FROM THE ELECTION COMMISSION

THE PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2014

The Voting Polls will be located at the Little Axe Resources Center located on Peebly Rd. and in the Police Department building on the Tribal Complex in Shawnee, OK.

The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at both locations.

Sample ballot:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</th>
<th>ELECTION COMMISSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LT. GOVERNOR</td>
<td>ELECTION COMMISSION</td>
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</table>
| John Al Little Axe  | Retha A. Wilson-Pearman
| Isaac Gibson, Jr.   | Briana Ponkilla      |
| Isaac Bettelyoun    |                      |
| Diane Ponkilla      |                      |
| Wynona Coon         |                      |
| Betty Watson         |                      |
| Kathy Deere          |                      |
| TREASURER            | COMMISSION MEMBER #2 |
| Ewell Longhorn       | Alicia “Aly” Edwards Miller
| Sharon Ponkilla      | Mary Birdtail        |
| Leah Bates           |                      |
| REPRESENTATIVE       |                      |
| Jeff Gibson          |                      |
| Sherman Tiger        |                      |
| Dewayne Wilson       |                      |
| Kenneth Blanchard    |                      |
Hello my Absentee Shawnee people!

The weather continues to change as does the political atmosphere here on the campus. This month we were forced to close the campus several days due to the bad weather conditions. This was and is a costly event when the Tribe closes even for a day as it impacts services and revenue generating. As for the political climate within the tribe – well, that is ever changing just like our Oklahoma weather. It takes a team effort to make positive changes and strategically approach short and long term issues and right now our elected body isn’t acting as a team. I have and will continue to make concentrated efforts to work with my fellow officials to the best of my ability but they too must make that effort. In public forums and in our Regular Executive Meetings when these officials deem it a good day to make an appearance they state ‘we need to work together’. But enough about internal tribal politics and the weather which are two of the most common themes talked about in Oklahoma and with our Tribal people. Only your prayers and your steadfast support can and will make a difference.

Let me explore another issue with you that you may have seen in the news recently. The City of Shawnee sent a letter to me and the three other Tribal leaders in the Shawnee service (Sac and Fox; Kickapoo and Citizen Potawatomi) area to instruct us that we need to pay a 3% tax on any non-tribal person who shops in our tribal properties. Our Tribe currently doesn’t have any businesses in the City of Shawnee that would potentially be impacted by this act. However, this is a major concern to us as a sovereign nation as it is an effort to exert local government authority over us. I work with many of the businesses in the downtown Shawnee area and serve on the Safe Events for Family Committee and discussions I have had with these individual business owners has led me to believe this is the Mayor and City Commissioners at work as they passed the action during one of their meetings. If you have communication with them I suggest you ask the following. Can you educate me on why you would want to support non-Indian, non-member (meaning other Tribal) people being taxed as these are your constituents (voters)? We, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, are a major employer as are the other three tribes in this area. In the Shawnee and Tecumseh area we employee over 433 people. Of these we have approximately 150 from our Tribal programs. In the Shawnee and Tecumseh Center of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. These discussions will be held with City of Shawnee officials about the 3% sales tax on March 24, 2014, 10:00 a.m., at the Cultural Heritage Center.

Meetings when these officials deem it a good day to make an appearance they state ‘we need to work together’. But enough about internal tribal politics and the weather which are two of the most common themes talked about in Oklahoma and with our Tribal people. Only your prayers and your steadfast support can and will make a difference.

The records we have seen shows no such decline in the City’s taxes and we along with the other tribes in the area are now in the process of seeking further clarification. It would seem we need to work on leveraging our position in the City County and State government by seeking to place in these elected positions those who understand and can aptly represent our Indian issues. There are over 640 eligible AST voters in the City of Shawnee. Your vote can make a difference – at the Tribe in the City, the County, State and in national elections.

We need to become pro-active to ensure our concerns are heard and our issues represented. Discussions will take place with City of Shawnee officials about the 3% sales tax on March 24, 2014, 10:00 a.m., at the Cultural Heritage Center of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. These discussions will be held with Tribal leaders and key staff from the Absentee Shawnee. Kickapoo Tribe. Sac and Fox Nation and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

On another note this month I met with Rear Admiral (RADM) Kevin Meeks, the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service Director, and it was an informative and productive meeting. We spoke of our concerns for the continuation of the funding for the Methamphetamine Suicide Prevention Initiative that is set to end in August and who and how those funds were being given and distributed. We spoke of our concerns for the continuation of the funding for the Methamphetamine Suicide Prevention Initiative that is set to end in August and who and how those funds were being given and distributed.
ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE OFFICER

TRIBAL POLICE

SORNA
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT
EMAIL: SORNA@ASTRIBE.COM
TIPLINE 405-273-1249
Dear Tribal Members,

I hope you had a good Valentine's Day and President's Day. AST Voting Day was Saturday, March 15, 2014. Please take time to vote for the best candidate for the positions of Lt. Governor, Treasurer, and Representative on the Executive Committee. This is your time as tribal members to exercise your right to support and elect the best candidate for these positions.

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

**ASTHIA and LSWN Health Board Meeting** The two health boards concurrently meet every third Tuesday of the month. They have newly appointed ASTHIA board members: Melpherd Switch, Sandra Vaughn, Lancer Stevens, Lisa Johnson-Billy, and Dr. Surya Pierce. Mr. Mark Rogers, Health Programs Director, gave his monthly report updates on Affordable Care Act, Veteran’s MOA Customer Service Line, patient portal, AST Health programs website (http://www.asthealth.org) to educate tribal and community members on health insurance options. Reports on financials, business office-third party collections, credentialing and privileges, contracts, and other reports.

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

**Elders Council Monthly meetings** are held every third Saturday either at AST Resource Center, Thunderbird Casino, 10 am. If you are 55 years and older please come join us for fellowship food, and fun times together. Amendments to Bylaws were presented to the Elders Council for vote on February 15, 2014 and passed. Fund raisers outings, and cultural activities are planned monthly. Activities and Events the Elders have hosted are: Veterans’ Pow Wow in November, Inaugural Ball attended various cultural events in Canada, Iowa, New Mexico, South Dakota, etc., in and around the state of Oklahoma. The NEW officers are Dan Little Axe, President, Wynnona Coon, Vice-President, Mary Birdtail, Secretary, and Emily Longman, Treasurer. Next meeting is March 15, 2014. If you would like more information about theAbsentee Shawnee Elders Council, please call Mary Birdtail, 405-887-7851.

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

**Internal Revenue Service, AST VITA** is a service for free tax preparation for tribal members. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit components, targeted toward low-income families with children (Adjusted Gross Income Limit $52,000) and tax counseling for elders. This is our first year and we hope to be successful and continue to have this service for our tribal members and eventually be community wide. Appointments started February 12–April 12, 2014. (Wed, Thurs, and Sat) 3–7pm and 9–11 pm. Our first week, we had 12 appointments, with 3 no shows. Total savings amount to $2,430 for AST tax payers and year to date refunds, $2,440. We have a total of 12 volunteers including tax preparers, quality reviewers, and greeters/scanners. Appointments only please call 405-275-4030 x 241 to set up an appointment and forms will need to be filled so you will be asked to come at least 20-30 minutes early. If you have questions, please call Eddie Brokeshoulder, 405-275-4030 x 148, or email eddieb@astribe.com

**CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution) Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA)** Board directors will be meeting in the near future to begin implementing bylaws, incorporation, 501(c) and our two products: credit building, and small business loans. We are need tribal members to serve on the AST CDFI Board of Directors. Near future we will be advertising for an executive director of AST CDFI. If any tribal member is interested in being on steering committee, board of directors, or loan committee, please contact Eddie Brokeshoulder, 275-4030, Ext. 148 or email eddieb@astribe.com

**Constitutional Revision Committee** At our February 5 meeting we discussed the need to have a constitutional amendment for the tribe, which will be the topic of the upcoming AST General Council meeting. It is important that we all become familiar with the proposed amendments and vote. It is our responsibility to keep American Indian tribes in the forefront of legal decision-making. As the third-grade reading law takes effect this school year, I have been contacted by a number of parents and teachers worried about the possibility that their child or pupil might be retained. The question often posed to me is: How can we consider holding back a child from moving on to the next grade? The question I pose to them is: How can we consider promoting a child who can’t read?

We do no favors for students who are passed on to the next grade without their having this most fundamental skill. Reading isn’t just a subject; it is a skill that is the foundation of all learning. Although the third grade reading law requires teachers to hold back children who are not reading at the third grade level, there are other exemptions available, such as disabilities and English language learners. Education experts have noted that being unable to read at an appropriate grade level can lead to an array of other problems. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 88 percent of 19-year-olds who dropped out of high school were unable to read proficiently by third grade. Seventy percent of U.S. prison inmates cannot read above a fourth-grade level.

But research has shown that with enough time on task and the right intervention, 95 percent of children can learn to read on grade level. We owe our students this chance to succeed.

It is important that I clearly communicate two important points. First, this is not one test on one day to determine if a child is promoted. Second, retention is a last resort.

I can’t stress enough that retention, as a requirement of the state law, is absolutely a last resort. Retained students would be limited to only those students who score Unsatisfactory in the reading assessment of the third grade Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test (OCCT) and who don’t qualify for one of the states six good-cause exemptions. If a child demonstrates what typically would be deemed a second-grade reading level or higher on this assessment, the child will be promoted.

A student who scores Unsatisfactory on the state assessment, however, will still have the opportunity to take alternate tests; a teacher can still show a portfolio of the child’s work to demonstrate grade-level performance. There are other good-cause exemptions as well, for English Language Learners, children on Individualized Education Plans who have been previously retained and others.

Some schools are considering transitional grades for retained students. There is nothing to stop a school from offering a transitional grade earlier than third grade.

In addition, no one, including the parent, should be surprised if a child scores Unsatisfactory. Under the law, schools are required to use benchmark assessments at the beginning of each year for students from kindergarten through third grade to identify children at risk of retention for reading.

Schools must implement individualized reading plans for these children, and
parents must be notified in writing about the intensive intervention.

To help ensure success for the Reading Sufficiency Act, the Oklahoma State Department of Education is requesting an additional $16 million in funding for the law.

We are pleased to announce that we will be offering a summer undergraduate internship opportunity in 2014 for students of underrepresented minorities interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields (for example, agricultural science, economics, environmental engineering). Interns will be involved in hands-on activities related to climate research that will allow them to see the direct impacts of climate variability and change on forest ecosystems in Oklahoma, coastal areas in Louisiana, and the Texas Hill Country. Internship participants will travel across the South Central United States to visit university campuses and field locations and interact with faculty conducting cutting edge research.

The internship will take place from Sunday, July 20, 2014 to Saturday, August 9, 2014. Interns will spend one week with the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University, one week with Louisiana State University, and one week with Texas Tech University. All meals, lodging and travel will be provided during the three week period. In addition, interns will receive a $200/week stipend for the duration of the program. The program will not cover local travel between the participants home to their closest airport, personal equipment (clothing, cameras, etc.) or other personal expenses.

The deadline to apply is 5:00 PM Central Time on Friday, March 14, 2014. For eligibility requirements and to access the application form, please see: http://goool/ZkZ7.

The South Central Climate Science Center is committed to encouraging diversity in the sciences. Please encourage your scientifically minded students to apply for this unique opportunity to experience climate research hands on.

Established in 2012 by the Department of Interior, the South Central Climate Science Center provides decision makers with the science, tools, and information they need to address the impacts of climate variability and change on their areas of responsibility. The Center supports big thinking, including multi-institutional and stakeholder driven approaches to climate variability, change, impacts, mitigation, and adaptation research. For more information:

Aparna Bamzai
Technical Coordinator
South Central Climate Science Center
Phone: 405-325-0539
Web http://southcentralclimate.org/

Editors, Reporters: This release contains a corrected chart of the 10 largest school districts. Enrollment figures for 2012 were incorrect for some districts on the original.

Enrollment in Oklahoma schools increases sharply in past five years

OKLAHOMA CITY (Feb. 14, 2014) — The number of students enrolled in Oklahoma public schools has increased for the 2013-14 school year. The total enrollment of students attending public schools in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 is 681,578. That is an increase of 8,388 students from 673,190 in 2012-13 enrollment and 27036 more than in 2009, five years ago.

'Because of this sharp growth in enrollment over the past five years,' said state Superintendent Janet Barresi, 'I have asked for additional funding for schools from the state Legislature. I pleaded that even in a tight revenue year, Gov Fallin has proposed a significant increase for K-12 education.

'Additional funding certainly isn't the sole answer, but we are working to ensure that common education receives as much funding as possible given fiscal realities. I also continue to ask local school boards and administrators to do their best to get dollars to the classroom so our teachers are better equipped to teach this growing number of students.'

Annual enrollment numbers come from the Oct. 1 enrollment count taken annually by every public school district and charter school site in the state as received by the State Department of Education accreditation office. Results are then certified.

Oklahoma's student population is 52 percent white, 15 percent Hispanic, 15 percent American Indian or Alaskan Native. 9 percent black, 7 percent 'two or more races' and 2 percent Asian, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, according to the 2013-14 data.

The three largest school districts in the state remain Oklahoma City Public Schools with 45,717 students, Tulsa with 41,115 and Edmond with 23,020.

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

The Finance Department is requesting an additional $16 million in funding for the law.

TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE, WE MUST REALIZE THAT WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT IN THE WAY WE PERCEIVE THE WORLD AND USE THIS UNDERSTANDING AS A GUIDE TO OUR COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS.

-ANTHONY ROBBINS

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SUBMIT AN AD OR ARTICLE:
Give us a call at
(405) 598-1279 or (405) 481-0558
or send us an e-mail to
stiger@astribe.com

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

UNfortunately, we can only accept one picture per birthday person, not per birthday wish.
on our concerns on the Contract Support Cost claims and how they were being processed, we spoke about our own growing disease burden and health budget needs. We have forwarded a letter to address these concerns and look forward to continuing our dialogue with RADM Meeks and his staff on those issues and other related health initiatives.

We have been seeing and hearing many things about our Casino, its operations and staff. In my recent attempt to learn about the Thunderbird Entertainment Center I asked for specific information. As of date I have received limited information. It’s not even clear to me who is on the Thunderbird Entertainment Center Inc. Board. It seems that the General Manager is one of the Board members and another of the other Board members is his employee. I’m sure there must be more members than that but without specific information I don’t know the whole picture. Let me re-state what I have said before. We need to look at the composition of our Boards and Commissions and get Absentee Shawnee people on them that are part of our local communities, involved in industry, who understand the needs of our people and are willing to assist the Tribe to make progress. It appears we have an array of internal operational problems and the issues instead of being resolved are growing. This statement is based on Gaming Commission reports whom are tasked to report concerns to the Casino who in turn is expected to resolve them so that our Casinos aren’t shut down or penalized by the National Indian Gaming Regulatory Authority (NIGRA).

We have had a busy month in my programs and I would like to share with you what they have advised they are doing within them: Emergency Management This month our Emergency Manager did the following:

1. Attended emergency management orientation given by the Oklahoma Emergency Management and took a tour of the Emergency Operations Center.
2. Met with Red Cross to discuss establishing MOU for assistance during disasters. These documents will be reviewed by legal and Governor and submitted to EC for consideration.
3. Attended National Summit in OKC to network with reconstruction experts, viewed the latest safe rooms and heard from national weather experts on updated data about recent tornado events. This was found to be informative with good resource materials.
4. Attended Intertribal Emergency Coalition hosted by the Iowa Tribe. FEMA reviewed comments from Tribes acquired during the tribal consultation policy comment period and discussed disaster related permanent work projects.
5. Attended Preliminary Damage Assessment Training hosted by Cherokee Tribal Emergency Management. Linda Day is the Emergency Manager and is located at the new police substation in Little Axe. Ms. Day is the contact for this program and may be reached at 405-275-3432. If she is unable to resolve your concerns please communicate with my office.

**Law Enforcement**

During the month of January the Police Department responded to 99 calls for service and hosted the COPS Native American Training Series IV from the 28 Department responded to 99 calls for service and hosted the COPS Native American Training Series IV from the 28th to the 30th. The training series addressed community issue topics such as underage drinking, disorderly youth in the community and Domestic violence just to name a few. The training series also covered school violence/shootings, bullying and a variety of school safety issues. In addition to the previously mentioned topics the training series provided instruction and material to prepare tribal police leaders to address today’s law enforcement challenges in Indian Country. This training series made presentation and educational materials available to both the Governor’s Office and the Police Department that may be used for community awareness.

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

**Building Blocks & CCDF**

CCDF

The CCDF Subsidy program held a meeting for parents on January 30th to discuss the BBII rate changes and the provider reimbursement changes. These rate changes became effective February 1. Currently we have 25 children who receive child care assistance through the subsidy portion of the CCDF grant.

The AST CCDF Coordinator and BBII Director have been working with the Governor’s Office on implementing an afterschool program on the AST Complex campus. We are working on the guidelines and policies that could work best to meet the needs of the Tribe and community. We will inform the public as soon as our plans are finalized.

By the end of February we will have job postings for the new BBII in Little Axe. We are still accepting applications for the waiting list for our new BBII facility in Little Axe. We will update you on any new developments to the new center as they happen. We look forward to all the developments and strides we are making at Building Blocks II and III.

**Building Blocks**

This month has been quite challenging with regards to weather. Because of this Building Blocks was closed for 4 days in the first week of February. We understand that this can create somewhat of a hardship on working parents. In an effort to listen to the concerns of parents, but still consider the safety of the children and staff, we reviewed our inclement weather closing policy with Governor Butler-Wolfe and decided to update it. Our former policy stated that Building Blocks would close if Shawnee Public Schools close OR the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex closes. Our new policy states that Building Blocks will ONLY close when Shawnee Public Schools close. We hope that this will alleviate any more confusion about when we close and decrease future hardships on parents.

Our Valentine’s class parties were a huge success! The children had such a wonderful time sharing treats with others and eating all of the yummy snacks. Thank you to all of the parents who contributed snacks and/or attended. Also, thank you to the teachers for putting together such wonderful parties for the children.

We have been working on increasing our enrollment. We currently have 63 children enrolled. Eight of those are new children. Currently there are two (2) immediate openings in our toddler room and one (1) immediate opening in the two-year-old room. If you are interested, please contact us at (405) 878-0633. All other age groups have a waiting list. However, we accept applications for our waiting list at any time. Building Blocks Child Development Center now has a Facebook page! Please look us up and LIKE us!! This is where we will post events, closings, child development topics, and any other relevant information. This is a great way for us to reach our parents and the community. Building Blocks is a wonderful center and we want to share all of the great things that we are doing here!!

**Dates to Remember:**

March 3: We will celebrate Dr. Seuss’ Birthday with green eggs & ham and birthday cake!
The point of contact for the Building Blocks program in Shawnee is Billie Thompson at 405-878-0633. The contact for the Little Axe Building Blocks program and/or CCDF is Brianna Ponkilla also at 405-878-0633. If they are unable to assist you with your questions contact my office.

**Education**

The Education Department is accepting applications for the Big Jim Youth Award Program 2014. Please nominate Absentee Shawnee High School Seniors. We are still accepting applications for the spring 2014 term for tribal members interested in educational assistance. Tresha Spoon, Director, attended a Budget and Finance Committee meeting for the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education on February 12th and a Board meeting on February 19th.

The Camp Nikoti-After School Program at the Little Axe Resource Center continues to serve Tribal members Kindergarten through 12th grade. The point of contact for this program is Tresha Spoon, Education Director; 405-275-4030, Ext. 121. Please feel free to communicate with her and if she is unable to assist you then contact my office. 405-275-4030, Ext. 121. Please feel free to communicate with her and if she is unable to assist you then contact my office.

**Health**

This month Mr. Mark Roger, Health Director, worked on the Veterans Administration Agreement. He indicates it will be completed soon, and we will be able to begin seeing our AST Veterans in both the Shawnee and Little/Axe locations and bill the VA for these services. An open house enrollment and seminar will be held jointly with the VA just prior to the official roll out to educate all of our tribal veterans and serviced VA patients from other tribes receiving services at our area clinics.

The AST Health System has implemented its new Customer Service Line. Please direct all complaints or compliments to (405)-701-7623. Please be assured this is the best way to have each situation addressed with consistent updates from our Health Staff. After the investigation of all issues is complete, our Health Director or a Clinic Administrator will personally contact you with updates, decisions, or question pertaining to your case. Pharmacy After Hours Process: After hours and weekends/holidays, did you know you can go to Walgreens in either Shawnee or Norman, and have a five-day limited fill on prescriptions? All you have to do is submit your prescription, identify yourself with your AST CDIB Card and other appropriate ID, and then they will fill your prescription! Upon the first workday, you can have the remaining balance of your prescriptions transferred to your pharmacy in either Shawnee or Little/Axe, and they will fill your remaining balance. This is an emergency convenience for your benefit and to save the contract health dollars as well, so please be aware of this and other benefits your tribe provides you. See the website for health at: www.asthealth.org including actions for your compliance with the ACA using the decision support tool.

If you have questions for the Health area, please contact Mark Rogers, Health Director, at 405-447-0300 (Little Axe) or 405-878-5850 (Shawnee). If you are unable to get a response on your issue please contact my Office.

**Media**

If you should have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Sherman Tiger, Media Director, at 405-598-1279. If you continue to have questions and/or concerns contact my Office at 405-275-4030, Ext. 188.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion – I have 16 months to go and we have many unmet needs that I hope that we can address in the near future.

Some of my top priorities over the next few months will be looking to educate the Health Board(s) on our concerns. This month the Health Board placed the former law firm we have been working so hard as a Tribe to remove from our system back in for another year. This Board and its members have the same mentality as the Bureau of Indian Affairs – “big brother knows best what you need attitude.” I am very disappointed and frustrated with both Board(s) actions. If they truly want to help the Absentee Shawnee people then they need to LISTEN to us. I now believe in order to resolve the issues with the Board(s) that we must look at placement of individuals on the Board(s) that will hear our concerns and act accordingly. This Board’s actions are an affront to the Tribe.

Another priority is to assist the Treasurer as she and her MIS department endeavor to complete a Communications Policy. This will assist in safe communications being provided by AST and make it available to users for the purposes of the business functions of the tribe. In looking to future I believe there are opportunities and challenges ahead of us as a Tribe and we need to move forward together as a Tribe to ensure they happen. I believe I can make a difference for all of our people with your help.

Help me to make that difference – stand beside me and Let’s Build For the Future (BFF) united and together!

Thank you again for your support.
SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Sherman Tiger

This month my Spotlight features Mr. Sherman Tiger, Media Director, as the employee of the month. Sherman is an enrolled Absentee Shawnee Tribal member who does a great job on keeping within his limited budget, getting projects done, utilizing local resources to promote programming and creatively reaching goals that are established with and for him. Mr. Tiger came on board in 2011 as the Tribe’s Media Director and since then work products have been enhanced and creative projects have come from his department. Formerly, Mr. Tiger, worked in the Cultural Preservation Department, has served on the Election Commission and is active in local events, fundraisings and Stomp Dances.

We appreciate all of the services that you bring to the Tribe.

Thank you, Sherman.

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

Let’s Build
For the
Future
(BFF)!

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After School Program 2013/2014

Come join us at the AST Resource Center!!!

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

And Much More!

OPEN TO 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 October 7th and will run through the school year.
Monday-T Thursday, 2:45pm-6:00pm

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

We are looking for participants to join us in a discussion over our community’s prescription drug use and underage drinking issues. We are looking for adult community members as well as youth community members ages 15-19. There will be 3 sessions, one for adults, one for male youth and another for female youth. Each participant will receive a free gift card and goody bag! To sign up to join in on this community discussion send me your contact information and add your name to our list! This is first come first serve! Limit 10 per group.

Kasey Dean - LA Behavioral Health Department 405.701.7993
Kdean@astribe.com

Kasey Dean - LA Behavioral Health Department 405.701.7993
Kdean@astribe.com
Greetings Tribal Members,

Hope you are surviving the March winds keeping your hair and bonnets in place! As the third quarter of 2014 comes to an end, my how the quarters fly. The office of Treasurer continues to be a good steward of the financial resources, ensuring stringent internal controls, sound financial management, accountability, and transparency.

Its election time again, get out and VOTE for the most qualified candidate.

The following activities I have been involved and participated:

**Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority, Inc. (ASEDA):**
ASEDA continues to hold monthly meeting regarding economic development efforts for the Tribe. At our recent board meeting the following companies gave a presentation:

- **Marathon Builders** who have experience in the construction business such as Devon Boathouse in Oklahoma City and over the last 50 years have built in 49 states, Canada and Mexico.

- **Brothers Bottling Company, LLC** a Native American owned water bottling company owner John Fryrear of El Reno, OK. Mr. Fryrear gave a presentation on the bottling company.

ASEDA welcomes tribal members and elected officials to attend our monthly board meetings scheduled every second Thursday of each month, 10:00 a.m. tribal complex Governor’s conference room.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**AST VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)**

The AST Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program which started February 12th continues to prepare free basic tax returns for low-to-moderate income Tribal members. At the time of this writing our VITA tax program has refunded over $125,000 dollars and a value of services provided at $240,000 in savings. A final report of program success will be provided to Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.) and May newsletter. As site coordinator Eddie Brokeshoulder, I would like to give a much needed special thank-you to our VITA Volunteer Certified Basic Tax Preparers Belinda Collins, Genevieve Foster, Jessica Gonzales, Jennifer Hernandez, David Deer, Tresha Spoon, Brenda Clay and Mark Rogers. Also the following certified volunteer greeters: Treasurer Kathy Deere, Leah Bettelyoun, Novadeen Hood, and Stella Little.

Our program continues to accept appointments through Saturday, April 15th. Please call 275-4030 x 241 for an appointment, do not wait until April 15th, or the last day to file. Should you have questions please contact Eddie Brokeshoulder, Site Coordinator at 275-4030 x 148 or eddieb@astribe.com.

**Absentee Shawnee Development Corporation**

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe filed for a Not For Profit Certification of Incorporation with State of Oklahoma on August 2013, now named Absentee Shawnee Development Corporation (ASDC). A recent meeting with Kristi Coker-Diaz, of First Nations Oweesta Corporation, provided attendees Treasurer Kathy Deere, Glenna Jones and I information on steps we need to take to assemble board of directors, implementing Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and advertise for an executive director. The ASDC is in need of a volunteer who has a financial and business ownership background to serve on our board of directors. If you are interested please contact Eddie Brokeshoulder at 405-275-4030 x148.

Access to Capital & Credit in Native Communities: A free webinar sponsored by OSIYO Consulting, LLC and GBS, LLC facilitated virtual session which examined ways to improve access to capital and credit in Native Communities. The webinar will assist our Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority with the development of a specific grants strategy for each project.

In closing the office of Treasurer continues to provide accountability and transparency in abiding by our Tribal constitution as custodian of all monies and related accounting functions, which come under the jurisdiction or control of the tribe. Respectfully, Eddie Brokeshoulder

Financial Consultant

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**Financial Consultant’s Report**

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 Tribes 2010, 2011, and 2012 Audits are ‘unmodified’ opinion; which when compared to an educational grading scale is an A. The 2014 Indirect Cost Proposal has been submitted to the Interior Business Center (IBC) and was notified on September 17, 2013 that it is ready to be assigned to a negotiator. The proposal has been assigned to a negotiator and I have answered the questions posed. Our rate is up from 17.4% for 2010 to 21.98% for 2011 to 22.35% for 2012 and 27.39% for 2013, with 2014 being undetermined until negotiations during 2014.

We are preparing for the 2013 Audit which will begin early 2014 for all of the Tribes entities [Casinos; Store; Restaurant; Smoke Shops; ASED A, Inc.; ASED A Enterprises; ASTHA & LS WN which makes up Absentee Health Systems; and the Tribal Government.] All of the tribes entities must be audited first and then they are combined with the Tribes Governmental Audit.

The finance department is completing accounting by the 10th day of the month Financial reporting for the Tribe Health Authority and LS WI Nwi Health Inc. boards and the Executive Committee for Absentee Health Systems, Shawnee and Little Axe (LSWN) continues monthly. The Finance staff has completed the January reconciliations and financials. It is imperative the accounting staff continue to stay ahead of all of the accounting so that audits go smoothly, and Indirect Cost rates stay up to date. Indirect cost proposals cannot be submitted without completed audits as the audit is used to calculate the proposal. There are many processes in place in your tribes accounting department that ensure we keep accurate records of transactions. The Tribes accounting processes must be in compliance with GAAP. (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) and these rules are updated annually.

The Tribe currently has compact funds of BIA, I.H.S, and approximately 51 Grants. In addition, the Tribe operates a General Fund and an Indirect Cost Fund. The new clinic building payments are current and have not been late and projections are that they will continue to be current going forward.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribes 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 6 (43%) being AST Tribal Members, 2 (14%) non-AST tribal members, 6 (43%) being non-natives.

This department 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.

Respectfully,

Belinda Collins
Controller
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
The AST Cultural Preservation Department would like to pass along the following information concerning updates to each of our programs.

Cultural Preservation
This past month, we held our second activity of the year for our Program. On February 22nd, participants had the opportunity to learn how to make a Yarnbelt by Fingerweaving. Ms. Jennifer Onzahwah led the demonstration and presentation at the LA Resource Center. As usual, lunch and snacks were provided and we had lively conversation and good fellowship. It is my hope that those of you who participate will be able to take away a new skill upon the completion of each class. It is our intent to have an activity each month, though it may not always be a cultural or skills demonstration. If you have questions about the skills classes or would like to lead a demonstration, please call Joseph at Ext. 203, or send an email to joseph.blanchard@astribe.com

Library
We have a variety of resources available for checkout or your reading leisure including: magazines, newspapers, journals, CDs and DVDs. Since the last publication, we have conducted interviews for the Library Technician/Archivist position. The interviews are complete and a selection has been made so I will make a formal announcement and introduce our newest Team Member in the next newsletter. The Library program will be operational once again and services will be restored shortly. If you have any concerns or questions about membership or circulation, please call us at ext. 122.

Gift Shop
The Gift Shop continues to make progress in sales and new inventory. At the time of this submission, we have started to receive our Spring orders from Pendleton and our other vendors. Plus, come in and view our selection of CDs in the Native style of music you prefer. We carry tunes for Powwow, NAC, and Stomp Dance. Also, the latest variety of bags, rugs and table cloths are now in stock. If we don’t have what you like, let us know. Oftentimes, we can ‘Special Order’ your request and have it on hand in a matter of days. If you have any questions, please call Esther at ext. 122, or by email at elowden@astripe.com

THPO
Our THPO program continues to make great strides and advancements. As previously discussed, in conjunction with the National Forest Service, we are hosting a Heritage Resource Technician (HRT) Paraprofessional training, March 17-26. This will consist of 40 hours of Classroom and 40 hours of Field Work, for a total of 80 hours to complete the certification. The cost of the course is $200, which includes Lunch and Snacks. Please call myself or Carol Butler for all the details.

Likewise, along with this activity, there is another opportunity in the near future for us to assist the National Railway Association, which will require an additional 4-8 hours of ‘E Safety’ training. These classes are necessary for individuals to gain eligibility to become employable or contract out for services.

Your concerns are important to us. We thank you for the continued support of our department as we continue to make changes to our programs, in order to provide the best service to our Tribal community. Thank you for your time.

Joseph H. Blanchard
Cultural Preservation Director/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
A Letter will be mailed out once your application has been approved notifying you of the date your name was placed on the waiting list. It is very important to stay in contact and notify the Housing Authority anytime changes occur in income, household composition, or contact information.

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

The application will also require documents to be attached in order to complete the process, which are:
- Photo I.D.
- CDIB Card
- Social Security Card
- Birth Certificate
- Marriage License/Divorce Decree/Custody Decree (if applicable)
- Declaration of Section 214 (form is included with application)
- Each household member must provide a birth certificate, social security card and CDIB card (if enrolled in a federally recognized tribe).

Eligibility for each program has income requirements; please be sure and review the current income limits on your application.

We will not be able to process your application if you do not meet the income criteria.

All applicants are required to attend a counseling class conducted by our Resident Counselor before signing a lease.

Annual Recertification are required for Rental/Lease to Own programs.

Inspections are performed on our homes annually.

Low Rent Housing

Our low rent housing program is provided to families in need of housing in the Shawnee and Tecumseh areas. Rental houses are furnished with kitchen appliances, central heat and air, and mini blinds all throughout.

In the Shawnee area, the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority has two elderly/disabled communities. These areas have fully furnished, handicap accessible units. A laundry facility is located in the community for tenant use only.

If you have substantial rental history and meet the income requirements, your name may be placed on the waiting list.

Lease to Own Program
The Lease to Own Program is available for any Native American family who has met our requirements, that is two elders/handicap/disabled communities. These areas have fully furnished handicap accessible units. A laundry facility is located in the community for tenant use only.

If you have substantial rental history and meet the income requirements, your name may be placed on the waiting list.

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

Eligibility Requirements:
- Applicant must be qualified for Federal recognition.
- Applicant must qualify as a low-income family, and must meet minimum income guidelines.
- Applicant must be a resident of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma to apply.
- Applicant must be a first-time homebuyer.
- Primary residence only.
- Must be approved for home loan.
- Dwelling unit must pass environmental inspection.

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

NOTE: There is limited homes available for this program.
**AST VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)**

- Trained preparers check eligibility for EITC and Child Care Credit
- Federal and State returns are electronically filed with the IRS
- Confirmation the IRS has accepted your tax return
- Direct Deposit of Federal and State refunds available
- Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Limit = $52,000

Please bring the following items:

- AST C.D.I.B.
- For married filing joint, both spouses must be present
- Taxpayers Proof of Identity (Driver’s License) and/or spouse
- Previous Year Return
- All forms, W-2, 1098 and 1099
- Information for other income
- Total paid to day care provider and their tax ID number
- Information for deductions/credits
- Proof of account for direct deposit of refund (e.g., voided check)
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and/or dependents.

**Filing Period:** February 12, 2014 - April 12, 2014

**Location:** Title VI Building, Tribal Complex

**Schedule:**
- Wednesdays 3 P.M. - 7 P.M.
- Thursdays 3 P.M. - 7 P.M.
- Saturdays 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

**Call for an Appointment:** (405) 275-4030 Ext. 241

Please arrive 30 minutes early to complete intake/review form.

Appointments Only!

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**FY-2013 YTD TAX COLLECTIONS**

**(thru 1/31/14)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAX CATEGORY</th>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>TOTAL COLLECTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales (6%)</td>
<td>$5,532.03</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>$5,532.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaming % of free cash</td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee (1%)</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$10,095.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severance (8%)</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>$8,940.31</td>
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<td>Motor Vehicle</td>
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<td>Tobacco Refund</td>
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<td>$9,303.52</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL TAXES</strong></td>
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<td>$297,541.23</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</strong></td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$298,141.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:**

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe Development Corporation is establishing a board to help further develop the AST CDFI program into a certified Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).

The CDFI board must be a representation of who CDFI will serve, and will consist of five individuals with skills and experience in or more areas of business, banking, accounting, business law, marketing, nonprofit management, or fundraising.

If interested in serving in this worthwhile endeavor as a CDFI board member please submit a Letter of Interest and Resume to:

Mail: Eddie Brokeshoulder, CDFI Steering Committee
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

Fax: 405-695-9780
Email: eddieb@astribe.com

For more information (FMI): 405-275-4030 x 148
Injury Prevention

Since spring forward happens this month, it's time to change out the batteries in smoke detectors or update your old ones! If you are a tribal member in need of a smoke detector or carbon monoxide home detector, please contact Rosie Tall Bear at the AST Little Axe Clinic (405)-447-0300 ext. 7601. All you need to do is fill out a survey form and we can either install them for you or you can pick them up.

Here are some fire safety tips to remember from the National Fire Protection Association:

- Clean the lint filter from your clothes dryer and keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn
- Make sure your smoke detectors are working
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop & make sure you clean the oven
- Check electrical cords to make sure they don’t run across doorways or under carpets

If you have any questions or want more information about AST Injury Prevention Program, please contact Rosie Tall Bear at the AST Little Axe Clinic (405)-447-0300 ext. 7601.
The after school program is back in full force for the second semester of school. Unfortunately, due to school scheduling: Lauren Wood, Jo Kleinsasser and Caitlyn Wells will not be able to continue their tutoring with us this semester. We are hopeful they will be able to come back and tutor in the fall of 2014. With three of our tutors gone this semester we still anticipate being able to maintain our current student workload that need to be tutored as we still have 9 tutors onsite daily with the program having around 20 students attending daily.

We started a new initiative with our Absentee Shawnee Tribal health department and by partnering with them grant funds through the Methamphetamine Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI) Program will be used to provide a music instructor once a week at the Horse Shoe Bend After School program. This contracted individual will be able to instruct our students in the area of music, playing musical instruments and learning about all the different types of music. We are also working on an additional site for after school tutoring which will be located on the campus here at the tribal complex. Two 50 X 100 portable metal buildings were delivered on January 17, 2014 for this project and we anticipate it being opened sometime after Spring Break.

On January 15, 2014, our Absentee Shawnee Police Department, Officers Trent Norton and Shawn Crowley gave a presentation on Bullying. Our students were very responsive to this topic as most had witnessed and/or have been a victim of bullying at their school. We hope that the students were able to absorb all of this useful information on what to do when bullying occurs. At this same event we also had two members of our Absentee Shawnee Health Clinic, Eva and Jennifer, interact with students in role playing and games. Students were encouraged to talk about good and bad feelings and to work towards talking to someone when something is bothering them. Students were supplied with bags of treats from both Departments.

I would like to thank all who attended this worthwhile event: Treasurer Kathy Deere, Officer Trent Norton, Officer Shawn Crowley, Jennifer Sloan, Eva, and Christy Williams.

If you should have any questions or concerns I may be reached at 405 481-0397.

Thank you,
Edwina Butler-Wolfe
Governor
MARCH 2014
BIRTHDAYS

Alford, Dianne Susan
Alford, Donald Ray
Alford, Laurie Leann
Alford, Makenzie Raychel
Alford, Paul Henry
Almanza, Sacha Blue Renee
Arellano, Danielle
Argueta, Oneonta Marie
Armstrong, Dusty Ridge
Asbridge, Sandra Lilrene
Atwater, Honey Nicole
Barnard, Kevin Michael
Battiest, Phyllis Leaann
Belden, Fiorene
Belden, Lois Little Creek
Bennett, Deaann Onahwag
Berryhill, Valerie Lynn
Bettylyoum, Amber Dawn
Bettylyoum, Anthony Bryce
Bettylyoum, Lea Dawn
Bittle, Joshua Jacob
Blanchard Craig, Carolyn Jean
Blanchard, Sr., Leland Dale
Blanchard, Aaron Gabriel
Blanchard, Cache Lewis
Blanchard, Caden Briar
Blanchard, Charles Eugene
Blanchard, Joshua James
Blanchard, Kellice Lee
Blanchard, Rikki Rechele
Bokeshoulder, Tammy Lynn
Brown III, Curtis Jermain
Bittle, Josiah Sage
Moore, Thomas Joseph William
Moore, Alexia Saranda
Molina Jr., Charles B.
Mitchel, Benito Miquel Travis
Minesinger, Seth Wildcat
Minesinger, Joshua Brooker
Miner, Veda Jorene
Medina, Trinity Lynn Tiger
McKane, Sidna Rae Lenee
McDowell, Farrell Ramon
McDoulett, John William
May, Gina Lanette
Martinez, Erica Inez
Markwardt, Ethan Thomas
Marshall, Denia Ray
Martinez, Erica Inez
Martinez, Jasmyn Consuelo
Martinez, Shawnne Danielle
Masquas, Cora Irene
Masquas, Joshua Lee
May, Gina Lanette
McDoulett, John William
McDowell, Farrell Ramon
Mckane, Sidna Rae Lenee
Mckinney, Ellen Marie
Medina, Elizabeth Ruth Ann
Medina, Trinity Lynn Tiger
Melton, Jaycie Taylor
Miller, Carie Denise
Minder, Veda Jorene
Minesinger, Joshua Brooker
Minesinger, Seth Wildcat
Mitchel, Benito Miquel Travis
Mohawk, Cheribee Chayeene
Malina Jr., Charles B.
Moore, Alexia Saranda
Moore, Thomas Joseph William
Morton, Glenda Dawn
Murdock Jr., Steven Alan
Murdock Sr., Steven Alan
Musick, Michael Thomas
Nail, Gregory Thomas
Nash, Robbo Monique
Odell, Ronnie Lynn
Owens, Beau Wesley Laine
Owings, Abigail Rose
Panther, Lydia Denise
Panther, Shawn Dell
Panther–Davis, Tammi Rae
Park, John Wendall Gage
Perkins, Miranda Deann
Perry, Sierra Breanna
Peter, Kalina Nicole
Pine, Jeremiah Andrew
Ponce, Aisaiah Anthony Oscar
Prich, Jyse Kellen
Quarisha, Ibbaraem Bin Khalil
Raisbeck Jr., David Nathaniel
Raisbeck, Gabe Anthony
Ramirez, Mariah Fay–Ann
Ramirez, Matias Noah
Richey, Kodi Rae Jolynn
Ridenour, Sydney Bree
Ruley, Hulubutcha Katcha
Robbins, Blake Anthony
Robbins, Taylor Paige
Robison, Ariana Michelle
Rolette, Cherly Lynn
Rolette, Madison Fox Grant
Rolette, Madison Joy
Rowan, Damian Eugene
Runasaboe, Honor Mae
Sams, Christine Lorraine
Sanchez, Camilla Paula
Seber, Peyton Eddie
Sedona, Aleva
Shawnee, LaNayah J DaNae
Sheets, Angela Christy
Simpson, Christian Jacob
Simpson, Cody Lee
Skelly, Shanna Lynn
Slate, Patricia Ann
Sloat, Douglas James
Sloat, Meika Ladon
Sloat, Newton D
Smith, Marvin
Smith, Zackery James
Snake, Alvin Matthew
Snake, Kenneth Lee
Snake, Lewis George
Snake, Stewart Lancer
Solom, Billie Jean Tiger
Spoon, Edward Joe
Spoon, Justin Tyler
Spoon, Pailey Rennea
Spybuck, Garland Charles
Spybuck, Govan Wayne
Spybuck, Roberta Ann
Stevenson, Jodean Ann
Stoudemire, Navia DeAnne
Strain, Gerald Toulsey
Stryker, Doyle Chad
Stryker, Laurel Brad
Sullivan, Aizah Vanessee
Sullivan, Marcus Lee
Sutton Jr., Jeremy Ray
Sweeney, Andrew Michael
Switch, Sophia Michelle
Takah, Barton Dale
Talton, Dacia Arie
Talton, Kaydine James
Taryole, Laura Lee
Tascier, Sarah Isabell
Teilo–Faz, Maria delaluz
Terrell, Xavier Thomas Jackson
Thompson, Asher Bryce
Thorpe IV, George Isaiah
Thorpe Jr., Edwin James
Thorpe, Janice Gail
Thorpe, Edwin James
Tiger, Kevin Richard Dawney
Tiger, Soaryn Edward Matthew
Tiger, Justin Lee Ladawn
Tiger, Tyler Matthew
Tiger–Allen, Shane Clifford
Trussell, Sherry Lynn
Uchida, Denise Louise
Uchida, Kevin Micheal
Valdivia Jr., Enrique
Vaughn, Dylan Thomas
Wade, Justin Andrew
Walker, Robert Stanley
Wallace, Christopher James
Warrior, Anthony Louis
Warrior, Pamela Sue
Washington, Olvie Winston
Watkins, Destiny Sheay
Watkins, Joyana Laneis
Watson, Adriana Renee
Watson, Barron Ann
Watson, Micah Lashaun D.
Watson, Peyton Desehay
Wenner, Martha Ellen
Wheeler, Emily Anne
Wheeler, Leah J.
Whims, Madison Mackenzie
White, Christopher Alan
White Thunder, Shelby Lynn
Whittaker, Caiden Sky
Whittaker, Joshua Jay W.
Wiley, Prince John Bowen
Wilkinson, Kaelyn Rayann
Williams, Brennan Marie
Williams, Frank Richard
Williams, Kaylee Nicole
Williams, Kevin Bruce
Williams, Paula Sue
Wilson, Harjo, Reta Marie
Wilson, Adam Lee
Wilson, Mariana Danyel
Wilson, Melvin Wayne
Wilson, Zelma Jo
Womack, Che’lee Caye
Wood, Judith A.
Wood, Ryan Ashley
Wright, Cynthia Diane
Yamutewa, Chebon Dale
Darlowe & Laurie (Schulenberg) Todd  
October, 2013  
Rapid City, S. Dakota  
From Don & Esteline Schulenberg

Clint & Michelle (Whinery) Rapp  
Summer, 2013  
Michelle is a R.N. at Midwest City Hospital. She was awarded “Nurse of the Year” at the Reed Center at their Winter Gala.  
Michelle is the daughter of Tom & Pam (Schulenberg) Whinery

Colby & Rachel (Whinery) Oldham  
January, 2014  
Harn Homestead  
Oklahoma City

**Win A Silverado Truck - Saturday, March 29th**

**Shawnee Casino Location: YOU COULD WIN A CHEVY SPARK**

**Norman Casino Location**  
Ask How You Can  
Earn Entries At Player’s Club

**EARN ENTRIES ALL MONTH LONG! FINAL DRAWING @ 10PM ON SATURDAY, MARCH 29**
HELP BUILD A PLAYGROUND!
In partnership with Boy Scout Troop 424, Good Neighbor Pharmacy, and KaBOOM!

WHAT WE’RE DOING
We are looking for volunteers to help build a new playground for the children of our community. Bethel Acres is teaming with Boy Scout Troop 424, Good Neighbor Pharmacy and KaBOOM! to build the playground at the Bethel Acres Community Center. Volunteers do not have to be trained, skilled or have any special tools. You just need to be enthusiastic, energetic and willing to work while having fun.

DATES FOR VOLUNTEERING
Site prep day: Thursday, March 20 (15-20 volunteers needed)
Build Day: Saturday, March 22 (100-150 volunteers needed)

WHO TO CONTACT
If you would like to volunteer, please contact one of the following people (via text, call or email):
*Ryan Sharp: (918) 645-1303 or ryan.m.sharp@gmail.com
*Neal Davis: (405) 314-3930 or nealdav@msn.com

Facebook.com--Search “Bethel Acres Community Playground”

April is.....
Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The AST Domestic Violence Department would like to invite you to join us in recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We will have our 4th Annual Balloon Release in remembrance of those affected by Sexual Assault and to bring awareness to this crime.

. Balloon Release for the Shawnee Complex will be on April 3, 2014 @ 3:00pm in front of Building #1.
. Balloon Release for the Norman/LittleAxe area will be April 4, 2014 @ 3:00pm at the LittleAxe Clinic.

Although April is declared Sexual Assault Awareness Month it is important to keep in mind that this type of violence happens everyday of the year in our community and possibly within our families. If you or someone you know is or has recently been affected by Sexual Assault please contact us at 405-273-2888. Below are the names and numbers of those who can help.

Jackie—(405) 432-9377
Melissa—(405) 432-9657
Linda—(405) 585-8348
Kimberly—(405) 365-9658

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma’s Domestic Violence Department’s mission is to eliminate violence in Native Country and to strengthen Native families to end the cycle of violence.
AST EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: BIG JIM YOUTH AWARDS 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 2013/2014 school year. Applications will be accepted from January 1 to March 31, 2014 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 2014.

Award recipients will be recognized as the 2013/2014 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
2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801
(405) 275-4030
youthaward@astribe.com

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

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: ____________________________________________
Enrollment #: ________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
Home Phone: ( ) Cell Phone: ( )
Email: ____________________________________________

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

High School Name: ____________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________
Guidance Counselor: __________________________ Phone #: __________
Sport: __________________________ Position: __________
Coach: __________________________ Phone #: __________

□ $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)

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

Documents to be included with application:

□ Official High School Transcript
□ Letter of Recommendation (Educator/Coach)
□ Tribal Enrollment Card (copy)
□ Resume of Accomplishments and Activities
□ 500-word Essay: How do you feel your accomplishments (knowledge/training) will influence your future?
□ Video (optional): no more than 10 minutes in length
Hi there! If you’ve ever wanted to learn the acoustic guitar, bass, or piano, the AST Music Program can help you learn all these instruments and drums too! You just need to call me or email me and I’ll do my best to get the right day and time set up for your lessons. We have had over 300 tribal members that have learned to play music and they are loving their new found gift. We have all the instruments you’ll need right here at the Shawnee music house right next to the AST Police Department. My number is 405-370-5576 (cell) or you can email me at bpradley@astribe.com.

Please hurry! Enrollment is filling up FAST... Please give me a call or email me and let’s get started on the gift of music.

Phil Bradley Music Program
405-370-5576
pbradley@astribe.com

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE
Promoting Safe and Stable Families
Parenting Classes

PSSF Program provides parenting classes to promote positive parenting, help with the understanding of child development and communication skills to strengthen the entire family.

This session, the classes will meet every Wednesday evening for ten weeks at 6pm, starting March 26 through May 28, 2014. New participants will be accepted until February 5th, after this date you will have to wait until the next session to enroll. Every class must be attended by the participant to receive a Certificate of Completion.

A dinner will be provided at every class as well as a babysitter on site if needed. Classes are also available for non-tribal members at a small fee of $50. For more information or to sign up, call 405-878-4702.

Sena Yesslith, PSSF Worker
Absentee Shawnee Tribe Recycling Program

“To Establish a recycling program for municipal waste planning, reduction, and Recycling”

The Office of Environmental Health and Environmental Program is proud to announce the start of a new recycling program for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. The recycling center is located in the yellow metal building adjacent to the OEH Department. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe (AST) Recycling Program Plan declares that waste reduction and recycling are the preferable to the processing of municipal waste, and that removing certain materials from the municipal waste stream will decrease the flow of solid waste to municipal landfills. AST Recycling Program used the knowledge and information about recycling markets and market demand as well as information obtained from various publications and the internet to comprise an analysis of material the recycling program will address at the start of the program. AST Recycling Program Plan established a goal that, by year’s end 2013, at least 25% of the recyclable material produced by the Tribe will be recycled.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

The AST recycling Program will initially focus on the following waste stream material; High-Grade shredded paper, Assorted office paper, Phone books, Magazines, Cardboard, Newspaper, and Aluminum cans. As the program and market develops, other recyclables will be sought. There is a cost associated with recycling. However, economic, social, and environmental benefits exceed these cost.

Office of Environmental Health & Engineering

Tribal Housing Improvements Application

The Tribal Housing Improvement Program’s goal is providing sanitary, safe, and decent housing for its members by utilizing the following criteria to select the most “in need” tribal members with homes that are in disrepair but are still suitable for rehabilitation. All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and criteria which is approved by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

THIP list all applicants by a priority list:

a. Handicapped/Disabled and Elderly
b. Income
c. Family Size/Overcrowded Living Conditions
d. Condition of Home

Other Programs available:

• Sanitation Facilities Assistance Program
• Other Programs available:

Applications need to be completed and all necessary documents attached before the application will be processed. Applications are available online on the website: www.astribe.com. Submit completed application to:

Office of Environmental Health & Engineering
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801

If you have any questions, you can reach us by phone at (405) 214-4235

VETERANS!

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE PROVIDING A TRAILER FOR AN OFFICE SPACE FOR THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE VETERANS ASSOCIATION. SO IF YOU ARE A VETERAN & INTERESTED IN ATTENDING OUR MEETINGS; HERE IS A SCHEDULE FOR THIS YEAR:

MARCH 12, 2014
JUNE 11, 2014
SEPTEMBER 10, 2014
DECEMBER 10, 2014

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THUNDERBIRD CASINO IN THE WARRIOR’S ROOM START TIME IS 7:00 PM WITH A POTLUCK MEAL SHARED
Come join us at the AST Resource Center!!!

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

And Much More!

**OPEN TO GRADES K-5 for Absentee Shawnee Tribal Students**

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

Duration: Starts October 7th and will run through the school year.
Monday-Thursdays, 2:45pm-6:00pm

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

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**Coming Soon!!!**

**New Patient Portal**

**Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System**

- Little Axe Health Center
- Shawnee Clinic
- www.asthealth.org

**Follow My Health**

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

For more information on how you can register for the new AST “**Follow My Health**” Patient Portal, contact Patient Registration at Little Axe Health Center - 405.447.0300 or Shawnee Clinic - 405.878.4702
On February 18, 2014, the Realty Department, Cultural Department, Joseph Blanchard, Project Specialist, Andy Warrior, Levi Littlecreek and Terrence Tiger, joined up with the Wild land Fire Program to unite a prescribed burn on a 30 Acre tract of prairie terrain in Eastern Pottawatomie County. The Wild Land Program is a serviceability formed by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe to manage our lands with prescribed burns. Prescribed fire is a natural process that can be used to restore ecosystems and landscapes to their historical biological diversity and productivity. Also, prescribed fires can be used to improve forage production, quality, composition, and palatability for livestock or wildlife. It can also be used to control non-native or undesirable plant species, plant diseases, and internal and external animal parasites such as ticks by modifying their habitat. Fire can be used in forest management to reduce logging debris and leaf litter, manage competing vegetation and prepare logged areas for planting or seeding. Prescribed fire can be used to enhance the appearance of both forests and rangelands. Fire can be an economically and ecologically sound alternative to herbicide use to reclaim native prairies, shrub lands, savannahs, or forests and to reduce the probability of wildfires.

- Reduce fuel accumulations - Periodic burning reduces the annual fuel accumulation in forests and grasslands reducing fire intensity and creating an ecosystem less susceptible to catastrophic wildfire.
- Improve wildlife habitat - Periodic burning improves habitat for Oklahoma wildlife by modifying cover, and food quality and volume.
- Increase biodiversity - Periodic burning induces environmental changes that result in plant and animal communities that are adapted to fire.

The realty department is mailing letters out to land owners to recommend a prescribed burn. We are recommending a prescribed burn; because, after recent inspections a notice of understory brush is starting to overtake hay fields and prairie pastures on our lands. Our intentions of recommending a prescribed burn are to increase the value of property and restore its natural habitat. We would appreciate your help, support and cooperation from land owners so that we can help you preserve your property. For more information about the Wild Land Program, contact Project Specialist Andy Warrior 405.275.4030 Ext. 189.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 405.275.4030 Ext. 127.
Valentine’s Day BINGO

Jerry & Barbara Littleaxe
Married 53 years
Awarded with a gift card for being married the longest

Floyd Deere is ready to celebrate Valentine’s Day

Richard & Mary Birdtail
Celebrating 28 years together

Buster having some fun with the elders!!!

Elders getting some exercise and having fun!!

Marjorie Kanitobe
enjoying her chocolates!!!
We have elected officials in office now for four years! Do you want to elect them for another two (2) years? What have they accomplished in the four (4) years? It is time for a CHANGE! CHANGE FOR A BETTER TRIBAL GOVERNMENT! We need dedication, loyalty, integrity and accountability of the actions of our elected officials. We need an Ethics Commission to establish Ethics & Conflict of Interest Codes to govern the actions of our elected officials, as well as tribal employees. It’s time for a CHANGE! We need to elect strong, dedicated and experienced leadership to face the challenges of the tribe, a sovereign nation is confronted from the federal and state government on a daily basis. Experience in tribal government is complicated and takes years to understand the complexity of the intricate governmental powers the tribe possesses as a sovereign nation. We cannot afford to make mistakes as a sovereign nation because of the far reaching effects to other sovereign nations nationally. We are facing one such challenge today in the CITY OF SHAWNEE ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE A 3% SALES TAX ON THE TRIBES IN THE SHAWNEE AREA!

My number one goal, if elected as your Lt. Governor, is economic development. We must provide for our growing tribal membership, now 4,000 and growing! I want to create income from new revenue sources from economic development to provide additional services and benefits for ALL tribal members! $23,000,000 DEBT! If you live in the five county service area, (Cleveland, Pottawatomie, Oklahoma, Logan, and Lincoln), in order to receive benefits. If you live outside this area, you receive very few benefits, even though you are counted in the total membership when the tribe receives their budget from the BIA ($220,533.00) and Indian Health Service ($21,894,467.00). The government has established guidelines that restrict the use of the gaming facility on the same land, we will have to pay taxes on it. From other revenue sources that can provide benefits for ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS. You know tribes that provide a per cap payment to all members from their casino revenues, what do we get? Nothing! Some tribes provide additional help for the elders living on fixed incomes by providing food vouchers and additional help with emergency expenses.

Our only source of revenue is from the Thunderbird Casino! It is the only economic development that generates any income for the tribe. If the Thunderbird Casino was destroyed by fire or a tornado (we have had two tornadoes and a fire that came close), what would we do? I asked the treasurer how long could we operate, if this were to happen, 3 to 4 months, maybe. That is unacceptable, we must elect leadership with the education, tribal government and business experience to create wealth and jobs through economic development. The Tribe built a new health clinic at Little Axe, but we will not realize any income until we pay taxes on it. The old clinic building at Little Axe is empty! No plans for development, it has been 2 years, there are many uses for the building that could create income for the tribe, where is the leadership?

We have a convenience store, cafe, two smoke shops, two banks, and COWS, none generating any real profit for the tribe. We have prime property, Tecumseh Square, Lillard Avenue, (51 acres), and Cleveland, (28 acres), that can be developed to create income and work in a collaborative effort to achieve economic development. The Tribe built a new health clinic at Little Axe, but we will not realize any income until we pay taxes on it. The old clinic building at Little Axe is empty! No plans for development, it has been 2 years, there are many uses for the building that could create income for the tribe, where is the leadership?

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The issues we must place emphasizes on: Other means of Revenue, Revenue Allocation, Economic Developments, Partnerships and be able to expand and enhance our programs and services.

As we cast our votes, evaluate each candidate on their experience, knowledge, and skills, and who will represent you best at all levels. We need to restore a professional work environment, integrity and have accountability.

Again, I ask for your support and vote to move forward. Respectfully, Wynona Coon
KENNETH BLANCHARD
CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF
TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE

As former Governor and Lt. Governor of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe I have the knowledge and experience to provide professional leadership and improve services that impact each of you as a tribal member.

We need to plan for our future with sound economic development that will provide programs and services that will have a direct effect on you and your families now and in the future. We cannot provide these thing without dollars. We own several pieces of property that can be developed to generate the needed funds. We need more information and stability in our health care programs. We need to evaluate the educational needs of our youth. Their future depends on what opportunities we provide for them now. With my experience in tribal government I am not a “learn as you go” candidate. Please consider these things before you cast your vote.

I am asking for your vote March 15, 2014.

EWELL LONGHORN FOR TREASURER

I previously served as Treasurer from 2006-2008. I learned very much during my two year term. Two years is really a short time but I am proud to point out a few accomplishments during my term:

Intervened to stop the sale of our bank that would have resulted in a loss by the Tribe of $1.6 million. Directed and supervised the Finance Department in bringing the Tribe’s Indirect Cost Agreements with the BIA current. When I took office the Tribe was two years without a current Agreement and our federal funding agencies were threatening to stop funding our grants unless we had a current Agreement. Cut the cost of the Tribe’s annual audit by almost 50%. The Tribe was paying two separate audit firms to complete the audit. I directed the Finance Department in eliminating one of the audit firms resulting in a savings of approximately $50,000 for each annual audit. Ahead of the big recession that began in late 2007, I saw the downturn coming and directed our investment firms to begin selling the riskier investments in the Tribe’s investment portfolio. I believe large potential losses were avoided by this action.

Since I left office in 2008 I’ve continued working with Tribal governments as an economic development consultant and as executive director for a large tribe. I hope to serve my Tribe again as Treasurer. A few of my goals will be as follow:

Analyze our businesses (includes two casinos now and a bank) and determine why we are still unable to make per capita payments to our Elders. Search and apply for new grant opportunities for tribal projects especially in the areas of renewable energy and farming on the Tribe’s lands and those of our Tribal members. Expand and develop training and job placement services for Tribal members especially our young Tribal members from the ages of 18 to 30 years old. Young families often need more assistance to prepare for and to find better jobs.

I am proud to say I am an Absentee Shawnee with a bachelor’s degree in business, seven years experience in the banking industry and over 20 years working with tribes. I hope to receive your support and vote in the election!
Hello, my friends and relatives,

I hope all is well in your homes. I am writing this letter in hope of getting your support in the upcoming March 15th, 2014 election. The polling places are at Little Axe Resource Center and the AST Police department in Shawnee. Please do vote.

For those who do not know me or my grandparents are Joe & Annie Charley Kaseca and Jim & Annie Mann Tiger. My parents are Henry and Dorothy Kaseca Tiger. I was raised in the Little Axe area and live there today. I am committed to the Tribe and the community at large. I offer this information as I believe in the philosophy of: “How do you know where you are going, if you don’t know where you have been?”

I have been your Tribal Media Director since September of 2011. Since I started I have developed as much money as I can by changing how we printed, what type of paper we printed on and getting our bills paid timely, thus, avoiding late charges. Since I have been running this department we have annually come in under budget and markedly increased service levels.

Let me share with you what I have in mind if you elect me:

Work as a team with the elected body. I believe we must put aside our egos and work together for the betterment of our Tribal members. We need to make progress and that can only be done by not placing blame on others or saying that’s not my program. I want to work together, as there is only one EC committee, and this elected body is answerable to you our Tribal members and together we can make a difference.

Programs are funded to help our people and shouldn’t be utilized to gather votes. We need to help you, our tribal people, with the resources we are fortunate to have. We need to hire competent staff and allow them to do their work without fear of their jobs being lost if they don’t hire or help a relative. We have programmatic guidelines that we need to follow and these should be used to meet your needs. If we don’t have guidelines then I will work with policy developers to provide those guidelines as I want to help, not hinder, service levels.

If elected I will strive to ensure that we as a Tribe take care of the funding we receive. An example is: Implement time clock usage for all employees. Large major employers use them to keep track of their most valued asset — employees. We need to look at this and use it to improve efficiency and promote good money management.

Let’s promote good money management and business like practices. When we shut down the Tribe due to weather we are heavily impacted from both a monetary standpoint and the lack of services offered. Businesses don’t shut down as that is a loss of revenue. Let me give you just a basic idea of how that impacts us here at the Tribe. Let’s say we have 300 employees and we may pay them each $14 an hour (this is just an example). If we close for one day that is $14 per hour x 8 hours x 300 = $33,600. That is a lot of money for our small businesses to hold important information as hostage by requesting sums of money to retrieve the documents back.

Cybersecurity

Hello to all, I’m Joshua Gibson – IT Analyst in our MIS department at the Tribe. I am one of four within our department, Rico Coon, Michael Berry and Nishant Shrestha. We all have different roles within our team in IT. We stay busy between network administration, media and storage, web design, communications, web services, network security, and various technical duties. We all have input as to what should be advanced for protecting tribal assets within the network. Currently I am finishing up my Cyber Security degree in a program at Rose State College; I’ve had the opportunity over the years to meet a lot of professionals in the field as well as meeting cyber division FBI agents and Military cyber professionals to discuss threats that are ongoing with Cyber security issues.

Cyber Security, where do we begin? The first line of defense is you. The user is by far the weakest link in a chain that opens back doors and most of the time leaves windows open to give malicious programs the opportunity to strike ones network. I would like to broaden, you our tribal citizens and employees, knowledge base on some of the dangers that malicious programs pose as threats to your personal documents, financials, or other important information.

Let’s get a brief history of Cyber Attacks; they have been around since before broadband was commercialized. 1948 was a pivotal point when theories for self-replicating programs were first developed; this gives you a keen sense of understanding on how long these malicious programs have been in the works, this was pretty much when technology really took off after WW II. In 1981 Apple had Viruses 1, 2, and 3. The virus was created to pirate computer games. 1983 Fred Cohen, coined the name Computer Virus as it self-replicates. In 1986 two programmers, Basit and Amjad, replaced the executable code in the boot sector of a floppy disk to infect any drive. They created this virus known as ‘Brain’ and it was to cause people and as individuals copy the program and expect to see a high amount of malware. Today, thanks to the Internet, the number of malware-wise times for viruses and Trojans there was a lot of high profile attacks geared toward the government at the time Microsoft began to feel the effects of malicious programs. This was mostly through office suites (e.g., outlook, word, and excel). By the 2000’s viruses were on the rise and began to spread like wild fire with the introduction of broadband (high speed internet). These attacks could be carried out much faster and efficiently. The more people hopping online, the more they were oblivious to attacks. It gave more chances for attackers to infiltrate anything and everything. It is very important that you use these technologies on a daily basis, you should be aware of the dangers that you risk by not knowing.

I would like to leave you with seven 2014 Security Predictions for this year:

1. The U.S. Healthcare Website, many hackers are awaiting for users to sign-up as there are over 500 million lines of code. That’s 25 times more than Facebook, 10 times more than WIN XP, 10–25 times more lines of code to secure and monitor.
2. Crypto-ransomware also known as ransomware, these target small and medium sized businesses to hold important information as hostage by requesting sums of money to retrieve the documents back.
3. Infrastructure attacks; there were 25 major vulnerabilities in equipment that controls much of the world’s critical infrastructure and industrial machinery in late 2013.
4. Non-traditional computer devices like cars, toys, and medical devices, hackers are now able to hack devices primarily due to wireless capabilities and bluetooth technology that is embedded in these devices.
5. A chain-of–trust hack – An attack such as this would be (e.g., phishing – a web address posing as a legitimate web site to acquire login credentials). Created to imitate a familiar site you normally visit. These are targeted to partners and contractors of businesses as they are the least secure.
6. Malware gets meaner – meaning it will disguise itself a lot more effectively tricking the user into allowing it to be downloaded for additional software add-ons, (e.g., tool bars on web browsers, extra media players, or links to malicious websites).
7. Network attackers become cyber shrinks – these are expected to be attacks focusing on more psychology than technology with techniques like convincing phishing emails and leveraging pop culture, to target the weakest link the user.

Facts – worldwide phishing attacks cost was more than $1.5 billion in 2012. Social engineering threats increased 20% in 2013.

These are just some of the concerns that apply to businesses and home users as well. In the upcoming months I will address more of these issues in depth and provide a solution to better defend these ongoing threats for our tribal citizens and hope to maybe inspire young and elder tribal citizens in taking the initiative of learning new technology and the latest technology field. I believe this knowledge should be made accessible to you, as technology continues on the up rise, dangers lurk not far behind these wonderful advances.

Nee yaw way
Sherman Tiger
The Indian Child Welfare Program actively seeks Native American families to become foster parents for Native American children.

To find out how to become a foster parent for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe call 405-878-4702

Foster & Adoptive Parents Needed!!!

Can you open your home and heart for a foster child? Foster parents provide a temporary, safe home for children in crisis. Foster parents are partners with child welfare workers, lawyers and judges. It is not for everyone but if you have it in your heart - we need you.

- Can you love and care for a child who comes from a difficult background?
- Can you help a child develop a sense of belonging?
- Are you secure in yourself & your parenting Skills?
- Can you maintain a positive attitude toward a child’s parents?
- Can you love with all your heart & then let go?

FOSTER PARENTS PROVIDE A TEMPORARY, SAFE HOME FOR CHILDREN IN CRISIS. THEY ARE PARTNERS WITH WORKERS, LAWYERS, AND JUDGES. IT IS NOT FOR EVERYONE! CAN YOU OPEN YOUR HOME AND HEART FOR A FOSTER CHILD?

Many children need a loving home and a family to help them through a very tough time. Please think about it and talk with your family before you become a foster home. They all need safe, supportive environments!

If you find yourself and your family interested in Foster Care, please contact Amanda Lenora, CPS/Foster Care Worker - 405-878-4702

ASTribe
Indian Child Welfare Department
FOSTER CARE

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 83 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 non-native 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 300 Native American children in the foster care program with a majority of these children placed in non-native placements. Now imagine if your son, daughter, grand children were placed in another home that didn’t teach or understand the Absentee Shawnee traditions. What would happen to their identity, their sense of being a AST, their sense of belonging and being proud of being a Absentee Shawnee?

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

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

To All-

Native American youth are facing a crisis. These children are being removed from their homes and placed into the child welfare system at rates much higher than any other population. Native American children are often placed in homes outside of their families, tribes, and Native American culture and all this contributes to significant social problems. The story of Native American people is a complicated one marked by significant trauma and atrocities. Often times this trauma consisted of the removal of Native American children from their homes on tribal land and sending them to religious and BIA boarding schools. The legacy of abuse which happened to these young and vulnerable children in many of these schools resulted in overwhelming intergenerational trauma and unresolved grief. This trauma which interrupted the ability to parent has led directly to the most current social problems that plague Native American communities today including alcohol/drug abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, sexual abuse and parenting deficiencies.

All of these problems have contributed to the break-down of the family unit, leading to the removal of large numbers of Native American youth from their families. The journey of healing and breaking the cycles which have been put in place by the historical trauma experienced by generations of Native Americans requires that the cultural identity for so long denied to these children be returned. Native American youth have two distinct influences, that of their family of origin and that of their caregivers.

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Foster Care is in need of homes for children that are in our child welfare system. Your participation in being a foster parent helps to ensure that these children have positive connections to their culture which helps nurture a positive sense of identification as a Native American. By being willing to do this you can be a valuable part of the healing journey that will help strengthen this next generation of Absentee Shawnee children; in turn, helping those children become the parents that their children will need them to be. Our children are our future, what will we have our future be? Will you as Absentee Shawnee member do your part if you are able?

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact Juliann Wilson ICW/CPS/FOSTER CARE at 878-4702 ext. 133.
HEALTHCARE OPEN ENROLLMENTS UPDATES!

General Open Enrollment: January-March 2013

This General Open Enrollment period gives Medicare recipients who missed their Initial Enrollment Period the opportunity to sign up from January 1 through March 31 each year. Your coverage will begin on July 1, 2014. 1-800-MEDICARE, www.medicare.gov.

Inaugural Open Enrollment EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 31, 2014

This inaugural open enrollment period allows consumers to enroll in the Affordable Care Act. You may qualify for health plan discounts and tax credits. Native Americans can enroll and unenroll on a monthly basis. www.healthcare.gov, 1-800-318-2596

Your Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System Patient Benefit Advocates are available to assist with Medicare enrollment and Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace information.

For more information contact:

Connie Bottaro  
Little Axe Health Center  
405.447.0300

Liza Wilson  
Little Axe Health Center  
405.447.0300

Lela Culley  
Shawnee Clinic  
405.878.4702

AST PHARMACY NEWS

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

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

Hours of Operation:
Little Axe: 8am-5pm (& 7:30a-5:30p Drive-Thru) Monday - Friday
  Phone - (405) 292-9530
Shawnee: 7am-5pm Monday-Friday
  Phone – (405) 878-5859
  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**

-Thank you, Pharmacy Staff

Are you at risk for diabetes, have diabetes or know someone who does? Type 2 diabetes is the most common type of diabetes and affects millions of Native Americans. Many people are unaware that they have diabetes or pre-diabetes. Native Americans are twice as likely to develop Type 2 diabetes than others. Some common signs and symptoms include:

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

Often people with type 2 diabetes have no symptoms.

Some ways to prevent and manage diabetes is through healthy lifestyle behaviors. One question that many people with diabetes or pre-diabetes often ask is “What can I eat?”. The American Diabetes Association states that you do not have to be deprived or restricted. The key factors are learning what are the “superfoods”, how much of it you can have and how often. Getting into the habit of eating a healthy diet helps you manage diabetes and prevent complications caused by diabetes.

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

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

- calcium
- magnesium
- potassium
- vitamins A, C, and E.
- fiber
- beans, dark green leafy vegetables, citrus fruit, sweet potatoes, berries, tomatoes, fish high in Omega-3 fatty acids, whole grains, nuts, fat-free milk and yogurt.

To learn more about eating these superfoods and recipes visit diabetes.org and sign up for Wellness and Healthy Eating classes at the Little Axe Clinic. Call Sidna McKane to sign up at 405 701-7977.

Source: American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org
Fellow Tribal Members,

My name is Leah D. Bates and I am seeking your support as I pursue the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Treasurer seat. My deep-rooted tribal beliefs have further propelled me to not only continue to work for my tribal people, but to help on a more grand scale. The past five years, I have had the privilege to work in multiple positions within the AST Health System Administration. I have been a stable infrastructure through executive support services for the Health Board and executive Health Director in the largest budget area and resource expenditure in the tribe. I have been a key component in creating a smooth transition for multiple Directors. In each job title, I have meticulously absorbed as much knowledge and experience as possible so that I may be able to accomplish my job duties to an exceptional level. Through my work ethic, I have been instrumental in implementing a time clock system for our health staff, helped create health budgets, and maintain grants with knowledge of grant guidelines. I also have experience as a Human Resource Assistant, auditor, payroll, marketing and social media, new employee training and orientation. Currently as an AST Clinic Program Analyst, I help guide and fund tribal members who seek to gain education to further their careers in a health related field. Outside of Health Administration, I aim to strengthen our tribal community through establishing a boys and girls club, increasing the retention of our tribal youth within the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI), providing leadership in implementing a large community playground for the Little Axe area, and developing an AST tribal language class for elementary tribal youth.

As a mother of five children, I know the importance of hard work and establishing a financial budget that is both beneficial and practical. I will apply all of my knowledge, skills, ability and experience in a focused, combined effort contributing towards being financially stable and help our tribe provide sustainability for our future generations. I seek to work in a collaborative manner, with various groups of people, to provide an outcome with positive results.

Sincerely,

Leah D. Bates
Leading Candidate for AST Treasurer