



# The Absantee Shawnee News

LI-SI-WI-NWI "AMONG THE SHAWNEE"

WWW.ASTRIBE.COM

October 2020

Vol. 31, NO. 10



## COVID-19 Relief Fund Programs Approved

### \*\*\*NOTICES\*\*\*

#### MASK DISTRIBUTION

The AST Office of Emergency Management still has masks available for tribal members. They can either be picked up at the checkpoint Monday – Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm or they can call Assistant Emergency Manager Levi Walker at 275-4030 extension 6268 to request masks to be mailed to you.

Chad Larman  
Emergency Manager

AST Health System now is providing a 24/7 AST Health System 24 Hour LIVE CORONAVIRUS (COVID19) Information Number: (4025) 695-1787

86th Semi -Annual General Council Meeting October 31st

### NOTICE

#### Effective 9/1/2020 Schedule Change Drive-Thru COVID19 & Antibody Testing

Little Axe Health Center  
405.447.0300

COVID-19 Drive-thru testing available on **1st & 3rd Tuesdays** from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm  
ANTIBODY testing available on **1st & 3rd Thursdays** from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm

Shawnee Clinic  
405.878.5850

COVID-19 Drive-thru testing available on **2nd & 4th Wednesdays** from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Testing is open to public.  
Fore testing inquiries, please call: 405.695.1787

Remain in your vehicle.  
Bring proper identification.

For Antibody Testing...  
Wear a mask  
Be prepared to have blood drawn.  
Those not being tested will not be allowed entry into the clinic  
Testing is available to anyone ages 10 and older.



On behalf of the Absantee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the Executive Committee has established the following COVID-19 Relief Funds Programs. The Executive Committee understands the impact this pandemic has had on our AST community and wants nothing more than to help serve our people. With this being said, the following programs have been opened on 9/28/2020:

#### COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program:

The COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program is designed to help alleviate the risk of energy utility service disconnection (i.e. electricity, gas, propane or heating oil/wood). Details and the application can be found at: COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program

<https://www.astribe.com/covid-19-energy-assistance-program>

#### COVID-19 Energy Assistance Application Submission Options: NO FAXES

- By AST website electronic application Electronic Form: COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program
- By mail to AST Enrollment Department, 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 74801
- Downloadable Form: COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program PDF
- By appointment with AST Enrollment Department
- By email to [energyassistance@astribe.com](mailto:energyassistance@astribe.com)

#### Qualification Requirement:

##### COVID-19 Energy Assistance Eligibility:

- Must be an enrolled member of the Absantee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma on or before June 1st, 2020
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must have a copy of AST tribal members updated CDIB card (attached to application)
- Must complete the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program application for AST tribal member
- Energy bill must be in the enrolled AST tribal member and/or spouse's name (if in spouse's name, spouse must reside in the home. AST member & spouse must attached driver's license or state issued IDs) NO EXCEPTIONS
- All Applications **MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30th, 2020**

##### COVID-19 Energy Assistance Required Documents:

- A completed COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program application
- Copy of updated AST CDIB
- Copy of Driver's License or State issued ID (AST member and/or spouse, as needed)
- Copy of energy utility (payment) statement

#### Eligible Age:

Must be 18 years of age or older, enrolled member of the Absantee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma on or before June 1st, 2020.

#### Application Dates:

Application Acceptance Begins Monday, September 28, 2020 @ 8:00 AM CST -- Application Acceptance Ends Friday, October 30, 2020 @ 11:59 PM CST

#### Benefit:

One-time payment of \$300.00 for eligible AST enrolled tribal members

#### COVID-19 Home Relief Program:

The Absantee Shawnee COVID-19 Home Relief Program is designed to decrease evictions/foreclosures, prevent homelessness and increase home stability by helping Absantee Shawnee families whose income has been adversely affected by COVID-19.

Details and the application can be found at: COVID-19 Home Relief Program

<https://www.astribe.com/covid-19-home-relief-program>

#### COVID-19 Home Relief Application Submission Options: NO FAXES

- By AST website electronic application (can be completed electronically from most computers or phones)  
*Electronic Form COVID-19 Home Relief Program*
- By mail to AST Enrollment Department, 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 74801  
*Downloadable form COVID-19 Home Relief Program*
- By appointment with AST Enrollment Department
- By email to [homerelief@astribe.com](mailto:homerelief@astribe.com)

#### Qualification Requirement:

##### COVID-19 Home Relief Eligibility:

Must be an enrolled member of the Absantee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma on or before June 1st, 2020  
Must be 18 years of age or older  
Must have a copy of AST tribal members updated CDIB card (attached to application)  
Must complete the COVID-19 Home Relief Program application for AST tribal members  
Home mortgage or rental contract must be in the enrolled AST tribal member and/or spouse's name. (if in spouse's name, spouse must reside in the home. AST member & spouse must attached driver's license or state issued IDs) NO EXCEPTIONS  
All Applications MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30th, 2020

##### COVID-19 Home Relief Required Documents:

- Completed COVID-19 Home Relief Program application
- Copy of updated AST CDIB
- Copy of Driver's License or State issued ID (AST member and/or spouse, as needed)
- Copy of mortgage (payment) statement or copy of rental lease/agreement
- W-9 From Landlord / Lender - completed.

#### COVID-19 Home Relief Payment NON-ELIGIBILITY: (this is not a comprehensive list)

- Contract for deed payments
- Homeowner's Insurance
- Homeowner association fees

#### Eligible Age:

Must be 18 years of age or older, enrolled member of the Absantee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma on or before June 1st, 2020.

#### Application Dates:

Application Acceptance Begins Monday, September 28, 2020 @ 8:00 AM CST -- Application Acceptance Ends Friday, October 30, 2020 @ 11:59 PM CST

#### Benefit:

Executive Committee is providing a one-time relief payment of \$500.00 for those who are experiencing affects from this pandemic. This will be a one (1) payment per tribal member.

#### Future Closings:

Veteran's Day  
Nov. 11, 2020

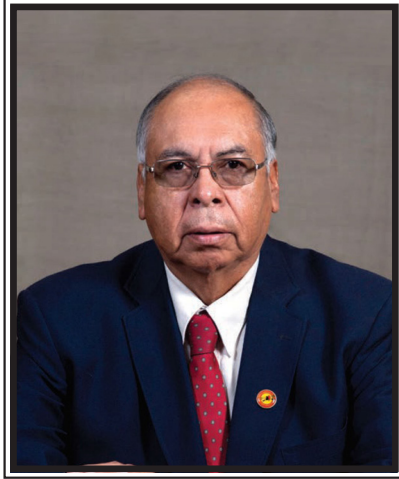


Thanksgiving Holiday  
Nov. 26-27, 2020





**John R. Johnson**  
Governor



**Kenneth Blanchard**  
Lt. Governor



**Ezra DeLodge**  
Secretary



**Joseph Blanchard**  
Treasurer



**Alicia Miller**  
Representative

## Governor's REPORT

JOHN R. JOHNSON  
AST Governor

Tribal members,

The Complex has returned to Phase II of reopening. Phase II is listed below:

- AST Complex will be open to tribal members by appointment only, no visitors.
- Maintain one entrance and exit at the complex manned by AST Police to perform temperature checks on each employees.
- Maintain six feet distance between employees.
- When interacting with the public you will need to wear proper PPE (i.e. N95 Mask, Gloves, Eye Protection, etc.) If tribal members must enter a building for business purposes, please only allow TWO tribal members at a time to do business.
- Utilize curb service if your department can do so safely. Follow CDC and OSDH Guidelines for reopening day care centers.
- All staff at building blocks will need to wear a procedure mask or homemade mask at all times while in the building.
- Procedures will need to be developed on drop off and pick up locations to minimize people entering and exiting the building.
- Disinfecting of building each day before children and employees enter to protect the children and employees.

For the protection of all personal and tribal members, we will continue to follow the set guidelines that have been set in place until further notice.

I have received many "Thank you" for the Education Gift Cards for all Tribal Students. These cards were distributed to help with electronic cost for virtual learning or in school learning. If you haven't already, you may request an application from [educationaid@astribe.com](mailto:educationaid@astribe.com) or it may be found on the AST webpage. After completion you may submit to the same email address with all required documents or by US mail. Please allow 3-4 weeks to process your applications.

With COVID-19 strongly affecting the way the tribe functions the tribe will not be have a regular General Council meeting this October. We will hold a General Council reporting session. All Executive Committee members will give their yearly reports on a Zoom conference call. You may watch this session live from your laptops or smartphone from the comfort of your home. Should you have any questions, comments or concerns you may email them prior to the meeting.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe was among 7 tribes in Oklahoma that received funding awards from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) as announced by the United States Attorney Offices on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at a press event in Tulsa, OK that I attended. The tribe's Domestic Violence department received \$407,000 to update our tribal codes, policies, and procedures in preparation for exercising special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction under the Violence Against Women Act. If you have questions you may contact my office or the Domestic Violence office at 405-275-4030.

Once again, please continue to follow all CDC guidelines and wear your mask for the safety of yourself and others.

Thank you,

Governor Johnson

## Representative's REPORT

ALICIA MILLER  
AST Representative

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

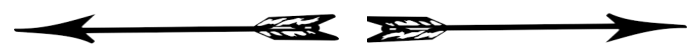
It is easily stated the pandemic is the primary driver of most of our activities in our tribal offices on top of working on everyday government and program matters. I appreciate the input tribal members are providing on the daily and weekly basis. Your feedback is invaluable and as an Executive Committee (EC) member, I hear you. We (the EC) are working towards meaningful transparency, be better in providing up to date public information including the COVID funds and actions, and strive for an overall better tribal government. Please understand many issues were not created overnight and will not be solved overnight but we have a communicative EC and will work together to provide the best solutions till our goals and objectives are met.

We held the monthly EC meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, and passed 2 additional COVID-19 programs for the AST membership. The first is the COVID-19 Home Relief Program providing a \$500 one-time payment for mortgage or rent, and the other is the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program providing one-time assistance of \$300. Applications for both are available on the tribal website and have an ending program date of Friday, October 30, 2020. The EC continues to work on additional programs for our tribal people and we are being mindful of the time we have to expend these funds. October is General Council month and with the best (health) interest of the tribal membership and to follow the CDC guidelines in regards to congregating, the EC is determining on how to best to conduct General Council. General Council reports will still be assembled and provided to the membership at the end of the month. If you would like a hardcopy mailed to you, please contact the Office of the Secretary and they will accommodate your request.

As we continue to deal with the fallouts of this pandemic – economically, socially and physically, please take the extra precautions (as one can take) as we enter the cold and flu season. The CDC is making recommendations along with the Indian Health Service to take your flu vaccine early this year. We also do not know how the COVID vaccine will react within our bodies (if available & if taken). Unfortunately, Oklahoma is ranked #4 amongst the states for positive COVID outbreaks. Native Americans have the higher positive cases in Oklahoma. So please continue to wear a mask when out in public, social distance when possible and use hand sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol.

Ne yi wa! (Thank you!)

Alicia (Aly) Miller  
Tribal Representative  
Cell: 405.287.5247  
Email: [aliciam@astribe.com](mailto:aliciam@astribe.com)



## Secretary's REPORT

Ezra DeLodge  
AST Secretary

Tribal Members,

I hope all is well and we are taking our precautions during these difficult times. Also, my thoughts and prayers go out to those suffering and to those who have lost loved ones to this terrible virus.

Currently, a majority of my time in office has been dedicated to addressing the numerous concerns brought on by Covid-19 and how we (EC) are utilizing the appropriated funds to mitigate those issues. It is a monuments task to say the least. I hope the services initiated, so far, are offering some relief. We (EC) are still working hard to provide more relief and services to you the tribal members.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact my office or my cell.

Respectfully,

Ezra M. DeLodge, MBA  
[ezrad@astribe.com](mailto:ezrad@astribe.com)  
Cell Ph. 405-432-0733

## AST COVID-19 Education Aid Program REMINDER:

The AST COVID-19 Education Aid Program deadline was on September 30th. The cards can be used through December 2020, and receipts will need to be turned in to the Finance Department. It is a Mandatory Requirement to have receipts turned in by December 31st. Those who submitted their applications prior to the ending date can still email any questions to [educationaid@astribe.com](mailto:educationaid@astribe.com), call Tribal Enrollment @ (405) 275-4030 and/or make an appointment to pick up their card(s) or request to have them mailed.

### Newsletter Subscription

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Future submissions for the AST newsletter can be mailed in or emailed to:

[newsletter@astribe.com](mailto:newsletter@astribe.com)

Mail to AST Media Department.  
219 E. Walnut  
Tecumseh, OK 74873  
Call 405-598-1279 or Fax 405-598-0221

## Seeking position of CEO for ASEDA



Chief Executive Officer

The Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority, (ASEDA, Inc.) is a federally chartered tribal corporation dedicated to sustaining, expanding, and attracting business that benefits the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, (AST) and its tribal members. The ASEDA Board is seeking to hire a Chief Executive Officer to manage the ASEDA organization, oversee its multiple ongoing projects, business operations, manage staff, and launch projects that have been identified as important to the growth of the AST. This position will be responsible to develop strategies to enhance, create, and build the AST economic development and revenue diversification activities, including the complex analysis of data related to planning, financing, tax incentive packaging, marketing, and business assistance programming. More importantly, this position would be responsible to develop long and short-term economic and community development goals.

A complete job description will be available on <https://aseconomicdevelopment.com/home/>. Candidates are required to submit a cover letter and a resume electronically, to Mr. Tim Burg at [tburg@shawneeforward.com](mailto:tburg@shawneeforward.com).

The selection process will be made by the ASEDA Board with input from the AST Executive Committee.

# Treasurer's REPORT

JOSEPH BLANCHARD  
AST Treasurer

Hello and Good Day to Everyone!

Before I get started, let me say "Happy Birthday!" to all those who were able to celebrate another year. Likewise, I want to say "Congratulations!" to those who have witnessed the birth of a new family member, or welcomed new additions because of a recent marriage. Sadly, I send my sincerest condolences to family who remain from those who have walked on.

This is one of my favorite times of the year, Fall. Temperatures start to drop (no more 95+ degree days, high humidity or severe weather), High School Softball and Football seasons begin and of course, the return of Oklahoma Football (Boomer!). If your child participates in extracurricular events, send a copy of their schedule and I'll do my best to come be supportive. I always enjoy a good bag of popcorn, a Frito chili pie, soda, and good competition. But the best part is the seasonal change as Mother Nature displays her show of colors, and typically we would be getting prepared for Bread Dance ceremonies. I can't wait for the opportunity to be back out there again with my extended relatives, friends, and family. It has been a whirlwind of events these last couple months. Your Executive Committee has been hard at work, engaged in discussion on how to improve our membership's situations and how best to address their concerns. I understand there are many questions about the process and how we've been conducting the People's business during this Pandemic. It has not been an easy task, especially with the constant updates to the guidelines and stipulations as set forth by the U.S. Treasury on the appropriate use of the CARES Act monies. Plus, there's concern about when this will end, or when the next wave will hit, and how bad will it be?

These facts are compounded by the misconception, misinterpretation, and misunderstanding being spread amongst our community. As mentioned during this year's campaign, I promised the voters I would always read documents to become completely aware of the material before making an informed, sound decision. Additionally, I would not just "rubber stamp" my name when approving resolutions. It is my hope you have taken the time to view the Regular EC meetings that are posted on the AST Tribal Website, in the "Member's Only" section. This allows each member a chance to become more informed. This month's report will be one of the longest I will submit as I attempt to explain the data and provide other pertinent information.

As I have read and researched material, I discovered there is a U.S. Legislator from New Mexico who has put together a House Bill for an "Extension" to Tribal Nations on expending these funds. As I have suggested, we are waiting to see if this gains any ground. To date, that I am aware of, NO Native American community or organization has requested an Extension to the U.S. Department of Treasury. As such, I have requested from the Governor's office to compose and submit a letter on behalf of our Tribe to Treasurer Steve Mnuchin. Any additional time of three (3) to six (6) months would allow us the opportunity to reassess our situation and make a better decision. My concern is if this were accepted, and we had spent all the money by the deadline, then what would we use to assist membership at that point? Many have asked, "Are we going to receive another disbursement? Or, "how come the EC won't approve another payout? It's our money." The answer is not simple, especially since Finance has received at least ten (10) updates from Washington, D.C. I recently was approved in the U.S. system to obtain these notices on behalf of our Tribe. As with Grants, there are restrictions on how these funds can be spent. There are 8-9 individual pots of money and most of that is earmarked or restricted to certain departments, programs, or use. The Government utilized a composition formula to determine how each Tribe received their specific amount. The criterion was based upon HUD community numbers, business and/or enterprise annual expenses (including Casino, C-Store, Health, and Housing) and total employees.

On March 27, 2020, the United States Congress passed Public Law 116-136. In addition to other CARES Act appropriations, the Bill allocated \$8 billion in funds from the United States Department of Treasury to be allocated to Federally Recognized Indian tribes to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic. These allocations were done in two rounds of disbursements. Combined, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe received a total distribution in the amount of \$33,101,482, during May and June.

Since that time, the Tribe has expended approximately \$11.7 million dollars. Of that total, 87% has gone directly to Tribal members to address their specific needs. As of this writing, three forms of direct distributions have been allocated to Tribal members. These include \$155 gift cards to Elders; \$3,000 to all AST adults and \$1500 to all AST minors, to address general financial needs caused by the Pandemic. \$500 is available for all AST students to address educational expenses related to coronavirus for the 2020-2021 school year.

To summarize:

- AST Elders 55+ are eligible to receive \$3,155 each in direct assistance
- AST Adults 18 – 54 are eligible to receive \$3,000
- AST Minors 0 – 17 are eligible to receive \$1500 with an additional \$500 for school age children.

By comparison, as of this writing:

- The Sac & Fox Nation budgeted for two payments of \$1,000 in direct assistance to adult Tribal members and two payments of \$250 for minors along with laptops/chromebooks for students.
- The Seminole Nation allocated \$500 in direct assistance and \$500 for education/technology assistance.
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation instituted multiple relief programs primarily aimed at assisting elders and students, but did not allocate funds for direct assistance to the general populace.
- The Kickapoo Tribe allocated one payment for \$1,000 and \$250 for education/technology assistance.

Currently, the Tribe has multiple projects planned including: emergency screening facilities, a food storage facility, and new modular facilities for veterans and elders. The Tribe will also utilize funds to assist multiple AST entities. In order to ensure the safety of guests and employees of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, the Tribe is looking to install air filtration systems on the main complex, All Nations Bank, and at both Thunderbird Casino locations. Tribal entities such as All Nations Bank and Thunderbird Casino have encountered numerous unforeseen expenses due to shutdowns, emergency staffing, supplies, equipment, emergency screening equipment, and the need to alter office space to ensure social distancing is being adhered. Uncovered financial needs of the Tribe's Housing Authority and Economic Development related to the coronavirus pandemic are also being considered.

Including direct assistance, total funds allocated to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic has been budgeted at approximately \$23,255,955. This total includes the addressed high priority needs of the Tribe, budgeted at \$13,815,110 plus \$9,440,845 in direct Tribal member assistance. Remaining funds will be used to cover unanticipated supply costs, as well as instituting programs to assist

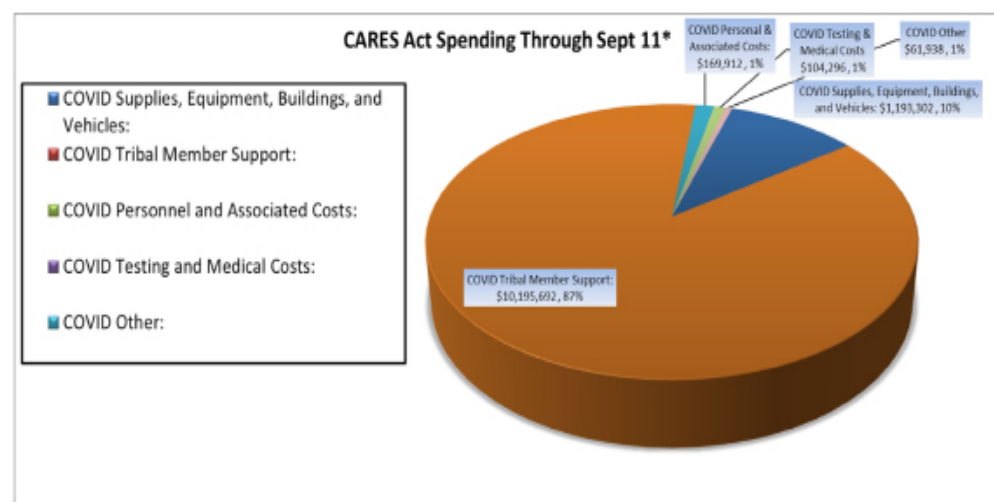
**Tribally owned businesses, rental assistance, energy assistance, and food and PPE assistance, to name a few.**

For those who want to say the EC has not been responsive to your needs is a false and misleading statement. At the most recent Regular EC meeting, we passed two (2) resolutions, which will provide Energy and Rental Assistance, **\$300** and **\$500**, respectively. I think the information shows we have attempted to support our People first and foremost. Not everyone will agree on how the services are provided but they are there to assist as many as possible, and certainly not just a select few. As many of my staff can attest, I put in lots of hours weekly and am often the last one to leave campus daily. Before I conclude, I want to publicly acknowledge the Staff of the Enrollment, Finance, and Social Services departments. Thought the public does not see it, they have performed well during the last several months, even with all the added pressure. They have gone above and beyond to approve applications, process assistance checks, distribute Education gift cards, in addition to maintaining their normal workloads. It is a thankless job but everyone notices when they fall behind, or misplace an application. I appreciate them for their dedication, persistence, and making my job that much easier. Also, I am grateful to those members who have been unwavering in their support. As I run into many of you at events or while out shopping for supplies, I always try to acknowledge those I know with a smile or wave. Your advice, discussion, and perspective are helpful as it pertains to me making decisions. Contrary to some opinions, I do hear and listen to our members. If we haven't met yet, don't be shy to introduce yourself.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to call my office or send me an email.

Neyiwa!

Joseph H. Blanchard



## Resolutions

The following are the Resolutions passed through SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

### EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS:

ABSENTEE-SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA  
REGULAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

#### E-AS-2020-47

A RESOLUTION DULY PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA TO PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF OCTOBER DOMESTIC/FAMILY VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH.

#### E-AS-2020-49

A RESOLUTION DULY PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE AST SUBAWARD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL.

### LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS:

ABSENTEE-SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA  
REGULAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

#### L-AS-2020-21

A RESOLUTION DULY PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A BANCFIRST (CARD MEMBER) PURCHASING CREDIT CARD WITH A CREDIT LIMIT OF TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$2,000.00) FOR MELISSA LOPEZ, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DIRECTOR OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

#### L-AS-2020-22

A RESOLUTION DULY PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA HEREBY AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE *AST COVID-19 HOME RELIEF PROGRAM*, NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED TWENTY NINE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$1,629,500.00)

#### L-AS-2020-23

A RESOLUTION DULY PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA HEREBY AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE *AST COVID-19 ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM*, NOT TO EXCEED NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY SEVEN THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$977,700.00)

## Tour of Seminole Nation Food Distribution Center

On September 11, 2020, the Executive Committee of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe were hosted by the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, as they toured the USDA Food Distribution Center at Mekuskey Mission in Seminole, Oklahoma. During the tour, Food Distribution Manager Rex Hailey, a Desert Storm Veteran and member of the Seminole Nation Honor Color Guard, discussed the benefits of the program.



Governor John Johnson, Ezra DeLodge, Alicia Miller and SN Distribution Center manager Rex Hailey. Also in attendance not in photo, AST EC member Joseph Blanchard. Photo courtesy of JBlanchard

In his explanation, Mr. Hailey displayed his genuine care and passion for assisting Seminole Nation Elders and the many other participants receiving assistance within Seminole County and the surrounding community. He was able to answer questions regarding the costs for the facility, shared information about the number of people serviced monthly and provided an estimate of annual operating expenses.

Mr. Hailey talked about when the Seminole Nation changed the format and made it more of a store atmosphere. In doing so, they purchased Point of Sale (POS) registers, scanning systems, carts and hand held baskets, walk-in refrigerator and freezer, and additional shelving. This improvement allowed members to enjoy a regular shopping experience without any unnecessary hassle and the chance to obtain fresh produce.

Besides the customer area, the EC was given a look behind the scenes and how the Center stores non-perishable items, condenses and recycles cardboard, and the types of machinery operated to load and unload orders. Each employee must obtain certification to operate the pallet jacks, forklifts, and company vehicles.

The AST Executive Committee is grateful to the Seminole Nation and Chief Chilcoat for the opportunity to tour their facility, and visit with staff and personnel. We look forward to Mr. Hailey coming to our location in the near future to assist with set-up of our new facility on the corner of Benson Park Road and SH 177 in Shawnee, OK.

Neyiwa (Mvto)!

Article submitted by Joseph Blanchard



**ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**  
 2025 SOUTH GORDON COOPER DRIVE  
 SHAWNEE, OK 74801

July 27, 2020

RE: MOTOR VEHICLE QUESTIONS

AST Tribal Members,

Per the Executive Committee, the AST tag office is operating under Phase 1 protocol. We are taking necessary steps to limit exposure to Tribal members. Due to COVID-19, **the tag office will be closed to the general public until further notice.**

The staff will be doing its part in helping to alleviate any motor vehicle concerns by continuing to process through the outlined procedures below:

**FOR NEW REGISTRATION:**

Please email: [tax@astribe.com](mailto:tax@astribe.com) or Call: (405)481-8600 for further instructions.

**FOR RENEWAL:**

**OPTION #1- BY MAIL**

- Please include copies of your CDIB, valid Oklahoma driver license, current Oklahoma insurance.

**OPTION #2- BY DROP BOX (Shawnee location only: west entrance of AST Police building)**

- Please include copies of your CDIB, valid Oklahoma driver license, current Oklahoma insurance.

**OPTION #3- BY EMAIL [tax@astribe.com](mailto:tax@astribe.com)**

- Please include copies of your CDIB, valid Oklahoma driver license, current Oklahoma insurance.

**PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR ALL TRANSACTIONS**

- Payments accepted at this time: Check, Cashier check, Money order, Credit or Debit card. \*\*In order to process by Credit/Debit, we will need the Credit Card Authorization form located on [www.astribe.com](http://www.astribe.com) or forms will be next to the drop box.\*\*

NOTE: Please be patient with us as we work through this difficult time and understand we will work diligently to get your motor vehicle documents back to you as quickly as possible by mail. **For any questions regarding penalties/amount owed due to closure please call the number listed.**

**TAX COMMISSION**  
 ~ TAG AGENCY ~

**NOW ACCEPTING**  
**Credit/Debit**  
**Effective May 1 2019**, the tag office will be accepting credit and debit cards. Please note: a convenience fee of 2.75% will be added.

**405.481.8600 ~ Fax 405.214.4225**  
**[tax@astribe.com](mailto:tax@astribe.com)**



You can use the drop box for your business with the Tax Commission.

For the Tax Commission, you will need to contact them by phone or email, to let them know that you have left documents to get a vehicle tag.

[tax@astribe.com](mailto:tax@astribe.com)  
 405.481.8600  
 fax: 405.214.4225



**ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE**  
**TAX COMMISSION**  
 2025 S. GORDON COOPER DRIVE  
 SHAWNEE, OK 74801

(405)481-8600 • Fax: (405)214-4225 • Email: [tax@astribe.com](mailto:tax@astribe.com)



**NEW REGISTRATIONS:**

**Documents Needed:**

- Valid Oklahoma Driver's License
- Valid Oklahoma Insurance
- Enrollment Card
- Notarized Title
- Notarized Bill of Sale or
- Purchase Agreement
- Lien Entry Form (if you are making payments)
- Lien Release Form (if previous owner had lien)

**NOTE: You may be asked to provide supporting documentation for verification purposes.**

**PROCESS STEPS:**

1. After receiving all necessary motor vehicle documents, we will enter the data into our tag program and process the payment.
2. Then we will Email/Fax/Mail the Application form for you (Tribal Member) to sign; don't worry about the notary portion. Please sign and send Application back.
3. Once signed Application is received we will complete the process.
4. All items will be mailed to you. Includes: AST Title, Registration, Application, Receipt, and Tag.

**NOTE: All documents for New Registrations must be mailed in or left in drop box at the Shawnee Campus Police Station.**

**RENEWALS:**

**Documents Needed:**

- Valid Oklahoma Driver's License
- Valid Oklahoma Insurance
- Enrollment Card

**PROCESS STEPS:**

1. After receiving all necessary motor vehicle documents, we will enter the data into our tag program and process the payment.
2. After processing the renewal we will mail you the Registration, Receipt, and Decal.

**NOTE: All documents for a Renewal must be emailed, mailed in or left in drop box at the Shawnee Campus Police Station.**

**TAG PRICES:**

1-4 YEARS	\$85
5-8 YEARS	\$75
9-12 YEARS	\$55
13-16 YEARS	\$35
17-Over YEARS	\$15

**PENALTY**

\$0.25 A DAY



**Make sure you get the next issue!**

Issues come back to us not being delivered...make sure your address is correct!

Don't miss a minute of tribal news and information!

Anyone needing to be on the mailing list

Please Call the AST enrollment or email us at [newsletter@astribe.com](mailto:newsletter@astribe.com)

**FY-2020**  
**YTD TAX COLLECTIONS**  
 (thru 8/31/2020)

TAX CATEGORY	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL	% OF TAXES COLLECTED
Sales (6%)	\$7,499.91	\$8,834.40	\$13,276.94	\$3,782.80	\$0.00	\$3,215.94	\$4,056.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,686.91	3.01%
Gaming % of free cash	\$250,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900,000.00	66.58%
Employee (1%)	\$18,216.80	\$19,868.77	\$8,424.95	\$22,071.85	\$4,440.11	\$13,792.86	\$15,149.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$101,965.19	7.54%
Severance (8%)	\$3,817.67	\$0.00	\$4,177.14	\$0.00	\$746.04	\$0.00	\$1,524.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,265.77	0.76%
Motor Vehicle	\$14,622.24	\$15,652.41	\$9,718.02	\$14,375.66	\$15,329.57	\$28,960.40	\$27,799.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$126,457.35	9.36%
Motor Fuel Taxes (Qtrly.)	\$43,922.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38,779.48	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,188.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$116,890.30	8.65%
Tobacco Refund	\$8,640.57	\$7,320.64	\$6,906.11	\$6,651.73	\$4,373.24	\$9,270.15	\$10,564.56	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$53,757.00	3.98%
<b>TOTAL TAXES</b>	<b>\$346,719.85</b>	<b>\$251,676.22</b>	<b>\$242,503.16</b>	<b>\$335,661.52</b>	<b>\$24,888.96</b>	<b>\$55,239.35</b>	<b>\$93,313.46</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,350,002.52</b>	
Miscellaneous	\$874.50	\$69.15	\$119.00	\$76.00	\$201.00	\$152.00	\$182.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,673.65	0.12%
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$347,594.35</b>	<b>\$251,745.37</b>	<b>\$242,622.16</b>	<b>\$335,737.52</b>	<b>\$25,089.96</b>	<b>\$55,391.35</b>	<b>\$93,495.46</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,351,676.17</b>	<b>100%</b>



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**

Prevention. Progress. Pride.

**SHAWNEE CLINIC**  
405.878.5950

**LITTLE AXE HEALTH CENTER**  
405.447.0300

**PLUSCARE**  
405.447.0477

**ASTHS October 2020 Monthly Update**

The Annual Zombie 5K Fun Run will be a virtual event this year along with a reduced event for Trunk or Treat, due to the pandemic and appropriate safety measures and precautions being in place to protect our community and our Tribal members. More information will be sent out via Facebook and via the Website for Health about the event soon. Title 6 received their new hot meal delivery vehicles in September. Once properly tagged and insured, they will be brought online servicing our program recipients with better meal selections and assured services with the new vehicle fleet. This is a huge investment in taking care of our Native American program participants from around the service area, and will secure years of continued services to those who are in need! We especially “thank” the Executive Committee and Emergency Management for their support in assuring the best equipment and services were funded for the Title 6 program recipients with CARES Act Funding during this protracted pandemic in our National State of Emergency and with our growing homebound population who require these services more than ever!

We are also fighting COVID-19 with hosting drive through testing events weekly along with antibody testing. The COVID-19 Information Line is 24/7 and here to help our Tribal members and other patients with their pandemic questions. Your Health System has continuously been open for access to care, and remains open 7 days a week to assure services are continued for our patients. We also continue to provide carryout and delivery of Title 6 meals to our members with thousands of meals being provided to date by Dos Owens and her team to our most vulnerable population!

Reducing exposure through unnecessary travel, accelerated personal hygiene, and remaining in good health as well as wearing a mask will continue to greatly diminish the threats to our community! Please

continue to work hard on this national campaign with us to end the COVID-19 pandemic through information, best practices, safe actions, and overall safety for you and your family. While the tribe continues to do all it can to protect you and your family, it is also a shared sacrifice to also care for your own family, tribal community, and those whom depend upon you for resources, support, and assistance. Let’s continue to work together to defeat COVID-19 in our Native American and surrounding communities by protecting our most vulnerable population, our Elders and our other high-risk populations!

The outstanding star performers of the Health System continue to shine and we thank them all for their contributions to our patients, their fellow employees, and the tribe, especially during our unprecedented times! Employee Awards and awardees will be announced next month for appropriate recognition. The AST Health System thanked all of our employees for all they do for our patients and for the community during September’s Annual Employee Appreciation Month this month. It was a nice week of employee activities and recognition, and we appreciate all of our staff for their service to the Tribe and community!

Please follow our COVID-19 page on the Health System Website as well as follow us on Facebook and the AST Tribe’s Government Page for the latest information regarding access to services and support.



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

**Pharmacy Reminder**



**3 WAYS TO REFILL YOUR PRESCRIPTION**

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



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

**LEVELS OF EXPOSURE**  
**Keeping Yourself and Others Safe**

The CDC recommends a minimum of 6-feet social distancing when possible for non-exposure. Please note this is a general guideline. Different masks offer different levels of protection.

**HEALTH SYSTEM**  
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**FLU VACCINE** GET YOUR

**FLU SHOT CLINIC**

**AFTER-HOURS FLU SHOT CLINIC AT LAHC ONLY**  
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. | WALK-IN basis  
15951 Little Axe Drive Norman, OK 73026

OCTOBER 8
OCTOBER 15
OCTOBER 22
OCTOBER 29
NOVEMBER 5

All ASTHS clinics will administer flu shots during regular business hours, including Shawnee Walk-In Clinic and Plus Care.  
\*Shawnee Walk-In Clinic and Plus Care ages 4 yrs and up.

For more information, call 405.447.0300

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**NOTICE EFFECTIVE 9/1/20**

**SCHEDULE CHANGE TO COVID-19 DRIVE-THRU & ANTIBODY TESTING**

**LITTLE AXE HEALTH CENTER, 405.447.0300**

COVID-19 testing held on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

ANTIBODY testing held on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm (Antibody testing is only available at LAC)

**SHAWNEE CLINIC, 405.878.5850**

COVID-19 testing held on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Testing is open to the public.  
For testing inquiries please call: 405.695.1787.

\*Note: If it is raining or adverse weather, testing will not be conducted.

**For Your Visit PLEASE...**

- Bring proper identification
- Remain in your vehicle

**For Antibody Testing ...**

- Wear a mask
- Be prepared to have blood drawn
- Those not being tested will not be allowed entry into the clinic
- Testing available to anyone ages 10 and older
- It's only available at LAHC

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## PURCHASED REFERRED CARE NEWS



Please follow the PRC guidelines. Keep a copy on hand and update your information. To update your patient information, please see patient registration.

**SHAWNEE CLINIC  
PURCHASED REFERRED  
CARE  
HAS MOVED.**  
We are now located in  
**SHAWNEE CLINIC (BLDG. 17)**  
Our phone numbers have NOT changed.

### EMERGENCY AND URGENT CARE SERVICES

PRC for a currently enrolled AST citizen who resides in the defined catchment area and needs emergent or urgent care.

1. Call the On-Call nurse at 405.447.0300, option 9 for triage.
2. Notify PRC on the next business day or within 72 hours after your ER visit. Notification does not assure authorization of payment. However, if you do not notify PRC within 72 hours, your bills will not be paid.
3. For AST citizens with no insurance, evidence must exist that your visit was medically necessary. Medical priorities have been established for determining which referrals can be authorized for payment.
4. For AST citizens with insurance, evidence must exist that a third-party resource has made the determination such services were "emergency care" or "urgent care." Such evidence may include payment from private insurance.
5. In the event that you receive a bill from a provider, please provide a copy to PRC. **You may leave bills at the Little Axe Health Center PRC office or the Shawnee Clinic PRC office.**

### EASY ACCESS

Purchased Referred Care is conveniently located in Little Axe Health Center and in Shawnee Clinic, Building 17.  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday  
Closed on Holidays

All facilities closed the first Wednesday of the month from Noon to 5pm.

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**BILLING & PAYMENT INQUIRIES**  
Little Axe Health Center & Shawnee Clinic

Glendine Blanchard, PRC Director  
Dara Gatzman, PRC Specialist  
Lena Carroll, Claims Processor  
Jennifer Wells, PRC Technician  
Keli Mitchell, PRC Specialist

**REFERRAL MANAGEMENT**  
Little Axe Health Center

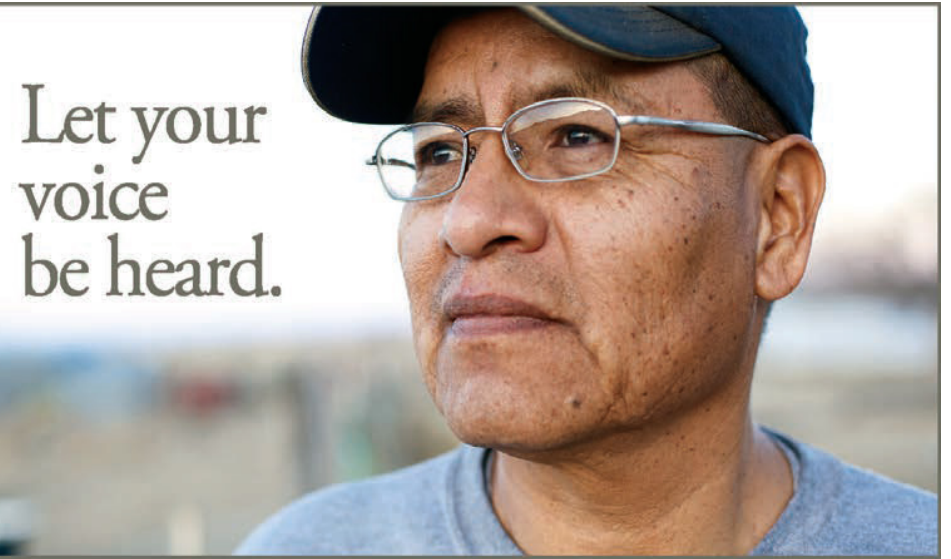
Debi Sloat, PRC Deputy Director/RN  
Lee Ann Sommer, PRC Health Specialist/RN  
Leslie Davis, PRC Health Specialist/LPN  
Lawana Martin, PRC Specialist, Medicaid Patients

**REFERRAL MANAGEMENT**  
Shawnee Clinic

Flo Mann, PRC Specialist, AST Patients/LPN  
Laurie Webber, PRC Specialist, IHS Patients/LPN  
Carrie Stanley, PRC Specialist, Medicaid patients/  
Medical Assistant

**LITTLE AXE HEALTH CENTER PRC**  
405.701.7951 (Please follow voice prompts)  
405.447.0300 (Secondary)

**SHAWNEE CLINIC PRC**  
405.878.5850 (Primary)  
405.878.4702 (Secondary)



Let your  
voice  
be heard.

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

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

*Together, we will fulfill our mission.*

**LITTLE AXE HEALTH CENTER**  
15951 Little Axe Dr.  
Norman, OK 73026  
405.447.0300

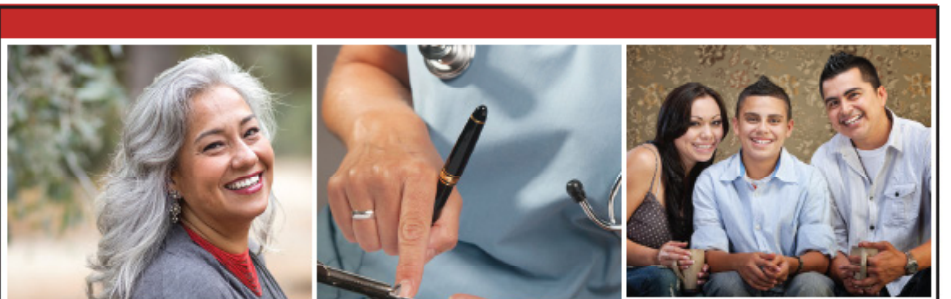
**SHAWNEE CLINIC**  
2029 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
405.878.5850

**PLUSCARE CLINIC**  
15702 East State Highway 9  
Norman, OK 73026  
405.447.0477



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**  
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WWW.ASTHEALTH.ORG



# We Can Help

**Patient Benefit Advocates**  
Assisting our tribal community in applying for federal and state health insurance programs including SoonerCare, Medicare, Health Insurance Marketplace, Veterans Benefits, and more.

\*All benefit services are complimentary.

### 2021 Health Insurance Assistance



**OPEN ENROLLMENT**  
Oct. 15–Dec. 7, 2020

**OPEN ENROLLMENT**  
Nov. 1–Dec. 15, 2020

See if you qualify for a \$0 Cost Health Plan

A contracted Benefit Adviser will be available on-site to assist our tribal community with their open enrollment options.

**Contact a Patient Benefit Advocate:**

**Little Axe Health Center**  
405.447.0300

**Shawnee Clinic**  
405.878.5850



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**  
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Cut Your Risk In Half

# FREE!

Do you have Pre-Diabetes?  
Are you At Risk For Pre-Diabetes?

## WELLNESS WARRIORS STARTING AUGUST 2020

Pre-diabetes means your blood glucose (sugar) is higher than normal, but not yet diabetes. Diabetes is a serious disease which can cause heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, or loss of toes, feet or legs.

The good news is... Type 2 diabetes can be delayed or prevented in people with pre-diabetes through lifestyle programs. Come be a part of this awesome program that has been proven to prevent diabetes!

**This program gives you:**

- Free weight loss coaching from certified Lifestyle Coaches to guide and support you
- Help with being more physically active and managing stress
- Tools for healthy eating, free cooking demos
- Free Fit-Bit for participation and attendance
- Free scale for home weighing
- Virtual group meetings weekly via ZOOM
- Supportive materials provided, as needed.

**Do you qualify for this program?**

- 18 years of age or older
- BMI of 25 or greater
- A1C range: 5.7%-6.4%
- Previous diagnosis of Gestational Diabetes
- Fasting labs greater than 100 mg/dl
- Random lab greater than 130 mg/dl

For more information or to put your name on the list contact:  
**Absentee Shawnee Tribe Diabetes and Wellness Program**  
1800 2026 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.

**Lisa Harrington MS, RDN/LD**  
Certified DPP Lifestyle Coach  
405-701-7977  
E-mail: lharrington@astribe.com



**LITTLE AXE  
HEALTH CENTER**  
LI-SI-WI-NWI HEALTH, INC.  
Prevention. Progress. Pride.

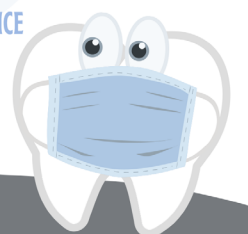
# DENTAL EMERGENCY CLINIC

BEGINS AUGUST 17, 2020

15951 Little Axe Drive Norman, Oklahoma 73026

Please call registration at  
(405) 447-0300 to schedule an appointment.  
Limited appointments are available.  
Appointments will run Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-noon  
OR until maximum patients received.

PLEASE WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES AND PRACTICE  
SOCIAL DISTANCING!



For more information, visit [www.asthealth.org](http://www.asthealth.org)



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**  
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**Little Axe Health Center  
Behavioral Health  
405.701.7987 ~405.447.0300**

**Shawnee Clinic  
Behavioral Health  
405.561.7810 ~ 405.878.4716**

**Pandemic Fatigue/Covid-19 Cabin Fever**

With the Covid-19 pandemic as a mental health professional I have seen a trend where suppressed trauma has resurfaced its ugly head back in to our lives. I say "our" lives because mental health professionals are not immune from mental health issues. My decision to become a mental health profession comes from my terrible decisions, bad choices, and trauma that have happened to me. But this Covid-19 cabin fever has me stuck in my mind and it is more than the "terrible decisions and bad choices" that are becoming unsuppressed in my mind. With it brings the trauma I imposed on my family and loved ones. And then with that brings the shame and guilt for what I did. The trauma and hurt I caused from my alcoholism and drug addictions are definitely not reasons for my decision to become a mental health therapist. As matter of fact I never 100% truly opened up my mind or I should say my soul to the pain I caused until this covid-19 pandemic happened. So it has become a soul issue for me.

My issues are unique to me but the covid-19 pandemic has a simultaneous effect on the overall mental health of everyone in the entire world and it is because we are stuck in our minds. That is why I call the phenomenon "Covid-19 cabin fever." It is a crossroads in life! I am sure elders and wise ones from many different ethnic backgrounds who may have predicted this pandemic have names and explanations for it but "crossroads" is the word that comes to my mind because to me that is what this is; a crossroads for everyone in this world. And that is because it is a life changing event for the human race. And while we are stuck in our minds; we are letting the suppressed stuff come out and it is not only affecting our lives but everyone else who loves us and lives with us. So when we are releasing OUR suppressed trauma we make a chain reaction that can reactivate suppressed trauma in others and that really affects the family dynamics of an already dysfunctional family with traumatic history. And that is why mental health is so very important right now.

I don't have the answers or the cure all solution but I do know if you do not do anything about it to take care of yourself mentally, spiritually, physically and emotionally the pandemic fatigue will not only continue; it won't get better. There are so much more complexities to pandemic fatigue, I just used my own example to help people understand how important it is for you to make an effort to take care of your mental health and you do that by making an appointment with behavioral health, going to a sweatlodge, NAC meeting, church, AA/NA meetings, Wellbriety meeting, overcomers meeting, celebrate recovery, traditional ceremonies, etc... or whatever you do spiritually that benefits your mental health as well as your spiritual health. I wish I had more time to write more but this is my first article, so I will keep it short and simple. Hopefully you will hear more from me soon.

Neyiwa.

John Soap, Jr., LPC, CRC  
AST Behavioral Health

**OKLAHOMA WELLBRIETY MEETINGS**

**Monday**

Warrior Down Recovery Group-Okc  
Mondays 6:30-7:30 pm Central  
Zoom meeting (passcode changes every 2-3 weeks)  
Contact: Sharon Marcotte (580) 583-4492 or Alvin Deere (405) 823-5922  
Meeting invite is also posted on Warrior Down Recovery Group Facebook page.  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/447321504...>  
Meeting ID: 447 321 504  
Passcode: 401430

**Wednesday**

Iowa Wellbriety- Medicine Wheel & 12 Steps  
Wednesday 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Central  
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/595170509>

You can also dial in using your phone.  
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122  
Access Code: 595-170-509

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/595170509>

**Thursday**

Wellbriety Okemah Indian Community  
Thursdays @ 6:00-8:00 pm Central

Please join meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.  
<https://www.gotomeet.me/OklahomaWellbriety/wellbriety-okemah-indian-community>

You can also dial in using your phone.  
United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073  
- One-touch: tel:+18773092073,,875194581#  
Access Code: 875-194-581

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/875194581>

**NATIONAL**

**Sunday**

Ireland Wellbriety Zoom Meeting  
Sunday @ 10:30 am Central  
Meeting ID: 897-6151-4615  
PW: 497-381

**Monday-Sunday**

Wellbriety online zoom meetings  
Monday-Sunday @ 1 pm Central  
Meeting ID: 548-538-0164  
PW: 488-123

**Tuesday & Thursday**

Native American wellbriety and 12 steps meeting  
<https://www.intherooms.com/home/>  
Account creation is needed, it is also free  
Tuesday@ 11 am Central/Thursday@ 8:00 pm Central

**Feeling stressed or anxious about the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Use these tips to reduce your stress and anxiety:



Limit or avoid news coverage if it causes you more stress and anxiety.



Focus on positive things in your life that you can control.



Keep stress under control by exercising, eating healthy, reading, or by trying relaxation techniques such as yoga.



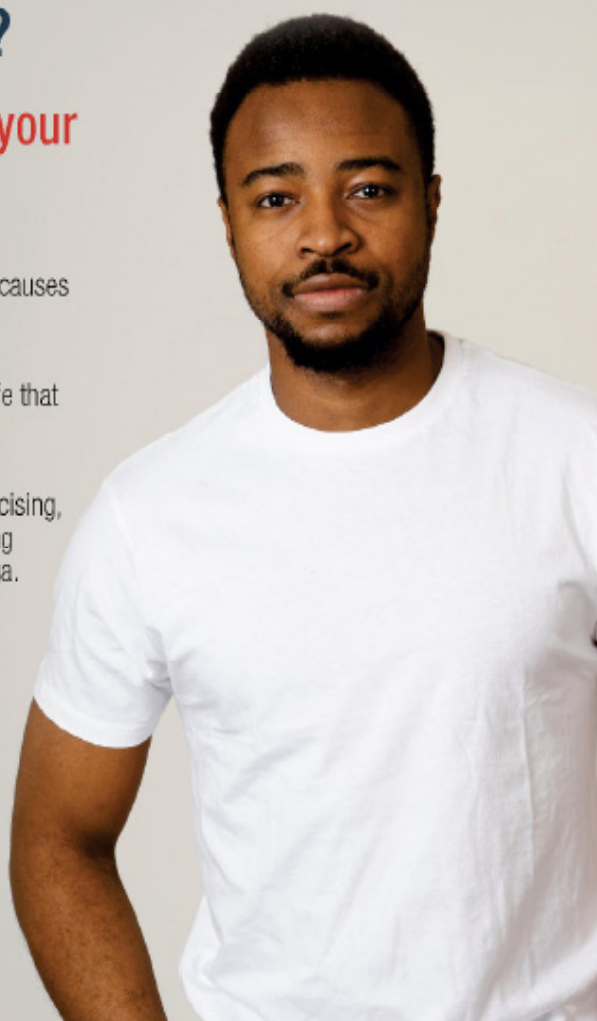
Talk about your experiences and feelings to loved ones and friends, if you find it helpful.



Connect with others who may be experiencing stress about the pandemic.



Take time to renew your spirit through meditation, prayer, or helping others in need.



If you are feeling overwhelmed with emotions such as sadness, depression, anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or someone else, call 911 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255).

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**  
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH) provides counseling and support before, during, and after disasters. Contact the DDH at 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746.  
SAMHSA's National Helpline: 1-800-662-HELP (1-800-662-4357)

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON ANXIETY AND COPING WITH COVID-19, PLEASE CALL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES 405.701.7987  
ABSENTEE SHAWNEE FINDING HOPE COVID-19 GRANT



SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.  
1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4272) • 1-800-487-4889 (TTY) • <https://www.samhsa.gov>  
PEP20-01-01-015

**Honoring Our Past  
With Promise for  
Our Future**

National Suicide Prevention  
**1-800-273-8255  
(TALK)**



**LIFE is Beautiful  
Living Meth Free**



Absentee Shawnee Health Systems  
Shawnee & Little Axe

**OUR ELDERNS AND THE VULNERABLE ARE COUNTING ON YOU.**



**WEAR A MASK IN PUBLIC PLACES.**  
We're all in this together ❤️



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



# Happy Birthday to the Oct AST Members



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  
 Boyd, Alexander James  
 Bradley, Mary Louise  
 Bradley, Michael Joseph  
 Brady Jr., Cecil Edgar  
 Brady, Carlie Noelle  
 Brady, Ryan Fletcher  
 Breedlove, Cynthia Kay  
 Brittain, Shay 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, 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  
 Colungo, Khia Jayde  
 Condra, Melanie Rochelle  
 Cook Jr., Henry James  
 Coriz, Benjamin Allen  
 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  
 Dearnorff, 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, John Arnold  
 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  
 Green, Shai Leigh  
 Green, Tristin Eaon  
 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 Anthony  
 Herrera, Michael Alexander  
 Herrera, Rosalynn Macie  
 Herrin, Susan Rena  
 Hockemeyer, Azlynn Marie Nicole  
 Holderness, Nichole Ann  
 Hood, Nova Dean  
 Hough, Marris 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 # 039752, David Leroy

Johnson Sr., Josie Ed  
 Johnson, Antwone Reese Dejuan  
 Johnson, Chan Van Ness  
 Johnson, Cheveyo Lachaim Kavi  
 Johnson, Emma Lee  
 Johnson, Erica Lynn  
 Johnson, Jessica Lynn  
 Johnson, Katie La Rae  
 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  
 Kilmer, Brittany Michelle  
 Kilmer, Ethan Allen  
 Kirby, Robert Micheal  
 Kleine, Elizabeth Ann  
 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 Creek, Frank Dwight  
 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 Alexandrea  
 Matthews, Anthony Edward Scott  
 Mattingly, Erin Paige  
 Maxfield, Sky Colisa  
 Maxwell, Meagan Renee  
 McBride, Aaron Wayne  
 McBride, Lillian Kaye  
 McCuddy, Queta Cara  
 Megehee, William Sean  
 Merrell, Marleigh Jaye  
 Miller, Anna Mae  
 Miller, Brody Scott Glenn  
 Miller, Kale Donovan  
 Miller, Scott Alan  
 Mills, Colby Richard  
 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, Rachel Elaine  
 Onzahwah, Glorious Serinity  
 Onzahwah, 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, Brigitte Nicole  
 Powell, David W  
 Raadmae, Brian David  
 Ramirez, Antonio  
 Rapos, Christal Nasebawa  
 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  
 Rudloff, Emma Leann  
 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, Maehlah 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  
 Spoon, Steven Paul  
 Spriggs, Philip Jeffery  
 Spybuck, Brandi Christine  
 Squire, Gwendale Lynn  
 Stacey, Nils Greg  
 Starr, Eric Glen  
 Starr, Tricia Suzanne  
 Stewart, Wanda Louise  
 Stone, Donnie Darnell  
 Sullivan, Pamela Kay  
 Sultuska, George A  
 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  
 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  
 Turner, Georgie Ann  
 Tyner, Dwight A.  
 Upman, Ronald David  
 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, Yvonne Andrew  
 Warrior, 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 #547504, 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



Happy 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday Kailas!!



We would like to wish you a Happy Birthday and many more to come!  
 We are proud of the young man you are becoming and proud of  
 All your accomplishments you have completed this far in life!  
 Keep working hard kid!!  
 We love you!!!!  
 From: Mom, Gee Gee and Clay!!



Happy Anniversary!

If you have a birthday or an anniversary to submit for next month's newsletter, you may email to

[newsletter@astribe.com](mailto:newsletter@astribe.com)

## Congratulations to Mya Blanchard!



Congratulations to Mya Blanchard! Mya is the daughter of Eric and Jessica Blanchard. Her paternal grandparents are Duke and Fredith Blanchard of Little Axe, OK; her maternal grandparents are Linda Cotten and Dirk Walker of Birmingham, AL. Mya placed first in the 68th Annual Cherokee National Holiday - Youth 1-8 Category. Mya designed and sewed the ribbon skirt and matching mask shown. When asked about her contemporary design and inspiration, Mya commented, "My inspiration came from the many hibiscus flowers of Honolulu, HI. Nature has so many designs to offer."





# Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events

The following events will take place during the month of October.

## Rise Up and Wipe Out Drive Through

October 1st - 12pm to 1pm  
Shawnee Clinic north parking lot

## Chalk Party

October 5th-9th at Little Axe Clinic  
October 26th-30th at Shawnee Complex

## Warrior's Walk

October 9th at 12pm at Little Axe Clinic  
October 29th at 12:15pm at Shawnee Complex

**\*\*Dates/times may be subject to change.  
Please contact the DV Department to confirm**

Please join us in bringing Domestic Violence Awareness to our community.  
If you have any questions call us at 405-273-2888.



# Native Youth Art CONTEST

**DRAWING THEME:**  
What Does Being Native American Mean To Me?


1. The contest is open to Native youth ages 12-24.
2. Poster requirement size 18"x24".
3. Contestants may use any medium (i.e., crayons, watercolors, charcoal, pastel, pencil) NO GLITTER.
4. Only ONE entry per youth.
5. The poster submitted must be the youth's original artwork and lettering.
6. Posters are judged based on originality, message impact, and visual appeal.

1st and 2nd place winners will be selected from two age categories (12-17 and 18-24)  
All participants will receive an incentive when you enter your finished poster.

**ENTRY DEADLINE: October 30, 2020**

Our program can provide the 18"x24" blank poster.  
To register for this event please call 405-701-7989 or email lindag@astribe.com

Hosted By: Native Connections Grant

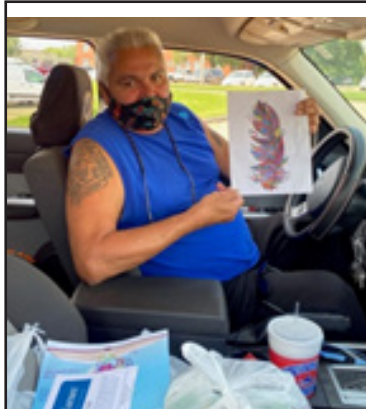




## Title VI UPDATE

DUE TO THE COVID 19 AND THE ELDERS BEING VULNERABLE WE WILL NEED TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT HALLOWEEN TO HAVE OUR HALLOWEEN BINGO AND COSTUME CONTEST. WE MISS SEEING EVERYONE.

We will continue handing out meals on Mondays at the Shawnee Meal site from 10 am to 2 pm. Homebound will continue getting meals also on Mondays Only.

Congratulations to Rick Burns, he is our coloring contest winner for August!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at 405-275-4030 ext. 6227 Or email me [dowings@astribe.com](mailto:dowings@astribe.com)



## Little Axe After School Program 2020/2021

Join us @ Brendle Corner- VIRTUAL TUTORING NOW AVAILABLE

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

Duration: Starts September 8th and will run through the school year. Monday-Thursday, 3:30pm-6:00pm

**And Much More!**

**Open to All students in Middle School and High School**

**Open to Absentee Shawnee Tribal Students K-5<sup>th</sup> gr with a C.D.I.B.**

**TUTORING FOR VIRTUAL STUDENTS** in 1 hour sessions will be MON-THURS from 10am- 2pm by Appointment only.

**Virtual Student Tutoring is only open to AST enrolled students and youth enrolled in our Afterschool Program.**

**FRIDAY EVENING HANGOUT** EVENTS will be announced each month for students to come and have fun. EVENTS will only be open for youth enrolled in one of our programs.

**EVERYTHING IS OFFERED WITH NO CHARGE...LITTLE AXE BUS WILL TRANSPORT STUDENTS TO BRENDLE CORNER COMMUNITY BUILDING FOR THE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM, LOCATED OFF HIGHWAY 9, JUST EAST OF 192<sup>ND</sup>. PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PICKING STUDENTS UP BY 6:30PM.**

For more information and sign up please contact Blake Goodman at [bgoodman@astribe.com](mailto:bgoodman@astribe.com) or Shay Fixico at [sfixico@astribe.com](mailto:sfixico@astribe.com) or by phone at: **405-617-6231**

### Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801-0381

Title VI  
Elderly Nutrition Program

Dear Absentee Shawnee Tribal Members

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

**Guidelines:**

1. Absentee Shawnee Member
2. Must be 55 years and older
3. Must be an Title VI Member, have a current intake form on file (FY-2020)
4. Must provide Proof of Residency (utility bill – in the applicants name)
5. Handicap/Disabled
6. NO RENTAL PROPERTY WILL BE MOWED

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

This year we are trying to get an early start on our grass mowing list,  
Any questions you can reach me at 405-275-4030 ext. 6227 or email me at [dowings@astribe.com](mailto:dowings@astribe.com)

Thomasine Owings  
Thomasine Owings

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

Grass Mowing Application

CDIB # \_\_\_\_\_  
D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

The Following are the requirements for this program:

1. Must be an Absentee Shawnee Member
2. Must be 55 years and older
3. Must be an Title VI Member (have an current intake form for the current year 2020)
4. Handicap/Disabled
5. Must provide Proof of Residency (utility bill must be in applicant's name)
6. NO RENTAL PROPERTY will be mowed

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

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ MESSAGE PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
FINDING DIRECTIONS TO HOME: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma  
Child Care Development Fund Programs  
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.  
Shawnee, Ok. 74801  
(405)432.8411 FAX: (405)878-0156**

**Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Programs  
October 2020**

We hope you and your family continue doing well. Due to this unprecedented national health emergency we have been doing what we can to keep the CCDF grant in compliance and learning about what we can do to assist families in this pandemic. We are still accepting applications for AST Child Care Assistance if you need child care assistance and would like to apply. The application is on the AST website under Services/Child Care. We offer assistance to any Native child with a CDIB who live in our service area of Cleveland, McClain, Oklahoma and Pottawatomie Counties. The parents or guardians must meet certain income guidelines but we would encourage anyone to apply. We can also offer services for families who are unemployed with a three (3) month job search eligibility period. The families can choose any OKDHS

Licensed Child Care Provider that is convenient for them. We are also still offering the Relative Home Provider care type where a relative who lives in a separate residence can care for an eligible child. We will have the application and guidelines on the AST Website under the Services/Childcare page. Applicants who wish to utilize the RHP will need to be eligible for AST Child Care prior to RHP approval. Please contact me or LaNora Buswell, CCDF Specialist, if you have any questions.

The After School Program unfortunately had to be closed early. We are still on hold with the Afterschool Program on the AST Complex. We will provide notification as soon as a decision is made regarding reopening. We did recently hold a backpack/school supply distribution event for ASP students that we have serviced in the previous semesters. If you or your family need afterschool child care assistance please contact us or apply through the child care assistance program and we can help find a provider that will be able to provide your child care needs. Our goals through the CCDF grant, Building Blocks enterprise and the After School Programs is to provide quality child care to Native and non-native children in our communities. We do this by our innovative ideas on curriculum and staying abreast of all training and requirements to maintain higher levels of care. We strive to be the best and be better than the best every day. If you are interested in any of these programs or have any questions please feel free to contact me or LaNora Buswell at the number above or by email, [astchildcare@astribe.com](mailto:astchildcare@astribe.com).

Ne yi wa! (Thank you)  
Briana Ponkilla  
CCDF Coordinator

**AST Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)**  
<https://www.astribe.com/child-care>  
La-pe-we-ki-wa ho-ge-wa-pe-fa-yi mi-ti-ge "Lifelong Learning Begins Here"

Quality Child Care | After School Program | HEALTH & Safety | AST Child Care Subsidy Assistance | Building Blocks CDC II - Shawnee | Building Blocks CDC III - Little Axe | COMING SOON: LICENSE EXEMPT FAMILY HOME PROVIDERS

**BUILDING BLOCKS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
AN ABSENTEE SHAWNEE ENTERPRISE  
Phone: 405.432.8411  
Mobile: 405.432.8411  
Fax: 405.878.0156  
Email: [briana.ponkilla@astribe.com](mailto:briana.ponkilla@astribe.com)  
[lanora.buswell@astribe.com](mailto:lanora.buswell@astribe.com)  
Phone 405.432.8411 ~ Fax 405.878.0156  
Email: [briana.ponkilla@astribe.com](mailto:briana.ponkilla@astribe.com) ~ [lanora.buswell@astribe.com](mailto:lanora.buswell@astribe.com)



**Absentee Shawnee Tribe Child Care Development Fund Programs**  
La-pe-we-ki-wa ho-ge-wa-pe-fa-yi mi-ti-ge  
"Lifelong Learning Begins Here."

Program Services:

- Building Blocks Child Development Center II- Shawnee, OK- Tribally Operated Child Care Center
- Building Blocks Child Development Center III- Little Axe, OK- Tribally Operated Child Care Center
- AST Child Care Subsidy Program- Child Care Assistance
- AST After School Program- Horseshoe Bend Community- After School Care
- AST After School Program- AST Complex, Shawnee- After School Care
- For information about these services please visit the AST website at [www.astribe.com/Childcare](http://www.astribe.com/Childcare)
- Contact information:
  - BBDCII- Shawnee (405)878-0633 Email: [ecrawford@astribe.com](mailto:ecrawford@astribe.com)
  - BBDCIII- Little Axe (405)360-2710 Email: [rebeccaj@astribe.com](mailto:rebeccaj@astribe.com)
  - AST Child Care Subsidy (405)432-8411 Email: [briana.ponkilla@astribe.com](mailto:briana.ponkilla@astribe.com)
  - AST ASP- HSB (405)432-8411 Email: [lanora.buswell@astribe.com](mailto:lanora.buswell@astribe.com)
  - AST ASP- Shawnee (405)432-8411 Email: [lanora.buswell@astribe.com](mailto:lanora.buswell@astribe.com)

**From the office of AST Education Department ~ FYI**

Tresha Spoon

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY - PRESIDENTS CORNER  
Dr. Ronald Graham, President

**DUEL ENROLLMENT ONLINE COURSES ARE NOW BEING OFFERED**

Haskell is now offering Duel Enrollment classes to High School Juniors and Seniors in all Oklahoma BIE high schools commencing Spring Semester (January). This is a new Haskell Pilot Program where both Juniors and Seniors will be able to take online courses toward their Bachelor's degree while still attending high school. Further, "all fees will be waived." High School Juniors and Seniors will be able to take up to 18 units before transferring to Haskell (or another college of your choosing) to complete your chosen degree programs after graduation. As a high school student, you will soon be able to experience college classes without leaving the comfort and support of your home. You may ask...how does this work? As a Duel Enrollment student you will be taking online classes that will count towards your high school credits for graduation and credits toward college at the same time. You can use these completed credits to transfer to Haskell Indian Nations University or to another college of your choice.

Our administration will be working with each of your schools to identify a liaison for you to contact and help you enroll and with any questions that you may have in the near future. In addition, you can contact our Admissions Office at 785-749-8454 or the Registrar at 785-749-8440 with any questions. Let our folks know that you are a new (or interested) Duel Enrollment student when you call and they will take all the time that you need to answer questions. Another excellent resource to contact would be your Director of Education, Tresha Spoon at 405.275.4030 Ext. 6242.

Requirements for duel enrollment vary from state to state, so students should check with their high school counselors and education advisors to find out if they qualify for Haskell's Duel Enrollment classes. In general, students must be at least 16 years old and have a high school GPA of at least 2.5. Students will need permission from parents/guardians and a high school counselor or principal. Among the classes being offered through Haskell's Duel Enrollment program include college writing, college math, communications, history, art, biology, and many more. Again, "all fees are waived" for students qualifying for this program.

-----For k12 Administration-----

Recently a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was forwarded to all of the Oklahoma BIE k12 schools. So far Riverside Indian High School and Shawnee Public Schools have signed the agreement. All High School Principals and Superintendents are encouraged to contact me direct at 785-813-2054 if they did not receive a copy of the MOU for review if interested in this initiative. With the current health challenges within the communities, there have been a few computer glitches. We will respond to your needs immediately.

**RESOURCE CENTER NOTICE:**

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

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

**Thank you,**

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

# Indian Child Welfare

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a federal law that seeks to keep American Indian children with American Indian families. Congress passed ICWA in 1978 in response to the alarmingly high number of Indian children being removed from their homes by both public and private agencies. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe continuously seeks applicants who can meet the requirements for certification through the tribe in order to provide children with culturally appropriate homes.

The Indian Child Welfare Department (ICW) was developed to provide temporary or permanent care for Absentee Shawnee children placed into tribal or state custody. Child protective services (CPS) and promoting safe and stable families (PSSF) offers intervention to protect children and provide services to help families with any difficulties causing the safety of their children to be at risk. ICW aggressively works toward preserving the family, however, court involvement may be required, if a child's safety cannot be controlled, out-of-home placement may be necessary.

## Frequently Ask Questions

Question	Answer
Can ICW intervene on private custody matters?	No.
Can ICW hire an attorney for private custody matters?	No.
Can ICW take custody away from the Department of Human Services (DHS)?	ICW has the discretion to ask for a transfer but a parent, case worker, or either Judge of state or tribal court may object to the transfer.
How do I become a foster care provider and/or adoptive parent?	Contact the ICW office to request a foster care provider and/or adoption packet, the applicant(s) must pass a criminal background check, finger printing and home study.
Is there a cost for becoming an adoptive parent?	No. ICW is not an adoption agency.
Do grandparents have rights to get visitation when a grandchild is taken into custody of DHS?	No. In the State of Oklahoma, the Supreme Court has ruled that grandparents do not have visitation rights.
Does ICW intervene on behalf of the parents?	No. ICW intervenes and advocated for the best interest of the child.
Who do we report abuse/neglect to?	You may report to the ICW office at ICW@astribe.com or the DHS abuse hotline at 1-800-522-3511.

If you are or know someone who may be interested in becoming a foster care provider or adoptive parent, ICW continuously seeks culturally appropriate, safe and nurturing homes for Absentee Shawnee custody children. Please contact the ICW office at 405-395-4490 or [fostercare@astribe.com](mailto:fostercare@astribe.com) for more information.

## Cultural Preservation Update

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

### Gift Shop

The Gift Shop is currently closed to all visitors. However, in accordance with the Tribe's protocols, once Phase II is entered, we will be allowing tribal members to come in and shop by appointment only. However, 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.
  - b. **NO children allowed.**
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 have also placed decals on the floor to help with social distancing, have had plexiglass installed in front of the register for protection and hand sanitizer stations have been installed for use.

During the last month, the Gift Shop Manager, Mrs. Merry Rodriguez, has been working diligently to refill the current stock. We have an assortment of new logo bearing merchandise available for purchase such as t-shirts, hats, cups, polo shirts, and cardigans. We also have new shipments from Pendleton, Crazy Crow and El Paso Saddle Blanket and an assortment of beadwork.

In addition to the new products, currently, we are running a 20% sale on last season's Pendleton products and Minnetonka Shoes, and we still have some previous season zip up hoodies and long sleeve shirts on sale for \$5.00. Sizes vary from 2X and up. So, please once the tribe enters Phase II, call and make an appointment to come shop with Mrs. Rodriguez. She can be reached at (405) 275-4030 ext. 6310.

### Library

The library is currently closed to all visitors. Ms. Casey Wilson, the Librarian, is working on protocols that will ensure the safety and protect the health of all visitors. More information will follow in the future.

### THPO

The THPO program has continued working remotely to make sure federal projects do not go un-reviewed. Ms. Devon Frazier, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and Ms. Ashley Brokeshoulder, the THPO Specialist, continues to answer all incoming Section 106 correspondences. They have also taken part in numerous teleconference calls with different federal agencies.

### Grants

As previously mentioned in last month's article, in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, extensions to all grants were applied for within the department. The extensions were granted, and all grants have been extended for another year to ensure the department is given the opportunity to best utilize and expend awarded funds to the fulfillment of the department's goals.

On July 15th, the department received some good news. The library was selected by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to receive the FY2020 Native American Basic grant. Currently, the department is still waiting to hear if the applications for the THPO grant and the ANA Language grant were selected to receive funding.

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

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Table of tribal employees categorized by department: Gov., Lt. Gov., Secretary, Treas., Rep., Receptionist, ASEDA, Attorney, BIA/SELF GOVERNANCE, COURT, CULT. PRES./ GIFT SHOP, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/FAMILY SERVICES, EDUCATION, ELECTION COMMISSION, and various service units like ENROLLMENT, FINANCE, HUMAN RESOURCES, etc.

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Last updated: 7/23/20

2020 PROGRAMS. Low Rent Housing, Lease to Own Housing, College Housing Rental Assistance, Over Income Lease to Own Housing, Over Income Rental Housing, Transitional Housing, Home Rehab Assistance - AST Members ONLY, \$5,000 Down Payment Assistance - AST Members ONLY. HOUSING AUTHORITY logo.



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ABSENTEES SHAWNEE TRIBAL MEMBERS. APPLYING FOR TRIBAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE (T.E.A) (A ONE-TIME YEARLY PAYMENT OF \$150.00 PER RESIDENCE). ELIGIBILITY, REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION, and application form details.

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Office of Environmental Health & Engineering. Brownfield Tribal Response Program. What is a Brownfield? Do you have land that you want to use for a business, park, or for cultural purposes, but are worried about possible contamination? If so, you may have a Brownfield site.

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SEEKING ALTERNATES FOR ELECTION COMMISSION. The Election Commission is seeking individuals to serve as alternates. Alternates must meet the requirements listed in the Election Ordinance. If you are interested: Please submit your letter of interest to Shirley Adkins "Acting" Commissioner via E-Mail renee\_adkins@att.net.