



THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE NEWS

www.astrobe.com

Volume 36, No. 04

April 2026

AST Agriculture Department Celebrates Five Years

The AST Agriculture Department was created in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the lack of fresh food accessibility. The founding pillar of the program is food sovereignty.

Food Sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

In 2022, the Agriculture Department herd consisted of 40 cows and 21 heifers, totaling 61 head of cattle. Since that time, the herd has grown and developed significantly. The original herd produced 98 active cattle currently on the farm, with an additional 55 animals that have left the herd through sales (22), processing (17), or natural loss over time (16).

The department has also strengthened its genetics by adding nine registered cows to the breeding program. Currently, five active bulls service the herd, with two additional immature bulls that will be incorporated into the breeding program once they reach maturity.

In addition to herd development, the Agriculture Department continues to support food sovereignty efforts through meat production. In 2025, the department generated \$7,889 in meat sales, and \$5,266 in sales has been recorded so far in 2026.

This February the department also processed two steers for elder distribution, providing 4 pounds of beef to 202 AST elders, totaling 808 pounds of meat distributed to the community. The first time event was well attended. Secretary Misty McGirt was in attendance and reflected on the occasion. "I am very proud of the progress our agriculture has made these past couple years I have been oversight. The meat distribution was a great first event. We hope to have more events in the future so we can better serve our tribal people."

The program currently has eight steers on a feed-out regimen with a target finishing weight of approximately 1,400 pounds before processing in the coming months. Current carcass yield averages 65%, and processing services are provided through One-Sixty Processing and Fehdans Meat Processing.

Beyond livestock production, the Agriculture Department continues to expand its community agriculture programs. Since 2023, the department has tilled more than 20 gardens each February and March and distributed over 8,000 plants each spring to support local food production.

Ag hosted a series of classes taught by OSU Extension Horticulture Educator Carla Smith in 2023. They included topics such as gardening 101, seed saving, soil fertilizer and fruit production.

In fall 2025, the department hosted a Pumpkin Patch educational event for both Building Blocks locations and the AST after-school programs, serving over 200 children. In addition, the farm produced more than 2,000 pumpkins that were distributed throughout the community.

These efforts reflect the department's continued commitment to food sovereignty, community education, and agricultural sustainability for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

The department is under the oversight of the Lt. Governor and Secretary's office. Lt. Governor Diane Ponkilla is pleased with Ag's accomplishments over the last 5 years. "I am proud of the work the Ag department has put in to help our tribal people. Often times they are short staffed, yet they continue to show up and we can all see the progress they are making."



**96th Semi-Annual General Council Meeting - April 11, 2026 - 10:00 AM
AST Multi-Purpose Building - Shawnee, OK**

GOVERNOR'S REPORT

John Johnson, AST Governor

Hello Everyone,

It's that time of year; time to get your gardens tilled and planted. I hope this year the weather brings many crops to all the gardens. April showers bring May flowers.

The 96th semi-annual General Council is just around the corner. It will be in Shawnee at the Multi-purpose building here on campus on April 11, 2026 at 10am. I hope you are able to attend in person.

Also Easter for all tribal members of all ages will be on April 18, 2026 from 10:00am to 12:00 pm. It will be hosted by Secretary McGirt's office. Hopefully the weather cooperates and all the families can enjoy their time with one another.



GOVERNOR John Johnson



Lt. GOVERNOR Diane Ponkilla



SECRETARY Misty McGirt



TREASURER Joseph Blanchard



REPRESENTATIVE Anthony Johnson



Should you have any questions you may reach out to the Secretary's department, they will be happy to help. I hope to see you all there.

The American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO) held a luncheon for all native business owners and tribal leaders. I met some very intelligent native people that have strived in building their own business and has become very successful. It was very interesting to hear how their stories began. If I am available I always like to show my support to all our surrounding tribal communities.

I was personally invited to attend the first annual Seeds of Seven Generations Gala at the FAM museum hosted by the Cheyenne and Arapaho's with Mr. Reggie Wassano. I attended this event to show support for their Education Endowment program, providing scholarships and re-

sources that aid students in achieving their academic goals. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Office of Development and Advancement are actively building a philanthropic foundation to provide impactful educational and cultural enrichment opportunities. Their primary goal is to establish sustainable endowments that will ensure the long-term vitality of tribal programs, strengthen the community, and empower future generations. Education is very important to all native people

Should you have any comments or concerns you may call or email myself or my assistant at the emails listed below.

Thank You

John Johnson - 405-275-4030 ext. 3500 governor@astrobe.com

Alvina Barnes - 405-275-4030 ext. 3501 alvinab@astrobe.com

LT. GOVERNOR'S REPORT

Diane Ponkilla, AST Lt. Governor

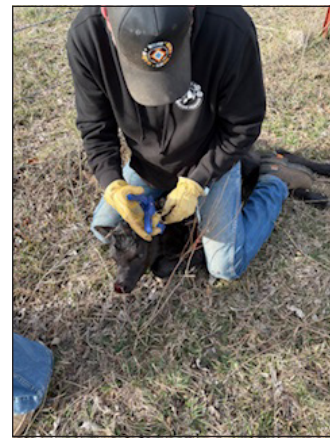
Hello All,

I am in office daily and I do not have much to report, I do not know if that is good or bad. Besides attending the regular EC meeting, Roundtable, Healthboard and Director's meeting I attended the 2026 OSU Tribal Partnership Summit in Stillwater on Thursday, March 04, 2026. I spent the day out on the farm at I-40/9A with the Agriculture department to watch their process of feeding, tagging

and overall care of the cattle. Also the agriculture department plowed gardens for TM and have planted seeds for starter plants to be distributed in mid-April. The Lt. Governor's department lowered the age limit for the storm shelters to 55 years old. Nineteen AST elders have received the 6X8 concrete above ground safe room. You must be a homeowner to apply and applications are on line or you may pick up a hard copy in bldg. #2 on the AST complex located at 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive in Shawnee. There was a conversation during roundtable to set

up two 40 ft. dumpsters at three locations LittleAxe, Tecumseh Square and Horsehoe Bend for TM who want to do some Spring cleaning from around their household. I am waiting on Central Disposal to return call with availability of dumpsters and list of items not allowed to be placed in the dumpsters. Once details are worked out I will put notice out with date and location. If TM have any questions, concerns or just want to stop by and visit I am usually available you may even call after hours (405) 432-0733.

Ne yi wa



REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Anthony Johnson, AST Representative

Hello Tribal Members,

My office and departments have been busy preparing for our 96th Semi-Annual General Council meeting. The current departments my office has oversight of include: Historic Preservation, Educa-

tion, Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO), and the Camp. Additionally, the departments I oversee convened together this past month to discuss their goals for their departments and ways they can partner for better workflow and delivery of services. This month, our TERO Director Sarah Lawrance, helped lead the 14th Annual Day of Champions Native American Combine and her report from

the event is included. If you have any questions, comments, or need my assistance, please contact my office by phone: (405) 531-3512 or by email: adjohnson@astrobe.com.

Sincerely, Anthony "Tad" Johnson, Tribal Representative

Absentee Shawnee Tribe Presents: 2026 Annual Easter Event

HOPPY EASTER

Tribal members of all ages are welcome! (Must show CDIB)

Date: April 18TH, 2026

Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

AST Complex - Multi-Purpose Building
2025 S. GORDON COOPER DR

EGG HUNT AGE GROUPS

- 3 & under
- 4-6 years old
- 7-10 years old
- 11-15 years old
- 16-18 years old
- 55 & UP

Pictures with the Easter bunny

DOOR PRIZES!

Lunch will be provided

14th Annual Day of Champions Native American Combine

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe sponsored the 14th Annual Day of Champions Native American Combine. The event was open to male/female, athlete/non-athlete, and traditional/nontraditional participants. The Combine had a 72% placement rate from the 2025 year and a 69% placement rate over 13 years. In previous years the Combine team have been able to get scholarships for nurses, golfers, baseball, softball, basketball, marching band, male and female wrestlers as well as welders, electricians and so many more interest areas.

The event took place March 7 at DBAT in Oklahoma City, OK. The facility is a full-size indoor baseball facility with over 10 batting cages. There were 41 in-person participants. The event started with Treasurer Blanchard speaking to the participants and parents about communicating with recruiters and coaches not shutting any doors. After Treasurer Blanchard was done speaking, President and CEO of Day of Champions gave a positive speech about never giving up and failure is a learning tool. The event is run like the NFL Combine with 40-yard dash, bench press, pro-agility, vertical and standing broad jump. During the morning testing

period of the athletes, the parents and guardians were learning about FASFA, the scholarship process and what to expect when your athlete is being recruited. After the athletes had a lunch break, offensive and defensive players were paired up to compete against each other.

There were over 20 colleges, universities, and military in attendance to see the athletes compete. At the end of the event some athletes were offered scholarships. The athletes combine information will be shared with other colleges and universities that were not in attendance. Thank you to AST Public Health, Tribal Police, AST 477, Treasurer Blanchard, and Representative Johnson. Thank you to the Public Health Department, Beverly Felton, Earl Lovins, and Jayden Watson for volunteering with the event. The Combine would not have been a successful event without the help of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. This event would not happen early without the sponsorship of the Tribe. Each athlete went home with a full pizza, fruit, and a Kona Ice sno-cone.

Here are a few quotes from the event:

One mother said that she was so happy that her son had a chance to meet college coaches, something that

would not have happened anywhere else and she liked the fact that they were very open and honest with her about her son's abilities and that they were willing to work with him to make him an even better player. She said she liked that about the Combine.

Another parent said she liked the fact they had to work with kids from other schools and her son had to get used to going up against total strangers, but in the end, it was good for him since she hoped he would be able to go to college and move away from home knowing he could make friends anywhere he goes. This helped build his confidence.

There was a visitor who happened to see what was happening in the building and Beverly Felton talked to him about the Combine. He had never heard of this before and was really interested because he coaches little league football but would make sure that the high school coaches know about the Combine for next year.

This event provides those kids who may never get a chance to show their skills to a college coach, an up-close and personal experience, something they will remember for a long time.





**Spring
LAWN CARE
BUNDLE DRAWING**

Decorate Your Porch - Enter to Win!

Decorate your porch with a spring theme and submit a photo for a chance to win a Spring Lawn Care Bundle.



**HOW TO
enter**

Take a photo of your decorated porch and email it to:
residentservices@ashousingauthority.com
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026
WINNER ANNOUNCED THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE
LET'S BRIGHTEN OUR COMMUNITY THIS SPRING!




**2026
SAFETY POSTER
CONTEST**

**FOR ABSENTEE SHAWNEE HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENTS
AND ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL MEMBERS**

SAFETY TOPIC: TORNADO SAFETY

GRADE CATEGORIES: K-3, 4-6, 7-8

PRIZES FOR EACH CATEGORY
1ST PLACE: \$300 VISA GIFT CARD
2ND PLACE: \$200 VISA GIFT CARD
3RD PLACE: \$100 VISA GIFT CARD

INSTRUCTIONS:

- USE BLANK 8 1/2 X 11 SHEET OF PAPER
- CLEARLY PRINT
 - FIRST, LAST NAME
 - GRADE
 - TRIBAL AFFILIATION
 - PHONE NUMBER
 - HOUSING AUTHORITY
- ON THE BLANK SIDE OF THE PAPER, CREATE YOUR MASTERPIECE

IMPORTANT INFO:

*****IF STUDENT DOES NOT LIVE IN OUR HOUSING AUTHORITY THAN STUDENT WILL NOT ADVANCE PAST THE HOUSING AUTHORITY CONTEST*****

POSTER SUBMISSION:

EMAIL: RESIDENTSERVICES@ASHOUSINGAUTHORITY.COM

OR

DROPPED OFF AT THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE HOUSING AUTHORITY
107 N. KIMBERLY AVE, SHAWNEE, OK 74801

SUBMIT BY:
FRIDAY, 22 MAY 2026

WINNERS ANNOUNCED:
FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2026



NATIONAL WINNER COULD WIN: \$1,000.00

IN JUNE 2026, THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL SUBMIT A WINNER FROM EACH CATEGORY FOR NATIONAL VOTING. IN AUGUST 2026, ONLINE NATIONAL VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE WHERE ONE (1) WINNER IS SELECTED FROM EACH CATEGORY. IN SEPT. 2026, WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE AMERIND ANNUAL MEETING AND NOTIFIED AFTERWARD.

NOTICE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR STORY



Please give us a call at (405) 598-1279 or send an email to media@atribe.com

All articles for the next month's issue are **DUE** by the **15th of the current month.**

Unfortunately we can only accept **ONE PICTURE PER BIRTHDAY PERSON**, not per birthday wish.

Camp Melokami - Spring Break 2026



 <h2 style="display: inline-block; margin: 0 20px;">RUNAWAY PREVENTION</h2> 	
Statistics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in 7 kids between the ages of 10-18 will runaway. • The National Runaway Safeline and Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs report that between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away from home each year. • In 2023, of the nearly 29,000 reports of children that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) received, 93% were of children who ran away. • In 2023, 74% of endangered runaways reported to NCMEC were between 15-17 years old; 48% were recovered within a week of going missing.
Warning Signs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden and extreme changes in mood, or increased anger outbursts. • Social withdrawal, isolation, and secrecy. • Extreme changes in sleep or eating habits. • Disappearance of personal items like clothes or money. • Declining grades, truancy, or behavior issues at school. • Family conflict, tension, or a feeling of lack of support. • Rule-breaking at home.
Communication to Prevent Runaway:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not interrupt when your child is explaining something, even if you disagree, wait until they are done. • Never dare your child to runaway thinking that they may not. • Stay calm and quiet, make eye contact, and don't respond when your child is angry, wait until they are calm.
National Runaway Safeline:	<p>For Youth, Teens, & Concerned Adults/Parents (Open 24/7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call or Text: 1-800-786-2929 • Email, Live Chat, and Forum at www.1800runaway.org/youth-teens/get-help
Contact Information: sfixico@atribe.com bgoodman@atribe.com	<p>AST Education Department is an Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – Tribal Youth Program Grantee. We promote public safety and seek to prevent risk factors impacting our youth. TYP Staff: Coordinator – Blake Goodman, Tribal Youth Resource Specialist- Shyanne Fixico</p>

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE

BOARD VACANCIES

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES OR COUNCILS:

Education (2)

Foster Care (5)

NAGPRA (3)

Tax Commission (3)

TEI (2)

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS OF INTEREST WITH RESUME ATTACHED TO:




Tribal Secretary
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801
secretary@atribe.com

TEAL DAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026

TEAL DAY IS THE FIRST TUESDAY IN APRIL (SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH). WEARING TEAL SHOWS YOU ARE A SAFE PERSON AND SUPPORT SURVIVORS!

PLEASE SEND PICTURES TO 405-432-9657 OR DOMESTICVIOLENCE@ASTRIBE.COM OF YOU IN YOUR TEAL GEAR!



This project was produced by Tribal Victim Services under 15POVCS-25-000124-17AG awarded to the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice.


THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TEAL

Teal is the support color for Sexual Assault Awareness month which is April, and specifically for the first Tuesday of the month. Wearing teal shows survivors of sexual violence and harassment, you are a safe person willing to listen, promote awareness and work toward prevention.

DENIM DAY 2026

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we encourage our community to wear jeans on Wednesday, April 29th to raise awareness for sexual violence survivors.

Please send pictures to 405-432-9657 or email DomesticViolence@astribe.com in your blue jeans




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WHAT IS DENIM DAY?

In 1992, an Italian female was sexually assaulted while wearing a pair of tight jeans. The court argued since the jeans were tight, she would have had to help take them off, so it was deemed consensual. Women began wearing jeans in protest and Denim Day came to be. Wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against misleading and destructive attitudes towards sexual assault. Denim Day is the longest running sexual violence prevention and education campaign. It was designed to highlight misconceptions that clothes lead to sexual assault. Denim Day is a campaign on the last Wednesday during the month of April in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

denimday.org/why



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Fly Beyond Fear!

Join us to bring awareness to Sexual Assault with a Butterfly Release in front of the Multi Purpose Building April 30, 2026 - 3pm

*Butterflies are first come, first serve



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LEGAL NOTICE

FILED in the Office of the Court Clerk
MAR 04 2026
Absentee Shawnee Tribal Court Clerk

IN THE TRIAL COURT OF
THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA 74801

Jeffery Deslandes Jr)
Vs.)
Felicia Smith) Case No. JFD-2026-04

AFFIDAVIT TO OBTAIN SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS)
SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA) §.

Jeffery Deslandes Jr. being duly sworn upon oath states:

That she/he is the Plaintiff Mariah Ramirez above-named, and that on the 4th day of March 2026, said Plaintiff filed in this Court a Motion against Defendant and this is one of the class of cases prescribed by the Statutes of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, and is absent therefrom, and that with and after the exercise of due diligence, said Plaintiff is unable to make personal service upon said Defendant, Felicia Smith, within the jurisdiction of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, and that Plaintiff wishes to obtain service upon the said Defendant by publication as provided by law. (AST CODE OF LAWS, Section 205, Section 206 and Section 209)


Jeffery Deslandes Jr. PLAINTIFF

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of March, 2026.

Ashley Hudson
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: June 23, 2028

SEAL



**Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Building Blocks C.D.C.
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, Ok. 74801
(405)878-0633 FAX(405)878-0156**

March was busy and past by quickly. A **BIG THANKS** to all who came & read Dr. Seuss' Books during Read Across America Week.

It is officially Spring which brings warmer weather. The children love the sunny days of Spring. They enjoy learning as they play outside on the playgrounds. Also, Spring brings the time of year to be Weather Aware as Storm Season arrives.

Building Blocks Easter Egg Hunts and Classroom Parties will be Thursday, April 2nd @ 3:00p.m.

Building Blocks will be Closed Friday, April 3rd for Good Friday. Hope everyone has an Egg-citing Easter.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Building Blocks will be Closed Friday, April 10th as our staff attends training on Child Abuse Awareness.

We are taking waiting list applications for all of our classrooms. We take 6 week olds through the summer after Pre-K (4 Year Olds). Please call to inquire about our waiting list and spots for enrollment. You may drop by for a waiting list application or we can email one to you.

Have an Awesome April.




BBIII CDC NEWSLETTER

April 2026

IMPORTANT INFO

This month, Our **infants** will be learning about weather. Teachers will introduce concepts like rain, sunshine, clouds, and wind using songs, textures, visual aids, and simple activities.

Our **toddlers, 2's, and 3 year old** classes will be learning all about insects! Children will explore different types of bugs such as butterflies, ladybugs, and bees through themed stories, songs, sensory bins, and art projects. These activities will help build early vocabulary, observation skills, and curiosity as children learn about where insects live and how they move.

Our **4 and 5 year olds** will be diving into the world of gardening! Children will learn about plants, seeds, soil, and what plants need to grow. Through planting activities, dramatic play, art projects, and group discussions, they will explore how gardens grow and why plants are important.

Important Info

Our Easter celebration will take place on April 1st! Children will enjoy classroom parties, an egg hunt, and a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

Program Info

Business Hours: 7am-6pm
Director: Renee Richardson
Asst. Director: Sara Garcia
Address: 16051 Little Axe Dr.
Norman, Ok 73026



BBIII CDC NEWSLETTER

April 2026



ASP Shawnee April Newsletter

Objectives

This month we will be learning more about the water cycle/rain and how tornados are formed.

We will also be covering different plants and animals, As well as planting seeds and watching how they grow.

For language they will be going over how to say and write everything we learn in Shawnee language.

Upcoming events

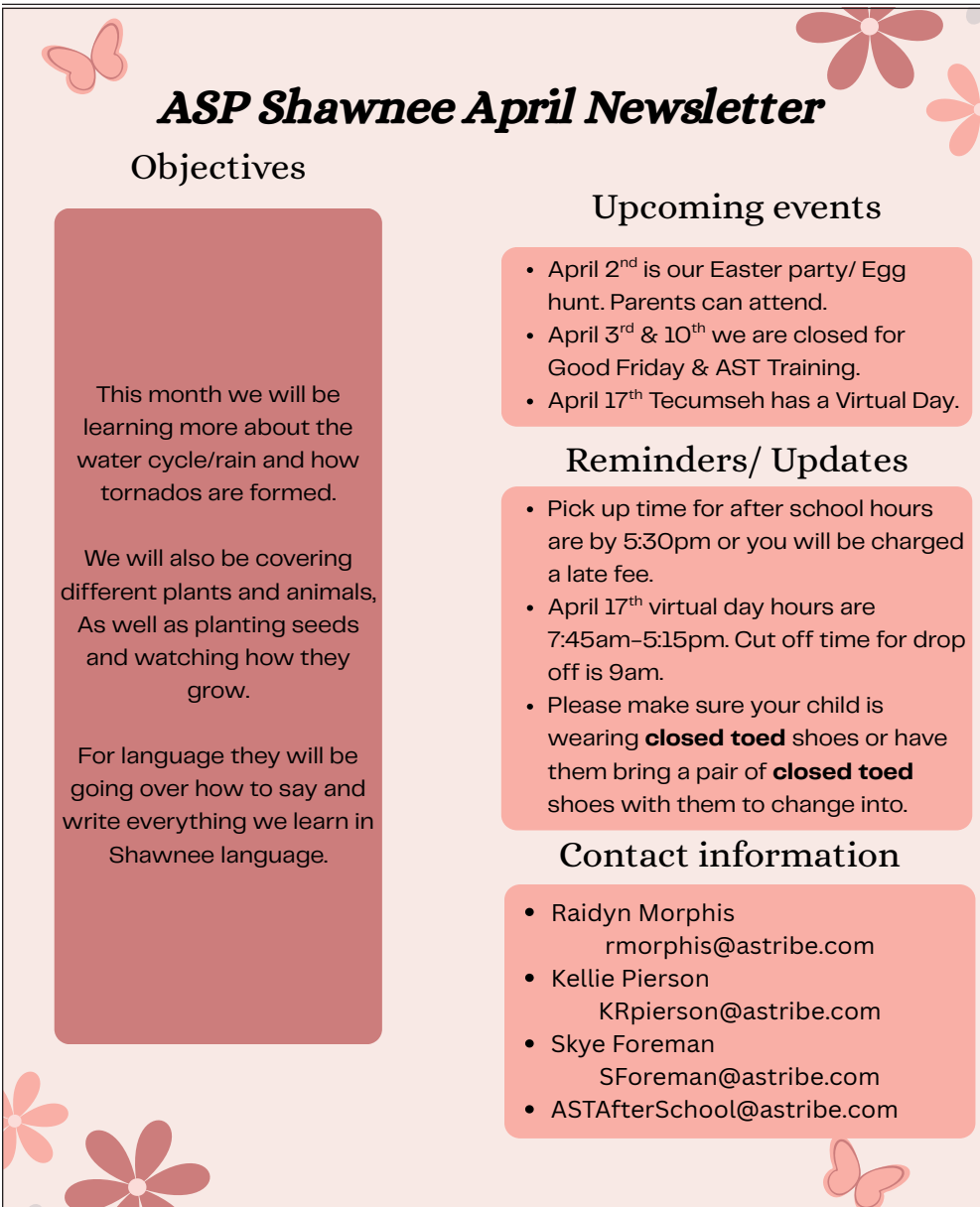
- April 2nd is our Easter party/ Egg hunt. Parents can attend.
- April 3rd & 10th we are closed for Good Friday & AST Training.
- April 17th Tecumseh has a Virtual Day.

Reminders/ Updates

- Pick up time for after school hours are by 5:30pm or you will be charged a late fee.
- April 17th virtual day hours are 7:45am-5:15pm. Cut off time for drop off is 9am.
- Please make sure your child is wearing **closed toed** shoes or have them bring a pair of **closed toed** shoes with them to change into.

Contact information

- Raidyn Morphis
rmorphis@atribe.com
- Kellie Pierson
KRpierson@atribe.com
- Skye Foreman
SForeman@atribe.com
- ASTAfterSchool@atribe.com



HSB AFTER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

April 2026

**“Pa ti ke na fe”
Rabbit**

Learning Objectives

- Recognize patterns and similarities in nature, weather, and everyday surroundings.
- Explore basic science concepts through simple experiments and hands-on discovery activities.
- Practice leadership by taking turns helping lead activities or assist peers.
- Learn about community helpers and the roles people play in supporting others.
- Build adaptability by learning how to adjust to new activities, schedules, and environments.
- Encourage curiosity by asking questions and sharing observations about the world around them.
- Practice gratitude and appreciation by recognizing acts of kindness and positive contributions from others.

Reminders

- ASP HSB will be closed Friday, April 3rd, in observance of Good Friday.
- ASP HSB will be closed Friday April 10th, for MANDATORY training.

Upcoming Events

- EASTER EGG HUNT!! April 2nd (See posted flyer)

Contact Information

Email: KRPierson@atribe.com
Phone: (405) 827-7308

EGG HUNT





Congratulations!

Jocelyn Hayes is an AST tribal member who will continue her academic and softball career at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas in the fall. She plans to study Nursing. She is a senior at Shawnee High School. Her parents are Briana Ponkilla and Charles Hayes, grandparents are Glendine Blanchard and Boyd Ponkilla, sister to Jackson and Jaeger Hayes.



ARE YOU GRADUATING THIS MAY?

We want to honor the 2026 AST Graduates!

Send us your full name, hometown, high school/college, degree or major and a photo (JPEG) to media@astribe.com by April 10, 2026.

The graduates will be featured in the May 2026 Absentee Shawnee News.

YOUR MONEY DESERVES TO GROW

As an AST member, you get exclusive access to checking and savings accounts that earn interest. More growth, more flexibility, more reasons to save. Make the switch today and watch your balance bloom!

HOW?

AllNations Bank

WWW.ALLNATIONS.BANK
SHAWNEE 405-273-0202
CALUMET 405-893-2240



FDIC FDIC-Insured - Backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government

NORTH ROCK CREEK'S NASA CLUB & PARENT COMMITTEE

FIRST EVER POW WOW

April 11, 2026

HEAD STAFF

MC Marshall Williamson
Head Singer Arlen Goodfox
HGD Jamie Cervantes
HMD Dr. Orrenzo Snyder
HLD Alicia Fraiser-Walker
OKC POW WOW Club Princess
AD Kelly Switch
Honor Guard: Seminole Nation Color

SCHEDULE

2:00pm Gourd Dance
5:00pm Supper Break
6:00pm Gourd Dance
7:00pm Grand Entry and Contests
Contests 1st, 2nd, 3rd
• Jr & Teens (7-17 Combined)
• Adult Women (18-59 Combined)
• Adult Men (18-59 Combined)
• Golden Age Women (60+ Combined)
• Golden Age Men (60+ Combined)

Introducing Our Special Guests

Sac & Fox Honor Guard Princess
Quincie Barse-Presson
Miss Sac & Fox Nation
Alivia Grass
Little Miss Sac & Fox Nation
Jessamae Grass-Foreman
Invitation to every Princess

PUBLIC WELCOME

NRC Gym
42400 Garrett's Lake Road
Shawnee, OK 74804

Vendor space \$20.00 + raffle item - contact 405.481.0686
Celebrate respectfully - NRC is a substance and weapon free school zone. All School guidelines apply. Attendees are responsible for their own safety and belongings.

2026 NATIONAL SUMMER YOUTH PRACTICUM

LEARN MORE

about interdisciplinary components of Tribal natural resource management thru hands-on & in-lecture settings, simulations & field trips

WHO CAN APPLY?

- 10th - 12th grade Native youth (ages 14 - 17 y/o) interested in natural resources

DATES:

- July 19 - 25, 2026

LOCATION:

- Northern Colorado: Colorado State University Mountain Campus, Fort Collins, Estes Park & Denver.

COST:

- Free, NAFWS covers student's travel, food & lodging

APPLICATION DUE DATE:

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 BY 10 PM MT

APPLY NOW!

CONTACT:

Ashley Mueller, Education & Advancement Director
Email: amueller@nafws.org
Office Phone: (303)-466-1725; Ext 203

WEBSITE: nafws.org/youth-early-professional/summer-youth-practicum/

NEW SHAWNEE Hours

MONDAY	10AM - 2 AM
TUESDAY	10AM - 2 AM
WEDNESDAY	10AM - 2 AM
THURSDAY	10AM - 2 AM
FRIDAY	10AM - 2 AM
SATURDAY	10AM - 2 AM
SUNDAY	10AM - 2 AM

We're Hiring!

OPEN POSITIONS:

- + Director of Finance
- + F&B Team Member (Both Locations)
- + Compliance Manager
- + Table Games Dealer
- + Player's Club Supervisor
- + HR Specialist
- + Compliance Manager
- + Maintenance Team Member
- + Vault Teller
- + Pit Boss
- + Security Officer
- + EVS Supervisor

AST \$500 Sign on Bonus!
(Split between 90th and 180th days) www.playthunderbird.com

15700 OK-9,
Norman, OK 73026



405-360-9270
PlayThunderbird.com

CAR SHOW

Spring 2026



Saturday, April 18th

Registration: 8am-11pm | Judging: 11am-1pm

\$2600 In Drawings | \$900 In Cash Prizes

UP TO TWO CARS CAN BE REGISTERED PER PARTICIPANT FOR TWO ENTRIES.
ONLY 1 PRIZE CAN BE AWARDED PER PERSON.

CASH DRAWINGS:

\$200 @ 9AM | \$200 @ 10AM | \$300 @ 11AM | \$400 @ 12PM | \$500 @ 1PM | \$1000 @ 2PM
(5) \$100 COMPLETED BALLOT DRAWINGS @ 2:30

CASH PRIZES:

\$200 BEST OF SHOW 79'S AND OLDER
\$200 BEST OF SHOW 80'S AND NEWER
\$500 THUNDERBIRD CASINO FAVORITE

REGISTRANTS MAY ENTER 2 BEST OF SHOW AWARDS & A THUNDERBIRD CASINO PICK.
CHOOSE 1 CAR CLASS:

★ ★ Car Classes ★ ★

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. 1949 & OLDER CAR | P. SPECIAL INTEREST |
| B. 1950 -1959 CAR | Q. UNFINISHED |
| C. 1960 - 1969 CAR | R. TRUCK 1959 & OLDER |
| D. 1979 - 1979 CAR | S. TRUCK 1960 - 1972 |
| E. 1986 - PRESENT CAR | T. TRUCK 1973 - 1988 |
| F. MINI TRUCK | U. TRUCK 1989 - PRESENT |
| G. '55 '56 '57 MODIFIED | V. CONVERTABLE |
| H. MUSTANG 1979 & OLDER | W. ORIGINAL |
| I. MUSTANG 1980 & NEWER | X. MOTORCYCLE |
| J. CORVETTE 1982 & OLDER | Y. CAMARO 1979 & OLDER |
| K. CORVETTE 1984 & NEWER | Z. CAMARO 1980 & NEWER |
| L. MUSCLE CAR | AA. MOPAR 1979 & OLDER |
| M. IMPORT | BB. MOPAR 1980 & NEWER |
| N. STREET ROD | CC. THUNDERBIRD |
| O. T BUCKET & ROADSTER | DD. RAT ROD |

For questions call:

Ray Langley 405-343-5934 or Mitch Phillips 405-830-0164

FIRST 100 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A T-SHIRT & DASH PLATE. \$25 ENTRY FEE. MUST BE PAID IN CASH ON DAY OF CAR SHOW. 30 CAR CLASSES. CAR PARTICIPANTS THAT TURN IN COMPLETED BALLOTS WILL BE ENTERED INTO (5) \$100 CASH DRAWINGS! FOR CAR SHOW PARTICIPANTS ONLY. MUST BE PRESENT TO CLAIM PRIZE.



WEDNESDAYS AT 6PM

PROGRESSIVE BLACKOUT BONUS

\$1,000 Minimum
& \$100 Added Each Week

Players must earn 25 points on their Thundercard to receive a Bonus Bingo card. Earn 100 points and receive one additional card.

PLUS, YOU DOUBLE THE PRIZE WHEN YOU EARN A SECOND CARD!

9 BINGO games will be played. 8 games will be played for straight line BINGO and winners will receive \$25 in Free Slot Play. The final game each Wednesday will be a "blackout" game for \$250 CASH. Progressive jackpot is awarded when blackout is earned in 55 balls or less.

Management reserves all rights.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS IN APRIL



4PM-MIDNIGHT

WIN

\$100

CASH VOUCHER

FOR A SUITED 3 OF A KIND



THUNDERBIRD CASINO
NORMAN

This is a promotional game. Management reserves all rights.

SATURDAYS IN MARCH



7 Winners every week!

Search for
SASQUATCH

EVERY 30 MINUTES FROM 6PM-9PM

Earn 50 same-day points for 1 entry on Fridays and Saturdays

FIND SASQUATCH AND WIN UP TO

\$10,000 CASH!

Must be actively playing a slot machine with your Thundercard and have earned 50 same-day points to be eligible. Management reserves all rights.

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Search for
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ASTHS April 2026 Monthly Update

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in the United States, a significant time to focus on protecting children and promoting family wellness. This annual observance aims to raise awareness and prevent child abuse, recognizing the role of supportive families and communities in ensuring child safety.

Throughout this month, organizations and individuals across the country emphasize the importance of understanding and addressing the factors that contribute to the well-being of children and the prevention of abuse. The reasons for dedicating April to this cause are profound. Child abuse affects millions globally, with severe repercussions for the victims' health, survival, and development.

In the U.S., extensive efforts are coordinated to provide prevention services, with reports indicating that millions of children benefit from interventions aimed at reducing abuse and supporting families. The activities of the month also serve to reinforce the message that everyone has a role to play in protecting children and strengthening the communities they grow up in.

Child Abuse Prevention Month serves as a reminder of the critical work done year-round by various agencies and organizations to combat child maltreatment. The observance involves educating the public about the signs of abuse, the importance of early intervention, and the resources available to families in need. It's a time to reaffirm commitments to creating safe and nurturing environments for all children, ensuring they have the opportunity to grow up in healthy and supportive settings.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe has our own Indian Child Welfare Department and their staff is very proactive with protecting our children. Their mission statement tells us they are dedicated to protecting the best interests of our children and preserving the cultural identity of our tribal families. They are committed to keeping families together whenever possible and ensuring that our children remain connected to their tribal community and cultural identity.

Services that ICW provide are:

- **Child Protective Services**

Our team investigates reports of child abuse and neglect involving Absentee Shawnee tribal children, working to ensure immediate safety and develop protection plans when necessary.

- **Family Preservation**

We offer support services designed to strengthen families and prevent removal of children from their homes whenever possible. This includes counseling, parenting classes, and Connection to community resources.

- **Tribal/State Court Representation**

Our team provides ongoing support, monitoring and advocacy in tribal and state court proceedings to represent the best interests of Absentee Shawnee tribal children and tribe in child welfare cases.

- **Cultural Connections**

We provide cultural education and activities to help Absentee Shawnee children maintain strong connections to their tribal heritage, language and traditions.

- **Guardianship Services**

We assist with establishing legal guardianships for Absentee Shawnee children when appropriate, helping to maintain family connections while ensuring safety and stability.

- **Foster Care/Adoption**

We recruit; train and support tribal foster homes to provide culturally appropriate temporary care for children. We also facilitate adoption placements that prioritize maintaining cultural connections. Foster/Adoption Inquiry

- **ICWA Advocacy**

Our department ensures compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in all state proceedings involving tribal children, providing expert testimony and intervention when necessary.

Our department ensures compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in all state proceedings involving tribal children, providing expert testimony and intervention when necessary.

If you need assistance from our ICW department, please reach out to either the director of one of the other staff. Our team is led by Shawnee Martinez, ICW Director. As the director, Shawnee oversees all departmental operations but does keep a "hands-on" approach on some of the most critical cases involving foster care, adoption, and court proceedings.

Paige Little Charley is the case manager and her role is to ensure that all services and placements respect and incorporate tribal traditions and values. Paige is a huge asset to the program and brings many years of experience both with ICW and cultural knowledge.

Kerri Stringer in the family preservation coordinator. Her focus is on providing preventative services and support to families at risk. She also helps to address the challenges families are facing before they escalate to the point of removing the child from the situation.

The ICW team can be reached at 405-395-4490 or by email at icw@astribe.com. Do not hesitate to contact their office if you have concerns about a child or family. They want to work to ensure the safety and well-being of our Absentee Shawnee children.

Doing Things Differently: Moving from the Challenge to the Change

National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. Prevention services and supports developed by this collaboration can help parents, other caregivers, and

communities protect children and strengthen families.

Cultural Connection is Key to Prevention!

Uplifting youth through hoop dancing, attending traditional ceremonies, hunting and gathering, creating arts and crafts projects through woodworking, beading or crocheting, playing sports and exercising, and establishing healthy family and friend relationships are all protective factors that positively impact a child's lifestyle. Practicing and nurturing parental skills, ensuring nutritional food and shelter is available, being role models or champions, ensuring access to quality medical care and mental health services, stable housing, and afterschool programs are other examples that can be categorized into individual, familial, and community protective factors against child maltreatment.

American Indian and Alaska Native children have some of the highest rates of child maltreatment. Indian Health Service has first-hand knowledge of this because it provides health care to children that are victims of abuse. We also see child abuse on news channels, read about it in the local newspapers, experience it with our relatives, or even attend vigils for innocent children who have been lost far too soon. Child maltreatment includes physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 that results in harm, the potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child. Being exposed to drugs, alcohol, mental health issues, food insecurity, and high rates of violence are all potential risk factors for child maltreatment and for potential perpetration.

As recognized by Congress through the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1601-1685), an ongoing message from the forensic healthcare team is that individuals and communities who teach Indigenous core values, cultural strengths, Native languages, and traditional beliefs positively impact a child's health and well-being, which ultimately decreases any potential negative health outcomes and risks for maltreatment. Lastly, we encourage collaboration with local tribal governments and coalitions to help provide support and prevention efforts against child maltreatment.

We ask everyone to show support and encourage positive and healthy discussions with family and friends to help end child abuse and maltreatment. Our children are our future! There are 574 Federally recognized Tribes in the United States. As sovereign nations, Tribes manage their own child welfare systems to support American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) families and honor Tribal values and priorities. The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA) is a major piece of Federal legislation that protects the rights of Native communities and governs child welfare practice involving Native families.

Child welfare and social services agencies must work in collaboration with juvenile and family courts. Both are responsible for protecting children and ensuring their safety, health, and well-being. Tribal courts may take their roles farther when working with their Tribe's child welfare and social services departments by ensuring culturally competent services are provided to strengthen families and support reunification.

The relationship between Tribal courts and Tribal social services can be difficult to navigate, especially when Tribal courts begin hearing family cases. Tribal social services may be used to operating independently or have existing relationships with State or county courts that previously decided child welfare or family cases involving Tribal members.

Prevention In Tribal Child Welfare

Prevention in Tribal child welfare means strengthening families and communities before a crisis occurs—creating the conditions that support safety, connection, and cultural continuity. For American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, prevention often includes honoring and revitalizing cultural practices, strengthening community connections, and addressing root causes such as poverty and trauma. Each Tribe and Village is unique in how it defines, leads, and implements prevention work, grounded in sovereignty, self-determination, and community wisdom.

In Tribal child welfare, culture is prevention. Cultural identity, language, ceremonies, and relational worldviews are protective factors that support family preservation and reduce the likelihood of future system involvement. Prevention strategies may include building kinship networks; engaging fathers, grandparents, and extended family members; establishing family resource centers; and embracing traditional ways of resolving conflict and restoring harmony. These efforts center Indigenous values and proactively address risk by building on community strengths.

Prevention in Tribal child welfare is proactive, strength-based, and community-driven. It includes programs that reduce the need for child removals due to poverty, support family wellness before crisis occurs, and foster healing in culturally meaningful ways. Tribal programs often design prevention strategies that align with their values while also navigating federal requirements such as those under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), which provides opportunities to fund evidence-based supports like mental health services, parenting programs, and kinship navigation.

If you suspect a child or children are being abused, please contact your local law enforcement by dialing 911, especially if they are in a dangerous situation. Do not wait, the child's health and safety is very important. Within our tribal health system, every licensed medical professional is responsible for reporting suspected child abuse. They will contact the local law enforcement office and our ICW staff. We are responsible for the health and well-being of our children.

To call our tribal police to make a report, you can call 405-275-3200 or the tip line at 405-273-1249. The Indian Health Service also has a hotline for reporting child abuse and sexual abuse. The report can be made by calling the IHS Hotline at 1-855-SAFE-IHS (1-855-723-3447).

Beverly Felton, MSN, RN
Public Health Director




ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL HEALTH SYSTEM
 Prevention. Progress. Pride.

Scheduled Closures

Apr. 1st - Closed at NOON for Townhall Day, PlusCare & Pharmacy will re-open at 5pm

Apr. 3rd - Closed in observance of Good Friday.

Follow us on Facebook or visit asthealth.org for closure information and updates!





ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL HEALTH SYSTEM
 Prevention • Progress • Pride

2026 SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Are you a Native American student seeking a future in healthcare? Start your career journey with us.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

12 openings | June 1 – July 24
20 hrs/week | \$14.25/hr

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Native American with a valid CDIB card (AST preferred)
2026 High School Senior or current College/Vo-Tech student
Ages 18–24 with a 3.0+ GPA Preferred
Available Mon–Fri, 8a–5p
Must be available for the full first two weeks of the program

HOW TO APPLY

Visit ASTRIBE.COM or ASTHEALTH.ORG
Under the Employment/Careers tab
Submit a Cover letter and Resume.

Application Dates

Applications Open: Now
Applications Close: April 30th, 2026

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Health Human Resources at 405.701.7638





 AST DIABETES & WELLNESS
APRIL KI-KE-KI-KA-MI-GE "KEEP MOVING" MONTHLY CHALLENGE
 April - Active Living

“Awaken the Spirit-Step Toward Wellness”
Encourages active lifestyles and honoring traditional practices.

Challenge: Strengthen the heart, build muscle, and prevent diabetes.

Goal: Move your body 30 minutes a day - you choose how you move. Walking, bike riding, dancing, the options are endless.



Scan to Register

IF YOU REGISTERED IN FEBRUARY THERE IS NO NEED TO REGISTER AGAIN. YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE THE MARCH CHALLENGE INVITE VIA THE WELLBEING+ APP.

Questions? We're here to help you achieve a healthier YOU!
Contact us at 405-701-7977



YOUR NEXT CHAPTER STARTS HERE!

QUICK & EASY APPLICATION PROCESS



visit astribe.com for job listings

AST Public Health Presents




CAR SEAT EVENT



DRIVE THRU EVENT



-  **CHILD MUST BE PRESENT**
-  **CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK**
-  **INSTALLATION EDUCATION**
-  **EXPECTING PARENTS WELCOME**

THURSDAY MAY 14TH, 2026
5:00 - 7:00 PM

2025 S GORDON COOPER DR, SHAWNEE, OK 74801
TITLE VI PARKING LOT



Pottawatomie County Health Department



Contact: Rita Hunnicutt at 405.561.7868 or rhunnicutt@astribe.com



COMPLETECARE
HOME HEALTH
HEALTH. HEALING. HOME.



Skilled nursing



Occupational, speech & physical therapy



Home health aide



Serving Native & Non-native patients

HEAL BETTER AT HOME WITH self-care SUPPORT



15951 Little Axe Dr.
Norman, OK 73026

405-701-7085

405-233-0563

APRIL 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 CLOSED FOR TOWN HALL	2 CHEF SALAD CHICKEN,CHEZ,EGGS COTTAGE CHEZ PINEAPPLES	3 GOOD FRIDAY TITLE VI CLOSED
6 TURKEY SANDWICH LTOC BAKED CHIPS MIXED FRUIT	7 STEW CORNBREAD PEARS	8 BAKED CHICKEN STRIPS BOILED POT SLICED ORANGES	9 ELDER DAY -LA HOT HAM & CHEZ SANDWICH BAKED CHIPS FLUFF	10 ROAST MASHED POT/GRAVY ROASTED CARROTS APPLESAUCE
13 CHICKEN FAJITAS BELL PEPPERS & ONIONS SPANISH RICE MANDRAIN ORANGES	14 BAKED POT HAM,CHEZ,ONIONS FRUIT SALAD BAR*	15 BEANS W HAM ZUCC & TOM ONIONS CORNBREAD	16 BEEF FINGERS VEGGIES ROLL COOKIE	17 CHICKEN QUESADILIAS LTO/ SALSA FRUIT
20 GRILLED CHEZ SANDWICH CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP	21 WEINERS & KRAUT GREEN BEANS BREAD MIXED FRUIT	22 SALMON PATTY THREE SISTER SALAD JELLO W FRUIT	23 ELDER DAY -SHAWNEE GOULASH GARLIC TOAST WINTER BLEND PUDDING	24 PORK & HOMINY CUTIE
27 GUY'S BIRTHDAY BBQ LEG QUARTERS MASHED POT BROWN GRAVY BEETS/APRICOTS	28 BEEF PEPPERED STEAK COLESLAW BREAD PEAR	29 MEATLOAF MASHED POT/GRAVY GREEN BEANS ROLL/SALAD*	30 HOAGIE SANDWICH SUMMER CUCUMBER SALAD	

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

LUNCH IS SERVED FROM 11 AM TO 1PM
BREAKFAST IS SERVED FROM 9AM TO 11AM

SERVING AT THE SHAWNEE SITE AND LITTLE AXE RESOURCE CENTER

APRIL!!!!

APRIL 1, WE WILL BE CLOSED TO ATTEND TOWN HALL DAY
NO FOOD WILL BE SERVED OR DELIVERED

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 3- TITLE VI WILL BE CLOSED –
NO FOOD WILL BE SERVED OR DELIVERED



APRIL 5



AST ELDER DAYS

APRIL 16- AT LITTLE AXE RESOURCE CENTER

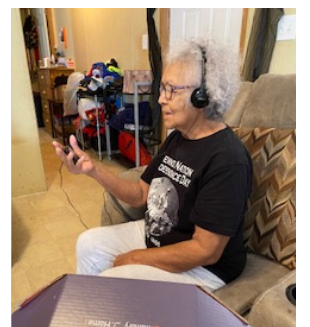
APRIL 23- AT SHAWNEE SITE

HEALTH BUZZ!!

Strengthening Bonds Through Meaningful Songs

Music is universal. It energizes, motivates, comforts, and connects us to one another. It also has this incredible way of transporting us back in time. When we hear a well-liked, familiar song from our past, our brains begin to associate the song with the positive emotions that were felt from hearing it all those years ago. Music is a wonderful non-pharmacological tool for caregivers caring for loved ones with dementia related illnesses. It sets the stage for a more comfortable and predictable environment by easing agitation, boosting mood, and mental clarity. In some studies, it shows this helps people with dementia remember the past and feel like themselves again for a short time. In addition, it also helps promote better sleep in those that struggle with heightened restlessness during the late afternoon and evening hours when calmer music is played before bedtime.

My favorite thing about using music as a tool is the connection that it brings. As the disease progresses, communication with our elders and loved ones become increasingly more challenging. Listening to music together that is enjoyable and familiar can be a meaningful way to enhance quality of life and keep family bonds strong for longer.



Georgia Little Axe
Music & Memory Participant

Five Therapeutic Advantages Of Music In Dementia Care

- **Improving Sleep** --calming night time restlessness
- **Enhancing Mealttime** --increased appetite and pleasant routine before meals
- **Boosting Mood** --enhanced connection and bond through familiar music
- **Minimizing Environmental Anxiety**--smooth transitions and guided mobility within the community
- **Providing Caregiver Respite**--allowing micro-restorative moments

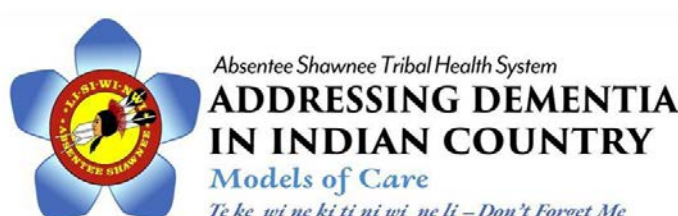


If you or someone you know would benefit from the [Savvy Caregiver in Indian Country](#) or [Music & Memory](#) programs, contact adpi@atribe.com, or call 405-701-7906.

Check out our web-page on the [Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System's](https://www.asthealth.org) website: <https://www.asthealth.org>

Click on: “[Programs and Preventions](#)” and then click on “[Seeking Hope](#)”. You can sign up on line also!

Best regards,
Lacy Gillean, Dementia Care Specialist
Enhancing Sustainable Dementia Models of Care



Ensuring Hope Grant

On March 4, the Ensuring Hope grant hosted a Native American Beading Class at the multipurpose building on the Shawnee Clinic campus. Community members gathered to learn beadwork techniques and create unique beaded necklaces that can be worn for dances or everyday use. The class provided a space for participants to connect, be creative, and engage with a meaningful cultural activity.

During the event, Ensuring Hope staff also collected Protective Factors Surveys from participants. The information gathered will help the program better understand strengths within the community and guide future prevention, education, and support efforts.



Pictured above is the Ensuring Hope director, Jack Hartgrave, explaining the purpose of the class and introducing the instructor, Angie Goodfox.



Examples of necklaces the participants could make. These necklaces were made by Angie Goodfox.

Medication Flavoring Now Available at AST Pharmacies:

Both the Shawnee and Little Axe AST Pharmacy locations are now offering medication flavoring to help make taking liquid medicine easier for your child. Using the FLAVORx system, patients can choose a taste that helps improve the flavor of certain liquid medications.

All available flavors are sugar-free, allergen-free, gluten-free, dye-free, and casein-free, making them a safe option for many patients.

This service is provided at no cost to patients at both AST Pharmacy locations. If you or your child have a liquid prescription, ask a pharmacist if it is eligible for flavoring and they can help you choose a flavor that may work best.



April 2026

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

National **Public Health Week**
April 6-12

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1. Townhall Day. Closed at noon.	2.	3. Closed in observance of Good Friday.	4.
5.	6.	7. World Health Day	8.	9.	10.	11. General Council - 10am Multipurpose Building
12.	13.	14.	15.	16. Elder Fun Day LA Resource Center 11am-1pm	17.	18.
19.	20.	21.	22. 	23. Elder Fun Day Shawnee Title VI 11am-1pm	24.	25.
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.		

HEALTH SYSTEM
Prevention. Progress. Pride.