Children’s Christmas Party

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More pictures on page 8...
Hello Tribal Members

The Holidays have come and gone too quickly. It seems but only a few hours of celebration with family, friends and relatives at our house. The children seem to make the merriest happenings and we just all join in, whatever the activity. Then the older children go off to their inlaws for more visiting, opening of more presents topped off by a good old fashioned home-cooked meal. As the day comes to an end, we say good-bye to another Christmas. In with the new year for the Tribe.

The expectations for the new year are promising. We must build on our successes of the past and move forward to a better tomorrow for the Tribal membership.

The Executive Committee continues to explore growth and profitability for the Tribe. Their efforts toward making our Government self-sustaining and profitable is no small task but I feel they are capable of making it happen. The Executive Committee will be closing some old projects and starting new ones this year 2013, but rest assured that the best interests of the Tribal membership will receive top priority.

In closing, this is another exciting time for our Tribe. We look forward to a prosperous year. We must all work together for the common good of the Tribe if we are to make things happen.

Please stop by and visit with me at the Complex should you have interests we may need to consider. We are always receptive to new views and different perspectives.

Sincerely,
George Blanchard, Governor

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**LANGUAGE CORNER**

1. Angry - we yi ko wa
2. Restless - hi le no la we
3. (I'm) busy - no ti ma fe
4. Thank you - ne yi wa
5. (He's busy) - ho ti ma fe
6. Stop making noise - te ka fe qi ne ka
7. Cranky - mi ge ta ha fe
8. Shy - te qa fe
9. Crazy - wi ne si ki
10. Sad - mi ge la pe wi
11. Crying - we fi qa
12. Noisy - fe qi ne key a

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**Lt. Governor’s Report**

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

2012 was a good year for the Tribe. We got a lot accomplished on the tribal government side and we were also able to assist many tribal members through tribally generated funds. We provided assistance in a lot of different areas. It is time to look forward to 2013.

With so much going on in the Nation’s Capital we really don’t know what to expect until it happens. We will have to play it by ear. Some departments have already established their funding and are fully aware of what they have to work with while others have to wait and see what Congress is going to tell us.

Regardless of the outcome on the National level, the Tribe is going to continue with the plans we have in the works, and maintain what we have already established and continue to progress in those areas. I look forward to the upcoming year. We will meet the challenges head on and do what we have to do to make 2013 a prosperous and eventful year!

Respectfully,
Isaac Gibson,
Lieutenant Governor
Greeting Tribal Members:

I’ve always loved the beginning of a new year. It is a great time to reflect on past accomplishments, consider the lessons learned from the past year, and to formulate plans for a better future.

This past year we made a lot of progress on a number of projects that have been in the works for quite some time. The new health clinic was opened this past spring after years of planning. The eyesore of a building at Tecumseh Square is finally being demolished to make way for some future development. The new building for the Harrah Smoke Shop is progressing and is about 50% complete.

In November, we witnessed the re-election of President Barack Obama. Regardless of how you personally selected your choice for President, Mr. Obama was widely seen as the choice for most Native Americans. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the largest and oldest national organization of Native American’s and they endorsed the re-election of Obama because of his commitment to Native issues. President Obama sponsored numerous events during his first term to strengthen the educational opportunities for Native students and to provide a platform for other native issues. He promises to continue these efforts during his second term.

One of the biggest pieces of news in December was the settlement of the Cobell Class Action lawsuit that resulted in payments totaling 3.4 billion to 350,000 Native American beneficiaries that have IIM accounts. The lawsuit was the result of the federal government’s mishandling of trust land royalties. The courtroom arguments spanned nearly 17 years. The first checks were issued in mid-December. If you have questions about the settlement or if you think you may be entitled to a part of this settlement, you can call 1-800-961-6109 or visit the website at www.IndianTrust.com.

We made some strides in the casino business this past year. Thunderbird Casino-Shawnee completed it’s first full year of operation since the grand opening in August 2011. We worked on making some much needed changes in the Norman casino to improve air quality (which was very expensive but worth it) and began a string of cosmetic changes to help freshen up the interior. We opened the event center and increased our entertainment activities. Our new management has worked to control expense and this has resulted in more revenue for the tribe. Budgeting for 2012 has finished up and transfers to the tribe are projected to be over 3 million dollars for the first time in years.

We encourage everyone to visit our casinos and see the improvements now being made including new and exciting games being moved onto the floor. In January our new LED lighting will be installed in the facility along with additional signage for the Event Center, Grill, and Jockey Club.

Thunderbird has some exciting promotions coming over the next few months. We would also like to remind all Absentee Shawnee Tribal members to come out each week and participate in the $10 free play that is automatically uploaded to your player’s club card.

This past fall, I participated in several tribal leader round table discussions with the staff of Governor Mary Fallin’s office which centered around discussions about our expiring Tobacco Compact. Most Oklahoma tribes have Tobacco Compacts that will expire in 2013. These meetings resulted in many tribes seeing the need to join forces and to resurrect a regional coalition of tribes to tackle issues that are important to all of us. The United Indians of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas (UNKOT) is being formed to fill this need. Treasurer Deere and I attended an organizational meeting in December. Our Executive Committee passed a resolution to join and support this group in 2013.

As your Executive Committee, I know we all plan to continue to work on improving our work processes to save money in all of our operations (Tribe, Casino, Clinic, and other enterprises) and increase revenue. We will continue to work to improve and increase the services that we provide to tribal members. I think the current administration works together fairly well. We are not perfect and we don’t always agree. However, I can say without reservation that we care about the direction of the tribe, and that we want to work towards a brighter future for all tribal members. I have enjoyed working with each of the other members. Each member brings their own unique level of talent and perspective to the job and this has made our work life interesting. I look forward to working with them during the remainder of my term and I am optimistic that we can make a difference that will be meaningful.

It has been a privilege to serve you this past year. I wish you a joyous new year filled with health, happiness, and peace.

If you have any issues or concerns that you would like addressed in the newsletter, please let me know.

Tori Reed – Secretary
405-275-4030 Ext 104

Treasurer’s Report

HAPPY NEW YEAR\n
TRIBAL MEMBERS!

The year 2013 is here! My hope and prayers everyone has recuperated from their holidays. I’m still trying get into the new year, always have a time remembering the new 2013 date! We as, elected officials strive to put our best effort to continue to progress in the areas of economic development, educating our tribal members, and services for the tribal members. Below is the list of activities for the month:

• AST Health Board Authority and LSWN Board Meeting, held every third Tuesday, Little Axe Health Facility, Little Axe, OK. Serves as Ad Hoc non-voting member. Monthly reports of Executive Director, Department/Program Directors, financial, and activities of health facility are presented. We are proud and honored to have a new state of art health facility in the beautiful countryside of Norman. The community in Little Axe is glad to see economic improvement in health care and employment opportunities becoming available.

• Monthly Program/Departmental Directors meeting. Each director comes every 3rd Monday and gives a monthly update on their program/department. We, as the Executive Committee, appreciate these departments who take the take to come and give us an update every month and prepare monthly written reports. We understand they may have circumstances occur that prevent them from coming to the monthly meetings. THANK YOU! 

• Thunderbird Casino monthly financial meeting with General Manager, Dillon Byrd. Controller, myself, and/or other Executive Committee Member who is available, go over the financials.

• Monthly Health Finance meeting with Executive Director, Beverly Felton, Controller, Belinda Collins, Health Finance Manager, Brenda Allen-Duboise, Business Office Manager, Jennifer Harmon, Shawnee Clinic Director, Marla Throckmorton, Admin. Services Director, Clark Gallaher, and myself. Each month go over the finances of the Little Axe Health Facility and Shawnee Health Facility.

• Monthly Redstone Investment meeting. We have an excellent investment advisor, who continually keeps the committee updated on current investments and most beneficial to the Tribe. Since we have been with Redstone

Secretary’s Report
Investments, we have achieved attractive returns for the Tribe’s investment portfolio for over ten (10 years).

- ASED A board monthly meeting. Discussion on developing strategy for 2013 to accomplish future economic development for the tribe. Monthly report from the Absentee Shawnee Counseling Services in Oklahoma City, presented by Executive Director, Dan Cross.

- Constitutional Revision committee next meeting will be January 3, 2013, 6 pm, Watson Restaurant, I-40 and Mcloud Exit. If you are interested in joining the constitution revision committee, please come to the meeting or call Eddie Brokeshoulder, 275-4030 X148.

- Attended the United Indian Nations in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas (UINOKT), meetings in Oklahoma City and Tulsa (along with Secretary Reed). This group has been around since late 1996 and their purpose is to promote unity among the tribes in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. Former Governors of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe have been involved with this group and now UINOKT are trying to reorganize and reunite again. UINOKT Constitution and By-laws Preamble states, “to better community relations and stronger, productive communication with each other and to safeguard and protect the Sovereign rights, privileges and interests of all Indian nations; to improve the educational, economic and political status of the tribal governments; to promote the common welfare through united efforts; and to bring the tribal governments into a more cooperative relationship and unity of position on issues that affect all Indian governments.” UINOKT is amending the constitution and By-laws as we report, a constitution revision committee was formed with three (3) tribes and a legal representative, too. UINOKT is requesting each tribe to get a resolution and pay an annual membership fee of $500.00. Will report on the progress in later news article.

- Attended 2012 Fall Self-Governance Strategy Session, Uncasville, CT. The purpose of the Strategy Session is to review and update the goals, issues, and priorities to be included in the National Tribal Self-Governance Strategic Action Plan and National Priorities for 2013 – 2015. Various issues among tribes were discussed the 477 Program, which is a program that authorizes Tribes to combine funds from employment, training and related programs from various federal sources into a single “477 Plan”. Amending Title IV of the ISDEAA this allows Tribes to develop the capacity for government-building activities expansion of Self-Governance within the department of Health and Human Services. Carcieri and Patchak supreme Court decisions is a priority for tribal governments since these are two negative cases. Current efforts are: (1) enacting a clean Carcieri-fix and (2) obtaining an administrative or legislative fix to the Patchak case. This effort is to pass legislation that ensures that the Secretary of Interior can take land-into-trust for all federally recognized Tribes.

- Medicaid Expansion meeting, Oklahoma City regarding the Affordable care, and the State of Oklahoma not participating. “Oklahoma is the latest state to reject two key elements of President Barack Obama’s health care reform plan to extend health coverage to poor and middle-class Americans, Gov. Mary Fallin (R) announced Monday, 11-19-12. Oklahoma won’t participate in Obamacare’s expansion of Medicaid to the state’s poorest residents, or create a health insurance exchange, Fallin said in a press release and a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Not expanding Medicaid to the poor and refusing to establish health insurance exchanges – online marketplaces to shop for coverage – jeopardizes the health care reform law’s aim to enroll 30 million people into coverage by 2022. The health care reform law permits anyone who earns up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, which is $14,856, to enroll in Medicaid. The law also provides tax credits to people who earn up to four times the poverty level -- $44,680 in 2012 – to help pay for private health insurance. Fallin joins a long list of governors, mostly Republican, who have informed federal authorities in recent days that their states won’t create a health insurance exchange and will leave the task to the federal government. “I have also decided that Oklahoma will not be participating in the Obama Administration’s proposed expansion of Medicaid. Such an expansion would be unaffordable,” Fallin said. Oklahoma and seven other states have declared they won’t expand Medicaid to their poorest residents, despite the fact that the federal government will pay the full cost from 2012 to 2016, then scale back its share until it reaches 90 percent in 2022 and beyond. When the Supreme Court upheld the health care law in June, it ruled that states could opt out of the expansion. See article below.

www.huffingpost.com/2012/11/19/mary-fallin-oklahoma-health-care_n_2159737.html

As always sincere appreciation goes out to the employees of the Finance Department and Controller, Belinda Collins, as they daily continue the never ending processes for the financial side of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Without their tireless dedication and commitment we could not keep the financial transactions processes flowing!

Also, would like to extend my appreciation to the Financial Consultant, Eddie Brokeshoulder, who continues to assist me with numerous projects, attend meetings where I cannot attend, and consulting decisions in the office of Treasurer! We appreciate all your phone calls, emails, and visits. May God continue to bless you and yours! See below articles from AllNations Bank, Finance Department, and Financial Consultant, Eddie Brokeshoulder.

Respectfully yours,
Kathy Deere
Treasurer

“Eagle Chief (Letakos-Lesa) Pawnee

In the beginning of all things, wisdom and knowledge were with the animals, for Tirawa, the One Above, did not speak directly to man. He sent certain animals to tell men that he showed himself through the beast, and that from them, and from the stars and the sun and moon should man learn all things tell of Tirawa.

All things in the world are two. In our minds we are two, good and evil. With our eyes we see two things, things that are fair and things that are ugly.... We have the right hand that strikes and makes for evil, and we have the left hand full of kindness, near the heart. One foot may lead us to an evil way, the other foot may lead us to a good. So are all things two, all two.
greeted with at the door.

Lisa Wesley is our new Building Blocks Director for those of you who haven't gotten to meet her yet. She came from the Kickapoo tribe and has many previous years in daycare experience. She has been with us for a couple of months now, and we are very glad to have her on our Building Blocks staff. Also, let's welcome Summer Ackerman as our new ICW Director. She just started in mid December and we are very lucky to have her on our ICW staff. She has received many prestigious awards through her career at DHS. If you get a chance, please go by and welcome these ladies to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

November 13-16 was the 15th Annual National Tribal Transportation Conference in Phoenix Arizona. It covered the Maps 21 funding formulas and Every Day Counts (EDC) 3D Modeling and Safety Information for construction of bridges and roads. Many tribal leaders were able to attend from other tribes from as far away as Alaska, and it was good to see many leaders from our State attend also. Top of the line equipment was put on display to show it's availability for use in constructing roads and bridges.

As of December 1st, we have 6 new calves for the registered Angus Project. Everyone is doing well. Our cattle herd is growing rapidly.

With the New Year upon us, we can plan out our upcoming year's events with a positive attitude and optimistic outlook of things to come during the course of this New Year.

Have a wonderful month!
Tribal Representative
Jeff Gibson

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**FINANCE DEPARTMENT January 2013**

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

The Tribe's 2010 and 2011 Audits are “unqualified”; which when compared to an educational grading scale is an A. We are gearing up for the 2012 audit coordinating our entities that will roll up into the tribe's audit. Auditors should be on sight in March 2013.

The 2013 Indirect Cost Proposal was submitted to the National Business Center (NBC) on September 4, 2012. NBC is six months behind due to budget cuts thus staff cuts. Our rate is up from 17.74% for 2010 to 21.98% for 2011 and our rate for 2012 is 22.35% and is expected to increase for 2013. We are still in the queue for assignment to a negotiator as of the date this article.

The finance department continues to complete accounting by the seventh day of the month and have been since August 2010; for financial reporting for the Health Authority and Li Si Wi Nwi, Health Inc. boards for Absentee Health Systems, Shawnee and Little Axe (LSWN) which is possible since the accounting is completed on schedule every month. The Finance staff has completed the November reconciliations for financial reporting for December. It is imperative the accounting staff continue to stay ahead of all of the accounting so that audits go smoothly, so that Indirect Cost rates will stay up to date as well. Indirect cost proposals cannot be submitted without completed audits as the audit is used to calculate the proposal. There are many processes in place in your Tribe’s accounting department that ensure we keep accurate records of transactions. The Tribe’s accounting processes must be in compliance with GAAP; (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board).

The Tribe currently has compact funds of BIA and 1H $51 Grants, and the new Clinic business. In addition, the Tribe operates on a General Fund and an Indirect Cost Fund.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe’s Finance Department has very hard working group of people and it is an honor to work with them, the Treasurer’s office and at the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. The Finance Department employs 14: with 7 (50%) being AST Tribal Members, 2non-AST tribal members, and 5 (36%) being non-natives. This department as always would like to extend a special thanks and note of appreciation to the Executive Committee for providing the tools, resources and support to enable the finance staff to reach its accomplished goals and to continue with this effort. A special thanks and note of appreciation to Program Managers and Employees of the Tribe for their assistance and dedication in our continued group effort toward accomplishing our goal.

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

Respectfully,
Belinda Collins
Controller

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**FINANCIAL CONSULTANT**

Hello Tribal Members,

Hope everybody had a very Merry Christmas and each of you has a prosperous 2013 New Year! As our office begins year 2013, it is our hope that we continue to provide you transparent fiduciary financial information and reporting, as we continue to improve progress of our tribe. The following activities I have been involved and participated:

**General Fund:** Reviewed and analyzed Treasurer’s monthly general fund encumbrance report.

**Indirect Cost:** Reviewed and analyzed Treasurer’s monthly Indirect Cost encumbrance report. Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority, Inc. (ASEDA): Attended monthly board meeting to discuss current business operations and future business opportunities.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Native Community Development

Financial Institution (CDFI): A power point presentation was presented by Kristi Coker-Bias, Senior Advisor, First Nations Owesta Corporation, on Wednesday, December 14th, at regular monthly Executive Committee (E.C.) meeting. Kristi provided informative information about the purpose of a Native CDFI for the Absentee Shawnee Tribal community. The Native CDFI is the cornerstone of Native Economic and Community Development that help develop local economies by creating entrepreneurs and businesses, increasing homeownership, and empowering community members to reach their financial goals. Kristi also mentioned Eddie Brokeshoulder, financial consultant, surveyed a sample of Tribal members at the recent 70th Semi-Genera Council meeting. Saturday, November 10th, surveyed resulted indicated a need for financial services for tribal members.

The presentation of an AST Native CDFI was well received by Executive Committee, with the passing of a resolution for the tribe to submit an application for 2013 funding to the department of Treasury. The AST CDFI steering committee was introduced; in attendance were Kathy Deere, Treasurer, Eddie Brokeshoulder, Financial Consultant, Gene Davis, CEO All Nations Bank, Judy Shed, Programs & Admissions Specialist, AST Housing Authority, Glenna Jones, Grant Writer, not present Tresha Spoon, Education Director and Rick Short. More information will be forth coming, as we get closer in our submission of our Technical Assistance (TA) grant application, if you have questions, please contact Eddie Brokeshoulder, Financial Consultant at 405-275-4030 x 148 or eddieb@astribe.com.

Alliance for Economic Inclusion (AEI): Alliance for Economic Inclusion for Northeastern Oklahoma is a coalition composed of community based organizations, financial institutions, foundations, employers, faith-based organizations, state, tribal, local government agencies, bank regulators and public officials. I was recommended to be a representative as
a member of the Advisory Council for the Alliance for Economic Inclusion, from one of the Tribal Nations in Oklahoma. As an advisory council member, our task is to actively promote and guide development of the AEI, which are:

- What projects or programs would a Council member suggest in pursuing? Are there consumers with specific financial education needs who would benefit from AEI members working together to create or revise a targeted curriculum?
- What resources are available that the AEI collaboration could access that would help strengthen small businesses?
- Are there best practices for tribal community development initiatives that could be used in the AEI’s footprints?

In serving on the advisory council capacity, it will enhance our tribal grant application if funded, by providing opportunities for our Tribe to provide best practices for other tribes in Oklahoma. I will report each quarter on the progress of AEI in forth coming newsletters. For more information on AEI, please contact Eddie Brokeshoulder, Financial Consultant, at 405-275-4030 x 148 or eddieb@astribe.com.

Resolutions

- Are you interested in participating and being a part of a better tomorrow?
- Are you an Elder or Youth willing to better the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, if so please contact: Eddie Brokeshoulder at 405-275-4030 x 148 or eddieb@astribe.com.

Legislative Resolutions:

- L-AS-12-08 11/21/12
  Authorizes a five (5) year lease in the amount of One Thousand Dollars and no/cents ($1000.00) per year for AST Allotment No. AS-0253 as follows: Lot 6, NE/4 SW/4 & Lot 7, NW/4 SE/4 Section 01-10N-04E, located in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, containing 58.40 acres, more or less.

- L-AS-12-09 11/21/12
  Authorizes a five (5) year lease in the amount of Five Hundred Fifty Dollars and no/cents ($550.00) per year for AST Allotment: AS-264, Lot 1, NE/4 NE/4 (less 2.50 acres) in NE/4 NE/4 Section 01-10N-04E containing 37.50 acres.

- L-AS-12-10 11/21/12
  Authorizes and approves the Tribal Health Systems (Indian Health Services - IHS) Budget for calendar year 2013 in the amount of Fifteen Million, Eight Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred Fifty-Two Dollars, and No Cents ($15,848,752.00) as reflected in the attached budget document, “Exhibit A”, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

- L-AS-12-11 11/21/12
  Authorizes and approves the Indirect Cost (IDC) Budget for calendar year 2013 in the amount of Five Million, Six Hundred Seventy-One Thousand, Three Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars, and No Cents ($5,671,388.00) as reflected in the attached budget document, “Exhibit A”, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

- L-AS-12-12 11/21/12
  Authorizes and approves the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Budget for calendar year 2013 in the amount of Two Million, Seven Hundred Two Thousand, Six Hundred Forty-Two Dollars, and No Cents ($2,702,642.00) as reflected in the attached budget document, “Exhibit A”, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

- L-AS-12-13 11/21/12
  Authorizes and approves the General Fund Budget for calendar year 2013 in the amount of Four Million, One Hundred One Thousand, Two Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars, and No Cents ($4,101,265.00) as reflected in the attached budget document, “Exhibit A”, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

- E-AS-12-75 12/17/12
  Places the Human Resources Department under the Supervision of the Finance Department, effective immediately and until March 18, 2013, at which time the Human Resources Department will be under the sole supervision of the Executive Committee, unless and until the Executive Committee takes action otherwise.

- E-AS-12-76 12/17/12
  Approves membership into the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas (“UNIOKT”) in the total amount of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), and naming the Governor as Delegate and the Lieutenant Governor, Tribal Secretary, Treasurer and Representative as Alternates of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.
Children’s Christmas Party

A few of Santa’s Helpers...

The Children...

And Tribal Members

JANUARY 9, 10, 11, 2013
Iowa Tribe Pow-wow Grounds (Chena Building), Perkins, OK

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9
Jay Mule
EVANGELIST
CHOCTAW

THURSDAY JANUARY 10
BEN LITTLE
PASTOR SALATEESKA BAPTIST CHURCH
ABSENTEE SHAWNEE

FRIDAY JANUARY 11
TOMMY MORRIS
EVANGELIST
SAC & FOX
MUSIC DIRECTOR
DELANA DEERE
MUSIC DIR CORNERSTONE INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
ABSENTEE SHAWNEE/PONCA

SUPPER SERVED - EVERYONE WELCOME - 7 PM NIGHTLY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MICHAEL DEER 405.885.9396 OR BY EMAIL AT buffaloclan95@gmail.com
JANUARY 9, 10, 11, 2013
Iowa Tribe Pow-wow Grounds (Chena Building), Perkins, OK

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9
Jay Mule
EVANGELIST
CHOCTAW

THURSDAY JANUARY 10
BEN LITTLE
PASTOR SALATEESKA BAPTIST CHURCH
ABSENTEE SHAWNEE

FRIDAY JANUARY 11
TOMMY MORRIS
EVANGELIST
SAC & FOX

MUSIC DIRECTOR
DELANA DEERE
MUSIC DIR CORNERSTONE INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
ABSENTEE SHAWNEE/ PONCA

SUPPER SERVED - EVERYONE WELCOME - 7 PM NIGHTLY
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MICHAEL DEER 405.885.9396 OR BY EMAIL AT buffaloclan95@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS PARADE
Employee Committee Float

HEAR MY VOICE
NATIVE AMERICAN CRUSADE
JANUARY 9, 10, 11, 2013
Iowa Tribe Pow-wow Grounds (Chena Building), Perkins, OK
Today, at the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Domestic Violence Department, I had the pleasure of meeting three talented ladies: Janet Jeske, Sherry Jeske and Mary Spencer. They donated 33 handmade baby quilts, made by their Quilting group. Each member takes time out of their schedules to make quilts for those in need. They have kind hearts, and are very talented women; who were a delight to speak with, and love what they do!

They call themselves “The Quilting Queens.” The group consists of six family members, and two friends. Five cousins: Sherry Jeske, Mary Spencer, Janet Jeske, Anna Jeske, Sharon Howard, their Aunt: Doris Lyon, and two friends: Ruth Suddock, and Connie Rawls. They started quilting, thinking it would be therapeutic. They have not stopped since meeting about 6 years ago; when one of the cousins said, “Let’s meet and finish out craft and sewing projects!” Their meetings last for two and a half to three hours, once every other week.

Completing just one blanket takes nearly three hours. The quilts are made year round, and donated to the needy. They Quilting Queens also make “Lap Quilts,” which they donate to local Nursing Homes; and baby blankets, which are donated for children. Each baby blanket is wrapped with a bow, and includes a stuffed animal. Everyone has their own special part, and a lot of love goes into making each and every blanket and quilt.

As mentioned before, 33 blankets were donated to Absentee Shawnee Tribe Domestic Violence. In addition to our facility, donations are also made to: local Nursing Homes, Youth and Family Services, Family Promise, Unzner Child Advocacy Center, Salvation Army, and VFW. This year alone, they have donated 170 lap quilts and baby blankets.

By: Sujata Sturm
AST Domestic Violence-Office Manager

**Absentee Shawnee Tribal Member Makes Starting Lineup For Haskell Indian Nations University**

Courtney LittleAxe

has proven she has what it takes to be a key component for HINU Basketball team. She is currently a sophomore playing the shooting guard position. She is a graduate of Tecumseh High School and a devoted AST member. Her parents, Ronnie and Melissa LittleAxe are proud of her accomplishments and look forward to her achievements. You can follow her games and stats at www.haskellathletics.com.

Joe Cooper Ford
Shawnee

Call Ken Edwards today for your Next auto purchase
(405) 410-6603
ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

From The Election Commission
The Primary Election for this year will be held on Saturday, March 16th, 2013. Please mark your calendars so as not to forget this important date. Those members that vote by Absentee ballot, please, fill out the request form and do not forget to give your CDIB # when completing the form. Return it to the Election Committee as soon as possible! The Deadline for Absentee Ballot Request is February 24th, 2013.

The following positions for election in 2013

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AST Tribal Certificates Awarded

Meredith Wahpekeche
Tina Ciulla
Augustine Johnson
Joann Walker
Mary Birdtail

All received their Certificates for Tribal Election Certification.
Hello from your AllNations Bank family. Everyone needs to be aware of how to “Defend” themselves against Identity theft. Always “Defend” against ID theft as soon as you suspect it:

- Place a “Fraud Alert” on your credit reports, and review the reports carefully. The alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures before they open new accounts in your name or make changes to your existing accounts. The three nationwide consumer reporting companies have toll-free numbers for placing an initial 90-day fraud alert; a call to one company is sufficient:
  - Experian: 1-888-397-3742
  - TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289
  - Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Placing a fraud alert entitles you to free copies of your credit reports. Look for inquiries from companies you haven’t contacted, accounts you didn’t open and debts on your accounts that you can’t explain.

- Contact the security or fraud departments of each company where an account was opened or charged without your okay.
- Follow up in writing, with copies of supporting documents.
- Use the ID theft Affidavit at ftc.gov/idtheft to support your written statement.
- Ask for verification that the disputed account has been dealt with and the fraudulent debts discharged.
- Keep copies of documents and records of your conversations about the theft.

- File a police report.

- File a report with law enforcement officials to help you correct your credit report and deal with creditors who may want proof of the crime. Report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission. Your report helps law enforcement officials across the country in their investigations.
  - Online: ftc.gov/idtheft
  - By Phone: 1-877-438-4338
  - By Mail: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC, 20580

Best regards,
You’re AllNations Bank Family - Gene, Eugene, Janice & Amber

---

**Absentee Shawnee Community Development Financial Institution**

Providing Capital  
Building Our Community  
Create Impact  
Stimulate Tribal Economy  
MAKING CENT$  

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe has an opportunity to apply and submit an application to U.S. Department of Treasury to request technical assistance (TA) funding as an emerging Native CDFI Funded program. CDFI funding will assist by providing access to capital, building Absentee Shawnee Tribal (AST) Community, creating an impact and stimulating our Tribal economy.

AST will be an emerging Native CDFI funded program providing:

- Credit Builder and Business Builder Loan Products
- Launch – Coaching & Training: Business & Financial Education for Tribal youth and Adults
- Seek additional Capital for Lending

Steering Committee Members: Kathy Deere, Treasurer, Eddie Brokeshoulder, Financial Consultant, Gene Davis, CEO AllNations Bank, Judy Shed, AST Housing Authority, Glenna Jones, Grant Writer, Rick Short, Tresha Spoon, Education Director.

If you have questions about the AST Community Development Financial Institution, please contact Eddie Brokeshoulder at 405-275-4030 x 148 or eddieb@astribe.com.
PLEASE fill out EACH BLANK completely and return by the Deadline.

**ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST**

I, ____________________________ (Print Name), hereby certify that I am or will be an Eligible Voter of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe on or before March 16, 2013. I cannot physically be present to cast my Vote at the **March 16, 2013 Primary Election**, therefore, I am requesting an Absentee Ballot be mailed to me at the following address.

Name (please print): ________________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________ (first) ___________________________ (middle) ___________________________ (maiden) ___________________________ (last)
City: ___________________________ St: ___________________________ Zip: ___________________________

CDIB#: ___________________________ Date of Birth: ___________________________

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

All **REQUESTS** must be returned to the Election Commission by the deadline of **February 24, 2013**

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. 150
Toll free number 1-800-256-3341 ext. 150

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.
For your convenience-This form may be duplicated

**ELECTION COMMISSION USE ONLY**

Received: ___________________________ Approved: ___________________________ Disapproved: ___________________________

If Disapproved (reason): ___________________________

Denial Letter Mailed: ___________________________ Ballot Mailed: ___________________________

Election Commission/Representative
Avoid a Winter ‘Brrr’eakdown

AAA releases holiday roadside assistance projections

AAA Oklahoma, Dec. 18, 2012 – As 800,500 Oklahomans take to the roads for the year-end holidays, AAA anticipates it will assist more than 8,600 stranded motorists across the state from Dec. 19 to Jan. 2. The auto club will be busy with lockouts, battery replacements, jump starts, changing tires, towing vehicles for repair and more.

“When the weather turns frightful, the least delightful activity is being stranded on the side of the road,” said Chuck Mai, spokesman for AAA Oklahoma. “Please take the time to make certain your vehicle is properly maintained and prepared for holiday driving to ensure it gets you and your loved ones to your destination safely and without incident.”

Nationwide, AAA expects to respond to calls for help from 1.2 million motorists over the final 13 days of 2012 and into the first two days of the new year.

Drivers can avoid most breakdowns by keeping their vehicles properly maintained. AAA advises motorists to follow their vehicle manufacturer’s recommended maintenance schedule and make sure their vehicle is ready for the rigors of year-end holiday driving.

Here are a few things to add to your list before heading out for your holiday drive:

- Antifreeze. Check antifreeze annually to ensure it will withstand the winter cold.
- Mobile Battery Service. AAA’s Mobile Battery Service comes to members for on-the-spot testing and installation.
- Belts and hoses. Replace drive belts that are cracked, glazed or frayed, as well as coolant hoses that are visibly worn, brittle, bulging or excessively soft. Check for leaks around hose clamps and at the radiator and water pump.
- Windshield wipers and washer fluid. Replace wiper blades if they do not clear the glass in a single swipe without streaking. Fill the windshield washer reservoir with winter detergent fluid to prevent freeze up.
- Tires. A tire loses about a pound of pressure for every 10-degree drop in temperature, so check the pressure frequently and maintain the recommended levels found on the driver’s door jamb. Motorists should never reduce tire pressure in an attempt to increase traction on snow and ice. This does not work, and when the roads dry out it can cause excessive tire wear and vehicle handling problems.
- Battery. Oklahoma’s summer heat puts auto batteries to the test, while our state’s winter temperatures can quickly sap the energy that’s left. Batteries don’t always give warning signs before they fail, so test its strength and ensure connections are tight and free of corrosion to avoid an unexpected failure.

AAA encourages motorists to update their emergency roadside kit for winter to include a mobile phone and other useful items:
- Battery booster cables, paper towels and emergency flares or reflectors.
- Small shovel, a sack of sand, cat litter or traction mats, windshield scraper and brush.
- Assorted office paper, grade shredded paper, and aluminum cans. As waste stream material; High density plastic; Low density plastic; Paper, food waste, and plastic; Toner, carbon paper, food waste, and plastic.
- Other Programs available:
  - Sanitation Facilities Assistance Program
  - Sanitation Facilities Assistance Program
  - Sanitation Facilities Assistance Program
  - Sanitation Facilities Assistance Program
  - Sanitation Facilities Assistance Program

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

The Office of Environmental Health and Engineering is accepting applications for a part-time Child Care Teacher at our Shawnee location.

Must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, have a clean driving record, have a valid driver’s license, pass OSBI/DHS background checks.

CDA or Early Childhood Degree preferred, experience a plus.

All applications accepted with preference given to qualified Native Americans.

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

CTSA Head Start is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
The TERO department helps Native Americans with job placement and employment referrals, and we strongly encourage any tribal member or Native American who may need employment to come to the Absentee Shawnee TERO department and apply. To become an applicant, the process is simple. First, you will need to come to the department to pick-up and fill out an application. We are located in building #1 on the second floor. Second, you will need to provide the TERO department your CDIB or a document to prove your tribal Affiliation (YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE TO BECOME AN APPLICANT), your social security card, and your Driver's License or state ID. Third, you will need to provide the department with any licenses, credentials, or any other certifications/degrees you have acquired.

In addition to keeping your application on file, we also provide some other services. Some of the services we provide to our applicants are job search, referrals, resume assistance, and interview tips. The TERO department also posts all tribal positions, some local positions, and some positions for the Oklahoma City, Norman, and Moore areas outside of our offices for your convenience on bulletin boards and in binders. Currently, we have close to 100 job openings posted outside of our offices for local positions, and around 132 job openings posted for the Oklahoma City, Norman, and Moore areas some of which are listed below. However, keep in mind, these job postings are constantly changing and being updated weekly as positions are filled. So, a job that may be listed below may already have been filled. However, still stop by and fill out an application, if you haven’t already done so, and look at the current job openings. If you have any further questions about the TERO program or just have a request, you can contact our office anytime Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm, and we will be happy to assist you.

The following is a list of job openings for some off-campus positions posted at the TERO department:
- Compliance Agent
- HVAC Staff
- Cashier
- Bus Person
- Host/Hostess
- Front Office Manager
- Inventory Auditor
- Front Desk Associate
- Executive Assistant
- Construction Equipment Operator II
- Manual Machinist
- Physical Therapist
- Bookkeeper
- Bank Teller
- T.E.R.O. Department January Newsletter

The Tribal Employment Rights Office also known as TERO is a department that protects tribal employees' rights and supports tribal career development. This past month has been very active for the TERO department. We have added 8 new employment applicants to our database bring the total number of applicants to 517. Of those 8 applicants, 5 are Absentee Shawnee Tribal members. In addition to this activity, we have also helped 22 applicants who have walked in, called/received 396 phone calls, and referred 18 applications to various departments within the tribe.

In addition to the above activity, the TERO department has also attended a meeting and a conference over the past month. On December 7, a TERO Certification meeting was held between the TERO department and Thomas Plumbing. Then later in December, from December 12 to December 14, the TERO Department attended the 2012 Comprehensive Tribal Employment Law & Legal Updates Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. This Legal Update was visited by Chair Jacqueline Berrien of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The EEOC shared that on September 18th, 2012 the EEOC approved a model to help Indian Tribes fight against job discrimination in Washington. The EEOC further explained that TERO offices will receive training paid by the EEOC in the efforts of resolving any job discrimination. For complete details, you can read the press release at http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/release/9-18-12.cfm.

Within the next month of January, TERO is taking applications for the future construction project of the new Building Blocks Daycare that will be located in Little Axe. Please contact our TERO offices to update your application or to put in an application if you are interested. Also, there will be an opportunity to sign up for the 10 hour Occupational Safety Health Administration training held at Francis Tuttle Technology Center, and it will be paid for by TERO. This certification does not expire and will benefit your employment opportunity as safety is a concern.

The TERO department has added 8 new employment applicants to our database bring the total number of applicants to 517. Of those 8 applicants, 5 are Absentee Shawnee Tribal members. Also, there will be an opportunity to update your application or to put in an application if you are interested. Also, there will be an opportunity to sign up for the 10 hour Occupational Safety Health Administration training held at Francis Tuttle Technology Center, and it will be paid for by TERO. This certification does not expire and will benefit your employment opportunity as safety is a concern.

On December 1, 2012 the White Turkey Band sponsored the Horse Shoe Bend After School Program Christmas Party. Each student received a sack of treats, and a $20.00 dollar Wal-Mart Gift Card. The White Turkey Band Committee and members provided lunch after a short program the students had prepared. The Fourth Grade Boys played their Flutes and sang their song. Ruben Wilson, Eryn Johnson, and Wayne Skinner, Desire Johnson read a poem, and Katie Wilson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

December 18, the White Turkey Band Members were treated with a meal at Toby Keith Restaurant in Oklahoma City. Thank all the members for their hard work throughout the year on all the fund raisers that is done to help out with the after school program. The Horse Shoe Bend After School Program appreciates all you have done since the program has been implemented.

The Weather Siren at the Horse Shoe Bend Community Building is in place now and waiting on being hooked up to the City of Shawnee Weather System.

The Monthly Meeting of the White Turkey Band was held at 9:00 am on the same day of the Horse Shoe Bend After School Program Christmas Party December 1, 2012. Next Meeting will be January 5, 2013, at 10:00 am; we will be discussing our next activity at the Horse Shoe Bend Community Building.

If you have any questions please call, 405 481-0397

Edwina Butler-Wolfe, President
V-Presdent, Vacant
Twila Parker, Secretary
Gwen Switch, Treasurer

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The White Turkey Band

Bingo was held on November 17, at 6:30 pm at the Horse Shoe Bend Community Building there was a crowd of bingo players. A cake walk and a silent auction of cakes, also a raffle of a turkey was held for that night sponsored by the White Turkey Officers, Gwen Switch, Twila Parker and myself Edwina Butler-Wolfe. Like to thank June Buckner, Kathy Switch for calling the numbers out for the Bingo Games and Kay Wallace and Janet Jeske working the concession stand, Stuart Rolette, and Randall Watson for running the floor selling the cards and bingo callers. Everyone that attended the Bingo won a prize as raffle tickets was handed out to each player and we pulled tickets out until all were pulled. Everyone seemed to have had a good time. Funds made for the Horse Shoe Bend After School Program activities.

I would like to thank the following people for their donations of prizes and cakes for the Bingo Activity: Elaine Brown, Clara Kaskaske, Janet Jeske, David and Stella Little, Kay Wallace, Gwen Switch, Kathy Switch, June Buckner, Twila Parker, Ramona McCoy.

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White Turkey Band Member
Melpherd Switch
Happy Birthday Uncle Clay and Cousin Zayden
Love,
Josh and Jacob

Clay Foreman
Zayden Foreman
Mary Foreman
Elijah Foreman
Pat Johnson
Makiah Tilley
Talon Tahah

We love you all!
Marvin & Sherry

Happy Birthday to My Two Beautiful Daughters!
Arla Shawnee December 9th
And
Carrah Shawnee December 15th
Love Always,
Mom

And My Beautiful Granddaughter
Aaliyah Shawnee

We love you daddy! Love Livie & Zayden

We love you all!
Marvin & Sherry

Happy Birthday Meeting
For
Shelby Lynn White Thunder

The family will be hosting a Peyote Meeting for Shelby’s 21st birthday at Grandma Marie Gibson’s home in Little Axe, Oklahoma.

February 2, 2013

Contact Info:
Shelby White Thunder
405-432-7845
Sandra Blanchard-White Thunder:
405-432-7840
Sheldon White Thunder
405-408-1786

Courtney!!
(our sugar bear)

From,
Dad, Melissa, Rylee, Cody,
Darrin, Mikah and Jayedell.
We are very proud of you
and the path you are on.
We love you and hope you
have a great day.
GO HASKELL!

Happy Birthday Son!
Jarett Giessler
Have A Wonderful Day!
Love You Bunches,
Mom & Dad

Happy Birthday To My Two Beautiful Daughters!
Arla Shawnee December 9th
And
Carrah Shawnee December 15th
Love Always,
Mom

And My Beautiful Granddaughter
Aaliyah Shawnee

We love you all!
Marvin & Sherry

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Have A Wonderful Day!
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Love Always,
Mom

And My Beautiful Granddaughter
Aaliyah Shawnee

WE LOVE YOU BUNCHES!!

Love,
Mom and Dad, Livie
Grandma and Grandpa
And Family

Happy Birthday To My Two Beautiful Daughters!
Arla Shawnee December 9th
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Love Always,
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And My Beautiful Granddaughter
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WE LOVE YOU BUNCHES!!

Love,
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Grandma and Grandpa
And Family

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Love,
Mom and Dad, Livie
Grandma and Grandpa
And Family

Happy Birthday Son!
Jarett Giessler
Have A Wonderful Day!
Love You Bunches,
Mom & Dad

Happy Birthday to You!

WE LOVE YOU AND WISH YOU A HAPPY AND SAFE BIRTHDAY!!
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
LOVE MOM, DAD, CHUBS AND SKY

Happy Birthday
Jarett!!

WE WISH YOU GOOD LUCK IN ALL YOUR SPORTS THIS YEAR. STAY HEALTHY!
LOVE YOU!
Aunt Rhonda and Family

Happy Birthday
Jarett!!

WE WISH YOU GOOD LUCK IN ALL YOUR SPORTS THIS YEAR. STAY HEALTHY!
LOVE YOU!
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Sandra Blanchard-White Thunder:
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Sheldon White Thunder
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FOR
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THUNDER

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**Little Axe Schools** now have their own smart phone app available in the Apple App Store or the Android Market. Just search for the free app called “schConnect” and download it to your phone. To set it up, simply select the State (Oklahoma) and the District (Little Axe Schools). You can then select which sites you wish to receive notifications from, such as District, Elementary School, Middle School, or High School. This application is now the primary source of notification for school closures due to weather or incidents. And coming soon, each instructor will have the ability to send notifications about assignment due dates, upcoming tests, or club events to parents and students who have selected to receive notifications from specific teachers or clubs! Please download and make use of this great tool!
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<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td>Pork Chop</td>
<td>Tamales</td>
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<td>Tossed Salad*</td>
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<td>Jell-O</td>
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<td>BBQ Chicken</td>
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<td>Pineapples</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Monday–Thursday, Lunch served 11am to 1pm  
Friday BREAKFAST served 9am to 1pm  
Salad Bar is served at the congregate sites only.

During the winter months, if the Shawnee /Little Axe School Systems are closed due to the weather, WE WILL ALSO BE CLOSED.

From the Title VI Staff

January 1, The AST Complex will be closed for New Year’s Day.  
January 21, The AST Complex will be closed for Martin Luther King Jr Day  
No meals will be served or delivered on these days.

During the winter months, if the Shawnee /Little Axe School Systems are closed due to the weather we will also be closed. Please be careful if you will be outside.

If you have any questions or concerns you can contact us at 405-275-4030 ext 169, 149 or 180.

The Title VI Staff has been blessed during the year of 2012 with serving our elders and knowing you have had a good meal during the week. We give a special Thank You to Mary our Volunteer, sweet, quiet & loves to help and to the workers who bring her.
# What is This About?

The Cobell v. Salazar Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

# Am I Included?

The Trust Administration Class includes:
- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
  - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
  - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government’s records as of September 30, 2009.

# Do I Need to File a Claim Form?

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:
- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

You must fill out a claim form and mail it to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 430174877, postmarked by March 1, 2013 in order to receive a payment.

# How Much Money Can I Get?

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least $800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

For a claim form or to update your contact information: Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109 or Visit: www.IndianTrust.com

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## FY-2012 YTD TAX COLLECTIONS (thru 11/30/12)

<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>YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL</th>
<th>% OF TAXES COLLECTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales (6%)</td>
<td>$1,303.68</td>
<td>$5,764.96</td>
<td>$9,556.88</td>
<td>$20,267.74</td>
<td>$251.60</td>
<td>$12,976.77</td>
<td>$9,892.03</td>
<td>$5,332.45</td>
<td>$2,490.53</td>
<td>$7,403.05</td>
<td>$7,677.80</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$82,917.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaming % of free cash</td>
<td>$109,331.00</td>
<td>$105,500.00</td>
<td>$84,000.00</td>
<td>$252,000.00</td>
<td>$42,000.00</td>
<td>$344,000.00</td>
<td>$286,000.00</td>
<td>$305,920.00</td>
<td>$103,039.00</td>
<td>$120,000.00</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$2,014,199.00</td>
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<td>Employee (1%)</td>
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<td>$6,921.68</td>
<td>$19,027.03</td>
<td>$13,411.67</td>
<td>$23,358.23</td>
<td>$14,230.92</td>
<td>$6,059.30</td>
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<td>$768.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severance (8%)</td>
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<td>$10,116.92</td>
<td>$16,892.79</td>
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<td>$62,362.17</td>
<td>$9,978.83</td>
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<td>$11,022.19</td>
<td>$11,022.19</td>
<td>$11,022.19</td>
<td>$11,022.19</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$116,769.64</td>
<td>4.35%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL TAXES** $134,760.53 $163,510.87 $152,287.50 $317,576.02 $104,600.03 $410,376.01 $9,892.03 $5,332.45 $2,490.53 $7,403.05 $7,677.80 $0.00 $82,917.49 3.09%

**TOTAL COLLECTIONS** $136,050.53 $163,840.87 $152,447.50 $317,626.50 $104,800.03 $410,497.65 $340,734.01 $427,976.05 $138,595.64 $176,810.86 $313,424.32 $0.00 $2,682,683.49 100%

**NOTE:**
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 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)275-4030.
The AST Cultural Preservation Department Would Like To Pass Along The Following Information Concerning Updates To Our Programs...

Gift Shop
The Gift Shop continues to bring in new product styles. By the time of this printing, we hope to finally have in our order from our newest vendor, Pendleton. This past week, our shipment from Saddle Blanket Co. arrived and we processed it immediately to put out for display. If you have not been in the store recently, please stop by and I’m sure you’ll be pleasantly surprised at the available stock. As this is the time of year for Holiday shopping, we are trying to provide the items our customers want and need. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call Esther at Ext. 152, or by email at elowden@astribe.com

Library
The Library is excited to announce that we are open for Circulation daily from 10 AM to 5 PM and on Saturday, from 9 AM to 12 PM. We have a wide variety of resources available for checkout, and many magazines, newspapers and journals available for perusal. We look forward to serving your informational needs! For more information or a membership application, please call Josh at Ext. 122, or by email at jshawnee@astribe.com

Cultural Preservation
On November 19th, the Cultural Preservation Department hosted students from the North Rock Creek Indian Ed program. Along with their sponsor, Patricia Brown, these youngsters were allowed an opportunity into the daily life of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. During the tour, they received simple instruction about the services we provide to Tribal members. We want to commend each of the employees that opened their doors to discuss their programs and express our appreciation to the Executive Committee members for allowing this event to happen. For information about cultural activities, please call Joseph at Ext. 203, or by email at joseph.blanchard@astribe.com

As a final note, the AST Cultural Preservation Department and its staff would like to wish everyone a very, Merry Christmas and a prosperous, Happy New Year!

Neyiwa!

Joseph H. Blanchard
Cultural Preservation Department Director/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

Hours of Operation:
Little Axe: 7am-5:30pm Monday-Friday
Shawnee: 7am-6pm Monday-Friday
We are open through the lunch hour!!

**BOTH PHARMACY DEPARTMENTS ARE CLOSED WITH THE CLINICS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON OF EVERY MONTH TO COMPLETE ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES**
The Elders held their annual Christmas dinner at the Thunderbird Casino (Warrior Room).

With 18 Tribal & non Tribal members in attendance, enjoying the Christmas dinner provided by LaDonna’s Grill from Meeker.

Entertainment was provided by “The Four Hymns” from OKC. They sang Christmas & Gospel songs to the enjoyment of everyone.

ELDERS COMMITTEE AWARDS GIVEN
Non Tribal Volunteer-Stella Little
Tribal Volunteer-Mary Birdtail
All Around Volunteer-Barbara Wilkerson
T.V. Raffle Sales-Don Schulenberg
Raffle Ticket Sales-Wanda Tiger

Velma Hutchison accepting the award given to (Barbara Wilkerson) as our own ‘Bear Lady’

Elders Committee contemplating a “Great” Christmas Party!
Betty Watson - Dan Little Axe - Mary Birdtail

Officers with Volunteers
1 to r: Dan Little Axe, Betty Watson, Jan Alford, Rich Birdtail, Lloyd Deere, Don Schulenberg, Stella Little, Marty Ellis, Georgia Little Axe, Helen Wilson, Lee Roller, Charles Tiger

“Our Bear Lady”
Since the Horse Shoe Bend After School Program opened up in June of 2011, we have had 52 students to enroll in grades K thru 8th. Three out of 52 had graduated out of 8th grade, and are doing great in High School. We currently have 29 students that use the center on a daily base, and 20 students on file to come into the center as needed. As the second semester is approaching I have received inquiries about students wanting to enroll. We had students from Oklahoma Baptist University that tutored the after school students first semester and they will be returning the second semester to tutor. We will just have one tutor that will not be returning due to a fulltime employment elsewhere. Captain Smith will be returning also second semester. Randall Watson, Stuart Rolette, and Elaine Brown will be returning as well.

I am very fortunate to have such a good staff that cares and has interest in our young student future. Captain Smith and I are planning to have a basketball clinic in the month of May as soon as the details are set we will be posting the location, date, and time of this event.

December 3, 2012

I attended the North Rock Creek Awards Assembly there were five students from the Horse Shoe Bend After School Program that received awards:

**DANIEL CASTANEDA**
Daniel received the Citizenship Certificate Award in his Kindergarten Class. Daniel has made huge progress in his social and learning skills he is also a very likely person. He demonstrates being a good student he listens, and follow rules at the Center. Daniel is tutored by Lauren Wood, of Oklahoma Baptist University. He is the son of Victor and Jennifer Castaneda, and is member of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

**KALEB MASQUAS**
Kaleb was selected to receive the Citizenship Certificate Award in his Kindergarten Class. Kaleb has showed a lot of being a responsible student, and willing to help with other students. He works hard in all areas of school and is very pleasant to work with. Kaleb is tutored by Lauren Wood, of Oklahoma Baptist University. He is the son of Phillip Masquas, and is a member of the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma.

**JIMMY RUMSEY**
Jimmy received the Certificate of Scholarship in his Third Grade Class. Jimmy excels in all of his subjects in school. His best subject is Math, when finishing his homework at Horse Shoe Bend After School he is always ready to do more math papers that we supply at the Center. He is the son of William and Regina McAfee.

**JAMES STEPHENS**
James received the Certificate of Achievement in his Third Grade Class. James displays his ability to achieve in all his subjects in school. He is the son of Crystal Stephens and is a member of the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma.

**WAYNE SKINNER**
Wayne received a Citizenship Certificate Award in his Fourth Grade Class. He is always ready and willing to help in anything at the Center he is also progressing in his school work and is determined to do his best. He is the son of William and Regina McAfee.

Our students at the Center are all very active in other activities such as basketball at the YMCA, Soccer, Football, Karate, Dancing, Softball, etc.

We have one student, Brendan Winter who is in a Karate Class in Shawnee, and is advancing in his class. Brendan is in the Kindergarten Class at North Rock Creek School. This is his second year at the Horshoe Bend After School Program. He is the son of Warren and Tammy Winter and he is a member of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

It is great to see Brendan, Daniel, Kaleb starting their achievements in school and excel in extra activities they participate in.

On December 10, 2012 I arranged to take the tutors out to eat at Santa Fe Restaurant in Shawnee, we had a very pleasant evening as the tutors received a $25.00 Wal-Mart Gift Card. I am very blessed to have such a hard working group of Tutors. I would like to thank Rick Short for his attendance on this special evening.

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

Edwina Butler-Wolfe  
Horse Shoe Bend After School  
(Horse Shoe Bend After School Tutors: sitting: Caitlyn Wells, Johanna Kleinasser, Lauren Wood standing L-R Captain Smith, Stuart Rolette, Elaine Brown, Gabriella Perez, Randall Watson)
Come and visit with us about:

- Lease with Option to Purchase
- Rental
- Rental for Over Income
- Budget Counseling

After School Program

Come join us at the AST Resource Center!!!

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

And Much More!

OPEN TO ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

Duration: Starts September 4th 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

Tribal Youth Council

Location: AST Complex Building 1

Date/Time: Next Meeting will be Jan. 26th at 10:00am. Meetings vary in length, but usually last at least an hour.

Participants/Ages: 6th grade to 12th grade. The Youth Council is open to all students in this grade range.

Transportation: Parents will be responsible for bringing and picking up their child.

What is it? The Youth Council is a way for students from the surrounding AST communities to work together and bring to light things they need help with in their school. It is also a way for students to work and learn how they can create a difference for the tribe and their own community. We explore different prevention topics, volunteer in the community, and also explore further educational options.

For further questions please contact Tresha Spoon at 275-4030 ext. 121, or Blake Goodman at 564-7060.
AST Youth Fitness

The Absentee Shawnee Fitness Program has been working with the AST Tribal Youth Program in promoting physical activity to help prevent diabetes among tribal youth. AST Tribal Youth Program participants have really enjoyed the games that the Fitness program has provided. The goal of the Absentee Shawnee Fitness Program is to provide an outlet for exercise and physical activity through fun games and activities. The youth are learning about healthy ways to prevent diabetes through healthy physical activity. The Absentee Shawnee Fitness Program would like to thank the AST Tribal Youth Program for allowing the Fitness staff to educate and provide activities for the youth to prevent diabetes.

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

As we all know it is a busy and competitive world out there, many people find it hard to find time for physical activities. We all know we need to exercise to be able to maintain good health. Aerobic Dance, Cardio Kickboxing, and Circuit Training at the Resource Center aim to replace traditional indoor exercise equipment with a full body workout that is less time consuming and fun! Aerobic Dance, Cardio Kickboxing, and Circuit Training are effective total body workouts that last just 45 minutes. These classes offer many benefits:

- Weight Reduction
- Better Coordination
- Stress Reduction
- Better Balance
- Time Saving
- Improved Cardiovascular Improvements
- Improved Flexibility
- Improved Core Strength
- Improved Muscle Tone

The best thing about the AST Fitness Program classes is that they are time efficient. Classes begin early in the morning for those who choose to exercise before work. Circuit training classes in the evening help to provide an opportunity to exercise after a work day. These classes strive to help you become more alert, focused, stronger, flexible, confident, and happy throughout and at the end of your day. Come on out the Resource Center and take advantage of these fun and active classes!

Feel free to visit with our AST Fitness Program staff!

For more information call us at (405)364-7298.
**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.
Recipe

Chili
Serves 6

Ingredients:
1 pound lean ground turkey or beef
1 tsp canola oil
2 medium carrots, sliced thin rounds
1 medium onion, chopped
2 cloves of garlic, minced
1 medium green bell pepper, chopped
1 jalapeno, remove seeds and chop (careful not to touch the seeds with bare hands)
2 Tbl chili powder
1 Tbl paprika
1 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
1 tsp ground cumin
1 can of tomatoes with green chilies
1 C tomato sauce
1 C low sodium fat free chicken broth
1 1/2 Tbl apple cider vinegar
1 15 oz can kidney beans, drained and rinsed
1 15 oz can chili beans

Directions:
1. Place oil in large pot. Sautee onion and bell pepper until soft about 5 minutes. Add garlic and carrots and cook a few minutes longer.
2. Brown meat in separate pan, place in colander and rinse off with warm water; then place in large pot with vegetables.
3. Add chili powder, paprika, red pepper flakes, cumin, pepper, tomatoes, tomato sauce, broth, vinegar, beans, bell pepper and jalapenos. Bring this to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer for about 1 hour. Stir occasionally.

TIP: May season as you like, but do watch out for adding extra sodium or salt. As you can see it has quite a bit already and this is with out adding any extra.

Nutritional Information
-For about 1 cup serving
Calories 244
Fat 7.3 g
Carbohydrates 25 g
Fiber 8.2 g
Sodium 808 mg
Protein 20 g
FRANKIE L. “BELLE” WATSON

Frankie L. “Belle” Watson, 75, of Earlsboro passed away Thursday, Nov. 29th, 2012, at her home. She was born April 13th, 1937, at home in West Pottawatomie County to Frank and Cornelia (Mack) Kaseca. She married Daniel Watson on Aug. 23rd, 1955, in Shawnee, OK, and preceded her in death July 19th, 2006. Also preceded in death by her parents, Husband, son Timothy Watson, grandson, Chad Watson and Brother Henry Kaseca.

Frankie, is survived by six sons and three daughters in laws, Greg and Martha Watson, of Shawnee and Patrick and Jamie Watson, of Mcloud, three sisters Zelda Foreman, of Shawnee, Elnora and Michael Deer, of Shawnee and Vernice Longhorn, of Tecumseh, two brothers and sister in law, Frank Kaseca Jr. of Tulsa, and Roy and Rhonda Kaseca, of Shawnee; 13 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; and numerous extended family and friends.

The Family would like to thank everyone who brought food & supplies, A special thanks to the Earlsboro Indian Church for hosting a dinner and letting us set up with our loved one. Belle was very blessed to have such a loving family & friends that gave us all prayer, strength, courage and peace in our hearts. Thank you all for loving Belle and giving us support.
The Watsons, Foremans, and Kasecas

WILLARD LEE BRADLEY

Mr. William L. Bradley, age 70 passed away Friday Nov. 9th in Quality Care Hospice after concluding his battle with Esophageal Cancer.

Mr. Bradley, was a member of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, He was born to Reece & Leona Bradley, in Newalla OK. Willie attended School at Mcloud & graduated from Southeast High school. He owned and operated Willards Auto Detail, Also moved to Tulsa where worked at Ford of Owassaa number of years until his retirement, and moving to Mcloud to be closer to family.

Mr. Willard L. Bradley was preceded in death by his parents Brother Carl &Betty Bradley.

He is survived by sisters Darla Williams and family of Del City & Ltida Ney & Husband Amos of OKC and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins, Also Aunt Rosalee Boade of Mcloud.

Services were held Nov. 12th, 2012 at Harrahs Pilgrims Cemetery Pavillion with Rev. Geary Sorrells Officiating.
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:**

If you are considering taking courses for the spring 2012 semester, please contact the Education Department 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.

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**AST Education Department; Big Jim Youth Award applications**

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

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

High school **Seniors** of both genders within the 50 United States are eligible to apply for these awards for the 2012/2013 school year. Applications will be accepted from January 1 to March 1, 2013 by US mail or email, official transcripts must be mailed. The official application form will be available at www.astribe.com under the Education Department. The $1000.00 award is in the form of a scholarship to the college or university where the award recipient will attend for the fall 2013 semester.

Individuals are encouraged to nominate deserving high school Seniors. You may nominate yourself. Please refer to the application for required documents. Eligible nominations will be judged by a panel of (non-AST) experts assembled specifically for this purpose. The intent is to bring together an unbiased group of experts to evaluate the applicants in an impartial and unbiased environment. Their decisions are final with respect to all matters concerning these awards. **Awards will be announced in May 2013.**

Award recipients will be recognized as the 2012/2013 Big Jim Academic Achievement Award winner or the Big Jim Athlete of the Year. In addition to this recognition the award recipients will receive a **$1000.00** scholarship to be used towards their education and the advancement of their career.

Questions on these awards program should be addressed to:

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