



THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE NEWS

www.astribc.com

Volume 36, No. 09

September 2026

AST Historic Preservation Holds Art Reception

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Historic Preservation Department recently hosted a private art reception on August 19. The tribal member only event was held at the Manor House in Norman. The gathering was a celebration of the completed restoration of an original Ernest Spybuck painting.

The untitled painting was given to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe in early 2025 and underwent extensive renovation work. Experts estimate that the Spybuck work was done in 1920-1930.

Bonnie Crabb worked as an art teacher for the Shawnee school system in the 1930's. She met Spybuck at a powwow in Shawnee and after their time spent talking, he gifted her with his painting. The piece was stored for many years and remained in Bonnie's family. Her great-nieces Connie Taylor, Cynthia King and Sharon McAnear gifted the artwork to the tribe.

Governor Johnson accepted the piece on behalf of the tribe; ultimately the Historic Preservation became the caretaker in late 2025.

"We took the piece to a conservator who came highly recommended through our colleagues at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma

City. She kept it for around six months and then it went to the framing company, said Historic Preservation Director Carol Butler. "Even the frame itself is even custom made."

She went on to explain that during testing the conservator found that some of the pigment used to create the metallic and red hues were found to be unstable and made of unknown material.

Spybuck paintings have made their way all across the United States in some of the top institutions including the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in Norman, the Heard Museum in Phoenix, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., and the Museum of the American Indian in New York. He was also commissioned to produce murals for the Creek Indian Council House and Museum in Okmulgee, Oklahoma and at the Oklahoma Historical Society Museum in Oklahoma City.

Butler also had on display copies of several other Spybuck works for tribal members to view. "The whole

idea of this special reception was for tribal members to be the first ones to see the final product."

He was born on the Shawnee reservation near Tecumseh and spent most of his life as a farmer and not a professional artist. He began painting around the age of six with nothing more than dirt as his canvas and a simple stick. He attended Shawnee Boarding and his education never went beyond McGuffey's Third Reader which is equivalent to fifth or sixth grade today.

Spybuck met anthropologist Mark Raymond Harrington while he was on a collecting trip for the Museum of the American Indian in New York. Some of Spybuck's art was even done at the request of Harrington.

His style of painting and aesthetics is unique for Native American painters during the early 1900's. His natural talent and ability can be seen on the intricate details in his paintings. The artwork offered a rare glimpse in to early Shawnee life with scenes depicting farming, social activities, games and even tribal ceremonies.

Despite his work making its way across the country, he lived his entire life on his family allotment with his wife Anna and their four children.



97TH SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026 - 10:00 AM
THUNDERBIRD EVENT CENTER - NORMAN, OK



GOVERNOR
John Johnson



Lt. GOVERNOR
Diane Ponkilla



SECRETARY
Misty McGirt



TREASURER
Joseph Blanchard



REPRESENTATIVE
Anthony Johnson



GOVERNOR’S REPORT

John Johnson, AST Governor

Hello Tribal Members,

It has been one hot month; the temperatures have been dangerously high. There are too many heat related illnesses that could happen so be sure to check on your elders, those that are vulnerable to the heat and your pets. If you have to be outside drink plenty of water to stay hydrated and take breaks to cool off. Don’t over-do it, it just isn’t

worth it. I am looking forward to Fall this year. Hopefully it will bring some relief from the heat and humidity; but you know the saying, a very hot/dry summer leads to a cold cold winter.

Well its been a month already for the school kids. I hope they are enjoying the new year with new teachers and friends. Good luck, hope you have a great school year.

A resolution has been passed for General council. It will be October 3, 2026 at the Thunderbird Casino in

Norman, Ok. at 10:00 am. Hope you can clear your calendars so you can attend.

Should you have any comments or concerns you may always call or email myself or my assistant at the emails listed below.

Thank you,
Governor John Johnson

governor@astribes.com - 405-275-4030 ext. 3500

alvinab@astribes.com - 405-275-4030 ext. 3501

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Misty McGirt, AST Secretary

Greetings Tribal Members,

I hope all are doing well in this heat. My office has slowed down a little other than the monthly and weekly meetings that I’ve been attending. We are planning for General Council the date has been set for Saturday, October 3,

2026, at the Thunderbrd Event Center at 10:00 a.m.. I hope to see everyone there! It is always a great time to see our Tribal Members and hear their concerns and to try to do better for our Tribe and Our People.

I have started to conduct community meetings with the departments I have oversight over so Tribal Members can better understand our Departments and so we can hear the Tribal Mem-

bers questions or concerns to try and see if we can do things to help our Departments better serve our community. Please be looking for updates very soon.

That is all I have to report at this time if you should have any questions or concerns, please reach out 405-275-4030 Ex. 3505.

Ne yi wa!
Secretary McGirt

TREASURER’S REPORT

Joseph Blanchard, AST Treasurer

Hello AST Tribal Members, Friends, and Family:

Wow! Can you believe another school year is upon us? For some, it is the final year of High School; others, it’s the 1st day of Pre-K. Here’s hoping each of our students have a productive and prosperous year in their academics, athletics, and extracurriculars; regardless of what level they’re at. Please watch out for our young people in the parking lots. As Fall is upon us, my two favorite seasons will be in full swing...football and Fastpitch softball. Maybe I’ll see you at one of our local HS events or Saturdays in Norman.

Recently, Tribal members reached out to ask if I was OK since they hadn’t seen a report from me in the newsletter. I am doing well but have been super busy as summer was winding down. I have been attending meetings, representing the Tribe at National conferences, coordinating the Mid-Year Budget reviews, making certain to approve payments in the Microix

system, and handling typical daily operations. On top of all the regular business, my office coordinated with Lt. Governor Ponkilla to take a group of Elders to Tama, Iowa for the 110th Annual Meskwaki Powwow.

Unlike contest powwows, this was a Traditional gathering to educate and share culture with the local community. Besides the AST, several other Tribes were in attendance including contingencies from the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, and Menominee Nation of Wisconsin. While there, our elders were able to break bread with our hosts, learn about the migration and historical alliance between our Tribes, and observe the Shawnee Dance. I appreciate the assistance from our Procurement Department for handling the hotel and travel accommodations and Building Blocks III for allowing use of their vehicles. It was a very enjoyable experience to see the various dances performed and reconnect with our allies. I am hopeful this can become an annual event to allow other members the same opportunity to become more informed.

This past week, my office received notification the Tribal Audit has been completed and submitted to the National Clearinghouse. As expected, there were no findings and the Tribe maintained our current status for Unmodified Opinion. As a reminder, this confirms the sample reviewed had no discrepancies, nonconformities, or observations of violation. I appreciate our staff for doing their jobs and maintaining accurate data. If there were an award for “The most years of service and experience”, our Finance Department would be a great candidate or nomination. The staff have been able to accumulate a combined 130+ years of service and Tribal experience.

As I wrap up this month’s update, the announcement for the Fall General Council meeting should be coming out soon. I hope to see you there. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss something in greater detail, do not hesitate to call my office and schedule a meeting. Again, I appreciate the support, words of encouragement, and advice.

Neyiwa!
Joseph H. Blanchard

REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

Anthony Johnson, AST Representative

Hello Tribal Members,

Hope all are well and able to beat this heat! Last month was another busy month. In the early part of August, there was a change in my office. I have now brought in a new Assistant. Please welcome Amanda Vandenberg.

On August 1st, the Historic Preservation Department, specifically, Ms. Carol Butler, Historic Preservation Director, and Ms. Darian Rhodd, TCNS Coordinator, traveled to Xenia, OH to assist in the unveiling of a historic bench and plaque dedicated by the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century Concord

Chapter. The bench and plaque, approved by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, will be placed at Great Council State Park in Xenia, OH to honor and commemorate the Shawnees ancestral presence. The Concord Chapter expressed that they look forward to continuing our partnership in future events.

My office, along with the Executive Committee and the Historic Preservation Department, are continuing to work along with the faculty and staff of Hanover College to strengthen our relationship and to ensure that the community is aware of the history, resilience and culture of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. We met with the President of the College at the end of the month where we continued

our discussion of bringing awareness.

Education Department has hired on Trevor Javenkosi, as their Native Connections Project Director. Let’s also welcome him. Education Department started their after-school program on August 6th. Education Director Tresha Spoon is heading up a Fall Funding program to help students obtain Higher Education. If you would like more information or would like to apply, you may visit our website and click on the Education Link.

If you have any questions, comments or need any assistance, please contact my office at (405) 531 – 3512, or by email: ad-johnson@astribes.com!

Anthony “Tad” Johnson
Tribal Representative

NOTICE

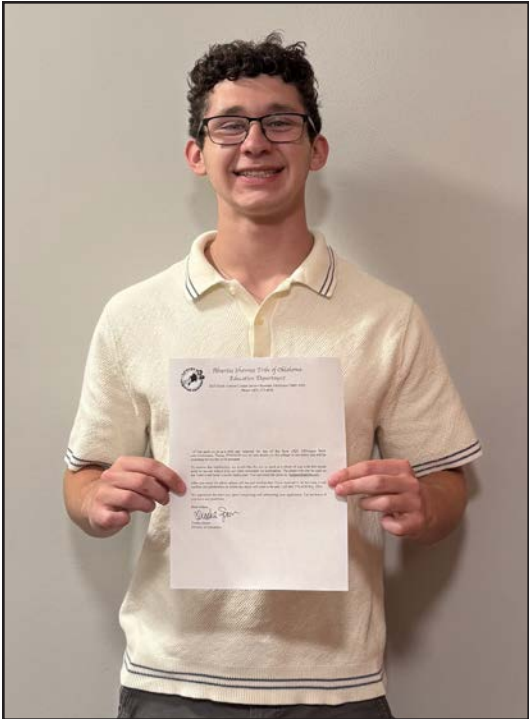
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR STORY

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

AllNations Bank AST High School Senior Scholarship Winners



Joshua Woodruff



Jocelyn Hayes

2026 Big Jim Youth Award Winner



Jocelyn Hayes

AST Veterans Association

AST Flag represented at 76th Annual Indian Hills Powwow. Former AST Commander Jason Bender helped the Seminole Color Guard with Flag Duties July 24th and July 25th. As always, The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Flag was held high for all to see during the Grand Entry portion for the Powwow. "We had tribal members from the AST and Shawnee Nation and Eastern Shawnee in attendance as dancers, vendors and guests and drum group singers. We must never forget that The Shawnee's were noted Leaders and Skilled Warriors, who brought fear to any Enemy near and far." states Jason Bender former AST Commander. Jason also says, " Seeing our Tribal Peoples Flag, Seeing our Tribal People at Events such as a Powwow instill Pride and Unity of all Shawnee People. SHAWNEE STRONG. Caaki- wiyeefa -naatamaaciko (Everyone Help Each Other)".



Happy

LABOR DAY

HONORING THE DEDICATION, PRIDE, AND HARD WORK
THAT STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES EVERY DAY.

AllNations Bank

www.allnations.bank

Among the Shawnee Podcast

SHAWNEE NAMES
WHY THEY ARE IMPORTANT
MORE THAN JUST A NAME ON YOUR CARD

What does a Shawnee name mean and why is it more than a line on a tribal ID?

In this episode of Among the Shawnee, host Mindy Longhorn speaks with Language and Culture Director Scott Miller and Cultural Specialist Clayton Martinez about Shawnee names.

Members are encouraged to contact the Absentee Shawnee Cultural and Language Department for guidance rather than asking the Enrollment Department about names. Members can visit, call or arrange a conversation with staff who can explain names and related practices in a respectful setting.

Episode available on YouTube, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, SoundCloud and astringe.com

HI SI ME NI KE S'FWA
(hah sah mee nah kee s'thweh)

SEPTEMBER
PAW PAW MONTH

AST Elders Funday

The AST Elders introduced chair volleyball to the younger generation with around 30 people participating. They quickly discovered that it is not as “easy” as they thought. Players from aged 7 years to 50 (s) years old were able to enjoy playing chair volleyball with their elders, enjoying snacks and socializing. There was plenty of laughter, joking and some serious playing going on. At last count, the elders are ahead with the wins. The youngsters could not pull off a victory that day and have asked the elders to have another Elder Fun Day!





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 had a busy and fun summer. Pre-K and Kindergarten children started back to school in August. With 16 children entering Pre-K and/or Kindergarten and beginning new learning adventures. Building Blocks is ready to fall into new curriculum and developmental activities with our children.



SUMMER DINOSAUR FUN
 WITH MAD SCIENTIST!

We are currently hiring staff, if you are interested in applying visit <https://www.astribe.com/employment> for applications and to see what positions are available.

Building Blocks is accepting waiting list applications for all of our ages; 6 weeks through Pre-K/4 Year Olds. If you are interested in getting your child on our waiting list please call and we can email you a waiting list application or you may stop by to fill one out. You can also put in a waiting list application at <https://www.astribe.com/building-blocks>.

Building Blocks will be closed Friday, September 4th in observance of AST Day. Building Blocks will be closed Monday, September 7th for Labor Day. Grandparent's Day is Sunday, September 13th. Building Blocks invites our Grandparents for Breakfast @ 8a.m. on



Friday, September 11th. Fall Begins Tuesday, September 22nd. Fall Pictures for our children are scheduled for Friday, September 25th @ 7:30a.m. Have a Super September.



BUILDING BLOCKS SUMMER OLYMPICS 2026



BBIII September 2026 Newsletter

We are excited for another season of learning, exploring, and growing here at BBIII!

The infant class is learning All About Me this month as they explore their faces, bodies, families, and the special things that make them unique through songs, stories, sensory experiences, and play.

The toddlers and 2-year-olds are heading to the farm! They'll learn about farm animals, the sounds they make, foods that grow on farms, and farm life through books, art, music, and hands-on activities.

The 3-year-olds are learning about Community Helpers and discovering the important people who help keep our community safe, healthy, and running smoothly through stories, dramatic play, and interactive activities.

The 4- and 5-year-olds are focusing on Healthy Choices as they learn about nutritious foods, exercise, hygiene, and other everyday habits that help keep their bodies happy, healthy, and strong

16051 Little Axe Dr.
 Norman, Ok 73026
 405-360-2710

Business Hours: 7a-6p
 Director: Renee Richardson
 Asst. Director: Sara Garcia

Circle time activities



Cafeteria Practice



Sensory Activity Fun!



Nature walk!



Mad Scientist



Painting Ice Sensory Play



LEGAL NOTICE

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

FILED in the Office
 of the Court Clerk
 AUG 10 2026
 Absentee Shawnee Tribal Court
 Court Clerk

In The Matter Of:
 M. Wise
 P. Williams

Case No. PG-2026-09

AFFIDAVIT TO OBTAIN SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS)
 SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA) §.

Rosalinda Delgadillo being duly sworn upon oath states:

That she/he is the Plaintiff Rosalinda Delgadillo above-named, and that on the 10th day of August, 2026, said Plaintiff filed in this Court a Motion 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, 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). Plaintiff, Rosalinda Delgadillo request that any person who objects to the filing has thirty (30) days from the date of publication to provide a written response to the Petition.

Rosa Delga
 PLAINTIFF

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of August, 2026.

Ashley Hudson
 NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

June 23, 2028



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE 477 PROGRAM

2026 Education & Career Fair

Wednesday, October 7, 2026
 10 AM - 1 PM

Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center
 Shawnee, OK



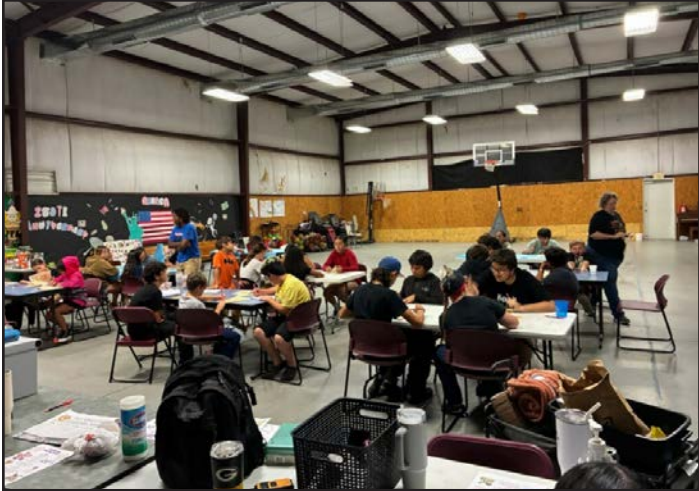
DISCOVER YOUR PATH!

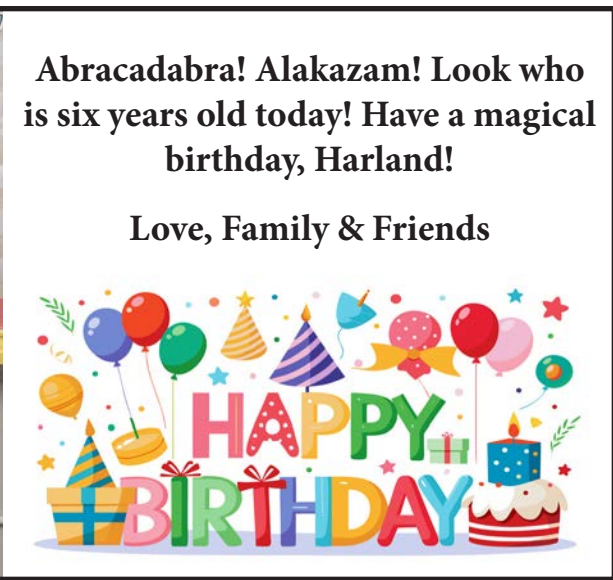
AST 102-477 PROGRAM	Healthcare Careers	Skilled Trades	Tech & Business	
Sponsored by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe - 477 Program				
Contact Melinda Ferrell or Keli Mitchell for more information 405.878.4545 or melindaf@astribe.com				

Camp Nikoti Summer Camp 2026

25th Anniversary

“Celebrating Traditions”





 \$35,000 CRIMSON CASH SEVEN WINNERS EVERY WEEK PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION! SATURDAYS IN SEPTEMBER 7PM TO 10PM DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES ONE ENTRY FOR EVERY 100 POINTS EARNED SUNDAY - SATURDAY 	SEPTEMBER BANDS <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>MIDNIGHT POSTCARDS</td> <td>5TH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIRTY RED & THE SOUL SHAKERS</td> <td>12TH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MIDNIGHT POSTCARDS</td> <td>19TH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEW DYNASTY</td> <td>26TH</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 	MIDNIGHT POSTCARDS	5TH	DIRTY RED & THE SOUL SHAKERS	12TH	MIDNIGHT POSTCARDS	19TH	NEW DYNASTY	26TH
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NORMAN SEPTEMBER \$12 PULLED PORK POTATO SKINS \$10 BACON WRAPPED JALAPENO POPPERS \$12 WINGS & FRIES \$12 PULLED PORK SLIDERS & CHIPS  CRIMSON RUSH \$6  CRIMSON DREAM \$4  ULTRA CAN	 THUNDERBIRD CASINO NORMAN CASINO 15700 East State Highway 9 Norman, OK 73026								
 	SHAWNEE CASINO 2051 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. Shawnee, OK 74801								



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE

O F I N D I A N S O F O K L A H O M A

PHONE DIRECTORY - DIRECT NUMBERS

AST Complex – (405) 275-4030	Toll Free - 800-256-3341
All Nations Bank.....	(405) 273-0202
Brendle Corner.....	(405) 447-3372
Building Blocks.....	(405) 878-0633
Building Blocks III LA.....	(405) 360-2710
Court.....	(405) 481-8575
Domestic Violence.....	(405) 273-2888
Enrollment.....	(405) 481-8650
Food Pantry.....	(405) 481-8640
Gaming Commission.....	(405) 360-9270 x1110
Housing Authority.....	(405) 275-1050
Human Resources.....	(405) 275-1468
ICW.....	(405) 395-4490
Media.....	(405) 598-1279
OEH/OEP.....	(405) 214-4235
Police.....	(405) 275-3200/275-3432
Social Services.....	(405) 878-4723
Tax Commission.....	(405) 481-8600
Thunderbird Casino Norman.....	(405) 360-9270
Thunderbird Casino Shawnee.....	(405) 273-2679
Tribal Store Little Axe.....	(405) 364-0668

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe will be closed
Friday, September 4th - AST Day
Monday, September 7th - Labor Day

Ho wa se la p’wi
Ne ho ko m’fi ke
Ke sa ke
*(ho weh see leh p’wah
ne hoh koh m’t’hah kee
kee seh kee)*

*Happy
Grandparents Day!
September 13*



**So mi
Grandfather**



**Ko ko ge
Grandmother**

Dr. Marty Lofgren Honored with Humanitarian Award at Journey of Hope Gala

Dr. Marty Lofgren, Executive/Medical Director of the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System (ASTHS), was honored Saturday evening with a Humanitarian Award from the Oklahoma Independent Providers Association (OKIPA) during the organization’s Journey of Hope Gala at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in Norman.

The recognition celebrates Dr. Lofgren’s dedication to humanitarian service and his continued commitment to improving the lives of those around him through healthcare, leadership and community service.

Dr. Lofgren has dedicated his career to serving others, bringing a strong sense of compassion and purpose to his work in healthcare. His leadership reflects a commitment to providing quality care while also recognizing the broader needs of the communities he serves.

Receiving the Humanitarian Award is a meaningful recognition of Dr. Lofgren’s efforts and the impact of his work. As a healthcare leader, he has consistently demonstrated the importance of looking beyond medical care alone and understanding the role healthcare professionals can play in strengthening and supporting their communities.

The award was presented as part of OKIPA’s Journey of Hope Gala, an annual event focused on celebrating individuals and organizations making a positive difference in Oklahoma. This year’s event brought together healthcare professionals, community leaders and supporters for an evening centered on hope, service and giving back.

The gala featured keynote speaker the Honorable Dr. Ben Carson, retired pediatric neurosurgeon and former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Robin Marsh, News 9 anchor, served as Master of Ceremonies, with Robert C. Keyes, President-Elect of the National Ground Water Association, also joining the evening’s special guests.

Proceeds from the Journey of Hope Gala benefit Bethany Children’s Health Center and Empower the Veterans, with funds raised remaining in Oklahoma to support these important causes.

For ASTHS, Dr. Lofgren’s recognition is a reflection of the leadership and compassion he brings to his role and the people he serves. His Humanitarian Award is a testament to the lasting impact that dedicated healthcare professionals can have both within their organizations and throughout their communities.

ASTHS congratulates Dr. Lofgren on receiving this distinguished honor and celebrates his continued dedication to healthcare, service and making a positive difference in the lives of others.



New Podcast Released

AST Public Health is launching Start Smart, a new prenatal home visiting program designed to bring education, breastfeeding guidance and ongoing family support directly to eligible Native families. Hear how the program works and get the latest dates for Elder Fun Days, chair volleyball and the September 18 ASTHS Health Fair in this episode of Among the Shawnee.

Episode available on [astribe.com](#), YouTube, Spotify, Apple Podcasts and SoundCloud.



TECUMSEH HEALTH CENTER CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY ON THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL HEALTH SYSTEM’S NEW TECUMSEH HEALTH CENTER, BRINGING THE HEALTH SYSTEM ONE STEP CLOSER TO EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

THE NEW FACILITY WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SPACE AND SERVICES FOR PATIENTS WHILE SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF ASTHS. TEAMS ARE MAKING STEADY PROGRESS ON THE BUILDING, AND THE COMMUNITY CAN LOOK FORWARD TO MORE UPDATES AS CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES.

AN OFFICIAL GRAND OPENING DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED. ASTHS WILL SHARE DETAILS WITH THE COMMUNITY ONCE PLANS ARE FINALIZED.





ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL
HEALTH SYSTEM
Prevention. Progress. Pride.

Scheduled Closures

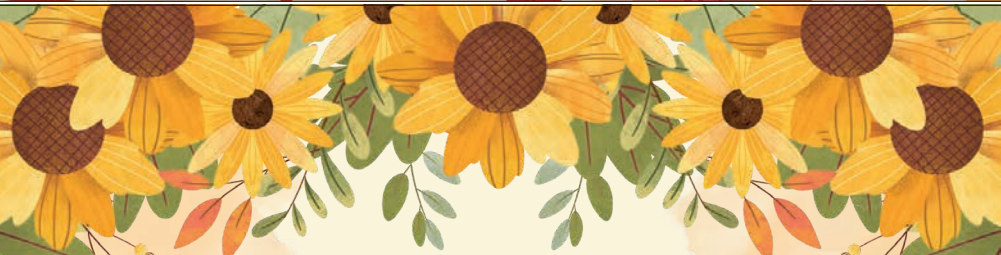
September 2nd - Closed at **NOON** for Townhall Day. PlusCare & Pharmacy will re-open at 5pm

September 4th - Closed for **AST Day**

September 7th - Closed in observance of **Labor Day**

Follow us on Facebook or visit asthealth.org for closure information and updates!





Lunch is provided for those enrolled in the Title VI Program. Meals are \$5 for those not enrolled.

Elder's Fun Day!

Elders ages 55 & older are invited to join the Public Health Department for cooking demos, bingo, and other educational activities. Elders must reserve their spots in order to receive incentives.

Fun. Games. Learning.

SEPTEMBER 10
LA Resource Center

Thursday
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 24
Shawnee Title VI

All participants who register will receive supplies needed to replicate the recipe for their families. Cooking demo and supplies provided by ASTHS Diabetes & Wellness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SIANNA MORGHEIM OR TERRA LITTLE JIM:
405-447-0300 OR 405-827-7704
TLITTLEJIM@ASTRIBE.COM



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL
HEALTH SYSTEM
Prevention. Progress. Pride.



PM TIME PM

2-4

DON'T MISS YOUR SHOT

2026 ASTHS HEALTH FAIR

HUSTLE FOR YOUR HEALTH

Little Axe Health Center
15951 Little Axe Dr.
Norman, OK 73026



18TH
SEPTEMBER
2026

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR ALL INCLUDE:

- FACE PAINTING
- TICKET FOR A FREE SNOW CONE
- CHAIR EXERCISE BINGO
- YOGA/CHAIR YOGA
- NARCAN TRAINING
- CHAIR VOLLEYBALL DEMONSTRATION

DOOR PRIZES! (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)

- OVER 30+ BOOTHS OF RESOURCES.
- LIVE BAND!
- REPRESENT YOUR FAVORITE BASKETBALL TEAM!

FIRST 3 PARTICIPANTS TO PLAY!

- FREE THROW CONTEST
- 3 POINT CONTEST
- ARCADE STYLE BASKETBALL GAME

LEARN ABOUT THE RESOURCES WE HAVE AVAILABLE TO YOU!

REMINDER

ASSAULTING A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL

WHO IS ENGAGED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS OR HER OFFICIAL DUTIES IS A

FELONY

VERBAL ABUSE, THREATS, HARASSMENT, OR THE USE OF PROFANITY TOWARD OUR HEALTHCARE TEAM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

SECTION 650.4 OF TITLE 21 OF THE OKLAHOMA STATUTES



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL
HEALTH SYSTEM
Prevention. Progress. Pride.



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL
HEALTH SYSTEM
Prevention. Progress. Pride.

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1.	2. Town Hall Closed at Noon	3.	4. Closed in observance of AST Day	5.
6.	7. Closed in observance of Labor Day	8.	9.	10. Elder's Fun Day 11 am LA Resource Center	11.	12.
13. National Grandparent's Day	14.	15.	16.	17.	18. Health Fair 2pm-4pm	19.
20.	21.	22.	23.	24. Elder's Fun Day 11 am Shawnee Title VI	25. World Pharmacy Day	26.
27.	28.	29. Fall Begins	30. Chair Volleyball 11-2 Multipurpose Building			

LUNCH SERVED MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 11 AM TO 1 PM SERVING AT SHAWNEE & LITTLE AXE RESOURCE CENTER SEPTEMBER 2 ND LARC WILL CLOSE AT NOON						
MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE						
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 CHICKEN STRIPS MASHED POT/GRAVY TURNIP GREENS FRUIT	2 QUESADILLA CHIPS/SALSA MANDARIN ORANGES	3 COLD CUT SANDWICH LTOP POTATO SALAD APPLE	4  AST DAY	5 
6	7 	8 SALISBURY STEAK MASHED POT/GRAVY CAULIFLOWER PUDDING	9 PORK LOIN SUPER SALAD SLICED ORANGES	10 BAKED CHICKEN RICE PILAF BROC & CHEZ ROLL/JELL-O	11 TAMALE MEXI-CORN REFRIED BEANS FRESH FRUIT	12
13 	14 BBQ CHICKEN VEGGIES BREAD/APRICOTS	15 TACO TUESDAY	16 HOT DOG PORK N BEANS SALAD BAR*	17 SCALLOPED POTATOES & HAM PEAS ROLL/MIXED FRUIT	18 CHICKEN LO MEIN VEGGIES COOKIE	19
20	21 CHICKEN FRIED CHICKEN VEGGIES ROLL/FRUIT	22 COOK’S CHOICE	23 CHEF SALAD TURKEY, CHEZ, EGGS COTTAGE CHEZ PEACHES	24 CORNBEEF RED POT APPLESAUCE BREAD	25 SHEPHERDS PIE COBBLER	26
27	28 BEEF FAJITAS BELL PEPPER & ONIONS SPANISH RICE TORTILLAS FLUFF	29 TATOR TOT CASSEROLE THREE BEAN SALAD CRISP	30 TUNA SALAD SANDWICH LTOP CHIPS/ORANGE			

SEPTEMBER 2, TOWN HALL DAY- LITTLE AXE RESOURCE CENTER WILL BE CLOSED AT NOON

SEPTEMBER 4 – AST DAY – NO LUNCH WILL BE SERVED OR DELIVERED

SEPTEMBER 7- LABOR DAY NO LUNCH WILL BE SERVED OR DELIVERED

SEPTEMBER 11, PATIROT DAY REMEMBERING THE 2,977 WHO LOST THEIR LIVES - 25th Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks-

- **Flags at Half-Staff:** U.S. flags are flown at half-staff on the White House, all federal buildings, and individual homes.
- **Moment of Silence:** A nationwide moment of silence is observed, typically starting at 8:46 AM (EDT), the moment the first plane struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center.
- **Memorial Events:** Solemn readings of names, community services, and the glowing Tribute in Light installation in New York City.

SEPTEMBER 13, GRANDPARENTS DAY-

- **Founder:** Marian McQuade campaigned during the 1970s to honor senior citizens and connect generations.
- **Official Recognition:** President Jimmy Carter signed the official presidential proclamation in 1978.
- **Official Flower:** The forget-me-not.

SEPTEMBER 30- **EVERY CHILD MATTERS** Orange Shirt Day on September 30, a Memorial Day honoring Indigenous children affected by residential and boarding school systems. Commemorates Indigenous children forced into residential schools. Inspired by survivor Phyllis Webstad having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day, people wear orange to affirm that "Every Child Matters".

Start Smart Prenatal Program Now Underway at ASTHS

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System (ASTHS) is now offering Start Smart, a prenatal home-visit program designed to provide Native American women and families with education, support and resources throughout pregnancy.

Start Smart is available to Native American women or caregivers with children up to two years old, as well as women carrying a Native American infant. Participants must be established ASTHS patients, have a provider referral and reside within the ASTHS service area.

Through Start Smart, prenatal education and support are brought directly into the home, creating a comfortable and convenient environment for families to learn, ask questions and receive resources tailored to their needs.

Home visits may include education on healthy choices during pregnancy, breastfeeding, diaper changes, newborn care and other topics based on the individual needs of each family.

Rita, a registered nurse with ASTHS Public Health, is helping provide education and support through the Start Smart program. As an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), she also brings specialized expertise in breastfeeding education and support for mothers and families.

For Rita, one of the most exciting aspects of the program is the opportunity to build one-on-one relationships with mothers and support them throughout their pregnancies.

“I am most excited about the opportunity to connect one-on-one with mothers and support them with whatever they may need to have a healthy pregnancy,” Rita said. “Having home visits is especially exciting because it provides a comfortable environment for learning. Pregnancy and becoming a mother can be a stressful time, and mothers often receive advice from many different people, which can sometimes feel overwhelming. I hope to be someone they can come to for evidence-based information, support and the resources they need.”

Start Smart is designed to be more than a source of information. The program provides a safe and supportive space where families can learn, grow and prepare for the arrival of a new baby while having access to trusted health education.

Rita hopes the program will help create a supportive environment where Native American families can build healthy lives while honoring their traditions.

“I hope Start Smart gives families a safe place to learn and grow so that Native American families can be happy and healthy,” Rita said. “I want to create a space where healthy traditions can work alongside advanced medicine to help families achieve better physical and mental health.”

Another important focus is helping new mothers feel confident and supported in their breastfeeding journey.

“I also hope to provide breastfeeding support to new mothers so they can feel confident and supported,” Rita said. “My hope is that these mothers will one day be able to share what they have learned with others, helping make breastfeeding an easier and more supported choice for future mothers.”

By bringing prenatal education and resources directly into the home, Start Smart offers a flexible and personalized approach to supporting families and is another way ASTHS is working to make health education more accessible to the communities it serves.

Native American women interested in participating in Start Smart should speak with their ASTHS health care provider about a referral and eligibility for the program.



Rita A. Hunnicutt BSN, RN, IBCLC



AST PRC Town Hall Gives Tribal Members a Voice

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System recently hosted an AST Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) Town Hall, providing tribal members an opportunity to voice concerns, ask questions and share feedback directly with ASTHS leadership.

The meeting focused on strengthening communication between AST members and the Health System while helping community members better understand PRC processes. Topics included PRC guidelines and referrals, Coordination of Benefits (COB), billing processes for outside providers and hospitals, and questions surrounding patient care within AST clinics.

AST PRC Director Glendine Blanchard emphasized the importance of making herself available to tribal members and helping ensure their questions and concerns are addressed or directed to the appropriate department.

Executive Director Dr. Marty Lofgren also stressed the importance of listening to the community.

“My goal is to listen to the wants and needs of AST members regarding PRC and identify how we can best address those requests to better serve our tribal community,” Lofgren said.

The town hall reflects ASTHS’ continued effort to maintain open communication with tribal members and better understand how the Health System can serve the needs of the AST community.





MEET YOUR AST PRC TEAM

LAURIE WEBBER
Referral Specialist LPN



LISA NESSE
Referral Technician

DYLAN MOORE
Referral Specialist LPN

KREEGAN KENNEDY
Billing Assistant

ANGELA REDDING
Billing Specialist

DARLA GATZMAN
Admin Asst.

FLO MANN
Referral Specialist LPN

JENNIFER WELLS
Billing Specialist

GLENDINE BLANCHARD
Director of AST PRC

Contact PRC Office:
Little Axe Health Center
15951 Little Axe Dr.
Norman, OK 73026
405.701.7951
PRC@astrobe.com



Purchased & Referred Care (PRC) exists to provide you resources when our in-house providers cannot give you a particular type of care. When Medicare, Medicaid, or other sources cannot cover your care, PRC steps in to make sure you receive medically necessary treatment with the best use of funding.



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL
HEALTH SYSTEM
Prevention. Progress. Pride.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe Diabetes & Wellness Program & Lake Thunderbird State Park Present:

ZOMBIE RUN

5 K Run & 1 K Walk

Thursday October 15th

Check-in
5 - 5:30pm

Fall Festival!
Food Truck!
Trunk or Treat!
Games!

Race participation is free
Register using the QR code
below by 10/1/26 to
guarantee T-shirt



Location:
**Lake
Thunderbird
State Park**
**1297 Clear Bay
Ave, Norman,
OK 73026**



For more information contact:
(405)701-7192 or khancock@astrobe.com

Ki Ke Ki Ka Mi Ge
“Keep Moving”

