



THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE NEWS

www.atribe.com

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February 2021

Drop Boxes Installed

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe is still working in Phase 1 (with modifications). *Drop boxes were installed on the west side of the police station.* These boxes will be utilized while the tribe progresses through our multi-phase COVID-19 recovery plan for the complex. This will allow departments to conduct regular business in a structured and safe socially distanced fashion while we are operating in phases 1 and 2. The departments that have a drop box include: Finance, Human Resources, Realty, Education, Tax Commission, Enrollment, Social Services & Court. These boxes are locked and can only be opened by key that the corresponding departments have.



Introductory meeting held with Representative Bice and Senator Jett



Left Photo (L-R): Lisa Billy Johnson, AST Governor John Johnson, AST Representative Alicia Miller, Congresswomen Stephanie Bice, AST Lt. Governor Ken Blanchard, AST Treasurer Joseph Blanchard and AST Secretary Ezra DeLodge. Right Photo (L-R): Senator Shane Jett and AST Lt. Governor Ken Blanchard.



On December 16th 2020 a small introductory meeting was held at the Multipurpose building with Congresswoman Stephanie Bice, Senator Shane Jett, Lisa Billy Johnson and the EC members. The Congresswoman and Senator shared future plans they have about working with the tribal leaders of Oklahoma.

GOVERNOR'S REPORT

John Johnson, AST Governor



GOVERNOR
John Johnson

Hello fellow tribal members. I hope the start to 2021 has been good for you.

In December 2020 there was a hearing held due to an ethics complaint filed against me. Below are the findings of this hearing:

"An Ethics Hearing was conducted on December 7, 2020 by an Ethics Committee duly formed by the Court Clerk and the Chief of Police as required by the Absentee Shawnee Code of Conduct and Ethics. The hearing was closed to the public as is mandated by the Code. The Hearing was ordered by the Executive Committee due to the receipt of an Ethics Complaint that was made against Governor John Johnson by a tribal member who alleged that the Governor had violated the Code by decisions he made that were a Conflict of Interest."

Following the hearing the Ethics Committee presented their Report to the Executive Committee containing their Findings and Recommendations for the Executive Committee's consideration. The Ethics Committee found that the allegations made in the Ethics Complaint did not rise to the level of a Conflict of Interest due to the absence of any evidence that the Governor or his family had benefited directly from the actions taken by the Governor in the contracting with vendors and that no Consequences should result. The Executive Committee held a Special Meeting on December 22, 2020 and accepted the Ethics Committee Report and agreed that no consequences were merited."

You may also read about these findings in this month's newsletter. If you have any further questions please feel

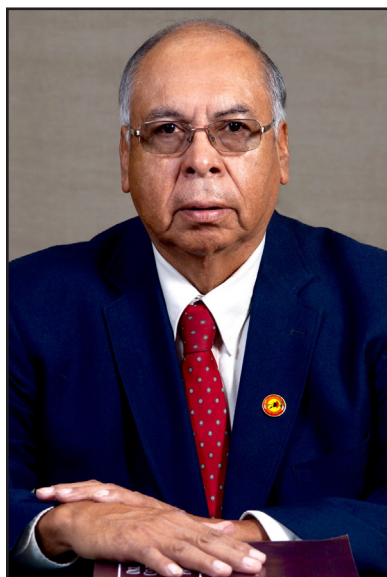
free to contact me.

On December 16th 2020 a small introductory meeting was held at the Multipurpose building with Congresswoman Stephanie Bice, Senator Shane Jett, Lisa Billy Johnson and the EC members. The Congresswoman and Senator shared future plans they have about working with the tribal leaders of Oklahoma. This is very exciting for not only our tribe but all the tribes in Oklahoma.

I know this is a trying time for everyone due to this pandemic, but please continue to practice all COVID-19 protocols by wearing mask, washing hands and social distancing. Also it is very important that you make an appointment to get your COVID-19 vaccines. Let's do our part in decreasing the number of people infected by this virus.

REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Alicia Miller, AST Representative



LT. GOVERNOR
Kenneth Blanchard

Ho wa se ke sa ke! (Good day!)

I would like to start out by sending out heartfelt prayers to those who are battling illness. Our tribal members have been and continue to be hit hard with COVID, pneumonia and other ranges of ill health. We have lost far too many already in this New Year. Please take wise necessary precautions in order to protect yourself and weigh your options and educate yourself about the vaccine.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program was set to begin in February 1, 2021. However, please be mindful, the Internal Revenue Service recently announced they will not be accepting returns until February 12, 2021, so the start date has been pushed back to begin on February 13th. This free assistance is to help income eligible AST members, widows of tribal members and tribal employees prepare and file their 2020 state and federal income tax forms. Due to COVID, the assistance this year is by appointment only. Please call Ms. Tina Ontiveros to schedule your appointment at (405)275-4030 extension 6431. For additional information as to location, days and times, please see the tax preparation information located in this month's newsletter.

The tribe is seeking letters of interest from AST members to serve on a now expanded list of tribal boards and committees. Positions identified have either been expired or have been vacant for quite some time and we would like to re-engage the tribal membership to fill these spots. If you are interested in serving, please email your (LOI) to the Secretary DeLodge at ezrad@atribe.com.

Last month, we held one special meeting, the regular monthly EC meeting and the quarterly Shareholders' Representatives meeting for health. The special meeting was to address budgetary resolutions the EC passed the 2021 budgets, replenished the CARES small business assistance due to the fact the budget was exhausted and there were some remaining applications to complete, amend the temporary hazard pay policy and to complete the incarcerated tribal members' general welfare 2nd distribution remaining applications. The Shareholders' Representatives (meeting) concluding actions were voting to have corresponding bylaws for ASTHA and LSWN and appoint health board members. The regular

EC meeting's agenda items to approve were enrollment memberships, tribal court fees increase, tribal membership certification, (health) Provider Relief Funds (which belong to another tribal facility) transfer back to HRSA and emergency management related resolutions.

My office and corresponding departments are continuing to work on the Granicus system install and implementation as well as the website design and elements for a tribal member portal. We are all continuing to work on CARES projects due to the extension and also keeping pace with all of the changes at the federal level. Changes are definitely afoot and with changes there are growing pains but in the end it is a good thing. If changes do not happen then we are stagnate and there is no evolving and I am very hopeful about these changes.

I reiterate to you to please continue to be safe and stay warm in these remainder cold months - 'til next time.

Ne yi wa! (Thank you!)

Alicia (Aly) Miller

Tribal Representative

Cell: 405.287.5247

Email: aliciam@atribe.com



SECRETARY
Ezra DeLodge



TREASURER
Joseph Blanchard



REPRESENTATIVE
Alicia Miller

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joseph Blanchard, AST Treasurer

Hello Fellow Members and Friends,

I hope this update finds you well. Several of our families have been hit with the COVID-19 virus and many are dealing with the negative impacts of the Pandemic. I urge each of you to follow CDC guidelines and take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and your family...maintain 6 ft. Social Distancing, wash your hands frequently (or use hand sanitizer), and WEAR your mask. As expected, the numbers have risen drastically due to the Holiday season and family gatherings. Each of us must do our part if we expect a return to normalcy anytime soon. For those who have lost loved ones unexpectedly, I pass along my sincerest condolences and will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

As of this writing, the Tribe and Health System will have moved into the 2nd Phase of the Vaccination Plan. This means more of our Tribal people and employees will become eligible for their shot. Previously, it was reported ALL the EC were inoculated with the 1st Pfizer dosages. This was inaccurate, as only Governor Johnson received the vaccine. I personally

declined the shot and suggested they give my spot to an Elder or someone else with a medical condition that needed it more. Last week, I was at the Health Center when they received another almost 800 dosages. Once the vial is removed from storage, there is a timeline for how quickly it must be administered. If they are unable to reach an individual in the 1st tier, then they move to the 2nd, looking for an eligible candidate so they don't waste or spoil any of the medication. The hotline number to call and get on the list is (405) 701-7190 or (405) 701-7600. They will also be able to answer any of your questions and concerns regarding the shot or to get on the schedule.

As January is almost complete, the Finance Department has begun "End of Year" and initiated the Pre-Audit process. There have been a few members asking for data and some of that information will be available shortly. Please be patient. Unlike the opinions posted on Social Media, there is no personal agenda or lack of willingness to provide transparency. However, most folks need to understand, not all the data being requested can be shared, and certainly not in the Newsletter, which isn't delivered to just tribal members. This is considered confidential, internal, and pro-

prietary; and therefore not Public. Though it's been suggested, I am not hiding anything but merely completing the tasks which you elected me to do. Simply because a previous elected official provided this data does not make it right or imply they were allowed to do so. "Internal Audits" are exactly that, internal. The Final Report is used to make an assessment of operations and if there are "findings", suggest or recommend on how to make corrections to prevent future incidences.

In regards to the Food Pantry, it was suggested I did not want or agree with this decision and halted the initiation of the program. I can report that is not the case but an investigation was completed back in late September, early October, regarding validity of some of the awarded contracts. This action did not prevent the oversight from advertising the positions, hiring the necessary employees, providing the required staff training and certification, nor purchasing the warehouse equipment, office supplies or the food product for distribution. When things go wrong, some are quick to blame and point fingers. As the Tribe's top watchdog over spending, that is a part of my job, to make certain Finance policy and procedure are followed. And when this does not

(Continued on Page 3)



happen, it is my responsibility to take necessary measures to correct the problem. In late October, almost November, Governor Johnson presented me a 3” binder filled with documents and pages of information for the proposed Assisted Living Center, for our Elders and other retired citizens in the community. This action began almost two (2) years ago under former Representative Fletcher. I expressed my concern on why this wasn’t transferred over to the incoming elected official, and “why now?” was I being tasked with making a decision over this topic. Basically, since it dealt with numbers, I was asked to make a recommendation on whether the project was viable or to put it to bed. I reached out to WIPFLI, the company out of Minnesota previously chosen to handle gathering the information. They informed me since so much time

has passed, another series of question and answers would follow, to determine if the need still existed and if the cost for supplies to complete the build were accurate. They did not provide any other info other than to suggest, due to the Pandemic, the price would definitely change and increase. I want to assure our People we are on the right track. The issues I am working to correct were not made overnight or even this past year. In the last 6 months, since coming into office, we have saved approximately \$3 million dollars, by eliminating wasteful spending and changing learned habits. In my Transitional meeting with former Treasurer Ellis, he explained that we would have a major budget shortfall (up to \$3 million) and I needed to prepare for the worst. After discussion with Finance and Tax staff, and Thunderbird GM Sam Caruso, I made the unprecedented

decision in late September, early October, to freeze our General Fund accounts, and not allow any atypical expenditure. This meant, for the 1st time in our Tribe’s history, there was not the usual spending spree (waste) which typically occurs from October to December. It is the Tribe’s money and therefore should return to the Tribe for reallocation or other potential investment. I am happy to report this cost saving mechanism, along with the upturn in Gaming the last quarter, we were able to whittle down that expected loss to about \$3 hundred thousand. As I close, I want to express my appreciation to membership for their continued support and words of encouragement. It has been said multiple times, “That is why we elected you to the position. We empowered you to speak on our behalf and make those tough decisions. We knew you

could do it.” I simply and humbly say “Thank you!” for entrusting me with this great responsibility. I am doing the best that I can under the circumstances, in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. Personally, I am very excited as we’re beginning the new year, projections and planning are set to begin, and we figure out how best to assist our members and propel the Tribe forward. As always, if you have any questions or would like to share your concerns, please send me an email at: jblanchard@astribe.com or call me at: (405) 275-4030 Ext. 6280. If I am unavailable, please leave a message or contact my Executive Assistant, Jan, at Ext. 6309. She will make sure to relay your information.

Neyiwa!

Joseph H. Blanchard

VETERANS REPORT

Greeting to all tribal members I hope that everyone is staying well and wearing their face masks. Also, I would like to express my sorrow and condolences to those families that had lost beloved family members to the covid virus. Also, to be sure and get the covid vaccinations when it becomes available to Tribal members. The Absentee Shawnee Veterans had cut back on their activities due to the fact that the covid numbers of infected people continues to rise. The Absentee Shawnee Veterans brought in the Flags at the Tribal Complex at Community building on

February 28, 2020 for the Oklahoma Hemp Association. The Absentee Shawnee Veterans were planning on attending the dedication of the Native Monument for Veterans at the Native American Smithsonian museum. But the trip to Washington D.C. for the Dedication was cancelled because of the covid virus. The Absentee Shawnee Veterans were able to provide Military Rites for James B. Sloan on April 29, 2020. The Veterans also provided the Military Rites for Frank Little Creek on December 17, 2020. The Veterans also cleaned, packed and moved all of the Veterans belongings to the Procurement storage area on

December 18, 2029. The Veterans appreciated all the able assistance from Kevin Kaseca, Robbie Komacheet, Joe Morton and John Mann. The Commander, Jason Bender and Twila Parker were able to go distribute 6 grocery baskets for the holidays to Anthony’s Tigers family, Emily Longman’s family and Scott Dean Little Charley on December 21, 2020. In Shawnee Twila Parker delivered grocery baskets on December 22, 2020 to Sadie Lowe’s family, Shirley Simpson and to Montana Dane Littlehead’s family.



Photo: Scott (left) and Gary Little Charley receiving their grocery basket that were distributed by the AST Veterans.

FY-2020 YTD TAX COLLECTIONS (thru 12/31/2020)														
TAX CATEGORY	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL	% OF TAXES COLLECTED
Sales (6%)	\$7,499.91	\$8,834.40	\$13,276.94	\$3,782.80	\$0.00	\$3,215.94	\$4,056.92	\$3,961.02	\$3,985.05	\$14,804.18	\$13,180.00	\$4,064.85	\$80,662.01	2.68%
Gaming % of free cash	\$250,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$306,522.00	\$313,044.00	\$391,305.00	\$2,310,871.00	76.90%
Employee (1%)	\$18,216.80	\$19,868.77	\$8,424.95	\$22,071.85	\$4,440.11	\$13,792.86	\$15,149.85	\$9,105.56	\$13,437.32	\$22,056.91	\$18,270.14	\$15,206.78	\$180,041.90	5.99%
Severance (8%)	\$3,817.67	\$0.00	\$4,177.14	\$0.00	\$746.04	\$0.00	\$1,524.92	\$3,032.87	\$0.00	\$7,423.65	\$52.34	\$4,101.92	\$24,876.55	0.83%
Motor Vehicle	\$14,622.24	\$15,652.41	\$9,718.02	\$14,375.66	\$15,329.57	\$28,960.40	\$27,799.05	\$15,763.32	\$18,396.24	\$15,033.97	\$12,301.92	\$11,381.79	\$199,334.59	6.63%
Motor Fuel Taxes (Qtrly.)	\$43,922.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38,779.48	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,188.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$116,890.30	3.89%
Tobacco Refund	\$8,640.57	\$7,320.64	\$6,906.11	\$6,651.73	\$4,373.24	\$9,270.15	\$10,594.56	\$7,442.15	\$7,145.74	\$5,766.18	\$6,363.33	\$8,647.85	\$89,122.25	2.97%
TOTAL TAXES	\$346,719.85	\$251,676.22	\$242,503.16	\$335,661.52	\$24,888.96	\$55,239.35	\$93,313.46	\$239,304.92	\$242,964.35	\$371,606.89	\$363,211.73	\$434,708.19	\$3,001,798.60	
Miscellaneous	\$874.50	\$69.15	\$119.00	\$76.00	\$201.00	\$152.00	\$182.00	\$120.00	\$252.40	\$215.30	\$140.30	\$897.50	\$3,299.15	0.11%
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$347,594.35	\$251,745.37	\$242,622.16	\$335,737.52	\$25,089.96	\$55,391.35	\$93,495.46	\$239,424.92	\$243,216.75	\$371,822.19	\$363,352.03	\$435,605.69	\$3,005,097.75	100%

PLEASE fill out EACH BLANK completely and return by the Deadline.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

I, _____, hereby certify that I am or will be an Eligible
(Print Name)
Voter of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe on or before March 20, 2021. I cannot physically be present to cast my Vote at the **March 20, 2021 Primary Election**, therefore, I am requesting an Absentee Ballot be mailed to me at the following address.

Name (please print): _____
(first) (middle) (maiden) (last)
Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

CDIB#: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

All **REQUESTS** must be returned to the Election Commission by the deadline date of
February 28, 2021

Mail to:
Absentee Shawnee Election Commission
P.O. Box 741
Tecumseh, OK 74873

Fax to:
Fax # (405) 273-1337 (Do not fax to any other fax #)
Phone: (405) 275-4030 ext. 6271
Toll free number 1-800-256-3341 ext. 6271

Deliver in Person to:
Election Commission Office located in the Tribal Court Building

All eligible voters are entitled to vote either at the Polls or by Absentee Ballot.
This form may be duplicated for your convenience.

Disclaimer: This election may be affected by pending litigation. Any required changes will be published in the newspaper as soon as possible.

ELECTION COMMISSION USE ONLY

Received: _____ Approved: _____ Disapproved: _____

If Disapproved (reason): _____

Denial Letter Mailed: _____ Ballot Mailed: _____

Election Commission/Representative

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL MEMBERS

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

ASEDA


CULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FOSTER CARE LICENSING COMMITTEE

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS OF INTEREST
WITH RESUME ATTACHED TO:

Tribal Secretary
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, Ok 74801
ezrad@astribe.com





ASTHS February 2021 Monthly Update

This year is shaping up to be another exciting year with our health programs, virtual community events, and other wonderful health and wellness efforts for the tribe! February is another opportunity to highlight cardiac health and healthy heart awareness within our health programs for our patients and the community, as we also celebrating Valentine’s Day this month. Please ensure you are getting your annual checkup in the New Year as well as taking your prescribed medications, maintaining appropriate diet and exercise during the pandemic – so you can be here for your family and everyone else who depends upon you by taking good care of yourself! We are proud of the teamwork between both the Health System’s volunteers and Title 6 Staff, who since March 2020 have provided in excess of 55,000 meals to our Elders and other program recipients – a truly Herculean effort!

Please continue to be mindful of both your flu precautions, as well as with COVID safety precautions, as a risk of both the flu and COVID remains high. COVID and the Flu are best fought with good general hygiene (brisk hand washing, staying home when sick, social distancing, and domestic sanitation for those cohabitating with COVID positive family members) as well as a normal annual flu immunization vaccine and the COVID vaccine. Also be reminded that you cannot combine the Flu and COVID vaccinations, there is separation of time frames with the inoculation, and also you cannot get the Flu vaccination in between your COVID vaccinations (primary vaccination, or shot 1, and booster, or shot 2). As vaccines steadily increase in greater numbers, a multi-site fully dedicated COVID shot clinic will be stood up at Shawnee and LittleAxe to help our expansion into Phase II and III will be advertised on the Web and Facebook, with the hours being M-F, 9-4PM, once sufficient quantities are secured to support large-scale vaccination pushes for our patients. As of January 14th, all 900 vaccines that have arrived have been given with more vaccinations scheduled to arrive. Vaccines “show up” with minimal to no-notice, and are pushed out immediately to scheduled patients and those on waiting or call back listings. Once you receive your vaccination, you must return for your booster scheduled appointment time/date to assure the full-effect of the vaccination.

If you know of any tribal member who is homebound and needs assistance medically, including home health services, please contact administration at (405) 701-7621 so we can assist as best possible with resources or coordinate assistance for these members in need. Thank you all for making our entire staff and employees feel appreciated and for using all of our wonderful services!

Please follow our COVID-19 page on the Health System Website as well as follow us on Facebook and the AST Tribe’s Government Page for the latest information regarding access to services and support. Let’s continue to work together to defeat COVID-19 in our Native American and surrounding communities by protecting our most vulnerable population, our Elders and our other high-risk populations.

The employees of the health system make a difference everyday! Thank you all for making an important difference in the lives and health of all of our health system’s patients! Next month we’ll announce the Employee of the Year for 2020, as voting is ongoing now. **Remember:** “Your mask protects me, my mask protects you.”

February Health Employee Awards of the Month

- Employee of the Month: Travis O’Dell, Health IT
- Team of the Month: Health HR Team Autumn Felton and Brenda Tiger
- Special Leadership Award: Leonard Foreman, Kevin “Moose” Blanchard, and Kyle Gibson



Mark E. Rogers, MAL, FACHE, CMPE, CHC
Executive Director



FOLLOW

US ON TWITTER


@ASTHEALTH

RESOURCE CENTER NOTICE:

In order to reduce exposure to our tribal members, the Little Axe Resource Center will remain closed to the public until further notice. This includes access to the gym and reserving space for private use.

Please continue to practice social distancing, wear your masks, and remain at home when you can.


Thank you,



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL

HEALTH SYSTEM

Prevention. Progress. Pride.



BASIC STEPS TO FOOD SAFETY:

- Clean hands and surfaces often.
- Wash your hands with warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds.
- Wash prep areas before and after food has been prepared.
- Wash your produce. Do NOT wash your meat, poultry, fish, or eggs.
- Separate your food items = do not cross-contaminate.
- Do not put cooked food on a surface that has touched raw meat, etc. without being washed in between uses.
- Cook food to safe internal temperatures
- Refrigerate food promptly.
- Refrigerate or freeze within 2 hours of cooking or purchasing.
- Do NOT thaw food at room temp. Thaw it via the fridge, cold water, or microwave.
- Divide large food amounts into small containers.

Nutrition Corner

AST DIABETES AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

Let’s Talk About Food Safety

Food safety is important for all walks of life! However, if food safety is not followed, the consequences can affect people with weakened immune systems, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, organ transplants, autoimmune disorders, and older adults, more than a healthy individual. Food safety is defined as the handling, preparation, and storage of food in ways that prevent food-borne illness. Older adults are found to be at an increased risk of foodborne diseases because their digestive system holds food for longer amounts of time, the liver and kidneys may not be able to rid the body of toxins, and they have weaker immune systems.

How to Lower Risks at Home:

- Cook meat or poultry to a safe minimum temperature
 - These temperatures can be found on the following website: <https://www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/safe-food-handling>
- Eat/Drink pasteurized milk, eggs, and cheese
- Wash fresh vegetables and fruit
- Do not eat any products that have raw dough or batter product, which was supposed to be cooked or baked prior to consumption.
- Wash hands, surfaces, and utensils thoroughly.
- Keep raw foods separate from cooked foods

Be Safe at the Grocery Store:


- Before placing the raw packaged meat products, place them in a plastic bag. This is so that the juices do not drip and possibly contaminate your other food products.
- Get any dairy products and eggs that are found in the refrigerated section.
- Do not buy food that has been displayed in unsafe or unclear conditions.
- When buying canned items, check that the cans do not have any dents, cracks, or bulging lids. This could indicate that the food has already been exposed to a pathogen or is more likely to be exposed.
- Make sure that your produce is not bruised or damaged.

What does the Best By Date mean?

- The “Best if Used by” date indicates when the product is at its best flavor and quality.
- When a food is past this date, check for signs of spoilage.

What to do when Eating Out:

- Ask if foods contained uncooked ingredients or how the food is cooked. If the server is unsure, ask to speak to the chef.
- Do not ask for your meat cooked “rare”



CLOSURE NOTICE:

AST Health System will be closed on the following date(s) for the upcoming Holiday:

MONDAY, FEB. 15TH, 2021
(President’s Day)

ALL AST HEALTH FACILITIES INCLUDING PHARMACIES ARE CLOSED

In the event of a predicted severe weather forecast, please call ahead
For possible health system closure or delay:
Little Axe Health Center 405.447.0300 • Shawnee Clinic 405.878.5850 • PlusCare 405.447.0477

Health closures/delays are posted on the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health Facebook wall
“Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System and on the ASTHS website at www.asthealth.org



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL

HEALTH SYSTEM

Prevention. Progress. Pride.

SHAWNEE CLINIC

LITTLE AXE HEALTH CENTER

PLUS CARE

PRESS RELEASE: AST Health System Year in Review 2020

8 January 2021

The AST Health System has had quite a memorable and challenging year along with our patients and tribal communities across our state and the nation. In rising to the COVID-19 challenges as it continues to be the pandemic health challenge of our generation, it is important to note the huge milestones and significant accomplishments your health system has achieved this year and to date in servicing both our Tribe and our Patients.

The AST Health Boards have approved and paid accelerated payments on the Joint Venture for the past several years, and this year made their second to the last payment on the JV, which will be paid off 13 years early in a little more than 8 months from now! This will allow capacity for investment in another potential JV at the Shawnee Campus as well as potential expansion needs at Little Axe!

To date, we have grown to service over 22,000 patients within our health system! These patients provide the third party revenue resources that has allowed the expedient growth in our services for our AST Tribal Members and Patients, to include these other benefits (that **ARE NOT** funded or provided for by the compact funding with I.H.S. and solely funded by Third Party resources):

- Nearly 100% of contract health services medically necessary are covered for AST Tribal Members – an unprecedented benefit provided by our tribal program above and beyond any other tribes in our area, state, and the nation.
- ACA Sponsorships for AST Tribal Members that meet criteria in order to provide them the best care and insurance coverage to access referrals and specialty care quickly in their time of need!
- Average monthly revenue is around \$1.5M per month, even exceeding \$2M on one month in 2020 – a string of firsts - never achieved by the AST Health Programs – at any time in the tribe’s health program’s history!
- After-Hours walk-in acute care clinics with pharmacy access open 7 days a week for convenience and access of our Tribal Members and Patients. This also prevents thousands of dollars for unnecessary ER visits that impact PRC’s budget.
- Comprehensive Specialty Services not typically found in both variety, robustness, and breadth of services within the Health System! Funding by I.H.S. only provides for basic health and wellness services. The specialty clinic provides incredible access, convenience, and continuity of care never experienced within our tribe (and any other tribes our size), increasing patient satisfaction and care management!

*(Note: It is important to also note that Third Party resources generated by the Health System are required to be reinvested into services by the Health Programs, and cannot be reprogrammed into the general fund or outside of the Health System per Federal Regulations, with very limited and extreme exception).

AST Health employment continues to grow, as well as promotion opportunities for AST Employees of Health. The total number of current AST employees in 2020 exceeds the entire total of **ALL** health employees employed in 2013 by the health programs!

The Health Programs absorbed the Title 6 Meals Program (that was at risk of closure and continued to negatively impact the General Fund). The Health Programs have now stabilized the Title 6 program that serves our elders, is less of a burden upon the tribe’s budget, and more recently has been provided new equipment and vehicles by the Tribe via grants and CARES Act funding to assure future of services are not a risk! To date, Health and Title 6 employees working together have serviced, prepared, delivered, and provided for in excess >55,000 meals to program recipients in 2020 alone! Title 6 also has immediate access to Health’s board certified Nutritionist.

Record stability in Professional Staff retention with Doctors and other Professional Staff as seen by renewing their commitments with the Health System for another 6, and most instances, 7 years, the longest and most wide-spread stability in medical/dental and other professional staff ever – another historic milestone **NEVER** experienced or recorded by the tribe’s Health Programs!

Record patient satisfaction rates with our services, consistently scoring between 97-99% on one survey tracker and a 4.7 – 4.9 out of 5 stars on another survey tracker!

In 2020, preparing for our third AAAHC National Re-Accreditation in Patient Safety and Quality as well as meeting National Standards of Healthcare after two “first ever” back-to-back accreditations secured by the Health Programs in 2016 and 2019 another string of first ever!

Unprecedented results! Financial Audits by retained outside National Financial Auditing Firms retained by the Tribe and the Executive Committee for our annual health system financial audits revealed 2020 as another record year-over-year of clean audits by independent auditors filed with both the governmental entities at the Federal and State level, and BancFirst, as a permanent record of fact of our Health System’s Financial Management and stewardship of both compacted, grant, and third party funds!

Continued benefit in 2020 of the renegotiated Tribal AST and I.H.S. Compact, whereby the new compact stabilized the joint venture funding from a limited multi-year commitment to a permanent funding commitment of the Joint Venture of approximately \$5M and provided for Home Health Services, which are now an independently certified 5 Star Accountable Care Organization 5 out of 5 quality provider status, one of the few in the state presently! This means insurance providers have to refer patients to our Home Health ahead of other agencies due to their rating, which is an indication of patient safety, quality, and services.

The health system received the American Heart Association (AHA) of Oklahoma Community Leadership Award for supporting the Annual Heart Walk (virtual this year) with the community for 2020 as well as award recognition from the AARP Native American Elder’s Award Program, with three of the health system’s employees being honored with this prestigious award!

Pandemic relief engaged immediately as the health system was amongst the first in the state to submit for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds, Provider Relief Funds, and other CARES Act Funding for Testing and PPE for our staff to continue unabated in care and services to the tribe. To date, with the limited exception of the Shawnee Clinic, the health system continues to operate throughout the pandemic 7 days a week for the tribe, even with limited closure in Shawnee due to COVID exposure and patient safety responses!

More grants approved and awarded, with more services, in 2020, than ever in the health programs history – the most grants awarded in a single year ever (even with the pandemic raging)! We continued to experience record growth during the pandemic!

First ever in Indian Country (and for a fifth year now) in collaboration with Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) regarding continuing medical education focused upon medical problems and conditions in Indian Country medicine and population health medical continuing education regard the health challenges of Native peoples.

“Thank You”

We are deeply proud of the huge selection of services and the professional care we provided to our AST Tribal Members and other Patients we cared for in 2020. As we all endeavor to continue the fight during this horrible pandemic, we all must remember the things that are important, such as our families, the Tribe, and our communities we live and work in. Things are going to continue to be challenging, but will get better one day and must not forget the good things that have occurred along with the challenging things we also endure. Be well, stay healthy, and thank you for your support of the AST Health Programs!

Common questions and answers about COVID-19 Vaccination, direct from the CDC

How many shots of COVID-19 vaccine will be needed?

All but one of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in Phase 3 clinical trials in the United States need two shots to be effective. The other COVID-19 vaccine uses one shot.

Do I need to wear a mask when I receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. CDC recommends that during the pandemic people wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth when in contact with others outside your household, when in healthcare facilities, and when receiving any vaccine, including a COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to remove a mask without assistance should not wear a mask. For more information, visit considerations for wearing masks.

Are there special considerations on who should get the COVID-19 vaccine first?

At first, there will be a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine. Operation Warp Speed is working to get those first vaccine doses out once a vaccine is authorized or approved and recommended, rather than waiting until there is enough vaccine for everyone. However, it is important that the initial supplies of vaccine are given to people in a fair, ethical, and transparent way. Learn how CDC is making COVID-19 vaccine recommendations, including recommendations if there is a limited supply, based on input from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine when it's available?

There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again; this is called natural immunity. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this. Until we have a vaccine available and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices makes recommendations to CDC on how to best use COVID-19 vaccines, CDC cannot comment on whether people who had COVID-19 should get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Why would a vaccine be needed if we can do other things, like social distancing and wearing masks, to prevent the virus that causes COVID-19 from spreading?

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask and staying at least 6 feet away from others, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received 2 doses of the vaccine?

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using **all the tools** available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for how to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before deciding to change recommendations on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.

When can I stop wearing a mask and avoiding close contact with others after I have been vaccinated?

There is not enough information currently available to say if or when CDC will stop recommending that people wear masks and avoid close contact with others to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before making that decision. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.

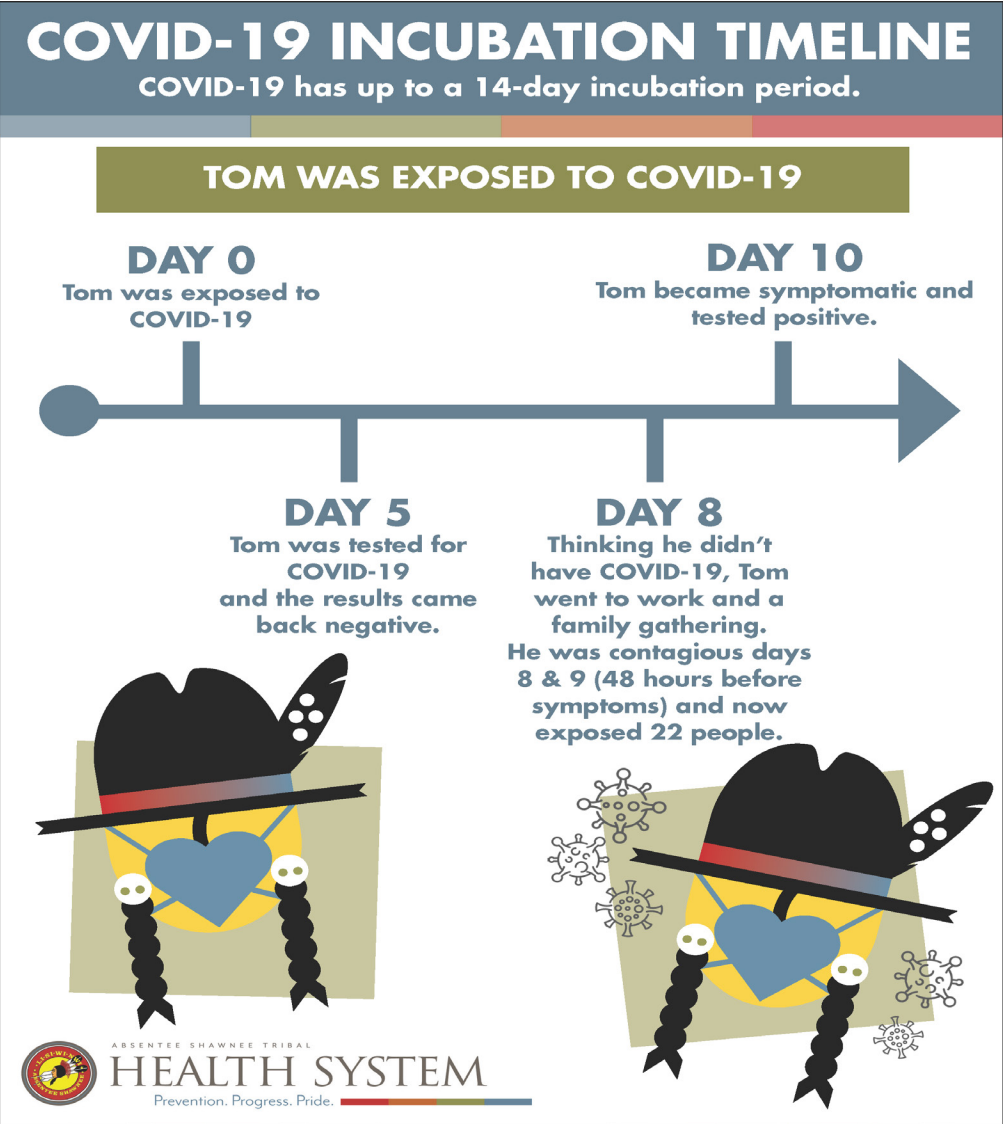
Are there other vaccines that can help prevent me from getting COVID-19?

There are currently no available vaccines that will prevent COVID-19. However, multiple agencies and groups in the United States are working together to make sure that a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is available as quickly as possible. A flu vaccine will not protect you from getting COVID-19, but it can prevent you from getting influenza (flu) at the same time as COVID-19. This can keep you from having a more severe illness. While it's not possible to say with certainty what will happen in the winter, CDC believes it's likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be spreading during that time. That means that getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever.

What percentage of the population needs to get vaccinated to have herd immunity to COVID-19?

Experts do not know what percentage of people would need to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19. Herd immunity is a term used to describe when enough people have protection-either from previous infection or vaccination-that it is unlikely a virus or bacteria can spread and cause disease. As a result, everyone within the community is protected even if some people don't have any protection themselves. The percentage of people who need to have protection in order to achieve herd immunity varies by disease.

For more information visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fag.html>



MAR 5 @ 6 PM

HOSTED BY: NATIVE CONNECTIONS GRANT

NATIVE YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

SEASONS OF CHANGE

VIRTUAL GARDENING EVENT

PLANTS | PAINT | DIYS | WELLNESS KITS | & MORE!

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QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT AGONZALEZ@ASTRIBE.COM OR (P) 405.701.7995 (C) 405.827.6489

SCAN ME

Registration

May every day of the new year inspire you to GROW!

This flyer was developed under grant number SM080181 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the SAMHSA or HHS.

February is Children’s Dental Health Month

Oral Implications of COVID-19 on Children and Food Consumption

During the last year with the COVID-19 pandemic and all the effects it had on the state and our community as dental professionals we are concerned about a rise in dental decay among children. Recent reports from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) informs us that when compared to 2019, there was a remarkable decline in preventive services provided to children in 2020. Between the months of March and May of 2020, there was a 69 percent decline in dental services among Medicaid patients compared to the same time period in 2019 according to CMS. And the vast majority of those patients were children.

As dental professionals, we are concerned about the lack of professional dental care that was sought and provided especially to children during this pandemic. We have heard and witness first-hand how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the food consumption and eating habits of children. During the pandemic parents often found themselves responsible for two additional meals they normally didn’t have to supply because their children received these meals while in school. When you take these additional meals and multiply them by the number of children in the home, you will find it had a significant impact on the cost of food for the household. Some parents found themselves having to spend more money on food which led to less healthy choices as they were less expensive.

Since many children were at home and not getting the nutritional balanced meals at school, we found that there was a tendency for children to go for snack foods or foods with less nutritional value. This change in eating habits correlated with an increase in the amount of carbohydrates that children were consuming. This came about in many ways; breakfast became cereal, cinnamon rolls, and honey buns, then lunch brought an increase in consumption of sandwiches and chips, soups, microwave macaroni and cheese and the ever present ramen noodles also took the forefront. Some children with parents working from home some still found themselves responsible for their lunch. As children had more free time due to distance learning they also had a tendency to snack more, which in most instances were not healthy snacks. They had fruit snacks; sodas, Kool-Aid, chips, cookies among other foods and all of these foods contain considerable amounts of sugar.

When most people think of cavities they think sugar, sweets and candy. Most are unaware that carbohydrates in pasta, potatoes, breads and other starchy foods also can cause cavities. As these foods start to breakdown in the mouth the carbohydrates become sugars. Most of these foods also find themselves sticking in the chewing surfaces of the teeth for prolonged exposure to the sugars. We would like to help prevent or lessen the extensiveness of cavities that could be brought about by these dietary changes.

Not only did dietary changes occur so did home habits. Some children who only brushed their teeth once a day before school, found themselves not brushing much at all. Some of those who brushed more often before COVID-19 occurred found themselves brushing less than they had before. This was in part due to change in daily routines.

The AST Dental Clinic is committed to helping reduce the negative effects of the pandemic on our patient’s oral health. So, throughout the month of February, Children’s Dental Health Month, we will provide information on ways parents can help protect their child’s teeth and combat the negative oral health effects of COVID-19. Please visit our Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System website (www.asthealth.org) and Facebook page for more information and events happening in February and throughout the year.

The AST Dental Clinic is here to serve you. **To make an appointment for your child or yourself please call (405) 701-7964.**

NATIVE CONNECTIONS GRANT

AST RISING WARRIOR

NATIVE INSTRUCTORS NEEDED!

DO YOU HAVE AN ART OR SKILL YOU WOULD LIKE TO TEACH NATIVE YOUTH?

AST Native Connections Grant would love to partner with YOU for our Native Youth & Young Adult Cultural Series.

You will be compensated and get to share your skills with our community to ground us more in culture.

Interested in partnering? Simply click the link or use your phone camera & scan the QR code.

For more information, please contact Angela Gonzalez at agonzalez@astribes.com or (P) 405.701.7995 (C) 405.827.6489.

Pharmacy Reminder

3 WAYS TO REFILL YOUR PRESCRIPTION

Call us with your prescription number ready at:
Little Axe Pharmacy- 405.292.9530
Shawnee Pharmacy- 405.878.5859

Request refills on the go using the Rx2Go app for your mobile device!

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Visit our website for quick and easy access at:
www.asthealth.org/request-rx-refill

we want your DRUGS

You can drop off your expired or unused prescription medications anytime at these locations:

SHAWNEE POLICE DEPARTMENT
16 W. 9th Street Shawnee, OK 74804

CLEVELAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
128 S. Peters Norman, OK 73069

NORMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
201 B West Gray Norman, OK 73069

TECUMSEH POLICE DEPARTMENT
109 W. Washington Tecumseh, OK 74873

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
325 N. Broadway Ave. Shawnee, OK 74801

OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
2775 Monitor Ave. Norman, OK 73072

LITTLE AXE HEALTH CENTER
15951 Little Axe Drive, Norman, OK 73026

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE - SHAWNEE CLINIC
2029 South Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Domestic Violence Department

Our mission is to:
Eliminate violence in Native Country and to strengthen Native families to end the cycle of violence.

Our services are confidential and include:
Safety Planning
Emergency Assistance
Court Advocacy
Shelter Placement Assistance
Referrals

Who we serve:
Natives and non-Natives
LGBTQ2S+
Any Religion
Any income level
EVERYONE

We help with:
Domestic Violence
Sexual Assault
Dating Violence
Stalking
Sex Trafficking

Must be intimate partner related violence and the victim must be fleeing the home/situation

Where we serve:
Because we are federally funded we get to serve all populations within our *service area, which includes Cleveland, Oklahoma and Pottawatomie counties.

Contact Us:

Office Line 405.273.2888
Fax 405.273.1192
Webpage <https://www.astribes.com/domestic-violence>
Link to intake <https://www.astribes.com/forms/victim-intake>
 @ASTRisingWarrior
For emergencies call 911 or AST PD @ 405.275.3200

This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-TW-AV-0016 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication (or any translation or those of the authors) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

FEBRUARY 2021

AST RISING WARRIOR

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Warning signs for Teens

Info for Parents

Follow us at ASTRisingWarrior

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS OF AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

- Extreme jealousy
- Constant put-downs
- Explosive temper
- Financial control
- Threats
- Possessiveness
- Telling you what to do
- Isolation
- Making false accusations

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. The AST DV Department wants you to know that there's a lot you can do as a parent to prevent teen dating violence and abuse.

Almost 1 in 10 teens reports being physically abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the last year. One of the most important things you can do is keep the lines of communication open with your kids.

Take steps to make a difference:

- Be a role model – treat your kids and others with respect.
- Start talking to your kids about healthy relationships early – before they start dating.
- Get involved with efforts to prevent dating violence at your teen's school.
- Call the National Dating Abuse Helpline at 1-866-331-9474 or text "loveis" to 77054, if you are worried about your teen.

You can also call us with any questions at 405.273.2888.

107 North Kimberly Shawnee, OK 74801
(405) 273-1050
Website www.ashousingauthority.com

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

- Low Rent
- Lease to Own
- Transitional Housing
- College Housing Rental Assistance
- Down Payment Assistance (AST Members Only)
- Home Rehab Assistance (AST Members Only)
- Rental & Lease to Own Homes for Over-Income

Providing Affordable Housing Programs for Native Americans with Preference to Absentee Shawnee Tribal Members

Income requirements are set by HUD annually on all low-income programs

Some services are dependent on funding availability

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Alberty, Lynnix Carlene
Alford, Laurie Leann
Alford, Makenzie Raychel
Alford, Nicholas Blake
Alford, Paul Henry
Almanza, Sacha Blue Renee
Altman, Sabrina Lee
Arellano, Jennifer Lynn
Argueta, Oneonta Marie
Armstrong, Dusty Ridge
Asbridge, Sandra Lilrene
Atwara, Honey Nicole
Bacon, Camdyn Gregory
Barnard, Kevin Michael
Belden, Lois Jean
Bennett, Blaine Mattingly
Berryhill, Valerie Lynn
Bettelyoun, Amber Dawn
Bettelyoun, Anthony Bryce
Bettelyoun, Lea Dawn
Bittle, Joshua Jacob
Blackburn, Jacoby Ray
Blanchard Sr., Leland Dale
Blanchard, Aaron Gabriel
Blanchard, Cache Lewis
Blanchard, Caden Briar
Blanchard, Charles Eugene
Blanchard, Denise Louise
Blanchard, Joshua James
Blanchard, Kellice Lee
Blanchard, Nylah Itzel
Blanchard, Rikki Rechele
Blanchard, Sierrah Delyn
Blanchard, Taylor Jordan
Blanchard, Thurman Leon
Blanchard, Velma Mae
Bowles, Melissa Carole
Boyd, Laura Lynn
Brady, Elizabeth Aonna
Bread, Charles Michael
Bread, Dina Adele
Breeding, Kinsley Reece
Brown III, Curtis Jermain
Brown, Cody Wayne
Brown, Lisa Renee
Bryant, Isis Aponi
Bullen, Myles Robert
Byington, Baylee Kay
Carlson, Scottina Dakota
Carnes, Kylee Aleea Lynn
Carr, Adoree Celeste
Checotah, Eric Wayne
Cloud, Doris
Coddington, William Michael
Cooper, Dade Luke Allen
Copeland, Val Rochelle
Cotney, Trinity Dawn
Cottrell, Ryan Thomas
Cozad, Anastasia E-mah-doh
Craig, Carolyn Jean
Creek-Harjo, Josiah Sage
Crider, Eric Russell
Crocker, Dorothea Carolyn
Crothers, Jessica Lyn
Csoma, Alexander Attila
Daugherty, Kenneth
Daugherty, Mikenna Hope
Daugherty, Serena Mae
Davis, Meghan Paige
De Shazo, Heather Ann
Dean, Minnie Bear
Deardorff, Cynthia Ann
Deckard, Dakota Dale
Deer, Kylee Taryn
Deer, Michael Neil
Deere, Adina Ann
DeLodge, Lena Ruby Rhianna
Digilio, Brandin Anthony
Digilio, Bryon Andrew
Downs, Camden Blake
Downs, Cayden James
Dragoo, Lillian Oakley
Dragoo, Micah Lashaun D.
Eckles, Debra Lynn
Edwards, Kenneth Lee
Ellis, Austin Chase
Ellis, Jeremy Michael
Ellis, Leroy
Emmons, Brian Ross
Engledowl, Jasey Belle
Fenner, Kayana Isabelle
Ferrell, Ethan Shawn

Fixico, Stephen Anthony
Floyd, Jane Elizabeth
Foreman, Joshua Daniel
Foreman, Richard Eli
Francis-Guthrie, Dianne Susan
Frazier, Devon Leanne
Garcia Cruz, Erica Ann
Garcia, Amaziah Perez
Geissler, Stephanie Dayle
Gibson Jr., Ronald Lewis
Gibson, Kylakay Virginia
Gibson, Paige Nycole
Gibson, Paul Brian
Gillihan, Dezirea Kristyne
Gilman, Juanita
Gomez, Wilma Sue
Goodman, Blake Samuel
Granstrom, Gayla Sue
Grass, Wayne
Gravel, Olivia Jane
Hale, Taliyah Marie
Hall, Matteson Roi
Ham, Jerred Mace
Ham, Rhonda Juliene
Harder, Ruth Ellen
Harjo, Benjamin Ray
Harman II, Joshua Ely
Harper, Pauline Aileen S.
Hart, Ethan Michael
Hartfield, Jazlynn Shae
Harvey, Hally Marie
Hayes, Donna Kay
Hayes, Jocelyn Cynthia Lorene
Hayworth, Che`le Caye
Herrera, Robert Manuel
Hibdon, Kendra Nicole
Hill, Stephen Allen
Hollis, Natalie Jean
Hood III, Warren Weslyon
Hood, Dakota Zane
Hunter, Audrey Della
Huntington, Bradford Paul
Ibarra, Angel Antonio
Irvin, Nathaniel Konrad
Jimerson Jr., Robert
Jobe, Alexa Lee
Johnson Jr., Foster Calvin
Johnson Jr., Mark Benjamin
Johnson Sr., Mark Benjamin
Johnson Welp, Joseph Douglas
Johnson, Cleta Joyce
Johnson, Cooper Allen
Johnson, Grayling Wade
Johnson, Henry Kirby
Johnson, Jacob Jordan
Johnson, Marc Anthony
Johnson, Michael Jeremy
Johnson, Pauline Virginia
Johnson, Rahstin Allyn Sabbestium
Johnson, Sandra Kay
Johnson, Tiffany Sheri
Jones III, Timothy Dale
Jones, Willie Lee
Judkins, Ashley Ann
Keith, Andy Ronin
Kelly, Ryan Michael
Kennedy, Kade Andrew
Kickapoo, Derek Anthony
Kirby, Gage Robert
Kitchen, Amber Elisabeth
Kohn, Florence Belden
Krackenberg, Sharon Lea
Krejci, Ronald Dylan
Kupczynski, Joseph Martin
Kupczynski, Taysher Martin Lee
Lalehparvaran, Ali Jordan
Laplant, Scotty Alan
Lasarge, Amos Dewayne
Lavell, Jade Daniel
Leath, Mary Loyse
Lehman, Joenita Leigh
Lehman, Mikayla Jo
Lena, Janice Gail
Lena-Tiger, Camille Dawn
Lewis, Pamela Lynn
Limbaugh, Jodi Kathleen
Little Axe Sr., Danny
Little Axe, Justus Phoenix
Little Axe, Ronald Dean
Little Charley Jr., Scott
Little Creek, Larry Dwight
Littlebear, Brooklyn Shay

Littlebear, Grant Edwin
Littlebear, Laura Jan
Littlecreek, Cynthia Marie
Littlehead, Gary Lynn
Logan, Sidna Rae Lenec
Longhorn, Avis Elaine
Longhorn, Lindsey Marie
Longhorn, Nathan Neil
Lorne, Mrs. Moria Oloizia
Lowe, Kara Michelle
Lowe, Taylor Makayla
Lumpmouth, Wynona Lee
Maddux, Jonathan Webster Tiger
Mahardy, Jeffery Andrew
Mann, Caylie Grace
Mann, Colby Lee Richard
Mann, Kyelie Rose
Markwardt, Ethan Thomas
Marshall, Denia Kay
Martinez, Erica Inez
Martinez, Hayden Loa
Martinez, Jasmine Consuelo
Martinez, Shawnee Danielle
Masquas, Cora Irene
Masquas, Elysia Rose
Masquas, Joshiah Lee
May, Gina Lanette
McDaniel, Kelsey Layne
McDoulett, John William
McDowell, Farrell Ramon
McKenzie Lewis, Elain Kay
McKinney, Ellen Marie
Medina, Elizabeth Ruth Ann
Medina, Trinity Lynn Tiger
Melton, Jaycie Taylor
Miller, Cari Denise
Miner, Veda Jorene
Minesinger, Joshua Brooker
Minesinger, Seth Wildcat
Mitchell, Benito Miquel Travis
Mohawk Fink, Clayton Henry
Mohawk, Cherokee Cheyenne
Mohawk-Bernard, Charlie Jeanelle
Moore, Alexia Saranda
Moore, Thomas Joseph William Randall
Morton, Joseph Ohland
Mount, Glenda Dawn
Murdock Sr., Steven Alan
Murdock, Steven Alan
Musick, Michael Thomas
Nail, Gregory Thomas
Neely, Ethan Ray
Novick, River Elaine-Monique
Nuno, Phyllis Leeann
Odell, Ronnie Lynn
Onzawah, Davani Utonna
Onzawah, Ti Calvin Kachine
Owens, Beau Wesley Laine
Owings, Abigail Rose
Panther, Shawn Dell
Panther-Baker, Lydia Denise
Panther-Davis, Tammie Rae
Parker, John Wendall Gage
Perez, Tesla Nichole
Perkins, Laina Deann
Perry, Georgia Grace
Perry, Sierra Breanna
Peter, Kalina Nicole
Pine, Jeremiah Andrew
Ponce, Aisaiah Anthony
Pyrch, Jesse Kellen
Quraishi, Ibraheem Bin Khalil
Raisbeck Jr., David Nathaniel
Raisbeck, Samantha Storm
Raisbeck, Samuel Walter
Ramirez III, Florentino
Ramirez, Mariah Fay-Ann
Ramirez, Matias Noah
Reyes, Isabel Fe
Richey, Kodi Rae Jolynn
Ridenour, Sydney Bree
Rigg, Dee-Ann Onahwag
Rigney, Mayzie Mae
Riley, Hulbutta Kotcha
Robbins, Blake Anthony
Robbins, Sasha Mae
Robbins, Taylar Paige
Robison, Ariana Michelle
Rolette Martinez, Cheryl Lynn
Rolette, Madison Fox Grant
Rolette, Madison Joy
Rowan, Damian Eugene

Runsabove, Honor Mae
Sams, Christine Lorraine
Sanchez, Kianna Paola
Seber, Peyton Eddie
Serena, Laveda
Shawnee, Lanayah JaN`aee
Simpson, Christian Jacob
Simpson, Cody Lee
Slayton, Brooke Danielle
Sloat, Douglas James
Sloat, Meika Ladon
Smith, Cynthia Diane
Smith, Juliana Renee
Smith, Marvin
Smith, Samuel Ryan
Smith, Zackery James
Snake, Alvin Matthew
Snake, Julia DeAnn
Snake, Kenneth Lee
Snake, Lewis George
Snake, Stewart Lancer
Snow, Desmond James
Soap, Sally Clarice
Solomon, Billie Jean Tiger
Spoon, Ashur Clancy
Spoon, Edward Joe
Spoon, Justin Tyler
Spoon, Paisley Rennea
Spybuck, Garland Charles
Spybuck, Gavan Wayne
Spybuck, Roberta Ann
Steed, Ruby Leigh
Stevenson, Jodean Ann
Stoudemire, Naviah DeAnne
Strain, Gerald Tousley
Stryker, Doyle Chad
Stryker, Laurel Brad
Sullivan, Aizah Vanesse
Sullivan, Marcus Lee
Sutton Jr., Jeremy Ray
Switch, Sophia Michelle
Tahah, Barton Dale
Talton, Dacia Arie
Talton, Kaydince James
Taryole, Laura Lee
Tascier, Sarah Isabelle
Tello-Faz, Maria delaLuz
Terrell, Xavier Thomas Jackson
Thompson, Asher Bryce
Thorpe Jr., Edwin James
Thorpe, Edwin James
Tiger, Karman Rose Daylee
Tiger, Kevin Richard Dewayne
Tiger, Soaryn Edward Matthew
Tiger, Tammy Cindie Ladawn
Tiger, Tyler Matthew
Trussell, Sherry Lynn
Tyner, Tammy Lynn
Uchida, Kevin Micheal
Vanliew, Timberlynn Raye
Vaughn, Dylan Thomas
Wade, Justin Lee
Warrior, Anthony Louis
Warrior, Pamela Sue
Washington, Olvie Winston
Watkins, Destiney Shae
Watkins, Jayana Laneis
Watson, Adriana Renae
Watson, Brent Grynnel
Watson, Peyton Deshae
Wheeler, Emily Anne
Wheeler, Leah J.
Whims, Madison Mackenzie
White Thunder, Shelby Lynn
White, Christopher Alan
Whittaker, Caiden Skye
Whittaker, Joshua Jay W.
Wiley, Prince John Bowen
Wilkinson, Kaelynn Rayann
Williams, Brennan Marie
Williams, Kaylee Nicole
Williams, Kevin Bruce
Williams, Phoenixx Winter Ryne
Wilson Harjo, Reta Marie
Wilson, Adam Lee
Wilson, Angela Christy
Wilson, Mariana Danyel
Wilson, Melvin Wayne
Wood, Ryan Ashley
Yamutewa, Chebon Dale



JILIYAN JADE

HAPPY HAPPY BELATED 16TH BIRTHDAY TO MY BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER JILIYAN JADE!! MAY YOU CONTINUE TO SHINE AND BRIGHTEN EVERY DAY!! I LOVE YOU! LOVE MOM

JILIYAN, HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY!! AUNTIE "It" LOVES YOU SO VERY MUCH!! LOVE AUNTIE B

TO OUR SILLY SISTER JILIYAN HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!! HOPE IT WAS AMAZING LIKE YOU!! LOVE BROTHERS, JOPLIN AND JUSTIN

Justin,
Happy Birthday to my eldest child!! Hope its a great one!! Momma loves you!
XOXO Mom

Justin
Happy Birthday brother! You deserve a wonderful day to spend with us!!
Love Jop and Jil



Justin Tyler
Have a great Birthday!! Aunt B loves you very much!!
Love always Aunt B



Bee Jay
Happy late Birthday to my wonderfully awesome big sister, Creepie!! So glad your mine!!
Love always, Baby Sis Sheree



Sandra
Happy late Birthday! Hope it was a good one!!
XOXO Sherrie



Happy 60th Birthday Marvin Smith
You are the toughest man we know! We are very proud of you and love you.
Sherry, Jordan and Landyn

Happy 29th Birthday Shelby Lynn White Thunder
From NaNami, Mom, Dad, NaKiaus, Shelsie, Sheldon and Bryson



Happy 40ish Birthday Rikki Blanchard
From The White Thunder Bunch

Happy Birthday!
Grandma/Mom
Sis, Tommy, Shelsie, NaKiaus, Sheldon, Shelby, NaNami and Bryson

Happy Birthday!

Happy 30th Birthday Sheldon White Thunder
From Mom, Dad, NaKiaus, Shelsie, Shelby, Bryson, and NaNami

HAPPY Birthday to you!

Happy 56th Birthday Leland Blanchard
From The White Thunder Bunch

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to my Beautiful Nieces Sthephanie & Chele
Love Aunt Rhonda



Happy Valentines Day to my Sugarbabies Kantynn, Kanynn and Lynnlei
Love Granny and Grandpa



Sadie Spybuck-Low
June 9, 1943 - January 8, 2021

Born June 9, 1943 in Concho, OK to Charley B. Spybuck and Lillian Davis. She was loved by her entire family and friends. She loved watching her birds eat in the backyard and especially taking care of all her plants, she had a true green thumb taking care of them. Watching her grandson Joplin play soccer was a delight for her. As was keeping up with her granddaughter Jiliyan and her Home Ec. Class. Asking her other grandson Justin how his day at work went was always a joy for her to hear. As for her daughter Sherrie, they could always be seen together at garage sales, grocery stores and Joplin's games. She will be forever missed for she was an ornery old lady and the most awesome Mom and Granny. I love you Momma!

AllNations Bank Report

AllNations Bank was chartered as First National Bank of Calumet, Calumet, Oklahoma in 1901. The bank has served the businesses and citizens of Calumet and Canadian County for 118 years. First National Bank became a State Chartered Bank on August 16, 2004 and changed its name to AllNations Bank. AllNations Bank is owned by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. AllNations Bank opened a branch in Shawnee, Oklahoma on May 19, 2011. AllNations Bank continues to proudly serve the businesses and citizens of both Canadian and Pottawatomie Counties. Current Bank Board members include Eastman Switch, Anita Chisholm, Terri Mefford, Larry Briggs, and Stephen Smith.

	1st Qtr 2020	2nd Qtr 2020	3rd Qtr 2020	4th Qtr 2020
Total Loans	\$24,338,722	\$21,960,111	\$20,125,098	\$23,075,288
Total Investments	\$14,447,684	\$19,419,236	\$16,600,390	\$14,599,694
Total Bank Premises	\$552,926	\$505,973	\$504,774	\$496,912
Total Assets	\$44,307,849	\$46,655,676	\$43,561,980	\$41,838,006
Total Deposits	\$39,398,836	\$41,611,666	\$38,396,295	\$36,688,885
Total Borrowings	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Capital	\$4,842,707	\$4,933,261	\$5,046,797	\$5,020,112
Net Income	(\$109,428)	(\$90,472)	\$100,126	(\$27,568)

December 31, 2020 by branch		
	Total Deposits	Total Loans
Calumet	\$35,690,171	\$21,693,899
Shawnee	\$998,715	\$1,381,389
Total	\$36,688,885	\$23,075,288

New Developments in 2020

The bank has been working on several enhancements this year. First, we partnered with the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition (ONAC) to develop our Simply Safe account with no surprise fees and no overdraft fees to serve the un-banked and under-banked people in the community including tribe members. The 1st 100 accounts that open a Simply Safe account, receive a matching \$25 grant from ONAC.


Second, we created an account specifically for the members of the AST or employees of the AST or employees of any of the businesses under the AST umbrella called AST Preferred Checking. There are several benefits to the AST account just for these account holders.

Third, we moved up the launch of mobile deposits due to Covid-19. Mobile deposit is where a customer can open the bank's mobile app and take a picture of a check to deposit electronically without going to a bank branch.

Lastly, the bank is working with the company that provides our debit cards to roll out a debit card with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's logo on it.

AllNations Bank

Ask about “AST Preferred Checking” and our debit card that honors the Absentee Shawnee Tribe!



You can either be an Absentee Shawnee Tribe Member or an Employee of the Tribe or one of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's businesses. Account features include:

- ❖ Free Value Checks
- ❖ .25% rate reduction with auto debit on consumer loan rates
- ❖ Interest bearing account
- ❖ \$25.00 minimum to open the account
- ❖ No minimum to earn interest
- ❖ No monthly maintenance fee
- ❖ Free direct deposit option
- ❖ Free ATM/Debit Card
- ❖ Free Online Banking & Bill Pay
- ❖ Free Online Electronic Banking Statement
- ❖ Free check images with statement
- ❖ Free 1 year rental of a 3x5 safe deposit box or 6 months free rental of a 5x10 safe deposit box (based on availability)
- ❖ Free Notary Service
- ❖ FDIC Insured

Contact bank staff for more information
2023 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 74801, PH (405) 273-0202
114 E. Main St., Calumet, OK 73014, PH (405) 893-2240

Member
FDIC

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

- **Academic (PK-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.
- **Johnson O'Malley Program:** assists Absentee Shawnee tribal members enrolled in any of our nine (9) school districts: Tecumseh, Bethel, Earlsboro, Wanette, Asher, South Rock Creek, Macomb, Dale, and Little Axe.
- **Zahn Program:** established from a trust fund, program can help with some graduation expenses, and awards two (2) incentives: one for GED recipients and one for High School graduates. Program has a maximum amount of funding for graduation expenses.
- **Job Training Adult Education Program:** funds for vocational training at accredited vocational institutions. Program has a maximum funding limit for the calendar year or per program.
- **Higher Education: Education Incentive Award Program:** funds for undergraduate degrees, one associate or bachelor degree, at any accredited college or university. Funding levels are determined based upon grade point average and full-time or part-time status.
- **Graduate Scholarship Program:** funds for one master's degree or one doctoral degree, and can fund one graduate admissions test. This program has funding levels based upon full-time and part-time status.
- **Big Jim Youth Award Program:** annual incentive for High School Seniors for Academic Achievement and Athlete of the Year. Applications are available and accepted beginning January 1st and the deadline for application submission is March 31st of each year.

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

Attention:

Applications for fall 2021 must be received or postmarked by June 15, 2021.

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

For more information, please call (405) 275- 4030, Ext. 6242 email Tresha Spoon at tresham@as-tribe.com.

AST Education Department: Big Jim Youth Awards

We will begin taking applications for the 2020-21 Big Jim Youth Awards on January 1, 2021. High school **seniors** of both genders within the 50 United States are eligible to apply for these awards for the 2020-21 school year. Applications will be accepted from January 1 to March 31, 2021 by US mail or email. Official transcripts will be accepted via email or as a hard copy. Faxed copies will not be accepted. The official application form will be available in December 2020 at www.astribc.com under the Education Department. The \$1,000.00 award is in the form of a scholarship to the college or university where the award recipient will attend for the fall 2021 semester. The scholarship must be used for the fall 2021 semester.

We will begin accepting applications for the following awards:

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

Individuals are encouraged to nominate deserving high school seniors. You may nominate yourself. Please refer to the application for required documents. Eligible nominations will be judged by a panel of (non-AST) experts assembled specifically for this purpose. The intent is to bring together an unbiased group of experts to evaluate the applicants in an impartial and unbiased environment. Their decisions are final with respect to all matters concerning these awards. **Awards will be announced in May/June 2021.**

We encourage ALL Absentee Shawnee High School Seniors to apply.

Award recipients will be recognized as the 2020-21 Big Jim Academic Achievement

Award winner or the Big Jim Athlete of the Year. In addition to this recognition the award recipients will receive the **\$1,000.00** scholarship to be used towards their education and the advancement of their career.

Questions on these awards program should be addressed to:

Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Education Department
c/o Tresha Spoon
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801
405.275.4030 Ext 6242
youthaward@astribe.com

Applications accepted:
Jan. 1st–March 31st
Finalists announced:
May/June 2021

**Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Education Department**

2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801
(405) 275-4030 Ext. 6242
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)

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: _____

(LAST) (FIRST) (MI)

Tribal 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 #: _____

(FIRSI) (LASI)

All Absentee Shawnee High School Seniors are eligible and encouraged to apply.
If applying for both Academic Achievement and Athlete of the year, applicant must provide two (2) separate applications and sets of supporting documents.

Documents to be included with application:

- ☐ Official High School transcript (emailed copies sent directly from school personnel will be accepted)
- ☐ Tribal Enrollment Card (copy)
- ☐ Resume of Accomplishments and Activities
- ☐ Letter(s) of Recommendation (Educator/Coach/Tribal/Church)
- ☐ 500-word Essay: How do you feel your accomplishments (knowledge/training) as well as your being an Absentee Shawnee Tribal member will influence your future plans?
- ☐ Video (optional): no more than 10 minutes in length

Elders Report

Greetings to everyone and I hope that everyone is staying well and safe. I wanted to express my heartfelt sadness at the loss of more Absentee Shawnee tribal members and my condolences to all tribal families. The covid virus is nothing to be under estimated, it is unfeelingly infecting anyone and everyone that it comes into contact with as a new host for it's continued survival. We all need to do everything we can to protect ourselves from this deadly virus. I carry and wear my face mask whenever I have to go into stores or to Walmart. My bottles of hands sanitizer go everywhere with me.

But back to what the Elders had been working on during the month of December. We had input our information to Procurement for the Individual \$100 checks but that process was picked up by Executive Committee on December 16, 2020. The Executive Committee decided to absorb back our Elders monies and added to it. They then sent a bank gift card of \$155.00 to all Elders. So this is for those Tribal Elders that called me from Pennsylvania, Kansas and Reno Nevada asking for "Their Elders money"! The Absentee Shawnee Tribal office covers 5 counties here in Oklahoma which is their jurisdiction area. Cleveland, Oklahoma, Pottawatomie, Lincoln and Payne counties. There was no separate \$100 check as the Executive Committee provided for all the Elders that reside in state and those Elders that reside out of state.

The Elders Council is provided a budget that provided for monthly meetings of local Elders that was for recognition of birthdays and we planned our years activities such as group trips. Local Elders attended the meetings and participated in bi-monthly fund raising activities that supported these year long activities. I urge all Elders in state and out of state to subscribe to your Tribal newsletter. Or use your computer to go the WWW. ASTRIBE.COM as it is your responsibility to keep up to date on what the Tribe is doing or providing to the ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS!!

The Elders Council Officers are often retired Tribal Members and are elected to the Officers positions. Our Elders trailer on campus we have vacated on December 18, 2020 because we were informed by Mr Joseph Blanchard, Treasurer we're getting a new modular building. Which we are grateful for and waiting for our new modular building. All of our supplies and equipment is stored in Procurement storage area.

Due to the continuing covid virus and the deadly affect on our precious Tribal members there will be no group members meetings at this time. The Elders Officers will continue to meet to address the business of the Elders. At this time we're waiting for our 2021 Budget and a date when we get our new building. We also will be organizing to move all of our equipment and supplies into the new building. We also wish to express our gratitude to the Maintenance Supervisor, Kevin Kaseca, Robbie Komacheet, John Mann and Tom Morton for helping the Elders move all of our stuff. It was a exhausting day for us!! But they helped immensely shortening the work day!! From a possible 8 hours of hard work to 4 hours!!

I urge all Tribal members to get the vaccinations. I got my first shot on December 30, 2020 I drove through snow to get my shot!!

Everyone stay safe and stay well!

Twila Parker, Elders Council



**NOW TAKING
APPLICATIONS!**

JOIN OUR TEAM!

**WE'RE
LOOKING FOR:**


**AST FOSTER
FAMILIES**

FOR AN APPLICATION EMAIL


fostercare@astribecare.com

Don't let the fear of loving a child who might leave deter you. Let the fear of a child not having a place to call home drive you.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT US:
405-395-4490
www.astribecare.com



Latino Heritage Internship Program



Rivers, Trails and Conservation Program Assistance

LHIP Direct Hire Authority Resource Assistance (DHA-RA) - Austin, TX

BASIC ELIGIBILITY

- Age 18 to 30, and military veterans up to age 35 and younger
- Possess US citizenship or permanent residence
- Currently enrolled in an upper-level undergraduate or graduate program
- Have a strong interest — or relevant experience — in areas pertaining to — but not limited to — history, historic preservation, public history, museum studies, archaeology, cultural interpretation, landscape architecture, anthropology or other related fields
- Bilingual skills (Spanish/English) — helpful and more needed for some positions
- Be social media savvy

LEARNING GOALS

LEARNING GOALS

The intern will develop the following skills:

- Researching and writing stories and case studies
- Creating print and web materials for outreach and program promotion
- Outreach and engagement to underserved or underrepresented communities

DRIVER'S LICENSE

No. Public transportation (although not ideal) and bicycling are an option for Austin-based interns; remote interns can work from residence. An intern with a drivers license and vehicle would be able to more easily conduct field visits, but it is not a requirement


WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical Work Environment: The Austin metropolitan area has a population of over two million and is located at a low elevation of about 400 feet and experiences mild winters and hot summers. Outdoor and indoor recreation and entertainment options abound. There are Latino communities (primarily Mexican-American and Tejano) located near the office in South Austin and throughout the region. The RTCA Austin Field Office is a typical office setting located in a building operated by a local non-profit focusing on youth education and conservation corps programming.


Work Environment: Work will be primarily in-office with possible field visits (depending on pandemic travel restrictions and intern's availability to drive/travel).

TIME FRAME

- **Applications must be submitted by 11:55 P.M. MST Feb. 7, 2021.** Top candidates will be selected for interviews in late February and early March. Placement decisions and assignments will generally be made during the month of March.
- Standard LHIP positions will go for a 11-week period will begin in late May through late July 2021 and conclude August July depending on specific requirements of the project site.
- Direct Hiring Authority positions will last 12 weeks which includes a one week long career and leadership workshop.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Environment for the Americas

Learn more and apply:
<https://latinoheritageintern.org/>

Dalia Dorta: ddorta@environmentamericas.org • 720.438.1272

Cultural Preservation Department

The Cultural Preservation Department has continued to carry out essential day to day operations to ensure the department continues to function properly. Currently, three staff members are available in the office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. These staff members include the Director, the Administrative Assistant and the Gift Shop Manager. The Librarian, THPO and THPO Specialist are currently working remotely Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Gift Shop

In accordance with the Tribe's protocols and reverting back to Phase I of opening, in-store shopping at the gift shop is currently unavailable. However, we are allowing curbside pick-up. Please call the Gift Shop Manager, Mrs. Merry Rodriguez, for more details.

During the last month, the Gift Shop Manager has been working diligently to refill the current stock. We have an assortment of new merchandise such as the items featured in the picture to the right.

In addition to the new products, currently, we are still running a 20% sale on select Pendleton products and Minnetonka Shoes. So, if you have any questions, please call Mrs. Rodriguez. She can be reached at (405) 275-4030 ext. 6310.



Library

The Library is still currently closed to all visitors.

THPO

The THPO Program continues to make great strides and advancements. The THPO staff has steadily been receiving Section 106 projects from various Federal Agencies. Over the past month, the THPO, Mrs. Devon Frazier-Smith, has received 272 new Section 106 projects for review. In conjunction with receiving projects, she has consulted on 220 projects. The THPO has also taken part in numerous teleconference calls.

FCC/TCNS

In lieu of the shutdowns from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the incoming workflow of new and modified telecommunications projects has been steady for the TCNS program. The THPO Specialist, Ms. Ashley Brokesoulder, has been busy reviewing, researching and given recommendations to the telecommunications industry. Over the past month, she has received 92 new telecommunications facility projects for review. In conjunction with receiving projects, she has reviewed, researched and gave recommendation for the clearance of 78 telecommunications projects.



Events

On November 17th, the Cultural Preservation Staff traveled to Northpark mall in Oklahoma City to decorate a Christmas tree for the 2020 Red Earth Treefest. The event featured 17 Christmas trees from various tribes around Oklahoma. Besides the Absentee Shawnee other tribes who participated included the Caddo, the Cherokee, the Cheyenne & Arapaho, the Choctaw, the Citizen Potawatomi, the Comanche, the Kaw, the Muscogee (Creek), the Osage, and the Wichita Affiliated Tribes. The trees displayed handmade ornaments from each tribe that highlighted their distinctive tribal cultures. According to the event coordinators, the event was a great success. They received a lot of compliments about each tree that was showcased.

Your concerns are important to us. We thank you for the continued support of our department as we continue to make changes to our programs, in order to provide the best service to our Tribal community. My door is always open so please feel free to contact me, Carol Butler, at 405-275-4030 ext. 6245 or cbutler@astribes.com.



Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Child Care Development Fund Programs
 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
 Shawnee, Ok. 74801
 (405)432.8411 FAX: (405)878-0156



AST Newsletter- Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Programs

February 2021

We hope you and your family continue doing well. Due to this unprecedented national health emergency we have been doing what we can to keep the CCDF grant in compliance and learning about what we can do to assist families in this pandemic. We are still accepting applications for AST Child Care Assistance if you need child care assistance and would like to apply. The application is on the AST website under Services/Child Care. We offer assistance to any Native child with a CDIB who live in our service area of Cleveland, McClain, Oklahoma and Pottawatomie Counties. The parents or guardians must meet certain income guidelines but we would encourage anyone to apply. We can also offer services for families who are unemployed with a three (3) month job search eligibility period. The families can choose any OKDHS Licensed Child Care Provider that is convenient for them.

We are also still offering the Relative Home Provider care type where a relative who lives in a separate residence can care for an eligible child. We will have the application and guidelines on the AST Website under the Services/Childcare page. Applicants who wish to utilize the RHP will need to be eligible for AST Child Care prior to RHP approval. Please contact me or LaNora Buswell, CCDF Specialist, if you have any questions.

We are still on hold with the Afterschool Program on the AST Complex. We will provide notification as soon as a decision is made regarding reopening. We are still in contact with our ASP families and try to continue outreach. If you or your family need afterschool child care assistance please contact us or apply through the child care assistance program and we can help find a provider that will be able to provide your child care needs.

Our goals through the CCDF grant, Building Blocks enterprise and the After School Programs is to provide quality child care to Native and non-native children in our communities. We do this by our innovative ideas on curriculum and staying abreast of all training and requirements to maintain higher levels of care. We strive to be the best and be better than the best every day.

If you are interested in any of these programs or have any questions please feel free to contact me or LaNora Buswell at the number above or by email, astchildcare@astribes.com.

Ni yi wa! (Thank you)
 Briana Ponkilla
 CCDF Coordinator



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



February 2021 Newsletter

Building Blocks II finished with renovations and setting up our classrooms with new furniture and learning materials in November 2020. We are excited about being able to teach the children in the new classrooms in 2021. We hope to have a better year ahead at Building Blocks II as we are hoping to be open more this year.

We are excited to be open now serving the children of our AST Tribal Employees. We have 17 staff and 12 children in attendance. We are glad to be open and ready to serve our families in 2021. We hope 2021 brings better times for everyone.

Have a great February!



ATTENTION

AST Elders with Wal-Mart card issues:

If you are having issues with your Wal-Mart gift card received in December, contact Wal-Mart at 1-888-516-2614. Select option 2 for "all other Wal-Mart services," then select option 3 for "corporate gift card order or corporate gift card status" and Wal-Mart's customer service should be able to resolve your issue.

If you are still experiencing difficulty and need assistance, please contact Misty Griffith at MistyG@astribes.com. In your email, please communicate the issue you are experiencing along with the following information:

Card Number
 Name
 Address



PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Petitioner: Dakota Megehee filed a petition with the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Name
Dakota Megehee
 To Proposed Name
Dakota Little Charley

ATTENTION

The AST Children's Christmas party was held December 12, 2020. If anyone was unable to attend, you can still call the Governor's office at (405) 275-4030, Kim Porter at ext. 6269 or Alvina Barnes at ext. 6307 to have their gift card mailed to them. Last day to call is February 12 by 4 pm.

TAX PREPARATION

TAX PREPARATION FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS, WIDOWS/ WIDOWERS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES

FREE OF CHARGE

Call Tina Ontiveros for Appointment
 Absentee Shawnee Tribe/Representative Department
 (405) 275-4030 x 6431

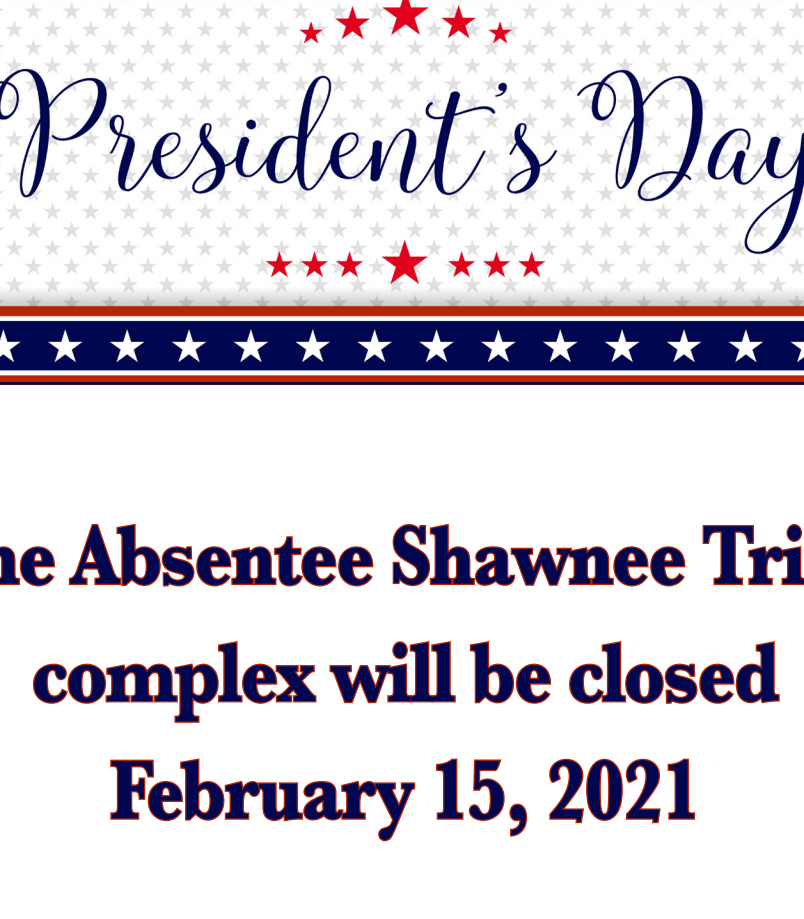
Location for Tax Preparation is on the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex in Shawnee at the Multi-Purpose Building.

The time will be every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from, 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturday mornings from 9:00 to Noon.

Tax Preparation will start Saturday, February 13th. Those meeting the Low-to-Moderate income threshold of FY 2021, Tax Year 2020, is \$57,000 are eligible for free Income Tax filling, Form 1040 & 1040SR.

Please bring all tax documentation: Photo Identification for each adult, Social Security Cards for all people to be listed on the forms, 1099's, W-2's, 1099-R's, medical and dental expense, last year's taxes and receipts for any charitable donations.

	Governor John R. Johnson.....	6308	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>	Amanda Webb	6292	<u>PROCUREMENT</u>	Misty Griffith	6291
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				Laina Martin.....	6424			
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	Jan Ranft	6309		6283		Nancy Edwards	6225
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			<u>ICW</u>					
				Sheila Wilson	395-4494			
				Shawnee Martinez	395-4491	<u>OTHER EXTENSIONS</u>	Bldg. 1 Conf. Rm.....	2009
				Cheryl Aragon	395-4492		Bldg. 1 Break Rm.....	6305
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				SheilaOrphan.....	6331	<u>OTHER ENTITIES & TOLL FREE</u>	All Nations Bank	273-0202
				Robert Komacheet, Joe Morton, John Mann			ASEDA.....	878-6782
				Stephen Fife, Isaac Bettelyoun, Stacy Coon,			Toll Free.....	1-800-256-3341
				Duke Blanchard, Clayton Martinez			Brendle Corner.....	447-3372
				Cindy Carpenter.....	6249		Building Blocks	878-0633
							(Barbra Pope)	
			<u>MIS</u>				Building Blocks III LA	360-2710
				HELP DESK	3100		(Skye Foreman)	
				Travis O’Dell	6327		Court Clerk	481-8575
				Donna Cody	6402		Enrollment.....	481-8650
				Amelia Grass.....	6329		Gaming Commission.....	360-9270 x1110
				Fred Brown	6342		Housing	273-1050
				Rafael Rodriguez	6332		Human Resources	275-1468
				Kelly Chambers	6328		Media	598-1279
							(Mindy Longhorn)	
			<u>OEH</u>				OEH/OEP	214-4235
				6223		Police Dept.	275-3200 / 275-3432
				Jarrodd Lloyd	6229		Thunderbird Casino NRM	360-9270
				6299		Shawnee Casino.....	273-2679
				Kyra Underwood	6398		Tax Commission	481-8600
				Micah Issacs	6230		Tribal Store (Little Axe)	364-0668
			<u>POLICE DEPT</u>	275-3200 / 275-3432				
				Brad Gaylord (Chief)	6302			
				Jason Brinker.....	6259			
				Steven Crisp	6262			
				Linda Day	6261			
				James Woolbright.....	6276			
				Levi Walker Emergency Mgmt				

A graphic with a patriotic theme. It features a top border with a row of white stars on a blue background. Below this is a white background with a pattern of small grey stars. In the center, the words "President's Day" are written in a large, elegant, dark blue cursive font. Above and below the text are small red stars. A second border of white stars on a blue background is at the bottom. The main text area has a thin blue border on the left and right sides.

President's Day

**The Absentee Shawnee Tribe
complex will be closed
February 15, 2021**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR STORY

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

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

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