

The Absentee Shawnee News

January 2014 Vol. 27 No. 25



FAVORABLE RULING FOR THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE

On November 14, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe obtain a favorable decision from the Interior Board of Indian Appeals in the probate case – the case which concerns which tribe is the “tribe with jurisdiction” over the Absentee Shawnee trust allotments. The IBIA ruled that the Absentee Shawnee Tribe is the “tribe with jurisdiction” and the ruling upheld the Absentee Shawnee position in all respects.

The case involves probates of lands allotted in the late 1800’s to members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. These trust lands have always been subject to the exclusive tribal jurisdiction of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Under the American Indian Probate Reform Act (known as “AIPRA”), when an Indian passes away without a will and without eligible heirs, certain interests in trust lands pass to the “tribe with jurisdiction” over those lands. The term “tribe with jurisdiction” is not defined in AIPRA. Beginning a few years ago, a series of probates raised the issue of which tribe is the “tribe with jurisdiction” over the Absentee Shawnee trust allotments.

The Absentee Shawnee position is that the Absentee Shawnee Tribe is the only tribe that exercises actual jurisdiction over the Absentee Shawnee trust allotments, and this has always been the case. These lands were set aside by the United States for the Absentee Shawnee and have been in Absentee Shawnee ownership and under Absentee Shawnee governmental authority for generations. That is all that is needed to resolve the case.

But Citizen Potawatomi participated in the case and claimed that somehow they are the “tribe with jurisdiction.” Citizen Potawatomi does not claim that they exercise jurisdiction over Absentee Shawnee trust allotments today – or that they have ever done so. Instead, they argue that the Collier case somehow made Citizen Potawatomi the “tribe with jurisdiction” over the Absentee Shawnee trust allotments. Of course, as the Absentee Shawnee Tribe has argued throughout the case, Collier involved only the process for taking fee land into trust, and had nothing to do with which tribe has jurisdiction over these Absentee Shawnee trust allotments.

In a 2011 ruling, an Administrative Law Judge (Judge Reeh) agreed with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe’s position, and rejected the Citizen Potawatomi position. Citizen Potawatomi then appealed that ruling to the IBIA.

The IBIA has now issued its decision. The IBIA ruling provides an excellent summary of the historical background of the 30-mile square. It contains an important discussion of the Collier case – clearly stating that it only applies to fee-to-trust issues, and has nothing to do with jurisdiction. And the IBIA decision concludes that Congress intended the Absentee Shawnee Tribe to have jurisdiction over the Absentee Shawnee trust allotments.

We are very pleased with the decision, which strongly supports Absentee Shawnee jurisdiction and sovereignty.

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Executive Committee



EDWINA BUTLER-WOLFE
Governor



ISSAC GIBSON
LT. GOVERNOR



VERA M. DAWSEY
SECRETARY



KATHY DEERE
TREASURER



JEFFREY GIBSON
REPRESENTATIVE

GOVERNOR'S

Report

Let's Build For the Future (BFF)

Season's Greetings, my Absentee Shawnee people!

In January the Election Commission will begin to take applications for those interested in serving on the Executive Committee. As you may be aware every 2 years part of our elected body must run for Office again and/or must apply for the Offices that are open. This year those Executive Committee positions are: Lt. Governor, Treasurer and Representative. Our Constitution governs the duties and responsibilities within these official positions and I am finding that one must be dedicated and truly want to serve and represent you and your interests. In our roles as elected officials we have sworn duties and took an oath to uphold that commitment and this means to me that we (as elected officials) must be honest and sincere in our efforts. It is my hope that you, our Tribal members, consider that when you are voting. It is vital to this Tribe that the right people be placed into these elected Offices that are dedicated to moving the Tribe forward and not just in getting a paycheck. We as leaders should be good representatives for you the people and shouldn't harass or allow harassment to occur to our employees; drink and drive; neglect our duties at our respective offices by not coming to work or come in whenever we would like to; and not inconsistently attend Executive Committee meetings.

Instead we should be role models to our staff by being here timely each day in our Offices to me that means being here each day from 8 to 5 (at a minimum); work with our staff to advance service levels by supporting continuous training initiatives and incentivize excellent work; advertise for and hire qualified applicants and rely on their expertise to guide us as leaders; and I find that it is very important for elected officials to be at the Executive Committee meetings.

The Executive Committee, the Attorney General and my Office are currently working on a Code of Conduct - Ethics Policy which will hold us, as elected leaders, to the high standards required of our Offices. This policy will be placed on the January Regular Executive Committee meeting schedule.

The concerns the Election Commission brought up during the October General Council meeting is to be addressed by our Attorney General. The AG has advised that he spoke with the Election Commission and has offered to sit down with them. At this time a time and date hasn't been set.

The child support enforcement and legal services issue with the Modoc tribe and their legal firm has been resolved for the time being. There appears to be a new line of thinking going on with the Modoc tribe as they have placed a different legal firm under their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement that ensures AST receives child support enforcement and legal services other than with the former firm our Tribe separated from. We will continue with the Modoc Tribe agreement unless they revert back to that former legal team.

Emergency Management

This month the Emergency Management Coordinator offered a training plan for Tribal Employees to my Office for the Executive to consider. This proposed plan is as follows:

1. Each full-time employee must take NIMS 100 & 700 courses by a set deadline
2. Dept. heads are responsible to track compliance and submit to Emergency Management Coordinator.
3. Directors, Coordinators, and Managers are required to take NIMS 100, 200, 700 & 800 by a set deadline.
4. Any employee that has completed the required NIMS courses will be given an incentive reward for completion, i.e. gift card or certificate)
5. All new employees will be advised this is part of their employment.

These courses provide training for tribal personnel to obtain a basic understanding of the Incident Command System (history, features, principles and organization structure) that is used during a disaster. The more we learn the better prepared we are when we are faced with a disaster situation.

Continued on page 6

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas, as the Holiday Season is a time for family and giving thanks to what is important in our lives. I would like to thank the Maintenance staff for their hard work during this last round of winter weather. Parking lots and walkways of all of our facilities were cleaned of snow and ice for our tribal members, employees, and patrons' safety. Slip and falls can lead to very serious injuries and I hope each and everyone uses caution when out during the winter weather.

My office has been working on several projects in the recent months, namely securing a site and structure for the Tribal Elders and Tribal Veterans. I am happy to announce a site has been secured here at the Tribal Complex, just south of the Procurement Building and a double-wide trailer will be set up as a gathering place for the Elders and Veterans. Over the next few weeks, utilities will be extended to the site and the trailer will be set in place. This has been a request of our Elders and Veterans for some time and we have found a way to help them.

Many of us have been waiting for payments from the Cobell v. Salazar Case. Here is information from the website, www.indiantrust.com:

TRUST ADMINISTRATION CLASS PAYMENTS EXPECTED IN EARLY 2014

Important Update: Trust Administration Class payments are expected to be mailed in early 2014.

The Settlement Agreement approved by Congress and the Courts requires identification of all Trust Administration Class Members and calculation of their respective pro rata shares before the Claims Administrator for the Cobell Settlement can mail Trust Administration Class payments. That work is ongoing and is nearly complete.

After the membership of the Trust Administration Class is finalized, it will take approximately a month to complete the calculations for the over 500,000 Trust Administration Class Members. Once the Claims Administrator receives those calculations and the Court approves the Second Stage Distribution, the Claims Administrator will quickly prepare and commence distribution within three weeks.

Thus, if the class membership is finally determined in December, the payments can then be made in the first quarter of 2014 barring any unexpected issues. Please be assured that all parties are doing everything possible to issue the Trust Administration payments as soon as possible. Any questions can be directed to the below:

Indian Trust Settlement
P.O. Box 9577
Dublin, OH 43017-4877
By Phone: 800-961-6109
By Email: Info@IndianTrust.com

The Roads Department is currently working with the awarded contractor and engineering firm, to begin construction on the new AST Police Sub-station parking lot, located between the Tribal Store and Community House in Little Axe. The parking lot will not only be used by our Tribal Police, but our store patrons and those using the Community House as well. Construction will begin within the next few weeks, as weather permits, and will not disturb the Tribal Cemetery. During the construction period, activities will be limited at the Community House. In the event funeral services are held at the Community House, construction will cease out of respect for families.

My office has also started the process of replacing the old Community House by obtaining approval from the Bureau of Reclamation to move and replace the old Community House. We are putting a more user friendly building in its place for the different activities held there. It is a well-known place in the Little Axe Community and has seen many years of activities. The house will be moved to another tribal location to make way for the new Community House.

The Tribe received some very good news in regards to the "Tribe with Jurisdiction" Probate Appeal case. The case involving the Absentee Shawnee and Citizen Potawatomi, questions which "tribe with jurisdiction" is over Absentee Shawnee trust allotments under the American Indian Probate Reform Act (AIPRA). In a November 14, 2013 Order Denying Rehearing, the

Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA) ruled the Absentee Shawnee Tribe is the "tribe with jurisdiction" over Absentee Shawnee trust allotments. As in a previous article, the Citizen Potawatomi claimed to be the "tribe with jurisdiction" over all trust lands within the 30 square mile boundary. Once again we have defeated the Citizen Potawatomi and their notion they have jurisdiction over our lands.

The ruling provided a very detailed and excellent history of how our lands came to be. The history goes as far to show the Absentee Shawnee was in this area 20 years or more before the Citizen Potawatomi; our established land base in the mid 1800's was south of the North Canadian River and north of Little River; the Potawatomi gave up rights as "Indians" and had to pay for their allotments; and the true "squatters" are the Citizen Potawatomi.

The ruling also referenced the controversial Collier Case. The question in Collier is whether the AST are able to place land into trust. For years the Citizen Potawatomi has led many to believe the Collier Case is about tribal jurisdiction, when really it is a question of placing land into trust.

The Probate ruling affirms that probates case with undivided interest and no eligible heirs will go to the "tribe with jurisdiction". So, in AST probate cases where there are undivided interest and no eligible heirs, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe will be awarded the interest.

This ruling strongly supports our tribal jurisdiction and sovereignty, in a time when tribal sovereignty is slowing being taken away.

Below is a list of Tribal Allotment Probates that were on hold due awaiting the ruling:

Wallace J. Cook; Oscar Little Doctor; Charles Kenneth Donaho; Martha Lee Gibson; Harold Ray Day; Raymond Kenneth Guy; Delores June Harjo; Gayla A. Horsechief; William

Delaware; Maurice Johnson; Tommy Ray Kionute; Jerry Ray Little Charley; Calvin Jon Logan; Lawrence Ray Martinez; Carol Fern Najafian; Dorothy Nemecek; Charles J. Squire; Carl Raymond Squire; Harold Tiger; Timothy Don Tiger; and Robert Allen Washington.

If heirs to any of these probates have any questions, please contact our Realty Office at (405) 275-4030.

I hope everyone has safe and Happy New Year!!!

TREASURER'S

Greetings Tribal Members,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office of Treasurer wishes all tribal members to have a prosperous 2014 year! If you made a resolution or resolutions this year that you can reach your goals! It has been a wonderful 2013 year for me and hope and pray 2014 will be as wonderful for you as well.

It is with greatest sadness that we said goodbye to a well-respected and honorable elder tribal member, Wayne Longhorn. Our sincerest condolences go out to his family. Also, our prayers and thoughts go out to AST families, who have lost loved ones this past month and year!

• ASTHA and LSWN Health Board Meeting. The two health boards concurrently meet third Tuesday of the month. They have newly appointed ASTHA board members: Melford Switch, Sandra Vaughn, Lancer Stevens, Lisa Johnson-Billy, and Dr. Surya Pierce. Mr. Mark Rogers, Health Programs Director, gave his monthly report through a PowerPoint presentation discussing his Top three issues, 2014 budget, strategic plan/ community needs assessment and several process improvement teams activations. Reports on financials, business office third party collections, credentialing and privileges, contracts, and other reports.

• Financials for Health Monthly Mtg, Monthly tribal finance, business officer manager, health finance, and Health Programs Director meet to review monthly financials and collections of the health clinics in Little Axe and Shawnee.

• Financials for Tribe, Audits, 2010-2012, are "unmodified" opinion (which when compared to education grading rating scale is an A. Indirect Cost Proposal for 2014 has been submitted to the Interior Business Center (IBC) and is ready to be assigned to a negotiator. Current 2013 rate is 27.39% with 2014 being undetermined until negotiations during 2014. We are preparing for the 2013 Audit which will begin early 2014 for all of the Tribes' entities (Casinos, Store, Restaurant, Smoke Shops, ASED, Inc and Enterprises, ASTHA & LSWN which makes up Absentee Shawnee Tribe Health Systems, and the Tribal Government) All of the tribes entities must be audited first



and then they are combined with the Tribe's Governmental Audit. Overall Budgets approved during the Legislative Session of the Regular Executive Committee Meeting. Our goals are always to limit spending and stay within the budgets.

· Monthly Program/Departmental Directors meeting. Each director comes every third Monday and gives a monthly update on their program/department. Court, Cultural Preservation/Gift Shop, Education, Domestic Violence/Family Services, Enrollment, Human Resources, Finance, Maintenance, Music, MIS, Police, Procurement, Realty, Probate, Social Services, Tag, TERO, Title VI, Building Blocks, Indian Child Welfare, Housing, Media, OEH/OEP, and Health Programs. We, as the Executive Committee, appreciate these departments who take the time to come and give us an update on activities and events monthly and prepare monthly written reports. We understand they may have circumstances occur that prevent them from coming to the monthly meetings and appreciate the fact that they let us know or send someone in their place when they cannot attend. THANK YOU!

· REGULAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS, meet every third Wednesday of the month to decide on executive and legislature resolutions for the betterment of the tribe.

· Elders' Monthly meetings are held every third Saturday, either at AST Resource Center or Title VI Bldgs, 10 am. The elders had their annual Christmas party at the Yellow Rose Theater in Moore, OK with a list of Motown singers, Christmas music, and dinner. They exchanged gifts and members of the Executive Committee were invited. Governor Butler-Wolfe and I were in attendance. If you are 55 years and older, please come join us for fellowship, food, and fun times together. Fund raisers, outings, and cultural activities are planned monthly. Activities and Events the Elders have hosted are: Veterans' Pow Wow in November, Inaugural Ball, attended various cultural events in Canada, Iowa, New Mexico, South Dakota, etc., in and around the state of Oklahoma. The officers are Dan Little Axe, President, Mary Birdtail, Vice-President, Cynthia Longhorn, Secretary, and Betty Watson, Treasurer. Elections for officers will be in January for three year terms. If you would like more information about the Absentee Shawnee Elders Council, please call Cynthia Longhorn, 405/273-4137.

· Internal Revenue Service, VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). VITA is a program for free tax preparation for tribal members, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit components, targeted toward low-income families with children (Adjusted Gross Income Limit-AGI-\$58,000) and tax counseling for elders. Training for volunteer preparers and screeners are underway. January 29 through April 12, 2014, will be the dates on Wed, Thurs, and Saturdays. (See Flyer for times and phone number to schedule appointments). If you have questions, or interested in becoming a volunteer preparer or screener, please call Eddie Brokesoulder, 405-275-4030 x148, or email eddieb@astribe.com

· CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution) Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA). Grant was submitted February 28, 2013 and we were one of 35 awarded. The grant was awarded at \$92,290. If any tribal member is interested in being on steering committee, board of directors, or loan committee, (See Flyer) please contact Eddie Brokesoulder, 275-4030, Ext. 148 or email eddieb@astribe.com

· Constitutional Revision Committee (CRC): The next scheduled meeting is January 16th, 2014. This committee would appreciate any input, suggestions, or come to the monthly meetings. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Eddie Brokesoulder, 405-275-4030 Ext. 148. Or contact Briana Ponkilla, her email address: brianaponkilla@yahoo.com.

NEWS FLASH

· Cobell Update (<http://www.indiantrust.com>): Have questions call the Info Center: 1-800-961-6109. Important Update: TRUST ADMINISTRATION CLASS PAYMENTS EXPECTED IN EARLY 2014 Important Update: Trust Administration Class payments are expected to be mailed in early 2014. The Settlement Agreement approved by Congress and the Courts requires identification of all Trust Administration Class Members and calculation of their respective pro rata shares before the Claims Administrator for the Cobell Settlement can mail Trust Administration Class payments. That work is ongoing and is nearly complete. After the membership of the Trust Administration Class is finalized, it will take approximately a month to complete the calculations for the over 500,000 Trust Administration Class Members. Once the Claims Administrator receives those calculations and the Court approves the Second Stage Distribution, the Claims Administrator will quickly prepare and commence distribution within three weeks. Thus, if the class membership is finally determined in December, the payments can then be made in the first quarter of 2014 barring any unexpected issues. Please be assured that all parties are doing

everything possible to issue the Trust Administration payments as soon as possible.

The Finance Department employees, very much deserve special recognition as they daily continue the never ending processes for the financial side of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Without their tireless diligence, dedication, and commitment we could not keep the financial transactions processes flowing!

Also, appreciation to the Financial Consultant, Eddie Brokesoulder, who continues to assist me with numerous projects, recommendations/suggestions, attendance at meetings where I cannot attend, and consulting decisions in the office of Treasurer! Very special thanks to Arlene Herrera who serves as Administrative Assistant in the office of treasurer and secretary.

We appreciate all your phone calls, emails, and visits. May God continue to bless you and yours! See below articles from Finance Department and Financial Consultant, Eddie Brokesoulder.

Respectfully,
Kathy Deere
Tribal Treasurer

"I hold before you my hand with each finger standing erect and alone, and as long as they are held thus, not one of the tasks that the hand may preform (to shape or form something beforehand) can be accomplished. I cannot lift. I cannot grasp. I cannot hold. I cannot even make an intelligible sign until my fingers organize and work together. In this we should also learn a lesson."
~George Washington Carver

SECRETARY'S

Report

I sincerely hope that everyone had a very safe and Merry Christmas. I hope that everyone got what they wanted for Christmas or at least a picture of it.

I also send my condolences and heartfelt prayers for the Longhorn family for the loss of their loved one, at this time of year, and also anyone else who may have lost someone at this time of year.

Okay, just to let you know what my office has been doing this past month, on November 26, we attended the Inter-Tribal Health Board open house in Oklahoma City, which appeared to be a good turn-out.

On November 30, Steve Johnson and I volunteered along with Cherrah Giles and other people from various tribes at the Iron Gate Trinity Church in Tulsa to help feed the homeless. I lived in Tulsa for a number of years and I knew that there were many Native Americans that lived on the streets in Tulsa and I felt that it was a good thing to do. Steve is continuously working to get all of the trailers moved, however, due to the weather, holidays and other projects that going on there just does not seem to be enough hours in the day to get everything finished.

Maintenance is taking care of the ground work for the trailers; however, they also have a large work load, but have "Faith" it will eventually be completed. Steve recently made a trip to Las Vegas for Tero Legal up Date, He has come back with some good Ideas on ways to improve our Tero office, once we get pass the Holidays and year end tribal business we should be able to sit down and discuss new ways to improve our Tero Program.

Well I hope and pray that everyone has a very safe and Happy New Year, and if you have or will make News Year's resolutions, attempt to make it a goal that can be reached.

God Bless Everyone
Vera (Gibson) Dawsey
405-432-8745
405-307-0954

REPRESENTATIVE'S

Report

No Report

FINANCIAL CONSULTANT'S

Report

Hello Tribal Members,

Hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and wishing each of you a prosperous 2014 New Year! As the office of Treasurer begins year 2014, it is our hope that we continue to provide you transparent fiduciary financial information and continue to improve progress of our tribe.

The following activities I have been involved in and participated:

Financial Reports: Reviewed and analyzed monthly General Fund, Indirect Fund encumbrance monthly budget reports.

Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority, Inc. (ASEDA): ASEDA last board meeting was held, discussion centered on Little Axe Water District development project and a business venture discussion of local Clemence Tire dealership in Tecumseh, OK.

ASEDA 2014 budget was submitted to Executive Committee for approval. ASEDA looks toward 2014 as a year of opportunity to progress in economic development utilizing USDA funding for business development.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

U.S.D.A. Community Food Projects Grant: Participated in a free webinar sponsored by First Nations Knowledge program titled "I'm Thinking of Applying for the USDA Community Foods Projects Competitive Grants Program. Since 1996, the USDA Community Foods Project Competitive Grant has supported projects looking to promote sufficiency and food security in low-income communities.

Programs are aimed to unite the entire food system, assessing strengths, establishing linkages, and creating systems to improve self-reliance over foods. A power point presentation was provided to each webinar attendee by Vicky Karhu, Independent Consultant, topics covered James Lankford picture

U.S. Congressman James Lankford, Oklahoma 5TH District: Attended Tuesday Talk town hall meeting with Congressman James Lankford, Gordon Cooper Vo-Tech, Shawnee, OK, with Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe and her son Josh Gibson. Congressman Lankford addressed current issues with constituents and gave them a chance to ask questions. I personally would like to invite tribal members as constituents to attend upcoming community forum town hall meetings, beginning in January 2014.

Kerr Center Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program (OKBFRP): I was chosen from many applications across the state of Oklahoma to participate. Our first class will be a welcoming meeting Saturday, February 1, with students of Horticulture and Livestock. Kerr Center is a non-profit educational foundation and leader in sustainable agriculture education located in Poteau, Oklahoma. The OKBFRP program is sponsored by Mvskoke Food Sovereignty initiative (MFSI), Oklahoma Farmer and Rancher Association (OFRA), Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service and Rural Smallholder Association (RSA).

In closing, office of Treasure looks forward to our new year of providing sound financial information of tribal programs and business enterprise reports to our tribal members. If you have any questions please contact Eddie Brokeshoulder (405)275-4030 x148.

Respectfully,
Eddie Brokeshoulder
Financial Consultant

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

January, 2014

The Finance office continues our efforts in keeping the day to day activities flowing effectively and efficiently through communication between the Finance office and Programs. In working together, we have found the most time effective and cost effective processes for transacting business.

The Tribe's 2010, 2011, and 2012 Audits are "unmodified" opinion; which when compared to an educational grading scale is an A. The 2014 Indirect Cost Proposal has been submitted to the Interior Business Center (IBC) and I was notified this week that it is ready to be assigned to a negotiator. Our rate is up from 17.74% for 2010 to 21.98% for 2011 to 22.35% for 2012 and 27.39% for 2013; with 2014 being undetermined until negotiations during 2014.

We are preparing for the 2013 Audit which will begin early 2014 for all of the Tribe's entities [Casinos; Store; Restaurant; Smoke Shops; ASEDA, Inc.; ASEDA, Enterprises; ASTHA & LSWN which makes up Absentee Health Systems; and the Tribal Government.] All of the tribe's entities must be audited first and then they are combined with the Tribe's Governmental Audit.

The finance department, for 2013, is completing accounting by the 10th day of the month which has been extended from the 7th allowing the health finance to provide reports necessary for adjusting inventory and accounts receivable. Financial reporting for the Health Authority and Li Si Wi Nwi, Health Inc. boards for Absentee Health Systems, Shawnee and Little Axe (LSWN) continues monthly. The Finance staff has completed the November reconciliations and financials. It is imperative the accounting staff continue to stay ahead of all of the accounting so that audits go

smoothly, and Indirect Cost rates stay up to date. Indirect cost proposals cannot be submitted without completed audits as the audit is used to calculate the proposal. There are many processes in place in your Tribe's accounting department that ensure we keep accurate records of transactions. The Tribe's accounting processes must be in compliance with GAAP; (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) and these rules are updated annually.

The Tribe currently has compact funds of BIA, I H S, and approximately 51 Grants. In addition, the Tribe operates a General Fund and an Indirect Cost Fund. The new clinic building payments are current and have not been late and projections are that they will continue to be current going forward.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Finance Department has very hard working group of people and it is an honor to work with them, the Treasurer's office and at the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. The Finance Department employs 14: with 6 (43%) being AST Tribal Members, 2 (14%) non-AST tribal members, 6 (43%) being non-natives.

This department would like to extend a special thanks and note of appreciation to the Executive Committee for providing the tools, resources, and support to enable the finance staff to reach its accomplished goals and to continue with this effort. A special thanks and note of appreciation to Program Managers and Employees of the Tribe for their assistance and dedication in our continued group effort toward accomplishing our goal.

If you have any questions or needs, please call 405-275-4030 ext 162 and I will be glad to assist you.

Respectfully,
Belinda Collins
Controller

AST CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMITTEE REPORT

The AST Constitution Revision Committee was established in September 2008 under the Executive Committee at the time.

The Committee was made up of volunteers who were willing to work on revising the Constitution and give their input and time. There were many volunteers over the years and different EC members but the Constitution Revision Committee has continued to work on the revising the Constitution. The members and the EC at the time felt a revision to the Constitution was necessary for the advancement of the Tribe and to make the business aspect of the Tribe more profitable and productive. The intent is to revise the Constitution so that it suits the need of our Tribe and our people. The current AST Constitution is based on a template that was given to all the Tribes to use and has been in place since 1988. Much has changed since then.

With a revised Constitution, the hope is to have a more stable, economically sound and self-sustaining government for our future generations.

The Constitution Revision Committee will be meeting in January to begin the discussion on the final articles of the revised Constitution.

The CRC feel we are to the point of making final changes and then soon after going into the review process.

The AG and BIA will be sent a copy of our revised Constitution so they can tell us if we need to make changes or if more discussion is needed. Once the review is complete we will present the revised Constitution to the people and to the Executive Committee. Then the EC will have the option to pass a resolution agreeing that the revised Constitution be sent to the BIA for a referendum vote of the people.

The BIA will set up the referendum vote with the assistance of the AST. This has been a long process and we would like to thank all of those that have stayed involved and continued to be patient with the process. We would not have made it this far without out the dedication and determination of these committee/Tribal members!

If anyone would like to attend the meetings and assist us with the final revisions they are more than welcome to attend.

As we have always said this is the Constitution for everyone so as much in put as possible is greatly appreciated.

The next meeting will be January 16th at 6:30pm at the Little Axe Resource Center. The following meeting will be on February 20th at 6:30pm at the Little Axe Resource Center.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact Eddie Brokeshoulder in the Treasurer's office or email eddieb@astribe.com.

You may also email Briana Ponkilla at briana.ponkilla@astribe.com.

Governor's Report cont. from page 2

A Severe Weather Policy for the Tribe is forthcoming. This policy is to be on the December Regular Executive Committee meeting agenda. This will give the Tribe a policy to go by during extreme weather conditions and allow for the Executive Committee to decide on the closure of the tribe. At this time closure of the Tribe is based on school closures. This needs to be changed so that the business of the Tribe may occur. We are a Tribe but we also are a business and service needs don't stop. We employ staff to take care of our programs, functions and services. In 2014 the Emergency Management Coordinator position is to become full time (if I can get the budget in place) and be placed within a full functioning office of Emergency Management (EM). During the tornado disaster we were caught without an EM plan in place. We have had extreme weather issues before but the tornado disaster was one that made it clear we needed an office and staff in it. This office in 2014 will do the following:

With the EM Coordinator in place more time will be devoted to meet the goals of Emergency Management for the Tribe. There are several items that need to be addressed. The most important one is our Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan on file with the Region VI FEMA Office.

1. The Tribe's Hazard Mitigation Plan that was approved by FEMA in 2010 is good for five years and will expire in 2015. The plan outlines our proposed actions to mitigate natural hazards. The EM Coordinator will meet with the Region VI Mitigation Officer to go over the Plan and update it. The mitigation activities outlined Plan needs to be completed and updated so that the Tribe will be eligible for Pre-Disaster and Post-Disaster Mitigation grant funding. The Timeline: 1st qtr. of 2014 (contingent upon coordination with Region VI Coordinator schedule).
2. Coordinate with the Tribal Grant Coordinator this month to write grant proposal(s) for mitigation funding will be on an ongoing basis.

Linda Day is the acting disaster Emergency Manager, who is now located at the new substation in Little Axe. She is the contact for this program and may be reached at 405-275-3432. If she is unable to resolve your concerns please communicate with my office.

Law Enforcement

On Nov. 23, 2013 the Police Department participated in the Clinic Fall Fest, which allowed children to be fingerprinted for personal Identification cards.

As of Nov. 13, 2013 the Police Department started using a web based software to enhance tracking of calls and to serve the Absentee Shawnee Tribal members with better service which includes, allowing the officer to take reports and keep logs of activity without leaving their patrol unit. This should improve the efficiency of our taking calls for the Tribe. Thus far this web based software is a success by better kept records and serving the public.

The point of contact for this program is Police Chief, Brad Jackson, and he may be reached at 405-275-3200. If he is unable to resolve your concern communicate with my office.

Building Blocks & CCDF

CCDF:

This month Billie Thompson, Building Blocks (BB) Director and Briana Ponkilla, the CCDF Project Coordinator, attended the CCDF New Administrator training in Dallas, TX. They learned more about the grant and how to administer the program as well as incorporate quality care in the facilities and through our providers.

The AST CCDF program utilizes the Data Tracker program for data processing of the CCDF subsidy program. For the program year we had 26 children who received child care assistance through the subsidy portion of the CCDF grant. All providers have been compliant with our guidelines and processes for payment.

BBII is licensed for 90 children and currently have 58 children enrolled with 29 of those children being Native American. We have 18 people on staff; a Director, an Assistant Director, a Food Service Specialist and 15 Teachers/Floaters. We will be adding a few more children by the end of 2013. We would like to add more children to reach our capacity but we are finding the need to keep open spaces for current enrollees due to the lack of spaces for those who are transitioning into the older rooms. Due to DHS ratio guidelines and the floor space of our current rooms we are not able to reach our capacity. We strive to fill each room while still being in compliance with DHS. It may seem like we are not filling up the rooms but there is a reason we keep the enrollment where it is. We feel it is a necessity to incorporate more after school programs in our current system to accommodate higher enrollment for the younger children. Enrollment is an ongoing process we work on weekly.

BBII does enroll off a waiting list. Currently there are 104 native children on our waiting list from Infant to After School age. The After School waiting list consists of 40 Native American children who are waiting placement in our BBII Center. There is a great need for After School programs in our area to offset the burden that parents face with childcare needs after school from Infant to After School age. The After School waiting list consists of 40 Native American children who are waiting placement in our BBII Center. There is a great need for After School programs in our area to offset the burden that parents face with childcare needs after school.

For 2014, we have joined the Let's Move Child Care initiative for the center and will be working with the kitchen staff to ensure we meet those recommendations.

There has been progress in the construction of the BBIII program in the Little Axe area.

There are a few modifications that we are working on but they are merely storage space issues and will not affect the classrooms or child care areas.

We have started a waiting list for BBIII and will start advertising more as the opening of the center gets closer. The anticipated opening date of this facility is June 2014. We feel the need for a center in this rural area will be beneficial to the AST and Little Axe community.

Building Blocks:

Building Blocks had a very busy December as they prepared for Christmas. Their Christmas Program was on Monday the 16th. It was a huge success! The children and teachers worked very hard on their songs. We provided refreshments for the families.

There was even a visit from SANTA!
Building Blocks also provided a gift for each child.



Infants



Santa, our children and their parents!



2 Year Olds



3 Year Olds



4 Year Olds

Our Master Teachers are in the process of completing their Early Learning Guidelines Training, which is a requirement of our Stars Program. This training details the foundations of learning and how we can support those areas through our daily activities. I am also attending these trainings as a way to support my staff and to educate myself on these guidelines so that I may monitor their incorporation into our program.

Training, which is a requirement of our Stars Program. This training details the foundations of learning and how we can support those areas through our daily activities. I am also attending these trainings as a way to support my staff and to educate myself on these guidelines so that I may monitor their incorporation into our program.

As a part of staff development, I have presented the teachers with a challenge and that is to create a prop box for their classroom that is age-appropriate. This would be used as a dramatic play area. The activities must incorporate career ideas, reading/writing opportunities, and materials that encourage exploration and cooperative play. For example: A flower shop would contain flower pots, empty seed packets, plastic flowers, pictures of different flowers with the name printed below, hats, gloves, shovels, sand table, order pad, cash register and play money. The children play cooperatively as store owner and customer.

The empty seed packets and labeled pictures introduce new words and encourage reading, while taking an order improves writing skills. The cash register transactions introduce math concepts and the overall play increases social skills. The main part of the challenge was to find as many materials as they could from free resources. Parents have offered to donate items to many of the prop boxes, which allow the parents a chance to be involved in what we are doing here at Building Blocks.

Building Blocks continues to make great strides forward to improve child, family and staff satisfaction. Great compliments continue to be received pertaining to the improvements from parents and teachers. We are looking forward to see what 2014 brings!!!

Building Blocks will be closed the following days:

January 1, 2014: New Year's Day

January 20, 2014: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The point of contact for the Building Blocks program in Shawnee is Billie Thompson at 405878-0633. The contact for the Little Axe Building Block's program and/or CCDF is Brianna Ponkilla also at 405-878-0633. If they are unable to assist you with concerns contact my office.

Education

On December 10th and 11th, Tresha Spoon, Director and Blake Goodman, TYP Coordinator attended the Oklahoma Council on Indian Education's Annual Conference. This conference addressed issues regarding Indian Education funding, programming ideas, data collection/survey results, and OCIE's mission to increase the scope of its efforts across the state and nationwide. Tresha attended the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education's Annual meeting on December 13th. Tresha has been a board member since 2006 and sits on the Council's Budget and Finance Committee. Following the OCEE Annual meeting, Tresha, along with the Governor and Lesa Shaw attended a Listening session hosted by the Tribal Education Department National Assembly (TEDNA) in partnership with the US Department of Education, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), and the South Central Comprehensive Center at OU. The Listening session was for tribes to voice their comments, suggestions, and concerns with all areas of Indian Education. As the Governor I entered bullet points into the record on behalf of the Tribe.

December 12th TEDNA hosted a workshop with the BIE to demonstrate the Oklahoma State Department of Education's data sharing tool. Also, the BIE provided a template on creating an agreement with the BIE to facilitate the sharing of student data that is compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Tresha is a Board member on the TCAP Advisory Board. The Board meets the third Thursday of the month at 8:30 am in the AST Tribal Court.

The Education Department will begin accepting applications for the Big Jim Youth Award program on January 1, 2014. Please check for updates in the Tribal newsletter and on the Tribe's website under Education services.

The point of contact for this program is Tresha Spoon, Education Director, 405-275-4030, Ext. 121. Please feel free to communicate with her and if she is unable to assist you then contact my office.

Health

The AST Health System has begun the implementation of its new Customer Service Hotline. Please direct all complaints or compliments to (405) 701-7623. Please use this line as a resource. We will have each situation addressed with consistent updates from your Health Staff. Once the inquiry

Absentee Shawnee Tribe Food Sovereignty: Tradition, Food and the Future



The Absentee Shawnee Tribe on Wednesday, December 4th, sponsored the first Food Sovereignty meeting on Tradition, Food the Future at the Human Resource Department conference room. Vicky Karhu of Springfield, MO, an independent contractor to various Native Food projects across United States, presented attendees valuable information on food systems with focus on food sovereignty in Native American communities.

The purpose of our first food sovereignty meeting was to bring together a group of concerned individuals, various programs, elders and community members who are interested in the development of a Food Sovereignty organization.

The following attendees included Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe, Treasure Kathy Deere, staff members Joseph Blanchard, Thomas Owings, Emily Key, Sherman Tiger, Elder Robert White Sr., Robert White Jr., Shelby and Gary Smallwood of Aquaponics LLC, Raquel LeMaster of Okie Fresh Company, Vicky Karhu and Eddie Brokesoulder organizer of meeting.

All attendees came away with informative information on the development of an organizational structure, utilizing sustainable food processes in areas of community food gardens, our original tribal food crops and most important efforts to grow our own fresh vegetables, so that our tribal community can share and reduce the EPIDEMIC OF DIABETES in our community.

If you are interested in joining our food sovereignty cause, please contact Eddie Brokesoulder, Financial Consultant (405) 275-4030 x 148 or eddieb@astribe.com.

Congratulations



Samuel Ezra Byers

for receiving his Associates Degree from
Haskell Indian Nations University
Lawrence, Kansas, on December 5, 2013.
We are extremely proud of you and wish you
continued success with your education.
We love you very much!
From, Auntie Sherry & Uncle Marv
Uncle Shawn & Aunt Marilyn
and your cousins

PSSF/ICW/FC Up Coming Events



January - Parenting Classes

Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program Practical Parenting Classes will begin its next session on January 8, 2014 in Building #16. The classes are held for 10 weeks every Wednesday evening from 6pm to 8pm. Dinner will be served and babysitter provided when needed.

For further information on any event please contact the ICW Department

Sena Yesslith
Absentee Shawnee Tribe
ICW Department
Promoting Safe and Stable Families
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, Ok 74801
(Office) 405-878-4702
(Fax) 405-878-4540

CULTURAL PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT

The AST Cultural Preservation Department would like to pass along the following information concerning updates to each of our programs. I'd like to remind Tribal members and employees of the hours of the gift shop as we are open from 8 to 5 as well as through the lunch hour.

Gift Shop

The Gift Shop continues to make progress in sales and new inventory. Word of mouth is spreading about the types of products that we are carrying, and this is in a constant state of change. We now have the capabilities to accept payment by credit card, and in the future, there is a possibility that you may be able to use social media to view and purchase gift shop items. If you haven't stopped by lately, come in and browse around. If we don't have what you need, let us know, and we can 'special order' your request. For all other questions, please contact Esther at ext. 122 or email at elowden@astribe.com.

Library

We will be advertising for library staff within the month and hope to have all programs in connection with the library restored by February. If any tribal member has library experience, please apply.

Cultural Preservation

On November 15, 2013, we hosted a meet and greet luncheon featuring Viola Harjo the eldest female tribal member (see picture to the right). There was a good turnout, and everybody enjoyed listening to the life history of Mrs. Harjo. At this time, we would like to thank everybody that attended the luncheon.

Also, out of respect for the Longhorn family and due to the forecasted weather for that Saturday, the beaded collar class that was scheduled for Saturday, December 21, 2013 has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2014. If you are interested, please contact our offices and sign-up before January 10 so that we can make certain there are enough materials for participants.



THPO

In the future, there will exist the potential opportunity for tribal members to become certified Heritage Resource Technician Paraprofessionals (HRT Paraprofessionals). HRT Paraprofessionals are individuals who help in cultural resource identification and participate in Heritage stewardship projects or simply they serve as tribal monitors on projects. So, it is important that individuals interested in the HRT Paraprofessional Program have a highly understanding of their traditions and culture. In order to become an HRT Paraprofessional, individuals will have to complete an 80 hour training which include both classroom work and field work. We plan on hosting this certification training sometime in the spring. As time gets closer, we will be announcing a specific date for those that would be interested. When the time comes, we will be looking for both tribal members as well as individuals from other tribes to serve as tribal monitors.

Your concerns are important to us. We thank you for the continued support of our department as we continue to make changes to our programs in order to provide the best service to our customers. Thank you for your time.

Joseph H. Blanchard

Cultural Preservation Director/

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer



The AST Fitness Program would like to extend an invite to all tribal members looking to increase their levels of physical activity and learn more about fitness and exercise. The AST Fitness Facility at the Resource Center is fully equipped with state of the art treadmills, elliptical machines, stationary cycles, dumbbells, isolation strength machines, and a cable machine. Our facility is also equipped with freestanding striking bags, medicine balls, exercise balls, fitness mats, resistance bands, BOSU balls, and other various exercise apparatus for your preferred workout. The AST Fitness Program currently provides free fitness classes to all tribal members. Classes include: Kickboxing, Circuit Training, Chair Exercise, Tai Chi, Boot camp, and Aerobic Fitness. The AST Fitness Program is here to help you get started on increasing your levels of physical activity and exercise. We invite you to come visit our fitness facility and see what our fitness program can provide for you.



AST Fitness Facility Hours

Monday through Thursday

6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday

6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday

CLOSED

405-364-7298



**PARTICIPATE IN OUR
FOCUS GROUP & RECEIVE**

FREE 20\$ gift card!

The Behavioral Health department will be having a Focus Group in January. We are looking for participants to discuss and focus on underage drinking and substance abuse. This is just a round table discussion about community concerns on the above issues. We are looking for adult community members as well as youth participants 15-18 years old! The date is TBD in late January.

First come basis.

GOODY BAGS! Gift CARDS!

For more information, or to add your name to the list please contact Kasey Dean at:

Behavioral Health Services

Kdean@astribe.com

Office- 405-701-7993



Governor Butler-Wolfe, State Representative Justin Wood, and Dell Krebs, President of Safe Events for Families of Shawnee



State Rep. Ron Sharp and Governor Butler-Wolfe December 17, 2013 at Representative James Lankford, talk community forum at Gordon Cooper Vo-Tech

Governor's Report cont. from page 7

or action has been taken or process addressed, and the review of all issues are completed, the Health Director, Mr. Rogers and/or his designee, will personally contact each caller with updates, decisions, or questions pertaining to how the case was fixed or addressed. This will allow the leadership to expedite your concerns efficiently and concisely, as well as monitoring and tracking the overall improvements in our services to the tribe.

We are also updating our customer service feedback cards at the clinics and will begin reporting them on a monthly basis beginning in Jan 2014 to the Governor's office and to the Health Boards for visibility on action(s) taken.

We are looking at entering into an agreement with the Veteran's Administration (VA) with eligible services for our tribal veterans to begin in early Feb/Mar 2014. Veterans of course may already be seen at our clinics but this agreement will allow the Absentee Shawnee clinics to be reimbursed by the VA services, whereby many members access services at the VA in OKC. eligible services for our tribal veterans to begin in early Feb/Mar 2014. Veterans of course may already be seen at our clinics but this agreement will allow the Absentee Shawnee clinics to be reimbursed by the VA services, whereby many members access services at the VA in OKC.

A pending selection for a new medical director is under review by the Governor's office, Shareholders Representatives, the ASTHA and Li-Si-Wi-Nwi Health, Inc., Boards. The Shareholders Representatives will meet and vote on this pending action. At the request of the Tribe the AG will negotiate and/or work on an offer of employment to the prospective Native American candidate.

Access to care in both the behavioral health and dental areas is improving by entering into additional service or employment agreements. Our Primary care will add some new providers after Christmas to both the Shawnee and Little Axe clinics to help with same day appointment requests and/or acute same day appointment access needs.

The new Diabetes Grant Coordinator, Mrs. Emily Key, is also on board now and making rapid gains in reinvigorating this effort with technical assistance from the I.H.S. area office's Endocrinologist, Dr. Briarasche.

If you have questions for the Health area please contact Mark Rogers, Health Director, at 405-447-0300 (Little Axe) or 405-878-5850 (Shawnee). If you are unable to get a response or your issue address please contact my Office.

Office of Environmental Health & Engineering (OEH&E)

The OEH&E Director attended the Indian Health Service Fall Meeting December 11&12, 2013. The agenda included Rural Development Funding, Final Reports and HITS Reports-Tracking Progress through GPS site locating home sites. Once the home sites are located we will report them in the IHS Housing Inventory Tracking System (HITS) system online.

OEH&E is completing two water well renovations that include new well houses that had been destroyed by the Tornadoes. OEH completed a water well chlorination for a member that was having issues with bad smells in the water system from non-use.

OEH met with the EPA on the Thunderbird Water System for sanitary survey that was completed. The EPA will provide a final report sometime in Jan 2014. The EPA did provide a preliminary finding report for deficiencies that need to be resolved. OEH is working on resolving these issues now before the final report is issued in Jan. Examples of deficiencies are: the overflow on water storage tank #1 does not terminate within 12 to 24" from the ground. Both standpipes need to be cleaned; standpipe #1 appears to have a leak at the base. The EPA did recommend that we provide a full time water operator for the AST water systems as we continue to expand.

I am finishing up on the Environmental Assessment for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Tribal Youth Camp project at this time. The required Archeological Survey report has been completed on the 200 acre site. As soon as we complete the Environmental Assessment and post the findings, we will be able to start construction of the camp site, which is expected within the month of Jan 2014.

The L.A. Daycare Project-I met with the contractor and Lauri Brockman of Wasserstrom and Sons who is a commercial kitchen equipment supply company. We sat down and figured the sizes of all the required equipment for the kitchen. At the conclusion of the meeting it was determined the kitchen size needs to be enlarged to accommodate the equipment, storage

and allow for an eat-in dining area.

On Friday, December 13, 2013 I met with the contractor and Briana Ponkilla and went over the Daycare Kitchen layout and came up with a kitchen layout that will accommodate all the kitchen equipment, storage and eat-in requirements needed. I am scheduling a meeting with the Daycare Architect as soon as possible to make these kitchen corrections.

Intergovernmental Relations & Planning

Again, I would like to bring up the need for a full functioning Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Office. It is my intent to put this office into place in January. Currently I am receiving some resistance from some of the elected body and Finance. This office is strongly needed to conduct planning initiatives, data accumulation, liaison efforts with regulatory and legislative bodies. If we are to make progress for the future we have to take the right steps to do it. This is one of those. Let me reiterate this office will have 5 to 6 staff in it. The funding this year will come from 'carryover' from the clinic and not directly out of compact funds. Funds under Indian Health Service are under my direct oversight. We as a Self-Governance tribe are authorized under P.L. 93-638, as amended, which gives tribes the flexibility to utilize compact funds within their systems as the tribe deems appropriate. The planning function will assist the tribe and the health department. Next year (or if possible to get the Indirect Cost rate proposal modified this year) this function may be predominantly paid out of indirect cost.

Recently I attended the Tribal Nations Leaders conference in Washington, D.C. and I along with many other Tribal leaders was interviewed by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) about my viewpoint on the mascots being used by professional teams. Of the many tribal leaders interviewed I was one of the individuals used by NCAI to illustrate the concerns of Tribes to our United States elected officials. Today our legal firm advised that there is a strong push by Obama, the congressional and senate majority leaders to take a position on the accurate portrayal of Native Americans on the use of team mascots. I believe that although my piece in this project was small it added to making a positive change that will be felt by our Indian children. I, and my Special Projects Coordinator, Lesa B. Shaw, while in Washington, D.C. met with Senator Coburn and Inhoffe's staffers; we also met with Congressman Lankford and with Congressman Cole's staffers; and Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn on key issues facing our Tribe. It was a full and very productive visit.

In conclusion - I have 18 months to go and we are seeing some changes taking place but I need your help and support to continue these forward moving initiatives. Change takes time and I don't have that much left. While I am here I want to accomplish everything I can for you, for our children, young adults, adults and elders. I am calling upon you to help me move things forward - how can you do that? Support me through letters, cards, calls - telling other Executive Committee members this is what you want and please attend the Executive Committee meetings to be a part of this great challenge and opportunity!

While I am here I want to accomplish everything I can for you, for our children, young adults, adults and elders. I am calling upon you to help me move things forward - how can you do that? Support me through letters, cards, calls - telling other Executive Committee members this is what you want and please attend the Executive Committee meetings to be a part of this great challenge and opportunity!

Thank you again for your support.

I hope that you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season.

WE, meaning you, the people of the Tribe, and I, your Governor, are
Building For the Future

(BFF)! Let's build together and move the Tribe forward.

FY-2013
YTD TAX COLLECTIONS
(thru 11/30/13)

TAX CATEGORY													YEAR-TO-DATE	% OF TAXES
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL	COLLECTED
Sales (6%)	\$5,320.89	\$5,961.53	\$10,318.20	\$5,250.35	\$6,199.63	\$5,694.53	\$10,621.07	\$1,015.26	\$4,978.72	\$10,604.50	\$894.73	\$0.00	\$66,859.41	1.92%
Gaming % of free cash	\$414,328.00	\$408,888.00	\$225,370.00	\$224,409.00	\$0.00	\$258,496.00	\$368,744.00	\$260,000.00	\$380,605.00	\$259,287.00	\$135,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,935,127.00	84.45%
Employee (1%)	\$29,238.39	\$4,799.87	\$4,314.16	\$20,146.42	\$11,097.65	\$11,469.05	\$8,437.34	\$736.94	\$24,992.83	\$14,764.66	\$453.47	\$0.00	\$130,450.78	3.75%
Severance (8%)	\$15,812.22	\$5,128.09	\$0.00	\$21,426.59	\$12,234.71	\$1,488.58	\$19,054.69	\$10,289.60	\$8,658.11	\$12,002.16	\$6,214.64	\$0.00	\$112,309.39	3.23%
Motor Vehicle	\$14,481.54	\$13,521.61	\$15,001.64	\$13,851.28	\$13,034.02	\$15,104.71	\$14,605.08	\$13,974.15	\$13,338.22	\$13,981.32	\$11,037.45	\$0.00	\$151,931.02	4.37%
Tobacco Refund	\$10,087.72	\$12,244.26	\$8,474.55	\$9,091.57	\$11,494.05	\$10,776.45	\$9,807.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,603.56	\$0.00	\$76,579.86	2.20%
TOTAL TAXES	\$489,268.76	\$450,543.36	\$263,478.55	\$294,175.21	\$54,060.06	\$303,029.32	\$431,269.88	\$286,015.95	\$432,572.88	\$310,639.64	\$158,203.85	\$0.00	\$3,473,257.46	
Miscellaneous	\$970.00	\$250.00	\$106.75	\$230.00	\$155.00	\$170.00	\$140.00	\$170.00	\$150.00	\$108.00	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$2,509.75	0.07%
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$490,238.76	\$450,793.36	\$263,585.30	\$294,405.21	\$54,215.06	\$303,199.32	\$431,409.88	\$286,185.95	\$432,722.88	\$310,747.64	\$158,263.85	\$0.00	\$3,475,767.21	100%

FREE TAX PREPARATION

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe, in partnership with the IRS, is offering free tax preparation at Title VI building, Tribal Complex, beginning January 29, 2014 through April 12, 2014.



KEEP YOUR CASH!

AST VITA tax preparation site will prepare your Federal and State income taxes for free, file electronically, and your refund can be deposited in your bank account.

GET YOUR CREDITS!

Millions of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) dollars are waiting to be claimed if your family earned less than \$58,000 (Adjusted Gross Income – AGI). Based on your income and number of qualifying children.

Appointment only unless otherwise noted!

**Tentative Schedule: Wednesday 3 – 7
Thursday 3 – 7
Saturday 9 – 2**

Please bring the following items:

- **A copy of last year's tax return**
- **Taxpayers Proof of Identity**
- **All forms, W-2, 1098 and 1099**
- **Information for other income**
- **Identification number for Child Care Provider**
- **Information for deductions/credits**
- **Proof of account for direct deposit of refund (e.g. voided check)**
- **Social Security Cards and / or ITIN notices / cards for you, your spouse and dependents.**

For more information contact Eddie Brokeshoulder (405)275-4030 x 148.



2% milk served daily

Menu subject to change

January 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 AST Complex Closed New Year's Day	2 Chef Salad Ham Egg, Chez Crackers/Peaches	3 Biscuits Sausage Gravy Scrambled Eggs	4
5	6 Turkey Wrap Pickle, Lett, Tom Mac Salad Fresh Fruit	7 Goulash Squash Garlic Bread Tossed Salad*	8 Stew Cornbread Chez Sticks Cookie	9 Chicken Strips Mashed Pot/Gravy Greenbeans Mixed Fruit	10 Waffles Bacon Tropical Fruit	11
12	13 Tamales Spanish Rice Chips/Salsa	14 BBQ Chicken Baked Beans Veggies Bread/Peaches	15 Lasagna Veggies Bread Stick Pineapples	16 Pinto Beans w/ ham Skillet Bread Cake	17 Cereal Sausage Patty Toast Fresh Fruit	18
19	20 AST Complex Closed Martin Luther King Jr Day	21 Salisbury Steak Mashed Pot/Gravy Beets Fruit	22 Chicken Breast Wild Rice Veggies Roll/Crisp	23 Beef Tips & Noodles Veggies Mixed Fruit	24 Biscuits Sausage Gravy Scrambled Eggs Fruit	25
26	27 Hot Ham & Chez Sandwich Pot. Salad Chips Pears	28 Mexican Casserole Ranch Beans Salsa Cinnamon Roll	29 Roast Red Pot Carrots Roll Mandarin Oranges	30 Fish Mac n Chez Tossed Salad* Hushpuppies Pudding	31 Grits Ham Toast Fruit	

**NOT GOING TO BE HOME
LET US KNOW AT 405-275-4030 EXT 169
OR NOTIFY YOUR DRIVER**

Camp Nikoti Youth Programs

After School Program

Our students have been working really hard to get their grades up and studying hard for their semester tests. They have put in a lot of work over the past few months and have shown a lot of progress in and out of the classroom. I want to thank our tutors for putting in extra time to help our youth get caught up, and I want to thank our students and their families for working hard to achieve their goals. We want to thank Little Axe schools and the JOM program for their donations to the program. We are excited and looking forward to getting started next semester.

Youth/Juvenile Diversion Program

We wrapped up our diversion program for the semester with a guest speaker. The families really enjoyed the presentation and took a lot of valuable information away. We received a lot of positive feedback from the families going through the program. They have been seeing a lot of great results in their households and families since they began our program. We look forward to continuing work with them in the New Year.

AST Youth Council

The youth council had their first meeting this month cancelled due to the weather.

I just want to thank all of our students and their families for the effort and hard work that they have put in this semester. We look forward to the New Year and continuing working to help these kids and families achieve their educational goals. If you have any questions or would like to be a part of any of these programs, please contact Blake Goodman, 364-7569, at the Little Axe Resource center or Tresha Spoon, 275-4030 ext.193, at the complex in Shawnee.

My STAFF IS AWESOME, THEY WORK HARD IN ALL KINDS OF WEATHER & SITUATIONS. I COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER TEAM. From: Dos Owings



Donna showing Ted how to carry a box



Feed The Children Truck



**Sacha Almanza and her helper:
From the Oklahoma City Inter-Tribal Health Board**



Johnnie, Wayne Wilson, and Guy



Title VI driver Lucia McKinney is driving the maintenance pick-up to finish her route.



Mary, Richard, and William



Oh look Santa sent his Elf Isaac to help with delivering the Feed the Children Boxes to the homebound!!!

Thank you Isaac!!



Chrissy, Emily Key, & Buster



Lucia and Robert loading boxes



Marie Gibson and MaryAnn Gibson



Guy, what a good helper



Robert helping Vanessa Smith with her boxes.



Lucia



Boxes of hygiene and food



Rita Wilson & Margaret Ellis



Aguirre Perez, Mabel Beatrice
 Alford Jr., Paul Leon
 Alford, David Wesley
 Alford, Robert Bruce
 Alford, Sandra Kaye
 Altman, Garrett Michael
 Armstrong, Billy Joe
 Armstrong, Frank Lee
 Atkinson, Maureen Jessica
 Barber, Joseph Leeroy
 Barton, Brittany Lynn
 Bates, Terri Elaine
 Bayliss, Jeffery Channing
 Beach, Cary Sue
 Bettelyoun, Kelan Chase
 Bittle, Boston Warrior
 Blalock, William Charles
 Blanchard II, Aaron Gabriel
 Blanchard, Bernice Starr
 Blanchard, Chelsey Kolesha
 Blanchard, Chester Vernon
 Blanchard, Cory Eugene
 Blanchard, Terance Blaine
 Blanchard, Twyla Gayle
 Boyd, Ladarius Eugene
 Bragg, Ronald Lee
 Brannon, Tyneeka Alexandria
 Bread, Christina L.M.
 Brinson Jr, F E
 Britt, Kelly Lee
 Brokeshoulder, Sherri Dawn
 Brown, Harper Janiece
 Brown, Jennifer Renee
 Burkhard, Valarie Mae
 Casteel, Annabella Rai
 Cathers, Connie Frances
 Chisholm, Mark Wayne
 Citty, Rebecca
 Coleman, Justin Ray
 Colungo, Damien Micheal
 Condra, Karri Marie
 Coon, Wynona Sloat
 Cope, Michell Eldon
 Coriz, Matoka Marie
 Cox, Micheal Sage
 Creek, Bessie Lee
 Cripps, Jimmy Mark
 Crossley, Orin Lee
 Crossley, Rachel Ann
 Cruz, Reyna Jalyssa
 Cutler, Breanna Kailee
 Dankenbring, Melody Renee
 Darnell, Carol Jane
 Davis, Rhonda Jean
 Day, Vivian Denise
 Day, Zander Nicholas
 Deer, Braelyn Ariyahna
 Deere, Christopher Lee
 Deere, Clinton Jess
 Delodge, Raymond Louis
 Dibler Jr, Daymon Daniel
 Eckles, Ethan Andrew
 Edwards, John L.
 Ellis, Brandi Nicole
 Ellis, Jackson Matthew
 Ellis, Lisa Marie
 Ellis, Ryan Mark
 Felton, Kandice Nicole Grace
 Fire, Orphie Jane

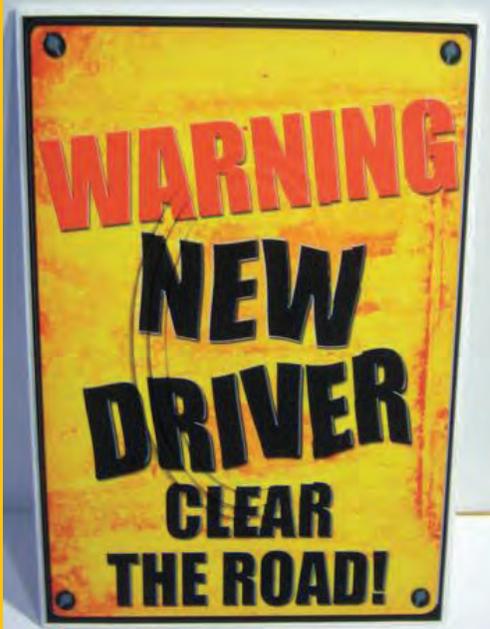
Flowers, Jasmine Lynne
 Foreman Jr., James Louis
 Foreman, Anthony Clayton
 Foreman, Elijah Bryce
 Foreman, Hunter Lynn
 Freeman, Jerilyn Kay Barnett
 Fritsch, Jaxon James
 Fruit, Andrea Dee
 Geissler, Jarett Paul
 Gibson, Braxton Reid Caddo
 Gibson, Clarence
 Gibson, Gloria Lynne
 Gibson, Jeremy Lee
 Gibson, Jimmy Ray
 Gibson, Martha Lynette
 Gibson, Ronnie Caleb
 Gibson, Walter Ray
 Gilman, Howard Floyd
 Gonzalez, Xochitl Olivia
 Goodman, Thomas Donald
 Granstrom, Tyler Michael
 Hall, Bonnee RaeLynn
 Harjo, Nicholas Gerald
 Harrington, Carolyn Jean
 Harris, Samuel Lee Allen Sabre
 Haumpy, Tacie A'lize
 Hawk, Quincy Ryan
 Heatley, Cashis King
 Heatley, Prada DeeAnn
 Herrera, Angel Juventino
 Hill, Keiton James
 Hill, Stephen Lee
 Hood, Dantel Ruya
 Hough, Alyssa Blake
 Howe, Angelina Marie
 Humphrey, Lou Ann
 Innis, Nicholas Alexander
 Irvin, Michael Reed
 Isaacs, Betty B
 James, Diane Renee
 Januszewski, Connie Bradley
 Jimboy, Kaden Allen
 Jiron, Mary Elizabeth
 Johnson Jr., Henry Caddo
 Johnson Jr., Josie Ed
 Johnson, Bradley Nathaniel Preston Scott
 Johnson, Bruce Dale
 Johnson, David Lee
 Johnson, Janessa Leann
 Johnson, Patrick Wayne
 Johnson, Pauletta Elephant

Johnson, Tanessa Anah Marie
 Kaseca, Kesa La'nae
 Kaseca, Thomas James
 Keith, Shelli Leann
 Kelough, Manuel LeeWayne
 Kelsey, Kyler Seann
 Komahcheet, Nolan Frank
 Larson, Brooke Nichole
 Leath Jr., William Jake
 Lester, Bradley Shane
 Lester, Brandy Nicole
 Lewelling, Amber Dawn
 Lewelling, Stacie Berlyn
 Little Axe Jr., Ricky Lee
 Little Axe, Courtney Nicole
 Little Axe, Darrell James
 Little Axe, Daveny Amour
 Little Axe, John Al
 Little Charley, Keith Eldon
 Little, Mia Rachele
 Little, Shea Alexis
 Little, Sutton Keith
 Little, Troy Don
 Littlebear Jr., Michael
 Littlecreek, Catherine
 Littlecreek, Kami Dawn
 Livsey, Shannon Marie
 Longacre, Nancy L. Warrior
 Longhorn II, Leonard Wayne
 Longhorn Moore, Tylee Raquel
 Longhorn, Bruce Jerome Allen
 Longhorn, Crystal Alaina
 Longhorn, Ladonna Gail
 Longhorn, Shawna Michele
 Longman, Caitlin Oteaka
 Lovins, Marilyn Sue
 Lowe, Charles Jake Kilraine
 Lowry, Linda Diane
 Maldonado, Michael Tyrus
 Mann Jr., Glenn Dale
 Mann Sr., Glenn Dale
 Mann, Marc Andrew
 Marquez II, Quentin Miles
 Marriott, Cadence Sunay
 Martin, Jared Webster
 Martinez, Laronda Ann
 Martinez, Sam Littlecreek
 Martinez, Winter Dawn
 Masquat, Kinsley Rae
 Mathany, Connie Ruth
 Maxwell, Diondre DaShawn

Maxwell, Jimmy Ray
 Maxwell, Nellie Tiger
 McBroom, Tallon Cole
 McCreary, Gabriel David
 McCreary, Lisa Jane
 McGirt, Travis Wade
 McPherson -Khalil, Jessica Lynn
 McPherson, Alan Lynn
 McPherson, Mason Thomas
 McPherson-Brittain, Jason Tyler
 Meek Jr, Jimmy David
 Melton, Serena Jo
 Melzer, Logan Michael Boyer
 Mendoza, Samuel Lee
 Merrell, Maddox Andre
 Milburn, Michelle Sahara
 Miller, Laney Lee
 Miller, Tre Dean
 Mitchell, Gage Jaydn
 Mitchell, Nycole Morningstar
 Montgomery, Nathan Andre Patrick
 Morgan, Autumn Dawn
 Morris Jr., John Gilbert
 Morris, Betty Sue Williams
 Morris, David Leon
 Morris, Jordan Marie
 Morris, Lucas Hayden
 Munroe, Ellen Marie
 Nail, Brandy Diane
 Nance, Desmond Ravon
 Nance, Eva Renae
 Neash, Lonnie Allen
 Ned, Tina Renee
 Nelson, Payton Ashlee
 Nicholson Jr., Larry Zenith
 Nicholson, Victoria Rose
 Norton, Jai'Nasha Camille
 Odell, April Babette
 Panther Jr., William
 Panther, Cheyanne
 Parker, Muriel Gene Tyner
 Parsons-Squire, Autumn Lynn
 Patty, Elsie Wynona
 Pearce, Kelle Dawn
 Pearl Atwood, Donna Sue
 Pease, Taylor Renee
 Perryman, Mary Ella
 Pewenofkit, Alta Rochelle
 Queen, Marlene Lucille
 Rakestraw, Mariah Diane
 Ramirez II, Antonio

Ramirez, Joe Anthony
 Ramos, Georgina Lynn
 Reed, Teresa June
 Riden, C'anne Danielle
 Ridenour, Logan Taylor
 Riedel, Brian Alan
 Roach, Dawson Wayne
 Roberts, Ramona Lee
 Robertson, Wanda Lejean
 Robinson, Shawnee Sharisse
 Robison, Tyrel Lane
 Rochon, Stephen Arthur
 Rogers, Tammy Sue
 Rolette, Ty Clay
 Ruimveld, Chad Christopher
 Rye, Gail Marie Alford
 Sanders, Dylan Wayne
 Seber, Jamie Nicole
 Seber, Lauren Elizabeth
 Serena, Anthony George
 Shaffer, Christie Elaine
 Shawnee, Keaten Wayne
 Sherrill, Quentin Patrick
 Shields, Aaliyah Brooke
 Shields, Laila Annaliese
 Shular, Sandra Jeanne Hood
 Sloat, Cilicia Ann
 Sloat, Warren Howard
 Smith, Al Murray
 Smith, Mariah Love
 Smith, Ryan James
 Snake, Anita Mae Burton
 Snake, Barry Gabriel
 Sorrells, Sandra Lee
 Spoon, Barbara Jo
 Spoon, Carl David
 Spoon, Christopher Jaye
 Spoon, Deric Brandon
 Spoon, Tina Louise
 Spybuck, Winter Dawn
 Squire, Jimmy Dowell
 Starr, Adrien Miguel
 Starr, Martin
 Starr, Rance George
 Steinruck, Eugene Donnell
 Stewart, Glenn Alan
 Stewart, James Clyde
 Stone, Brian David
 Stricklin, Victor Medrano
 Stryker, Rodney Shane
 Sullivan, Glenda Ann Little Axe

Surface, Ashley Katherine
 Sutton, Santos Daniel
 Switch, Casey Camden
 Switch, Hannah Nichelle
 Switch, Tiana Bright Path
 Tarbox, Christy Lee
 Taylor, Nathan Wayne
 Thomas, Joel Elijah
 Thornhills, Nina Canalas
 Thorpe II, Ronnie Allen
 Thorpe, Shylah Jean
 Tiger, Christopher Blaine
 Tiger, Wanda Little Axe
 Tilley, Makiah Lynn
 Tolbert, Ashlyn Reilly
 Torres, Fernando Jose
 Torres, Rosa Marie
 Treat, Joshua Steven
 Turner, Timothy Jake
 Tyner, Tonia Melanie
 Uchida, Nolan Garrett
 Valdivia, Thomas Lesley
 Villalobos, Valentina Noel
 Wahpekeche, Eric Lynd
 Wahpepah, Hazel Paige
 Walker, Roger Steven
 Warrior, Tobin Shane
 Washington, Rebecca Marie
 Watson, Daniel Owen
 Watson, Julie Marie
 Watson, Matthew Payden
 Watson, Patrick Scott
 Weatherley, Amandia Quaymmie
 White Thunder, Sheldon Thomas
 White, Jesse Lee
 White, Seth Wesley
 Whited, Angela Kay
 Williams, Brennan Marie
 Williams, Joseph Billy
 Williams, Joseph Bryan
 Williams, Joshua David
 Willoughby, Marcie Deann
 Wilson, Aarion James Deer
 Wilson, Alix Re'Ann
 Wilson, Alta Louise
 Wilson, Calvin Lee
 Wilson, Christopher Dale
 Wilson, Dean Owen
 Wilson, Edward Wayne
 Wilson, Faith Anne Marie
 Wilson, James Francis
 Wilson, Michael Eugene
 Wilson, Stephen Edward
 Wilson, Wesley Dean
 Wise, Landon Kyle
 Wolf Sr., Aaron Paul
 Wolf, Angel Erica
 Wolfe Jr., Houston Hugh
 Womack, Kaleigh Patricia
 Woods, Jiya Marie
 Wright, Phillip Lawrence
 Wunderlin, Donna Jo
 Wyatt, James Allen
 Yandell, Leon Allen

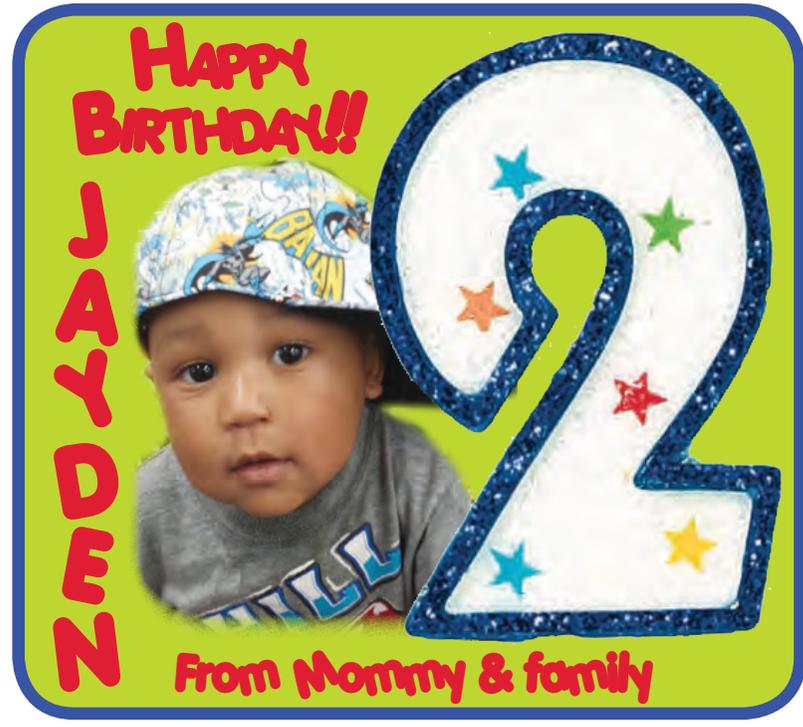


HAPPY 16TH
BIRTHDAY
(GRANDSON)
JARETT GEISSLER
WE LOVE YOU
BUNCHES GRANNY
AND PAPA DAVIS

Clayton and Zayden Foreman!!
Happy

Birthday
Hope you have a great day!
Love Foremans and Kasecas

JARETT GEISSLER
IS TURNING **16**
ON JANUARY 23rd!
WE WISH YOU A
VERY SAFE AND
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
LOVE, AUNT RHONDA AND
FAMILY



Happy Birthday To All Our
Family Born In January
Clay Foreman
Zayden Foreman
Mary Foreman
Elijah Foreman
Pat Johnson
Makiah Tilley
Talon Tahah
Now let's eat
cake!!!
Love you guys
Marvin & Sherry



Ronelle Bouchard
&
Trey Baker



We wish you and Trey many happy years!!!!
Congratulations!
From Rhonda, Sena, & Julie

Roy & Rhonda Kaseca
(Mom & Dad)

Happy 40th Anniversary

Love, Nikki, Kevin & Family

Horse Shoe Bend After School Program

January 2014 News

As the first semester of school is ending students in the Horse Shoe Bend After School Program are very excited about the Christmas holiday. They are looking forward to the break from school. These students have worked very hard during this first semester and with the assistance of the Program staff are working through and meeting the hard challenges in their homework. Stuart Rolette and Randall Watson have worked hard this first semester in making certain the students stay on task with school studies. Our tutors from Oklahoma Baptist University have been a vital part to our student's academic achievements. Most of our tutors, if not all of them, will be back at Horse Shoe Bend for the second semester. The Horse Shoe Bend After School Program will re-open on January 13, 2014 for the second semester.

ALIJAH GIPP



Alijah Gipp, is a first grader at North Rock Creek School, and was awarded the 'Scholar Student' for the month of December by his first grade class. He has been attending the Program for one year. Alijah is a very bright student and is very active. Alijah likes to smile and you can tell when he is engaged in something he enjoys by that special smile of his. He is the son of Kyle and Jamie Gipp. Alijah is a member of the Sac and Fox Tribe of Oklahoma.

KALEB MASQUAS



Kaleb Masquas, is a first grader at North Rock Creek School, he was selected as the 'Achiever' in his class for the month of December. He has been attending the After School Program for two and half years.

Kaleb is a very active student and is always willing to help others. Kaleb is the son of Phillip Masquas and the grandson of Mark and Jena Masquas. He is a member of the Sac and Fox Tribe of Oklahoma.

TRISTEN BYNUM



Tristen Bynum, is a first grader at North Rock Creek School, he was awarded the 'Achiever of the Month' for December. Tristen has been attending the After School Program from the Program's inception. Tristen works hard on his daily homework from school. He is the son of John and Loreena Bynum. Tristen is a member of the Sac and Fox Tribe of Oklahoma.

I found myself honored to be present at the Award Assembly on December 2, 2013 to see these students be awarded for their accomplishments. If I had more time I would wish to spend it with students at Horse Shoe Bend. Although busy in my elected role, I still find the time to show up so that I can make my presence felt at the Program. It is uplifting for me to see my students as they grow to become productive citizens in the community. If you have any questions or concerns please call 405 481-0397
Thank you,
Edwina Butler-Wolfe, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS BENEFIT ENROLLMENT FAIR

Have you ever served in the military?

Are you a family member of someone who has served in the Military?

This is your opportunity to come and ask the experts for assistance.



Hosts: Oklahoma City VA Medical Center
Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center
Seminole Nation
Creek Nation

Location: Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center
224 E. Poplar Street
Holdenville, OK

Date: February 21, 2014
Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Meals: Snacks and drinks at 9:00 AM
Lunch at 12:00

Contacts:

- Candy Klumpp, RN
Native American Nurse Navigator
Oklahoma City VAMC
405-456-3808
- Frank Sewell
Tribal Veterans Representative
Seminole Nation
405-919-9094
- Sarai Geary
Community Development Specialist
Creek Nation
918-841-3855

Other Representatives:

- Veterans Health Administration
- Veterans Benefits Administration
- Oklahoma Veterans Center
- Tulsa Veterans Center
- Tribal Court Programs
- Veterans Upward Bound Program
- Oklahoma Health Care Authority
- Tricare/Humana
- Workforce Oklahoma
- Office of Special Trustee
- ODMHSAS
- Tribal training, health care services, and housing services, etc.
- Just to name a few!

**Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Education Department**

2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive

(405) 275-4030 Toll free (800) 256-3341 Fax (405) 273-7938

youthaward@astribe.com

Applications accepted:

Jan. 1st –March 31st

Finalists announced:

May 2014

- \$1,000 Scholarship Big Jim Academic Achievement Award (Male)
- \$1,000 Scholarship Big Jim Academic Achievement Award (Female)
- \$1,000 Scholarship Big Jim Athlete of the Year (Male)
- \$1,000 Scholarship Big Jim Athlete of the Year (Female)

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: _____
(LAST) (FIRST) (MI)

Enrollment #: _____

Address: _____
(STREET) (CITY) (STATE) (ZIP)

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

High School Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Guidance Counselor: _____ Phone #: _____

Sport: _____ Position: _____

Coach: _____ Phone #: _____
(FIRST) (LAST)

All Absentee Shawnee High School Seniors are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Documents to be included with application:

- Official High School Transcript
- Letter of Recommendation (Educator/Coach)
- Tribal Enrollment Card (copy)
- Resume of Accomplishments and Activities
- 500-word Essay: How do you feel your accomplishments (knowledge/training) will influence your future?
- Video (optional): no more than 10 minutes in length

**AST EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:
BIG JIM YOUTH AWARDS APPLICATIONS**

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Education Department will begin accepting applications for the following awards:

- Big Jim Academic Achievement Award (Male and Female)
- Big Jim Athlete of the Year (Male and Female)

High school seniors of both genders within the 50 United States are eligible to apply for these awards for the 2013/2014 school year. Applications will be accepted from January 1 to March 31, 2014 by US mail or email, official transcripts must be mailed. The official application form will be available at www.astribe.com under the Education Department. The \$1000.00 award is in the form of a scholarship to the college or university where the award recipient will attend for the fall 2013 semester.

Individuals are encouraged to nominate deserving high school Seniors. You may nominate yourself. Please refer to the application for required documents. Eligible nominations will be judged by a panel of (non-AST) experts assembled specifically for this purpose. The intent is to bring together an unbiased group of experts to evaluate the applicants in an impartial and unbiased environment. Their decisions are final with respect to all matters concerning these awards.

Awards will be announced in May 2014.

Award recipients will be recognized as the 2013/2014 Big Jim Academic Achievement Award winner or the Big Jim Athlete of the Year. In addition to this recognition the award recipients will receive a \$1000.00 scholarship to be used towards their education and the advancement of their career.

Questions on these awards program should be addressed to:

Absentee Shawnee Tribe Education Department c/o Tresha Spoon
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801
405.275.4030 Ext 121 youthaward@astribe.com

**Hi everyone. You may know that I have been out sick fore a while but I'll be back restarting all the music classes on December 02/2013 if you are one of the music programs students please feel free to call or email me and let's get you back in your music class A.S.A.P. thanks for all your prayers & support may GOD bless.
And remember all classes are FREE!**

**Music Program
405-370-5576 my cell
405-275-4030ext :117 office
pbradley@astribe.com e mail**

**Thanks
Phil Bradley**

**Purpose you life in the service of your people and
remember to enjoy each day.**

VETERANS!

THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE VETERANS ASSOCIATION IS SEEKING VETERANS OF THE SHAWNEE TRIBE THAT HAVE SERVED IN WORLD WAR I AND II AND SERVED DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME AS CODE TALKERS.

**PLEASE CONTACT WALTER LARNEY AT
405-257-4064 HOME OR CELL NUMBER 405-683-1247
OR EMAIL SHAWNEE_JARHEAD01@YAHOO.COM.**

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE
TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

RECYCLING MA-
TERIAL THAT
WE ACCEPT.

ALL WHITE PAPER,
ENVELOPES, COL-
ORED PAPER, JUNK
MAIL, FAX PAPER,
MAGAZINES,
NEWSPAPER, CARD-
BOARD, AND ALU-
MINUM CANS.

MATERIAL WE
DO NOT AC-
CEPT.

TONER, CARBON
PAPER, FOOD
WASTE, AND PLAS-
TIC.

REMEMBER,
WHEN IN DOUBT
THROW IT OUT.

CONTACT
INFORMATION

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE
TRIBE OF
OKLAHOMA

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROGRAMS.

2025 S. GORDON
COOPER DR.
SHAWNEE, OK
74801

PHONE: (405) 214-
4235

FAX: (405) 878-
4701

Absentee Shawnee Tribe

Recycling Program

“To Establish a recycling program for municipal waste planning, reduction, and Recycling”

The Office of Environmental Health and Environmental Program is proud to announce the start of a new recycling program for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. The recycling center is located in the yellow metal building adjacent to the OEH Department. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe (AST) Recycling Program Program declares that waste reduction and recycling are the preferable to the

or processing of municipal waste, and that removing certain materials



from the municipal waste stream will decrease the flow of solid waste to municipal landfills. AST Recycling Program used the knowl-

edge and information about recycling markets and market demand as well as information obtained from various publications and the internet to comprise an analysis of material the recycling program will address at the start of the program. AST Recycling Program Plan establishes a goal that, by year's end 2013, at least 25 % of the recyclable material produced by the Tribe will be recycled.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

The AST recycling Program will initially focus on the following waste stream material; High-Grade shredded paper, Assorted office paper,

Phone books, Magazines, Cardboard, Newspaper, and Aluminum cans. As the program and market develops, other recyclables will be sought.

There is a cost associated with recycling, However, economic, social, and environmental benefits exceed these cost.

Office of Environmental Health & Engineering

• Tribal Housing Improvements Application

The Tribal Housing Improvement Program's goal is providing sanitary, safe, and decent housing for its members by utilizing the following criteria to select the most “in need” tribal members with homes that are in disrepair but are still suitable for rehabilitation. All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and criteria which is approved by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

THIP list all applicants by a priority list:

- a. Handicapped/Disabled and Elderly
- b. Income
- c. Family Size/Overcrowded Living Conditions
- d. Condition of Home

Other Programs available:

• Sanitation Facilities Assistance Program

Applications need to be completed and all necessary documents attached before the application will be processed.

Applications are available online on the website: www.astribe.com.

Submit completed application to:

Office of Environmental Health & Engineering
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801

Absentee Shawnee Tribe Complex

Office of Environmental Health & Engineering, Building 13

If you have any questions, you can reach us by phone at (405) 214-4235

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SUBMIT AN AD

OR ARTICLE:

Give us a call at

(405) 598-1279 or (405) 481-0558

or send us an e-mail to

stiger@astribe.com

ALL ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE ARE DUE BY THE 20th OF THE CURRENT MONTH

UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT ONE PICTURE PER BIRTHDAY PERSON, NOT PER BIRTHDAY WISH.

From Your Media Department:

I hope all is well in your home's, here in the media department we are still doing our best to bring you the newsletter with as much information as we can and as soon as we can. There are times when the newsletter may be sent out late and for that we apologize. There are times when deadlines are not met and some of these times are out of the Media departments hands. We will strive to do better in the new year.

Just to keep the people updated, there is still just one newsletter per household/address. Please keep your address updated. Also one photo per birthday person please as we are limited in the number of color pages in the newsletter. The Newsletter is available online at www.astribe.com.

As the campaign season is now upon us Media asks that each candidate keep their campaign letters to a half page. This is to ensure fairness and to keep room for other Tribal news.

On another note, we here at the Media department have been working on a coloring book for the children of the tribe and with the help the Media departments new assistant, Derek Hildebrand, we have put this book together with images and their names in our Shawnee language. There will be a limited number available at the Tribal complex (main building) beginning January 10th, please be thinking of other tribal members when you pick up your copies and only take what you will use. If you should find mistakes in the spelling this is a first run effort and it's an attempt to keep our language in both our kids and grandkids mind. If you have a constructive comment to add please do so. This is one way the Media department is using resources to try to keep our Shawnee language alive and all questions or comments may be directed to Sherman Tiger, Media Director, at (405) 598-1279 (Office); (405) 481-0558-cell or by email at stiger@astribe.com.

SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Trisha Spoon

Trisha, Tribal member, has been with the tribe about 14 years, as the Education Director. she coordinates the Camp Nikoti which is an 8 week program to serve as an alternative to suspension or any other disciplinary or behavioral actions deemed appropriate by the school. Trisha is also the leader of the Absentee Shawnee Youth Council. We are very proud of you Trisha for all you have implemented into our programs for our education department.

**Let's Build
For the
Future
(BFF)!**

GOVERNORS SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE

Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe will be working with the six program department that she has oversight over and will monthly select an employee that is deemed to have contributed to their program and to the Absentee Shawnee tribe. The attributes to be considered are: Contributions to the community and the Tribe; leadership; performance and work ethic; teamwork. It is the intent of the Governor to recognize tribal employees who do a remarkable job and might not otherwise get recognized for their contributions. This special employee recognition program will be highlighted under my Office as the SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH program.

Stevi Johnson Wins 2013 Oklahoma's Tour De Dirt Kids Cup State Mountain Bike Championship

Tribal member Stevi Johnson, age 9, recently won the 2013 Oklahoma's Tour de Dirt Kids Cup State Mountain Bike Championship. Stevi entered and won 7 races. Victories included wins at Thunderbird Lake in Norman, Oklahoma, Lake Murray Ark City Kansas, Turkey Mountain in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Elks lodge in Ada, Oklahoma, and Lake McMurty in Stillwater Oklahoma.





JOB OPENINGS

- Surveillance Operator – Gaming Commission
- Floater – Building Blocks Child Care
- Physician – Shawnee Clinic
- Dentist - Little Axe Clinic
- Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor - Shawnee Clinic
- Licensed Professional Counselor - Little Axe Clinic
- Child protection – foster care worker-ICW



**Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Human Resource
Department**

2025 Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801
Phone – (405) 275-4030
Fax – (405) 273-2710

John Carrington x 131

Elizabeth Clark - x 170

Rachael Lankford - x 111

www.atribe.com



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEPARTMENT



Victim Advocacy

Assist victims by offering educational classes that focus on the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. Each victim is helped with emotional support and resources both from Tribal programs and local community programs.

Court Advocacy

Assists survivors with domestic violence court related appearances as well as filing for emergency protective orders (EPO).

Housing and Utility Assistance

Assists victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or dating violence in emergency situations. This assistance may allow for a victim to either receive housing or utility assistance.

Referral Assistance

Assists with providing community resources to those who are in need of additional services outside the scope of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Domestic Violence Program.

Sexual Assault Advocacy

The AST DV Sexual Assault Program is on-call 24 hours per day to provide emotional support, advocacy and crisis counseling to sexual assault survivors at hospitals, police stations and throughout the legal system. The program also serves as a resource center to the community by offering educational information and referrals.

Shelter Placement Assistance

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Domestic Violence Program works with other shelters within Oklahoma in order to help victims obtain safe housing. Emergency transportation for the victim and children may also be available.

Community Outreach

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Domestic Violence Program offers educational trainings, informational displays, and community events in order to provide more awareness to both Tribal and non-Tribal communities.

For any questions regarding any of the above services please contact the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Domestic Violence staff at (405) 273-2888 Monday—Friday 8:00am—5:00pm. To be connected with an advocate in a Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault emergency after hours you may contact Jackie Denny – 405-432-9377, Melissa Lopez – 405-432-9657, Linda Gouge – 405-585-8348 or Kimberly Stephens – 405-365-5698.

**NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

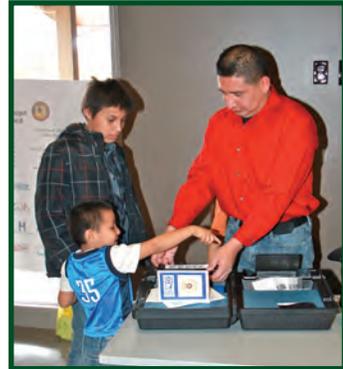
**FOLLOW ME...
AWAY FROM
METH!**

LITTLE AXE • SHAWNEE • HEALTH CLINIC

stellar

Logo: * I-I-SI-WI-NI-NU *
ABSENTEE SHAWNEE

Fall Fest 2013



Absentee Shawnee Housing



Introduction

The information being provided is to help families understand what programs are offered through the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority and how to apply. Our programs target low income Native American families who need housing assistance. The programs currently being provided are Rental, Lease to Own and Down Payment Assistance.

Application Process

Our process begins with the completion of our housing application. When completing the application be sure and answer all the questions that pertain to you and sign all attached forms. If you should have any questions regarding the application; call or come by our office and ask our staff in the Programs & Admissions Department and they would be glad to assist you.

The application will also require documents to be attached in order to complete the process; which are:

- ✦ Photo I.D.
- ✦ CDIB Card
- ✦ Social Security Card
- ✦ Birth Certificate
- ✦ Marriage License/Divorce Decree/Custody Decree (if applicable)
- ✦ Declaration of Section 214 (form is included with application)

Each household member must provide a birth certificate, social security card and CDIB card (if enrolled in a federally recognized tribe). The Housing Authority will conduct a criminal background check and credit check on all adult household members over the age of 18. A home visit is the final step in completing your application.

Waiting List

A letter will be mailed out once your application has been approved notifying you of the date your name was placed on the waiting list. It is very important to stay in contact and notify the Housing Authority anytime changes occur in income, household composition, or contact information. In the event that your name is next in being offered a home; you will be notified by letter or phone. Annual Updates required to remain on the waiting list.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

**107 N. Kimberly
Shawnee, OK 74801
P.O. Box 425
Shawnee, OK 74802-0425
Phone: 405-273-1050
Fax: 405-275-0678
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.**

Eligibility for each program has income requirements; please be sure and review the current income limits on your application. We will not be able to process your application if you do not meet the income criteria.



Low Rent Housing

Our low rent housing program is provided to families in need of housing in the Shawnee and Tecumseh area. Rental houses are furnished with kitchen appliances, central heat and air, and mini blinds all throughout. In the Shawnee area, the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority has two elderly/handicap communities. These areas have fully and partial handicap accessible units. A laundry facility is located in the community for tenant use only. Tenants in our rental program are provided services through our Maintenance Department; if any maintenance issues should arise you would contact the Housing Authority and a crew member will come and do the repair.



Lease to Own Program

The Lease to Own Program is available for any Native American family who has met our requirements and would like to purchase a home through the Housing Authority. The homes offered are ones currently in inventory and owned by the Housing Authority. This program is designated for income eligible families who have been renting but now feel they are ready for the opportunity to purchase their own home. The application is the same as the rental; accept the income requirements are different. Be sure and specify when completing your application, that you are applying for the Lease to Own Program. If you have substantial rental history and meet the income requirements, your name may be placed on the waiting list.

Down Payment Assistance Program

This program offers a one-time grant of up to \$20,000 to assist with down payment and/or closing cost to purchase a home and is designed to make home mortgage payments more affordable

- Eligibility Requirements**
- Applicant must be eighteen (18) years of age
 - Must be Native American enrolled in a Federally Recognized Tribe, with priority given to enrolled members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma to apply
 - Applicant must qualify as a low-income family, and must meet minimum income guidelines
 - Applicant must be first-time homeowner
 - Primary residences only
 - Must be approved for home loan
 - Dwelling Unit must pass environmental inspection

- All applicants are required to attend a counseling class conducted by our Resident Counselor before signing a lease.
- Annual Recertification are required for Rental/Lease to Own programs
- Inspections are performed on our homes annually

- MONTHLY RENT IS CALCULATED BY YOUR INCOME
- OUR LOW RENT UNITS HAVE 1, 2, 3, & 4 BEDROOMS
- LEASE TO OWN HOMES HAVE 3 & 4 BEDROOMS



NEW RENTAL HOMES AVAILABLE!

Applications are now being accepted for families that are over the income limits for our IHBG funded programs. Please contact our Programs & Admissions Department for further details. *NOTE: There is limited homes available for this program.*

DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS

Military service members can get their disability claims processed quickly by Social Security.

Benefits available through **Social Security** are different than those from the **Department of Veterans Affairs** and require a separate application.

The expedited process is used for military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after **October 1, 2001**, regardless of where the disability occurs.



www.socialsecurity.gov

or call toll-free, **1-800-772-1213**
(for the deaf or hard of hearing, call our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**)

Wayne Allen Longhorn
March 19, 1927 - December 19, 2013

The family of Wayne Longhorn would like to express our appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming support given to us from friends, relatives, coworkers and a special thanks to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe and Thunderbird Casino. It would have put a smile on his face to see all the people who came to the last visit and to send him on his journey. We cannot begin to express how much we all will miss his humor and how he always had to be right. Ne ye wa

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL
POLICE DEPARTMENT



SORNA

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT
EMAIL: SORNA@ASTRIIBE.COM
TIPLINE 405-273-1249

Brown Family Reunion

Calling all heirs and descendants
of Fryor and Margaret Brown!

We will be having our 2014 family reunion
June 6-8, 2014 at Stroud Lake. If interested
in attending, helping out and for more
info, please call:

- Glenda (Brown) Fuller 405-962-5732
- Ronnie Lauderdale 405-765-2700
- Twiggy (Wilson) Gregory 405-434-9136
- John Soap Jr. 405-585-9268
- Sissy Franklin 405-567-9254
- Margaret Franklin 405-481-5820

Thanks!



AST PHARMACY NEWS



- Upcoming Pharmacy Department closures are as follows:
 - ✓ October 1, 2013 for inventory
 - ✓ November 11, 2013 to observe Veteran's Day
- Deliveries of controlled medications are not allowed.
- Both Shawnee and Little Axe pharmacy locations fill prescriptions for members of all tribes, but outside prescription orders are restricted to Absentee Shawnee Tribal citizens with established charts.
- If you would like to receive a text message to your cell phone when your medications are ready for pick-up, please alert the pharmacy staff and provide us with a current cell phone number.
- When requesting refills, please provide 24 hours' notice until pick-up. We will need your refill number, located above your name on the prescription label, or the names of your medication in order to fill.
- Present **insurance cards each time** you pick up or drop off a prescription.
- Keep us informed of changes in address, phone number, and other contact information (changes at registration do not flow to pharmacy).

If you have any questions at any time, feel free to call either Pharmacy or stop by and speak with one of our Pharmacy staff. We are happy to assist you with your pharmaceutical needs!

Hours of Operation:

Little Axe: 8am-5pm (& 7:30a-5:30p Drive-Thru) Monday - Friday

- Phone - (405) 292-9530

Shawnee: 7am-5pm Monday-Friday

- Phone - (405) 878-5859

We are open through the lunch hour!!

****BOTH PHARMACY DEPARTMENTS ARE CLOSED WITH THE CLINICS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON OF EVERY MONTH TO COMPLETE ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES****

-Thank you,
Pharmacy Staff



AST COUNTRY KITCHEN

- Sunday - 7am to 7pm
- Monday - 7am to 3pm
- Tuesday - 7am to 3pm
- Wednesday - 7am to 8pm
- Thursday - 7am to 8pm
- Friday - 7am to 9pm
- Saturday - 7am to 9pm

Early Bird Breakfast

\$4.99

2 Eggs/Bacon or Sausage/Hash Browns

Biscuits & Gravy or Toast & Coffee
(Not valid on Saturday or Sunday. 1 coupon per customer. With coupon.

No substitutions



**Check out our
daily homemade
lunch specials!**

**Something
different
every day!**

Open 7 Days A Week!

366-7220



(In Front of Thunderbird Entertainment Center Next
to AST Smoke Shop)

SAFETY TIPS FROM...



- √ Never leave children alone in or around cars; not even for a minute.
- √ Put something you'll need like your cell phone, handbag, employee ID or brief case, etc., on the floor board in the back seat.
- √ Get in the habit of always opening the back door of your vehicle every time you reach your destination to make sure no child has been left behind. This will soon become a habit. We call this the "Look Before You Lock" campaign.
- √ Keep a large stuffed animal in the child's car seat when it's not occupied. When the child is placed in the seat, put the stuffed animal in the front passenger seat. It's a visual reminder that anytime the stuffed animal is up front you know the child is in the back seat in a child safety seat.
- √ Make arrangements with your child's day care center or babysitter that you will always call if your child will not be there on a particular day as scheduled.
- √ Keep vehicles locked at all times; even in the garage or driveway and always set your parking brake.
- √ Keys and/or remote openers should never be left within reach of children.
- √ Make sure all child passengers have left the vehicle after it is parked.
- √ When a child is missing, check vehicles and car trunks immediately.
- √ If you see a child alone in a vehicle, get involved. If they are hot or seem sick, get them out as quickly as possible. Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.
- √ Be especially careful about keeping children safe in and around cars during busy times, schedule changes and periods of crisis or holidays.
- √ Use drive-thru services when available. (restaurants, banks, pharmacies, dry cleaners, etc.)
- √ Use your debit or credit card to pay for gas at the pump.

For additional information about ways to keep children safe in and around vehicles, visit our website at www.KidsAndCars.org.

Education Department

The following are current programs administered by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Education Department:

These are brief descriptions of current programs. Program guidelines are available in hard copy for at the Education Department office or for download at www.astribe.com.

- **Academic (K-12) Program**: assists with academic related expenses, and a portion of funds can be used for school-related athletic program expenses. Program has a maximum funding limit for the academic year.
- **Zahn Program**: established from a trust fund, program can help with some graduation expenses, and awards two (2) incentives: one for GED recipients and one for High School graduates. Program has a maximum amount of funding for graduation expenses.
- **Job Training Adult Education Program**: funds for vocational training at accredited vocational institutions. Program has a maximum funding limit for the calendar year or per program.
- **Higher Education: Education Incentive Award Program**: funds for undergraduate degrees, one associates or bachelors degree, at any accredited college or university. Funding levels are determined based upon grade point average and full-time or part-time status.
- **Graduate Scholarship Program**: funds for one master's degree or one doctoral degree, and can fund for one graduate admissions test. This program has funding levels based upon full-time and part-time status.

All funding is based upon the availability of funds at the time of application.

Attention:

New applications for the Higher Education: Education Incentive Award Program were due November 15, 2013. If you are still interested in taking spring 2014 courses please contact the Education Department.

If you are a continuing student, please send your spring 2014 schedule and official transcript as soon as possible.

All applications and guidelines are available at www.astribe.com. Click on Services and select Education.

For more information, please call Tresha Spoon at (405) 275-4030 ext. 121 or 1-800-256-3341 or email to tresham@astribe.com.

WE NEED YOU!!!

The Indian Child Welfare Program actively seeks Native American families to become foster parents for Native American children.

To find out how to become a foster parent for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe call 405-878-4702

Foster & Adoptive Parents Needed!!!

Can you open your home and heart for a foster child? Foster parents provide a temporary, safe home for children in crisis. Foster parents are partners with child welfare workers, lawyers and judges. It is not for everyone but if you have it in your heart - we need you.

- Can you love and care for a child who comes from a difficult background?
- Can you help a child develop a sense of belonging?
- Are you secure in yourself & your parenting Skills?
- Can you maintain a positive attitude toward a child's parents?
- Can you love with all your heart & then let go?

FOSTER PARENTS PROVIDE A TEMPORARY, SAFE HOME FOR CHILDREN IN CRISIS. THEY ARE PARTNERS WITH WORKERS, LAWYERS, AND JUDGES. IT IS NOT FOR EVERYONE! CAN YOU OPEN YOUR HOME AND HEART FOR A FOSTER CHILD?

Many children need a loving home and a family to help them through a very tough time. Please think about it and talk with your family before you become a foster home. They all need safe, supportive environments!

If you find yourself and your family interested in Foster Care, please contact Amanda Lenora, CPS/Foster Care Worker - 405-878-4702

ASTribe Indian Child Welfare Department FOSTER CARE

This article appears in the Daily Times in Farmington, New Mexico. And even though this talks about the foster care program and tribal children in foster care, this article can speak on behalf of what the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Foster Care and other tribes are going thru. Finding foster homes is a necessary to not only protect AST children but to also maintain their cultural identity, heritage and traditions. The Absentee is a small tribe and we should be able to work as ONE TRIBE to care for the AST children. If you have any questions, contact the ICW department at (405)275-4030.

“Only two foster homes in San Juan County belong to American Indian families, but more than half of the 85 children in foster care now are American Indian. That means about 40 American Indian youths in the local foster system are living with non-native families. The Children, Youth and Families Department, charged with placing children in alternate homes if their own families are deemed unsafe for reasons of abuse or neglect, is having a hard time finding enough native families for the number of native children in the system.

The department does everything it can to match a child with a family of a similar background. That doesn't work when fewer homes than children are in the system, which means native children more often than not end up in non-native families. This is contrary to federal policy, which directs the department to make every effort to place children of American Indian descent in homes that nourish their cultural identity. But without more native families stepping up to offer a home for children, there is little the department can do to remedy this situation.

The Indian Child Welfare Act provides four placement options, which the department must pursue in descending order every time it places a native child. The first option is to place American Indian children with a relative who can provide a safe environment and who eventually attains a foster care license. The second option is for a child to be placed in a family from the same American Indian tribe. The third is for the child to be placed with a American Indian family not of the same tribe. The final option, and the one the CYFD most often uses, is matching native children with non-native families that simply have a foster care license.

This is a loss for children and for potential foster families. It's also a loss when it comes to efforts to revitalize native traditions and teach them to the children. We encourage all native families with the resources that can allow children a home to contact the Children, Youth and Families Department. Fostering a child is one of the most rewarding things a family can do.”

In the state of Oklahoma alone, there are almost 3000 Native American children in the foster care program with a majority of these children placed in non-native placements. Now imagine if your son, daughter, grand children were placed in another home that didn't teach or understand the Absentee Shawnee traditions. What would happen to their identity, their sense of being a AST, their sense of belonging and being proud of being a Absentee Shawnee?

The AST ICW dept are in need to foster homes. Emergency homes, temporary homes, it doesn't matter. We have made it a goal to get certify at least 5 homes to be foster homes for the AST. With obtaining more every year from this point on. It takes ONE TRIBE to care for ONE CHILD. As the great Tecumseh said, “A SINGLE TWIG BREAKS BUT A BUNDLE OF TWIGS IS STRONG.”

For more information about being a foster home, please contact: Indian Child Welfare Department (405)878-4702

HEALTHCARE OPEN ENROLLMENTS UPDATES!



Medicare.gov
The Official U.S. Government Site for Medicare



General Open Enrollment: January-March 2013

This General Open Enrollment period gives Medicare recipients who missed their Initial Enrollment Period the opportunity to sign up from January 1 through March 31 each year. Your coverage will begin on July 1, 2014. **1-800-MEDICARE, www.medicare.gov.**

Inaugural Open Enrollment **EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 31, 2014**

This inaugural open enrollment period allows consumers to enroll in the Affordable Care Act. You may qualify for health plan discounts and tax credits. Native Americans can enroll and unenroll on a monthly basis. **www.healthcare.gov, 1-800-318-2596**

Your Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System Patient Benefit Advocates are available to assist with Medicare enrollment and Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace information.

For more information contact:

Connie Bottaro
Little Axe Health Center
405.447.0300

Liza Wilson
Little Axe Health Center
405.447.0300

Lela Culley
Shawnee Clinic
405.878.4702



Are you at risk for diabetes, have diabetes or know someone who does? Type 2 diabetes is the most common type of diabetes and affects millions of Native Americans. Many people are unaware that they have diabetes or pre-diabetes. Native Americans are twice as likely to develop

Type 2 diabetes than others. Some common signs and symptoms include:

- Frequent infections
- Blurred vision
- Cuts/bruises that are slow to heal
- Tingling/numbness in the hands/feet
- Recurring skin, gum, or bladder infections

Often people with type 2 diabetes have no symptoms.

Some ways to prevent and manage diabetes is through healthy lifestyle behaviors. One question that many people with diabetes or pre-diabetes often ask is "What can I eat?". The American Diabetes Association states that you do not have to be deprived or restricted. The key factors are learning what are the "superfoods", how much of it you can have and how often. Getting into the habit of eating a healthy diet helps you manage diabetes and prevent complications caused by diabetes.

The following foods are listed on the American Diabetes Association web site as "superfoods". Try to incorporate as many of these foods into your daily meal plan to enhance the nutrient content of your meals.

The foods listed have a low glycemic index (causes slower rise in blood glucose after eating) and provide key nutrients that are lacking in the typical western diet such as:

- calcium
- potassium
- fiber
- magnesium
- vitamins A, C, and E.

Beans, dark green leafy vegetables, citrus fruit, sweet potatoes, berries, tomatoes, fish high in Omega-3 fatty acids, whole grains, nuts, fat-free milk and yogurt. To learn more about eating these superfoods and recipes visit diabetes.org and sign up for Wellness and Healthy Eating classes at the Little Axe Clinic. Call Sidna McKane to sign up at 405 701-7977.

Source: American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org

Dell recommends Windows® 7.

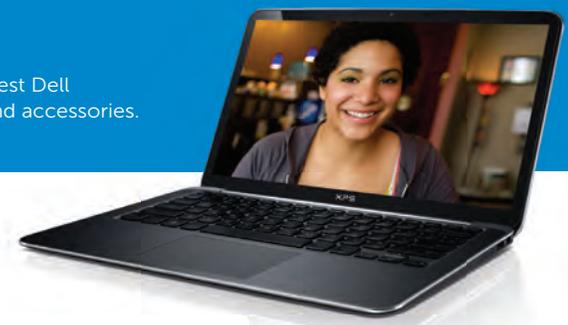


The power to do more

Absentee Shawnee Tribe

Introducing the Dell Member Purchase Program.

Enjoy perks and savings on the latest Dell products and select electronics and accessories.



Your membership benefits include:

The best price on Dell consumer PCs

If you find a better price on your day of purchase, contact a Dell Member Purchase Program sales specialist and we will beat that price.

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Discounts on electronics and accessories

Receive additional savings on thousands of select* electronics and accessories on Dell.com.

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Member ID: CS25031222

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YOU BOOZE, YOU LOSE!

TEEN ALCOHOL USE KILLS 4,700 PEOPLE EACH YEAR,
MORE THAN ALL ILLEGAL DRUGS COMBINED. (CDC)

Absentee Behavioral Health Department 407.701.7993

After School Program 2013/2014

Come join us at the AST Resource Center!!!

- Free Tutoring in all subjects!
- Games and activities!
- Delinquency Prevention!
- Healthy Lifestyles!



And Much More!



OPEN TO GRADES K-5 for

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Students

Everything is offered with no charge....Little Axe bus will transport students to the AST Resource Center on Peebly Road and parents are responsible for picking students up at 6:00pm.

Duration: Starts October 7th and will run through the school year.

Monday-Thursday, 2:45pm-6:00pm

For more information and sign up please contact Blake

Goodman at (405) 364-7569



After School Program 2013/2014

Come join us at the AST Resource Center!!!

- Free Tutoring in all subjects!
- Games and activities!
- Delinquency Prevention!
- Healthy Lifestyles!



And Much More!



OPEN TO ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS

Everything is offered with no charge....Little Axe bus will transport students to the AST Resource Center on Peebly Road and parents are responsible for picking students up at 6:00pm.

Duration: Starts October 7th and will run through the school year.

Monday-Thursday, 2:45pm-6:00pm

For more information and sign up please contact Blake

Goodman at (405) 364-7569



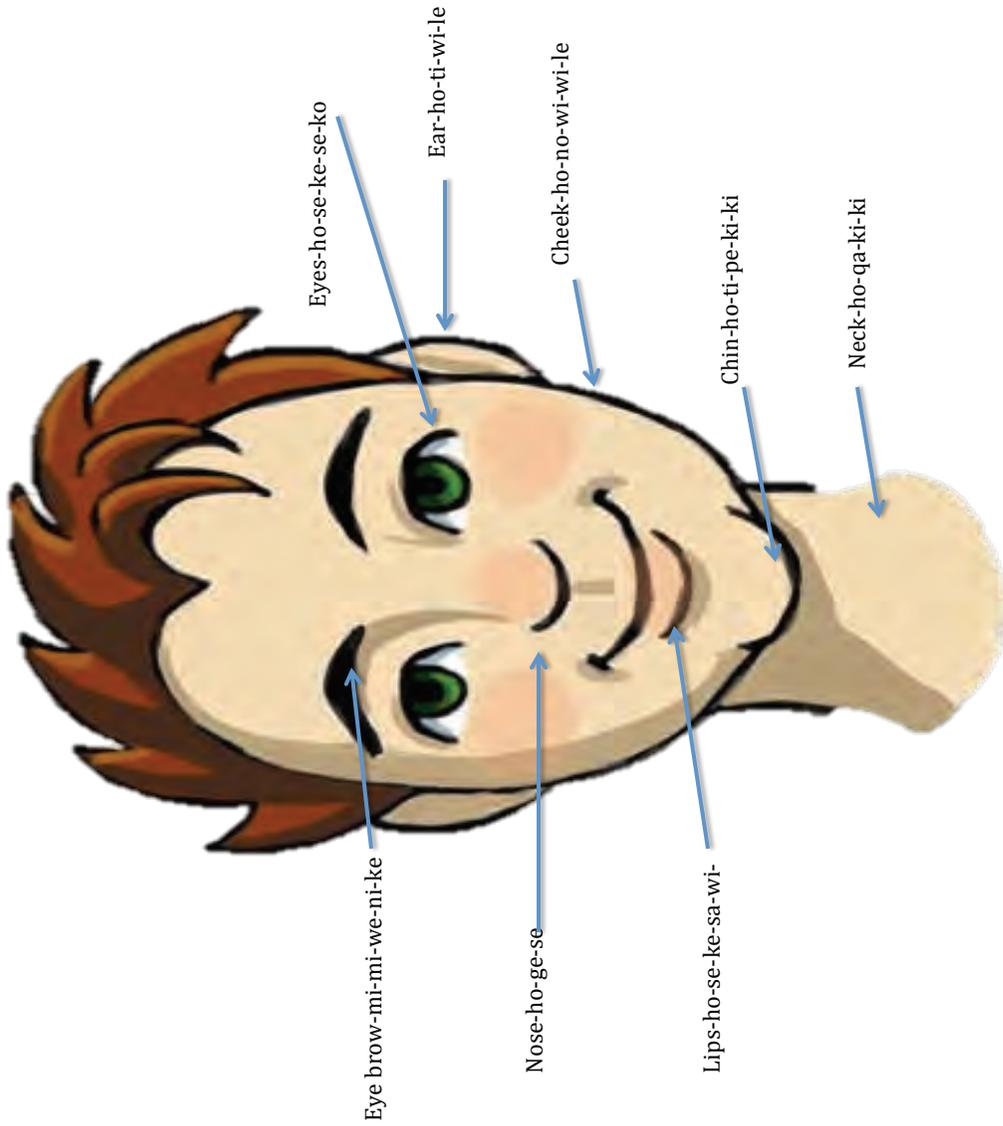


ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE
OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
2025 S. GORDON COOPER DR.
SHAWNEE, OK 74801

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
PERMIT 2000

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Hair-ho-we-la-fi



Facial parts-Shawnee Language

Cover art is a selection of Earnest Spybuck painting,
“Procession Before War Dance” ca. 1910

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