

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

# The Absentee Shawnee News

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



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**GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 17, 2010  
10:00 A.M.  
Little Axe Resource Center**

*Happy Easter*



# APRIL



# Executive Committee



**George Blanchard**  
Governor



**Dan Little Axe Sr.**  
Lt. Governor



**Michelle Lopez**  
Secretary



**Anita Chisholm**  
Treasurer



**Alecia Onzawah**  
Representative

## Governor's Report

Greetings:

I would like to thank all of you who gave me positive feedback on last month's news letter. As I have promised, I will continue to give all tribal members factual reports on things they should know. I will report to you only documented facts about Tribal business, no rumors will be reported.

In reference to the Global Gaming evaluation I would like to point out that the initial contact with Global was made by the previous administration, I thought it was a good idea, and went forth with the proposal. Global did an evaluation of not only our gaming enterprise, but also our Government structure and presented a nice report to the Executive Committee. We as the Absentee Shawnee Tribe can use the information presented by Global if we choose, or not, if we choose, in the same way the Constitutional revision committee is using parts from several other tribe's constitutions as a guideline. As for giving our gaming competition trade secrets, what trade secrets do we have? Global gaming operates seventeen casinos in the state of Oklahoma, all of which are highly profitable. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe has one casino which is holding its head above water at this time. If Global is willing

to give us information that can help us grow, we would be remiss if we don't consider their suggestions.

By now everyone should have been notified of the General Council in April. I hope to see you all there.

If there is anything I can do for anyone, please call or let me know how I can help.

Thanks again for your support.

George Blanchard, Governor

## Secretary's Report

Hello Tribal members. Hope all is doing well.

We are currently advertising for vacant positions on our current boards and committees. If you are interested in serving on one of the boards or committees please send your resume along with a letter of interest to the Tribal Secretary's office located at 2025 South Gordon Cooper Dr, Shawnee Ok 748701.

Here is a list of Current openings.

### EDUCATION

2 vacant now on the Education Board  
2 will open up in April on the Education Board

### FOSTER CARE BOARD

2 vacant positions

### ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

1 vacant position now  
1 will open up in April

### ABSENTEE SHAWNEE ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMT AUTHORITY

2 vacant positions

### TAX COMMISSION

1 vacant position

### SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

1 vacant position

Thank you,  
Secretary Lopez

## Treasure's Report

### All Nations Bank

Hello from All Nations Bank, Spring has sprung! Farmers and cattlemen all around the Calumet area are really glad to see an end to the winter weather. It appears that adequate moisture has soaked into the ground to "kick off" the spring growing season for our wheat and alfalfa farmers. The local cattle operations are also doing well. Both farmers and ranchers are hoping for better market prices, but, in general, the economy in this area is doing fine.

We have been busy meeting with

network and IT (Information Technology) company personnel in preparation for our branching later this year. The good news is that it appears that the costs from the IT side of things has actually gone down in the past few years. This part of branching (IT and Networking) will be a on-going process over the next several months. There is not much show or flash from this part of the process, but we are committed to bring Tribal Members the best of the products available.

February is a short month, but the bank did well and we continue to see growth in all areas of our operation. Total assets are now \$24,700,000, and deposits have grown to \$19,900,000. These numbers may move around in the coming months depending on how interest rates shake out in our economy. We cannot predict interest rates, but the talk for higher interest rates is starting to pick up some steam.

Once again, if Gene or I can be of service, please feel free to give us a call.

Yours Truly,

Gene Davis, CEO and Bob Billy,  
President

**FY-2010  
YTD TAX COLLECTIONS  
(thru 2/28/2010)**

TAX CATEGORY	YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL			% OF COLLECTIONS
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	TOTAL	
Sales (6%)	\$6,427.61	\$6,733.05	\$13,160.66	4.90%
Gaming % of free cash	\$51,581.00	\$144,551.00	\$196,132.00	73.02%
Employee (1%)	\$10,591.43	\$8,094.39	\$18,685.82	6.96%
Severance (8%)	\$1,337.71	\$1,422.00	\$2,759.71	1.03%
Motor Vehicle	\$7,677.61	\$13,797.32	\$21,474.93	8.00%
Tobacco Refund	\$0.00	\$15,292.49	\$15,292.49	5.69%
<b>TOTAL TAXES</b>	<b>\$77,615.36</b>	<b>\$189,890.25</b>	<b>\$267,505.61</b>	
Miscellaneous	\$795.00	\$282.50	\$1,077.50	0.40%
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$78,410.36</b>	<b>\$190,172.75</b>	<b>\$268,583.11</b>	<b>100%</b>

the Executive Committee liaison to the following: the Division of Education and Employment which consists of Education, WIA, TERO and Childcare as well as the Division of Human Services which is comprised of Social Services, Domestic Violence, Promoting Safe & Stable Families, Indian Child Welfare, the School Clothing Program, Burial and Title VI.

For the last month and a half, I and Paula Green, Human Resource Director, have completed a departmental review of the Building Blocks Childcare Center. The departmental review included one-on-one interviews with each staff member as well as the Director to provide an opportunity for staff to express any suggestions or concerns they may or may not have. Discussion was also made to ensure that each staff member knew their job description.

A Family Satisfaction Survey was also conducted in which parents were provided a hardcopy survey and informed that they could turn their completed survey in to a secured lockbox that staff did not have access to, to ensure confidentiality. Parents were also invited to contact me by phone to meet in person if they felt there were any issues that they felt necessary to discuss with me personally. Upon completion of the Childcare departmental review, I completed a report which was provided to the rest of the Executive Committee with recommendations. Overall, there were no major complaints from a majority of the staff and the parent surveys indicated that most were delighted with the care their child(ren) receive through our childcare program. Pleased with the departmental review, the Executive Committee has decided to conduct departmental reviews for all programs.

## Representative's Report

Greetings,

On January 20th, 2010, the Executive Committee passed a resolution establishing a restructured organizational chart. Prior to the adoption of this new structure, I had oversight of the following programs: Realty, Social Services (which includes the WIA Workforce Investment Act Program, Education, Cultural Preservation (which includes Tribal Historic Preservation, Indian Child Welfare, Promoting Safe & Stable Families,

Domestic Violence, Education, and the newly established TERO Tribal Employment Rights Office, Indian Reservation Roads Program and the Office of Environmental Protection, and most recently the Childcare Program as well as Executive Committee liaison to the Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority.

Since the implementation of the newly restructured organizational chart, all five Executive Committee members have shared oversight of all tribal departments; however, as Tribal Representative, I am now

In terms of the Division of Employment & Training, I would like to reiterate what I have said in our tribal newsletter. I will begin working, along with staff, on seeking to become a Public Law 102-477 tribe, otherwise known as "477". Public Law 102-477 is the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992. There is no funding associated with PL 102-477 itself; however, this law allows tribes to combine federal funds which tribes receive under formula grant programs into one single plan, with a single budget and a single reporting system.

This could include the BIA funded Direct Employment Services funding, the WIA Workforce Investment Act funding, the Adult Vocational and Higher Education funding, TERO and even Child-care. Each of these programs are funded by various agencies such as the BIA, Department of Labor and Department of Health and Human Services. A tribe could even opt to apply to be an administrator of a tribal TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) and it could also be included under the umbrella of "477". Bear in mind that each funding agency maintains its own program plan as well as its own program reporting requirements. WIA alone requires twelve reports per year. This includes program status reporting and financial reporting for both WIA Adult and WIA youth components. The other programs listed have their own reporting requirements with the number of reports varying from agency to agency. Under "477" there would be only one report per year, thus freeing up program directors time to focus more on service delivery to our tribal clientele.

It should also be noted that along with specific reporting requirements for each funding agency for tribal programs not under the "477" umbrella, there are also specific restrictions on how the funding can be spent. This is not the case with PL 102-477. "477" allows a tribe the flexibility to tailor the focus of the entire "477" program plan to meet the specific needs of the tribal community.

We will be gearing up to do an overall Tribal Community Assessment using a tribal community assessment tool that has been created by the Small Business Administration specifically for tribes. Tribal members will need to be engaged in this process so that leadership can have a overall picture of the needs of our people. I was able to attend a training session on how we can use this tool and I believe it will be extremely beneficial for our tribal leadership to use in developing a strategic plan for our tribe. A portion of this assessment will help us to determine where the biggest needs are in terms of job skill levels of our tribal citizens, transportation issues, childcare needs, but also health and housing needs, etc. This will allow us then to tailor our "477" plan so that we can help to meet the greatest needs in assisting our tribal citizens in obtaining marketable job skills while strengthening our tribal workforce.

I have often heard the question "why do the Citizen Band Potawatomi's help more than our own tribe" and the answer to this question is this: They are a 477 tribe and have been for some time now; therefore, they have more flexibility in the way they are able to allocate funding for the delivery of services to their clientele. Another factor for this is they service all tribes in their jurisdictional service area; therefore, they receive more

funding. Historically, we have only served our tribal citizens thus our funding is limited as such.

For WIA, our most recent plan submitted to the Department of Labor informed the DOL that we intended to extend our services to other Native Americans in our jurisdictional service area. Last summer, for the Summer Youth work program which is the Youth component of WIA, we began services other tribes by placing youth enrolled with other tribes along with Shawnee youth on the summer work program. This was done to display that we are in fact doing what we was added to our plan. Recently, we received a notice from the Department of Labor informing us that the funding is now going to be competitive and a factor in obtaining the factor in obtaining the funding award for WIA will be the show of extending service to other tribes. With this in mind, I will be working with our staff to assist in getting our competitive grant submitted as WIA and Tribal Employment Rights are my background so I will be assisting with this process. I would like to also say that we are fortunate to have a finance staff member who has worked with a PL 102-477 tribe previously before coming to work for us, and that is Ms. Dee Wood, budget analyst.

In addition to working towards preparing a P.L. 102-477 plan for our Executive Committee to consider, I have met with all of the Director's of the programs in the Division of Employment and Training and the Division of Human Services so that we can all begin collaborating on a system referral form that will be used for the clientele served by those programs. Currently there is not an official referral system in place that allows our directors to track the services our clients may

receive from programs that are interdepartmental within our tribe, nor for services received from agencies outside our tribe. A system referral form will be used that will improve case management of each client.

Once a client applies for services from our programs, we will not only inform them of other services that may be available to them from other tribal programs and outside agencies, but we will also ensure that the client is provided a referral form, of which a copy will be maintained in their file as well a copy will be sent with them so that the other department or agency assisting the client will be able to inform us of the services they may have received. In addition, each director will continue to maintain a directory of community organizations that offer various services so that if we cannot help the client, we will do our best to find someone who can while documenting this in our client files. In the future, those referrals to outside resources could prove to be beneficial when requesting additional funding as it will allow us to demonstrate to our federal funding agencies that our needs are greater than the services we can provide.

Finally, I would like to address a statement that was made by Secretary Lopez in her last month's newsletter article pertaining to the disenrollment issue and the "indecisiveness on the part of previous and current Executive Committee members". Secretary Lopez indicated that previous and current Executive Committee members feel this issue should be left alone due to some type of family tie or election issue. I want to be very clear on my stand on this matter as Ms. Lopez is not specific on exactly whom she is referring to.

In the Regular Executive Meeting in which the disenrollment resolution was presented, I specifically requested that my statement on this matter be verbatim in the meeting minutes and I will restate them here again. While I do not agree with the action a previous Executive Committee took in passing a resolution that allowed a rounding up of the blood quantum of a group of individuals within a certain time period, I did in fact support the motion to table the disenrollment resolution for these reasons:

In the disenrollment hearings three months prior to the presenting of the disenrollment resolution, though only a few people showed up for the hearings, it was concerning that enrollment staff indicated that there were a number of individuals who they were unable to contact by phone and by mail. Of those that did show up for the hearing, there were a few whose grandparents were in fact eligible for enrollment based on the wording in the enrollment ordinance. There were instances in which on the base roll, there were siblings who were enrolled but erroneously enrolled each with a different blood quantum from their siblings. Thus it would require a correction in the blood quantum of those siblings who were listed as less Shawnee blood than their siblings.

It was my understanding that enrollment would work with these individuals to clear up this matter, as an effort on both enrollment and the individuals related to this issue. It is also my understanding that a second meeting between these individuals and the enrollment department didn't occur. These individuals were not given a deadline date of when this collaboration would be required before disenrollment would be further pursued

nor were they informed of that the disenrollment resolution would be on the February Regular Executive Committee meeting. Equally concerning was the fact that when an individual inquired about obtaining a copy of the minutes from their hearing, Secretary Lopez indicated that she did not take any minutes. My decision to support a motion to table is not based on indecisiveness nor elections, but rather on giving these individuals the opportunity to address and correct any errors that may have occurred in the original enrollment of the family members from whom these affected individuals descend.

Lastly, it is my feeling that a newsletter announcement of such a hearing is not unreasonable and should have been placed in the newsletter. When such decisions that are life-altering occur in the areas of foreclosure, child custody, etc. notices are placed in public newspapers when the individuals cannot be located. I made this suggestion during an informal meeting. The request was also made by Treasurer Chisholm and I during the February Regular Executive Committee meeting asking that a notice be placed in the March newsletter – which did not occur. I am hoping that the notice will be published in the April newsletter. Such notice should have a general announcement for those enrolled in a particular time period so that family members may have the opportunity to inform these individuals of this pending action.

Respectfully,

Alecia Onzahwah  
Tribal Representative

**Representative Onzawah reads to the children at the Building Blocks Childcare Center for Dr. Seuss' birthday reading day.**



## **Human Resources**

Since January of 2009, there have been 96 applicants who went through the new hire process with HR. Of those applicants 60 were American Indian – 30 AST/30 other American Indians. Only 11 did not complete the process to become an employee due to not passing a background check, drug screen or turning down the job. Of those 11, four (4) were AST and one (1) was from another Tribe. So there were 85 new hires since 1/09, 55 were American Indian. And of those, 26 were AST.

The Administrative Systems Manual Chapter VI (A) (4), "Department Heads are delegated the responsibility for... the authority to select applicants, assign duties and prepare position descriptions, determine performance standards, make performance evaluations..." This means the Department Heads are the one who have the authority to hire the employees within their departments not the "Personnel Department."

Administrative Systems Manual Chapter VI (C) Employment (1) Indian Preference (d) states, "The Department Head is delegated the authority to determine that an Indian applicant is not fully qualified to perform the required work under a grant, contract, or compact and decide whether or not it would be feasible, consistent with the efficient performance of the grant or contract, to employ an Indian who is less fully qualified to perform the required work." This means that it is at the Department heads discretion, depending on the funding source, to hire less qualified Indians to do the work... not the Personnel Department.

Chapter VI (C) Employment (2) Tribal Preference states, "Members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma shall serve as the prime recruitment source for positions funded by tribal revenues." This means that AST members will have tribal preference when it comes to positions funded through the General Fund. Again this would go back to the Department Heads to consider, but if they are funded by any

other funding source they only have to go by Indian Preference.

The above policies are regarding the hiring of Indians and AST members. HR is the central location for receiving the applications and working with Department Heads to complete the hiring process. Currently all applications received for available positions are forwarded to department heads for review. HR DOES NOT make the determinations on who should be hired for positions within the Tribe. HR does, however, make the actual conditional offers of employment and determines the eligibility of the new hires based on reference checks, background checks and drug screens. HR can recommend that applicants be hired based on their Indian Preference, Tribal Preference, Education and Experience but these are merely recommendations. The final decision is made by the Department Heads. For the most part, the Department Heads are really good about following our recommendations and choosing applicants using the Indian Preference/AST Preference philosophy. There is a mis-

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conception that HR is the one who chooses who gets hired... this is simply not the case.

The Director of HR can only determine who is hired in the HR department. Currently there are two other employees in HR both of which have been hired by the current HR Director, and they are both AST Tribal Members.

HR and the Treasurer's office started working on revising the Administrative Systems Manual to give Human Resources more of a say in the hiring process. We have asked employees to come and share some of their concerns and give their input in these revisions meetings as well. But we have not been able to complete this process at this time. We will definitely begin focusing on this task again once our new HR employee is trained.

# Constitution Revision Committee

On February 13, 2010, a Special General Council meeting was held to discuss the revisions of the Constitution thus far. There was a pretty good turn out and lots of discussion and suggestions were given. We appreciate all who came out and those who returned their surveys so that we could get as much input from Tribal members as possible. Thank you!

## Questionnaire Results:

Out of 2,429 questionnaires that were sent out we received 82 questionnaires back. These are the results:

1. Do you think this paragraph should remain the same as the old Constitution? **66 YES, 8 NO, 8 N/A**
2. Do you agree with the taking out of the "of Indians" part? **54 YES, 23 NO, 5 N/A**
3. Do you agree with this section that the Legislature having the ability to enact Legislation that would make the rules? **60 YES, 13 NO, 9 N/A**
4. Do you agree with the reduction of blood-

here in regards to the Legislative meetings? **64 YES, 8 NO, 10 N/A**

11. Do you agree with the compensation of the Legislators here? They will not be considered full-time employees. **57 YES, 18 NO, 7 N/A**
12. Do you agree with the Legislature's session? **60 YES, 16 NO, 6 N/A**
13. Do you agree with the duties presented here? **67 YES, 11 NO, 4 N/A**
14. Do you agree with the process of passing of the Bills laid out here? **69 YES, 10 NO, 3 N/A**
15. Do you agree with the powers of the Legislature laid out here? **57 YES, 20 NO, 5 N/A**
16. Do you agree with the restrictions placed on the Legislature here? **65 YES, 11 NO, 6 N/A**
17. Do you agree the Gov. and Lt. Gov. should have four year terms? **59 YES, 17 NO, 6 N/A**  
Do you agree they should run together under the same term? **56 YES, 13 NO, 13 N/A**
18. Do you agree with this section? **68 YES, 10 NO, 4 N/A**
19. Do you agree with this section? **62 YES, 15 NO, 5 N/A**
20. Do you agree with this section regarding impeachment of the Gov.? **66 YES, 11 NO, 5 N/A**

21. Do you agree with this section regarding Exec. compensation? **61 YES,**

**16 NO, 5 N/A**

22. Do you agree with this section? **74 YES, 5 NO, 3 N/A**
23. Do you agree with this section which requires a Tribal Administrator for operation of the Tribe? **67 YES, 11 NO, 4 N/A**
24. Do you agree with the powers given to the Governor? **70 YES, 7 NO, 5 N/A**

Some of these questionnaires also had comments and letters with them as well but they all could not be included here. They are available on a spreadsheet if you would like to receive a copy you can email Briana [Ponkilla at bponkilla@astribe.com](mailto:bponkilla@astribe.com).

## Potential Changes to the Constitution

The Constitution Revision Committee will take the results and comments we received

from the Questionnaire and from the Special General Council and make the necessary revisions to what we have so far. As soon as we get a new version of the Constitution revisions we will have it posted on the website and we will notify you in a future newsletter. If you still have questionnaires you would like to return please feel free to do so, they will still be helpful to us.

## Conclusion

The Constitution Revision Committee is encouraged to see all the participation and the input that was given regarding the changes. A majority of the responses we got were in favor of the revisions we have completed so far and that is very good to know we are on the right track. We would like to invite you all to attend a meeting or share your thoughts about the Constitution revision. The next two Constitution Revision Committee meeting are set for April 10 and May 22 at 9 am at Little Axe Resource Center. If you would like more information or have any questions please feel free to contact me at 405-275-4030 x131 or [bponkilla@astribe.com](mailto:bponkilla@astribe.com). Thank you!

## Resolutions

The following are Resolutions passed during the months of February and March 2010

### EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS:

**E-AS-10-11 02/17/10**

Amends Section 40: Use of Force of the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Police Department Standard Operations and Procedures Manual, effective immediately (*attachment*). *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-12 02/17/10**

Accepts **Alisha Marie Hale, Ruben Pilar Herrera, Jr. and Makiyah Kaylind Anora Deer** as enrolled members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma as of the date of this resolution. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-13 02/17/10**

Grants voluntary relinquishment of mem-

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quantum for enrollment into the AST? **59 YES, 19 NO, 4 N/A**

5. Do you agree with the set up of the Tribal Government with the three separate branches? **67 YES, 10 NO, 5 N/A**
6. Do you agree with the formation of the four Districts? **59 YES, 15 NO, 8 N/A**
7. Do you agree with the procedures for filling a vacancy of a Legislator? **65 YES, 12 NO, 5 N/A**
8. Do you agree the Lt. Gov will chair the meetings? **63 YES, 8 NO, 11 N/A**  
Do you agree the Legislature should have the ability to impeach any of the three bodies? **51 YES, 17 NO, 14 N/A**
9. Do you agree on the session times and regulations set forth here for the Legislature? **65 YES, 11 NO, 6 N/A**
10. Do you agree with the policies set forth

bership of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma to **Brent Lee Lynn Longhorn**, provided that he is accepted into the **Seneca-Cayuga Tribe**. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-14 02/17/10**

Disenrolls **Bradley Brian Longhorn** from the membership roll of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**. (*Due to dual enrollment*) *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-15 03/17/10**

Establishes that the 65th Semi-Annual General Council Meeting for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma be set for April 17, 2010 @ 10:00 a.m. at the Little Axe Resource Center. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: No; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-16 03/17/10**

Requests that the thirty-three and six tenths (33.6) acres described as follows: (*Description in Resolution*) be accepted as land in Trust for gaming for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma by either the National Indian Gaming Commission or the Department of the Interior. *Vote: Lt Governor: No; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-17 03/17/10**

Authorizes and approves the engagement in business as a CLEC, under the applicable rules and regulations of the FCC, in order to provide telephone service, including, but not limited to, network connectivity, standard telephone service and long distance telephone service, originating and terminating on tribal lands and other rural areas of the State and authorizing the Governor or his designee to take any actions necessary or desirable to carry out this resolution, effective immediately. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-18 03/17/10**

Rescinds Resolution E-AS-08-87, approved on September 22, 2008 by

rescinding the authorization and approval transferring ownership of Brendle Corner and Larney Residence to the Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority while the remainder of Resolution E-AS-08-87 shall remain in full force and effect, **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: No; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-19 03/17/10**

Approves, authorizes and supports the submission of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Grant Application for funding under the SMART office entitled, "SMART FY2010 Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management Grant Program" and approving and authorizing the Memorandum of Understanding for the grant application. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-20 03/17/10**

Approves and accepts **Tylee Raquel Longhorn Moore** as an enrolled member of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma as of the date of this resolution. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-21 03/17/10**

Grants voluntary relinquishment of membership of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma to **Stephany Sky Vandusen**, provided that she is accepted into the **Comanche Nation**. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-22 03/17/10**

Disenrolls **Deanna Marie Spybuck** from the membership roll of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma due to dual enrollment, **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-23 03/17/10**

Disenrolls **Marina Cheryl Spybuck** from the membership roll of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma due to dual

enrollment, **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**E-AS-10-24 03/17/10**

Directs all departments who engage in construction projects adhere to a bid process by which all bids are announced by written notice to the entire Executive Committee and to the TERO office before the bid is let, that all funding documentation related to that specific project is



shared with the entire Executive Committee, and once bidding closes all bids are opened and scored in the presence of at least three Executive Committee members immediately following the next Regular or Special Called Executive Committee meeting called after bidding is closed. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: No; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS:**

**L-AS-10-08 02/17/10**

Amends the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Licensing and Tax Code, to read;

**Chapter 10, Tobacco Tax:**

(a) In accordance with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's tobacco compact tax structure and the needs of the tribe there shall be a tribal tax of \$ 3.00 per cigarette carton (20 or 25 per pack of ten packs per carton), and  
(b) a tribal tax of 14.6% of state taxes on other tobacco products,  
(c) to be collected by the wholesaler of such products and submitted monthly to the Absentee Shawnee Tax Commission. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**L-AS-10-09 02/17/10**

Approves the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Tribal Sex Offender Registry



Code; Tribal Sex Offender Registration Policies and Procedures Manual; and the Policy for Registering and Tracking Sex Offenders as attached, effective immediately.

**FURTHER**, that nothing contained in this Resolution herein shall be construed or interpreted to be relinquishment of the sovereign powers and protections of this Tribe nor a waiver of its sovereign immunity; and

**FURTHER**, that the Absentee Shawnee Tribe does not consent to any exercise of state jurisdiction on tribal lands under the National Sex Offender Registry System, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Tribal Sex Offender Registry Code; Tribal

Sex Offender Registration Policies and Procedures Manual; or the Policy for Registering and Tracking Sex Offenders. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**L-AS-10-10 02/17/10**  
 Authorizes the imposition of a gaming regulatory fee of Sixty-Eight Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$68,000) per month on the Thunderbird Casino, to be paid by the casino by the last day of each month, effective March 1, 2010. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: No; Representative: No; Governor: Yes*

**L-AS-101102/17/10**  
 Appropriates an increase of Six Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$6,000.00) to the Human Resources budget and authorizing, approving

and reducing the division of fiscal services budget by Six Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$6,000.00), **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**. *Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**L-AS-10-12 03/17/10**  
 Amends the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Gaming Ordinance as provided for in the attachment "Exhibit A", **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**. *(Attachment) Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

**L-AS-10-13 03/17/10**  
 Amends the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Domestic Violence Code as provided for in the attachment "Exhibit A", **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**. *(Attachment) Vote: Lt Governor: Yes; Secretary: Yes; Treasurer: Yes; Representative: Yes*

# THE PRESS

## ABSENTEE SHAWNEE ELECTION COMMISSION UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS PRIMARY ELECTION - MARCH 20, 2010

This is to announce the **Unofficial** results of the March 20, 2010 Primary Election for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. This election was held on the above date pursuant to the Tribal Constitution and the Election Ordinance. All votes were counted at the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Lt. Governor: (2 Year Term)**

Isaac Gibson, Jr.	<u>114</u>	Votes
Dan Little Axe, Sr.	<u>131</u>	Votes
Alecia Onzahwah	<u>55</u>	Votes

**Treasurer: (2 Year Term)**

Scott Miller	<u>90</u>	Votes
Kathy Deere	<u>135</u>	Votes
Briana Ponkilla	<u>75</u>	Votes

**Representative: (2 Year Term)**

Roy Larney	<u>76</u>	Votes
Jeff Gibson	<u>134</u>	Votes
Betty Watson	<u>89</u>	Votes

### ELECTION COMMISSION

**Election Commissioner: (3 Year Term)**

Sabrina Little Axe	<u>1</u>	Votes
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**Election Secretary: (3 Year Term)**

Meredith Wahpekeche	<u>1</u>	Votes
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PLEASE fill out EACH BLANK completely and return by the Deadline.

### ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify that I am or will be an Eligible Voter  
(Print Name)  
of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe on or before June 19, 2010. I cannot physically be present to  
cast my Vote at the **June 19, 2010 Run Off Election**, therefore, I am requesting an  
Absentee Ballot be mailed to me at the following address.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (middle) (maiden) (last)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ St.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

CDIB#: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

All **REQUESTS** must be returned to the Election Commission by the deadline of  
**May 30, 2010**

Return this Form:

**By Mail to:** Absentee Shawnee Election Commission  
P.O. Box 741  
or Tecumseh, OK 74873

**By Fax to:** Fax# (405) 273 1337  
Phone:(405) 275-4030 ext. 150  
or Toll free number 1-800-256-3341 ext. 150

**Deliver in Person to:** Election Commission Office located in the Tribal Court Building

All eligible voters are entitled to vote either at the Polls or by Absentee Ballot.  
For your convenience – This request may be duplicated.

---

#### ELECTION COMMISSION USE ONLY

Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

If Disapproved (reason): \_\_\_\_\_

Denial Letter Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_ Ballot Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Election Commission/Representative

# CANDIDATE LETTER

## Scott Miller

Treasurer Candidate



Scott Miller

Ho, hi gi  
ke yi fa ho  
wa se li is mi  
mo:

I would like  
to take this  
opportu-  
nity to thank  
you for your

support in the primary elec-  
tion and applaud those who  
choose to run for an execu-  
tive/legislative office. It is  
good to see fresh new faces  
wanting to get involved in  
Tribal Government. I hope  
those who did not make the  
run-off election will continue  
to pursue these elected  
position and strive to make a  
difference.

This is a crucial time for our  
Tribe. Time and opportunity  
is passing by and our Tribe  
has yet to develop major  
alternative sources of rev-  
enue. It is very important we  
elect individuals who have  
the right experience and the  
motivation to move our Tribe  
in a positive direction.

Anyone who has experience  
with governmental budget-  
ing and has paid attention  
to how budgets are created  
will understand budgets are  
projections. There is a major  
difference in governmental

accounting and your person-  
al checking account. Gov-  
ernments create budgets  
well in advance of a current  
year's expenditures based on  
projections and forecasting;  
and our personal budgets  
depend on our paychecks.  
If you have any questions re-  
garding this process just call  
your state and federal repre-  
sentatives.

Again, our Tribe is at a pivotal  
moment. Our Tribe's suc-  
cess or failure for progression  
depends on who we elect as  
representatives of our Tribe.  
You have the opportunity to  
elect individuals who have  
fresh new solid initiatives to  
bring our Tribe to a competi-  
tive and successful level.

It is my wish that all Tribal  
citizens carefully evaluate  
the candidates in the com-  
ing months. Reminding you  
that transgressions against  
the Tribe and present actions  
are a true indicator of what  
will be the future of our dear  
Tribe.

Ne Yi Wa!

Scott Miller for Absentee  
Shawnee Treasurer

## THE GOVERNOR'S CORNER

Says fot the month

### 1. Time to plant a garden

ho-wa ka-ma-ke-ne-ge-ka-pa

### 2. Plow the garden {fields}

ka-ge-ke-ka-pe-ti-wa

### 3. Burn the weeds

ka-pi we-pe-ka-pa

### 4. Sharpen the hoes

ka-ki-se-qa-to-ni he-ne ta-mi-se-  
ke ki-ni

### 5. Buy seeds for:

ka-pi-ta-pa-ni-pa ya-si hi-ge-ka-  
yi-qa

### 6. potatoes

me-yi-se-fi-ke

### 7. corn

ti-me

### 8. beans

me-se-ko-ge-fi-ke

### 9. onion sets

sa-ki-qe-si

### 10. tomato plants

ma-se-qi te ta wi le we

### 11. watermelon

se-ke-ti-ma-ke

### 12. cantaloupe

sa-me-po-qi-ke

### 13. seeds

me-ne-ki-ni

# Optometry Clinic Opening

The Executive Committee, Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health Authority, Inc and the Tribal Health System staff are pleased to announce the opening of an Optometry Program at the Shawnee Clinic. We anticipate opening our doors to patients by mid April 2010.

Dr. Forrest Shed, an optometrist from Norman, will be our provider. He has 30 plus years of experience in op

tometric eye care, medical eye services and other specialty services for diabetic patients. An Optometric Tech will also be employed to provide assistant to Dr. Shed and patients.

Within the scope of care the program will offer:

- Eye exams
- Contact lens fittings
- Retinal testing
- Glaucoma screening
- Dry eye syndrome care
- Medical/allergy treatment
- Diabetic eye care services

Our Optical practice will be equipped with eye glass frames for selection. Selected frames will be sent out and fitted with prescription lenses, then returned to the office for patient's personal fitting. Contacts will also be available as prescribed by the optometrist.

This eye care service is available for AST citizens living within the five (5) county catchment area, and will be the practice setting for those uninsured. We look forward to scheduling your appointment and being your eye care center.

Contact the Shawnee Clinic to schedule your appointment at 405-878-5850.



# OUR

# HEALTH

*Today*

## New Clinics Implemented at Little Axe Clinic

"It is great when employees offer ways to improve our clinic operation, and implementing the Well Child and Immunization clinics are what Valene Bartmess, Nurse Supervisor at Little Axe Clinic recommended," stated Modina Waters, Clinic Administrator. Dr. Boren, Medical Director agreed with Valene in anticipating by having these clinics, the scheduling of patients will make the flow easier to prepare for and maintain. It is also anticipated that patient satisfaction will improve as adequate time is allotted for patient care.

Following are days and times of certain "clinics" being offered to patients at the Little Axe Clinic effective immediately:

Well Child Clinic	Tuesday	1:00-5:00 p.m.
Immunization Clinic	Thursday	1:00-5:00 p.m.
Procedure Clinic	Friday	1:00-5:00 p.m. (for procedures needing 30 minutes or longer)

Parents will be reminded to bring immunization records to any Well Child or Immunization Clinic appointment.

# Time

## AST Conducts Burn

Recently, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe introduced the practice of conducting a Prescribed Burn on a tract of land that it owns. The practice of burning, which has been used for centuries by Native Americans, is a cost effective means of improving the natural resources on tribal lands.

The AST Realty Dept. made a Request for Services, which was approved by the Executive Committee, to improve the 33 acre tract of land located on the southwest corner of Benson Park Rd. and 13<sup>th</sup> St. (Tecumseh Lake property). This piece of land has been sitting dormant for years and was beginning to have an encroachment of Eastern Redcedar population. The burn targeted the removal of any and all old dead growth and the removal of all the 1 ft. – 3 ft. tall cedar tress.

The burn was conducted by Andy Warrior, with the assistance of Allen Tsoodle, Andy Tsoodle, members of the Salt Creek Burn Association, members of the Little Axe Volunteer Fire Dept. and observers from the Tecumseh Fire Dept. Also, assistance was provided by the AST Maintenance Dept. through the use of their resources.

The practice of using fire as a tool, hopefully, will increase in the future as it has proven to be a means to not only improve the natural resources, improve wildlife habitat, improve plant quantity and quality, but reduces the threat of wildfire danger. Please contact the Realty office if you have any questions about this practice, as it comes with policy and procedures that must be followed.



# Love

## My Mission Experience in Haiti Dr. Nathan Boren, MD

Since August of last year, my family and I had been planning to become involved in missions work in Haiti. The earthquake changed our plans, and the immediate need for physicians and medical support staff was evident. In February, I was blessed with an opportunity to spend a week assisting in the Haitian earthquake relief effort.

I joined a team of seven medical professionals and staff arranged through Journey Church in Norman who left Oklahoma City for Dallas early the morning of Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. I took water bottles, scrubs, energy bars and a suitcase full of medical supplies donated by the church and

the AST Clinic. We then flew to Miami and finally to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. After staying in a motel, we took a six hour bus ride across the border into Haiti which took most of Sunday.

The bus ride was revealing. In the Dominican Republic we drove past towns which were not unlike those in Oklahoma. Abundant power lines, cars and houses dotted the landscape. We arrived at the border and had to wait an hour while we cleared customs. We then got back on the bus and crossed into Haiti.

The difference between Haiti and the rest of the world that I had seen was shocking. People lived in tents or crumbling cinder block buildings. Some had motorcycles or cell phones and not much else in regard to property. Electricity and running water were luxuries.

We arrived at the bus station in Haiti and were whisked away to the mission as a small but angry group of Haitian youths, who felt that we did not give them enough money for 'helping' us with our luggage, cursed us

as we drove off. After a harrowing ride in a small pickup in which traffic laws and well-paved roads were absent, we arrived at the mission.

The mission of Hope is a Christian mission just northwest of Port-au-Prince. It includes a church, orphanage, medical clinic and school and resembles a summer camp setting. We had electricity available at night and were able to get plenty of lukewarm, fishy smelling drinking water at the guest house. Haitian food consisted mainly of rice with chopped chicken (bones and all) and local produce including melons, bananas, sugar cane and mango. It was delicious!

Our team consisted of me, three nurses, an EMT, a cameraman and our minister. We joined additional teams made up of several providers in a variety of fields including pediatrics, emergency medicine, anesthesiology and wound care. There were four other family doctors from various countries.

My primary role was to see the numerous patients afflicted by a variety of

## The Mission of Hope Orphanage

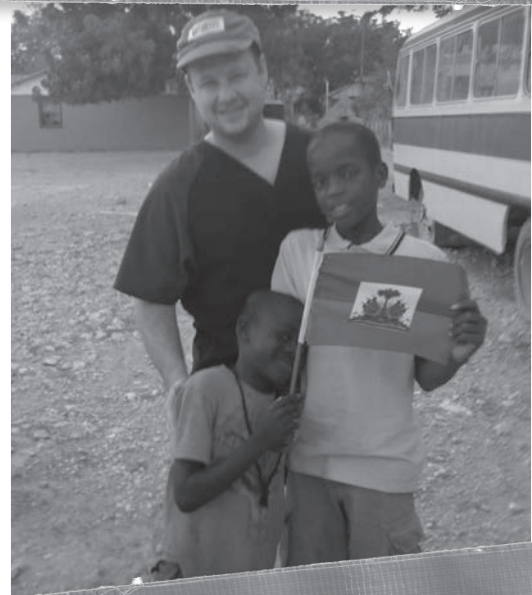
diseases. Most had infectious diseases including colds, bronchitis, flu, worms, malaria, typhoid, yellow fever, hepatitis and HIV. Dozens of children were malnourished and dehydrated. There were several earthquake victims who suffered with poorly set fractures and non-healing wounds. We saw hundreds of patients over the course of a week and did our best to provide the necessary treatment even though we had limited ability to perform lab and had no x-ray capability. The pharmacy had many donated medicines, some of which we quickly ran out and often substituted with alternative options which were not as effective.

The patients were always respectful and had a stoicism that is not often seen in the U.S. Every morning, hundreds gathered in the waiting area and began the day with a hymn followed by the Lord's Prayer and often had to wait six hours to be seen. They spoke French Creole and were only able to communicate through translators.

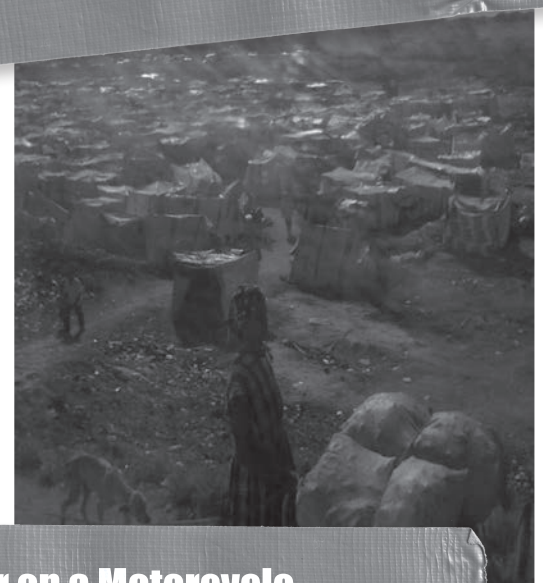
One patient told me her symptoms. I asked her if she had seen a doctor for these symptoms before. She confirmed that she had and I asked her what treatment she had previously received. She said that she took some 'medicine' and got better but that her symptoms had returned. I asked her what the medicine was and she didn't know. After continued quizzing she became annoyed and said "You should know what to do, you are a doctor. First there is God, then Jesus, then doctors." I tried to explain to her that I had no special powers and that I needed more information in order to help her. This didn't convince her so I gave her some vitamins and antibiotics which seemed to satisfy her. A second patient was very ill. After an exam and an HIV test I was able to diagnose her with AIDS. When I informed her, she told me that she had never heard of this and was unable to comprehend the severity of her malady. I referred her to an HIV specialty 'center' and can only hope that she was able to get the treatment she needed. Another patient was brought in unconscious in the back of a pick-up by some local 'authorities'. We revived her until she was able to stand with assistance. When I asked her how she was going to get home, her husband informed me that he would take her. I watched as he and two other family members assisted her outside. They all four got on a motorcycle and rode away.

Our team completed our service and came home the way we arrived driving past a mass grave in which over 100,000 earthquake victims were buried. We flew into Miami early Sunday morning and had a nine hour layover. This gave us an opportunity to spend some time on Miami Beach. It was heartbreaking to see what wealth was available to us in America and to witness the absolute poverty and destitution which was less than two hours away.

I am grateful for having the chance to provide some much needed medical assistance to many patients who would have otherwise had none. I also hope that I was able to provide as much encouragement to them as they were able to provide to me, because initially, I was afraid that I would be unable to see God in Haiti. But even if I am too blind, the Haitian people seem to see Him clearly.



Tent City



Four on a Motorcycle



# DETERMINATION

Tribal member Jimmy Dowell Squire, a McCloud graduate, is an amputee who has endured many challenges. At the age of three, Squire was involved in a riding lawn mower accident causing him to lose his right foot. At the age of nine, his family moved to McCloud and he became a student at McCloud Intermediate School. "Back then kids were really mean and a lot of kids teased me," said Squire. I was held back in the fourth grade because I just couldn't get my work done with all of the bullying." Squire knew he needed to find an outlet and by sixth grade he began to play soccer. Later he tried basketball and eventually played football and baseball, Squire even tried wrestling. "I began to see that I was very athletic and participating in the activities was really good for me," said Squire. "I found the best results in wrestling and so I stuck with that and really had a lot of success." However, before Jimmy could participate in athletics at McCloud he had to go before the school board and ask for their approval. He was the only amputee at McCloud and the situation was different and required much thought on the part of the board. Jimmy understood that his participation was a liability concern, however he was anxious to participate and the McCloud School Board could see that. The board's approval was given and Jimmy began to compete in various sports. "I remember that it took a while for the other kids and athletes to get on board with my being a part of the sports," said Squire. "They were a little uneasy with my injury and no one really wanted to wrestle me but eventually they came around." Jimmy started as a below the ankle amputee but at the age of 15 he had another surgery resulting in a below the knee amputation. At the age

of 20 he became an above the knee amputee after final growth and development took place. He became active in wheelchair basketball at OU and OSU and he participated in track and field activities. Squire also participated in the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) Endeavor Games in Oklahoma City in 2006 where he won gold medals in wheelchair softball and the long jump and a bronze medal in the 100 meter swim freestyle. Within the same year, Squire participated in the Extremity Games in Orlando, Florida where he received National ranking. He also enjoyed the opportunity to carry the Olympic torch when it passed through Oklahoma in 1998. "I have found tremendous courage and strength in my Native American history," said Squire. "One of my role models has always been Jim Thorpe and I've patterned my life and my athletic course after Thorpe." In 2004 Squire had the opportunity to learn more about his hero when he was invited and attended the grand opening ceremonies for the newest building in the Smithsonian Institute Complex, The National Museum of the American Indian. Squire has had many wonderful opportunities to be an example of strength and courage and has been a role model for that reason. "I have found such tremendous strength in my heritage as a Native American and from just being close to nature, animals and creation," said Squire. "My heritage and my relationship with God, his planning my name and my life in his book before I was born have given me great comfort and strength." Currently Squire spends his time with his daughter Autumn Lynn Parsons Squire (named after the Alps mountains) and working with the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma in their Eagle rehabilita-

tion program. He also enjoys participating in singing and dancing during the Native American powwows and being a part of his Native American society. Squire recently returned to McCloud to participate in the Alumni Wrestling match to raise money for the McCloud wrestling program.

This article was taken and condensed from the original article written by Jayne Sconyers from The Friday Gazette

media

Alberty, Shannon Venita  
Alexander, Rachel Paulette  
Alford Jr., Eugene Ray  
Alford, Ray Wildcat  
Arms, Steven Anthony  
Armstrong, Tina Marie  
Barnes, Hollin Kade Eugene  
Bates, Johnna Suzanne  
Batson-Vasquez, Amber Danielle  
Berry, Collin Michael  
Bettelyoun, Cameron Jake  
Blanchard II, Clifford Ray  
Blanchard, Baley Andrea  
Blanchard, Harry James  
Blanchard, Jakhahri HayLéroy  
Blanchard, John Christopher  
Bradley, Willard Lee  
Bradshaw, Jana Marie  
Brady, Scott Edgar  
Brokesoulder Jr., Clifton  
Brokesoulder, Brent Todd  
Brokesoulder, Eddie K.  
Brown, Jennifer Leah  
Bryce, Shayla Maelyn  
Buckley, Dawn Michele  
Burkhart, Joe Louis  
Butler, Matthew Aaron  
Byers, Reanna Nicole  
Byers, Zachary Elias  
Byrd, Lyndell D Armond  
Caires, Vanessa Little Axe  
Charley, Mary Serene  
Chisholm, Carly Nicole  
Clark, Dallas Joseph  
Clark, Dave George  
Coddington, Michael Richard  
Coffee, Sahaunie Nicole  
Coon Jr., Stacy William  
Creek Sr., Albert  
Creek, Amber Lee  
Creek, Eunice Marie  
Creek, Stevie Eli  
Cryder, Michael Lawrence  
Davis Sr., Edward Leroy  
Davis, Jyquale Lee De'shon  
Deere, Neva Lee ( Larney )  
Dibler, Dale G.  
Doussett, Delisha Ann  
Draper, Reuben James  
Draper, Russell Lee  
Ellis, Ariel Raquel  
Ellis, Russell Bruce  
Fife, Andrew Jacob  
Frank, Janice Arlene  
Garfield, Alicia Raejhaun  
Gibson, Darianne Alexander  
Gibson, Jaysan Baylee  
Gibson, Mary Ann  
Gibson, Melonie Dian  
Gibson, Norma Jean  
Gibson, Randall Glen  
Gilman, Robert Everett  
Goodwin, Dawn Marie  
Goodwin, Larry Tiger  
Gouge Jr., Marg  
Gouge, Courtney Waynell  
Graham, Charles Robert

Grass, Solomon Wayne  
Griffin, Ladawn Abraham  
Hamon-Breeden, Katie Marie  
Harjo, Timothy A.  
Harris, Monte Lee  
Harvey II, Johnny Troy  
Haumpy, Ariann Renee  
Haumpy, Gage Allen  
Hernandez, Curtis David  
Hill, Trent David  
Holderness, Samantha Grace  
Hollenbeck, May Angela  
Hood, Randolph Paul  
Hudson, Latasha Kay  
Hunt, Leona Lucile  
Hurst, Maegan Nicole  
Hurst, Merle Laverne  
Jacobs, Maria Elena  
Jacobs, Stormie Raelein  
James, Na'chelle Ardena Mae  
Johnson Jr, David Lee  
Johnson, Adison Graci Mae  
Johnson, Justice Lonewolf  
Johnson, Richard Michael  
Johnson, Shoshanna Louise  
Johnson, Victoria Maria  
Johnson, Zachary Howard  
Jones, Anita Louise  
Kaniatobe, Marjorie Ann  
Kelsey, Leigha Marie  
Kennedy II, James Walter  
Key, Christian Trey  
Kilmer, Lelia Lashell  
Kinnamon Jr, Larry Leon  
Kinsey, Margie  
Lasenberry, Lawrence G.  
Little Axe Jr., Troy Lee  
Little Axe, Diane Gail  
Little Axe, Jordan Kane  
Little Axe, Joshua Taylor  
Little Axe, Kaylee Jean  
Little Axe, Shiloh Blue  
Little Charley, Evelyn Lavon  
Little Creek, Alex  
Little Creek, Lawrence Keith  
Little Jr., Gilbert Boyd  
Littlebear, Tonya Lynn  
Littlecreek, Nelson Joe Thackery  
Littlecreek, Samantha Jolene  
Littlecreek, Thomas Eugene  
Longhorn, Darrell Wayne  
Longhorn, Leonard Wayne  
Longhorn, Twila Olene  
Longhorn, Vincent Wade  
Longman, Cherokee Dakota  
Longman, Trina Ann  
Mack Sr., Thomas James  
Mack, Trenten hunter  
Malone, Riley  
Mann, Raymond Freeland  
Mann, Richard Freeman  
Mann, Savannah Nicole  
Mann, Taylor Lawrence  
Markwardt, Franklin Thomas  
Martin, April Denise  
Martin, Kinley Rae  
Martinez, Amaya Rynae

Martinez, Danielle Lynn  
Mason, Suzanna Rachel Powell  
Masquas, Phillip Jon  
Masquat, Iola Renee  
Massey, Karen Sue  
Mattingly, Alana Irene  
Mayo, Melba Mary  
McBride, Alice Jean Dirt  
McDaniel, Karen Diane  
McGirt, Dana Dale  
Meek, Phillip Edward  
Megyesi, Charles Stevens  
Milburn, Heather Renee  
Mills, Brian Richard  
Mohawk, Curtis Roy  
Monroe, Pamela Sue  
Morgan, Summer Dawn  
Morin, Misty Twilight Couch  
Morton, Joshua David  
Nakamoto, Gina Jessica  
Nelson Jr, Daniel Lee  
Ness, Mary Ellen  
Nowlin, Pak Louise  
Ochoa, Alejandro Juan  
Owdetallah, Angela Marie  
Oxley, Stephanie Renee  
Pack, Christie Lorraine  
Parker, Elizabeth Isabelle  
Parker, Sarah Lynn  
Pawpa, Shirley Ann  
Petit, Sherri Ann  
Ponkilla, Yvonne Diane  
Powell, Tammy Marie  
Raisbeck, Cathy Jean  
Richey, Jennifer Lynn  
Robertson, Winifred L.  
Rolette, Gregory Shawn  
Roller, Geraldine M Bradley  
Runsabove, Bryce Leigh  
Ryder, Vanessa Louise  
Sanchez, Citlali  
Sellers, Levi Dalton  
Shawnee, Sharon Dale  
Sherrill, Penelope  
Sloan, Jenifer  
Smith, Joshua Dean  
Smith, Noah Ryan  
Snake, Archie Ellis  
Soap, Alpha Christine  
Spoon, Ashley Donelle  
Spoon, Marques Dwyane  
Spoon, Samuel Lee  
Spriggs, Brian Lee  
Spybuck, Adrienne Eileen  
Spybuck, Larry Eldon  
Spybuck, Thomas Mark  
Squire, Billie Gene  
Squire, Samson Robert  
Squire, Wilbur James  
Starr-Fuentez, Olivia Angelina  
Stephens, William Lee  
Stewart, Sandra Leigh  
Stone Sr., James Lee  
Stone, Dawn Michelle  
Sullivan, Tiffany Chantele  
Sumka, Lena Darcille  
Switch #466260, Traci Lynn

Switch, Charles William  
Taryole, Trevor Seth  
Tascier, Timothy Andrew  
Tenner, Taylor Denise  
Thompson, Rhonda Gail  
Thornhill, Westly Lynn  
Thorpe, Brady Wayne  
Thorpe, Mary Catherine  
Tieyah, Lavern Wilson  
Tiger, Patricia Ann  
Tiger, Stephon Michael  
Wabaunasee, Thelma Jean  
Wallace, Kay Laverne  
Walley, Johnny Ray  
Warrior, Marcellus James  
Washington, David Axe  
Washington, Kenneth  
Washington, Kevin Bryan  
Washington, Samantha Lynn  
Watkins, Autum Paige  
Watson, Frankie Louise Kaseca  
Watson, Jayden Tyler Scott  
Whinery, Pamela Jean  
White, Brenda Kaye  
White, Wesley Shane  
Whited, Kimberly Diane  
Whittington, Charlene E.  
Williams, Seth Andreas  
Wilson, Alize` Jade  
Wilson, Damon Allen  
Wilson, Drake Kenneth Rylee  
Wilson, Ethan Hawke  
Wilson, Harold Wayne  
Wilson, Howard Gene  
Wilson, James Wayne  
Witt, Joseph Andrew  
Wunderlin, Travis Rece

april 24 happy birthday baley  
blanchard love nana debbie and g-  
aunt rhonda we love you bunches

Happy Birthday Ray on April 4th  
We love you !  
Mom, Buster, Gina & Tara

Happy Birthday "Uncle"  
I love you !  
Tessa

Happy "18th" Birthday Lindsey  
Nicole James  
We Love you !  
Tessa Baker, Regina & The Battise  
Family

Happy 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Zachary Elias Byers  
From  
Aunt Sherry, Uncle Marvin,  
Uncle Shawn, Aunt Marilyn  
& all your cousins

Happy Birthday & April Fools  
Sharon Shawnee  
Have a Goot One!  
Love  
Marvin & Sherry

Happy Birthday  
RAMONA  
From  
Sherry

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
APRIL 1ST  
PAMELA WHINERY  
LOVE MOM & DAD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
APRIL 10TH  
MARTY KANAITOB  
LOVE SISTERS & BROTHER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
APRIL 19TH  
LEIGHA KELSEY  
LOVE TO OUR GRAND DAUGHTER  
MEMA AND PAPA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
ARPI 28TH  
JENIFER SALON  
LOVE BROTHER & SISTERS





# EASTER EGG HUNT!!!

Saturday, April 3

Noon - 2 pm

Shawnee Clinic - AST Complex

for Children of:  
Absentee Shawnee Tribal Citizens  
Absentee Shawnee Tribal Employees  
Building Blocks  
CTSA



Health Fair. Free Food. Door-Prizes. Prize Eggs

THE MEDIA DEPARTMENT'S

## Saying of the Month...

Education makes people easy to lead, but  
difficult to drive; easy to govern, but  
impossible to enslave.

Omar Nelson Bradley

# Domestic violence Program

The Domestic Violence Department would like to announce the hiring of two new employees Jackie Denny and Linda Domingez. Jackie is the Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Manager. Her job will be to place domestic violence victims into Transitional Housing once they have left a shelter. The Transitional Housing Program will be the next step to help victims and their children ensure independent living. The program will allow victims and their children to get help with living costs, financial guidance, and counseling. Linda is the Sexual Assault Advocate. Her job will be to advocate for those affected by relationship violence and/or sexual assault, work to provide case management, needs assessment, goal planning and referrals, and accompany client to law enforcement and court hearings, and/or hospital.

The Domestic Violence program is steadily growing so that we can help the victims and their children when the need is there. The Domestic Violence Program also offers emergency assistance to victims needing transportation, food, clothing and other concrete client needs. We also will help with rent and security deposits, emergency shelter needs such as placing a victim in a safe shelter or a hotel. We utilize local Domestic Violence shelters. We work with the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Court, Absentee Shawnee Indian Child Welfare, Absentee Shawnee Police Office and Absentee Shawnee Behavioral Health in every effort to help the victims of Domestic Violence. We will also work with other Tribal and State Domestic Violence agencies to eliminate the crimes that victims suffer.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at the following numbers:

Kimberly Stephens, Director/Domestic Violence Advocate  
(405) 275-4030 Ext. 156

Rick Short, Domestic Violence Coordinator  
(405) 275-4030 Ext. 156

Jackie Denny, Transitional Housing Manager  
(405) 275-4030 Ext. 108

Linda Domingez, Sexual Assault Advocate  
(405) 275-4030 Ext. 206

Margaret Ellis, Administrative Assistant  
(405) 275-4030 Ext. 193



The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence (focusing on sexual assault and rape) and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. The teal ribbon is worn throughout the month of April in support to promote the prevention of **Sexual Assault**.

# Indian Child Welfare

For over 20 years, the month of April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month. In continuing to educate the community about child abuse and how people can help, here is a list of potential warning signs if you suspect a child may be a victim of abuse.

## Warning signs of Emotional Abuse in children:

Excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong.

Shows extremes in behavior (extremely compliant or extremely demanding, extremely passive or extremely aggressive).

Doesn't seem to be attached to the parent or caregiver

Acts either inappropriately adult (taking care of other children/siblings) or inappropriately infantile (rocking, thumb sucking, tantruming).

**\*\* Emotional abuse is verbal abuse or an attitude that is degrading a child. This can include name calling, screaming, shaming or negatively comparing a child to another "good" child. Emotional abuse can have long lasting effects on the social and mental health development of a child. \*\***

## Warning signs of Physical Abuse in children:

Frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, welts, or cuts.

Is always watchful and "on alert", as if waiting for something bad to happen.

Injuries appear to have a pattern such as marks from a hand or belt.

Shies away from touch, flinches at sudden movements, or seems afraid to go home.

Wears inappropriate clothing to cover up injuries, such as long-sleeved shirts on hot days.

**\*\*Physical abuse is an injury purposely inflicted upon a child. This can include kicking, biting, violent shaking, hair pulling, choking, burning or beating. These are just some of this type of abuse. Be concerned if a child has numerous fractures, welts, or bruises in various stages of healing, these can be good reason to be suspicious. If there is a pattern of injuries with explanations that don't add up, this is a serious red flag and should be brought to the attention of social services or some other authority in your area.\*\***

## Warning signs of Neglect in children:

Clothes are ill-fitting, filthy, or inappropriate for weather.

Hygiene is consistently bad (unbathed, matted and unwashed hair, noticeable body odor).

Untreated illnesses and physical injuries.

Is frequently unsupervised or left alone or allowed to play in unsafe situations and environments.

Is frequently late or missing school.

**\*\*Neglect is failing to provide for a child the basic needs. This can include inappropriate clothing for the weather, unhealthy food, or no food at all, lack of supervision, denial of medical care to a sick or injured child or denial of love and affection.\*\***

## Warning signs of Sexual Abuse in children:

Trouble walking or sitting.

Displays knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to his or her age, or even seductive behavior.

Makes strong efforts to avoid a specific person, without an obvious reason.

Doesn't want to change clothes in front of other, or participate in physical activities.

An STD or pregnancy, especially under the age of 14.

Runs away from home.

**\*\*Sexual abuse is any sexual act between a child and an adult. Actual intercourse does not have to occur for a child to be considered sexually abuse. Children can be forced to observe or participate in various sexual acts\*\***

Important numbers:

Department of Human Services Hotline: 800-522-3511

Absentee Shawnee Tribe ICW: (405)275-4030

Absentee Shawnee Tribe Law Enforcement(405)275-3200



OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

March 15, 2010

**Contact:**

Damon Gardenhire,  
Asst. Dean for Communications & Marketing  
Oklahoma City University School of Law  
(405) 208-6300  
[dgardenhire@okcu.edu](mailto:dgardenhire@okcu.edu)

## **OCU LAW Native American Legal Resource Center Director's Work Featured in Several Events Nationwide**

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — OCU LAW Professor Kelly Stoner's expertise on domestic violence issues in Indian Country has been in demand lately, with speaking engagements and meetings scheduled across the country.

"We need to continue to find ways to empower tribal governments to break the cycle of violence in families," Stoner says. "And attorneys play a key role in helping women and children navigate what can often be a bewildering legal system."

Stoner, director of OCU LAW's Native American Legal Resource Center, in mid-March presented at the National Symposium on Child Protection in Indian Country held in Santa Ana, New Mexico. The symposium convened Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, tribal leaders and social service advocates.

Stoner appeared at the event during a concurrent session entitled, "The Connection between Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment—Breaking the Cycle." The symposium focused on the need for comprehensive community approaches to issues affecting the safety of children in Native American communities — with a spotlight on the latest trends related to combating child abuse, neglect and exploitation.

In recent years, Stoner has overseen the launch of a Native American Victims' Rights Clinic at OCU LAW, providing public interest fellowship opportunities during the summer for students to work for legal services providers who provide assistance to those who cannot afford a private attorney. The NALRC also has teamed up to provide support for the Native Alliance Against Violence—an effort to bring Oklahoma's 37 tribal governments together in a coordinated response to combat domestic violence.

On March 17, Stoner will attend a special meeting organized by the Acting Director of the Office on Violence Against Women on behalf of the U.S. Attorney General in Washington, D.C. The meeting of experts on "Children Exposed to Violence" will be held at the U.S. Department of Justice.

In April, Stoner is scheduled as a featured panelist at the 35th Annual Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She'll be featured in a discussion on Thursday April 8 entitled, "The Power to Protect: Tribal Court Jurisdiction and Protective Orders."

-30-

### **ABOUT OCU LAW**

*Oklahoma City University School of Law is fully approved by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. It offers full- and part-time degree programs and serves a diverse student body of approximately 600. Its 5,000 alumni practice in every state and several foreign countries. For more information, visit [www.okcu.edu/law](http://www.okcu.edu/law)*

# N.Y.P.D.

## Native Youth Preventing Diabetes Camp



# June 14-18, 2010

**What:** 5 day/4 night camp

**Where:** North of Wagoner

**Camp Activities:** Archery, Rock Wall Climbing, Swimming, Fishing, Hiking, Story Telling, Cultural Games, and Native American Dancing

### **Who's Eligible?**

- Kids Ages: 8-12
- Native American Children with a CDIB
- \$25.00 registration fee
- Limited to the 1st 25 children



For more information please contact: Leah Bates 405-360-0698

Applications due by MAY 14th at Noon

# **ATTENTION!!!! Note from Representative:**

The BIA Southern Plains Regional Office, Branch of Natural Resources is accepting applications for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Resource Technician Training Program. Selected candidates will attend 4 weeks of training and may receive a one year voucher for full-time temporary employment with their tribal government as an entry level Water Resources Technician. The training is tentatively scheduled for June 6 through July 20, 2010 at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The deadline for applications is April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

PLEASE CONTACT TRESHA SPOON FOR AN APPLICATION

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## **Education Department**

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

Academic (K-12) Program: assists with academic related expenses, and a portion of funds can be used for school-related athletic program expenses. Program has a maximum funding limit for the academic year.

Zahn Program: established from a trust fund, program can help with some graduation expenses, and awards two (2) incentives: one for GED recipients and one for High School graduates. Program has a maximum amount of funding for graduation expenses.

Job Training Adult Education Program: funds for vocational training at accredited vocational institutions. Program has a maximum funding limit for the calendar year or per program.

Higher Education: Education Incentive Award Program: funds for undergraduate degrees, one associates or bachelors degree, at any accredited college or university. Funding levels are determined based upon grade point average and full-time or part-time status.

Graduate Scholarship Program: funds for one master's degree or one doctoral degree, and can fund for one graduate admissions test. This program has funding levels based upon full-time and part-time status.

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

### **Attention:**

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

There are no deadlines for the Job Training Adult Education Program, but you must submit your application documents at least three weeks prior to the beginning of the course to ensure funding is available and can be disbursed to the institution.

Applications for the Education Incentive Award Program are due July 31, 2010.

For more information, please call Tresha Spoon at (405) 275-4030 ext. 121 or 1-800-256-3341 or email to [tresham@astribe.com](mailto:tresham@astribe.com).

## AST/EOC Tech contract courses still available:

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe has an agreement with Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center to offer courses for tribal members and employees. More information is available on the tribe's website at [www.astribe.com](http://www.astribe.com). No online courses are covered in the contract. All courses are campus-based courses only. The contract covers tuition and books, additional supplies required for the courses are the responsibility of the tribal member. Eligible courses are short-term courses, no full-time programs. This contract covers up to \$6,000.00 worth of tuition and books for tribal members, once this amount is depleted the agreement ends. A catalog of spring 2010 courses can be found at [www.eoctech.org](http://www.eoctech.org).

We have been into this agreement for a couple of years and we need to fulfill this agreement as soon as possible. For tribal members interested in taking a course, the application is available for download or a copy can be picked up at the Education Department. Tribal members need to make an appointment to meet with the Education Director, Tresha Spoon, to complete the application process. Please bring your completed application and a copy of your tribal enrollment card.

If you have any questions, please call Tresha Spoon at (405) 275-4030 ext. 121 or email to [tresham@astribe.com](mailto:tresham@astribe.com).

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## Eastern Oklahoma County Tech Center

### All Nations Tribal Fire Academy

**“The Fire Academy is an all Native American Fire Academy”**

The Education Department of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe is hosting an informational meeting regarding the upcoming All Nations Tribal Fire Academy at the Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center in Choctaw.

**Location:** Little Axe Resource Center  
1970 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Norman, OK 73026

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 13, 2010  
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm



The Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center is offering a full time summer Fire Academy specializing in Structural and Wild Land Firefighting. The program was designed to introduce and prepare Native Americans for a position in the fire service as a career Firefighter or volunteer Firefighter. We would like to make this program available to tribal members as a means to prepare them for the workforce in the above mentioned fields.

#### Fire Academy Core Curriculum

- Firefighter I
- Firefighter II
- Hazardous Materials Operations
- Liquid Petroleum Gas
- Flashover
- Wild Land
- Fire Internship
- IFSAC testing (National Certification)
- First Responder



#### **Refreshments will be provided.**

Please contact Tresha Spoon at the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Education Department  
(405) 275-4030 ext. 121, or 1-800-256-3341, or email to [tresham@astribe.com](mailto:tresham@astribe.com).

# After School Program

- Sports and Activities
- Study Hall Sessions
- Guest Speakers
- College Visitations
- Fun and Exciting Trips

We Will Shuttle  
Participants From  
Little Axe Schools  
6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Held At the Absentee Shawnee Tribal  
Resource Center  
Monday – Friday 2:30 pm – 6:00 pm  
**Starting Date:** March 29

Call to Get Signed up Today!  
Space is Limited  
Contact Margaret Ellis at:  
275-4030 ext. 193



## CURRENT JOB POSTINGS AS OF March 26, 2010

### GAMING COMMISSION

- Surveillance Operator

### COURT/LEGAL/POLICE

- Supreme Court Tribal Judge
- Methamphetamine Grant Project Coordinator

### BUILDING BLOCKS

- (2)Food Service Preparation Specialist
- (2)Teacher
- Master Teacher
- Assistant Teacher
- Floater

### HEALTH

- Dentist
- Physicians Assistant
- Registered Nurse-Diabetes
- Health Information Technician
- Physical Activity Specialist
- Data Specialist
- Patient Benefit Advocate
- Optometric Tech.
- Programmer
- Patient Registration Clerk
- Transportation Driver

### ICW

- PSSF Caseworker/Parent Educator

### MIS

- Programmer

### FAMILY SERVICES

- Part-Time Victim Advocate (2)
- Victim Resource Coordinator

### OEP

- Part-Time Environmental Worker

Job descriptions will be available online:  
<http://www.astribe.com/Employment.html>

If you have any questions about the job positions and their job descriptions you can also contact Briana Ponkilla or Tricia Dietrich in the Human Resources Department at the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma at: (405)275-4030.

# ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes  
Of  
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Thunderbird Casino  
15700 East Highway 9  
Norman, OK  
1900 Hours

### **CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1909 by Executive Officer David Voyles. The meeting was adjourned by Commander Walter Larney at 2000 hours.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Executive Officer David Voyles called the meeting to order at approximately 1909.

### **INVOCATION:**

The invocation was led by Chaplain Don Schulenberg.

### **PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Administrations Officer John Vanderburg.

### **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE VETERANS CREED:**

The Creed was led by Operations Officer Esteline Schulenberg.

### **INVOCATION OF OFFICERS:**

The invocation of new officers was led by Chaplain Don Schulenberg. New/Re-elected/Appointed officers:  
Commander: Walter L. Larney  
Executive Officer: David J. Voyles  
Operations Officer: Esteline Schulenberg  
Administrations Officer: John Vanderburg  
First Sergeant: TBA  
Chaplain: Don Schulenberg



**ATTENDANCE (9):**

**OFFICERS (6):**

Commander: Walter Larney  
Executive Officer: David Voyles  
Operations Officer: Estelene Schulenberg  
Administrations Officer: John Vanderburg  
First Sergeant: absent  
Chaplain: Don Schulenberg

**MEMBERS (4):**

Roy Charley  
Elroy Alford  
Richard Birdtail  
Mary Birdtail

**NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS (0):**

None

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:**

None

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

The Minutes of February 10, 2010 were read by Admin Officer Vanderburg.

A motion to approve said minutes was made by Don Schulenberg, seconded by Roy Charley and approved by unanimous vote.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Executive Officer's Report:** Executive Officer David Voyles expressed it is taking time for the organization to get back on track after losing it's office but things are beginning to look up and move forward. Officer Voyles mentioned there are many things in the works right now and the group has a good support base. He continued, we will continue to work toward establishing ourselves as a separate entity and pursue our own tax id number. We also need to upgrade of our contact phone, currently carried by John [Vanderburg] so, I propose we do that as well.

**Operations Officer's Report:** Operations Officer Estelene Schulenberg read a letter, which she had passed out to the membership, sent to her by the Oklahoma City Thunder Entertainment Coordinator. The letter contained information pertaining to the AST Color Guard presenting the colors at the Oklahoma City Thunder game Sunday, March 14, 2010 (which was agreed upon by the membership in February's meeting).

**1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant's Report:** None given.

**Administration Officer's Report:**

Checking Account: \$219.73  
"Coffee Can" Account: \$182.76  
Current Membership: 18  
February's Attendance: 13  
Meeting Average: 14.5



Administrations Officer John Vanderburg read an email sent to him by Veteran's Association member and State Representative Shane Jett. The email stated Jett would be announcing his candidacy for the 5<sup>th</sup> District Congressional seat.

Officer Vanderburg stated he was told by the OKC Thunder Entertainment Coordinator that additional tickets for Sunday's game would have to be purchased through the Thunder's ticket office and a discount would only be given to a group of ten or more.

**Chaplain's Report:** Nothing to report.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Membership voted on the uniform to be worn at the Oklahoma City Thunder game, for the presenting of the colors, on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. The membership chose to wear the organizational vests. Commander Larney put the decision to a vote. The membership voted 8 to 1 in favor of the vests.

Chaplain Schulenberg said he would like the group to continue toward the establishing of the Tribal American Legion post but encour-

aged waiting until June to pursue such action. Schulenberg requested to make a motion, Commander Larney recognized the motion, and motion was seconded by Esteline Schulenberg and approved by a unanimous decision.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The next membership meeting will be Wednesday, **April 14, 2010** at the **Tribal Office of Environmental Protection** [the corner of Highway 177 and Benson Park Road, Shawnee, OK 74801]. The meeting will begin at **7PM**. A pot-luck dinner will follow the meeting.
- AST Veterans Association POC: Administrations Officer John Vanderburg 405-481-3822

#### **BENEDICTION:**

The benediction was led by Chaplain Schulenberg.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Commander Larney asked the membership for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Don Schulenberg, seconded by Esteline Schulenberg and passed by unanimous vote.

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# **Thunderbird CASINO**

During our first report to General Council in April of 2008, many of you expressed concern over the financial condition of the Casino. You did this with good reason. As of January 2008, Thunderbird Casino was under public attack. The GM had recently resigned, the Governor had recently resigned, some vendor accounts payables were over six months past due, and local papers reported that the Casino was unable to pay jackpots. There had been consistent layoffs, the staff was unsure if they would receive their next paycheck, and the external auditors stated in their 2007 audit that there was "substantial doubt about the Casino's ability to continue as a going concern." This meant, in the auditor's opinion, there was a good chance the Casino would not be able to stay open over the course of the next 12 months. Customers literally called the Casino and asked if we were still open on a daily basis.

There are many rumors speculating about the events that lead up to the Casino's darkest days, however, the truth is much simpler. Prior to 2006, there were many profitable years for the Casino and business was good. This was before the opening of Riverwind Casino quickly followed by the opening of Firelake Grand Casino. These two casinos cut off both the I-35 and I-40 interstate accesses

to Thunderbird. Unsure of how to survive in a more competitive market, the Casino saw monthly revenues spiral from \$1.3 million in March 2007 to a crippling \$650,000 by December of the same year. During the second half of 2007, Thunderbird survived by depleting cash reserves, borrowing money from the Tribe, and not paying their vendors. These, along with many other detrimental factors are what lead to the newspaper reports and the uncertainty of the Casino's future.

Those are the facts prior to our employment in late January 2008. Thanks to the support of the TEC Board of Directors and the hard work and dedication of many people that work at Thunderbird, the Casino was able to move forward into a new era as a viable and profitable enterprise for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Over the past two years, we have been able to update and improve many aspects of the Casino. As many of you have seen for yourself, new carpet has been installed, walls have been torn down and the casino floor was completely redesigned. Air conditioners have been fixed and/or replaced and an entire new computer system including new computers, new servers, and a new network backbone has been installed. One of the most important and necessary improvements was the replacement of a non-functioning ticket redemption system (EC Development's Tahoe System) with a state-of-the art complete Casino Management System. Many of you know this system as the Oasis system or our player's tracking system. With this new system, we have been able to develop direct marketing campaigns targeting our customers and significantly increasing revenues starting in February 2010. We have been able to develop programs such as giving the Absentee Shawnee Tribal members a unique player's club card and providing each and every one of you with an automatic \$10 in Free Slot Play every week. We have also begun the weekly and monthly T-BUCKS promotion that allows us to reinvest in our players. None of these improvements would have been possible if it were not for the help and support of the Thunderbird Entertainment Center, Inc. Board of Directors: Scott Miller, Troy Little Axe, Jr., Michelle Lopez, Alecia Onzawah, and Briana Ponkilla.

Many of you look at tax collections reported in the monthly newsletter or are presented with charts of historical tax collections as signs of how the Casino is performing. These tax collections are only one indicator of the profitability produced by the Casino. For example, in 2007 tax collections may appear impressive, however, given a few more facts the truth becomes clear. To pay the Tribe taxes, the Casino was forced to borrow \$500,000 from the Tribe. Furthermore, the Casino used over \$800,000 in cash reserves to pay the Tribe taxes. The result, as mentioned previously, was that the Casino became behind with many of the vendors, had to lay off several hardworking employees and was forced to cut necessary spending on marketing, promotions, building repairs, and maintenance. All of this was done in order to try to pay taxes to the Tribe. On paper, it appears the Casino was successful, however, in reality, the Casino was crippling itself and further reinforcing the fact that it would not be able to stay open much longer. As another example, 2008 and 2009 may not appear all too impressive if you consider tax payments as your only indicator, however, once again a few simple facts make the truth become clearer. During 2008 and 2009, the cash balances

were restored in both the checking account and in the vault. Vendor balances were paid down, the total liabilities of the Casino went from \$1.4 Million to under \$500,000. Furthermore, past due accounts went from over six months behind to current. A 2005 loan of \$350,000 from the Tribe had to be repaid. During 2009, \$600,000 was paid by the Casino to the Tribe's general fund to cover Gaming Commission Expenses. Additionally, over \$500,000 was paid in necessary facility repairs and improvements. Correcting these past mistakes took money and while the monies paid may not show up in "tax payments" to the Tribe, all of these were paid either directly to the Tribe or on the Tribe's behalf by Thunderbird Casino.

In March of 2008, revenues were dramatically improved and the Tribe once again began receiving regular checks earned through actual profits of the Casino. 2008 and 2009 were steady years and the Casino averaged over \$1.1 million in monthly revenues, however, growth was difficult. Over the past two years, we have seen record high gas prices, a total financial meltdown, and now soaring unemployment. During those two years, we have worked

diligently towards the next major step in Thunderbird's recovery, selecting and finding a way to purchase and install a state of the art casino management system. We completed the install in late October 2009 and by February 2010, the database provided us with enough information to have the ability to direct market to our customers. This newly acquired data gave us the ability to produce a dramatic increase in revenues for the month of February 2010. It is our complete and total focus to sustain this growth and continue to find ways to improve your Tribe's Casino.

We do not expect, nor are we asking any of you to take this information at face value. As always, we welcome each Tribal member to call, e-mail or meet with us to answer questions regarding your Casino. You can reach us with the contact information below.

Kurt Williams – [kurtw@tbecinc.com](mailto:kurtw@tbecinc.com)

Drew Word – [dreww@tbecinc.com](mailto:dreww@tbecinc.com)

405-360-9270 ext 221



**ABSENTEE SHAWNEE  
TRIBAL MEMBERS**

**WE HAVE A PROMOTION JUST FOR YOU**



**EVERY WEEK RECEIVE  
\$10 FREE SLOT PLAY**

Just show your  
Absentee Shawnee  
Tribal CDIB Card,  
to take advantage  
of the offer.

See Player's Club Desk  
for complete details

Management reserves the right to change or alter any promotion.



2% milk served daily

# menu subject to change April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Happy Easter

April 2, AST Complex will be closed for Good Friday.  
Title VI will not served or deliver.

April 16, we will have a Wild Onion Dinner at both meal sites and homebound from 11am to 1pm.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 275-4030 ext 169.

Yvette Moore

Title VI Director

**NOT GOING TO BE HOME  
CALL & LET US KNOW AT  
275-4030 EXT. 169 OR  
NOTIFY YOUR DRIVER**

4 	5 <b>Chicken Noodle Soup Ham Melt Sherbet</b>	6 <b>Wennies &amp; Kraut Mac n Chez Peas/Bread Salad Bar Choc. Pudding</b>	7 <b>Beef Tips &amp; Rice Greenbeans Roll Lemon Cake</b>	8 <b>B B Q Pork Pot. Salad Pineapple</b>	9 <b>Pancake Sausage Link Juice</b>	10
11	12 <b>Hamburger Lett. Tom. Baked Beans Chips Applesauce</b>	13 <b>Slice Turkey w/ Dressing/Gravy Peas/Carrots Roll/Cookie Salad Bar</b>	14 <b>Baked Chicken Mac. &amp; Tom. Squash Fruit Jell-O</b>	15 <b>Chef Salad w/ Ham Mac. Salad Peaches</b>	16 <b>Wild Onion Dinner Beans Frybread Pecan Pie</b>	17
18	19 <b>Soft Taco Lett. &amp; Tom. Refried Beans Cinnamon Roll</b>	20 <b>Stew Orka Cracker Chez Sticks/Pear Salad Bar</b>	21 <b>Navy Beans w/ham Fried Greenbeans Cornbread Carrotcake</b>	22 <b>Chili Dog Fixing Steak Fries Fruit Cocktail</b>	23 <b>Sausage Gravy Biscuit Cereal</b>	24
25	26 <b>Cold Cut Sandwich Pot. Salad Yogurt</b>	27 <b>Smoke Sausage Cabbage Mixed Veggie Roll/ Jell-O Salad Bar</b>	28 <b>Roast Mashed Pot. Gravy Cali. Blend Roll/Cheesecake</b>	29 <b>Fish Sticks Corn on Cob Mac Salad Lemon Pie</b>	30 <b>Boiled Egg Bacon Toast</b>	

## DRIVER'S LICENSE RE-STATEMENT

Call Linda or Glenna today  
(405) 275-3432

Ask about the DUI Assessments  
and our next 10 hour DUI School!

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**



### Foster Parents Needed!!!

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

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

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

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

If you find yourself and your family interested in Foster Care, please contact Melissa Lopez  
405-275-4030 ext. 166.

# EL DORADO Motors

**NEED A CAR, TRUCK OR SUV  
AS LOW AS \$299.00 DOWN -  
WAC**

**E-Z APPROVAL - LARGE  
SELECTION**

**\*FREE LIMITED WARRANTY\***  
**CALL EL DORADO MOTORS @**  
**405-526-4600**  
**AND ASK FOR BIG LARRY OR  
LITTLE JOHN**



## Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority

117 N. Kimberly, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804  
Phone: (405) 273-1050

### Native American Programs Available:

- ❖ Lease with Option to Purchase
- ❖ Rental
- ❖ Over-Income Down Payment Assistance and Maintenance Assistance for Enrolled AST Members
- ❖ Maintenance Assistance
- ❖ Down Payment Assistance

## PHARMACY NEWS

### ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL PHARMACY SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Pharmacy (Shawnee Location) can fill prescriptions for enrolled tribal citizens only.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Clinic Pharmacy in Little Axe can fill prescriptions for tribal citizens written by Physicians not located a Tribal Clinic under the following circumstances:

1. The prescription is for an Absentee Shawnee Tribal citizen who has an established chart at the Little Axe Clinic.
2. The prescription is on the formulary of approved medications and stocked in the pharmacy.

The following are a few tips to help us deliver pharmacy services to you more efficiently;

- ✓ Present insurance cards each time you pick up or drop off a prescription.
- ✓ Keep us informed of all changes in address, phone number and other contact information.
- ✓ Let the Pharmacy staff know if the prescription is going to be picked up or needs to be delivered.
- ✓ If you have any questions concerning your prescription please feel free to call and talk to our Pharmacist. They are here to assist you with your pharmaceutical needs.

## Office of Environmental Health & Engineering

### • Tribal Housing Improvements Application

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

THIP list all applicants by a priority list:

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

### Other Programs available:

#### • Sanitation Facilities Assistance Program

Applications need to be completed and all necessary documents attached before the application will be processed.

Applications are available online on the website: [www.astribe.com](http://www.astribe.com).

Submit completed application to:

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

Absentee Shawnee Tribe Complex  
Office of Environmental Health & Engineering, Building 13  
If you have any questions, you can reach us by phone at (405) 214-4235

# Like to see your ad?

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## Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

Little Axe Clinic • Little Axe Dental Clinic  
15702 E. Hwy 9  
Norman, Oklahoma 73026

Phone: (405) 447-0300 Fax: (405) 447-2250

### Clinic Operating Hours

Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Weekends/Federal Holidays

Closed

\* Clinic and Pharmacy will be closed the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



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**All change of address/  
name changes need to  
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enrollment department.  
They will forward the  
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give us a call at (405) 598-1279  
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[mediadept@astribc.com](mailto:mediadept@astribc.com)**

**ALL ARTICLES WILL BE  
SUBMITTED AS RECEIVED.**



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OEP	(405) 273-9966
Building Blocks	(405) 878-0633
Health Programs	(405) 878-4702
or	1-877-878-4702
Little Axe Clinic	(405) 447-0300
Shawnee Clinic	(405) 878-5850
Shawnee Pharmacy	(405) 878-5859
Behavioral Health	(405) 878-4716
LA Resource Center	(405) 364-7298
or	(405) 364-7569
LA Cultural Center	(405) 447-3372
AST Police	(405) 275-3200
or	(405) 275-3432
OEH	(405) 214-4235
AS Housing Authority	(405) 273-1050
Thunderbird Casino	(405) 360-9270
Or	1-800-259-LUCK
AST Media Dept	(405) 598-1279
AST Media Dept	Fax (405) 598-1294