On this day, November 16, 2013, we chose to honor Tribal member, WWII Combat Veteran, Mr. Wayne Allen (Bainey) Longhorn (seated), pictured along with AST Veterans Group. We like to say ‘O Nee ya way’ Mr. Longhorn for your service and to all our veterans who answered the call to serve!
My Absentee Shawnee people I want to thank you for your ongoing support. We are accomplishing more and more each month. This month the long awaited Shareholders Meeting occurred and the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health Authority, Inc. (ASTHA, Inc.) modified bylaws went into place with new health board appointments made. However, that didn't correct the issues within the LI-Si-Nwi-Wi Health Board. We still need to put the LI-Si-Nwi-Wi, Inc. health board bylaws into place and to get health board appointments done for that Board. If you have an interest in serving on the LI-Si-Nwi-Wi Health, Inc. Board please forward your resumes to Vera Dawsey, Tribal Secretary, at 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801. Separating the two Boards will be a necessity as they should have two separate functions. At the first formative health board meeting there was confusion. It began with a merged agenda (that wasn't voted on to merge it) that probably worked for the previous duplicated bylaws but not for the new one ASTHA, Inc. ones. Additionally, it was unclear as to which Board should be voting on which item. The Boards in the future should be operated separately – the ASTHA, Inc. in Shawnee and the LI-Si-Nwi in Little Axe. This will assist to alleviate agenda and board confusion. Another confounding thing was the legal counsel the Tribe chose to no longer use was continuing to represent the ASTHA, Inc. and she largely ran the board meeting. This is an unpleasant dilemma and one that we will need to correct through a Shareholders Representative meeting or through Board action. To me this continues to be a concurrent conflict of interest when a sitting Board President (of the LI-Si-Wi-Nwi Health, Inc.) has his own legal firm doing legal advisement for both boards. It is unclear how the president of the LI-Si-Wi-Nwi Health Board and his firm don't understand that you the people of the Tribe have spoken and that I as your duly elected leader am sworn to address your concerns. If he truly wanted to assist the tribe he would simply step down. We are in a state of change and great progress and we must have people on our Boards, Committees and Commissions who want to make positive changes and work for the betterment of the people and the good of the Tribe.

Last month I briefly discussed the Election Commissions budget request and the need for legal advisement which the Commission vocalized as a major concern to them during the October General Council. Our Attorney General (AG) hopes to meet with the Commission in the near future to get their ideas and explore their need. I will speak again to this issue next month until it is addressed. The child support enforcement and legal services issue with the Modoc tribe and their legal firm is still a work in progress. We are working on a new Memorandum of Understanding and that will be with the Chickasaw Nation. As you may recall the Modoc tribe has been providing services under a federal grant that allows it to provide child support enforcement and legal services to tribes that enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with the Modoc. We found that the same legal group that was providing services to the Tribe under our former Attorney General contract also provided services for this agreement, but does so as counsel for Modoc, not for AST. We requested the Modocs to use our own legal group and were refused.

If you should hear rumors or get misdirected on these issues call me so we can discuss them.

**Emergency Management**

Preparations for winter snow and ice storms are being made to ensure we are ready and to keep the Tribal Complex operating so that we will still be able to extend services to tribal members. A formal written severe weather policy has been drafted and is ready for approval by the Executive Committee.

The past few weeks have spent reviewing the Emergency Response Team (ERT) Plan and creating the Tribal Community Response Team (CERT) program policies and procedures. This CERT program will enhance the Tribe's ability to respond to future disasters. The purpose of the revisions to the ERT Plan and the development of the CERT program is to enable the CERT disaster teams to work together with the Emergency Response team more closely during a disaster and there is a provision in it that allows operations to be free from tribal politics. Both of these documents and resolutions will be presented to the Executive Committee for consideration and with approval anticipated to be received by the end of the year.

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

**Law Enforcement**

The Police Department was awarded a grant for Highway Safety Education in the amount of $12,500.00. This will allow them to purchase educational and training materials to help improve driving and awareness on the highways.

In October the Police Department hosted a Halloween Fair for the Tribal Youth, which was considered a success and the Department
looks forward to this function being an annual event with more fun and activities in the future. They also extend their thanks to all departments and individuals who attended.

Sgt. Scott Wilson recently obtained certification for Rescue Tracking. This certification uses tracking and land navigation to search for missing individuals in a wilderness setting.

In the month of October the Police Department responded to 109 various calls for service in both Pottawatomie and Cleveland County areas.

Recently the police department transitioned to a new data management system which allows officers to complete incident reports, daily logs and communicate between officers without having to leave their patrol vehicles. It’s anticipated this will greatly improve officer efficiency and time management during the officer’s shift.

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

Building Blocks & CCDF CCDF:
The new plan year started on 10/1/13 and within it a new sliding fee scale has been implemented. All current applicants were renewed with the new fee scale. A few new applicants have been added as well as a new provider.

The new Building Blocks III building is coming along this week the front entrance area had been added. Ken Jones, OEH Director, will add to this report. The Administration for Children & Families Office of Child Care (ACF-OCC) has listed the new daycare in their Summary of Tribal Child Care Activities FY 2012-2013 as one of their projects.

The CDF Project Coordinator is learning the aspects of the Tribal subsidy program and the grant. She will be attending a new administrator’s training in Dallas Dec 3-5. She further shared that she is continuing to work on aspects of opening the new center and is in the stage of learning all that she can about what can be done to enhance the lives of children, especially native children, in our facilities with early childhood education and initiatives.

Building Blocks:
Building Blocks (BB) has been very busy! They recently hired a new Asst. Director, Ashley Purdey.

The Building Blocks program is now in the process of having their Master Teachers complete their Early Learning Guidelines training, which is a requirement for the Stars level.

Recently the Building Blocks Director, Billie Thompson, attended training on Emergency Preparedness for Child Care Facilities. She shared that the information was great and that the Building Blocks program would be reviewing their emergency procedures and making improvements where needed.

The BB will host a Thanksgiving Lunch for the families of Building Blocks on Tuesday, November 26th at 11:30 am. They expect a huge turnout!

The point of contact for the Building Blocks program in Shawnee is Billie Thompson at 405-878-0633. The contact for the Little Axe Building Blocks program and/or CCDF is Brianna Ponkilla also at 405-878-0633. If they are unable to correct and/or advise you on these issues communicate with my office.

Education
On October 21st the 2013 Indian Education Summit was held at the NCED in Norman, OK. Tresha Spoon, Director and Blake Goodman, TYP Coordinator presented a session on the partnership the AST Camp Nikoti Youth Program has with the Little Axe Public School System. On October 25th Blake and Tresha spoke during two sessions at Celebrate Success at Little Axe High School. This event is an activity to encourage current Little Axe students to make the most of their future by bringing back LAHS Alumni to share their experiences and to show them that being a Little Axe graduate does not limit them in any way. There were several AST students in attendance at their sessions.

The AST Youth Council met to volunteer at Boo on Bell in Downtown Shawnee on October 26th. Tresha attended the 2013 Financial Education in Oklahoma conference on November 6th which had various sessions pertaining to Education and Small Businesses. She is on the Board of Directors for the AST Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) which will focus some of its efforts on Small Business loans. Tresha will be setting up an informational table at a College Fair sponsored by Muscogee (Creek) Nation at Seminole State College on November 19.

The point of contact for this program is Tresha Spoon, Education Director, 405-275-4030.

Ext. 121. Please feel free to communicate with her and if she is unable to assist you then contact my office.

Gaming
This month we hired Grant Thomas as the Executive Director of the Gaming Commission. We are pleased to give you a brief bio of Mr. Thomas: Grant was born in Ada OK and raised just outside of Ada in Pontotoc County. He is a devoted father, dedicated worker, and an effective leader who drives himself to succeed. Grant has a great interest in developing those who surround him into leaders. He believes he is a positive role model for those he is around and associates with. In his formative days he was an Eagle Scout, a graduate of Stonewall High School, and he obtained his bachelor’s degree in business administration from East Central University (ECU). While at ECU he was a founding member and Vice President of the Investment Club, and an active member of the ECU Business Club.

After obtaining his degree he has worked as a professional in various positions inclusive of human resources, program management, and accounting. For the past eight years he has worked in the casino gaming industry at a management level for a large Native American owned casino. During his 5 years as Compliance Manager he was able to reduce external audit findings from 21 to 2 grow several staff members into management positions, and reduce departmental spending. He indicates he is excited about the forward movement of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe and the ASTGC. He believes that together many feats will be accomplished.

If you have questions for the Gaming Commission Grant Thomas, may be contacted at 405360-9270, Ext. II13.

Health
The healthcare programs director reported significant progress in increasing access to care across the clinics, especially in the Little Axe Clinic. Dental is to operate full time again after Thanksgiving with two new providers arriving on staff which are Dr. LaTonya Shelton-Miller as Dental Director and Dr. Steve Truong as staff Dentist. Dr. Miller is working part-time until December, when she’ll then be seeing patients full time as a tribal employee. Dr. Truong will assist her with their combined efforts with the Dental Team to increase access to dental services. Patients are being rescheduled for earlier access to appointments, and a third dentist is being interviewed to come on board and help alleviate the access issues to timely dental care of serviced patients.

Five primary care family practice providers have been interviewed over the past few weeks, and a selection is imminent for the Little Axe Clinic. Additionally, negotiations are underway with a prominent physicians group to help staff shortfalls in both clinics and to open up access for our tribal beneficiaries, with emphasis on same day acute access.

Behavioral health’s Dr. Stansbro has agreed to double his presence and his patient encounter load as well pending contractual adjustments for his services, this should improve access to behavioral health and counseling services in December.

Electronic health records is undergoing improvements to more effectively service patients and to increase effectiveness of our workforce’s servicing to beneficiaries.

The 1st Annual AST Health Programs Health Fair will be Nov 23rd, 9-3 PM, and with your participation and involvement in this wonderful tribal community event focusing upon juvenile diabetes awareness it can be successful. This community wide event will provide the Tribe with some help to our grants where community health related events are necessary to show community involvement. The health department is excited about the direction they are moving in and
Ho, HAH KEE HO WAY SEE LAH SAH MAH MO

Hello how are you doing? I sincerely hope that everyone is doing well, considering some of the tribal members are still waiting to have their houses and other property worked on or replaced after the tornado. I apologize for the delay in the process of qualifying for disaster relief from FEMA and the tribe.

One thing I have learned since I have been elected is that no matter where you are, there is always someone that wants to use 'red tape', and just because I think it should be accomplished one way, there is always someone who thinks that their way is better. Hopefully, this will all be resolved within a couple months. With the holidays coming we can all pray that we have a better year next year.

Just to let you know what I have been doing for the past month. November 13, to the 15, I attended the Domestic Violence Conference on Violence against Women in Washington, D.C., tribal leaders from all over the U.S., Alaska and Canada were present. The conference was very informative, the problem of domestic violence is a very real and out of control problem across Indian Country, everywhere. Domestic Violence is prevalent in other societies also but from what I found out at the conference, most natives that live on reservations and if they are from Alaska, there is no recourse for them to take because, the legal authorities very seldom do anything to assist the native victim. The numbers are just astounding at just how many of these victims are teens. I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that we have an excellent Domestic Violence department here on the complex and all of the ladies work very hard to help anyone and everyone no matter what race. In the coming months we hope to start the renovations on the tribal convenience store, and eventually we will get to the outside. I know that the store has needed some work done on for a while, so it is coming soon. We are getting very close to delivering some of the mobile homes, we will start making field trips to visit the site and get a better assessment of what will be needed to get the mobile home in place. I would like for everyone to be patience because it takes a lot of planning to set it up. You will be notified in advance when we will be coming out. I again want to let everyone know that I do have a open door policy and if I am not there, Steve Johnson is. Phone # for office is 405-275-4030, ext. 186, ext. 154, ext. 104, Home # 405-307-0954.

I sincerely hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I pray for my tribe that things will get better and that all will have a very blessed Christmas.

God Bless.

Secretary Vera (Gibson) Dawsey

Greetings Tribal Members,

Christmas and New Year Holidays are upon us again! It seems the months have flown by even faster this year! Hope everyone stays safe when you travel these holidays and be careful when you are out shopping.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to our AST families, who have lost loved ones this month.

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

• HEALTH BOARD SHAREHOLDERS MTG. Shareholders' representatives passed the amended ASTHA Governing By-laws and appointed board members: Melford Switch, Sandra Vaughn, Lancer Stevens, Lisa Johnson-Billy, and Dr. Surya Pierce.

• SECOND GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT MTG, Phillips Pavilion, Governor's Mansion along with Native American Heritage Reception. Gov. Fallin hosted the second government to government meeting with Tribal Officials from the 38 federally recognize tribes in Oklahoma. Back in June, Tribal leaders had requested another meeting with her. Due to conflicting schedules, various tribal leaders could not make the meeting and they sent representatives from their tribes. Approximately 15 tribal representatives were there and about eight representatives from the Governor's office including Jacque Hensley, Steve Mullins, and others. Ms. Hensley opened the meeting with a prayer from Pawnee Nation Business Council, Vice-President Bruce Pratt. She stated the annual report would be ready next month and Executive Order 2013-37, "...recognize Indian tribes and nations have an interest in the welfare of Indian children and stated the policy of the State shall be to cooperate fully with Indian tribes in Oklahoma in order to ensure that the intent and provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act are enforced ...". Pinnacle Plan will improve Oklahoma's foster care system. Gov. Fallin comments were the following: Recognize Native American Heritage Month, how the Oklahoma tribes have contributed in their sharing of cultural heritage, ongoing support with the State, and tourism. Mentioned the tobacco and burn ban compact among the tribes being negotiated. Also, a change being made to use Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for States car fleet and how she has 23 states agreed to change to CNG vehicles for energy and fuel savings.


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

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

• REGULAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS, meet every third Wednesday of the month to decide on executive and legislative resolutions for the betterment of the tribe.
The Finance Department continues our efforts in keeping the day to day activities flowing effectively and efficiently through communication between the Finance office and Programs. In working together, we have found the most time effective and cost effective processes for transacting business.

The Tribes, 2010, 2011, and 2012 Audits are ‘unmodified’ opinion, which when compared to an educational grading scale is an A. The 2014 Indirect Cost Proposal has been submitted to the Interior Business Center (IBC) and I was notified this week that it is ready to be assigned to a negotiator. Our rate is up from 17.4% for 2010 to 21.98% for 2011 to 22.35% for 2012 and 27.39% for 2013; with 2014 being undetermined until negotiations during 2014.

We are preparing for the 2013 Audit which will begin early 2014 for all of the Tribes entities (Casinos; Store; Restaurant; Smoke Shops; ASEDA; ASTHA & LSWN which makes up Absentee Health Systems; and the Tribal Government.) All of the tribes entities must be audited first and then they are combined with the Tribes Governmental Audit.

The Finance department, for 2013, is completing accounting by the 10th day of the month which has been extended from the 7th allowing the health finance to provide reports necessary for adjusting inventory and accounts receivable. Financial reporting for the Health Authority and LSWN and the Absentee Health Systems, Shawnee and Little Axe (LSWN) continues monthly. The Finance staff has completed the October reconciliations and financials. It is imperative the accounting staff continue to stay ahead of all of the accounting so that audits go smoothly, and Indirect Cost rates stay up to date. Indirect cost proposals cannot be submitted without completed audits as the audit is used to calculate the proposal. There are many processes in place in your Tribes accounting department that ensure we keep accurate records of transactions. The Tribes accounting processes must be in compliance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) and these rules are updated sometimes annually.

**Elders’ Monthly meetings** are held every third Saturday, either at AST Resource Center or Title VI Blgds, 10 am. If you are 55 years and older, please come join us for fellowship, food, and fun times together. Fund raisers, outings, and cultural activities are planned monthly. Activities and Events the Elders have hosted are: Veterans Pow Wow in November, Inaugural Ball, attended various cultural events in Canada, Iowa, New Mexico, South Dakota, etc., in and around the state of Oklahoma. The officers are Dan Little Axe, President, Mary Birdtail, Vice-President, Cynthia Longhorn, Secretary, and Betty Watson, Treasurer. If you would like more information about the Absentee Shawnee Elders Council, please call Cynthia Longhorn, 405/273-4137.

**Thunderbird Casino Monthly financial meeting** with General Manager, Dillon Byrd, Controller, myself, and/or other Executive Committee Member, who are available, to go over the monthly financials of both casinos in Little Axe and Shawnee.

**Internal Revenue Service, VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance).** VITA is a program for free tax preparation for tribal members. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit components, targeted toward low-income families with children (Adjusted Gross Income Limit-AGI=$58,000) and tax counseling for elders. Training for volunteer preparers and screeners, will probably start around November. TBD filing period will start in January and run through April 15, 2014. If you have questions, or interested in becoming a volunteer preparer or screener, please call Eddie Brokeshoulder, 405-275-4030 x148, or email eddieb@astrib.com

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

**Constitutional Revision Committee (CRC):** The next scheduled meetings are December 19th, 2013 and January 16th, 2014. This committee would appreciate any input, suggestions, or come to the monthly meetings.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Eddie Brokeshoulder, 405-275-4030 Ext. 148. Or contact Briana Ponkilla, her email address: brianaponkilla@yahoo.com

**CDMI Update (http://www.indiantrust.com):** Have questions call the Info Center: 1800-961-6109. Important Update: We have received many questions regarding when the Trust Administration checks will be mailed and the effect of any of the current government shutdown on those payments. The Special Master, the Honorable Richard Levy (ret.), is in the process of considering requests for reconsideration by those individuals whose claims for participation in the Trust Administration class were denied. We anticipate that process will be completed by the second week of December, 2013. Checks may then be mailed to class members upon court approval. It is our expectation that those checks will be mailed before the end of the year. We are hopeful that the shutdown will not significantly delay the processing of payments. However, many of the personnel with whom we deal both at Interior and the Department of Justice who provide the claims administrator information to assist in the processing of claims have been furloughed. Therefore there is a possibility that if the shutdown continues for an extended period that the delivery of Trust Administration checks will be impacted.

**OK State Dept of Ed, OKLAHOMA CITY (Nov. 5, 2013) –** State Superintendent of Public Instruction Janet Barresi made the following comments after Oklahoma City Public Schools announced a pay raise effective immediately for district teachers. OKCPS is also establishing a new salary grade that will increase pay for more experienced teachers. I want to commend Oklahoma City Public Schools for its decision enacting a teacher pay raise. This is proactive, forward-thinking leadership. Oklahoma’s hardworking and dedicated teachers deserve better compensation, and students deserve an administration that focuses on strong instruction in the classroom. This is very good news for Oklahoma City Public Schools and I hope it serves as an inspiration for other districts throughout the state. Months ago I began calling on districts to provide a $2,000 pay raise this year for teachers. That can easily be accomplished by schools using only 10 percent of their carryover funds and reprioritizing 2 percent of their overhead. Teachers deserve and need fair compensation, and OKCPS understands that.

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

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

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

Kathy Deere
Tribal Treasurer

*Most of us, swimming against the tides of trouble the world knows nothing about, need only a bit of praise or encouragement and we will make the goal.*

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**Finance Department**

**December 2013**

The finance department, for 2013, is completing accounting by the 10th day of the month which has been extended from the 7th allowing the health finance to provide reports necessary for adjusting inventory and accounts receivable. Financial reporting for the Health Authority and LSWN boards for Absentee Health Systems, Shawnee and Little Axe (LSWN) continues monthly. The Finance staff has completed the October reconciliations and financials. It is imperative the accounting staff continue to stay ahead of all of the accounting so that audits go smoothly, and Indirect Cost rates stay up to date. Indirect cost proposals cannot be submitted without completed audits as the audit is used to calculate the proposal. There are many processes in place in your Tribes accounting department that ensure we keep accurate records of transactions. The Tribes accounting processes must be in compliance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) and these rules are updated sometimes annually.
Hello Tribal Members,

As Financial Consultant for the office of Treasurer, I hope this report finds you surviving the Thanksgiving Holiday along with Black Friday and looking forward to Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Treasurer and I wish each of you a prosperous New Year and it's our hope to provide transparency of sound financial operations and reporting.

The following activities I have been involved and participated:

**Financial Budgets**
- Reviewed and analyzed General Fund and Indirect Cost encumbrance budgets.
- Absentee Shawnee Tribe Economic Development Authority, Inc: Anthony Cambas, director West Watkins Center for International Trade & Development at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK. Mr. Cambas provided information on international trade opportunities with the tribe and how his department can provide assistance and a partnership. The current status of the Little Axe Water District project was discussed, with more information forth coming in December newsletter.

Small Business Banking Forum in Tulsa, Oklahoma which covered topics: A Banker's Perspective on Underwriting Business Loans, Equity & Non-Bank Financing, Technical Assistance – Small Business Development Centers of Oklahoma, Source-Link and Business & Industry – Tulsa Technology Center, Professional Services – Legal, Accounting & Insurance. In attendance were individuals of small businesses or starting a small business, seeking assistance and information on bank loans, business plan and insurance requirements. I invited tribal member Howard Bates of Shawnee, OK to attend. Howard is interested in starting his own HOT SHOT TRUCKING business.

Governor’s Arts Awards: Attended Oklahoma Arts Council 38th Annual Governor’s Arts Awards for Excellence in the Arts, Oklahoma State Capitol Rotunda, with Treasurer Deere. Excellence in Arts where given to individuals in fields of Earl Sneed Business, Bill Crawford Media, Education, Community Service, George Nigh Public Service and Marilyn Douglass Memorial Award. The highlight of this event was speech by Governor Mary Fallin and Leona Mitchell who sang soprano love song in German.

Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Governance Webinar: Participated in a webinar on the topic of Governance, sponsored by Administration for Native Americans. The webinar consisted of Governance Grantee Success Stories in funding and examples of successful projects in Indian Country.

In closing, office of Treasurer staff would like to wish each tribal member a safe and joyous Christmas and Happy New Year!
In conclusion – change can be good. We are making good, long lasting changes that will benefit our tribal members today, tomorrow and in the future. We have many challenges that we must yet work through and it’s taking some time but we are getting there. I have 19 months left and I must speed up to get the best results for you. For the past 2 weeks we have been working with Finance on our budgets. Apparently for the past 3 years finance has been doing the budgets for the department directors. I want to have input into my programs so I know what we are doing and how we are going to do it. In my work with program directors we will be making some program enhancements. In media we are looking at increasing staff and beginning to take on external work that will help our media department to become more self-sustaining and profitable. We are also creating a new Intergovernmental Relations & Planning Office this year that will initially be funded out of health compact funds and in 2015 we will place these positions in our Indirect Cost Proposal. This new Intergovernmental Relations & Planning Office will have 6 staff – my project coordinator will have supervision of it and I have oversight of her so it will be placed under my Office with part of the project coordinator position paid out of my budget – the start-up cost of this office is large but the services that will be generated from it has long been needed by the Tribe and will be worth it. Thank you again for your support.

WE, meaning you, the people of the Tribe, and I, your Governor, are Building For the Future (BFF)! The weather is beginning to change on us again and I wish you all good health this month and look forward to telling you next month what progress we have made here at the tribe.
Q. Why do I need health insurance coverage if I receive services from an I/T/U?
A. Members of federally recognized tribes are eligible for monthly special enrollment under Medicaid or CHIP or might qualify for certain protections under Medicaid or CHIP. This includes individuals who are living on a reservation or in a rural area and who are enrolled in an I/T/U program and certain I/T/U members who are not. Members of federally recognized tribes are also exempt from Medicaid eligibility. AI/ANs who enroll in a Marketplace health plan, Medicaid, or CHIP can continue to receive services from their I/T/U the same way they do now. But by enrolling in a Marketplace health plan, Medicaid, or CHIP, AI/ANs benefit by having greater access to services that may not be provided by their local I/T/U, and the tribal communities benefit through increased resources to their I/T/U programs.

Q. What if I already have insurance through my job or am already on Medicaid?
A. If you have health insurance through your employer or have health care coverage through a government sponsored program such as Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, Veterans Affairs or TRICARE, there is nothing you need to do—you are covered.

Q. As an AI/AN, am I required to have health care insurance?
A. No, members of federally recognized tribes, other AI/ANs, and other people (like the spouse or child of an eligible Indian) who are eligible for or get services through an I/T/U will be exempt from (don’t have to pay) the shared responsibility payment. So, you do not have to apply for health insurance, but you must apply for this exemption.

Q. What are the special protections for AI/ANs who enroll in CHIP?
A. AI/ANs are exempt from all cost sharing, and certain Indian resources and payments are not counted for CHIP eligibility. AI/ANs can continue to get services through an I/T/U even if the I/T/U is not a provider in a managed care network. AI/ANs who enroll in a Marketplace health plan, Medicaid, or CHIP or might qualify for certain protections under Medicaid or CHIP or might qualify for tax credits and cost-sharing reductions. In addition to financial documents, you might need your tribal documents to qualify for some of these special protections.

Q. Are there special protections for AI/ANs who enroll in Medicaid?
A. AI/ANs who are eligible for or get services from an I/T/U, including Contract Health Services, are exempt from Medicaid premiums and enrollment fees and, if they have ever used one of these programs, they are also exempt from other cost sharing, such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles. Certain Indian resources and payments are not counted for Medicaid eligibility. AI/ANs can continue to get services through an I/T/U even if the I/T/U is not a provider in a managed care network.

Q. I’m an American Indian/Alaska Native. What do I need to know about the Health Insurance Marketplace?
A. The Health Insurance Marketplace will benefit American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) by providing opportunities for enrolling in affordable health coverage. You might be eligible to enroll in a private health plan in the new Health Insurance Marketplace (Marketplace). Or, you might be eligible for Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). There will be one application to determine whether you are eligible for a Marketplace health plan, Medicaid, or CHIP.

Q. Why do I need health insurance coverage if I receive services from the Indian Health Service, a tribal program, or an urban Indian health program?
A. The Affordable Care Act does not change your eligibility to get health care through the Indian Health Service, or tribal or urban Indian health programs (I/T/U). AI/ANs who enroll in a Marketplace health plan, Medicaid, or CHIP can continue to receive services from their I/T/U the same way they do now. But by enrolling in a Marketplace health plan, Medicaid, or CHIP, AI/ANs benefit by having greater access to services that may not be provided by their local I/T/U, and the tribal communities benefit through increased resources to their I/T/U programs.

How to Apply:
You can apply for the Marketplace and Medicaid/CHIP coverage three ways:
1. Online at www.healthcare.gov
2. By mail, or in person with the help of a Navigator or other enrollment assister.
3. Telephone help and online chat will be available 24/7 to help you complete your application.

Questions?
Call 1-800-318-2596 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (TTY: 1-855-889-4325)
Open enrollment starts October 1, 2013. Coverage starts as soon as January 1, 2014.

For more information, contact:
On November 7th, 2013, Nike N7 hosted the youth sports event ‘Move Your Generation’ at the OKC Thunder practice facility in Edmond. This event was developed by Nike N7 as an effort to bring native communities together to promote sport as a tool to ‘inspire youth potential and power’, and to encourage physical activity. Out of 100 kids invited, the Diabetes and Wellness Program [Buster Bread] secured 12 slots for AST youth. This number later increased to 18 by request. Each slot was filled successfully and promptly. Transportation and chaperoning for the event was provided by Health executive assistant, Leah Bates. Snacks and beverages were provided by Meredith Wahpekeche.

All of the AST youth participants did an excellent job and had a great time at the basketball event. The participants moved through various basketball drills and exercises on the Thunder practice court. The kids were also treated to an energetic DJ session with Emcee One, a DJ/native youth advocate. Also in attendance, providing a live artwork performance, was artist, Bunky Echo Hawk.

Thank you to all the youth and parents that were committed to attending this event. Thank you to Nike N7 for inviting the AST tribal youth. Thank you to Leah Bates, Jenifer Sloan, and Meredith Wahpekeche for your assistance!

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

**AST Fitness Facility Hours**

Monday through Thursday  
6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Friday  
6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday/Sunday  
CLOSED  
405-364-7298
Trevor Yates on stage during the weigh-in at the Bassmaster Junior World Championship in Arkansas last weekend. The 17-year-old junior already has quite the acumen for the sport, as evidenced by his victory in the Junior World Bassmaster Championship on the Arkansas River in Dardanelle, Ark., last weekend.

Yates defeated his closest junior competitor (ages 15 to 18) by 4 pounds, despite not finding any bass in the same areas where he had when pre-fishing the river two weeks earlier.

“He had to figure out a whole different pattern,” said his father, Todd Yates. “He is that savvy.”

When he couldn’t get a bite around the lay downs in the small creeks and backwater areas of the river as before, Trevor started fishing the main part of the river.

“I ended up finding them on channel swings, up next to the chunk rock bank,” he said.

Using a black buzz bait and a new squarebill crankbait (Chartreuse Sunrise Shad) from Livingston Lures, Trevor’s five-fish stringer weighed 12 pounds, 14 ounces. He caught his two biggest fish (a 4-pounder and 3-pounder) shortly before the weigh-in.

With the victory, Trevor won a $5,000 college scholarship and a Triton/Mercury aluminum bass boat.

He now has earned almost $10,000 in scholarships just through bass fishing.

“I just want to get to a college that has a fishing team,” Yates said.
1. Once rural water is constructed on your property you will have an abundant supply of quality drinking water that is tested daily by professional public water system operators. This drinking water would come from the Absentee Shawnee Tribal water supply and is treated and tested to comply with the Oklahoma EPA Drinking Water Standards.

2. An Annual Consumer Confidence Report will be prepared by the future LITTLE AXE RURAL WATER DISTRICT and approved by the EPA, then mailed to each Little Axe Rural Water Customer. This report provides water quality testing results from the last calendar year and other related information to the public consumer.

3. You will no longer need to use your well pump or well water supply. You may continue to have your well water supply for outside or other use if you desire as long as it is not directly connected to your private plumbing that is used for rural water.

4. If your electricity goes out during a storm you will still have rural water service since the rural-regional water system is pressurized by large capacity elevated water towers.

5. There is a one time signup fee of $_____ to become a member of the rural water system. Once water service is constructed on your property you will become a member of the Water District’s corporation and have one voting right to elect members to serve on the LITTLE AXE RURAL WATER DISTRICT Board of Directors.

6. The resale value of your property will increase with rural water service on your property.

7. You are investing into water utility system that will help further establish the community of Little Axe and help provide clean water to those in the community that do not have a quality water source. This is the true definition of “community”.

8. LITTLE AXE RURAL WATER DISTRICT provides water service 24 hours a day 7 days a week. If a rural water main breaks service is usually restored within a few short hours. The Absentee Shawnee tribe will be providing the Water Treatment Plant through Grants and Bonds, but will solely be owned and managed by those that will be receiving the treated water in the Little Axe Community. This will be an ongoing, expanding process completed thru phasing.

9. Based on customer location and ground elevation rural water service at the customer connection point is designed to provide an average constant water pressure of 50 psi.

10. LITTLE AXE RURAL WATER DISTRICT will have rural fire hydrants that are constructed on larger water mains [6” pipe thru 12” pipe] and used by the local fire departments to assist in rural fire protection.

This saves valuable time to refill fire trucks instead of driving back to a city fire hydrant.

INTEREST SURVEY FOR PROPOSED LITTLE AXE RURAL WATER DISTRICT (LARWD) BY THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE ECONOMIC BOARD AUTHORITY EASTERN CLEVELAND COUNTY AREA

The LARWD is conducting an interest survey of potential users for a proposed future rural water project and service. This survey will be used to determine the feasibility of a new project. Currently the LARW District is in the design phase. We are now seeking to determine if there’s enough interest for an investment of new construction loans to construct a rural water service to the Little Axe Community thru a phasing process.

It is important to complete the attached survey and return it to the ASEDA Board before __________, 2014. This is an interest survey only and does not require you to submit any signup fees until you are contacted later. The results of this survey will be provided to all survey participants.

If you have questions about this survey please contact our office at 1-405-275-4030 Ext. 148. For more information about this, see www.astribe.com.
ENTIRE COMMUNITY CAN BENEFIT FROM RURAL WATER LINE
Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority Media Release

LITTLE AXE, OK - Verna Hicks moved from Tulsa to rural Rose, Oklahoma in 1968. She and her husband had decided to buy a ranch with a dairy. Part of running a dairy was having a clean water supply. Since they were on well water, it meant treating the well. Often. “When we had a lot of rain, it would affect the water. There would be a lot of bacteria in it.” She said the only way they had of sanitizing it was by pouring a jug of chlorine into it. “We used the water to clean the milk tanks out. The water had to be free of bacteria,” she said.

And sometimes, the well would get low. She and her husband hauled water from the pond to water the garden so they’d have water from the well for the dairy and the home. They would wait for the rain and for the well to fill. That also meant it would be time for another jug of chlorine.

When the opportunity came to sign up for rural water, she thought it was a good idea. “We figured the rural water would be safer, more sanitary. Plus, with the well, if a storm knocked the power out, we didn’t have water. With rural water, we’d still have running water.”

Like the community of Rose once was, Little Axe is largely dependent on well water, and well water often comes with problems. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, well water is subject to many common ground-water quality concerns, including excessive hardness due to dissolved magnesium and calcium, “a high concentration of salt or iron, or the presence of sulfur, methane gas, petroleum or organic compounds, or bacteria. Some are naturally occurring; others are introduced by human activities.”

The USGS names barnyard runoff, bacteria, pesticides, and fertilizers as some of the more serious common water quality problems in rural areas. The Environmental Protection Agency warns that this can become a serious problem because these “small drinking water systems are not covered by the Safe Water Drinking Act; these wells and systems are often untested and contaminated.”

While the EPA regulates public water systems, it doesn’t have the authority to regulate private drinking water wells. A rural water system for the community would alleviate those concerns by providing a treatment plant to remove solids, reduce organic matter and pollutants and ensure that wastewater returned to the environment is clean. Water would be treated and monitored daily for cleanliness and consumers assured of a safe potable supply of running water.

The Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority is currently in the feasibility stage of gauging the interest of the community in developing a rural water system. With community support, the tribe can secure Tribal Economic Development Bonds and grants to fund the project, bring clean water to the Little Axe community, and ultimately, also create new jobs by staffing the wastewater treatment plant.

Board member Adam Proctor says community support is essential. The tribe has to have a positive survey and feasibility study before applying for TED Bonds.

“Whether you want to be a member of the water district or not, if you support your neighbors who do, we need you to respond by filling out and returning a survey,” Proctor said. “You may not need rural water, but someone close to you might. And you don’t have to sign up for it. We just need to know you support the project for the community as a whole.”

And whether you sign up for rural water or not, everyone stands to benefit from fire hydrants that will be installed along the lines. Having a hydrant close will reduce your homeowner’s insurance and ensure fire trucks have a ready supply of water at their disposal should you or one of your neighbors need them.

The ASEDAb board also assures the community that the community itself will be in charge of the district once it is established. When you become a member of the rural water system, you become a member of the water district’s corporation and have one voting right to elect members to serve on the district’s board of directors.

Becoming a member will entail a one-time membership fee. Afterwards, ASEDAb projects that average monthly rural water bills to be less than $40.

If you have questions about the survey, would like a copy of the survey, or want more information about the development of the water district, call the ASEDa office at 1-405-275-4030 ext. 148.

How do treatment plants protect our water?
A wastewater treatment plant:
Removes Solids - This includes everything from rags and sticks to sand and smaller particles found in wastewater.
Reduces Organic Matter and Pollutants - Helpful bacteria and other microorganisms are used to consume organic matter in wastewater. The bacteria and microorganisms are then separated from the water.
Restores oxygen - Treatment facilities help ensure the water put back into our lakes or rivers has enough oxygen to support life.

Who operates treatment plants, Tribe or Community?
The daily treatment plant operation is conducted by highly trained and certified operators. It requires:
• A plant manager/superintendent to ensure the plant has enough money, trained personnel, and equipment to conduct business.
• Maintenance personnel to prevent mechanical failures and solve equipment problems.
• Plant operators who know how to treat wastewater properly before discharging it into the environment. After a thorough training and exam process, operators are licensed through State standards.
### YTD TAX COLLECTIONS (thru 10/31/13)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAX CATEGORY</th>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>TOTAL COLLECTED</th>
<th>% OF TOTAL COLLECTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales (6%)</td>
<td>$5,320.89</td>
<td>$5,961.53</td>
<td>$10,318.20</td>
<td>$5,250.35</td>
<td>$6,199.63</td>
<td>$10,621.07</td>
<td>$1,015.26</td>
<td>$4,978.72</td>
<td>$10,604.50</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$65,964.68</td>
<td>$3,315,053.61</td>
<td>1.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaming % of free cash</td>
<td>$414,328.00</td>
<td>$408,888.00</td>
<td>$225,370.00</td>
<td>$224,409.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$258,496.00</td>
<td>$368,744.00</td>
<td>$260,000.00</td>
<td>$380,605.00</td>
<td>$259,287.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$2,800,127.00</td>
<td>$13,787,809.38</td>
<td>84.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee (1%)</td>
<td>$29,238.39</td>
<td>$4,799.87</td>
<td>$4,314.16</td>
<td>$20,146.42</td>
<td>$11,097.65</td>
<td>$11,469.05</td>
<td>$24,992.83</td>
<td>$14,764.66</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$129,997.31</td>
<td>$1,200,687.75</td>
<td>$6,315,053.61</td>
<td>3.92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severance (8%)</td>
<td>$15,812.22</td>
<td>$5,128.09</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$21,426.59</td>
<td>$12,234.71</td>
<td>$19,054.69</td>
<td>$10,289.60</td>
<td>$8,658.11</td>
<td>$12,002.16</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$106,094.75</td>
<td>$14,089,357</td>
<td>$13,787,809.38</td>
<td>3.20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle</td>
<td>$14,481.54</td>
<td>$13,521.61</td>
<td>$15,001.64</td>
<td>$13,851.28</td>
<td>$13,974.15</td>
<td>$13,338.22</td>
<td>$13,981.32</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$140,893.57</td>
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<td>4.25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobacco Refund</td>
<td>$10,087.72</td>
<td>$12,444.26</td>
<td>$8,474.55</td>
<td>$9,091.57</td>
<td>$11,494.05</td>
<td>$9,807.70</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$71,976.30</td>
<td>$71,976.30</td>
<td>$13,787,809.38</td>
<td>2.17%</td>
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</table>

**Total**

- **TAXES**
  - $489,268.76
  - $450,543.36
  - $263,478.55
  - $294,175.21
  - $54,060.06
  - $303,029.32
  - $431,269.88
  - $286,015.95
  - $432,572.88
  - $310,639.64
  - $0.00
  - $0.00
  - $3,315,053.61

- **Miscellaneous**
  - $970.00
  - $250.00
  - $106.75
  - $230.00
  - $155.00
  - $170.00
  - $140.00
  - $170.00
  - $150.00
  - $108.00
  - $0.00
  - $2,449.75
  - $0.07%

**Total Collections**

- $490,238.76
- $450,793.36
- $263,585.30
- $294,405.21
- $54,215.06
- $303,199.32
- $431,409.88
- $286,185.95
- $432,722.88
- $310,747.64
- $0.00
- $0.00
- $3,317,503.36
- 100%

---

**TAX SEASON 2013 IS UPON US AGAIN....**

Have your taxes prepared at no cost
Save your money

**TARGETED TOWARD LOW-INCOME FAMILIES**

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI < $58,000)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Absentee Shawnee Tribe Volunteer Tax Assistance (VITA) Program
Kicks Off 2013 Tax Season

VITA program is tentative scheduled to begin January 22, 2014 at the Title VI Building. Tentative days of the week are Wednesday 3 – 7, Thursday 3 - 7 and Saturday 9 – 2.

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

**WE ARE RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS**
recruited judges deserve special recognition who worked their way through a record setting ‘ties’ in dance competition include Jodi Little Axe, Troy Little Axe, Fred Forgotten Items (like duct tape). As coordination for the pow wow, I know it is important to recognize and give thanks to the ones who helped in so many areas of this event and that is to say thank you to my immediate family, Vivian Longhorn who helped financially and crunch numbers in many areas, Joel Longhorn Shane who, though she lives in Montana, contributed financially and ideas and elbow grease as needed, and Mel Switch, also digging in the wallet for items needed from day one of this great idea of mine to do this. My daughters, son-in-laws and grandchildren who, for some reason, thought this was ‘fun’.

I have had very positive comments from head staff and competitors that makes me feel and say to our aging Elders Council members, “You did a good job! It was a success! Keep it up next year! Thank you all for your determination and help Yaw-wah!’

For comments, questions and suggestions, feel free to call me at (405) 273-4137 Cynthia Longhorn Secretary Elders Council

A list of winners by category is as follows:

**Golden Age Men (60+)**
- 1st - Cecil Wahpekeche
- 2nd - Algene Washington Sr.
- 3rd - Wilson Roberts

**Mens Fancy Dance**
- 1st - Henry McClellan
- 2nd - B. Pewo
- 3rd - Graham Primeaux

**Grass Dance**
- 1st - Ed Black, Jr.
- 2nd - Marty Thurman
- 3rd - Keenan Springer

**Mens Straight**
- 1st - Michael Plumley
- 2nd - Ryan Goodfox
- 3rd - Edmond Howell

**Mens Traditional**
- 1st - Cricket Shields
- 2nd - B.J. Haury
- 3rd - Donovan Haury

**Junior Boys**
- 1st - Akhyka Peña
- 2nd - Tyler Thurman
- 3rd - Mah-Juhtheen Roberts

**Golden Age Women (60+)**
- 1st - Linda Standing
- 2nd - Sharon Roberts
- 3rd - Sandra McClellan

**Womens Fancy Shawl**
- 1st - Tata Roberts
- 2nd - Oke-Tu Sha Roberts
- 3rd - Annica Billey

**Womens Jingle Dress**
- 1st - Rebecca Roberts
- 2nd - Rowena Roberts
- 3rd - Shaudeen Smith

**Womens Cloth**
- 1st - Toni Tsatoke Mule
- 2nd - Tara Goodfox
- 3rd - Ursula Hill

**Womens Buckskin**
- 1st - Charish Toehay
- 2nd - Jasa Lightfoot
- 3rd - Denise Haury

**Junior Girls**
- 1st - Morning Star Roberts
- 2nd - Mallia Pewo
- 3rd - Ashley Longhorn

**Tiny Tots** (up to age 6) All future champion dancers - All First Place

As our nation honored our veterans, we chose to honor a special tribal veteran this year in our event and that was to honor Mr Wayne Allen ‘Bainey’ Longhorn. Bainey is an 86 year old World War II combat Army veteran who was recognized earlier this year as being the eldest Absentee Shawnee male person. It appeared to me that he enjoyed this recognition and was honored by the Veterans Association, tribal employees, family, friends and community members helping in set up, clean up, running errands (to Wal Mart) to pick up food, supplies and forgotten items (like duct tape). As coordination for the pow wow, I know it is important to recognize and give thanks to the ones who helped in so many areas of this event and that is to say thank you to my immediate family, Vivian Longhorn Shane who, though she lives in Montana, contributed financially and shared ideas, Nathan Longhorn who came from Kansas at his own expense and shared his ideas and experience and worked hard to put this together, Ewell Longhorn who helped financially and crunched numbers in many areas, Joel Longhorn, financial contribution and ideas and elbow grease as needed, and Mel Switch, also digging in the wallet for items needed from day one of this great idea of mine to do this. My daughters, son-in-laws and grandchildren who, for some reason, thought this was ‘fun’.

I have had very positive comments from head staff and competitors that makes me feel and say to our aging Elders Council members, ‘You did a good job! It was a success! Keep it up next year! Thank you all for your determination and help Yaw-wah!’

For comments, questions and suggestions, feel free to call me at (405) 273-4137 Cynthia Longhorn Secretary Elders Council

**Raffles:** Mary Birdtail, Supper: D.K. Johnson. A big hooray for our hard working cooks.
Happy Birthday
Garrett
Henry
We love you very much!
Uncle Marv & Mama Seal

Holly Davis
Zelda Foreman
Julius Davis
From Sherry & Marv

Corey Shawnee
Happy Birthday
From Uncle Marv & Sherry

Dakota Megehee
I love you son,
Daddy

Jiliyan
Hope you have a great 9th birthday! You deserve the happiest day ever!! You're such a joy & a blessing to us all, especially when you make me laugh!! Happy Happy Birthday to you!
I love you
Love momma & Rat

Little sister Jili--
Happy birthday to you Hope your day is fun filled. So very glad you're my little sister.
Love Justin

Sissy--
Wish you a happy 9th birthday. You are so very pretty and good to me!! I'm so glad you're my sissy!!
Love little brother, Joplin

Jiliyan--
Hope your day is a great one. Have a happy birthday and stay sweet and just the way you are!
Love Auntie BJ & Uncle Troy

To my princess Jiliyan,
I want you to know that I am very proud of your school work, you are doing very good.
Hope your birthday is a happy one. I love you to the moon and back.
Hugs and kisses
Granny Low
Students in the Horse Shoe Bend After School program have been very busy with students involved in school sports and community activities. The first semester is getting ready to end. For the Thanksgiving Holidays the after school program will be closed from November 26, 2013 thru December 1, 2013. It will begin again on December 2, 2013 and will close again on December 23, 2013 thru January 5, 2014 for the Christmas Break. For the second semester it will start on January 6, 2014.

The White Turkey Band Committee will be sponsoring the Christmas Party for the Horse Shoe Bend After School Program in December.

KATIE WILSON

Katie Wilson, at North Rock Creek School, was selected by her Second Grade Class as the Achiever of the Month. She has made outstanding improvements in her class studies. Katie enjoys playing basketball and is active in outdoor activities. She is the daughter of Calvin and Annie Wilson. Katie has one brother, Ruben.

DESIREE JOHNSON

Desiree, at North Rock Creek School, is a third grader and was awarded with the Citizenship Award for the month of November. Desiree is a very productive student and is serious about her studies in school. She likes to help other students in the after school program. Desiree is the daughter of Victor and Jennifer Castaneda. Desiree has two brothers and two sisters.

Two of our tutors, Jo Kleinsasser and Lauren Wood, participated in a Cross Country Meet at Gordon Cooper Vo-Tech on November 9, 2013 and each of these young ladies placed in the top 15. Both are Education Majors at Oklahoma Baptist University.

GOOD JOB GIRLS!!!!! GO BISON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

TUTORS WISHES ALL STUDENTS A SAFE AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If you should have any questions please call 405-481-0397.

Edwina Butler–Wolfe Governor
FROM THE ELECTION COMMISSION:

The filing period for Elective Offices in 2014.
A tribal member may file for office. January 1 to January 10 (excluding weekends and holidays.)
Hours to file are 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon) and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Potential candidates please consult the Election Ordinance for the procedures and qualifications when running for elective office.

The following positions will be open for the Elections to be held in 2014.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Filing Fees</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Governor</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>Two (2) Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Treasurer</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>Two (2) Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Representative</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>Two (2) Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ELECTION COMMISSION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Filing Fees</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Election Commissioner</td>
<td>$84.00 (prorated)</td>
<td>Two (2) Years (ends 2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission Member #2</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>Three (3) Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FROM THE REALTY DEPARTMENT:

November 2013

End of the Year Inspections

My name is Cecil Wilson, I am the Realty Specialist. I have an announcement to make on behalf of the Realty Department. I am currently in the process of conducting End of the Year Inspections of all property's leased, and want to inform land owners that I will be out on the property's until all of the End Of The Year Inspections are complete. The list below is priority due to expiration.

1. Wa-The-Pe-Wes-Ka-Ka       19-9N-4E
2. Anna Barone              30-9N-4E
3. Mrs. Charles Lewis       26-11N-4E
4. Jim Warrior              23-10N-3E
5. Thomas Washington        22-11N-4E
6. Bob White                22-9N-1E
7. Joe Mack                 5-8N-2E
8. Jeanne Godopease         17-9N-1E
9. Ellen Tyner              30-9N-2E

Farming & Grazing Leases ARE NOT HUNTING LEASES.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 405.275.4030.
Rachael Howell – Ext.125
Cecil Wilson – Ext.127
**AST PHARMACY NEWS**

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

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

**AST COUNTRY KITCHEN**

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

**Early Bird Breakfast**

$4.99

2 Eggs/Bacon or Sausage/Hash 
Biscuits & Gravy or Toast & Coffee

(Not valid on Saturday or Sunday. 1 coupon per customer. With coupon. No substitutions)

Open 7 Days A Week!

366-7220

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

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

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

VETERANS!

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

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

November 16, 2013

Dear Tribal Member,

I am again composing a letter to you about the need to act upon an age old promise made by Tribal Leaders of today and yesterday. During the mid-1980’s the tribe became self-aware and, although political in nature, started paying for a college education for our Membership (self-governance). This, in the beginning, was a way to tally votes but those leaders did not comprehend the impact they were making.

Education is a lonely and difficult road. Anyone who has taken this course can relate to your own self-sacrifice to attain your chosen degree. I implore you to ask those tribal leaders today, what are we doing with this education the tribe has paid for? A small handful of members with upper level degrees now work for the tribe. So, where did all our education dollars go, how have they benefited the tribe and why are they not working for you? These questions must be addressed if we wish to make headway in dealing with other tribes, outside Indian country and to be innovative. Additionally, if we want to become successful then future elected leadership needs to hold at least a bachelor’s degree in a profession related to the office they seek. We start by grooming our members to do just that, we educate them give them a guaranteed job upon graduation to work and gain experience while helping our tribe move forward.

I propose we revise and fine tune our education department to help us achieve our tribal goals. This can be accomplished by both, beginning a work study program enabling college students to work for the tribe while attending school, gaining valuable experience while being groomed for future leadership and by contacting with our students by requiring them to work for the tribe on a 2 for 1 ratio. For every year they receive education funds they must work for the tribe for two years starting at entry level for their chosen profession. Preferably in the healthcare industry since this is where the tribe needs to be headed to become prosperous.

Upon completion of the contract the student tribal member has choice to stay with the tribe, thus providing the tribe with an educated workforce to help us move forward. If the student at any time wishes to leave the tribe before fulfilling their agreed upon contract then they must repay a 0 or a portion back to the tribe. Otherwise, the employer wishing to employ them may buy out their contract so that the tribe will have those funds to put back into education for the next member graduating high school. This is what I would elect to do if I were a tribal leader looking to change history for our tribe. This is a benchmark that will change the course for a rewarding future for our children, grandchildren and beyond.

So now is the time to push the tribal leadership to stop promising our children an education with a promising future while having no strategic plan outlined on how to get them there. For one would have accepted such an offer; as I received four years of tuition from the tribe regardless of the fact that I had an athletic scholarship that paid my education. I could have used the “experience” and the comfort knowing I had a job upon graduation for at least 8 yrs.

These proposed education changes will alter our direction in the next 3 to 5 years by increasing our prosperity, self-reliance level and putting forward a positive image to the rest of the world. The education department is a resource that has been wasted since it has been ignored to this point. Yes we educate members who qualify to get into an accredited college, but that’s it, the tribe has not taken advantage of the possibilities of an educated workforce. Had the leaders back in the 80’s realized what they had and instituted the course of action then we would be far ahead of the game and competing with the larger tribes out there. I believe the previous tribal leadership feared what they did not have and relied upon experience alone, but with that attitude look where we are today. A good leader will surround himself with people smarter than themselves in order to make the best educated decisions. The U.S. President does not appoint people who do not have some form of formal education with experience to back it up. The U.S. military requires college for you to be an officer then gives you experience through training. Our education department is an untapped resource...call your leadership ask them to make changes so we can utilize our college graduates instead of losing them to other tribes or the private sector.

John Al Little Axe-M BA LPN
405-343-8705
December - Angel Tree

The ICW department will be getting out the Angels to all their families this month. The Angels will be placed on the Christmas tree in Building #1 on November 25th. On the back of each Angel will be information for a child such as age, gender, size and wish list. As a reminder for those who take an Angel, please SIGN OUT your Angel and return the Angel with the new, unwrapped gifts to the ICW department by December 13, 2013.

January - Parenting Classes

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

For further information on any event please contact the ICW Department

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

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:
1. Handicapped/Disabled and Elderly
2. Income
3. Family Size/Overcrowded Living Conditions
4. 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’D LIKE TO SUBMIT AN AD OR ARTICLE: Give us a call at (405) 598-1279 or (405) 481-0558 or send us an e-mail to stiger@astribe.com

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

Unfortunately, we can only accept one picture per birthday person, not per birthday wish.
SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Det. Jason Brinker is a 15 year veteran police officer who was raised in Seminole County. Det. Brinker has worked in Law Enforcement and Gaming in Shawnee area for the last 8 years. Prior to coming to work for the ASTPD Det. Brinker served as a patrolman for Tecumseh Police Department and Surveillance Director for the Grand Casino.

Let’s Build For the Future (BFF)!

GOVERNORS SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE

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

25 TONS OF ELECTRONICS COLLECTED

Local Recycling Event Diverts Two Truckloads From Landfill

By SNS
Posted Nov. 21, 2013

SHAWNEE

Sustainable Shawnee, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Natural Evolution of Tulsa and Direct Colors Inc. held a free electronic waste recycling event recently for Shawnee and surrounding communities.

‘We diverted two truckloads or approximately 25 tons of electronics from the landfill at this event,’ said Shawna Turner, President of Sustainable Shawnee and general manager for Direct Colors. ‘All the material collected will be shredded and responsibly recycled in the United States’

Traci Phillips with Natural Evolution, an electronics recycler from Tulsa, told Sustainable Shawnee members that ‘over 2.5 billion tons of electronic waste is created worldwide each year. Electronics contain everything from the benign to the extremely hazardous and virtually everything can be recycled in some way. Toxic materials like lead and heavy metals can easily leach out of irresponsibly disposed of electronic waste into surrounding soils and water. Recycling saves landfill space, allows for reuse and prevents unnecessary pollution.’

Natural Evolution is one of 48 companies nationwide awarded the E-Steward designation that certifies their recycling process to the highest possible environmental and business standards.

‘We guarantee electronics recycled with us, including items gathered in Shawnee, will not be landfilled or exported to third world countries for children to process,’ Phillips encourages consumers to choose wisely and take responsibility for their electronics to the end. ‘By using a certified recycler, consumers can rest assured the material isn’t falling into the wrong hands, sent to the landfill or worse dumped somewhere along a roadside.’

Shawnee is one of several communities statewide to hold regular electronics recycling events. Sustainable Shawnee hopes to hold bi-annual collections in the future. For more information about recycling events in this area, visit www.susttainablesponsor.org.

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank everyone that contributed to the success of our e-recycling event on Saturday. We collected items from 8:30 to 2:30 on Saturday and was able to fill 2 semi-trucks with 25 Tons of Electronic Waste.

Thanks Again,
Ken Jones
OEH&E Director
Absentee Shawnee Tribe

You can read the complete story from the Shawnee News Star paper by the link below:

**JOB OPENINGS**

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

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**Absentee Shawnee Tribe Human Resource Department**

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

John Carrington x 131
Elizabeth Clark - x 170
Rachael Lankford – x 111

**www.astribe.com**

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**Victim Advocacy**

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

**Court Advocacy**

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

**Housing and Utility Assistance**

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

**Referral Assistance**

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

**Sexual Assault Advocacy**

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

**Shelter Placement Assistance**

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

**Community Outreach**

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

For any questions regarding any of the above services please contact the Absentee Shawnee Tribe’s Domestic Violence staff at (405) 273-2888 Monday—Friday 8:00am—5:00pm. To be connected with an advocate in a Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault emergency after hours you may contact Jackie Denny - 405-432-9377, Melissa Lopez - 405-432-9657, Linda Gouge - 405-585-6348 or Kimberly Stephens - 405-365-5698.
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

During the winter months if the Little Axe or Shawnee School Systems are closed due to the weather we will also be closed.

The AST Complex will be open on the 23rd, 26th & 27th but Title VI will be Closed to clean and take inventory. Homebound will get a meal (frozen or shelf meal) on December 20th for the three days that Title VI is closed.

December 24th and 25th the AST Complex will be closed and we will not be delivering or serving lunch.

The Thanksgiving Hams was a great gift to our Title VI Members to those of you who received a Ham please give your thanks to the Executive Committee who made it possible. Thank you and God Bless Each of you. Governor Butler-Wolle, Lt. Governor J. Gibson, Secretary Dawsey, Treasurer Deere, & Representative J. Gibson.

Any questions or concerns please free to contact us at 405-275-4030 ext 169.

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### December 2013

**Menu subject to change**

**2% milk served daily**

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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>Pizza Pocket Corn Salad Bar*</td>
<td>Chili Dogs Chips Chez, Onions Mixed Fruit</td>
<td>Baked Pot. Chez, Ham, Onions Veggies Choc. Pudding</td>
<td>Egg Roll Stir Fry Veggies Oriental Rice Cookie</td>
<td>Biscuits Sausage Gravy Cereal</td>
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<td>Chef Salad Grilled Chicken Crackers Eggs, Chez Applesauce</td>
<td>Chicken Patty Sandwich Lett, Tom Steak Fries Pears</td>
<td>Spaghetti w/ Meat sauce Green beans Bread Stick Pineapples</td>
<td>Steak fingers Mixed Veggies Tossed Salad* Mandarin Oranges</td>
<td>Scrambled Eggs Biscuit Sausage Gravy</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>BBQ Sandwich Chips Pickles, Onions Cookie</td>
<td>Goulash Squash Garlic Bread Tossed Salad*</td>
<td>Smoked Sausage Cabbage Cornbread Jell-O</td>
<td>Baked Fried Chicken Mashed Pot./Gravy Green beans Cheesecake</td>
<td>Cereal Boiled Egg Sausage Links Muffin</td>
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<td>Closed for Cleaning &amp; inventory</td>
<td>Christmas Eve AST Complex Closed</td>
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<td>Hamburger Lett, Tom Baked Beans Peaches</td>
<td>Pork Chop Okra Black-eyed Peas Cornbread Cookie</td>
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Introduction
The information being provided is to help families understand what programs are offered through the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority and how to apply.

Our programs target low income Native American families who need housing assistance. The programs currently being provided are Rental, Lease to Own and Down Payment Assistance.

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

The application will also require documents to be attached in order to complete the process, which are:
- Photo I.D.
- CDIB Card
- Social Security Card
- Birth Certificate
- Marriage License/Divorce Decree/Custody Decree (if applicable)
- Declaration of Section 214 (form is included with application)

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

Waiting List
A letter will be mailed out once your application has been approved notifying you of the date your name was placed on the waiting list. It is very important to stay in contact and notify the Housing Authority anytime changes occur in income, household composition, or contact information.

In the event that your name is next in line being offered a home; you will be notified by letter or phone. If you have substantial rental history and meet the income requirements, your name may be placed on the waiting list. It is very important to stay in contact and notify the Housing Authority.

Low Rent Housing
Our low rent housing program is provided to families in need of housing in the Shawnee and Tecumseh area. Rental homes 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 elder/handicap communities. These units are fully and partially handicap accessible units. A laundry facility is located in the community for tenant use only.

Tenants in our rental program are provided services through our Maintenance Department. If any maintenance issues should arise you would contact the Housing Authority and a crew member will come and do the repair.

Lease to Own Program
The Lease to Own Program is available for any Native American family who has met our requirements and would like to purchase a home through the Housing Authority. The homes offered are ones currently in inventory and owned by the Housing Authority.

This program is designated for income eligible families who have been renting but now feel they are ready for the opportunity to purchase their own home. The application is the same as the rental; accept the income requirements are different. Be sure and specify when completing your application, that you are applying for the Lease to Own Program. If you have substantial rental history and meet the income requirements, your name may be placed on the waiting list.

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

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

Applications are now being accepted for families that are over the income limits for our IHBG funded programs. Please contact our Programs & Admissions Department for further details.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Attention:**

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

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

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

For more information, please call Tresha Spoon at (405) 275-4030 ext. 121 or 1-800-256-3341 or email to tresham@astribe.com.
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Education Department
2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive
(405) 275-4030    Toll free (800) 256-3341    Fax (405) 273-7938
youthaward@astribe.com

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

Applications accepted:
Jan. 1st – March 31st
Finalists announced:
May 2014

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: ____________________________________________________
(last)           (first)           (mi)
Enrollment #: __________
Address: __________________________________________________
(street)            (city)            (state)                             (zip)
Home Phone: (______)____________________ Cell Phone: (______)____________________
Email: ____________________________

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

High School Name: __________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________________________
Guidance Counselor: __________________________ Phone #: __________________________
Sport: __________________________ Position: __________________________
Coach: __________________________ Phone #: __________________________
(first)           (last)

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

Documents to be included with application:

□ Official High School Transcript
□ Letter of Recommendation (Educator/Coach)
□ Tribal Enrollment Card (copy)
□ Resume of Accomplishments and Activities
□ 500-word Essay: How do you feel your accomplishments (knowledge/training) will influence your future?
□ Video (optional): no more than 10 minutes in length
Are you at risk for diabetes, have diabetes or know someone who does? Type 2 diabetes is the most common type of diabetes and affects millions of Native Americans. Many people are unaware that they have diabetes or pre-diabetes. Native Americans are twice as likely to develop Type 2 diabetes than others. Some common signs and symptoms include:

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

Often people with type 2 diabetes have no symptoms. Some ways to prevent and manage diabetes is through healthy lifestyle behaviors. One question that many people with diabetes or pre-diabetes often ask is “What can I eat?” The American Diabetes Association states that you do not have to be deprived or restricted. The key factors are learning what are the “superfoods”, how much of it you can have and how often. Getting into the habit of eating a healthy diet helps you manage diabetes and prevent complications caused by diabetes.

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

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

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

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

Source: American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org

Camp Nikoti Youth Programs

After School Program
Little Axe Resource Center
The afterschool program has slowly been growing since we started. Our students and workers have been working very hard to get grades up as the semester winds down. This past month, a few of our afterschool students participated in the Little Axe homecoming parade. They made their own banners for their float and handed out candy to the elementary students. They also have completed 5 miles worth of walking and jogging for exercise over the course of the month. These students have been hard at work and studying to reach and achieve their goals in the classroom.

Youth/Juvenile Diversion Program
Little Axe Resource Center
Our diversion program also kicked off this past month. We are currently helping a couple of families and students to try and get themselves back on track. They have been working hard with one another to try and better understand what each other are going through, and how they can handle those situations appropriately.

AST Youth Council
AST Complex
The youth council met this past month and agreed to put in some volunteer time at the BOO on Bell Street Festival in downtown Shawnee on October 26th. The youth put in a few hours of work helping set up carnival games and getting the prize booth organized. They also created some signs for a few of the games and hung all of those up. They did a great job and worked really hard.
Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe gave an impromptu speech on October 21st at the Welcome Reception to open the 2013 Indian Education Summit. The Summit was hosted by the American Indian Institute at the University of Oklahoma in partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

**Camp Nikoti Youth Programs**

Director of Education, Tresha Spoon and Tribal Youth Program Coordinator, Blake Goodman presented a session on the Partnership between the Tribe and the Little Axe Public Schools to deliver services like the After-School at the Little Axe Resource Center. Thank you to Governor Butler-Wolfe and MSPI Director, Jenifer Sloan who showed their support and were in attendance at our session.

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**After School Program 2013/2014**

Come join us at the AST Resource Center!!!

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

**OPEN TO GRADES K-8 for Absentee Shawnee Tribal Students**

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

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

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

For more information and sign up please contact Blake Goodman at (405) 364-7569

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**Indian Education Summit**

October 21-23, 2013 *** Norman, OK