



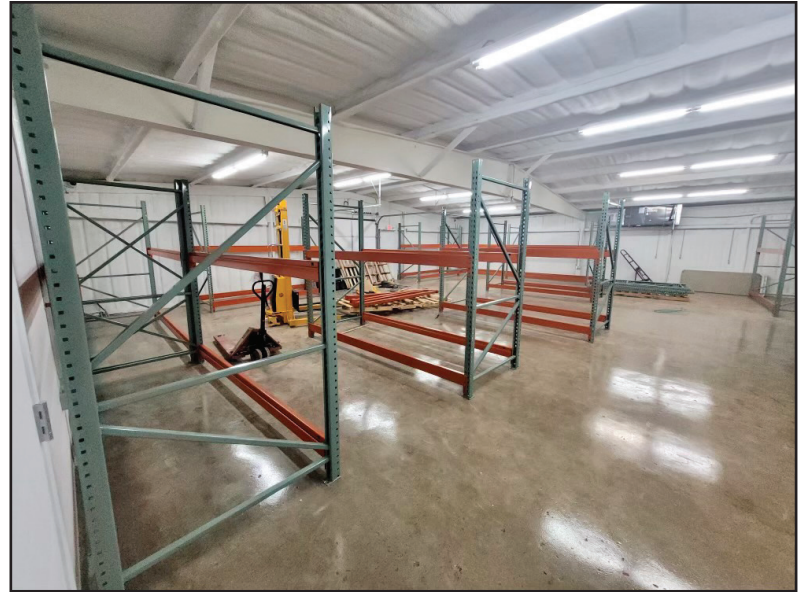
# THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE NEWS

[www.atribe.com](http://www.atribe.com)

Volume 31, No. 03

March 2021

## Food Pantry Set to Open; Seeking Staff



The Absentee Shawnee Tribe is set to open their first food pantry. It will be located at Highway 177 and Benson Park Road in Shawnee. The food pantry will provide food items and ingredients to provide a full meal for the family.

This project is under the oversight of the Governor John Johnson. When talking about the food pantry, Johnson said he is excited the tribe can provide this service to tribal members. "I know many tribal members are struggling right now because of COVID and are dealing with lost wages. I am really glad we can take one less worry off their plate". Johnson said they are close to opening but need to hire staff to implement this program. "We have been working on this for quite a while and I am glad it's finally coming together. Lots of tribal members are choosing between food and paying bills. This will help alleviate some of that stress."

As of right now, the food pantry will only provide food to Absentee Shawnee tribal members. Once opened, tribal members will need to register and provide their CDIB card to be eligible. The long-term goal is to get USDA funding to provide service to the community. The food pantry should be open two to three days a week. Exact days and hours are not set yet. The opening date will depend on when it gets fully staffed.

Available jobs include food bank manager, food bank office clerk/receptionist and food bank distributor (warehouse). If you are interested in applying to work at the food pantry, please apply online at [www.atribe.com](http://www.atribe.com).

## Winter Storm Shuts Down AST Complex



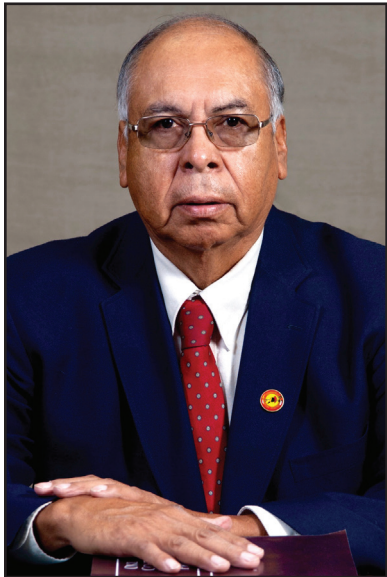
A winter storm bringing brutal cold temperatures and over a foot of snow shut down the complex February 16-19th. The Executive Committee declared a state of emergency and opened up two warming shelters for Tribal members. The shelters were located at the Little Axe Health Center and the Multi-Purpose Building in Shawnee. This shelters were opened in case Tribal members lost power or felt they wouldn't be warm enough in their own homes due to the frigid temperatures. The shelters were opened on February 14th and remained open throughout the duration of this storm.

The AST Office of Emergency Management also activated a Winter Weather Call line. This was set up to provide a variety of assistance for Tribal members.

In total, 39 Tribal members were assisted during this winter storm. All incoming calls to the Winter Weather Call line were received at the AST Emergency Operations Center and they insured all deliveries were sent out. Even though the complex was closed, multiple departments continued to work to make sure tribal members needs were met.



**GOVERNOR**  
John Johnson



**LT. GOVERNOR**  
Kenneth Blanchard



**SECRETARY**  
Ezra DeLodge



**TREASURER**  
Joseph Blanchard



**REPRESENTATIVE**  
Alicia Miller



## GOVERNOR'S REPORT

John Johnson, AST Governor

Hello fellow tribal members,

I hope that everyone weathered the crazy February snow/ice storms. The EC decided to close the complex due to hazardous road conditions and freezing temperatures. With the deep snow impacting the state, the complex was closed for several days. During this time the EC opened up the Multi-purpose building in Shawnee and the Resource Center in Little Axe as "Warming Centers" for any tribal member that lost power or water. The Emergency

Management Team dedicated their time to make sure both centers had around the clock coverage. I want to thank all the employees that volunteered their time to help staff these centers.

The AST Food Bank is in the process of being opened. My staff and I have been working hard to get this open for our tribe. The food bank can benefit many tribal members that are in need. We need your help in getting staff. Please see the website for all the job openings or contact my office to get an application. As soon as we have staff, we will be able to get this resource open for our members.

The complex is still operating at

Phase 1. This means the campus is closed and no visitors are allowed past the check point at this time. If you have business with the tribe, please contact the department in which you have business with and make arrangements. All our departments have options that will keep you, the tribal member and staff safe.

As I close, I want to remind everyone to keep following COVID-19 guidelines. Make your appointment at the clinic to get your COVID vaccines and practices the 3 W's: Wash your hands, Wear your mask and Watch your distance.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Joseph Blanchard, AST Treasurer

Hello Fellow Members and Friends,

I hope all is well with you and your families. This past month went by quickly and presented each of us with a new set of problems due to the weather. I hope everyone was able to come out of the extreme cold and unexpected snowfall unscathed. Locally we received a record amount of snow and consecutive days of below freezing temperatures, part of which created closures across our State and community.

I want to acknowledge the Maintenance staff at both the Tribal Complex and Health Center for helping to clear the entry ways, sidewalks, and parking lots. They worked in unbearable conditions to make sure we could open the campuses back up. Also, I appreciate the individuals who volun-

teered to assist with and manned the Warming Centers. Luckily, only a handful of families were affected with frozen water lines and Emergency Management was able to provide them with bottled water and heaters.

There are many projects related to the CARES Priority List that are wrapping up and the EC is working to close out Phase I and begin Phase II to expend the remainder of the 2020 funds. Any day, we are waiting on the announcement from the U.S. Government of when and how much the Tribe will receive in this next round of COVID Relief.

Because of the Pandemic, many of the meetings and updates have occurred through Zoom teleconferences and email. The Annual Audit process has already begun and I will have more information to announce next month regarding the firm chosen to perform our audit of the CARES dollars. They will help determine that monies

were spent appropriately and met the established guidelines, as set forth by National Treasury.

According to Controller Murdock, we have approximately \$6.9 million remaining that has not been appropriated or allocated. However, I expect that number to increase as there were several items which did not get funded and were deemed unnecessary.

Please continue to follow CDC recommendations and the practice of Social Distancing. With the vaccinations, numbers are beginning to decline and the latest suggestion I received said we may start to see some normalcy as early as April but realistically in June.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to me by email or call my office.

Respectfully,

*Joseph H. Blanchard*

## REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Alicia Miller, AST Representative

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

February has come and gone and we have ever so quickly advanced to March. It never ceases to amaze me how quick time flies. February is a short month to begin with and it became even shorter when the tribal complex closed for several days due to the extreme cold weather.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the tribal departments who assisted when the call went out to prepare for winter weather emergency operations. These tribal departments went the extra mile in order to provide assistance to tribal members (and maintain the complex) during the winter storm (even when they were experiencing issues at their own homes). We were able to set up a winter weather call line to field calls from tribal members, have facilities available as warming shelters, have bottled water transport for local tribal member households who were experiencing water hardships, space heaters as needed and assist tribal

elders and families to the best of available tribal resources in order to try to keep them warm during the storm. I could not be more proud of the collaborative effort. All the way from each EC member to the brave volunteers who drove to the sites to offer their time at the warming stations. As a group, we corresponded 2-3 times every day to make sure we could problem solve or provide assistance in some form or fashion to the issue(s) at hand.

Ne yi wa (thank you) to each of you for your dedication and efforts:

- AST Police Department
- AST Emergency Management
- AST Human Resources
- AST Information Technology
- AST Health System including AST Health Maintenance & employee volunteers
- AST Media
- Lt. Governor's Executive Assistant
- AST Maintenance Department including Stephen Fife, John Mann, Stacy Coon and Clayton Martinez
- AST Procurement

I would also like to include in this acknowledgement the informational assistance provided by the Pottawatomie County Emergency Management Director.

The low-income tax prep assistance was delayed a few sessions due to the severe weather but is now back on track for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturday's from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Shawnee Clinic Multipurpose Building. Assistance is provided by appointment only. To make your appointment, please call Ms. Tina Ontiveros at (405)275-4030 ext. 6431. This program will be available through mid-April.

I hope you continue to adhere to the prevention measures outlined for your safety during the pandemic. There are new variant strains in the news – which seem scarier than before. Please protect yourself and your family. Until next time...

Ne yi wa! (Thank you!)

Alicia (Aly) Miller

Tribal Representative

Cell: 405.287.5247

Email: aliciam@astribe.com

ELECTION COMMISSION

From: The Election Commission

Tribal Members- This Article is written as an effort to keep you informed as to the facts of the Election Process 2021.

The Filing period was open January 1-10. Since the 9th and 10th were a Saturday and Sunday the Candidate packets had to be submitted by 5 pm on January 8, 2021.

Four packets were received and reviewed on January 8. As of 2-2-21 the following is true:

- A.

James Cody Spybuck, Jr’s packet was accepted as complete and he was accepted as a potential candidate as Election Commission Secretary but failed to provide his Drug Test by the deadline date. He was then disqualified as a candidate.
- B.

Sasha Almanza’s packet was accepted as complete. She was accepted as a potential candidate as Commission Member #2 but submitted a Withdrawal Letter.
- C.

Meredith Wahpekeche’s packet was accepted as complete and she was accepted as a potential candidate. After further review, the Election Commission determined that the candidate failed to complete a section of the Declaration Page and was disqualified as a candidate.
- D.

Paulette Blanchard’s packet was not accepted. She failed to follow the Filing Procedure. She is not recorded as picking up a packet (Article IV, Section 5A). She was not accepted as a potential candidate.

There are no Candidates. The Commission determined that with no Candidates there is no need for an Election. According to the March Election Policy a joint meeting was held with the Executive Committee on 2-2-21.

At the Joint Meeting it was proposed that the filing period be reopened and we restart the process. The Election Commission is of the opinion that the Constitution and Ordinance prevents a restart. The Commission concluded that the course of action they choose to follow is to request the Court System to determine what action is appropriate when there are no Candidates. This has never happened before. We will wait for Court Guidance before any action is taken. This may happen again since the change to four year terms for Executive Committee has created Election years that has only Election Commission Positions.

Per the Media Policy we are scheduled to place in the March Newsletter the Sample Ballot; the Poll locations; the Voting times; and Poll Behavior. Since there are no candidates these items are not pertinent.

We have requested that we be placed on the Agenda of the Spring General Council so Tribal members can be informed of a request to schedule the Elections to be in the same years. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

FY-2020  
YTD TAX COLLECTIONS  
(thru 1/31/2021)

TAX CATEGORY	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL	% OF TAXES COLLECTED
Sales (6%)	\$14,008.93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,008.93	3.50%
Gaming % of free cash	\$313,044.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$313,044.00	78.27%
Employee (1%)	\$9,218.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,218.92	2.31%
Severance (8%)	\$1,518.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,518.24	0.38%
Motor Vehicle	\$19,181.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,181.75	4.80%
Motor Fuel Taxes (Qtrly.)	\$37,389.68	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$37,389.68	9.35%
Tobacco Refund	\$5,365.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,365.40	1.34%
TOTAL TAXES	\$399,726.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$399,726.92	
Miscellaneous	\$210.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$210.00	0.05%
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$399,936.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$399,936.92	100%

AST Tax Commission

COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN - PHASE 1

New Registration Options:

Drop Box

Payments Accepted:

• Check

• Money Order

• Cashier’s Check

• Debit/Credit Cards

\*\*No cash, please\*\*

Mail

Renewal Options:

Drop Box

Online or

E-Mail

Mail

NO APPOINTMENTS AT THIS TIME -

THE CAMPUS IS CLOSED TO VISITORS

For additional information please contact us:

Email: tax@astribc.com or Phone: (405)481-8600

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL MEMBERS

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

ASEDA

CULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FOSTER CARE LICENSING COMMITTEE

TEC

NAGPRA

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS OF INTEREST WITH RESUME ATTACHED TO:

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



# ASTHS March 2021 Monthly Update

**AST Health System Year in Review 2020:** The AST Health System has had quite a memorable and challenging year along with our patients and tribal communities across our state and the nation. In rising to the COVID-19 challenges as it continues to be the pandemic health challenge of our generation, it is important to note the huge milestones and significant accomplishments your health system has achieved this year and to date in servicing both our Tribe and our Patients. We bid a fond farewell and say “thank you” to outgoing board members Mrs. Sandra Vaughn and Mr. Melpherd Switch for their years of dedicated service to the AST Health System, and also thank Rear Admiral Kevin Meeks for filling in for Dr. Paul Massad, who sadly passed away this time last year unexpectedly. We are also happy in welcoming our newest board members in their new roles with our health programs and wish them all well: Dr. Lancer Stephens, Health Boards Chair; Michelle Rapp, Health Boards Vice Chair; Darren Shields, Health Boards Secretary; Max Tahsuda, Health Boards Member; and Lydia Longhorn, Health Boards Member.

The AST Health Boards have approved and paid accelerated payments on the Joint Venture for the past several years, and this year made their second to the last payment on the JV, which will be paid off 13 years early in a little more than 6 months from now! This will allow capacity for investment in another potential JV at the Shawnee Campus to improve health care services and access there as well as potential expansion needs being met at Little Axe!

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

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

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

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

The Health Programs absorbed the Title 6 Meals Program (that was at risk of closure and continued to negatively impact the General Fund). The Health Programs have now stabilized the Title 6 program that serves our elders, is less of a burden upon the tribe’s budget, and more recently has been provided new equipment and vehicles by the Executive Committee via grants and CARES Act funding to assure future of services are not a risk! To date, Health and Title 6 employees working together have serviced, prepared, delivered, and provided for in excess >60,000 meals to program recipients in 2020 alone during the pandemic! Title 6 also has immediate access to the Health System’s board certified Nutritionist, making meal planning better.

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

Record patient satisfaction rates with our services, consistently scoring between 97-99% on one survey tracker and a 4.7 – 4.9 out of 5 stars on another survey tracker! This doesn’t mean we are perfect by any stretch - only that we are trying - and consistently striving to improve both patient services and the patient care experience!

We are proud to announce that the AST Health System Employee of the Year for 2020 is Dr. Gregory Reading, AST Health System’s Chiropractor in the Physical Therapy Department! He was selected by the employees to represent the staff and employees by an at-large vote of the employees of the health system from the 12 eligible Employees of the Month Awardees from 2020. Congratulations Dr. Reading on a job “well done,” we all appreciate you very much!!!

The employees of the health system make a difference everyday! Thank you all for making an important difference in the lives and health of all of our health system’s patients! Remember: “Your mask protects me, my mask protects you, and immunizations protects us all!”

### March 2021 Health Employee Awards of the Month

- Employee of the Month: Ms. Angela Callahan, LPN LittleAxe Primary Care
- Team of the Month: AST Health System Shawnee & LittleAxe Labs
- Special Leadership Award: Dr. Marty Lofgren, Laboratory Director



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

## Pharmacy Reminder



### 3 WAYS TO REFILL YOUR PRESCRIPTION

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



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



Visit our website for quick and easy access at:  
[www.asthealth.org/request-rx-refill](http://www.asthealth.org/request-rx-refill)

## RESOURCE CENTER NOTICE:

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

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

Thank you,



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**HEALTH SYSTEM**  
Prevention. Progress. Pride.

## We Want Your DRUGS

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

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

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

**NORMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
201 B West Gray Norman, OK 73069

**TECUMSEH POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
109 W. Washington Tecumseh, OK 74873

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

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

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

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



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ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL HEALTH AUTHORITY, INC.  
**SHAWNEE CLINIC**  
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MyDNA is an Absentee Shawnee Tribal Project and is funded by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) in cooperation with the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board.



# FOLLOW

US ON TWITTER



@ASTHEALTH



PHARMACY SERVICES

Your health is our first order.

Prescriptions, medical supplies, helpful advice. The trained pharmacists and supportive staff at each of our AST pharmacy locations are happy to serve you in person or on the phone.

Please allow 24 hours for refills. When you call for refills, have your medication numbers ready and use our automated system. If you'd like to receive a text when medications are ready, share your current cell phone number with a pharmacy staff member. It's also important to let us know about changes in address, phone numbers, insurance and other contact information.

**LITTLE AXE HEALTH CENTER**  
15951 Little Axe Drive  
Norman, OK 73026  
**405.292.9530**

**Lobby:**  
Mon – Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Regular Drive-thru:**  
Mon – Fri 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Extended Hours Drive-thru\*:**  
Mon – Fri 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
*(or until last PlusCare patient receives their medications)*  
Sat – Sun 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed New Year's Day, Easter Sunday,  
Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiv-  
ing Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day

\*Extended Hours Rx Drive-Thru is available  
ONLY for PlusCare Clinic prescriptions  
and AST Member emergency room visit fills.

*Both pharmacies are closed the first Wednesday of every month from Noon-5 p.m.*

**SHAWNEE CLINIC**  
2029 South Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
**405.878.5859**

**Lobby:**  
Mon – Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Drive-thru:**  
Mon – Fri 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Extended Hours\*:**  
Mon – Fri 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
*(or until last patient receives their medications)*  
Sat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed Sundays & Holidays

\*Extended Hours Rx is available ONLY for  
Extended Hours Clinic prescriptions  
and AST Member emergency room visit fills.

24-HOUR EMERGENCY PHARMACY ACCESS

If you experience an emergent issue after hours and receive a prescription that needs to be filled that same evening, AST Health has provided access for Tribal Members only at three (3) **approved Walgreens locations in Shawnee and Norman**. You will need to submit your prescription, and it is mandatory to identify yourself with your AST CDIB card and other appropriate ID. Then, they will fill your prescription. You will have a five-day limited fill on your prescription. Upon the first work/business day, you can have the remaining balance of your prescription(s) transferred to your AST pharmacy in either Shawnee or Little Axe, and they will fill your remaining balance. The three (3) AST Health-ap-  
proved Walgreens service locations are: 1427 North Harrison Street or at 600 Shawnee Mall Drive,  
Shawnee, OK or 615 West Main Street, Norman, OK



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**HEALTH SYSTEM**

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WWW.ASTHEALTH.ORG

Care on your schedule,  
that's the Plus.



A WALK-IN, AFTER-HOURS, ACUTE CARE FACILITY

HOURS OF OPERATION:

**8 a.m.- 8 p.m. Monday-Friday**  
*(Last patient accepted at 7:30 p.m.)*

**9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday**  
*(Last patient accepted at 4:30 p.m.)*

PlusCare will be closed the first Wednesday  
of every month from noon-5 p.m.

And will be closed the following holidays:  
New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial  
Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day,  
Christmas Eve, Christmas Day

Minor illnesses and injuries – an earache, a  
sprain, the flu – can sneak up on you. That's  
why PlusCare provides medical services for  
non-emergency conditions on a same-day,  
no-appointment necessary basis. PlusCare is  
available to AST tribal members and other  
IHS-eligible Native Americans who are ages  
two years and older.

At PlusCare, we're dedicated to provid-  
ing high-quality, clinic-based health care to  
members of our community. **On evenings.**  
**On weekends. This is all for you.**



**PLUSCARE**

LI-SI-WI-NWI HEALTH, INC.

Prevention. Progress. Pride.



15702 East State Highway 9 • Norman, OK 73026  
Phone: 405.447.0477 Fax: 405.366.8996

WWW.ASTHEALTH.ORG

COVID-19 Vaccines

DEBUNKING THE MYTHS

VACCINE MYTH



It was rushed and isn't safe



It changes your DNA



It can give you COVID-19



It contains an egg protein



It causes severe side effects



It makes women infertile



COVID-19  
VACCINE



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VACCINE TRUTH

Researchers took no safety  
shortcuts. Large studies show  
the vaccination is safe.

It is impossible for the vaccine  
to change your DNA.

The vaccine does not include  
a live virus strain.

It doesn't contain egg proteins  
and can be given to people  
with egg allergies.

For most, the vaccine causes  
mild side effects that resolve  
in a few days.

There is no evidence the  
vaccine causes infertility.

\*Original Graphic Credited to Sanford Health

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

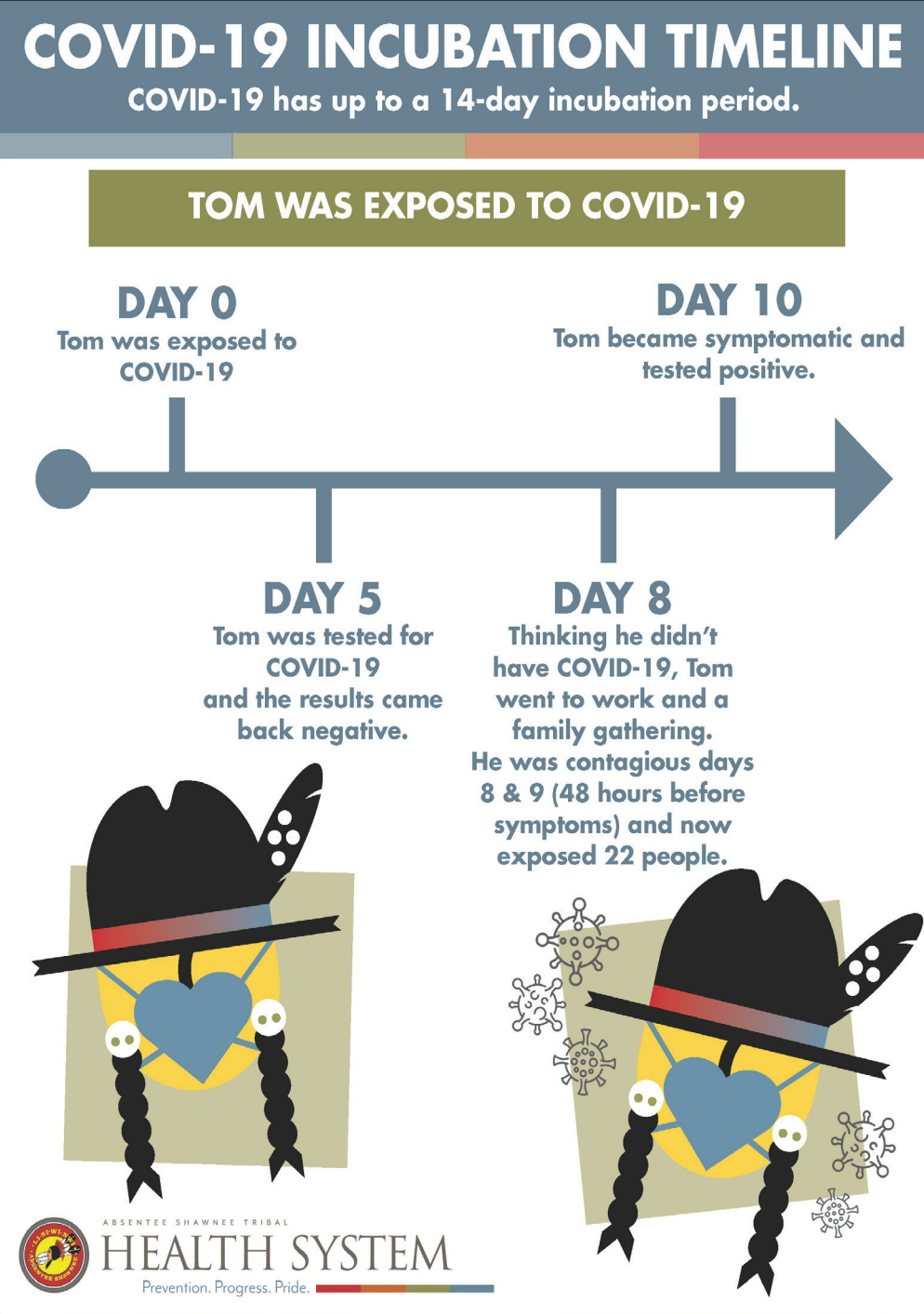
### Are there other vaccines that can help prevent me from getting COVID-19?

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

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

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

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



Let your voice be heard.

Ne-Hi-Ki-Wa-Sa-Pa. *We listen.*

It is our mission to provide quality health care. To do this, we need some help from you. Share your needs, concerns and care experiences. **Call patient advocate Jim Robertson at 405.447.0300 or Customer Service at 405.701.7623.** Complete a Patient Questionnaire in one of our clinics or online.

*Together, we will fulfill our mission.*

AAAHC  
ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION  
for AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE, INC.

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL HEALTH SYSTEM  
Prevention. Progress. Pride.

WWW.ASHEALTH.ORG



TO SCHEDULE YOUR  
APPOINTMENT CALL  
**405.701.7190**  
or  
**405.701.7600**

## COVID-19 VACCINES AVAILABLE —BY APPOINTMENT ONLY—

### CURRENTLY IN PHASE 1 & 2 SERVING:

- ACTIVE patients and all AST members 55 years and older.
- Ages 16-54 with certain underlying medical conditions\*.
- AST Veterans
- The vaccine will be administered in a series of 2 shots 3-4 weeks apart.
- You will be monitored 15-30 minutes after receiving the vaccine.

\*CDC recommendations for those at increased risk for COVID-19–associated illness:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies.
- Smoking
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant.
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI]  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> but  $< 40$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Severe obesity (BMI  $\geq 40$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

NATIVE CONNECTIONS GRANT

# NATIVE INSTRUCTORS NEEDED!

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

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

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

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

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

This flyer was developed under grant number SM090181 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the SAMHSA or HHS.



## Nutrition Corner

AST DIABETES AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

### National Nutrition Month 2021

#### Tips for Personalizing Your Plate

##### Cook and Prep:

- Learn skills to create tasty meals to share and enjoy

##### Meal Planning:

- Enjoy healthful eating at home, work, and school

##### Vary Your Diet:

- Eat a variety of nutritious foods every day

##### Visit an RDN:

- See a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to nutrition and health. We are all unique with different bodies, goals, backgrounds, and tastes.

#### Eat a Variety of Nutritious Foods Every Day!

- Include healthful foods from all food groups
  - Protein, fruit, vegetable, dairy, grain
- Hydrate healthfully (aim for 64 oz. or more)
- Learn how to read Nutrition Facts Labels
- Avoid distractions while eating
- Take time to enjoy your food



#### Plan your Meals Each Week!

- Use a grocery list to shop for healthful foods
- Be menu-savvy when dining out
- Choose healthful recipes to make during the week
- Plan healthful eating while traveling

#### Learn Skills to Create Tasty Meals!

- Keep healthful ingredients on hand
- Practice proper home food safety
- Share meals together as a family when possible
- Reduce food waste
- Try new flavors and foods



#### Consult a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)!

- Receive personalized nutrition advice to meet your goals
- Thrive through the transformative power of food and nutrition

### Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Domestic Violence Department



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

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

#### Our services are confidential and include:

Safety Planning  
Emergency Assistance  
Court Advocacy  
Shelter Placement Assistance  
Referrals

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

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

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

\*If you are AST and outside the service area, please call our office and we will see what we can do to help you.

#### Contact Us:

**Office Line** 405.273.2888

**Fax** 405.273.1192

**Webpage** <https://www.astribes.com/domestic-violence>

**Link to intake** <https://www.astribes.com/forms/victim-intake>

**f** @ASTRisingWarrior

**For emergencies call 911 or AST PD @ 405.275.3200**



107 North Kimberly  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
(405) 273-1050  
Website  
[www.ashousingauthority.com](http://www.ashousingauthority.com)

#### PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

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

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

## NOTICE MARCH 2021

### COVID-19 & ANTIBODY TESTING- enter the clinic for testing

LITTLE AXE HEALTH CENTER, 405.447.0300

COVID-19 testing 5:30pm-6:30pm:

- Tues., March 9<sup>th</sup>
- Tues., March 23<sup>rd</sup>

ANTIBODY testing 5:00pm - 6:00pm (LA only):

- Thurs., March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thurs., March 25<sup>th</sup>

SHAWNEE CLINIC, 405.878.5850

COVID-19 testing 5:30pm - 6:30pm:

- Wed., March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Wed., March 17<sup>th</sup>

#### For Your Visit Please...

- Wear a mask
- Bring identification

#### For Antibody Testing...

- Be prepared to have blood drawn
- Those not being tested will not be allowed entry into the clinic
- Testing is available to anyone ages 10+

For inquiries please call 405.695.1787

In the event of rain or adverse weather, testing will not be conducted.

Testing is open to the public.

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

Some services are dependent on funding availability



TITLE VI ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM

During this COVID 19 PANDEMIC: TITLE VI IS ONLY OPEN ON MONDAYS

Mission Statement:

To provide a nutritional meal five days a week to our tribal members and other tribe affiliated members 55 or older who live in the jurisdiction. We also provide supportive services to members.

Requirements for the Title VI Program

- CDIB card from a federally recognized tribe
- 55 years or older
- Spouses of eligible elders
- Complete an intake form
- Individuals with disabilities who reside at home with older individuals eligible for services

HOME DELIVERED MEALS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:

Elders should only be on the home delivered meal program if they are unable to leave their homes without great difficulty. Their inability to leave home may be because illness, disability, or general fragility. They may be home bound because they cannot ride comfortably in an available vehicle for the time it takes to get to the congregate site because of their fragility.

CONGREGATE MEAL SITES:

TITLE VI ELDERS WILL DRIVE THRU UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE.

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex Building #9, Shawnee Ok

Congregate Meals are served on Mondays Only– 10 am to 2 pm

Title VI Staff

Thomasine Owings, Title VI Director  
Lula Bettelyoun, Cook  
Donna Butler, Assistant Cook/Driver  
Robert Schoolfield, Driver/Maintenance  
Ted Watson Jr, Driver/Kitchen Assistant  
Guy Kowena, Driver/Kitchen Assistant



Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801-0381

Title VI  
Elderly Nutrition Program

Dear Absentee Shawnee Tribal Members

For many years The Title VI Department has provided gas to mow your lawns. We are updating the guidelines. The Title VI Grant provides gas as supportive services and for us to provide supportive service you must be a participant in the Title VI Program.

Guidelines:

1. Absentee Shawnee Member
2. Must be 55 years and older
3. Must be an Title VI Member, have a current intake form on file (FY-2021)
4. Must provide Proof of Residency (utility bill – in the applicants name)
5. Handicap/Disabled
6. NO RENTAL PROPERTY WILL BE MOWED

As a Title VI Member as long as you are within the guidelines you can put in your application and turn in your applications to the Title VI Department. As stated on the application: Maintenance will only mow and weed eat applicants lawn. Maintenance will mow every two (2) weeks weather permitting. Also, the maintenance workers will not trim trees, shrubs, and will NOT move any items that are in the way of cutting your lawn.

This year we are trying to get an early start on our grass mowing list,

Any questions you can reach me at 405-275-4030 ext. 6227 or email me at dowings@atribe.com

Thomasine Owings

Thomasine Owings  
Title VI Director



ELDER INTAKE FORM

TODAY'S DATE \_\_\_\_\_ REFERRAL SOURCE \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ MALE \_\_\_\_ FEMALE \_\_\_\_ VETERAN \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SINGLE \_\_\_\_ MARRIED \_\_\_\_ DIVORCED/SEPARATED \_\_\_\_ WIDOWED \_\_\_\_ WIDOWER \_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF EMERGENCY CONTACT (1) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF EMERGENCY CONTACT (2) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY LANGUAGE ENGLISH \_\_\_\_ TRIBAL \_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSING \_\_\_\_ HOUSE \_\_\_\_ APARTMENT \_\_\_\_ COMMUNITY HOUSING \_\_\_\_ OTHER EXPLAIN \_\_\_\_\_

COMPOSITION \_\_\_\_ LIVES ALONE \_\_\_\_ LIVES WITH SPOUSE \_\_\_\_ LIVES WITH FAMILY/FRIENDS  
\_\_\_\_ OTHER EXPLAIN \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER IN HOUSEHOLD \_\_\_\_\_ WHO HELPS \_\_\_\_\_

HEALTH HISTORY \_\_\_\_ ASTHMA \_\_\_\_ ALZHEIMER'S \_\_\_\_ ARTHRITIS \_\_\_\_ CANCER \_\_\_\_ DEMENTIA  
\_\_\_\_ DIABETES \_\_\_\_ CHRONIC PAIN \_\_\_\_ HEARING AID \_\_\_\_ CHOLESTEROL \_\_\_\_ BLOOD PRESSURE

PRIMARY TRANSPORTATION \_\_\_\_ Own Car \_\_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_\_ Public Trans. \_\_\_\_ Senior Tran's \_\_\_\_ Family

PROSTHETIC DEVICES \_\_\_\_ Walker/Cane \_\_\_\_ Wheelchair \_\_\_\_ Hearing Aid \_\_\_\_ Glasses \_\_\_\_ Dentures \_\_\_\_ None

ARE YOU ENROLLED WITH A DIFFERENT TITLE VI PROGRAM? \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

IF YES, NAME OF PROGRAM & WHERE LOCATED: \_\_\_\_\_

HEALTH CONCERNS \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICES CURRENTLY BEING RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma  
Title VI Department  
2025 S Gordon Cooper Dr  
Shawnee OK 74801  
405-275-4030

CDIB # \_\_\_\_\_

Grass Mowing Application

D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

The Following are the requirements for this program:

1. Must be an Absentee Shawnee Member
2. Must be 55 years and older
3. Must be an Title VI Member (have an current intake form for the current year 2021)
4. Handicap/Disabled
5. Must provide Proof of Residency (utility bill must be in applicant's name)
6. NO RENTAL PROPERTY will be mowed

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe Maintenance Department will **ONLY** mow and weed eat applicant's lawn. Maintenance will mow every two (2) weeks, weather permitting. Also, the maintenance workers will not trim trees or shrubs.

If you have any questions, please contact Dos Owings at (405) 275-4030 ext. 6227

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ MESSAGE PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

FINDING DIRECTIONS TO HOME:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*DISCLAIMER

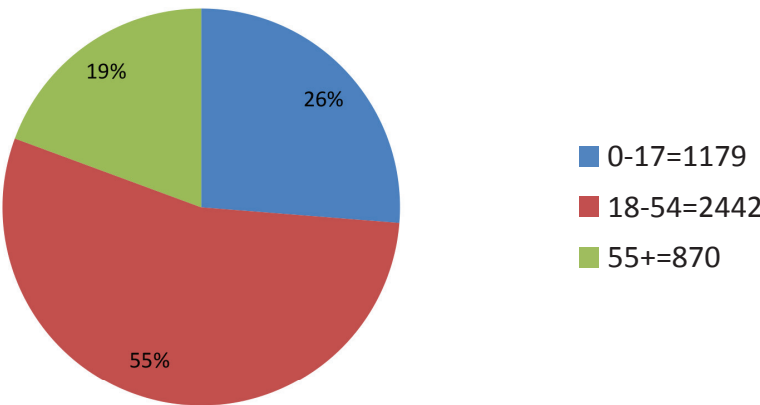
Maintenance will not move any items that are in the way of them mowing your yard so if you are able or can get some help in getting your yard cleaned, will be very much helpful in maintaining your yard.

Enrollment Department

Membership Numbers

Currently we have 4,491 enrolled tribal members. Here is a breakdown of enrolled tribal members by age bracket.

Quarterly Membership Count by Age



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE



INDIAN CHILD WELFARE  
FOSTER CARE  
REFLECTION

The preservation of Indigenous culture is the only reason we have survived for so long. Continued preservation is the only way we will keep surviving.

~ Kelly Buffalo-Quinn

Become an Absentee Shawnee foster family and give OUR children a HOME - a place among our people

CONTACT US: (405) 395-4430

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Alexander, Jason Thomas  
Alford, Michael Jason  
Alford, Terry Wayne  
Allen, Vanessa Olivia  
Anania, Salvatore Westbrook  
Anderson, Steven Brian  
Annis, Loraine Pearl  
Applegate, Richard Allen  
Araujo, Bearen Demetrio  
Armenta, Dakota Joseph  
Arms Graves, Casey James  
Arms, Bruce Edwin  
Arms, Drake Jagger  
Augustine, Dezmond Solomon  
Baker, Charlie Renee  
Barnes, Bralynn Kierra  
Barnhill, Rachel Renee  
Beaver Jr., Rodney Gene  
Bender, Liyahna Kyne  
Benish, Tricia Marie  
Bernard, Carol Jean  
Bettelyoun, Isaac Phillip  
Bettelyoun, Taylin Hope  
Blanchard II, Larry Dean  
Blanchard, Brayden Nicole  
Blanchard, Cecily Ann  
Blanchard, Izabel Marie  
Blanchard, Joe Henry  
Blanchard, Kolton Reece  
Blanchard, Russell Duane  
Blanchard, Solomon Grant  
Bowden, Rosada Lynn  
Boyer, Alexander Caden  
Brady, Dallas Dustin  
Brannon, Tkeyah Monique  
Brinson, Alexander Armando  
Britton, Kara Grace  
Brokeshoulder, Ashley M.  
Brooks, Amy Louise  
Brophy, Eulue Lee Eleyce  
Brown, Laura Marie  
Brown, Lydia Don  
Brown, Railynn Taylor  
Bryce, Jerry Dale  
Buckheart, Elysa Victoria  
Buckheart, Phillip Cruz  
Burk, Harley Lynn  
Cahwee, Yvonne Katherine  
Camp, Maria Lynn  
Carter, Taylor Wade  
Casteel, Rhaeanna Corinne  
Caudillo, Herman Russell James  
Caudillo, James Adam  
Clark, Carol Dawn  
Coddington, Koryne Shazity  
Coddington, Michele Cholena  
Cole, Carolyn Mary  
Cook, Jonathon David  
Cook, Makylea Mae  
Coon, Justin Bo  
Coon, Waylon Henry-Goliath  
Cope, Chelsea Lea  
Coyle, Shannon Christine  
Cravens III, John Monroe  
Creek, Felix Albert  
Cruz, Gregorie Thomas  
Cuellar Jr., Leno  
Daugherty, Kenneth David  
Davis, Shawn E.  
Day, Linda G.  
Day, Rosanna Jolena  
Deer, Christopher Jerome  
Deer, Makiyah Kaylind Anora  
Dennis, Hilda Mae  
Doss, Orlando Jeremiah  
Dover, Hayley Morgan  
Eckiwardy, Alano Ezekiel  
Ellis, Andrew  
Ellis, Leann Dee  
Ellis, Mark Russell  
Ellis, Renee June  
Elsloo, Kasia Lee  
England, Adam Joe  
Fenner, Alannah Benae  
Ferree, Sierra N  
Fife, Zachariah Everett  
Fontenot, Teddy Lynn  
Foreman, Henry Jake  
Foreman, La Donna Rochelle  
Foreman, Merrilee  
Foster, Gabriel Lee  
Fraleay, Christina Sue  
Frazier, Andee Danielle

French, Jeffrey Martin  
Fuller, Rhealee Grace  
Garretson, Leslie Carol  
Garretson, Tanisha Marie  
Gibson, Charles Arthur  
Gibson, Dylan Scott  
Gibson, Isaac Dean  
Gibson, Jaylan Chaunce  
Gibson, Johnathan Caine  
Gibson, Joshua Lee  
Gibson, Phillip Craig  
Gibson, Toney Ellise  
Glazebrook III, Gary Lamont  
Glazebrook, Stephanie Rae  
Grass, Ayson  
Grass, Gavin John  
Gravel, Robin Renee  
Greeley, Willow Maria Grace  
Grover, Michelle Renee`  
Hall, Elizabeth Lynn  
Hall, Kayla Collette  
Hargis, Faith Marie  
Harjo III, Victor Ray  
Harjo, Jacob Lee  
Harjo, Jimmie Dean  
Harjo, Sammy  
Harjo, Shirley Ann  
Harjo, Zerek Bishop  
Harp, Emily Sue  
Haskins, Michael Truett  
Herrera Jr., Rudy  
Herrera, Richard John  
Herrod, Titan Allen  
Hilderbrand, Derek Mitchell  
Hood, Richard Foster  
Hood, Ross Damon  
Hooper, Michael Shayne  
Hubble-Kirschner, Skylur Nacole  
Hunt, Lyndon Brandon  
Ibarra, Rosalee Brianna Lizzet  
Irvin, Catherine Ann  
Isaac-Robbins, Shirley Jean  
Isaacs, Leann Vachon  
Johndrow-Boston, Mark Joseph  
Johnson Jr., Hubert Dana  
Johnson Jr., Walter Mack  
Johnson, Alexis Lynn  
Johnson, John Daniel  
Johnson, John Pershing  
Johnson, Leam Edwin  
Johnson, Pamela  
Johnson, Shirley Renee  
Johnson, Skylar Wind Dancer  
Jones, Dennis Roy  
Judkins, Charles Gary  
Kaniatobe, Tiffany Paige  
Ketakea, Georgia Kay  
Ketakea, Kayla Marie  
Khalil, Maryam Anisah  
Khalil-Quraishi, Sumiyah  
Khan, Keyania Shaneil  
Kickapoo, Collins Kristopher  
Kilmer, Houston Colt  
Kirschner, Tony William  
Kisor, Alexzander Jordan  
Landrum, Avery Lynn  
Lasenberry, Whitley Sue Mae  
Leach, Melissa Louise  
Leatherman, Maximus Phillip Florentino Antonio  
Ledezma II, Roberto Bernal  
Lee, Catherine Stacey  
Lemon, Toni Marie  
Lewis, Destiny Paige  
Lewis, Katlyn Hope Cooksey  
Lewis, Quinton DeWayne  
Lindsay, Lila  
Little Axe, Dennis Robert  
Little Axe, Skye Keenan Patrick  
Little Charley, Gary Dean  
Little Creek, Levi Kelly  
Little Jim Jr., Webster  
Little, Benjamin Ray  
Little, Keith David  
Little, Marysa Fay  
Little, Micco David  
Littlebear, Kensley Sue  
Littlebear, Trinedad Adam  
Littlecreek, Jade Marie  
Littlecreek, Jeremiah James  
Littlecreek, Sadie Rachelle  
Logan, Priscilla Ann  
Longhorn, Bradley Lucky  
Longhorn, Tommy Dale

Longhorn, Vaun Marie  
Longman Jr., Clyde Bennie  
Longman, Michael Ray  
Loving, Mckinley Grace  
Lowe, Dominic Lee  
Lowe, Victor Shane  
Mack Jr., Thomas James  
MacK, Kameron Wayne  
MacK, Ryan Dale  
Masquas, Taylor Daine  
Masquat, Cameron Isaiah  
Masquat, Nathaniel Gage  
Maxwell, Kimber Leigh  
Mayo, Michelle Marie  
McBride, Taylor Iralee  
McBroom, Ashley Denise  
McBroom, Michelle Leigh  
McCray, Ashley Nicole  
McDoulett, Karen Susan  
McGonigal, Peter Roygan Hodge  
McGrew, Zearec Alexzander  
McGuire, Kasi Lynn  
McIntosh, Retha Ann  
McKinney, Mahnee Zuri  
McLovin, Alexander Charles  
McMillen, Destenie DeAnne  
McPherson, Maiden Ashlee Kaylynnn  
Megehee, Alicia Kaye  
Merrell, Jason Andre  
Miller, Louis-Renee Sarah  
Miller, Patrick Michael  
Miller, Redena Kay  
Miner, Matthew Carl  
Mohawk, Billye-Jo Ryleigh  
Montgomery Jr., Wendall Len  
Moore, Joseph Dakota  
Moore, Patricia Naomi  
Morgan, Katie Lynne  
Morton Jr., Jeremiah James  
Morton, Hannah Raine  
Mosser, Logan Faith  
Nakamoto, Lisa Marie  
Nelson, Linda June  
Nuckolls, Larry Wayne  
Oney, Mattison Marie  
Ongaco, Ariana D. Wilson  
Onzahwah, Leroy Galin  
Ozeretny, Gary Lee  
Panther IV, William  
Panther, Ashlynn Nevaeh  
Panther, Cyerra Lynn  
Patten, Sherri Louise  
Pease, Xailey May  
Peetoom, Alexander R S  
Pickering, Gertrude Bernice  
Powell, Terry Shane  
Price, Judith Ann  
Puckitt, Steven Ray  
Rainey, Katherine Lydia  
Rakestraw, Colton James  
Rakestraw, Corbin Lee  
Ramirez-Beavers Jr., Ulyesses Biala  
Respicio, Lucas Antonio  
Rex, Suzzy Jean  
Reyes IV, Jose Ysmael  
Richard, Eryxon Joe  
Richey, Gunner Wayne  
Rigney, Sean Librado  
Roach, Dustin Michael  
Roach, Dylan Lane  
Robbins, Joshua Dale  
Robinson Jr., Richard Dion  
Robison, Jack Alan  
Rolette Jr., Larry James  
Rolette, Seth Allan James  
Ruimveld, Vickey Lynn  
Runsabove, Bryant Kent  
Russell, Alexee June  
Ryan, Ryder Lazaro  
Sanchez, James Andrew  
Scott, Denise Renee  
Self, April Jennell  
Self, Sheila Ann  
Sevier, Jennifer Michelle  
Sloat, Athenia Kayra  
Sloat, Jeremy Clay  
Smith, Courtni Renee  
Smith, Daleana Lee  
Snake, Steven Ray  
Soap Jr., Roger Eugene  
Spoon, Alexander Jacob  
Spoon, Dasiya Vernice  
Spoon, Elijah Gage

Spoon, Gracelynn Faith  
Spoon, Isabella Lorraine  
Spoon, John Allen  
Spoon, Robby Wayne  
Spoon, Sherrie Dawn  
Spriggs, Dakota Paul  
Squire, Jerry Wayne  
Starr, Jesse Lloyd  
Starr, Lawrence Mitchell  
Stephens, Aubriana Nichole  
Steves, Adam James  
Stinger, Heather Ann  
Stone, Taylor Cheyenne  
Stout, Marita Rose  
Straight, Lelah Gale  
Stryker, Vikki Dawn  
Stuckey, Zoe Ellori  
Summers, Timothy Joseph  
Sutton, Mason Riley  
Sutton, Virginia Lee  
Swaggerty, Heather Lacharlotte  
Switch, Faye Ramona  
Switch, Redonna Lynn  
Tahah, Everett Wade  
Takacs, Zachary Allen  
Tapia, Dakotah Cruz  
Taryole, Newman Ryan  
Taryole, Sydney Alixandra  
Tascier, Matthew Isaiah  
Taylor, Aaden John  
Taylor, Lafonda Raye  
Taylor, Scott Alan  
Thapa, Sonya Shree  
Thompson, Billie Gean  
Thompson, Brandee Ian  
Thornhill, Nathaniel Weston  
Thorpe, Kimberly Clarice  
Thorpe, Mary Elizabeth  
Tiger, Anthony Michael Gene  
Tiger, Donna Jean  
Tiger, James Scott  
Tiger, Raymond Gary  
Tiger, Sage Rowan Dibble  
Toca, Kelly Amanda  
Tucker, Brian O’Neal  
Tucker, Keely Marie  
Turner, Monica Francesca  
Turner, Terry Michael  
Vanliew, Naomi Maye  
Vasquez, Elijah Cristobal  
Villalobos, Lena Lou  
Walker, Morgan Baylee  
Walker, Vera Nadine  
Wallace, Christopher James  
Walley, Aubree Michelle  
Walley, Brian Jeffrey  
Warrior Bittle, Mona Jean  
Warrior, Shawna Kogee  
Watkins, Emily Elizabeth  
Watkins, Melysha Raven  
Watson Jr., Theodore Randall  
Watson, Bryeanna Renee Louise  
Watson, Martha Ruth  
Wenholm, Jody Dawn  
Werth, Luke Jake  
Wesley Jr., Daniel Kenneth  
Westberry, Casey LyDale  
White Thunder, Shelsie Mae  
White, Calvin Lee  
White, Isabella Dawn  
White, Raelynn  
Williams, Bryce Cameron  
Williams, Cody Grant  
Williams, Johni Kaleen  
Williams, Kayce Brylin  
Williams, Mark Henry  
Williams, Matthew James  
Williams, Taree Renea  
Wilson, Annette Ponkilla  
Wilson, Mitchell James Wayne  
Winter, Warren Patrick  
Witt, Adam Wayne  
Wolf, Bryne Andrew  
Wolfe, Leonard Wayne  
Woods, Kathy Lynn  
Wright, Tasha Laquinta Suzanna  
Wyatt, William David  
Yandell, Steven Joseph  
Yates, Kylie Ann  
Yeahpau, Roman Mausanap  
Zinn, Jenifer Coleman



# Education Department

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

- **Academic (PK-12) Program:** assists with academic related expenses, and a portion of funds can be used for school-related athletic program expenses. Program has a maximum funding limit for the academic year.
- **Johnson O’Malley Program:** assists Absentee Shawnee tribal members enrolled in any of our nine (9) school districts: Tecumseh, Bethel, Earlsboro, Wauwata, Asher, South Rock Creek, Macomb, Dale, and Little Axe.
- **Zahn Program:** established from a trust fund, program can help with some graduation expenses, and awards two (2) incentives: one for GED recipients and one for High School graduates. Program has a maximum amount of funding for graduation expenses.
- **Job Training Adult Education Program:** funds for vocational training at accredited vocational institutions. Program has a maximum funding limit for the calendar year or per program.
- **Higher Education: Education Incentive Award Program:** funds for undergraduate degrees, one associate or bachelor degree, at any accredited college or university. Funding levels are determined based upon grade point average and full-time or part-time status.
- **Graduate Scholarship Program:** funds for one master’s degree or one doctoral degree, and can fund one graduate admissions test. This program has funding levels based upon full-time and part-time status.
- **Big Jim Youth Award Program:** annual incentive for High School Seniors for Academic Achievement and Athlete of the Year. Applications are available and accepted beginning January 1st and the deadline for application submission is March 31st of each year.

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

**Attention:**

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

All applications and guidelines are available at [www.astribes.com](http://www.astribes.com). Click on Services and select Education.

For more information, please call (405) 275- 4030, Ext. 6242 email Tresha Spoon at [tresham@astribes.com](mailto:tresham@astribes.com).



## AST Education Department: Big Jim Youth Awards

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

We will begin accepting applications for the following awards:

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

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

**We encourage ALL Absentee Shawnee High School Seniors to apply.**

Award recipients will be recognized as the 2020-21 Big Jim Academic Achievement Award winner or the Big Jim Athlete of the Year. In addition to this recognition the award recipients will receive the **\$1,000.00** scholarship to be used towards their education and the advancement of their career.

Questions on these awards program should be addressed to:

Absentee Shawnee Tribe  
Education Department  
c/o Tresha Spoon  
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
405.275.4030 Ext 6242  
[youthaward@astribes.com](mailto:youthaward@astribes.com)



**Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma**  
**Education Department**  
2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
(405) 275-4030 Ext. 6242  
[youthaward@astribes.com](mailto:youthaward@astribes.com)

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

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

**STUDENT INFORMATION**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(LAST) (FIRST) (MI)  
Tribal Enrollment #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(STREET) (CITY) (STATE) (ZIP)  
Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
**HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION**  
High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guidance Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST) (LAST)  
Sport: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Coach: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST) (LAST)  
Indian Education Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Documents to be included with application:

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

# ARE YOU GRADUATING THIS MAY?

## We want to honor the 2021 AST Graduates

Send us your full name, hometown, high school/college, degree or major and a photo (JPEG) to [media@astribes.com](mailto:media@astribes.com) by April 9, 2021.

The graduates will be featured in a special insert in the May 2021 Absentee Shawnee News.

## Cultural Preservation Department

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

### Gift Shop

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

During the last month, the Gift Shop Manager has been working diligently to inventory and refill the current stock. We have an assortment of new merchandise such as the items featured in the picture to the right. In addition to the new products, currently, we are still running a 20% sale on select Pendleton products and Minnetonka Shoes. So, if you have any questions, please call Mrs. Rodriguez. She can be reached at (405) 275-4030 ext. 6310.



### Library

The Library is still currently closed to all visitors.

### THPO

The THPO Program continues to make great strides and advancements. The THPO staff has steadily been receiving Section 106 projects from various Federal Agencies. Over the past month, the THPO, Mrs. Devon Frazier-Smith, has received 164 new Section 106 projects for review. In conjunction with receiving projects, she has consulted on 141 projects. The THPO has also taken part in numerous teleconference calls.

### FCC/TCNS

In lieu of the shutdowns from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the incoming workflow of new and modified telecommunications projects has been steady for the TCNS program. The THPO Specialist, Ms. Ashley Brokeshoulder, has been busy reviewing, researching and given recommendations to the telecommunications industry. Over the past month, she has received 84 new telecommunications facility projects for review. In conjunction with receiving projects, she has reviewed, researched and gave recommendation for the clearance of 75 telecommunications projects.

## AllNations Bank

### AllNations Bank announces added benefits for Absentee Shawnee Tribal members!!

Last year we partnered with the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Inc. (ONAC) to establish the **Simply Safe Account**. This account makes banking accessible to everyone. AllNations Bank was the first Native American owned bank to offer this account, a certified Bank On account by The Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund. **Simply Safe Account** features are listed below:

- A debit card that honors the Absentee Shawnee Tribe – issued to AST members and employees of the tribe.



- Low balance to open
- Low monthly fee (**Fee is now waived for AST members**)
- Free direct deposit
- Free debit card
- Free online banking, bill pay & mobile app
- Free online monthly statement (\$2.00 fee for a paper statement)
- No overdraft fee (This is a check-less account. Account transactions are limited to Debit Card and ATM transactions, Online Bill Pay, Online or Mobile banking transfers.)

For any other questions about the Simply Safe Account features and benefits, please call AllNations Bank at 405-273-0202. Or go to our website [www.anbok.com](http://www.anbok.com) to download a new account application form and start banking with your Simply Safe Account today!

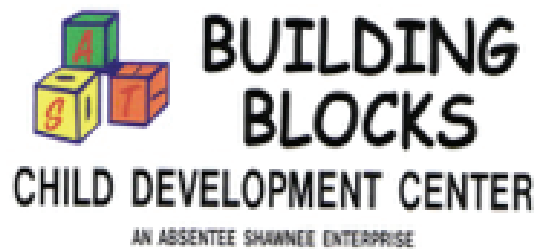


2023 Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
FDIC Insured



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

### March 2021 Newsletter



Building Blocks II is excited to have more children enrolled now. We are still enrolling in some of our age groups for AST Employees children. If you are interested in enrolling your child please fill free to call us and find out if we have a spot to enroll your child.

We are going to have a busy and exciting March at Building Blocks II. March 1-5 is Dr. Seuss Week and we are celebrating with take home packets for the children and their parents. We also are planning Read across America and Dr. Seuss Spirit Week. Also, March 5th is Employee Appreciation Day and “We appreciate our Staff with the awesome work they do everyday.” Remember to wear green on Wednesday, March 17th for St. Patrick's Day.

Have a Awesome March!



Building Blocks will be participating in the “Read Across America Celebration” the week of March 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. We encourage everyone to participate!

Although our center is still currently closed to the public, we do have available spaces for children whose parents are employee's for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. We accept ages 6 weeks – up to 12 years old, and we do virtual. If you have any questions please contact us (405)360-2710 and follow us on Facebook for updates.



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE – SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT EXTENSIONS (405) 275-4030

Gov.	Governor John R. Johnson .....	6308
	Alvina Barnes.....	6307
	Kim Porter .....	6269
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Lt. Gov.	Lt.Governor Kenneth Blanchard.....	6253
	Diane Ponkilla .....	6267
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Secretary	Secretary Ezra DeLodge .....	6289
	Fallon Jackson .....	6275
	Brittany Coughran .....	6306
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Treas.	Treasurer Joseph Blanchard .....	6280
	Jan Ranft.....	6309
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Rep.	Rep Alicia Miller.....	6239
	Taylor Kinley .....	6240
	Briana Ponkilla .....	6431
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ASEDA  
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David Deer..... 6263

ATTORNEY  
Gary Pitchlynn ..... 6313 |

BIA/SELF GOVERNANCE  
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| Ashley Stanley..... | 6336 |

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..... 6340  
Kay Bemo ..... 6238 || Casey Wilson (Librarian)..... | 6416 |

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Lacey Carey.....	6298
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.....	6277

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Brandon Goodman ..... 6255 |

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Tina Fixico .....	6250
Courtney Green .....	6300
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Bralynn Barnes .....	6385
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Casey Adams ..... 6337 || Rebecca Brown ..... | 6222 |
Katie Carlaw .....	6330
Jennifer Dixon.....	6252
Lauren Parish .....	6423

ICW  
Sheila Wilson ..... 395-4494 || Shawnee Martinez ..... | 395-4491 |
| Cheryl Aragon ..... | 395-4492 |
| Paige Little Charley..... | 395-4493 |

MAINTENANCE  
Kevin Kaseca..... 6316  
SheilaOrphan.....6331  
Robert Komacheet, Joe Morton, John Mann  
Stephen Fife, Isaac Bettelyoun, Stacy Coon,  
Duke Blanchard, Clayton Martinez  
Cindy Carpenter..... 6249

MIS  
HELP DESK ..... 3100 || Travis O’Dell ..... | 6327 |
Donna Cody .....	6402
Amelia Grass.....	6329
Fred Brown .....	6342
Rafael Rodriguez .....	6332
Kelly Chambers .....	6328

OEH  
..... 6223  
Jarrod Lloyd ..... 6229 || ..... | 6299 |
| Kyra Underwood ..... | 6398 |
| Micah Issacs ..... | 6230 |

POLICE DEPT..... 275-3200 / 275-3432  
Brad Gaylord (Chief) ..... 6302 || Jason Brinker..... | 6259 |
Steven Crisp .....	6262
Linda Day .....	6261
James Woolbright.....	6276
Levi Walker Emergency Mgmt .....	6426
Patrol Room .....	6278
Chad Larman Emergency Mgmt. ....	6429
.....	6429

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Misty Griffith ..... 6291 || ..... | 6244 |
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.....	6247
Yecica Gutierrez.....	6420
Kimberlee Billie.....	6235

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Annie Wilson (Director) ..... 6311 || Nancy Edwards ..... | 6225 |

TAX COMMISSION / TAG  
Alicia Engler... ..6257  
Shelby White ..... 6258 || ..... | 6286 |
| Brittany Phillips ..... | 6237 |

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OTHER EXTENSIONS  
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Gov. Bldg. 2 Conf. Rm..... 6330  
Fam. Svcs. Conf. Rm..... 6311  
Finance Conference Rm ..... 6236 |

OTHER ENTITIES & TOLL FREE  
All Nations Bank ..... 273-0202 || ASEDA..... | 878-6782 |
Toll Free.....	1-800-256-3341
Brendle Corner.....	447-3372
Building Blocks .....	878-0633
(Barbra Pope)	
Building Blocks III LA .....	360-2710
(Skye Foreman)	
Court Clerk .....	481-8575
Enrollment.....	481-8650
Gaming Commission.....	360-9270 x1110
Housing .....	273-1050
Human Resources .....	275-1468
Media .....	598-1279
(Mindy Longhorn)	
OEH/OEP .....	214-4235
Police Dept. ....	275-3200 / 275-3432
Thunderbird Casino NRM .....	360-9270
Shawnee Casino.....	273-2679
Tax Commission .....	481-8600
Tribal Store (Little Axe) .....	364-0668

ALL CORRECTIONS PLEASE EMAIL TO:  
KCHAMBERS@ASTRIBE.COM

Last updated: 12/08/20

Complex Remains Closed;  
Open to Essential Staff Only



On November 23, The Absentee Shawnee Tribe reverted back to a modified Phase 1 of the COVID-19 recovery plan. Only essential staff are allowed on campus.

Drop boxes were installed on the west side of the police station. These boxes will be utilized while the tribe progresses through our multi-phase COVID-19 recovery plan for the complex. This will allow departments to conduct regular business in a structured and safe socially distanced fashion while we are operating in phases 1 and 2. The departments that have a drop box include: Finance, Human Resources, Realty, Education, Tax Commission, Enrollment, Social Services & Court.

NOTICE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT  
AN ARTICLE OR STORY

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

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

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