Anniversary Pow Wow

July 4-6, 2014
Thunderbird Casino

See pictures of the winners in the special insert inside
Hello my Absentee Shawnee people!

The recent rain is a nice change from the intense heat and humidity we have had. It is a relief to me that we are not suffering the extreme weather we have had in previous years. As we know this type of weather can easily change in Oklahoma.

My programs continue to be busy and I hope you will read each of my program directors reports. There is still much we need to do and I will work with the EC on health board and gaming concerns. I am trying to work with the health board(s) in direction setting; by-law updating; getting health board appointments done; and having more input into the contractual and financial aspects of all my programs.

For the past year I have focused on educational and health reform at a local level. As of this month I will be taking a more active role nationally on educational and health reform efforts. Me and my program staff are committed to the people we serve. We need your input. We want to make a difference and with your assistance this can be done.

City of Shawnee

Let me start out by saying: The City of Shawnee is disingenuous about what they are doing. They say publicly they want to work with the Tribes in the area. Yet as you may recall in March they sent a threatening letter to the four Tribes in the Shawnee area: Kickapoo, Sac and Fox, Citizen Potawatomi and Absentee Shawnee advising they are ‘entitled’ to taxes from the Tribes. The Tribes met with the City and attempted to educate the City on sovereignty and the federal statutes Tribes are governed by. The City added funds to their budget and hired a legal firm to litigate against the Tribes and a public relations firm to do a media blitz on the need of ALL residents/businesses to pay taxes to Shawnee. The issue of the taxes currently appears to be dormant but not forgotten as the City put another $100,000 into their budget, this year, to litigate with.

Now where are we at today: On July 7, 2014 Keith Hall, City Commissioner for Ward 4 got the City Commissioners to discuss, consider, and possibly take action on an ordinance (this is the City’s form of local law and is similar to when we pass a Tribal resolution) that allows Shawnee to place a Charter amendment on the ballot for a referendum vote. This ballot, if passed, will allow the City to detach our land and the CPN’s land from the City of Shawnee. Why is this meaningful to us here and as Tribal members? This could:

• Create budget concerns due to potentially having to either buyback services from the City or be charged fair market to premium rates for contracted services;  
• Reduce service levels – if a service is no longer available or is too costly then cost factors could impact our quality of care and service delivery;  
• Take away the Tribes choice to de-annex from the City;  
• Create barriers to care and stigmatize community partnerships.

What does this mean for the City?

• Gives the City opportunity to attempt to charge the Tribe(s) for public improvements done;  
• Ability to increase costs for services;  
• Exclude citizens

We need to be concerned. We need to make our voices heard. We are a sovereign nation with inherent rights. We are community partners, stakeholders and tax payers in the City of Shawnee and we are here to stay. The City is currently composed of all non-natives. In September this will change and two Native Americans will become City Commissioners. We need more Native Americans in these key elected positions who can work towards making a difference. I hope you will vote to make a difference in the County and State runoff elections on August 26, 2014.

I have 10 months to go. I have an Open Door Policy and am always glad to see you. So please stop by and visit when you have time.

Help me to make a difference – stand beside me and Let’s Build for the Future (BFF) - united and together! Thank you for your support.
I hope everyone is well and enjoying your summer. I would like to thank each and every one for getting out and voting in our recent election. We had another good turnout at the polls and I hope this continues in future elections. Congratulations and welcome to our new Treasurer Leah Bates and Representative Kenneth Blanchard to the Executive Committee. I look forward to working with them and the Executive Committee in making the Tribe successful. I would also like to congratulate the two new Election Commission members, Briana Ponkilla and Aly Miller.

Even though the big community build on the KaBoom Playground has past, I would like thank everyone who participated. We had a very nice turn out from tribal members, employees, and folks living in the community. This project was brought to the Tribe through our Diabetes/Fitness Program from Nike N7. Communities affected by the tornados last year have received playgrounds. Again, a big thank you to who was able to participate.

I want to take this opportunity to update everyone on the two parking projects under our Roads Program. As I have mentioned in an earlier article, the police substation parking lot construction has been suspended due to an AT&T fiber optics line and phone line lying in the middle of the construction area. The contractor, engineer, and staff have tried to contact the AT&T Representative that oversees line modifications, in order to get the process started. Calls and emails have not been returned, leaving us little choice but to wait. This is frustrating as the project itself will not take very long. A resolution to the problem is in the works and we look forward to completing this project.

The second project is the parking lot at the new daycare center. This project is in conjunction with the CCDF grant. Construction on this parking lot will begin within a few weeks and there are no foreseen delays with utility lines.

This year we planted Indian corn at the 10 acre corn field near Hwy 9A. Unfortunately our corn did not make and was taken over by Johnson grass. We are going to re-plant and try to have Indian corn for the fall. We will keep you posted.

Included in this article is an update on the Cattle Project. If you have questions, feel free to contact my office.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Veteran’s Powwow over the July 4th holiday. It was nice to see everyone who was able to make it out.

Thank you again for your support.

The Treasurer’s office and subordinate departments are steadily working to provide a strong voice and advocacy within the AST Complex for all programs in our daily operations. It is the choices we make today managing our financial resources that will have a profound effect on our Tribal members and our quality of life for generations to come. In today’s rapidly changing financial world, our goal within the next two years is to manage investments and debt in a manner that preserves and enhances our Tribe’s strong financial standing, builds our businesses, and gets the best value for every expenditure made.

Our first goal this month was to orient all staff members on budget deficiencies, cut cost as much as possible while progressing forward efficiently, and to re-evaluate expenditures on non-profitable ventures. It is our hopes that this will “jump start” stagnant personnel and create a positive environment to move forward as an integrated, high-functioning team of professionals.

We value the safety and security of our Tribe and want to raise awareness of everyday ventures. We have at least two years to make improvements, so by working together, and with using industry standards and benchmarks, my hope is that we will all continue to progress in a way we all can be proud of for our future and the future of our Tribe!

Thank you,
Leah D. Bates

Greetings Tribal Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those members who participated in the 2014 General Election. It is your constitutional right to exercise your right to vote and I am proud of you for doing so.

I would like to thank my wife, family, and friends who supported me through the election process. It takes time and sacrifice but they backed my efforts wholeheartedly.

The electorate has expressed their confidence by voting me to the position of Tribal Representative, for that I am humbly grateful.

In so doing, the people’s message is clear: get things done and move the Tribe forward.

Once again, thanks to you all.
Respectfully,
Kenneth Blanchard
Financial Consultant’s Report

Hello Tribal Members,
First of all, I would like to welcome our newly elected Treasurer Leah Bates to the Office of Treasurer. Treasurer Bates will protect, manage, and safeguard the financial health of the Tribe, and promote a responsible fiscal policy. I have been involved and participated in the following financial consultant activities:

Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority, Inc. (ASEDA)

I attended and participated in our recent ASEDA, INC. monthly board meeting. Our main topic of business focused on the Little Axe Water District development project. Present were board members: President Dan Little Axe, Vice-President Adam Proctor, and Secretary Eddie Brokeshoulder also in attendance were Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe, newly elected Treasurer Leah Bates, and Secretary Vera Dawsey. Guest speaker was Jared T. Davidson, attorney at law, representing Public Finance Law Group, PLLC, of Oklahoma City, OK. Mr. Davidson gave a presentation on ‘Financing Oklahoma’, with a focus of working with and serving as bond counsel on the financing for the Li-Si-Wi-Nwi Health, Inc. and potential financing options for proposed potential structure of a stand alone rural water district. Mr. Davidson’s client firm list includes: State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma cities and towns, rural water districts and Tribes. Adam Proctor Vice-President handed each member in attendance a document on “Why ASEDA Did the Water Study”, which was an overview of our Little Axe water district project. After a lengthy discussion, a smaller scale of a water district, utilizing the water line extending from the health clinic was proposed.

ASEDA, INC., continues to meet on a regular basis the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. All Tribal and Executive Committee members are invited to attend. Our board members included Dan Little Axe, President, Adam Proctor, Vice-President and Eddie Brokeshoulder, Secretary.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Five Principles of Good Agricultural Practices Participated in a free-webinar based discussion on the “Five Principles of Good Agricultural Practices” sponsored by First Nations Development Institute, Longmont, Colorado. The five principles focused on GAP which stands for Good Agricultural Practices and these are things we do in the field and during transport to the consumer to prevent contamination.

OKLAHOMA NATIVE ASSETS COALITION (ONAC)

Attended the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition (ONAC) Annual Conference at the Oklahoma Historical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. ONAC represents a consortium of Oklahoma Tribes and partners interested in establishing asset-building initiatives and programs in native communities, for the purpose of creating greater opportunities for economic and self-sufficiency of Tribal citizens.

The ONAC conference was well attended with over 75 attendees including State of Oklahoma native caucus legislators, Tribal leaders, Ford foundation, Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Internal Revenue Service, Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribal College, Duke University, First Nations Development Institute and First Nations Oweesta Corporation.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe has been an active member for the past four years engaging in a number of asset-building initiatives including entrepreneurial, financial education, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) through small loan and credit repair programs. Highlight’s of the conference was a two-fold opportunity for us, as we got recognition of our Absentee Shawnee Tribe VITA program as a first year successful program from our Oklahoma City Internal Revenue Service (IRS) representative Pam Charles. The second highlight of ONAC was being introduced to State of Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin by native caucus member State Representative, Bobby Cleveland, a member of the Choctaw Nation.

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (CDFI)

The Absentee Shawnee Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) is in the process of advertising for an Executive Director. The Executive Director will work with our CDFI board to develop articles of incorporation and by-laws for the organization. Our CDFI program will focus on credit repair and small business loans which will be tied to financial literacy and technical assistance of business development. For more information on our CDFI program you can contact steering committee member, Eddie Brokeshoulder, at (405) 275-4030, ext. 148. In closing, once again I would like to welcome our newly elected Treasurer Leah Bates.

Respectfully,

Eddie Brokeshoulder
Financial Consultant
RESOLUTIONS THROUGH JULY 16, 2014

E-AS-14-23 07/02/14
Supports the Employee Committee by waiving all taxes, permits and any other provisions requiring a return to the Tribe under the Tax and associated with this agreement with Firecracker Joe’s by the Employee Committee and authorizes the use of the site location space, electrical outlets, and electricity, if available per the dates stipulated by the attached agreement, EFFECTIVE AS OF JUNE 26, 2014.

E-AS-14-24 07/02/14
Authorizes, adopts, and approves the submission of an application to the Administration on Aging – Falls Prevention Program and in connection with such application does resolve and make assurances that all efforts and documents are in compliance with any and all program requirements.

E-AS-14-25 07/02/14
Authorizes and approves the attached Detention Services Agreement between the Sac and Fox Nation and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

E-AS-14-26 07/02/14
Approves and accepts Brisa Nayeli Blanchard, Bailey Shae Issi Balalli Sam-Ruimveld, Kortlynn Marie Carpenter, Hollis Lucille Kauley, John David Morgan, Andrew Shawn Edgmon, Pacey Wyatt Edgmon, Jeorgia Annabella Edgmon, Sharon Annette Reeves, Savanna Rose Rigg, Blake Tristan Bennett, Blaine Mattingly Bennett, Reilly Paul Bui, Carolyn Curtis Hartley, Jeremiah James Morton, Faibian Eugene Kringle and Serenity Jean Davis as enrolled members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma as of the date of this resolution.

E-AS-14-27 07/02/14
Acknowledges and authorizes the corrected blood degree change for Dakota James Arms, and hereby makes it known that this individual is an enrolled Tribal Member and is now and forever the degree of Absentee Shawnee Indian blood as corrected and shown above.

E-AS-14-28 07/02/14
Grants voluntary relinquishment of membership of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma to Pamela Sue Monroe to enroll with the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma effective the date the relinquishment was received by the enrollment staff.

E-AS-14-29 07/02/14
Grants voluntary relinquishment of membership of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma to Joshua Lee Ellis provided he is accepted into the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma.

E-AS-14-30 07/16/14
Authorizes, adopts, and approves the submission of an application to the United States Department of Agriculture in connection with such application does resolve and make assurances that all efforts and documents are in compliance with any and all program requirements.

E-AS-14-31 07/16/14
Adopts, and approves the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, through the Chief of Police of the Absentee Shawnee Division of Public Safety, Emergency Management Program, to apply for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s, Division of Homeland Security Fiscal Year 2014 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program.

E-AS-14-32 07/16/14
Approves and accepts Carl Kent Boston, Jr., Oliver Phillip Finch, Larry Dean Blanchard, III, Beau Allen Gouge, Bentley Robert Jin Hanson and Avery Lynn Landrum as enrolled members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma as of the date of this resolution.

E-AS-14-33 07/16/14
Re-appoints Redena Miller to the Absentee-Shawnee Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for a term of (2) two years expiring August 31, 2016, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

E-AS-14-34 07/16/14
Re-appoints Billy Squire as a member of the Absentee Shawnee Tax Board of Commissioners for a two (2) year term expiring July 31, 2016, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

E-AS-14-35 07/16/14
Approves communication services to replace the current phone system per attachment and authorizes Governor Butler-Wolfe to sign the agreement, effective immediately.
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**Elders Council Monthly Meeting**

**August 16, 2014 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Title VI**

**Shawnee, Oklahoma**

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

**LUNCH SERVED MONDAY-THURSDAY  11AM TO 1PM**

**BREAKFAST SERVED FRIDAYS   9AM TO 11AM**
Absence Shawnee Tribal member, Ashley Brokeshoulder (R-L, 1st row, 2nd person) helped pitch the Chitto Harjo team to the 2014 Oklahoma State Indian Women’s Fastpitch Championship at Wheeler Park.

Alyssa Ferrell

Alyssa, an Absentee Shawnee tribal member, attends Little Axe School and is in the 7th grade. She was selected to attend Explorology Adventures in the Science Discovery Program at the Sam Noble Museum, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma. This special program gave Alyssa the opportunity to explore Oklahoma forests, streams, ponds in search of frogs, fish, insects, and fossils.

Twenty five (25) applicants were interviewed from those who applied statewide. This group was interviewed at the Sam Noble Museum. Fourteen (14) students were selected based on the criteria of: 1) interest and enthusiasm in science 2) written short answer responses 3) teacher recommendation, 4) opportunities to experience science.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe is very proud of Alyssa, our young and upcoming scientist. It was a pleasure to see Alyssa present her science experiment at Sam Noble, Saturday, July 12, 2014.

She is the daughter of Jeff and Melinda Ferrall and granddaughter of Bucky Little Charley.

Keep up the good work, Alyssa.

On June 28, 2014 Stevi Johnson placed third in the Hershey’s State Track Meet held at the University of Oklahoma. Stevi is a 4th grader at Eisenhower Elementary and is in the Gifted & Talented Program in Norman Oklahoma. Stevi’s family is extremely proud of her goals and accomplishments!
This year Camp Nikoti visited the AST main campus. OEH participated in educating the youth with a Clever Catch (inflatable ball) method to learn about amphibians. Showed off “Charles” Red Eared Turtle, who has been at OEH since he was a quarter size.

Camp Nikoti
June 19, 2014

**Animated Leadership Adventure**

**CAMP NIKOTI 2014**

Camp Nikoti—Summer Youth Leadership Camp 2014, Animated Leadership Adventure concluded on July 18th. 32 youth from Tecumseh, Shawnee, Meeker, Moore, Earlsboro, McLoud, and Little Axe participated in activities to strengthen their leadership and teamwork skills, their physical fitness, and their cultural identity. We had guest speakers, representing various departments within the tribe, mentor our youth through activities and presentations. Every day was filled with games, learning sessions, guest speakers, arts and crafts, or field trips.

Camp would not have been possible without the following people:

Special thanks to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe’s Executive Committee: Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe, Lt. Governor Isaac Gibson, Secretary Vera Dawsey, Treasurer (former) Kathy Deere and Representative (former) Jeff Gibson. Also, the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority’s Executive Director, Sherry Drywater.

Billie Thompson—Building Blocks, CDC
Kim Goodman and Charles Graham, Dean—OU College of Architecture
Ken Jones, Evelyn Pablito, Dakota Blanchard, and Jarrod Lloyd—AST OEH
Joseph Blanchard and staff—Cultural Preservation Melissa Lopez—Family Violence Prevention/ASTDV Linda Gouge—Sexual Assault Advocate/ASTDV Kasey Dean—Behavioral Health SPF

Jennifer Sloan—MSPI
Buster Bread—Diabetes and Wellness Department (Fitness)
Shawn Crowley—AST Police Department
Donna Butler and Dos Owings—Title VI Belinda Collins—Finance
Michael Berry—MIS
Sherman Tiger—Media Director
Scott Miller—BIA Self-Governance Specialist
Joe Blanchard—Tribal Elder
Meredith Wahpekeche—Tribal Elder
June 23, 2014

At the Resource Center, the participants went under a mini lab course of Water Quality using the Biotic Index. The youth learned the pollution level thru benthic macroinvertebrates. OEH collected the Little River stream and Thunderbird Lake for the water samples to be used in the demonstration. The t-shirt was designed by the participants last summer camp.

Watching a video “Pond & River”

Day 1
Origami fish hat & video

Station 1
Youths used Aqua Scope to see minnows and turtle

Day 2
Aqua Scope & Clever Catch

Youth participants learn hands on with Aqua Scope in man made environment setting to see what is in the streams & lakes. Using a Clever Catch ball, the youths learn about amphibians, female frogs lay up to 20,000 eggs.

Station 2
Inflatable ball
Horse Shoe Bend Summer School participants learned about two types of turtles, the Orante Box turtle (terapene oranta) is one of the land-dwelling turtles in Oklahoma. And the Red-eared Slider (Trachemys scripta elegans) found in aquatic habitats and is a basking turtle seen lying in the sun on logs.

Young Red-eared Sliders feed on aquatic insects, snails, crustaceans, and small fish, but adult sliders are primarily vegetarian and eat plants.

Slider adult length of 5 to 8 inches (females are larger than males)

During the MSPI Program’s Youth summer camp the SPF Program held a poster contest with the theme of being Drug Free. Two winners were chosen from the age group 10 & Under and 11 & up. I am attaching the two winners of the contest and would love for you to put their poster’s in the paper.

The 11 & up winner was Telinah Farve. Her words around the circle are in the Shawnee language and says, around the top of the circle, “DRUGS ARE NO GOOD.” Around the bottom of the circle it says, “OUR TIME IS ALMOST OVER.”

The winner of the 10 & under was Braelyn Deer and her poster says “I don’t do tobacco so why should you?”

Each of these winner’s won a $20 dollar gift card to Walmart courtesy of the SPF-Program. All of the kids did great!
The AST Cultural Preservation Department Would Like To Pass Along The Following Information Concerning Updates To Each Of Our Programs:

**Cultural Preservation**

Cultural Preservation sponsored a Screening of “Crooked Arrows” on Tuesday, July 22nd at the Thunderbird Casino Warrior Room. Popcorn and drinks were served to give the attendees the full movie experience. Upon completion of the viewing, there was a quick “Question and Answering” session to discuss and gauge the reaction about the creation of an AST Lacrosse team in the future. Recently, the Iroquois Nation sent representatives to compete at the World Championships in Colorado and finished with a Bronze Medal in competition. If there is enough interest, these individuals would be our delegates against other Tribal teams in developing rapport and re-establishing long forgotten relationships.

In other news, Tribal members, who’ve completed the Cultural Participation Criterion, had the opportunity to visit AST Homelands in Ohio. The 16 participants left on Wednesday, July 23rd and returned early Sunday morning on July 27th. While gone, they had the chance to tour Cahokia Mounds outside St. Louis, Missouri; Hopewell Mounds Cultural Center and the outdoor presentation, Tecumseh! in Chillicothe, Ohio. Again, eligibility for the “Educational Outreach” Field Trips is determined by the total number of Cultural Preservation activities participated in throughout the year. The next excursion will be leaving Wednesday, August 6th to visit the Meskwaki Nation Reservation in Tama, Iowa for the 100th Annual Meskwaki Powwow.

If you have questions about the skills classes or would like to lead a demonstration, please call Joseph at Ext. 302, or send an email to joseph.blanchard@astribe.com.

**Library**

Since the last publication, Staff took a group of young people on Tuesday, July 8th to the Oklahoma Historical Society, in Oklahoma City. While there, the children had an opportunity to see plenty about the history of Oklahoma, from the Indian Territory days up to the Present. A special exhibit titled, “Oklahoma Century Chest, 1913-2013” was on display, chronicling all the items and timeline of the buried Time Capsule. If you have not had the chance to ever visit this facility, it is well worth the short drive to OKC.

On Tuesday, July 17th, Ms. Sophia and I attended the “Lunch with the Smithsonian” session in Ardmore. While there, we were able to network with representatives from Tribal Libraries, Archives and other Cultural Preservation Programs. Then on Wednesday, July 18th, AST Library and Archives hosted Elaine Webster, Asst. Director of Advancement for the National Museum of the American Indian. Light snacks and drinks were served to our guests after they viewed our holdings and provided great insight on how we might improve our services. Likewise, I reminded them of our previous discussion to bring a group of AST People to Washington, D.C. next year for a tour and to share a demonstration of our culture at their site.

We have a variety of resources available for checkout or your reading leisure including: magazines, newspapers, journals, CDs and DVDs. If you have any questions, please call Sophia at ext. 307 or send an email to stthurman@astribe.com.

**Gift Shop**

The Gift Shop continues to make progress in sales and new inventory. At the time of this submission, we are already planning our Fall orders for the “Back to School” Sale in mid-August. I also am looking for more Native-themed or print T-shirts. We are still selling the following items: Backpacks, Wind Breaker Jackets, Aluminum Water Bottles, a new selection of Polo Shirts and Hats. Please come in and check out our selection of CD’s in the Native style of music you prefer. We carry tunes for Powwow, NAC, and Stomp Dance. Also, the newest shipment from Crazy Crow and Saddle Blanket have arrived so come view the latest variety of bags, rugs and table cloths now in stock. If we don’t have what you like, let us know. Oftentimes, we can ‘Special Order’ your request and have it on hand in a matter of days. For inquiries, call Esther at ext. 307 or by email atelowden@astribe.com.

**THPO**

Our THPO program continues to make great strides and advancements by responding to Consultation Requests from 20 Federal Agencies, representing over 20+ states. As mentioned previously, we received notice from Monongahela National Forest of West Virginia, announcing a Participating Agreement Award, in the amount of $50,000. This allowed us to use our AST Heritage Resource Technician (HRT) Paraprofessionals, to complete Cultural Resource Management (CRM) responsibilities on their property. We sent our Certified Personnel to assist in Survey Data Collection during the week of July 27th, the first of four (4) outings over the next few months. As work continues, we will need more Tribal members to complete the Certification Course to become eligible for Seasonal employment. As of today, we are projecting late October as a potential time frame for the next HRT Training class.

In addition, THPO Staff assisted the AST Realty Department in collecting Survey Data for the Oklahoma City/Atoka Water Pipeline during the week of July 7th. This was a good collaborative effort between two (2) Tribal programs and a great refresher for the THPO employees to hone their outdoor skills.

Finally, I’d like to remind Tribal Members a couple more Field Trips are scheduled for later this year. As part of the selection process, it is REQUIRED that each person have attended and participated in a minimum number of Cultural Preservation sponsored events throughout the year. For those interested, here is the list of locations and proposed timeframe of when these will occur.

2nd Weekend of August – Attend the 100th Annual Meskwaki Powwow in Tama, Iowa
3rd Weekend of September – Participate in the Living Archaeology Weekend in Winchester, Kentucky

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 Tribal community.

Thank you for your time.

Joseph H. Blanchard
Cultural Preservation Director/ Tribal Historic Preservation Officer joseph.blanchard@astribe.com (405) 275-4030 Ext. 302

Thank you for your time.
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 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 associate or bachelor 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 one graduate admissions test. This program has funding levels based upon full-time and part-time status.
- **Big Jim Youth Award Program**: annual incentive for High School Seniors for Academic Achievement and Athlete of the Year. Deadline for application submission is March 31st of each year.

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

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.

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**CTSA Early Childhood Center**

is accepting applications for teaching positions!

**Head Start Teacher**

Head Start teachers instruct children in activities designed to promote social, physical, and intellectual growth needed for primary school.

**Head Start Teacher Minimum Requirements:**

- At least 18 years of age
- Baccalaureate degree with emphasis on Early Childhood Education
- Must pass background investigation processes for licensed child care programs
- Must meet Federal Head Start Performance Standards and any local, state and/or agency policies and procedures

**Early Head Start Teacher**

Early Head Start teachers have direct responsibility for the operation of the Infant/Toddler Center-Based Program and the delivery of Early Head Start services to infant/toddlers and their families.

**Early Head Start Teacher Minimum Requirements:**

- At least 18 years of age
- Infant and Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or an equivalent credential
- Must pass background investigation processes for licensed child care programs
- Must meet Federal Head Start Performance Standards and any local, state and/or agency policies and procedures

**Child Care Teacher**

Child Care teachers are responsible for observing, overseeing, and guiding a group of children. It requires physical presence, knowledge of activity requirements and children’s needs, and accountability for their care.

**Child Care Teacher Minimum Requirements:**

- At least 18 years of age
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Child care experience
- Must pass background investigation processes for licensed child care programs
- Must meet any local, state and/or agency policies and procedures

All applications accepted with preference given to qualified Native Americans

Apply today at: 1535 N McKinley Avenue, Shawnee OK 74801 or email your résumé to: AmberC@CTSAHeadStart.org

CTSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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**Vanity Car Tags for Sale**

$15.00 each

Contact Eileen Pearce 227-2036

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**Little Axe Oklahoma**
A. TRIBAL STORM SHELTER PROGRAM.

We have received the documents from the Red Cross and they have been transmitted to the Tribe’s Attorney General for review. These documents will be placed on the agenda for the Executive Committee to review and adopt by resolution within the next few weeks.

B. COMMUNITY OUTREACH.

The Governor requested a presentation to summer school students on what to do during weather events during their study of world weather. This information will benefit the student and the rest of their family so they will know what to do to prepare for bad weather.

C. GRANT OPPORTUNITY.

FEMA has funding for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants which are due July 25th. The grants may be used to fund activities that will lessen the effects of a disaster. The Tribe will be applying for funding to place generators at the two Tribal police offices, and our two Tribal community buildings: Horse Shoe Bend and the Little Axe Resource Center along with other emergency responder equipment. If funded, the generators will be used to keep these critical facilities, police departments, and community centers in operation should power be lost.

D. EXERCISES.

During the Absentee Shawnee Tribe’s Pow Wow held at the Thunderbird Casino the Tribal Police and Emergency Manager took the opportunity to gain real event experience to take care of emergencies. The emergency response vehicle and the operations vehicle were brought in to run through communications in a response mode to work out any problems in real time. These exercises improve the management of an event and allow personnel the opportunity to utilize their experience.

E. TRAINING.

- July 8-11 Tribal Mitigation – Creation of tribal mitigation plans and updating of approved Hazard Mitigation Plans for Tribal Emergency Managers.
- July 22-23 ICS-400: Advanced Course for Command and General Staff, Complex Incidents.
- July 29-30 COOP Course – Creation of the Continuation of Operations Plan for Tribes.
Little Axe Health Center
Women's Health Services
Located in the Primary Health Care

Providing & Promoting Preventative Health for All Women
Services include:
- Adult immunizations
- Breast & Pelvic Exams
- Mammogram Referral
- Bone Density Studies

Information about:
- Health Promotion
- Quitting Smoking
- Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs
- Nutrition
- Physical Fitness and Exercise
- Controlling Stress and Violence
- Prevention of Pregnancy
- AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Women’s Health Services
Little Axe Health Center
15951 Little Axe Drive • Norman, OK 73016
405.447.0300 • Fax 405.701.7605
www.asthealth.org

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

American Indians • Alaska Natives • Native Hawaiians

NATIONAL NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

Honor Our Ancestors, Protect Our People, Take the Test!

For more information about services or events, please contact:
Visit your app store and install the Follow My Health app for real-time access to your health information

- Improved access to your health information
- Communicate directly with your clinic
- Request an appointment
...and more!

For more information on how you can register for the new AST “Follow My Health” Patient Portal, contact Patient Registration at Little Axe Health Center - 405.447.0300 or Shawnee Clinic - 405.878.4702
Happy 13th Birthday!

To my beautiful daughter
Marissa Gouge

Brand New Teenager

Happy Birthday to
Nick Gibson
Serena Foreman
Darrol Davis
Leonard Foreman
Trevor Yates
Lindell Shawnee

&

Happy Anniversary
to
Leonard & Serena Foreman
and
Chubs & Skye Foreman
Enjoy your special day.
We love you all!
Marvin & Sherry

HAPPY Birthday to
Dad

From:
Shelsie, Bryson, Shelby
& Justin, Sheldon &
Daelan, Sis & Tommy

For my beautiful daughter
Marissa Gouge
Happy 13TH Birthday
little brother
& many more to come!
From your sis,
Barrie!

Happy ANNIVERSARY
Don & Esteline
Schulenberg
Aug 5 1984
Going 30 years strong!
Love Mom And Dad

Happy August Birthday to
Gilreath (Edwards) & Orley Godwin
Happy 50th Anniversary

From your loving sons,
Miles Godwin &
Chase Godwin
& the rest of
the Edwards clan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HENRY BLANCHARD
FROM MOM & DAD

To my nieces:
Montana Dane Littlehead
(August 3)
&
Kolbie Lee Harjo
(August 7)
Love your Aunt Amy and family

Happy 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!
Gilreath (Edwards) & Orley Godwin
From your Loving sons,
Miles Godwin &
Chase Godwin
& the rest of the Edwards clan
The Mayo Clinic and the Center for Disease Control & Prevention say that if you’re physically active it may help prevent you from falling. The following activities: Walking, chair exercises and Tai Chi, can improve your leg strength, balance, coordination and flexibility. Remember to check with your doctor before starting any of these activities!

Here are some tips on how to stay safe while getting back into the spring of things.

• Be sure to warm-up and cool down when appropriate
• Wear protective gear – i.e. bike helmets, wrist & elbow guards, pads etc.
• Rest, especially when your muscles are tired
• Prevent “overuse” injuries (i.e. stress fractures, tendonitis, or inflamed joints) by not overdoing exercise.
• Condition your body before jumping into new activities at full force.

For more information contact:
Rosie Tall Bear at 405-701-7601
Little Axe Health Center Injury Prevention Program
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

Chief of Police Brad Jackson is a 13 year Law Enforcement veteran who was raised in Logan County. Chief Jackson has been with our Tribal Police Department since 2005. Prior to working for the Tribe, he served as a patrol officer for the Stroud Police Department. He holds a degree in Law Enforcement and has also earned his Advanced CLEET certification.

Let’s Build For the Future (BFF)!
Injury Prevention Program

The Mayo Clinic and the Center for Disease Control & Prevention say that if you’re physically active it may help prevent you from falling. The following activities: Walking, chair exercises and Tai Chi, can improve your leg strength, balance, coordination and flexibility. Remember to check with your doctor before starting any of these activities!

Here are some tips on how to stay safe while getting back into the spring of things.

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- Rest, especially when your muscles are tired
- Prevent “overuse” injuries (i.e. stress fractures, tendonitis, or inflamed joints) by not overdoing exercise.
- Condition your body before jumping into new activities at full force.

For more information contact: Rosie Tall Bear at 405-701-7601 Little Axe Health Center
### Eligibility

- **Applicant must be eighteen (18) years of age**
- **Must be enrolled members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe with gross incomes over 100% of the median income adjusted for family size to apply**
- **Applicant must be first-time homeowner**
- **Primary residences only**
- **Property must be located within the state of Oklahoma**
- **Must be approved for home loan**
- **Dwelling Unit must pass all Housing Quality Standards inspection as well as Environmental Inspection**

For more Program Information, please contact Kimberly Vermillion at Ext. 260.

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### 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 independent 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.

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### 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 designed 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 up to $20,000 to assist with down payment and 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 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**

### Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority

**107 North Kimberly**
**P.O. Box 425**
**Shawnee, OK 74802-0425**
**Phone: (405) 273-1050**
**Fax: (405) 275-0678**

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### Contact Information

**Contact 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.

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### The Absentee Shawnee Family Music Program

The music program is a program that's offers Free music lesson's to all of our tribal member's and none Native Americans also the goal of the program is to offer the lessons to our community in hopes to bring people together & become more aware of their gifts and the strength's in our people.

Classes are offered each week day:
**Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.**
in the Music House
North of the AST Police Department

We have folks learning music from the age of 6 to 81 and all of them are enjoying the free lessons and have become musicians and supporters of the program.

I have worked with over 230 Tribal and community members and the music program has received Nation attention from Native American Magazines. The program is growing by leaps and bounds every month.

Come and be a part of your heritage through the gift of music.

Phil Bradley
AST Music Director/Instructor
405-370-5576
pbradley@astribe.com

Let Your Soul Have a Voice.
Absence Shawnee Tribe

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

Absence 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 theprivate 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 knowledge 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.
APPLICANTS INFORMATION

CDIB#____________________

CHILD’S NAME: ____________________________________________

                                    Last   First   Middle

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

NAME: ______________________________________________________

                                    Last   First   MI   Maiden

ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________

                            (St., PO Box, RR)          City          State          Zip

PHONE: (      )___________________________________________ WORK: (    )_________________________

I MAKE THIS APPLICATION FOR CLOTHING ASSISTANCE FROM THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE TRUE AND REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL VERIFY ENROLLMENT AND/OR ATTENDENCE.

______________________________________   ____________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature              Date

THIS SECTION IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL

NAME OF SCHOOL: ____________________________________________

ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________

                            (St., P.O. Box,)          City          State          Zip

PHONE: (    )_______________________________________________ EXT:_________________________

SCHOOL YEAR: _____________________  GRADE OF STUDENT:____________

THE CHILD NAMES ABOVE IS CURRENTLY: _______IN ATTENDENCE _________PRE-ENROLLED

YOUR SIGNATURE BELOW VERIFIES THAT THE SCHOOL INFORMATION ABOVE TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT.

______________________________________   ____________________________
School Official Signature              Title

Date

NOTE: (REFER TO THE GUIDELINES THAT ARE ATTACHED)

1. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE PUT ON PENDING STATUS
2. ONLY ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
3. PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THE CHILD’S CDIB CARD.
Building Blocks News...

The car seat safety check at Building Blocks went great! In all, 13 car seats were checked and 8 car seats were provided for families in need. This is such a needed program and we are very happy to have been able to work with Rosie Tallbear and offer this to our families and employees. Thank you, Rosie, for all of your help!

Summer continues to be busy for our center. We had a visit from magician, Steve Crawford. The children loved his magic show! He provided lots of laughs! He also incorporated science and math concepts, as well as comparing differences and similarities in objects. We also received a visit from the Camp Nikoti youth. They performed a skit incorporating ‘The Three Pigs’, ‘Little Red Riding Hood’, and ‘Goldie Locks’. The moral of the story was ‘say no to smoking.’ They did a great job keeping it entertaining while also sending a positive message. Thank you Steve Crawford and the Camp Nikoti youth and counselors!

Building Blocks will be hosting a behavior and guidance training at the center. This will be a mandatory training for staff. However, we are inviting parents to join us for this training at NO cost. A sign-up sheet will be available at the center. It will be a two part series:

Session 1: Positive Behavior & Guidance
• Transition techniques
• Using positive, simple language
• Offering choices

Session 2: Practical Guidance Techniques
• Labeling feelings
• Giving limits
• Encouraging problem-solving skills
• Redirection techniques

Beginning August 1, 2014, Building Blocks will implement the second phase of its rate increase. In an effort not to create such a burden on the families we serve, we split the increase into two phases, the first being implemented on February 1, 2014. Building Blocks has not had a rate increase since 2009. To be in compliance with the CCDF grant we receive, we used the DHS reimbursement rates as a guide for setting our new rates. DHS reimburses at a lesser percentage of fair market rates. Even with our increase, we are slightly below the DHS reimbursement rates. This falls in line with our continued effort to provide high quality care at a reasonable price for the families we serve now and in the future.

Dates to Remember:
Friday, August 1st: Closed for AST day.
Tuesday, August 12th: Part 1 - Positive Behavior & Guidance Training, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 28th: Part 2 - Practical Guidance Techniques Training, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Thank you,
Billie Thompson
Director

Monthly Report- August 2014

The CCDF Subsidy program currently has 22 children from 15 families who receive child care assistance through the subsidy portion of the CCDF grant. These children receive child care from Building Blocks as well as outside certified providers.

We had our site visit from the ACF-OCC and their technical advisors. Their visit was very informative and they were able to see how we operate under the CCDF guidelines. They seemed very pleased with our procedures but did make a few recommendations on some financial compliance issues. Our child count was submitted last month and we are looking forward to the new fiscal year for the grant.

The construction of BBIII is ongoing and we are working toward getting the equipment and supplies to make the center operational as soon as possible. There was a delay in the construction so we are now set to open the beginning of September. The job postings for the new BBIII in Little Axe are open to the public. We are still in the process of hiring new staff for both facilities. And we will hire more as the new center’s enrollment increases.

We are also still accepting enrollment applications for the waiting list for our new BBIII facility in Little Axe. If you are interested in child care in the Little Axe area or know of someone who is please contact Briana Ponkilla at (405) 878-0633.

We look forward to all the developments and strides forward we are making at Building Blocks II and III.

Ni yi wai! (Thank you)
The OEH department recently collaborated with the OERB Petro Pro Program to educate the Horseshoe Bend youth camp about fossil fuels.

The Petro Pro Program is an educational service that provides a trained volunteer to attend schools and youth programs to provide fossil fuel education and oilfield safety education to children of all ages.

The Petro Pro from OERB spoke with the children about the origin of fossil fuels and how the production of fossil fuels provides materials that we use everyday.
As the summer break comes to an end students are preparing to start back to school in about 3 weeks. The after school program has begun planning and preparing for the start of school year 2014 – 2015. The program is looking at implementing some new structure in the upcoming school year. This fall we will not open until the week after Labor Day which will be Monday, September 8, 2014. The schedule will be Monday through Thursday, 3:00 pm until 6:00 p.m.

**HIGHLIGHTS AT HORSE SHOE BEND THIS SUMMER:**

**Jim Thorpe Native American Games:** we had participants in the 12 and under boys and girls basketball team and the track and field events.

**Kyle Copeland**, an Absentee Shawnee tribal member, competed in the wrestling event and proudly represented the Tribe.

During the summer program we had a different topic presented each week for discussion. To name a few: weather, history, math, and reading.

Students took a tour here on campus on July 15, 2014, and then were taken to McDonald’s for lunch.

Last day of the summer program will be July 31, 2014 and students will be treated to a movie that afternoon.

**ABOUT OUR SUMMER TUTORS:**

We had two summer high school program tutors and three college bound tutors this summer and one who is moving: Randall Watson, Stuart Rolette, Faith W. Brown, Kobe Smith, Demi Coon, and Haley Nickerson.

Kobe and Demi are students at Little Axe High School and Haley was with the summer program for 2 weeks and in the fall will return to Oklahoma Baptist University here in Shawnee. Faith worked for 3 weeks and she will return to Northeastern State University in Tahlequah this fall. Randall will attend Rose State College in Midwest City this fall. Stuart is re-locating to another town and will no longer be at Horse Shoe Bend. We wish Stuart well and will miss him.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**

I would like to thank some individuals for their kind donations to the Horse Shoe Bend after school program:

- Paulette Johnson – thank you for the big screen TV. Also thank you to those individuals who retrieved the TV for the after school program: Rick Little Axe, Retha Pearman, and Jeff Gibson.
- Francene Wolfe - thank you for donating the 3 sets of encyclopedia books. The Horse Shoe Bend program doesn’t have a computer so our students will put these books to good use as they prepare their school projects and reports.
- Lisa Ellis – Thank you for the donation of the Tee-Ball equipment and for the back-pack.

Thank you, AST maintenance crew for cutting the grass and keeping the Horse Shoe Bend Community Center clean and well maintained.

Special thanks to: Isaac Betelboun, Sherri Yetter, Donna Simon, and Steven Fife.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the White Turkey ladies who help and VOLUNTEER their time with the after school program throughout the school year.

This year Feed the Children, a state funded program, supplied books and meals to the students who attended our summer program. The Feed the Children program staff were helpful and coordinated well with the Tribe.

The Sac and Fox Nation made another donation this year in the amount of $5,000.00 dollars. We appreciate this contribution as it will help with supplies.

**THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!**

We appreciate everyone who has donated items and time and with your assistance and donations we can continue to make a big difference in our young student’s future.

If you should have any concerns or questions or would like to donate and/or take part in this program please call: 405 481-0397 or 405 275-4030, ext. 188.

Thank you,
Edwina Butler-Wolfe
Governor
Contract Health Services for AST members

with Insurance

CHS for a currently enrolled AST member who resides in the defined catchment area who has insurance such as Medicare or Private Insurance:

1. Complete CHS Patient Update form and update all information every 6 months.
2. Notify CHS at least 48 hours prior to appointment date for a (COB) Coordination of Benefits to be sent to provider.
3. Inform Provider/HealthFacility that AST CHS is secondary payer/payer of last resort.
4. In the event that you receive a bill from a provider, please provide a copy to CHS. You may leave bills with Rhonda Kaseca at the Shawnee Clinic and Glendine Blanchard at the Little Axe Health Center.

Contract Health Services for AST members

without Insurance

CHS for a currently enrolled AST member who resides in the defined catchment area who does not have insurance:

1. You must apply for any alternate resources for which you may be eligible - Medicare, Medicaid, SoonerCare, insurance, etc.
2. Complete CHS Patient Update form and update all information every 6 months.
3. You must utilize the services provided within the AST health clinics prior to being referred out.
4. Referrals for outside services must be sent to CHS. Services must be medically approved by an AST Health provider.
5. An appointment will be scheduled and a COB will be sent to the outside provider.
6. In the event that you receive a bill from a provider, please provide a copy to CHS. You may leave bills with Rhonda Kaseca at the Shawnee Clinic and Glendine Blanchard at the Little Axe Health Center.

Emergency and Urgent Care Services

CHS for a currently enrolled AST member who resides in the defined catchment area who needs emergent or urgent care:

1. Call the On-Call nurse at (405) 447-0300 option 9 for “triage”.
2. Notify CHS on the next business day or within 72 hours after the ER visit. Notification does not assure authorization of payment. However if you do not notify CHS within 72 hours, your bills will not be paid.
3. For AST members with no insurance evidence must exist that the visit was medically necessary. Medical priorities have been established for determining which referrals can be authorized for payment.
4. For AST members with insurance, evidence must exist that a third party resource has made determination such services were “emergency care” or “urgent care” (such evidence may include payment from private insurance).
5. In the event that you receive a bill from a provider, please provide a copy to CHS. You may leave bills with Rhonda Kaseca at the Shawnee Clinic and Glendine Blanchard at the Little Axe Health Center.
The health system continues to move forward with re-staffing of providers in both Primary Care and Dental Clinics. It is indeed an honor and privilege to present to you our new Health System Medical Director, Dr. Vaqar Ahmad, M.D. Dr. Ahmad is a dual board certified professional, being American Board Certified in Internal Medicine as well as Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism. Dr. Ahmad has had a distinguished career in healthcare, serving in multiple capacities in the healthcare continuum as both a practicing physician and clinical leader in hospitals and other healthcare settings. Dr. Ahmad holds medical licensures in Oklahoma and California, as well as being licensed internationally to practice medicine. He began his work with us on June 16, 2014. Please welcome him aboard and assist him with getting settled in and acclimated to the AST Health Family!

We also welcome our newest full-time provider to our staff, Dr. Marty Lofgren, M.D. Dr. Lofgren is a Native American of Sioux decent, and has lived in Oklahoma now for several years. His wife is also a medical doctor. We have a new Dentist, Dr. Ngoc M. Tran, D.D.S. making three full-time and one part-time dentist on staff to service our members. We have a new Nurse Practitioner, Marty Robertson from Florida and Physicians Assistant, Megan Shellenberger, from Pennsylvania. This will enable more responsive care to our tribal members and other patients serviced out of our clinics as we welcome these five full-time seasoned providers to our health system!

The AST Diabetes Health and Wellness 5K Run was a tremendous success, and we thank all of the attendees for making this another great event! Special thanks to Buster Bread for leading the way on this program! The Employee of the Month was Ms. Carrie Stanley, Shawnee Clinic. The Team of the Month was the Shawnee Clinic Staff. The Health Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Maria Mithlo, Shawnee Clinic, for her help in covering additional patients and overseeing additional providers to help maintain patient care and access. We are very proud of our star performers and for their contributions to the patients, their fellow employees, and the Tribe!

A few other key bits of information:

- Native American Veterans Enrollment Event: Health Awareness Fair for All Generations Friday, August 1st, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Little Axe Health Center, Norman, OK.

- The interactive phone menu for the Contract Health Services (CHS) helps patients access the most appropriate service provider by calling (405) 701-7951. This feature will speed up access to the patients seeking services and follow-up to their care.

- The AST Health System continues to improve its customer service. The Customer Service Line is (405) 701-7623. Please direct all complaints or compliments to this line for appropriate attention and/or response. Please be assured this is the best way to have each situation addressed with consistent updates from our health staff. After the investigations of all issues are complete, our Health Director or a Clinic Administrator will personally contact you with updates, decisions, or questions pertaining to your case.

- The AST Anti-Bullying Prevention “HOTLINE” is (405) 701-7987 during work hours 8-5, M-F, and for added confidentiality or after hours you may contact Mrs. Dara Thorpe at either (405) 701-7992 or via cell (405) 481-0815 to start intervention assistance for tribal youth. If there is an emergency or someone is at risk of harming themselves or others contact 911.

- The Affordable Care Act Decision Tool continues to be a valuable tool with helping you decide what you need to do for compliance with the act. Please see the ACA tab at the ASTHA Health Program’s Website: http://www.asthealth.org/aca (Please visit our site today to find out what you need to do to protect yourself and your family)!

- Pharmacy After Hours Process: After hours and weekends/holidays, did you know you can go to Walgreens in either Shawnee or Norman, and have a five-day limited fill on prescriptions? All you have to do is submit your prescription, identify yourself with your AST CDIB Card and other appropriate ID, and then they will fill your prescription! Upon the first workday, you can have the remaining balance of your prescriptions transferred to your pharmacy in either Shawnee or LittleAxe, and they will fill your remaining balance. This is an emergency convenience for your benefit and to save the contract health dollars as well, so please be aware of this and other benefits your tribe provides you.
by the CDC:

**Highlights:**


**Elderly people (65 years and older), infants and children, and people with chronic medical conditions are more prone to health stress.**

Air-conditioning is the number one protective factor against heat-related illness and death. During conditions of extreme heat, spend time in locations with air-conditioning such as shopping malls, public libraries, or public health sponsored heat relief shelters in your area.

Get informed. Listen to local news and weather channels or contact your local public health department during extreme heat conditions for health and safety updates.

Drink cool, non-alcoholic beverages and increase your fluid intake regardless of your activity level.

Beat the heat and sun ([www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/children.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/children.htm)).

Heat-related illness occurs when the body’s temperature control system is overloaded. Those at greatest risk for heat related illness include infants up to 4 years of age. Even young people and healthy people can get sick from the heat if they participate in physical activities during the hot weather.

Never leave infants, children, or pets in a parked car, even if the windows are cracked open. Dress infants and children in loose, lightweight, light colored clothing. Schedule outdoor activities carefully for morning and evening hours. Stay cool with cool showers or baths. Seek medical care immediately if your child has symptoms of heat related illness.

Public Health Nursing would also like to encourage safety during water activities, such as boating and swimming. Accidents happen when we least expect them. Planning ahead may help to prevent the unexpected.

Public Health Nursing has provided this information to you in an effort to encourage you to follow the CDC guidelines for safety during these hot months. Let’s take a stand, provide the protection needed for those at risk, whether it’s a loved one or a neighbor.

Have a safe and happy summer from Public Health Nursing!

**Gloria K Seeley BSN, RN and Kristie McGuire RN**

### Staying safe during the summer months!

What does summer mean to you? Most people will say vacations, swimming, snow cones, fireworks, pow-wows, stomp dance, softball tournaments, and festivals! Well, whatever you and your family plan for the summer, please stay safe!

**Here are some ways to stay safe:**

- Use seat belts and car seats at all times
- Use helmets if you ride bikes &/or motorcycles
- Use sunscreen, bug spray, and drink water!
- Never leave infants, children or pets in a parked car, even if the windows are cracked open. The temperature inside a vehicle can rise 20 degrees in as little as 10 minutes, and 50 degrees in an hour - even when outside air temperatures are in the 70’s! So remember to "Beat The Heat, Check The Back Seat!"
- If a child is missing, always check the pool first, and then the car, including the trunk.

Remember to stay safe but have fun! For more information call Rosie Tall Bear, Injury Prevention Program at (405)701-7601 or email at rtallbear@astribe.com.
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
- magnesium
- potassium
- vitamins A, C, and E.
- fiber

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
FOSTER CARE

WHAT IS A FOSTER CARE WORKER?

Foster care caseworker training involves completing a bachelor's degree program in social work through a college or university. Students take courses in psychology, abnormal psychology, sociology, economics, ethics, child welfare policies and complete a supervised internship.

The child’s Foster Care Worker needs to be a partner with the foster parents to ensure that each child receives the full spectrum of services provided and/or arranged by the Department.

Some aspects of this relationship include the following:

- Sharing information on an ongoing basis regarding the child’s individual needs, family situation and adjustment to the foster home
- Encouraging the foster parents to participate in the total service planning process
- Providing the foster parents the opportunity to discuss the child’s progress and any unmet needs which they assess
- Providing the foster parent with information, support, guidance and referrals to other professionals on the child’s behalf
- Helping the foster family, when necessary, to identify and obtain services for the foster child; e.g., medical, educational
- Ensuring that the foster family, on the child’s behalf, has access to all financial resources available to the child while in foster care.

A Foster Care Worker works in conjunction with Tribal Courts, Tribal Law Enforcement, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other county services. Indian Child Welfare’s goal is to ensure the safety of our tribal children when they placed in foster care. The homes that our tribal children are placed in must complete Child Welfare Background Check, OSBI Background Check, Income Verification, Home Study, and a Physical. Our AST foster homes are licensed by our Foster Care Committee.

Foster Care Payments are as follows:

0-5 age $14.73 day $441.97 month
6-12 age $17.12 day $513.57 month
12 and over $19.30 day $579.13 month

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PAYMENT, ALL THE ABOVE MUST BE MET AND TURNED INTO THE STATE. ONCE PROCESSED STATE PAYMENT WILL BE ISSUED.

This is just a little information on what type of work a foster care worker performs on a daily basis. If you are interested in becoming a foster home, please call 405-878-4030 ext. 133.

Preservation of American Indian culture starts with protection of our most precious resources -- American Indian children and families. Only when our children and families are healthy and happy can there be harmony in our world.

Problems Facing American Indian Children and Families

Today, 5.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) live in the United States

- American Indian children have the third highest rate of victimization
- American Indian/Alaska Natives have the highest rate of poverty of any other racial group in the nation
- In 2006, suicide was the leading cause of death for AI/AN males ages 10-14.
- A 2006 study found that, compared to other groups, AI/AN youth have more serious problems with mental health disorders.
- Alcohol-use disorders were more likely among American Indian youths than other racial groups.
- The AI/AN youth population is more affected by gang involvement than any other racial population.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Children often get lost in a system that is supposed to protect them when their parents can’t take care of them. They need someone who can provide a home that is safe. They need their emotional needs met by an adult who can act as if they are their parent. These children need love, shelter, safety, and a place that they can belong, they need a home. They need to know that they are not alone. If you are able to provide these things to one of our tribal children please contact: 405-878-4702 (ext. 133) Julie Wilson ICW/FC.
Native American youth are facing a crisis. These children are being removed from their homes and placed into the child welfare system at rates much higher than any other population. Native American children are often placed in homes outside of their families, tribes, and Native American culture and all this contributes to significant social problems. The story of Native American people is a complicated one marked by significant trauma and atrocities. Often times this trauma consisted of the removal of abuse which happened to these young and vulnerable children in many of these schools resulted in overwhelming intergenerational trauma and unresolved grief. This trauma which interrupted the ability to parent has led directly to the most current social problems that plague Native American communities today including alcohol/drug abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, sexual and parenting deficiencies. All of these problems have contributed to the break-down of the family unit, leading to the removal of large numbers of Native American youth from their families. The journey of healing and breaking the cycles which have been put in place by the historical trauma experienced by generations of Native Americans requires that the cultural identity for so long denied to these children be returned. Native American youth have two distinct influences, that of their family of origin and that of their caregivers. Absentee Shawnee Tribal Foster Care is in need of homes for children that are in our child welfare system. Your participation in being a foster parent helps to ensure that these children have positive connections to their culture. This interaction helps these children nurture a positive sense of identification as a Native American. By being willing to do this, you can be a valuable part of the healing journey that will help strengthen this next generation of Absentee Shawnee children; in turn, helping those children become the parents that their children will need them to be. Our children are our future, what will we have our future be? ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE CHILD WELFARE 405-878-4702 (ext. 133)

Racial disproportionality is defined as the over-or under-representation of certain groups (e.g. racial/ethnic, gender, age) relative to the group’s proportion in the general population. Reports conducted in 2008 showed that, compared to other groups, Native American children were:
- 3 times more likely to be referred to CPS
- 1.6 times more likely to be removed from their biological homes
- Twice as likely to remain in foster care for over two years
- Less likely to be adopted and more likely to be in guardianships
- Less likely to be reunited with their biological parents

The sad reality is that there are not enough culturally appropriate homes for these children, resulting in the placement of Native American children in homes that do not share their cultural heritage or traditions. We want to place “our tribal” children in our own homes, to do this we need tribal members to open their homes and their hearts. Are you willing to open your heart? Are you willing to open your home? If so, please contact Julie Wilson ICW/CPS/FOSTER CARE at 275-4030, ext. 133.

Foster Care News
We are in the process of looking for dedicated individuals to contribute to our Foster Care Committee. If you are interested in becoming part of our team, please send a letter to the Secretary that states your interest in becoming a member of our committee.