation and coming back from, as I remember, Shawnee. I have to tell you, I was overcome with the feeling of family. I knew that somewhere down the line I was related to these folks. After talking for a bit and then filling up, they pulled out about the same time as we did. The rain began to come down harder, and we were the only two vehicles on the road — Potawatomi related by family ties that go back hundreds of years meeting on a rainy morning, a thousand some miles away from home. They followed us for a long way. It was raining buckets and barrels for a while. We exited off of I-8 at the cut off to Anza Borrego. They went on toward San Diego. As we exited, they passed us, waving and smiling. I often think about that morning and how much it meant to me to meet those folks. Even with miles and years between us, we were family. I am hoping that those “kids” read this and contact me. I’d like to know what they’re doing and how they are. Like I said, it meant a lot to me, and the experience still leaves fresh tracks in my mind.

So now to the Legislator stuff. I’ve picked up my packet and the front door key. It’s been an experience getting here. I want to represent y’all well

and facilitate your experience with our Tribe — our family. Hope y’all will give me a chance to prove myself. My email is andrew.walters@potawatomi.org, or you can contact me at nibwemko@gmail.com.

I hope you will use me, talk with me, work with me and give me your blessings and help. Most importantly, I hope you vote! Y’all should have gotten your absentee ballot requests. Voting is the way you influence the Tribe. I know after the last couple of years, with politics the way it was, you may not feel voting accounts for much, but it does. If all of us who are satisfied with the way things are going don’t vote, then those that have agendas will win, and the rest of us have to suffer through it and vice versa. That’s how it works. All y’all (how’s that for Southern talk?) over 18 make up the General Council of our Tribe. Even though we won’t have a Family Reunion Festival this year, voting will be open, and those of you who can’t come to Shawnee can absentee vote. Make your voice heard. Don’t just sit and complain. Practice your citizenship. It may not go your way, but if you don’t vote, for sure it won’t.

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

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Evelyn Rae Hopcus Navarre Family



Evelyn Rae Hopcus of Shawnee, Oklahoma, passed away Sunday, February 7, 2021, at the age of 89. She was born to Ray and Jessie Moore in Harrah, Oklahoma, and was the oldest of seven Moore children.

Evelyn grew up in Harrah where she attended and graduated from Harrah High School. After graduation, she met and married Edmund Hopcus. As the wife of a career military member, she resettled her family numerous times until they moved to their final assignment of Lawton. There, Evelyn began her career with Public Service Company of Oklahoma that lasted 25 years. After 34 wonderful years of marriage to Edmund, she lost her partner in life when he passed away in October of 1983. In 1990, Evelyn married Lloyd Chase. They were married for 25 years until his death. Subsequently, Evelyn moved to Shawnee to be closer to her siblings. In retirement, she enjoyed traveling, bingo and taking care of her cat, Tootsie. Evelyn was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the Lawton Circuit Riders.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her parents, Ray and Jessie Moore; husbands, Edmund and Lloyd; son, Gary Hopcus Sr.; brothers, Harold and Eddie Moore; sister, Julia Walden; and brother-in-law, Roy Capps.

She is survived by her son, Edmund Hopcus Jr. (Diane) of San Antonio, Texas; daughter-in-law, Jayme Hopcus of Burkburnet, Texas; grandsons, Robert Hopcus of Las Vegas, Nevada, Gary Hopcus Jr. (Melissa) of Norman, Oklahoma, Curtis Hopcus of Lawton, Oklahoma, and Corey Hopcus (Leya) of Stillwater, Oklahoma; great-grandchildren, Jasmine, Jacob, Jordyn, Marissa and Caden;

sisters, Rosa Reed (Hub) and Linda Capps of Shawnee, Oklahoma, and Marilyn Clark (Don) of Macomb, Oklahoma; and sister-in-law, Sue Moore of Choctaw, Oklahoma; and many other loving relatives and friends.

Visitation and prayer were held at Cooper Funeral Home Chapel led by Reverend Larry Sparks followed by burial at Harrah Memory Lane Cemetery under the direction of Cooper Funeral Home of Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

Burke Wyatt LaReau Family



Burke Bond Wyatt, 79, of Fountain Hills, Arizona, passed away on Jan. 17 due to complications of COVID-19. Burke was born in Oklahoma in 1941 to Burke and Lucille Wyatt. His family moved to Phoenix during his childhood. He graduated from Camelback High School in 1959 and Arizona State University's School of Architecture in 1966. After graduating, he joined the Navy Seabees as a commissioned officer and spent 40 years in the Navy and Naval Reserves, achieving the rank of commander. During his service, he contributed to numerous endeavors, including building a base and runway on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

He returned to Phoenix, where he established an architectural firm, contributing to projects in the Valley of the Sun as well as throughout the country. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects and the American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers. In addition to commissioned work, he devoted countless volunteer hours to his community, sharing his architectural expertise and earning him recognition from the mayor of the City of Phoenix.

Burke was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He was proud of his heritage and formed bonds with American Indian tribes in Arizona and the surrounding states. After retiring and up until his untimely

death, he continued to work on community projects, including the future American Indian Veterans Memorial planned for Indian School Park.

Burke is preceded in death by his son, Bond, and his sister, Judy Rowe. He is survived by his former wife, Nancy; his son Chris and daughter-in-law Casi; and granddaughters, Campbell and Caroline. Burke made a lasting impact to his family, friends and his community. He will be missed. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Indian Veterans Memorial Organization at aivmoaz.org.

Donna Lynn Gardom Tescier Family



With great sadness, we announced the passing of our beloved daughter, Donna Lynn Gardom of Las Cruces, New Mexico. She was born June 3, 1960, and passed away Feb. 16, 2021. She's survived by one sister, Keri Guldermann of Anthony, New Mexico, and her mother, Bobbie Mishler of Las Cruces. Her favorite companion was her cat. She's greatly missed.

Courtney Place Burns Family



Courtney Lynn Place, 39, of Netawaka, Kansas, passed away March 10, 2021, due to the result of an electrical accident. She was born March 22, 1981, in Holton, Kansas, the daughter of Glenn Stephen "Tiny" Place and Pamela Jane (Martin) Ward. Courtney

attended Royal Valley High School. She was a homemaker and a self-employed housekeeper. She was a member of Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma. Survivors include her husband, Travis J. Mullins of the home; her three children, Justin, Alyssa and Abigail Mullins, all of the home; her mother, Pam Ward of Independence, Missouri; three sisters, Kim Barber (Tony) of Delia, Kansas, Denise Marshall (Ralph) of Whiting, Kansas, and Brandi Place of Independence, Missouri; and two brothers, Brent Place of Kirksville, Missouri, and Eric "Doug" Place of Holton, Kansas; many nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Memorials may be given to Mercer Funeral Home (to help with funeral expenses) c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

Katheryn Hallam Negahnquet Family



Katheryn Ann (Negahnquet) Hallam, 73, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, left this part of her journey and went on to the next on June 30, 2020, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Her life here on earth could be reduced to an efficient set of statistics, but that has never been Katheryn's way. She lived and questioned in her own way and reached her own conclusions, which in the end, is all any of us can do.

Her mother, Lyda Mae (Stark) Negahnquet, introduced her into this world on Sept. 8, 1946, and together with Joseph A. Negahnquet, provided a safe and loving environment for her to grow up in along with Jo Nell, Theresa, Stephen, William, Rebecca, Tommy and Susan.

She grew up and took her place, if sometimes reluctantly, in this society where she raised her own family, Michael and

Anthony Hallam. She lived in Oklahoma, Maryland, New York and Washington D.C., and returned to Oklahoma in 1995.

Katheryn was a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

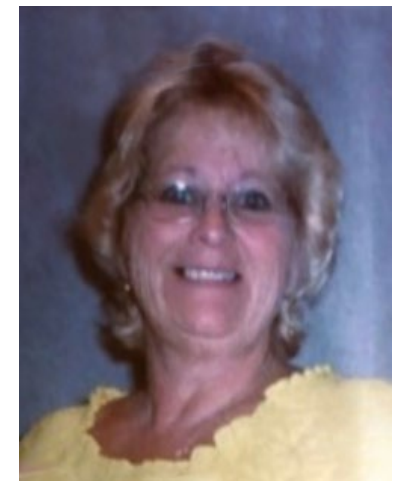
She enjoyed artwork and movies, and was a superb pool player and loved going to Las Vegas.

She was preceded in death by her son, Anthony William Hallam; her parents, Joseph and Lyda Mae Negahnquet; and brother, William Joseph Negahnquet.

Kathryn leaves behind the following to grieve her loss and to keep her memory alive in their hearts: her son, Michael John Hallam of Oklahoma City; four sisters, Jo Nell Negahnquet of Waco, Texas, Theresa and William Neal of Show Low, Arizona, Lyda and Dorwin Stinnett of Tulsa, and Susan and Ron Panter of Carson, California; two brothers, Stephen and Claudia Negahnquet of King George, Virginia, and Thomas and Shirley Negahnquet of Midwest City; and other loving extended family and friends.

To share memories or sign the guest book online, go to cooperfuneral.com.

Kelly Lynn Lyons Hetzall Family



Born Oct. 17, 1958, in Dallas, Texas, Kelly Lynn Lyons lived a creative and fierce life where she impacted many friends, family and loved ones. After COVID-19 remission complications, Kelly left behind friends and family on Jan. 15, 2021, in Arlington, Texas. Survived by her son, Jayson Valadez; grandchildren, Kayla and Jayson Jr.; sister, Paula Martinez and husband Armando (Lucio) of Glenn Heights, Texas; nieces Jeneice Annunziato, of Azle, Texas, and Andrea Martinez; nephew Armando Jr.; and aunt Pasty Heath.

John 11:35 "We weep for her and will rejoice in her memory."

Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document with **no more than 300 words**, a 300dpi photo and a contact phone number to

hownikan@potawatomi.org

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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

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

For more information, please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email cclark@potawatomi.org.

“Herb” it on the grapevine: Celebrating National Herb Week

By Catherine Bardeaux, MS, RD/
LD - CPN Registered Dietitian

In 1991, the National Herb Association designated the first week of May as a celebration of herbs and all that they do. Each year, the association selects an herb to highlight. For 2021, parsley receives the spotlight.

Why eat herbs?

Consuming herbs is a great way to include vitamins such as A, K and C in your diet. They are also a great source of polyphenols, which is a plant compound with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects. These polyphenols guard against diseases such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease and more! If you're looking for a way to get in more nutrients in your diet and meals, consider adding herbs!

Why choose parsley?

Parsley, also called *Petroselinum crispum*, is a popular herb that is used in many different types of cuisine around the world. It has an earthy and mildly sweet flavor. There are many ways you can use parsley, including:

CHEF JOHN'S CHIMICHURRI SAUCE

Ingredients

- ½ cup olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic or more to taste, chopped
- 3 tablespoons white wine vinegar, or more to taste
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon salt, or to taste
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ½ cup fresh cilantro leaves
- ¼ cup fresh oregano leaves
- 1 bunch flat-leaf Italian parsley, stems removed

Directions

1. Combine oil, garlic, vinegar, salt, cumin, red pepper flakes, black pepper, cilantro, oregano and parsley in a blender.

2. Pulse blender two to three times. Scrape down the side using a rubber spatula. Repeat pulsing and scraping process until a thick sauce forms. This may take approximately 12 times.

Note: to remove parsley from the stem, use a sharp knife to cut the leaves from the stems at a 45-degree angle



- As a garnish on pasta or soups
- Added to salads
- In egg bakes or frittatas
- In a pesto with pine nuts, olive oil, parmesan cheese and fresh parsley
- Added to smoothies for a nutrient and flavor boost
- On homemade pizza
- In homemade bread
- In homemade juices
- Added for flavor to soups and stews
- Incorporated into marinades and dressings
- To flavor fish, poultry and meat dishes

While many recipes highlight parsley, a popular choice is using parsley in a sauce called chimichurri. Chimichurri is an uncooked herb sauce that is used on many different types of grilled meats. It can also be used in potatoes, bread and as a dip on the side. Green chimichurri in particular uses green herbs, with parsley being the star of this tasty sauce. Give it a try! ♡



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Mnomen (Wild Rice) and Berry Salad

Mnokme (spring) and *niben* (summer) are great time of the year to take advantage of fresh, flavorful fruit. Check out this recipe for instructions on how to make a sweet yet healthy dish that highlights traditional Potawatomi ingredients and flavor. Check out the video tutorial at cpn.news/mnomen.

1 cup uncooked *Mnomen* (wild rice)

2 ½ cups of water

¼ cup of dried cranberries

1 cup chopped fresh berries

1/3 cup maple syrup

1 tsp. cinnamon

¼ tsp. vanilla extract

¼ cup chopped roasted pecans (Can use other nuts, such as walnuts or sunflower seeds)



Directions:

Add water and wild rice to a pot. Cover and place over medium to medium-high heat. Boil for approximately 45 minutes, or until the water has fully absorbed into the rice. Place *mnomen* into a large bowl, and add cut fresh berries, dried cranberries, maple syrup, cinnamon, vanilla extract and pecans. Stir until combined, then serve.



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Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services — Past, present, and future

**By George A. Vascellaro, D.O.,
Family Physician and Chief Medical
Officer, CPN Health Services**

For almost nine years now, I have had the privilege of working diligently at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Services as a family physician and in numerous leadership roles, the latest being Chief Medical Officer. This role is unique at CPNHS. The CMO reports directly to the Nation's independent governing body and has day-to-day responsibility to steward the entire health care system, both as a medical professional and head of operations. In comparison to other tribal health systems, this managerial role would encompass that of the Secretary of Health and Chief Medical Officer.

Starting my career with CPNHS in August 2012, I joined the West Clinic as the lone medical provider, taking over for a temporary physician serving 20 patients a week. I saw 20 on my first day, and things have not slowed down since.

One of my earliest surprises was the large number of patients who asked me, "How long are you going to stay?"

This was foreign to me, and my answer always was, "For as long as I can."

There used to be a high provider turnover rate at CPNHS, which is still common for many Indian health and tribal health care systems.

I am proud to write that provider turnover has not been an issue at CPNHS since. In fact, CPNHS has been complimented on the stability of its medical professional staff during our last two surveys by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Healthcare. This is even more special to me in the CMO role as I have personally recruited 15 of 24 medical professionals on staff, including seven who are Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members.

Three family physicians — Dr. Roselius, Dr. Wilson and Dr. Kennedye — as well as three nurse practitioners — Destiny Mitchell, Crystal Marcum, and Christine Munoz — and our Chiropractor Dr. Wylie Briggs are all proud Citizen Potawatomi. They are all exceptional young providers with bright medical and leadership futures. This is a prime example of

**CPN HEALTH SERVICES
TRIBAL MEMBERS**

DR. KASSI ROSELIUS **DR. MEGAN WILSON** **DR. PATRICK KENNEDYE** **DR. WYLIE BRIGGS**

DESTINY MITCHELL **CRYSTAL MARCUM** **CHRISTINE MUNOZ**

the wise investment CPN made in the education of its Tribal youth and is now reaping some of the benefits.

Patient care at CPNHS is high-quality care with customer service, which has made us a tribal health system where patients choose to come first. This was far from the case when I first started.

CPNHS has had numerous types of expansion over the past nine years. These include medical professionals, departments, and services, as evidenced by the increase in patients and patient visits across our health system. We

have added mammography, CT, MRI, optometry, urgent care, physical therapy, specialty clinic and chiropractic services.

Specifically, our specialty clinic now has two cardiologists, an orthopedist, a podiatrist, adult audiology and a general surgeon, who also does our EGDs and colonoscopies. I am currently in negotiations to potentially add urology and vascular surgery/limb salvage.

Our pharmacy formulary has also expanded significantly, while purchased referred care coverage has improved greatly and is optimally

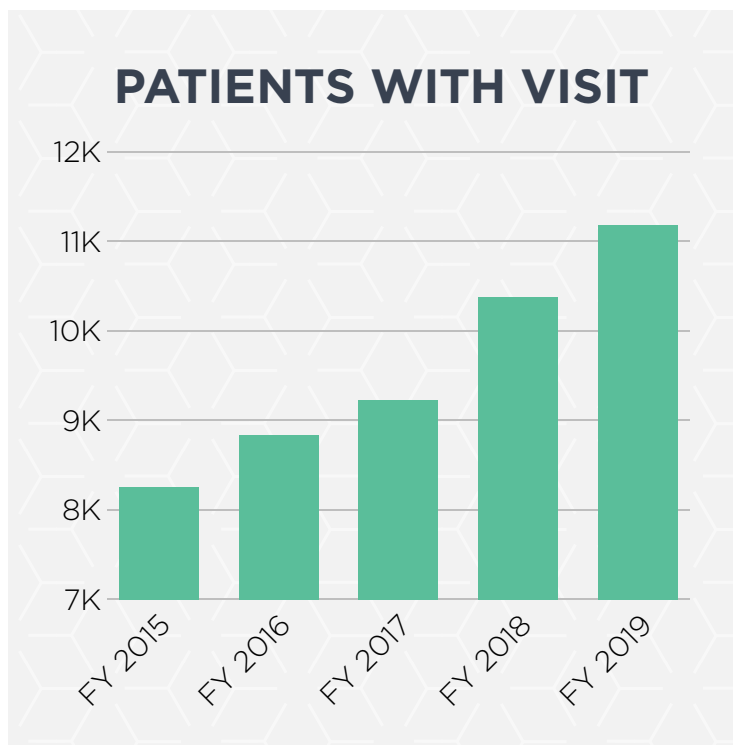
leveraged with our internally managed Affordable Care Act Program.

The CPNHS operational organizational hierarchy has been modernized over the past two years with the assistance of our independent governing body. This started in 2019 with the creation of the Chief Medical Officer and Medical Professional Director roles. In 2020, the CPNHS Operations Director role was split into two positions. The clinical operations director is primarily responsible for CPNHS' front-end business operations. The health finance procurement director is responsible for CPNHS' back-end business operations. This very stable pyramid hierarchy of top leadership has proven very successful, surviving the ultimate of "stress tests" during COVID-19. CPNHS' overall response to the once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic, including vaccinations, was second to none, and all of these roles played a critical part.

Dr. Roselius, a family physician with master's in public health, has served as the Medical Professional Director since its inception.

Lauren Bristow, a CPN tribal member with a master's in health care administration, has served as our Clinical Operations Director since its inception.

Bethel Acres native Chris Skillings serves as our Health Finance Procurement Director.



Continued on next page

CPN Health Services continued...

The leadership structure at CPNHS is strong and held up well during unprecedented times. This organization also allows for efficient workflow, collaboration and cross-coverage.

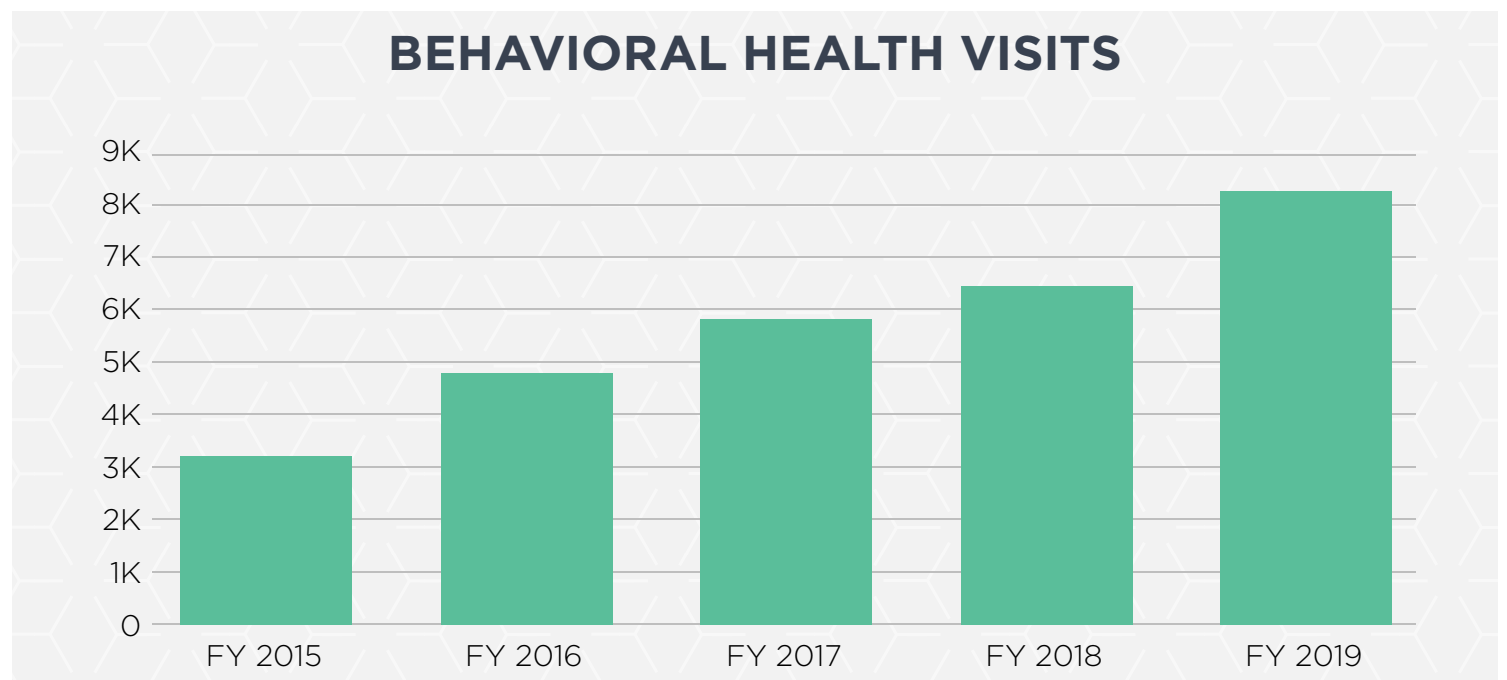
Another large part of the CMO role that I truly enjoy is strategic planning for the health system.

CPNHS is currently undergoing a significant departmental location re-organization to make the operations and care delivery systems as efficient as possible. The chiropractic clinic in Tecumseh, the first in a tribal health system that I am aware of, was completed during the COVID-19 pandemic and is almost at full capacity after just a few short months. The renovation of Mission Hill Hospital's third floor is almost complete, and CPNHS business and PRC offices should move there in a couple of months. This will give us more space to expand the West Clinic pharmacy and lab as well as move the urgent care clinic to the West Campus. This increases accessibility to all the patients in our service area and will be the foundational move to eventually allow for expansion of the urgent care hours to evenings, holidays and weekends. Consequently, this will further minimize our patients need to go to emergency rooms.

Optometry will then move to the old urgent care area at East Clinic and finally an East pharmacy expansion.

The future is just as bright. In the September 2020 governing board meeting, I gave an update on CPNHS expansion status and ideas that included 17 bullet points, one of which was telehealth. This expansion, if done right and a few laws implemented during COVID-19 to benefit telehealth stay on the books, could potentially allow CPNHS to serve CPN tribal members *anywhere they lived* in the United States.

These plans also included a Choctaw, Oklahoma-based PCP clinic similar to the West Clinic. Positively, the Tribe already owns the land there. Additional expansion plans include adding an acupuncturist to the chiropractic clinic, construction of stand-alone retail/drive



thru pharmacies, a sleep lab at Mission Hill, ambulance services, infusion center, outpatient surgical center and mobile health clinic. You may have heard chatter about these from other sources, but I want you to know they were proposed internally last year.

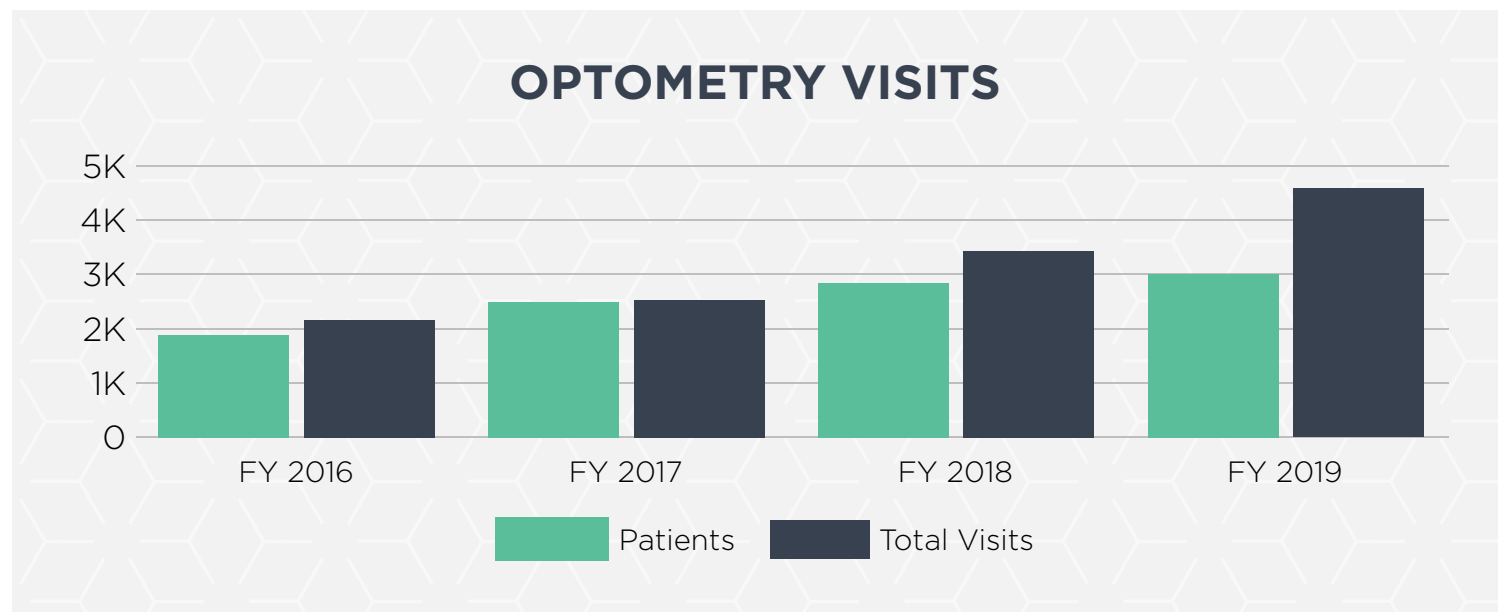
From my perspective, little to any of this could have been accomplished without the unwavering full support I feel CPNHS and myself have received over the last nine years from Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Tribal Vice-Chairman Linda Capps. Health care has long been a top priority of CPN leadership, and I couldn't have transformed all my expertise

to this effort without heavily relying on their steady leadership and wise council.

Lastly, I want to end with an emotional personal story that only a few of you know that almost prevented much of this from occurring. Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps took a huge chance in hiring me all those years ago. They knew full well I needed a major thoracic surgery, and they still hired me.

Then the worst happened. The most dreaded complication of thoracic surgery — chylothorax, which has a significant mortality rate — affected me. An anticipated 10-day hospital stay turned into three

months. Due to this and other serious complications, as a physician, I am very aware that my last nine years have truly been on borrowed time. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman could easily have been justified to release me from my contract, but they didn't. They stood by me and were supportive of a patient with my prolonged recovery. It is something I will never forget and one of the many positive reasons they have given me to work so hard as a physician and as a leader at CPNHS. Because of this and many other memorable experiences working at CPNHS, I plan to continue to serve diligently as long as I am still welcome and will do so with a heart posture of gratitude. ♡



CPN distributes 10,000th COVID-19 vaccine dose

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation recently celebrated an important milestone in the fight against COVID-19. The tribe administered its 10,000th dose of the vaccine Friday, March 26.

"Many people within our Tribe came together and gave maximum effort to reach this milestone," said CPN Health Services Chief Medical Officer Dr. George A. Vascellaro. "We're dedicated to providing our local community with access to the vaccine, and it's been a privilege to provide so many people with a jab of hope."

Don Delzer, the spouse of a Tribal member, received the 10,000th shot.

"I'm really thankful CPN opened their vaccination efforts up to Tribal member households. We have high risk family members, so this allows us to help protect our family and alleviate some of the stress associated with the possibility of transmitting the virus to others," he said.

In 2020, CPN began preparations to distribute the vaccine by using CARES Act funds to purchase the ultra-cold



Brent Johns with FEMA gives CPN Health Services' 10,000th dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to Don Delzer of Oklahoma City, Friday, March 26, 2021.

storage equipment necessary to house the Pfizer vaccines for the tribe, Pottawatomie County Health Department and Indian Health Services.

Vascellaro said the Tribe prioritized vaccinating its elders, critical infrastructure employees and first responders, then quickly expanded to Tribal members and CPN Health Services patients. Soon after, it offered vaccinations to any member of a federally recognized tribe.

In addition to these efforts, CPN hosted community vaccination events for non-tribal members of the local community. CPN also partnered with 14 schools, businesses and local organizations

to distribute the vaccine, such as Seminole State College.

"We are so grateful to Citizen Potawatomi Nation for making the COVID-19 vaccine available to many of our Seminole State College students, employees and their family members," said SSC President Lana Reynolds. "The health and safety of our employees is vital, and we are thankful to CPN for providing us with these much needed COVID vaccinations."

While CPN celebrates the 10,000th shot milestone, Tribal leaders know they are not close to the finish line.

"Our focus remains on providing vaccination opportunities and education to people in rural areas," Dr. Vascellaro said. "Citizen Potawatomi Nation has been critical in vaccinating the Shawnee area, and we will continue to partner with local agencies, schools and organizations to end this public health crisis." ♡

Keeping traditions alive

With a packed schedule as a certified rehabilitation registered nurse in southern Louisiana, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal member Lyle Simmons connects to his *Nishnabé* roots by making regalia and crafting traditional Potawatomi items.

The Peltier family descendant works at a rural hospital, helping patients recover and gain independence after experiencing an injury, surgery, illness or other ailment. Expressing his creativity offers an opportunity to relax and escape from the hustle and bustle of his career.

“Helping our fellow Tribal members has always been a good thing for me,” Simmons said. “I get a lot of joy from seeing people that I’ve helped go on and dance or eventually be able to make things themselves without having to depend on other people — helping them produce their own culture rather than buying it.”

He specializes in leatherwork, beadwork, feathers and other regalia-related projects.

Beginnings

While growing up, trial and error helped refine his skills.

“That was a goal of my grandparents, to keep me out of trouble by keeping my hands busy,” Simmons said and laughed.

His family owned a ceramics and crafting store, which provided him inspiration and the supplies required to experiment and learn.

“Nowadays, I can look at an item and figure out how it’s made, and I’m able to reproduce items that way,” Simmons said.

He started participating in the powwow scene as a grass dancer in his youth and began working on his own regalia approximately 17 years ago.

“My first big project was the grass dance outfit,” Simmons said. “It was a lot of hours and days on a jig, just hand-stitching yarn.”

Today, Simmons competes as a chicken dancer, which he learned from spending time with his Siksika and Kootenai friends.

The dance mimics the prairie chicken’s strut and characteristics during mating season, and tribes have passed down stories about the animal for generations.



CPN member Lyle Simmons honors the lessons passed down to him by creating regalia and competing in powwows. (Photo courtesy of Sharon Hoogstraten)

Through the years, Simmons has taken the opportunity to build his regalia, piece-by-piece, crafting much of it himself.

“It didn’t happen all at one time, you know. Regalia is kind of ever

changing — always adding or taking away stuff,” he said.

Lessons and connections

Although he calls Louisiana home, Simmons stays involved with his Potawatomi heritage by building relationships with others virtually and in person.

“I moderate a Facebook group for CPN people,” he explained. “I started it years ago for kind of selfish reasons: to get in touch with other people to help myself out and get in touch with our culture. I guess over the years, I’ve kind of expanded that to help other people as well.”

Simmons enjoys the opportunity the platform provides to lead lessons and teach others how to make their own regalia as well as raffle off items he has made. He said it also ties into the Seven Fires Potawatomi oral tradition.

The last, or seventh, prophet said there would come a time when the Potawatomi people would have to pick up the pieces of its culture, traditions, language and more that were left behind by those who came before in order to survive in the future.

“I think we are in that time of the Seventh Fire, and it’s up to our generation to start those things off and get others going in the right direction,” Simmons said.

Making regalia reminds him of the importance of patience.

“It teaches you to be consistent and not give up. Most regalia items or crafts, they’re not super hard to do, just very tedious and time-consuming. ... I guess that’s why I don’t make my living with art,” he said and laughed.

If interested in discussing commission work with Simmons for bustles, beadwork, moccasins and more, he welcomes CPN members reach out to him on Facebook messenger. 🔥

FAMILY FESTIVAL
Art Contest

ADULT CONTEST
Must be 16 or older

AMATEUR

PROFESSIONAL

YOUTH CONTEST
Four age groups

5 & UNDER

AGES 6-9

AGES 10-12

AGES 13-15

REGISTRATION OPEN FROM MAY 17 – JUNE 11
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IN PERSON AT FIRELAKE ARENA ON JUNE 26, 2021 OR BY ABSENTEE BALLOT
TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, VISIT [CPN.NEWS/BALLOTREQUEST](https://cpn.news/ballotrequest)
ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 6, 2021