



# THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE NEWS

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October 2021

## First Americans Museum Grand Opening



The Absentee Shawnee Tribe was excited to attend the grand opening of the First Americans Museum (FAM) September 18th, 2021.

“It was an honor to walk in the ceremony with the AST flag and represent our tribe. This is a beautiful museum and I would recommend you taking time to visit.” Said Governor John Johnson.

The Executive Committee and members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Veterans Association participated in the procession of the 39 tribes. The Cultural Preservation Department presented the history of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

The \$175 million museum has been in the works for over 30 years. The 40-acre complex and 175,000 square-foot museum guides visitors through the cultural diversity, history and contributions of the 39 tribes in Oklahoma – the true FIRST AMERICANS.

Museum admission is \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 4 to 12 and free for kids 3 and under. The museum is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on Tuesdays. FAM is located at 659 First Americans Boulevard in Oklahoma City.



## Tribal Member Twila Parker Receives 2021 AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honor

Tribal member Twila Parker received the 13th annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors. The award celebrates 50 Native American elders who have positively impacted our country, state, communities and Indian Country.

She has a long and distinguished service career; serving in the U.S. Air Force and retiring from the U.S. Postal Service. She also holds a

Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Oklahoma.

Service also includes several Tribal groups. She is the current president of the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Elders Council, an officer for the Absentee Shawnee Veterans Association and completed a 10-year term on the AST Tribal Housing Board of Commissioners. Even after retiring from the postal service, she continued

to work; finding employment with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

The daughter of Ernest (WWII veteran) and Vergie Longhorn, she takes great pride in her family's heritage and their history of service. She follows the same goal as the Elders before her – “Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people.” – Tecumseh

**87th SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.  
THUNDERBIRD CASINO EVENT CENTER - NORMAN, OKLAHOMA**





**GOVERNOR**  
John Johnson



**Lt. GOVERNOR**  
Ezra DeLodge



**SECRETARY**  
Alicia Miller



**TREASURER**  
Joseph Blanchard



**REPRESENTATIVE**  
DeWayne Wilson



## GOVERNOR'S REPORT

John Johnson, AST Governor

Hello fellow tribal members,

I hope everyone enjoyed the month of September and the last holiday, Labor Day, until Thanksgiving. Even though summer keeps holding on, fall is quickly approaching. I hope you take time with your families and enjoy this time of year.

Great new: the AST Food Pantry is open and ready to serve you! If you have not filled out an application please go by the Food Pantry and fill one out today. The Food Pantry is serving only AST member households. Once you fill out the application you will be given a distribution appointment. These appointments are to help cut down the amount of tribal members at the Food Pantry at one time. We ask that mask be worn at all times

during the process to keep all employees and tribal members safe.

The EC and I attended the private grand opening of the First American Museum (FAM) on Sunday, September 12th. This event was held for tribal leaders and elected officials. We also attended the public grand opening of FAM on Saturday, September 18th where we were honored to walk in the ceremony with the AST flag and represent our tribe. This is a beautiful museum and I would recommend you taking time to visit.

As I close, I want to again encourage everyone to get their COVID vaccination and continue to practice social distancing and mask wearing. If you need to do business with the tribe please call 405-275-4030 and make an appointment. We want to keep our tribal members and employees safe from this deadly virus.



*Governor Johnson lowers the flags to half-staff honoring the bombing victims of the attack in Kabul.*

## LT. GOVERNOR'S REPORT

Ezra DeLodge, AST Lt. Governor

Tribal Members,

I hope all is well, and we are doing our best to protect ourselves and those around us. We must continue taking our precautions during this Covid pandemic. The pandemic is still very much around and with these new variant strains it is only getting worse. Again, please wear your mask and I encourage everybody to get vaccinated as soon as possible. If you have questions or are unsure, ask your healthcare provider and make an informed decision. I want to send my condolences out to those who have lost loved ones during these difficult times. I also want to send words of encouragement to those who might be struggling during these hard

times.

With this ongoing pandemic it is hard, and next to impossible to have any type of routine or a typical day. Covid has disrupted so many areas of business and so many things are on back order or hard to get at overall, it has caused numerous issues with trying to accomplish the simplest of task. I ask that you have patience and remember everybody is going through the same issues and be understanding of the difficulties and together we can get through this.

One major event I attended was the opening of the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City. It was an honor and blessing to represent the tribe at such a prestigious event. Having a place to accurately tell our story (to the rest of the world) is long overdue. The great tribal

nations have a place to proudly display and tell their tribal history in the true meaning of such is something special. As the museum proudly displays our tribal history we now have a place where we can let the rest of the world know how special and unique our tribe is and the tremendous contributions we have made throughout history. This is definitely something we can be proud, and I want to send a special thank you to the AST Veterans who always do a great job representing our tribe.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me by email [ezrad@ast-tribe.com](mailto:ezrad@ast-tribe.com), call my office 405-275-4030 x 6253 or cell 405-432-0733.

Respectfully,  
Lt. Governor DeLodge

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Alicia Miller, AST Secretary

Ho wa se ke sa ke!

Summer has come to an end and the days are getting shorter, it never ceases to astound me how quickly time is moving and to me, there are not enough hours in the day to get all the work I need to get done, done! The month of September kept my office very busy, and I will provide you a summary of each of the activities in which I participated.

On September 2nd, the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority (ASHA) hosted an open house at Kakile Crossing located off Hwy 9, east of the grocery store in Little Axe. I attended and toured one of the duplexes. Each duplex is a little over 1,700 sq ft with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, single car garage and a storm shelter. If you are interested in learning more about their Over Income Rental Program, please call ASHA at (405)273-1050.

I was invited and it was my honor to attend the Sac & Fox Nation Swearing-In Ceremony for the newly elected Secretary, Ms. Lana Butler (AST descendent), and Grievance Member, Whitney Standing (AST employee). It was good to see familiar faces and to also meet new tribal folks. It is always good to support our fellow tribes, build relations and honor the mutual respect we have for one another.

The Executive Committee represented our great tribe at the Tribal Leaders Open House at the First Americans Museum on Sunday, September 12th where we toured the 2 floors of the facility. The first floor is about Oklahoma's 39 tribes, and the second floor held pieces on loan from the Smithsonian. I don't want to reveal too much more and spoil it before you have a chance to visit. It was good to see the representation of the Shawnee (and AST members) and I look forward to seeing more pieces. The EC also participated in the Grand Opening Ceremony's March of Nations, and the Cultural Preservation Department gave a presentation about our tribe - all on that following Saturday. For those who may not know the history of the facility, the museum was first initiated in the 1990's and ran up against obstacle after obstacle. Fast-forward to now, it is wonderful to finally have a tangible structure to give us another avenue to educate and to let the world know we are still here and thriving. I agree with the sentiment that it is nice to have a museum (in Indian Country) about us, for us and from us.

I participated in the Protected: 2021

Self-Governance Virtual Conference hosted by the Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium. I have attended these conferences over the multitude of years, and this was the first time it had been held virtually, due to COVID. The format was very different. It was less interactive and more like watching a television news show. I hope we will be able to participate at an in-person conference next year. There were presentations by both the BIA and the IHS. I find more value in information sharing and being able to ask questions with the in-person formats for these types of meetings.

The EC monthly meeting was held on September 15th and a special meeting was held on September 23rd. The 87th Semi-Annual General Council Meeting is set for Saturday, October 23rd at 10:00 A.M. at the Thunderbird Casino Event Center in Little Axe. I look forward to seeing you there. The additional business conducted at both meetings dealt with the creation of Workforce Development Program, Housing Improvement Program, completing small construction projects needed for the Tax Commission building in order for it to be operational, BIA 477 planning grant, funding Road's work projects, accepting new memberships and approving new, reliable internet service - for existing sites and to sites that currently do not have internet service such as Horseshoe Bend.

I currently have oversight of the AST Rising Warrior/Domestic Violence (DV) Program and it was my distinct honor to provide the morning Welcome for the 2021 Partners for Change Conference on Domestic and Sexual Violence and Stalking held in downtown OKC. I like to take a moment to thank Ms. Melissa Lopez, DV Director, for this opportunity and the staff at Native Alliance Against Violence (NAAV). I commend each of our AST DV staffers and tribal DV programs throughout Indian Country who are all advocates to end domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. I appreciate your willingness, your involvement, and your dedication.

The tribe was provided with partial Housing Assistance Funds from the Treasury and my office is assisting with providing a workable plan to submit back to the Treasury to receive additional funds. These funds are provided by the Treasury but has HUD program stipulations and reporting requirements. My office will be posting a brief and quick survey for tribal member input on how you would like

to utilize these funds through the website tribal member log-in section.

The tribal member vaccine incentive program, please see additional information in this newsletter, has opened and will be through mid-November. Tribal members can voluntarily participate by completing a brief application, provide a copy of your updated AST CDIB card and vaccination card. Gift cards will be issued only 1 of 2 ways - either through mail or an in-person event TBA. You will need to be sure to elect which way you would like to receive your incentive.

I continue to participate on the weekly IHS OKC Area weekly COVID calls and participate in the monthly health board meeting. The most upbeat news in AST health is the payoff of the Joint Venture (JV) of the Little Axe Health Center! The last payment, which is paid off 14 years ahead of schedule, was at the end of September. The Health Shareholder's Representative's next meeting will be held in October, and we will have much to discuss in regard to the expansion projects for Shawnee Clinic and Little Axe Health Center, consolidation of 2 boards back into 1, budgets and other miscellaneous health related topics.

Lastly, the C-store (Thunderbird Express) has been going through some recent upgrades with the most recent being the kitchen expansion. They will have twice the space with better appliances and ventilation. There will be some exterior rehab occurring soon too. Unfortunately, the crazy weather we experienced earlier this year brought some damage to the store. The silver lining - we are now able to repair and improve some of these store areas without having the expense come from our tribal budgets.

I would like to extend my condolences to all our tribal families who have recently lost loved ones. Holidays are around the corner and they are a little harder to enjoy when that special loved one is no longer of this earth. I also encourage all of our youth to be safe but please enjoy your school's homecoming activities, fall gatherings, and fall break this month. I wish you all a great month and I will continue to pray for the (good) health and well-being of all our Shawnee people. (Be sure to mask up!)

Si li no ke ka no la. Ne yi wa.

Alicia Miller  
Tribal Secretary  
(405) 287-5247



## TREASURER’S REPORT

Joseph Blanchard, AST Treasurer

Hello Family, Friends, and Tribal members,

Another month has come and gone. It is that time of year when the leaves begin to change colors, we get cooler weather, and our Fall Bread Dance occurs. As I’ve said to folks before, these events only happen twice a year. I hope that all families will be able to schedule accordingly and participate at one of the 3 ceremonial grounds.

In last month’s edition, I spoke about the importance of getting one of the approved COVID-19 vaccinations. As the numbers continue to rise locally, within the State, and our Region, I pray several of you hear my words. Whether you

believe it or not, think it’s propaganda or paranoia, I urge all of our members and employees to “get the shot”. Like many of you, I was unsure and had concerns about the non-existent data. What I can tell you is, it works. I’ll use my own family as a basis.

My household consists of four (4) Tribal members, all vaccinated except the youngest. It was our daughter who was infected at school and brought it home. Of course, we quarantined, sanitized the various parts of the house, and took all other precautions. Luckily, she only experienced mild symptoms and ran a fever. The others never had any issues. We have maintained Social Distance guidelines, wear our face masks, and still monitor for other types of problems. So far, no concerns.

I say all of that as the EC previously passed our Incentive program for members and employees alike. The t-shirts and gift cards have been received and now we just wait for individuals to submit their application. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

Also, I want to announce the recent hire of our new Controller, Kyle Coody, who comes to us as the former Treasurer from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. He is adjusting to and learning our system but brings a wealth of knowledge and skill. Personally, I look forward to seeing how he can help improve our system and assist us in becoming more professional, effective and efficient.

Additionally, we have already begun discussion with Department heads and Coordinators about the 2022 budgets.

Should all go as planned, I expect to have data for the EC to review and submit a Resolution for approval on the November agenda. As it’s been explained to me, this will be the 1st time in our history to have this important item passed that early. Due to the Pandemic, I suggested we do this in a timely manner, should numbers continue to rise and there is potential for a reversal to Phase 1, or worse, a shutdown.

That is all I have for this month and I look forward to seeing you all soon. Do not hesitate to call or email me with your concerns.

Neyiawa!

Joseph H. Blanchard

## REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

DeWayne Wilson, AST Representative

Hello Tribal Members,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. We, Executive Committee (EC), have made the difficult decision to go to Phase 2 Modified- Split Shifts due to the continuing increase of COVID 19 (Delta Variant) numbers. I have been working with one of the Governor’s oversite programs pertaining to projects at the Youth Camp. Also, I have been working with Lt. Governor DeLodge and staff in creating a Workforce Career Development Initiative Program for tribal member in the future. I wanted to send my heartfelt condolences out to all the Tribal families who have lost loved ones.

In the Education Department: I discussed with the Education Director, Ms. Tresha Spoon, concerning the after- school program (Brendle Corner)

remaining open during Phase 2 Modified- Split Shifts. We (EC), approved to keep the after- school program (Brendle Corner) open. Ms. Spoon and I are in discussion about the Education budget pertaining to increases in tuition, gas, food, room and board prices, etc. These concerns also apply to applicants of the Job Training, Higher Education and Graduate programs. We continue to discuss funding opportunities/ programs that would best serve our Tribal members and the services we provide.

In the Cultural Preservation Department: Cultural Preservation Director, Ms. Carol Butler and I have been discussing how the COVID 19 Pandemic has negatively impacted the Cultural Preservation department (Gift Shop). Cultural Preservation did receive a Notice of Award for funding through September, 2022 for one of their grants. We continue to discuss the grant funding resource

as well as researching for other funding opportunities. Cultural Preservation Program representatives and I plan on attending the Grand Opening First Americans Museum and possibly give a presentation.

As for the Gaming Commission: I attended three Gaming Commission meetings, where we were updating employee/ vendor Licensing requests and discussed Banning issues (letters). We had a Special Gaming Commission meeting this month to discuss procedural issues moving forward due to loss of Mr. T. Carter. We put out a job announcement for a new Executive Director of Gaming Commission position. I and the Gaming Commissions met and discussed applicants who applied for the Executive Director of Gaming Commission position and scheduled job interviews for that position.

Finally the Youth Camp: We hope to

complete Phase II at Camp Nikoti by the end of December 2021. A resolution was passed on July 28th 2021, to complete the 6 camp cabins (2 by the end of 2021), bathhouse and an entry gate (HUD funds), the parking lot around Dining Hall building (Matching funds) and an access road (BIA funds). We continue to work with CLS and Associates Landscape Architects in developing the next phase of the Youth Camp. We hope to have the next phase finalized by next month.

I am glad to be here representing our tribe and our tribal membership. As always if anyone has any questions/ concerns or if we can help you, feel free to contact us at office phone #405-275-4030, Ext. 6239 or by email: dewayne.wilson@astribc.com

Respectfully,  
DeWayne Wilson

# Elders Council/Veterans Association Gets New Building



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on September 20th, 2021 for the new Elders Council/Veterans Association building. The modular building was funded by the CARES act. The building has six offices, a conference room and break room. The former building was old and run down.

“This is something that was needed for a long time. Our Tribal Elders and Veterans deserve this new building.” Said Governor John Johnson. “They need a place they can be proud of.”

***Pictured L-R:*** AST Secretary Alicia Miller, Elders Council President/Veterans Association Administrator Twila Parker, AST Representative DeWayne Wilson, Governor John Johnson, Veterans Association Commander Jason Bender, Elders Council Treasurer Rita Robertson, Elders Council Vice President Bill Bayliss, AST Lt. Governor Ezra DeLodge. ***Sitting:*** Elders Council Secretary Shirley Adkins

## Veterans Association Report

Greetings to everyone hope everyone is staying well by getting vaccinated and wearing their face masks. I keep a couple of bottles of hand sanitizers in my purse and in my car.

The Veterans would like to extend condolences to all tribal families that have lost beloved tribal members. This has been a sad year instead of the virus free year this country has wanted.

September 20, 2021 will be the day the Veterans will be able to move into the new building on the tribal complex. We are looking forward to getting all our equipment out of Procurement storage. Also, looking forward to putting our equipment, furniture and supplies in our rooms.

Also, September 18, 2021 the Absentee Shawnee Veterans Color Guard was at First Americans Museum for their Grand Opening at 8:00 am. Jason Bender, Commander, Walter Larney, Executive Officer and Twila Parker, Administrator were there in uniform with our tribe’s flag. There was lots of Native American tribes as well as people who were curious. As a note of interest, the Veterans had also worked with a curator we were able to submit 10 pictures of Absentee Shawnee Veterans that are located in the Hall of Warriors. The curator we worked with said later on other Veterans will be able to submit their pictures or pictures of their relatives. As of right now there’s still no group meetings because of the high infection rates. Also, there is no travel and we have been meeting Officers only to restrict the number of people at the meeting.

The Absentee Shawnee Veterans will be working on getting the flagpole on tribal complex to be refurbished. The reason is because last time we replaced a tattered flag we found zip ties on the flag instead of clips and the wrong type of rope. We want to contribute on making our tribal complex look better. We shall continue to be available to perform military rites for our tribal veterans funeral services.

Stay safe and stay well. Better safe then Sorry get vaccinated.

Twila Parker  
Administrator

## AST Elders Council

### FINAL CLOSE OUT REPORT - PPE/CARE BAG DISTRIBUTION

Scheduled for 5.15.2021 at Thunderbird Casino Drive thru @ Little Axe 10 am. Additional locations and dates included General Counsel Meeting 6.19.21, Title VI @ Tribal Complex May 24th, plus numerous home deliveries for the home bound Elders. Final count was approx.. 170 care bags given to Tribal Elders.

Original estimated cost of 150 bags and included items for the AST Elders was approximately \$1,761.00. As the Elders Counsel Officers initiated the Care Bag Hand-out, Brad Gaylord (AST Police Dept.) generously offered to fund the project. The final cost of the project was \$1,690.13. The purchases were made by Twila Parker, President (using her own funds of \$905.53) and Rita Robertson, Treasurer (using the Elders BancFirst Debit Card for \$784.60). The purchases were reimbursed as stated and the Elders funds were deposited back into Elders account on August 23, 2021.

Items purchased and included in the Care Bags: totes, hair brushes & combs, body lotion, tooth brushes & tooth paste, sanitizer wipes, hand sanitizer, ankle socks, bandanas, fruit & candy (approx. 1,000 items), along with donated PPE items including face masks, face shields, scarfs, and other misc. items. Donations were generously contributed reflecting the care and support for our Tribal Elders. The Officers of the Tribal Elders Council humbly express our gratitude and appreciation to all that united together to make the Care Bag Project a success.

#### Donation Acknowledgement:

Brad Gaylord, Tribal Police Dept.	John Johnson, AST Governor
Levi Walker, Emergency Management	AST Executive Committee
AST Tribal Veterans	Domestic Violence dept.
Alicia Miller, AST Secretary	Harold Steinruck Jr.
Mark Rogers & AST Health Center	Web Little Jim Jr.
Thunderbird Casino Mgmt.	Indian Child Welfare
Thunderbird Casino Security	Apology if we forgot anyone

Thank you, Rita Robertson, Treasurer 9.16.21  
Twila Parker, President - Bill Bayliss, V. President - Shirley Adkins, Secretary



# Battling Breast Cancer at 29



A woman's risk of breast cancer in her 30's is 0.4 percent. But Tribal member Emily Wheeler received her cancer diagnosis at just 29 years old.

Three years ago she was busy raising three kids, going to school and working a full-time job. The thought of getting cancer didn't even cross her mind. She was healthy and had no history of breast cancer in her family. Even in February of 2018 when she found a lump on her breast, she still didn't think it could be cancer.

"As October came around I attended my annual exam and told my gynecologist about the lump. She ordered a same day mammogram which led to a same day biopsy," Wheeler said. ". As I sat in the doctor's office I had almost convinced myself that it was going to be negative, but as the words 'it is cancer' came out, all my confidence

shattered."

She was diagnosed with triple negative invasive breast cancer. But Wheeler is a fighter. She started treatment the very next month with chemotherapy. "My hair started falling out shortly after and that was very hard for me. In that moment I felt like cancer was winning because it was taking something away from me."

Cancer didn't win though. She completed her last treatment in February 2019 and in April of that same year; she decided to have a double mastectomy with reconstruction.

"The cancer was completely gone, but I felt different about my body and needed a fresh start. Also, after mastectomy the likelihood of recurrence drastically decreases."

She remains vigilant today in her desire to remain healthy by seeing her oncologist every six months. "Staying physically active, taking

vitamins and eating healthy cancer fighting foods are important to me as well as managing stress," Wheeler explained.

She is also passionate about prevention and helping others go through treatment. Wheeler is currently working toward earning a degree in cancer registry management and earning the certified tumor registrar credential.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Routine screenings aren't usually recommended until the age of 40; which makes diagnosis more difficult. But cancer doesn't care about age. All women, regardless of age, need to be mindful of their bodies. Stay current on your mammograms and note any physical changes or abnormalities.

## Tribal Member Bringing Comfort to Homes

For over 20 years, Tribal member Thad Breeding has been keeping people cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Breeding owns Tri-County Air Solutions based in Shawnee.

He graduated from Gordon Cooper Technology Center after high school. While he has been in the HVAC field for over 2 decades, his company just finished their first year in business.

"The hardest part of any new business is just getting your name out there for people to know" said Breeding. "The best advertising for me has been word of mouth and referrals. If people trust you and know you'll do a good job, the word gets out"

He hasn't let COVID affect his business either. In fact, with more people working from home, it has helped his business. Breeding explained, "People are at home more now and notice things while at home

they may not have noticed before. Higher electric bills and air flow are many of the concerns from people that telework now."

And if you do work 8-5, he is more than willing to show up after hours for you. "I like to work with peoples schedules even if that means coming later in evening so they don't have to take off work. There has been several times of fixing an a/c by using the headlights so I could see."

Don't let the name fool you either. Tri-County serves Shawnee, Tecumseh and McLoud but he will travel to you. He has serviced customers from here to Lake Eufaula and even Weatherford.

Whether you need preventative maintenance, remodel work or even new construction, Breeding will travel to you. Tri-County Air Solutions can be reached at (405) 882-5131.



*The Absentee Shawnee News wants to highlight Tribal business owners. If you want to promote your business, please email Mindyl@atribe.com or call (405) 617-6226.*

## ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE AND GET THE VACCINE

VOLUNTARY PROGRAM

**\$100 PER QUALIFYING TRIBAL MEMBER**

Must have received the 2nd dose of the Pfizer or Moderna & the 1 of the Johnson & Johnson.

**MUST BE 12 YEARS OR OLDER**

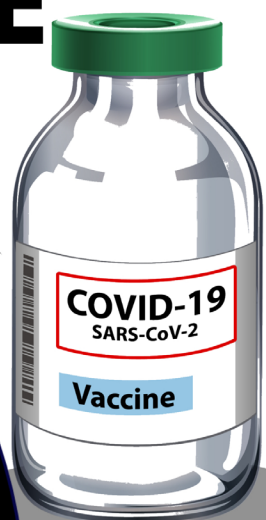
Apply by electronic application, [www.atribe.com](http://www.atribe.com) or mail in completed paper form.

There will be only 2 ways to obtain the card.....mail or an in-person event. (TBA). You must specify the method for obtaining your card. Opening Date is Sept. 27th - Closing Date Nov. 19th at the COB.

\*Free T-shirt @ in-person event only, limited sizes available



FOR QUESTIONS: [ARPAHELP@ASTRIBE.COM](mailto:ARPAHELP@ASTRIBE.COM)  
OR CALL THE ARPA CALL LINE (405) 481-8625



## AST LADY'S RIBBON SKIRT CONTEST

IN HONOR OF NATIVE AMERICAN MONTH

CONTEST IS FOR AST TRIBAL MEMBERS ONLY

CONTEST BEGINS OCTOBER 1, 2021

END DATE IS OCTOBER 29, 2021 COB

Grand prize, 2nd & 3rd place WINNERS

SEND ENTRIES TO [MEDIA@ASTRIBE.COM](mailto:MEDIA@ASTRIBE.COM)





# ASTHS October 2021 Monthly Update

September was a very busy month, and October has arrived faster than any of us thought. We are very pleased with the results of our AST Health System's Community Needs Assessment (CNA) Survey recently shared with the community. The results are still being tabulated. We humbly request everyone take their time to be heard on this important survey to help us all chart the path forward of the health system with the needs, desires, and input of the Tribe and our patients. This will help us plan for new services and programs for the Tribe now and into the future. We also have great news to share this month, as we hit a new revenue high in our third-party billing. The Health Boards approved the

long awaited "pay-off" of the Joint Venture, and doing so ahead of schedule. Based upon our research with I.H.S. and the B.I.A., we are the only tribe to pay off a Joint Venture as early as we did, and this is a huge accomplishment as well as a testament of what can be done when everyone is working together! Our Accountable Care Organization (via CMS), has us ranked highest amongst any other tribe in Oklahoma for patient quality and patient safety that is participating in an Accountable Care (ACO) type organization! We take patient care serious, and want everyone to have a great experience with our Health System. It is always nice to have outside confirmation, especially with a CMS partnered organization, that we are on the right track with patient care, quality, and safety! The AST Health System was presented a prestigious award by the Oklahoma City IHS Area Director, Rear Admiral Travis Watts, for the COVID-19 Pandemic Leadership Award for the AST Health System for our response, reaction, and recovery efforts in support of our communities that we serve! Accepting the award for the Health System were members from the Health Leadership Team, the Executive Committee, and the Health Board members. We completed our Annual Health System Independent Financial Audit as part of the Tribe's Annual Audit process, and finished with "Best Ever Results," only outdoing the previous Audit, which was the "Best Seen to Date," last year! Your AST Health System is both proud and grateful for the massive accomplishments our health team, our community, and the Tribe have all done by working together to achieve great things!

Dr. Marty Lofgren, AST Health System Medical Director, encourages all of our patients and tribal members to reach out to your provider for questions regarding any COVID vaccinations, as your unique medical history may require you to have a third dose shot, or it may not. Your primary care provider is the best person to have these conversations with you regarding your health and wellness. While we all support and encourage our Public Health programs at the national and state levels, the best information for you and your family will be from your relationship with your family doctor with consideration to your health, as they are most familiar with your medical conditions and general wellbeing.

Please join us in congratulating our October Monthly Employee Award Winners this month! We are proud of all of our professionals and team players, for all they do daily to make our programs succeed and take care of our patients!

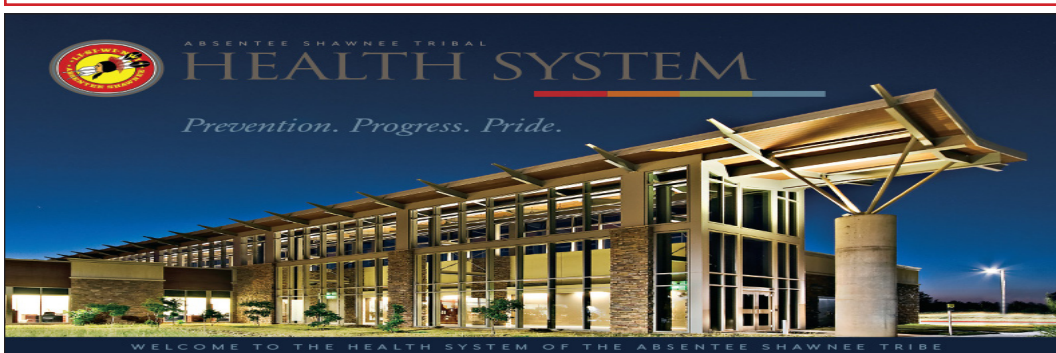
## October 2021 Health Employee Awards of the Month

Employee of the Month: Katrina Watson, AST Health System E.H.R. Office

Team of the Month: AST Health System Security Force

Special Leadership Award: Waynell Johnson, AST Health System Registration Director

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



## October is National Dental Hygiene Month

An annual reminder to practice the daily habits that promote healthy teeth and gums.

Our clinic at Little Axe would like to emphasize to everyone the importance of children's oral health and also remind adults the need to continue to care of their teeth, too. Working with dental hygienists, schools, and our clinic at Little Axe, will help maintain good oral hygiene to families and communities.

The ADHA is the nation's premier organization for dental hygienists and supports them through advocacy, training, research, reviewing and setting standards, grants, and scholarships. The Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company has for 25 years sponsored the Wrigley Oral Healthcare Programs, created to encourage research into the benefits of chewing sugar-free gum for oral health, particularly how stimulating saliva acts to neutralize the acids that attack teeth. They also promote oral health programs worldwide.

### THE ELEMENTS OF GOOD ORAL HEALTH

The focus of National Dental Hygiene Month is on the key daily habits that promote healthy teeth and gums. These are:

**Brushing.** The ADHA recommends using a soft toothbrush to brush twice a day, once in the morning after breakfast and then again in the evening just before going to bed, using a toothpaste containing fluoride.

**Flossing.** This should be done once daily, optimally just before going to sleep, when trapped food particles can do the most damage.

**Eating healthy.** A diet in accordance with the government's food pyramid promotes oral health by cutting down on sugars and contributing to overall physical health and includes whole-grains and dairy products, vegetables, fruits, and nuts, with meat, fish, and sweets in moderation.

Use an antimicrobial mouthwash. This should be done with daily brushing.

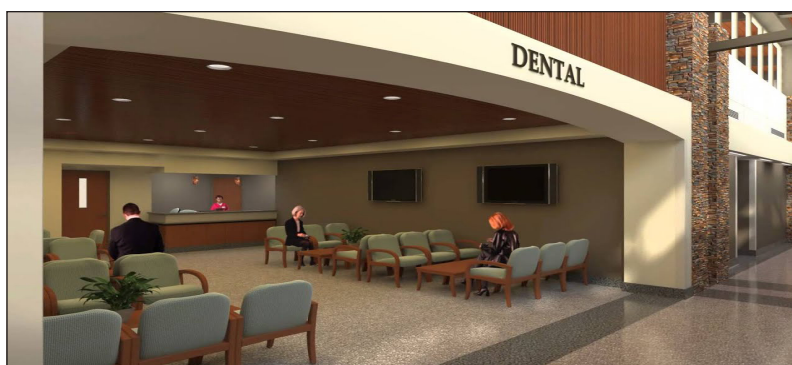
Chew sugar-free gum. Research supported by the Wrigley Oral Healthcare Programs has shown that chewing sugar-free gum for 20 minutes after eating helps to clean debris from teeth, promotes saliva production which helps to control acid buildup, and adds necessary minerals to the enamel of the teeth.

Additionally, parents should check their children's teeth closely once per month looking for signs of decay or infection, including cavities and white spots on the gums. They should make sure their children see their dentist for a checkup regularly.

The ADHA also recommends that people remember to brush the flat chewing surfaces of their teeth because people tend to brush the front and back sides adequately but overlook the tops and that they should put in the extra effort required to floss their back teeth just as well as they do their front ones.

### A LIFETIME OF HEALTHY TEETH

Although the healthy daily habits that lead to healthy teeth should be taught as soon as a child is old enough to do them on their own, adults should get into the habits recommended by this year's National Dental Hygiene Month regardless of their age or the condition of their teeth. Good oral health is an important part of overall well-being.



## AST Health System Presented Prestigious Award



Pictured: Rear Admiral Travis Watts, Public Health Corps, OKC IHS Area Director, presented health leaders, health board members, and the EC with the coveted I.H.S. COVID Pandemic Leadership Award. Competition was within the 39 Federally Recognized Tribes in Oklahoma.



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**  
Prevention. Progress. Pride.

SHAWNEE CLINIC  
LITTLE AXE HEALTH CENTER  
PLUS CARE

## PRESS RELEASE: Title VI meal disbursement changes

September 2021

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System's Title VI program has made meal disbursement changes due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Please see the following list of preventative measures (in accordance with CDC community gathering guidelines) below in an effort to limit exposure to our elders.

### MEALS WILL BE ON MONDAYS ONLY UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE

Meal plan for elders who currently have their meals delivered:

- Meals will be delivered Monday's
- One hot meal and 4 frozen meals or a one hot meal and a shelf stable box will be delivered plus drinks
- 

Meal plan for dine-in participants, to-go only (Little Axe and Shawnee):

- Meals will be handed out Monday's
- 5 Frozen meals plus drinks can be picked up on Monday's from 10am-2pm at the Shawnee campus **ONLY**.
- Little Axe Resource Center will not be disbursing meals.

For additional questions, please contact AST Health System at 405.701.7621. To stay up to date with changes and access the most current information, please visit [www.asthealth.org/covid-19](http://www.asthealth.org/covid-19).

Ne-yi-wa!



NOTICE OCTOBER 2021

AFTERHOURS COVID-19 & ANTIBODY TESTING & VACCINE CLINIC

LITTLE AXE HEALTH CENTER  
405.447.0300

- **Testing- 5:30pm-6:30pm:**  
Thursday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, & Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>
- **ANTIBODY testing-5pm-6pm (at LAC only):** Thursday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>
- **Vaccinations- 5pm-7pm:**  
Thursday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, & Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>

SHAWNEE CLINIC  
405.878.5850

- **Testing- 5:30pm-6:30pm:**  
Tuesday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, & Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>
- **Vaccinations- 5pm-7pm:**  
Tuesday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, & Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>

For Your Visit...

- Wear a mask (no cloth masks permitted)
- Bring identification
- All clinics are open to the public, walk-in only, no appointment needed

For Antibody Testing...

- Be prepared to have blood drawn
- Testing is available to anyone ages 10+

For Vaccine clinic...

- Vaccine is available for ages 12 and older
- Vaccine will be administered in two shots 3-4 weeks apart
- You will be monitored 15-30 minutes after receiving



In the event of adverse weather, testing may not be conducted. Follow the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System on Facebook or our website for updates [asthealth.org](http://asthealth.org).



# Working Together to Serve Our Veteran Warriors

## VA Healthcare Services at ASTHS

- ✓ Primary Care Medical Services
- ✓ Behavioral Health Services
- ✓ Service-Connected Disabilities
- ✓ Dental Services
- ✓ Vision Services

VA disability assessments and re-assessment exams and VA Compensation and Pension Exams must be scheduled at a VA facility.

## Did You Know?

American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans now have increased health care options through reimbursement sharing agreements with the VA, and you can choose to seek care through VA or through the ASTHS Tribal Health System for your VA healthcare needs? These agreements mean more resources are available to support the collective health and wellness of tribal veterans.

## VA Benefits

ASTHS Patient Benefit Advocates and our local area VA Native American Nurse Navigator can help tribal veterans navigate VA benefits for which they may be eligible, such as health benefits, disability, pension, education and training, NA housing loans, survivors' benefits, and more.

### OKC VA Native American Nurse Navigator:

405.456.3808  
Apply for VA Health Benefits:  
800.827.1000  
Apply for VA Benefits:  
855.488.8441  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)



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## ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/SASP GRANT PRESENTS



**WHITE BISON, INC.**  
A CULTURAL APPROACH TO PERSONAL RECOVERY FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE

# WELLBRIETY WORKING LUNCH

Facilitated by: John Soap, LPC

EVERY THURSDAY VIA GOTOMEETING  
[HTTPS://GLOBAL.GOTOMEETING.COM/JOIN/801887957](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/801887957)

BEGINNING MAY 27TH, 2021  
12:00PM-1:00PM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Brendan (SASP Coordinator) or John (Facilitator/LPC) at (405) 878-4716

## MEDICINE WHEEL & 12 STEPS



The medicine wheel and 12 Step program was developed to provide a culturally appropriate 12 Step program for Native American people. This program was developed by White Bison, based upon teachings of the Medicine Wheel, the Cycle of Life and the Four Laws of Change.

## HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

The Medicine Wheel and 12 Step program is designed in a series of modules that enable people to meet their individual needs. Participants watch a video that explains Medicine Wheel teachings and apply them to their lives. In addition, participants share their insights and experiences in a talking circle. They also learn how to mind map their own innate knowledge around these teachings and then apply that knowledge to their daily lives and decision making processes. For those working through the program in a group setting (i.e. Circles of Recovery) very strong social and emotional bonds are created that help the individuals who participate to develop trust, autonomy, and other healthy feelings and thought patterns that will help them to grow emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually.

## FOCUS

The focus of the program is on character and values. Thus each of the 12 Steps is presented from the perspective of the value that it reflects.

- |                 |                     |                              |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Step 1: Honesty | Step 5: Integrity   | Step 9: Justice              |
| Step 2: Hope    | Step 6: Willingness | Step 10: Perseverance        |
| Step 3: Faith   | Step 7: Humility    | Step 11: Spiritual Awakening |
| Step 4: Courage | Step 8: Forgiveness | Step 12: Service             |

## TEACHINGS OF THE MEDICINE WHEEL

The Medicine Wheel is an ancient method for teaching important concepts about truth and life. Many Native American communities use a Medicine Wheel, although the colors and the symbols are different depending upon the culture. The purpose is the same in each culture. These teachings, when applied to one's life, have the power to influence significant change in attitudes, behaviors, values and intent. The Elders have shared a series of Teachings based upon the Natural Order of the way things should be. These are sometimes referred to as the "original instructions." These important Teachings are included in the

- |                                      |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1.) 4 seasons of change              | 7.) Nature's Way: Principles, laws, and Values | 10.) Comfort Zones                         |
| 2.) 4 laws of change                 | 8.) Cycle of Life                              | 11.) The Two Thought System: Love and Fear |
| 3.) 4 directions of growth           | 9.) 8 feelings for healthy development         | 12.) The medicine wheel                    |
| 4.) 12 principles for healthy living |  | 13.) The laws of the unseen world.         |
| 5.) Reclaiming Our Power             |  |  |



# Help Yourself, Help Your Tribe

SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A \$0 COST HEALTH PLAN  
AT **NO COST** TO YOU OR YOUR TRIBE

## 2022 Open Enrollment

OPEN ENROLLMENT  
**Oct. 15-Dec. 7, 2021**

OPEN ENROLLMENT  
**Nov. 1-Dec. 15, 2021**



- Patient Benefit Advocates and our contracted benefit advisers can help you qualify for a \$0 cost health plan via Health Insurance Marketplace or Medicare.
- You may also qualify for extra benefits such as Dental (including dentures or major services), Vision (exam/lenses), Hearing Aids, and more!
- Enrolling in a health plan expedites the Purchase & Referred Care referral process, providing you immediate access to specialized healthcare services and gives you peace of mind when you travel at zero cost to you and our tribal community, if eligible.
- Per Purchase/Referred Care guidelines, all Native American patients must apply for all available resources, if eligible.
- Contact a Patient Benefit Advocate to see if you are eligible for Native American Cost-Savings under the Affordable Care Act.

## Did You Know?

- The Tribe is only funded approximately 40% of cost to render care to patients? Most people think it is funded 100%.
- To add services, equipment, or help more people, we need your assistance.
- By signing up for a zero cost plan, you allow the tribe to bill for services and to be reimbursed by insurance companies. This frees up more dollars to help those who are not eligible for a zero cost plan helping Purchase & Referred Care dollars go further.

**We Can Help**  
Contact a Patient Benefit Advocate

<b>Little Axe Health Center</b> 405.447.0300	<b>Shawnee Clinic</b> 405.878.5850
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A contracted benefit adviser is also available to assist our tribal community with their open enrollment options free-of-cost.



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**  
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[www.asthealth.org](http://www.asthealth.org)

# YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A \$0 COST HEALTH PLAN UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN.

Help yourself, help your tribe and see if you will qualify for coverage that will provide you and your family with immediate access to specialized healthcare at no cost to you or your tribe.



**Did you know?** The American Rescue Plan (ARP), recently signed into law by President Biden, increases and expands eligibility for cost-savings programs under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in the form of premium cost assistance for individuals enrolled in Health Insurance Marketplace plans.

The premium assistance is in the form of a IRS Advance Premium Tax Credit taken in advance of the tax year, lowering or eliminating health insurance premiums for lower-and middle-income families. Signing up for a low-or-zero cost health plan allows tribes to receive reimbursement for services, which frees up more dollars to help those who are not eligible for cost-savings programs, helping Purchased Referred Care dollars go further.

Native Americans must apply for all available resources, if eligible, to help augment the cost of tribal healthcare services. Program rules and continuity of care necessitates completion of an annual application for benefits to assure services are covered, even if ASTHS patient is already insured.

**TO APPLY:**  
Health Insurance Marketplace  
[www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)  
1.800.318.2596

**WE CAN HELP**  
Contact a Patient Benefit Advocate

<b>Little Axe Health Center</b> 405.447.0300	<b>Shawnee Clinic</b> 405.878.5850
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[www.asthealth.org](http://www.asthealth.org)



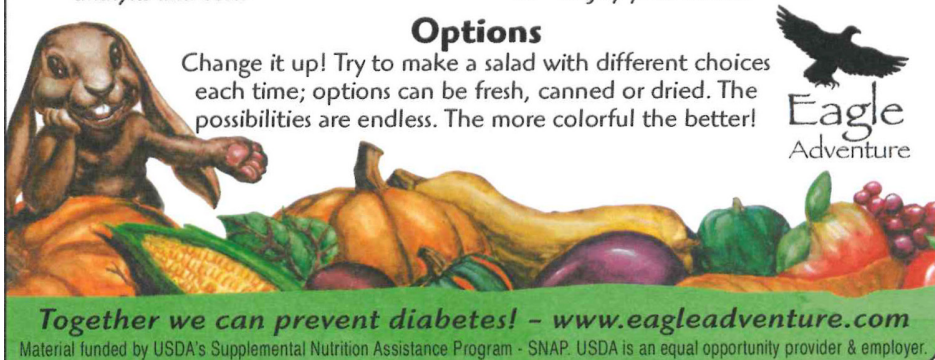




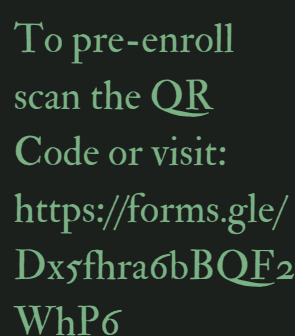
## ENSURING HOPE PROJECT



### Prescription Medications



# ENSURING HOPE & NATIVE CONNECTIONS



# Pharmacy Reminder





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

Building Blocks II

The year sure is passing quickly and it is now Fall. The children love the fall weather which allows them to have more outside time. October is an exciting month at Building Blocks where the children do lots of fall and Halloween activities and art.

Halloween is Saturday, October 31st. Have a safe Halloween as you take your little ones out Trick or Treating!



We are excited about getting our new playgrounds installed soon. Let the fun begin as the children will have lots of new playground equipment to learn as they play and explore. Have an amazing October!



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

Building Blocks III



OUR EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH IS  
  
MRS. SARA  
  
IN THE TODDLER CLASS

If you are interested in your child attending Building Blocks Child Development Center in Norman, OK please call (405)360-2710.

We are also currently looking for a few more team members, so if you or anyone else you know is interested in applying please visit our website at [astribe.com](http://astribe.com) or call for more information.

You can find us on Facebook at

AST Building Blocks Child Development Center III-Little Axe

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. Since the last week of August, we have moved to a split shift schedule in which three staff members are available in the office every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Gift Shop**  
In accordance with the change in operations, the gift shop is now only open to **Tribal members** for shopping. If possible, we do encourage curbside and porch shopping. We ask if you are wanting to shop **please make an appointment** with the Gift Shop Manager, Mrs. Merry Rodriguez, **24 hours in advance**. Also, upon arrival please check in at the checkpoint. Mrs. Rodriguez can be reached at (405) 275-4030 ext. 6310.

We have two locations for your shopping. Our Shawnee Gift Shop is located at the complex in the Cultural Preservation building, and our Little Axe Gift Shop is located in the lobby of the Little Axe Health Center. We are open in Shawnee Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and once a month, usually at the end of the month, in Little Axe from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Further, to ensure the safety and protect the health of all, the Gift Shop has implemented the following 5 safety protocols that we ask visitors to follow:

- 1. All are required to cover their mouth and nose with PPE (masks) when shopping in the Gift Shop.
- 2. Occupancy Control – for your safety and the safety of our employees, we are limiting the number of customers in the gift shop.
  - a. Only **2 customers** will be allowed in at a time
- 3. Avoid close contact (Social Distance)
  - a. Please keep 6 feet between you and other customers
- 4. Use hand sanitizer as often as possible
- 5. Sorry...**NO** public restroom is available. Temporarily closed due to COVID-19.

We continue to make progress in new inventory. A new item we recently received in the gift shop can be seen to the left. We also are excited to announce that we have been working with Eskimo Joe's Design Team on some new color schemes and designs for our AST t-shirts. Those new shirts should start to hit the shelves in early October.

If you haven't been in our store recently, please make an appointment and come have a look at our merchandise.

**Library**  
Like the Gift Shop, the Library is open to Tribal members only. We ask that you follow all the protocols mentioned above, and that you call Ms. Casey Wilson, the Librarian, to make an appointment 24 hours in advance. She can be reached at (405) 275-4030 ext. 6416.

Further, for your safety, individuals are asked to use gloves while viewing books in the library, and to ensure that checked out books are properly sanitized, books are placed in a Ziploc bag and quarantined for four days upon return to the library.

For your convenience, the library now has copies of the Commercial Driver's License Handbook and the Oklahoma State Driver's manual for checkout.

Also, currently, we are still working on using OverDrive to get our collections online. We are hoping the online website is launched soon. Please reach out to the Librarian if you have any questions.

**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 Officer, Mrs. Devon Frazier-Smith, has received 227 new Section 106 projects for review. In conjunction with receiving projects, the program has consulted on 174 projects. These projects were completed in 13 of our 25 areas of interest/states. The THPO has also taken part in 13 teleconference calls as it concerns Section 106 projects as well as NAGPRA cases.

**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 127 new telecommunications facility projects for review. These 127 individual projects were completed in conjunction with 10 consulting firms in 10 of our 25 areas of interest/states.

In conjunction with receiving projects, she has reviewed, researched and gave recommendation for the clearance of 94 telecommunications projects. These 94 individual projects were completed in conjunction with 10 consulting firms in 10 of our 25 areas of interest/states. Also, 33 projects are awaiting clearance because their packages are lacking some information such as full archaeological reports, SHPO responses, or clear pictures.

**EVENTS**  
On August 26th, the library hosted a Ribbon Skirt Workshop. We had nine individuals sign-up for the workshop. However, only one individual showed up, and she was able to finish her skirt during the allotted time.

Also, with the change in the operations and out of concern for the safety of all, we have canceled all the workshops at this time.

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 to better serve the Tribal community. My door is always open so please feel free to contact me, Carol Butler, at 405-275-4030 ext. 6245 or [cbutler@astribe.com](mailto:cbutler@astribe.com)



Photo: Workshop participant, Taylor McClellan, in her finished skirt.



# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Abma, Meadow Elisa  
Adams, James Michael  
Aguinaga, Aaron Juan  
Aguirre, Jose Raul  
Ahtone, Caylen Evreaux  
Alford Jr., Elroy Raymond  
Alford, Herbert Vearl  
Almanza, Kaiya Damon  
Anderson, Charlie Beckett  
Anderson, Jenna Elizabeth  
Ardrey, Wanda Marie  
Armendariz, Christy Ann Louise  
Ash, Earl James  
Aspen, Andrew James  
Atwood, Joseph Eugene  
Bailey, Beverly Jean Loving  
Balch, Shannon Eugene  
Barnard, Legacy May  
Barriga, Sommer Rae  
Battise, Tara Christine  
Beach, Brodie Aaron  
Beartusk, Jonah Edward  
Bell, Caleb Walker  
Bell, Elijah Michael  
Belvin Jr, Jessey Lee  
Bender, Jason Allen  
Bettelyoun, Michael Vincent  
Bhandari, Dasan Krishna  
Bittle Jr., James Carl  
Bittle, Ketcher Austin  
Bittle, Trinity Morgan  
Blackbear, Jorey Rian  
Blanchard Jr., George Melvin  
Blanchard, Alex Gordon  
Blanchard, Bryson Dale  
Blanchard, Ellie Jo  
Blanchard, Jared Dillon  
Blanchard, Kevin Owen  
Blood, Jennifer  
Bond, Brandon Curtis  
Bowens, Keira Rhea  
Boyd, Alexander James  
Bradley, Mary Louise  
Bradley, Michael Joseph  
Brady Jr., Cecil Edgar  
Brady, Carlie Noelle  
Brady, Ryan Fletcher  
Breedlove, Cynthia Kay  
Brittain, Shaye Dawn  
Brokeshoulder, Aaron Dean  
Brokeshoulder, Randall James  
Brooks, Nathanael Shawnee  
Brown, Kane Alexander  
Brown, Kristopher Todd  
Brummett, Spencer Keith  
Bryce, Todd Kaden  
Buckley, Dillon Wayne  
Bui, Bennett Van  
Bulock, Marley Kaylynn  
Burggraf, Thaddeus Todd Lee  
Byers, Sebastian Michael  
Cagle, Justin Boyd  
Cagle, Sheryl Lynette  
Call, Kelly Edward  
Campbell, Charlotte Lynn  
Carolina, Jarric Dequan  
Carpenter, Glenda Carol  
Caudillo, Natalie Adelle  
Chapman, Atira Vonne  
Chisholm, Candace Lauren  
Chupp, Angela Marie  
Citty, Dora Mae  
Clayton, Raven Roxanne  
Coddington, Cameron Michael  
Coddington, Hailey Elaine  
Cody, Aidan Jacob  
Coleman, Janice Sue  
Coley, Sherry Ann  
Condra, Melanie Rochelle  
Cook Jr., Henry James  
Coriz, Benjamin Allen  
Coronado-Cooper, Jaxson King  
Cottrell, Steven Thomas  
Creek, Ralph Jimmy Ray  
Crossley, Burton Jay  
Crossley, Jeffery Mark  
Cypret, Isaac Matthew  
Dalitz, Christi Lynn  
Daugherty, Steven Neil  
Davis, Brock Mason  
Davis, Kimber Lee  
Davis, Mary Louise  
Davis, Rain E.  
Davis, Ryan Kyle  
Davis, Scarlett Marie  
Deardorff, Angela Dawn  
Deere, Josiah Ahinska  
Dees, Elizabeth Yvonne  
DeLodge, Brendan Joseph  
Diehl, Chelsea Elizabeth  
Dominguez, Stormy Sky  
Dry, Breanna Joyclynn  
Dry, Karlee Nicole

Durmon, Ryland Ryder  
Eason, Liam Malachi  
Eckles, Steven George  
Edwards, Shawnee Dawn  
Ellis, Allison Krista  
Ellis, Henryetta  
Ellis, Kevin Mark  
Ellis, Kimberly Marie  
Ellis, Linda Jean  
England, Jacoby Randall  
Fife, Austin Scott  
Foley, Katrina Dawn  
Foreman, Eli Zane  
Foreman, Sidney Brian  
Foreman, Wesley Josiah  
Frazier, Anthony Lawrence  
Gall, Rebecca Sue  
Gibson, Bernice  
Gibson, Collin Lane  
Gibson, Susan Renee  
Gibson, Tyler Logan  
Gillihan, Layton Douglas  
Gillmore, Jamie Mack  
Gilman Jr., Thomas Eugene  
Gilman, Tomi-Lynn Sophia  
Gomez, Julian Alanzo  
Gonzales, Cortney Raeanne  
Gonzalez, Kathrine Mary  
Gouge, Jaden Wesley  
Green, Shai Leigh  
Green, Tristin Eacon  
Gregory, Derek Ryan  
Gregory, Jacob Samuel  
Griffin, Craig Robert  
Hardeman, Uriah Terez  
Harjo, Baylor Scott  
Harjo, Bryleigh Marie  
Harjo, Kaleb Emery  
Harjo, Linda Marie  
Harjo, Stathan Ray  
Harjo, Tatum Kenzie  
Harjoe, Dawn Nicole  
Haumpy, Lijuan Myki  
Hayes, Jaeger Koen  
Healy, Shawna Susan  
Helvy, Camber Nicole  
Herrera Jr., Robert Manuel  
Herrera Jr., Ruben Pilar  
Herrera, Eian Anthany  
Herrera, Michael Alexander  
Herrera, Rosalynn Macie  
Herrin, Susan Rena  
Hockemeyer, Azlynn Marie Nicole  
Holderness, Nichole Ann  
Hood, Nova Dean  
Hough, Marrisa Louise  
Houston, James Andrew  
Huerta, Martin Thomas  
Hunt, Janice-Marie Littlecreek  
Huntington, Hayven Irene  
Irvin, Timothy Logan  
Isaac Sr., William  
Jackson, Mary-Ann  
Jimerson III, Robert E  
Johnson, David Leroy  
Johnson, Antwone Reese Dejuan  
Johnson, Chan Van Ness  
Johnson, Cheveyo Lachaim Kavi  
Johnson, Emma Lee  
Johnson, Erica Lynn  
Johnson, Jessica Lynn  
Johnson, Maddison Brooke  
Johnson, Manuel Steve  
Johnson, Mark  
Johnson, Patience Mackenzie Minnie  
Johnson, Sean Allen  
Johnson, Shannon Renay  
Johnson, Stevi Mahri  
Jones, Zackery Dene  
Kastl, Victoria Autumn  
Kauley, Charlotte Jayne  
Kelly, Joseph Austin  
Kihega, Kalani Angelice  
Kilmer, Brittany Michelle  
Kilmer, Ethan Allen  
Kirby, Robert Micheal  
Kleine, Elizabeth Ann  
Knight, Brandi Christine  
Kobs, Alexander Francis  
Kringlen, Zaine Aloysius  
La Plant, Isaac Joseph Leigh  
Laplante, Amanda Carol  
Lasenberry, Lawrence Layton Brooks  
Leath, Alexander Jake  
Leatherman, Rosalie Helen Marie- Ann  
Leedom, Christopher Donald  
Leedom, Stephen Wayne  
Lewelling, Avis Jewel  
Lindsey, Kendall Ray  
Little Jim, Gabriel Clint  
Little Jim, Justin Dale  
Little, Freddie Don  
Little, Travis Shane

Littlebear, Anthony Karlin  
Littlebear, Brett Cason  
Littlebear, Lois Gwen  
Littlecreek, Aaron Dale  
Littlecreek, Dalton Dale  
Littlecreek, Melissa Richelle  
Littlehead, William Douglas  
LittleJim, Gracey Lorene  
Longhorn, Lance Calvin  
Longhorn, Lydia Kye  
Longhorn, Ryan Wade  
Longhorn, Stephanie Lee  
Longhorn, Vernice Correne  
Longman Sr., Henry Daniel  
Longman, Ciara Lynn  
Lossie, Colton Lewis Cain  
Lowe, Kerry Denise  
Lucas Spybuck, Misty Rosileah  
Mack, Dewayne George  
MacK, Jaslynn Marie  
Mack, Kailas Dail  
Mack, Melissa Ann  
Mack, Secote Vholoce  
Martinez, Marina Cristine  
Masquas, Katlyn Alexzandrea  
Matthews, Anthony Edward Scott  
Mattingly, Erin Paige  
Maxfield, Sky Colisa  
Maxwell, Meagan Renee  
McBride, Aaron Wayne  
McBride, Lillian Kaye  
McCuddy, Queta Cara  
Meeks, Khia Jayde  
Megehee, William Sean  
Merrell, Marleigh Jaye  
Miller, Anna Mae  
Miller, Brody Scott Glenn  
Miller, Kale Donovan  
Miller, Scott Alan  
Mills, Colby Richard  
Molenhour, Emma Leann  
Monk, Jessica Rita  
Montgomery, Jessica Lynn  
Morgan, Avin Tyler  
Morgan, Letitia Rhea  
Morgheim, Sianna Rayn  
Morton, Rhianna Elizabeth  
Motes, Christopher Cole  
Murphy, Carsyn Lucille  
Myers, Rachel Johnnice  
Neese, Branden Hunter  
Newton, Colt Allen  
O'Toole, Chelsey Marie  
Odell, Edna May  
Oldham, Blake Wayne  
Oldham, Mason Thomas  
Oldham, Rachel Elaine  
Onzawah, Glorious Serinity  
Onzawah, Theodora Marie  
Panther Hargrove, Leah Dakota  
Panther Sr., Donald Eric  
Panther, Dakota Eric  
Parker, Royce Ahle  
Pawnee, Gabriella Kathleen  
Perryman, John Lewis  
Perryman, Lillie D Blanchard  
Peter, Terrance Nicholie  
Petersen, Marsha Ann  
Pine, Kyler Evan  
Ponkilla, Brigette Nicole  
Powell, David W  
Raadmae, Brian David  
Ramirez, Analia Victoria  
Ramirez, Antonio  
Rapos, Christal Nasebewa  
Rathbun, Nicholis Lee  
Ressler, Linda Kay  
Rickard, Janice Renee  
Rivas, Becky Marie  
Roach, Tanya Emma  
Robison, Burtis Charles  
Rochon, Yvonne Lorraine  
Rock, Patricia Ann  
Rolette, Robbin Louise  
Rolette, Travis Anthony  
Rose, Shaji Tecumseh  
Salazar, Ellen Diesta  
Salisbury, Alyssa Rose  
Sanchez, Airez Pete  
Sanchez, Itzel Itzury  
Scarberry, Valerie June  
Schulenberg, Justin Michael  
Schulenberg, Tina Yvette  
Scraper, Benjamin Alexander  
Self, Braydon Wayne  
Serena, Barbara Jean  
Shaffer, Nicholas Keith  
Shawnee, Maeliah Lachelle  
Shields, Darian Alexandria  
Shirey, Caeden Carlsen  
Sloan, Michael Ray  
Sloat, Jeromi Wayne  
Sloat, Zaurhea Elayne

Smith, Jema Rose  
Smith, Shannon Dana  
Soap, Matthew Dylan  
Spoon Jr., John Wesley  
Spoon, Canaan Lee  
Spoon, Christina Ann  
Spoon, Preston Gabriel  
Spriggs, Philip Jeffery  
Squire, Gwendale Lynn  
Stacey, Nils Greg  
Starr, Eric Glen  
Starr, Tricia Suzanne  
Stewart, Wanda Louise  
Stone, Donnie Darnell  
Sullivan, Pamela Kay  
Surface, Ian Robert  
Switch Jr., Douglas Vaughn  
Switch, Aaron Christopher  
Tallchief, Bobby Eves  
Tapia, Carlito Cruz  
Taylor Jr., James Robert  
Taylor, Amanda Mae Alice  
Taylor, Gail Anne  
Taylor, Shelly Bennie  
Thapa, Blake Lee  
Thomas, Katie La Rae  
Thompson, Brody Patrick  
Thompson, Wyatt Dane  
Thorpe III, George  
Thorpe Sr., Ronnie Allen  
Thorpe, Davis Mackenzie  
Thorpe, Derrick James  
Thorpe, Patricia Ann  
Thorpe, Taj Robert  
Tiger Yanez, Autumn Reyna  
Tiger, Aaron Dewayne  
Tiger, Anthony John  
Tiger, Attison Elaine  
Tiger, Cynthia Caylin  
Tiger, John Charles  
Tiger, Kaley Jean  
Tiger, Waylen Michael Ray  
Todd, Laurie Dawn  
Tolbert, Jaleigh Renee  
Torbett, Lori Ann  
Townson, Duke Darin  
Turner, Georgie Ann  
Tyner Jr., Marcus Dwight  
Tyner, Dwight A.  
Vasquez, Jonathan Louis  
Vasquez, Kayla Nicole  
Vaughn, Nathan Michael  
Voyles, Danielle Rose  
Walker, Randall Dean  
Wallace, Tambi Dawn  
Walley, Danny Lloyd  
Walley, Erik Austin  
Walley, Steve Allen  
Warrior Sr., Lucian Jay  
Warrior, Necon Andrew  
Warrior-Pope, Watasha Nichole  
Wasley, Lewis Daniel  
Watkins III, Irvin Lee  
Watson, Aaron Wayne  
West, Raiden Aaron  
White, Cynthia Diane  
White, David Leroy  
White, Eli Abbott  
White, Evan James  
White, Keyle Marie  
White, Nicholas Clay  
Whittaker, Blake Matthew  
Whittaker, Brantley Jai  
Wicks, Raequan DeMario  
Wilkerson, Amy Marie  
Wilkinson, Briar Arland  
Williams, Matthew Lee  
Williams, Amber Ann  
Williams, Angela Marie  
Williams, Charles Scott  
Williams, Darlena Kaye  
Williams, Timothy J.  
Williams, Timothy John  
Willis, Christy Danielle  
Wills, Chevelle Adyson  
Wilson, Bridgette Nicole  
Wilson, Cadense Raydale  
Wilson, David Anthony  
Wilson, Kamrie Dawn  
Wilson, Linda Sue  
Wilson, Tanya Ann  
Wilson, Terry Wayne  
Wolf, Christian Seminole  
Wolf, Mariana Julianne  
Wolfe, Fanya Gayle  
Wood, Darla Sue  
Woody, Derek Wayne  
Wright, Michael Roosevelt  
Wunderlin, Tyler Jay  
Wyatt, William Thor  
Yandell, Paisley Alexis  
Yates, Kaitlin Cheyenne



News Release

To: The Absentee Shawnee News  
From: AllNations Bank  
Date: 9-15-2021  
Subject: Termination of Regulatory Enforcement Action

Federal Reserve Board announces termination of enforcement action with AllNations Bank

The Federal Reserve Board on Tuesday, August 24, announced the termination of the Written Agreement, dated October 22, 2018.

Beginning in 2016, AllNations Bank was directed by its regulators to correct problems identified in regulatory examinations that led to its troubled status. Following an examination in the Fall of 2018 that noted a lack of progress in resolving the problems, regulators placed the bank under a formal regulatory enforcement action called a Written Agreement. The Agreement contained 22 specific requirements to correct problems at the bank.

In March, 2019, the bank’s Board of Directors hired a new CEO who was charged with turning the bank around. The new CEO was Steve Smith, a bank executive with 35 years of community bank management experience. He had most recently worked for a bank in Arkansas that was under a similar regulatory enforcement action.

CEO Smith “The first order of business was to assemble a competent management team. This culminated with the hiring of Jill Maple as CFO in September, 2019. After Jill joined the bank, our management team was able to really begin working on satisfying the requirements of the Written Agreement.”

CFO Jill Maple stated, “When I joined the bank, we had numerous changes that were needed in internal operations. This involved a lot of work but, unlike problem loans, we were able to make the changes ourselves and solve the issues.

With problem loans, it takes longer because a lot of the progress is dependent on outside parties. In the case of shutting down a loan, you have legal and repossession processes that are only partially under the bank’s control. Or, when you are working with a borrower to get their loans back to a good status, it can take several years to get their financial condition back on a firm footing. So overall, the loan problems take longer to resolve than the internal operations.”

“I’ve been pleasantly surprised at the relatively short amount of time it has taken to get the Written Agreement terminated,” continued Smith. “I’m told the rule of thumb is that it takes three years to work out of a troubled status once you get a team put together. So for us to do it in two years is a real accomplishment for our team. Especially considering that much of the work was done while also dealing with the pandemic. I can’t say thank you enough to our management team for how hard they have worked to reach this milestone.”

Smith further noted, “Our board and the Executive Committee have been very supportive of our efforts to improve the bank. They allowed us the flexibility to make changes that were needed to improve the board’s oversight of the bank. Board members Anita Chisholm and Eastman Switch remained on the board when I was hired as Chairman and CEO. They were very open to the idea of bringing on new directors with banking experience to replace those that had left.

New directors included Terri Mefford, who is a retired bank CFO. She joined the board in 2019 and is Chairman of our Audit Committee. Larry Briggs, a retired bank CEO, serves as our Lead Independent Director having joined the board in 2020. In this position, he represents the board in overseeing management and serves on the Loan Committee. It has been very helpful to me to have former bankers on the board to provide guidance and insight as we make decisions for the progress of the bank.”

A common measure of a bank’s problem loans is the Problem Loan Ratio. For AllNations Bank, this ratio peaked at 71%. As of June 30, 2021, this ratio had declined to below 8%. A ratio below 10% is considered excellent.

Smith commented, “When you begin working with a troubled bank that has loan problems, it isn’t uncommon for things to appear to get worse before they get better. As we started looking at the loans in 2019, we seemed to discover a new problem every week. Up to that time, neither examiners nor bank management had recognized several loans that were problems. As these problems were uncovered, the bank’s Problem Loan Ratio got worse before it got better.

As we worked to resolve loan problems, sometimes we were able to work with a borrower to get them back on a solid financial footing. Other times we had no choice but to repossess and sell collateral. We are very pleased that we have our problem loans down to an acceptable level. However, we still have a few loans that still need work. We expect to have these situations resolved later this year or early next year.

On a positive note, we have the possibility of recoveries from some loans that we have charged off. This could add to the bank’s income late this year or next. While we don’t know for sure yet, these recoveries could be substantial.”

Maple noted that the termination of the Written Agreement has opened up several new opportunities for the bank. “While we were under the Written Agreement, there were several restrictions on what the bank could do. Now that it’s behind us, we’re taking advantage of opportunities to use the bank’s deposits to make more loans and improve the bank’s earnings. We always want to make more loans and this is also good for our small business and farm customers and individual customers.

Additionally, there are significant expenses that were incurred as a result of the Written Agreement and problem loans that will significantly reduce over time. These are such things as legal and collection expenses, contracted services and FDIC insurance. Also, we’ve been able to reduce our staffing with attrition as the workload from the Written Agreement and problem loans diminishes.”

Smith noted, “Now that we’ve achieved one goal, the termination of the Written Agreement, we are turning toward making AllNations Bank one of the best community banks in our region. This includes two aims that together will make the bank a continuing success story. The first is to provide great service to our customers, especially the members and employees of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. The second, which will flow from the first, is to achieve a level of profitability that will make the bank a good investment for the Tribe. I am confident that with the support of the board and the Executive Committee, the team that has joined me here at AllNations Bank can and will do both.”

“I’ve been in banking for 35 years,” Smith continued, “and I can honestly say this is the most enjoyable and rewarding experience in my career. I am blessed to work with the best group of bankers and the best board of directors that I’ve ever been around, and I’ve worked with some pretty good teams in the past. The ownership, represented by the Executive Committee, has supported our efforts every step of the way. Even the relationships with our bank regulators have been great. We still have a lot of work to do at the bank to get where we need to be but our team is fully capable of making AllNations a bank we can all be proud of.”

In closing, Smith related this story. “Nearing the end of my career in banking and working in my hometown, I had the thought or maybe dream that I would like to do “something different” before I retired. Sure enough, I ended up losing my position in a downsizing. Then after 13 months with a troubled bank, I was let go for trying to do the right thing. This wasn’t the “something different” I had in mind! A few months later, a consultant that I had worked with previously asked me to help with a bank in Calumet, Oklahoma that was owned by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

One thing led to another and I ended up with the “something different” I had thought or dreamed about a few years earlier. I could never have imagined or planned the path that would prepare me for and lead me to the most enjoyable and rewarding experience in my banking career. The moral of the story is this. Be careful what you think or dream. God may think you’re praying and give you an unimaginable answer to your prayer.”

News Release

To: The Absentee Shawnee News  
From: AllNations Bank  
Date: 9-15-2021  
Subject: Resignation of Long Time Board Member Anita Chisholm

Anita Chisholm, an Absentee Shawnee Tribe member and a long-time member of the Board of Directors of AllNations Bank recently retired from the Board. Her last day of service was August 25, 2021 which was also her last board meeting.

Ms. Chisholm began serving as a director of both the bank and the bank’s holding company, AllNations Bancorporation, Inc. in late 2003 when the Absentee Shawnee Tribe purchased the bank. The bank was formerly First National Bank in Calumet, OK. Chisholm joined the board as the bank was converting from a national bank to a state bank with the resulting name change. In recent years, the bank was under a regulatory enforcement action. Ms. Chisholm served on the board through significant changes at the bank that ultimately resulted in the termination of the regulatory action. In fact, the termination was publicly announced by the Federal Reserve Board the day before her last board meeting.

Steve Smith, CEO of the bank, commented, “When Anita advised us over a year ago of her desire to resign her position, we asked her to stay on the board until a new board member was appointed. She graciously agreed and ensured that we had a smooth transition. Her continued service on the bank board while the bank was in a troubled condition provided stability and leadership when the bank was dealing with a lot of problems. This was greatly appreciated by bank management as well as the board. The bank’s regulators were also very complimentary of her continuing to serve on the bank board during a difficult time period.”

The new AllNations Bank board member replacing Ms. Chisholm is Wade Stuckey. He is an Absentee Shawnee Tribe member and works in corporate management with Hobby Lobby in Oklahoma City. Stuckey will also serve on the board of AllNations Bancorporation, Inc., the bank’s holding company. Mr. Stuckey is joined on the holding company board by Senator Shane Jett. Senator Jett is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and represents Oklahoma Senate District 17.

At her last board meeting, the bank presented her with a retirement gift and expressed appreciation for her years of dedicated service. Ms. Chisholm stated, “I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving on the board. I am very pleased to see the progress the bank has made since we were able to bring in a new management team in 2019. It is also good to see the improved communication and coordination among the Executive Committee, the bank board and bank management. This makes for a winning team. The fact that we were able to achieve termination of the enforcement action before the end of my service on the board is especially gratifying.”



Anita Chisholm, retiring AllNations Bank board member shown with an engraved crystal vase recognizing her 18 years of service.

AllNations Bank

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

Member  
FDIC





October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Every day Native American women experience domestic violence in their home. They live with the staggering statistic that 4 out of 5 Native women will face violence in their lifetime. These women are strong by nature. For generations, Native people have taken inspiration from the world around them, and fire is one of the most important symbols. Fire can provide energy needed for life, but if you don't respect fire, it can also be destructive. In the same way that a single ember can lead to the destruction of an entire forest, one instance of domestic violence can affect a whole tribal community.

Domestic violence can take many forms: physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, cultural and/or financial. While physical abuse is what most people think of when they hear domestic violence, non-physical abuse is just as damaging as physical violence. Because domestic violence is so prevalent in Native American communities, there has been a push for women to protect each other. This responsibility should not fall on the victims, the focus should be centered on holding perpetrators accountable.

Almost every Native woman knows of a friend, sister, or other family member who has a shared story of domestic abuse committed by someone who was supposed to care about them. Tribal domestic violence programs have given victims in Native American communities the tools they need to recover from domestic violence and to help them through the process of healing through these traumatic experiences.

Working together to protect the communities of Native Americans is crucial in changing the future and saving lives from the tragedy that is domestic violence. To many domestic violence victims their world may feel very isolated and lonely because of the abuse they have endured. If you know someone who has been affected by domestic violence, here are some ways you can help them and others:

- If you decide to reach out to an abuse victim, it is key to approach them with calmness and plenty of time for them to open up to conversation. Remember that a victim is never at fault for the situation they are in.
- One of the most important things you can do to help a friend dealing with any type of domestic abuse is to offer specific support resources. These can include shelters, support groups, counselors, or information about restraining/protective orders.
- Hold the people you know accountable for their actions that can lead to domestic violence situations. Stop violence at its source and educate them on why their behavior is harmful.
- Volunteer and donate to local tribal programs that directly help domestic violence victims.
- The best way to help victims and potential victims of domestic violence, especially those in Native communities, is to be an advocate for change. This can be achieved by getting involved in public policy that aims to protect women and by spreading awareness of how problematic domestic violence is within Indian Country on your own personal social media pages.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but there are always opportunities to protect the future generations of Native women from domestic violence. No matter how you decide to get involved in the fight against domestic violence for Native people, remember that entire lives can be changed by people working together. Be the ember that spreads the flame of awareness, remember that the smallest actions can lead to change, and lives can be transformed by the actions of one person.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at 405.273.2888

This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-7W-AK-0016 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/inhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



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IN THE TRIAL COURT OF  
THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA  
SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA 74801

Jordan Herrod )  
vs ) Case No. JFD-2021-06  
Thomas Herrod )

AFFIDAVIT TO OBTAIN SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS )  
SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA ) \$.

being duly sworn upon oath states:

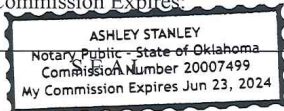
That she/he is the Plaintiff Jordan Herrod above-named, and that on the 3 day of May, 2021, said Plaintiff filed in this Court a Petition against Defendant and this is one of the class of cases prescribed by the Statutes of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, and is absent therefrom, and that with and after the exercise of due diligence, said Plaintiff is unable to make personal service upon said Defendant, Thomas Herrod, within the jurisdiction of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, and that Plaintiff wishes to obtain service upon the said Defendant by publication as provided by law. (AST CODE OF LAWS, Section 205, Section 206 and Section 209)

Jordan Herrod  
PLAINTIFF

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10 day of August, 2021.

Ashley Stanley  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:





The Media Department wants to hear from Tribal Veterans. We are working on something for the November paper honoring Veterans. If you are a Tribal Veteran, please contact [Mindyl@astribe.com](mailto:Mindyl@astribe.com) or (405) 617-6226

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

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

Attention:

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

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



AST High School Seniors

Graduation Stole Request Form

The information you provide below will be used to contact you regarding your form, where your stole will be sent to, or scheduling a time for you to pick up a stole. Make sure the information is current. If your contact information changes after you submit your form notify the Education Department immediately. We will not be responsible for lost stoles, stoles being sent to incorrect addresses, or the inability to schedule a pick up time.

**\*\*Stoles will be available on a first come, first served basis.\*\***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive your stole? ☐ Pick up ☐ Mail

\*If picking up a stole, you will be called to schedule a pick up time.

Required documents:

Verification

- Class schedule: 12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment

Tribal Enrollment Card

- Copy (must be the updated card)

Education Department  
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
405.275.4030 Ext. 6242  
405.273.7938 (fax)  
[tresham@astribe.com](mailto:tresham@astribe.com)



College/Vocational

Graduation Stole Request Form

The Executive Committee will be sponsoring graduation stoles for 2021 College and Vocational graduates. The information you provide below will be used to contact you regarding where you would like your stole to be sent or scheduling a time for you to pick up a stole. Make sure the information is current. If it changes after you submit your form contact the Education Department immediately. We will not be responsible for lost stoles, stoles being sent to incorrect addresses, or the inability to schedule a pick up time.

**\*\*Stoles will be available on a first come, first served basis.\*\***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive your stole? ☐ Pick up ☐ Mail

\*If picking up a stole, you will be called to schedule a pick up time.

Required documents:

Verification

- Copy of college application for graduation

Tribal Enrollment Card

- Copy (must be the updated card)

Education Department  
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
405.275.4030 Ext. 6242  
405.273.7938 (fax)  
[tresham@astribe.com](mailto:tresham@astribe.com)



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

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	Alvina Barnes.....	6307
	Kim Porter.....	6269
Lt. Gov.	Lt.Governor Ezra DeLodge.....	6253
	Diane Ponkilla .....	6267
	Mike Bread.....	6445
	Andrew Warrior.....	6263
Secretary	Secretary Alicia Miller .....	6289
	.....	6275
	Tina Ontiveros .....	6431
	Mary Ponkilla.....	6446
Treas.	Treasurer Joseph Blanchard .....	6280
	Jan Ranft .....	6309
	.....	6341
Rep.	Representative DeWayne Wilson	6239
	.....	6240

**RECEPTIONIST**  
..... 4030

**ATTORNEY**  
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Nahinli Billy ..... 6301  
Whitney Standing ..... 6283

**CCDF**  
Briana Ponkilla..... 6347  
LaNora Buswell..... 6348

**COURT**  
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Ashley Hudson.....6336  
..... 6260

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Merry Rodriguez (Gift Shop)..... 6310  
Gift Shop.....6254  
Devon Frazier(THPO)..... 6243  
Ashley Brokeshoulder ..... 6312  
Kay Bemo..... 6238  
Casey Wilson (Librarian)..... 6416

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Melissa Lopez ..... 6333  
..... 6326  
Bryisha Payne..... 6315  
Jasmine Rocha..... 6293  
Lacey Carey ..... 6298

**EDUCATION**  
Tresha Spoon..... 6242  
..... 6255  
Blake Goodman ..... 6432  
Shay Fixico..... 6433

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Last updated: 7/30/21

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Elicia Ramirez.....6290

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Courtney Green..... 6300  
Holly Davis..... 6265  
Colleen Butler..... 6320  
Misti Casey ..... 6385  
Laina Martin ..... 6424  
Sheila King..... 6344  
Conf. Room..... 6397

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Reception ..... 6437  
SW Office..... 6439  
NW Office ..... 6440

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Kryste Carter ..... 6284  
Bronte Pearson ..... 6295

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Lauren Parish..... 6423

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Kelly Seaton.....395-4490  
Paige Little Charley .....395-4493

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Break Room..... 6234  
SheilaOrphan.....6331  
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Stephen Fife, Stacy Coon, Duke Blanchard,  
Clayton Martinez  
Cindy Carpenter ..... 6249

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Derek Hilderbrand..... 6436

**MIS**  
HELP DESK..... 3100  
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Donna Cody ..... 6402  
Amelia Grass ..... 6329  
Randy Austin..... 6342  
Rafael Rodriguez..... 6332  
..... 6328

**OEH**  
Jarrod Lloyd..... 6229  
Kyra Underwood..... 6398

**OTHER EXTENSIONS**  
Bldg. 1 Conf. Rm. .... 2009  
Bldg. 1 Break Rm ..... 6305  
Gov. Bldg. 2 Conf. Rm. .... 6330  
Fam. Svcs. Conf. Rm. .... 6311  
Finance Conference Rm..... 6236

**POLICE DEPT.....** 275-3200 / 275-3432  
Brad Gaylord (Chief) ..... 6302  
Jason Brinker..... 6259  
Steven Crisp ..... 6262  
Linda Day..... 6261  
James Woolbright..... 6276  
Russell Harjo..... 6391  
Patrol Room ..... 6278

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Levi Walker ..... 6426

**PROCUREMENT**  
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Tara Battise..... 6281  
Rebecca Kennedy..... 6410  
Blake Wiggins ..... 6422  
Lisa Camren..... 6232  
Brayden Queen ..... 6339  
..... 6244

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Cara Hamilton (Probates)..... 6248  
Yecica Gutierrez.....6420  
Kimberlee Billie.....6235

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

**TAX COMMISSION / TAG**  
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Shelby White..... 6258  
..... 6286  
..... 6237

**TITLE VI**  
Thomasine (Doss) Owings (DIR)..... 6227  
Lula Bettelyoun, Donna Butler, Robert  
Schoolfield, Ted Watson... .....6270

**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

**LITTLE AXE CLINIC**  
Clinic - Medical..... 447-0300  
L.A.Plus Care..... 447-0477  
Dental Clinic ..... 307-9704  
Diabetes ..... 360-0698  
Pharmacy ..... 292-9530  
Resource Center ..... 364-7298  
(Chrissy Wiens)

**SHAWNEE CLINIC**  
Clinic (Bldg. 17)..... 878-5850  
Pharmacy ..... 878-5859  
Toll free .....1-866-742-4977  
Rhonda Kaseca ..... 878-4702

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Regardless of the informative source, odds are you probably didn’t become an avid recycler. But the next time you are presented with the opportunity to recycle, just think about the 5 facts below.

Take that one small step to improve the world.



- 5 AMAZING RECYCLING FACTS
1. AMERICANS THROW AWAY ENOUGH OFFICE PAPER EACH YEAR TO BUILD A 12 FOOT HIGH WALL OF PAPER FROM NEW YORK TO SEATTLE.
  2. RECYCLING A STACK OF PAPER JUST 3 FEET HIGH SAVES ONE TREE
  3. RECYCLING A SINGLE ALUMINUM CAN SAVES ENOUGH ENERGY TO POWER A TV FOR 3 HOURS.
  4. MAKING PAPER FROM RECYCLED PAPER REDUCES CONTRIBUTION TO AIR POLLUTION BY 95 PERCENT.
  5. EVERY 3 MONTHS, AMERICANS LANDFILL ENOUGH ALUMINUM TO REBUILD OUR ENTIRE COMMERCIAL AIR FLEET.

\*Recycling facts courtesy of the National Recycling Coalition

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.