

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

The **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE** *News*

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



w w w . a s t r i b e . c o m

Happy Mother's Day



MAY

Executive Committee



George Blanchard
Governor



Dan Little Axe Sr.
Lt. Governor



Michelle Lopez
Secretary



Anita Chisholm
Treasurer



Alecia Onzahwah
Representative

Governor's Report

I want to thank everyone who attended the General Council meeting on Saturday, April 17th, and thanks for the continued support you have shown.

I want to thank the "ELDERS COUNCIL" for providing breakfast and lunch for the meeting.

As I stated at the meeting, I will continue to inform you of the goings on in the Tribe, as long as it is the truth and not rumors, and all issues can be properly

documented and are correct.

I appreciate all the questions everyone had, and I will try to get more information to those who asked for personal issues that needed answering. I will do my best to get answers for you.

I will continue to seek financial means to help all of you in your everyday needs. If there are any questions that you didn't get a chance to ask at Saturdays meeting, please feel free to contact my office.

I can't say "THANK YOU" enough times to express my true gratitude to all of my friends and relatives.

George Blanchard
Governor of the
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

Lt. Governor's Report Part I

My Unfinished Business

There is one thing that the Executive Committee have not taken any positive action on and is of dire importance to me and the tribe, as the Lt. Governor. This has to do with the resulting consequences of the Collier Case as it affects the current and future economic development of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. This Case is in regard to the Citizen Potawatomi vs the Bureau of Indian Affairs Case wherein, the Federal Court ruled that the Absentee Shawnee Tribe have no Claim or Jurisdiction in the Tribes Former Reservation in Oklahoma which included Pottawatomie and Cleveland Counties. The Court deter-

mined that although, the government was aware the Absentee Shawnee had been in the area long before the Reservation was selected by the Pottawatomie as their reservation, the government did not include any provisions recognizing this fact.

Later, when the allotments were made to individuals of both tribes, the allotment agreements were first agreed to by the Potawatomi and then by the Absentee Shawnee the following day, The Allotment Agreements were identical and for the same reservation area. I do not understand why the Court did not acknowledge the fact the allotment

agreement signed by the government and our tribe for the now former reservation area, provided and recognized the governments intent that both tribes shared the former reservation area. I'm of the opinion the Court violated the Federal governments Trust Responsibility to the Absentee Shawnee.

Here is the Bad News. A; The Absentee Shawnee have no jurisdiction in the former reservation except on our allotted lands. B: Our jurisdiction on our allotments may be in question because the BIA have taken the position that the Pottawatomie, not the Absentee Shawnee, are direct beneficiaries in Pend-

ing Probates of our tribal members. C: The Court's decision also affects our tribe's constitution as it defines our jurisdiction being the former reservation pursuant to our allotment agreement. Does this Court decision terminate our tribe's Constitution? D: Our tribe is not allowed to have land placed in TRUST Status without approval from the Potawatomi! E: The last Absentee Shawnee former reservation was in Kansas. Finally, This Case have put a stop on any kind of economic

development beyond any Trust Land our tribe currently own.

I and Governor Blanchard have scheduled a meeting with the Assistant Secretary of Interior, Larry Echo Hawk for the purpose of discussing how and what can be done to correct this situation. We will be proposing certain alternatives as to what will be acceptable for our tribe. Certainly, the Governor and I will schedule a meeting with interested tribal members to discuss and get input as to what our tribe will want and de-

mand to alleviate this stranglehold this Potawatomi vs Collier Case have put us in. This is a very important matter that should have been addressed 10 years ago when this case was decided by the Federal Court. Now, it has become serious now that the BIA is setting the Potawatomi as beneficiaries in our tribal member Probates. We cannot continue to leave this issue along.

Lt. Governor's Report Part II

I'm going to follow up on my previous newsletter report and the report I will be providing at the General Council Meeting on April 17th, 2010. As of this writing, I and Governor Blanchard are continuing to try and arrange a meeting with the Assistant Secretary, Larry Echo Hawk who is the top official in the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington DC. Two weeks ago, his scheduling official had advised us that a meeting was arranged for May 12th, for 30 minutes. We told them this issue will require a little more time. They called back a few days later and said Mr. Echo Hawk will be coming to Oklahoma shortly and he can make arrangements to meet with us at that time.

As I previously reported, I had visited with Mr. Echo Hawk during his meeting with Tribal officials at Pawnee last fall. We discussed how the Collier Case have impacted everything the Absentee Shawnee Tribe can ever do as a Tribal Government. This is so serious that it is next to Termination of our people as a government. We cannot expand our land base in the Former Reservation Area unless the Pottawatomi agree to let do it. Most of us know that this will never happen. Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk, who is a member of the Pawnee Tribe, told me he was very moved by

this and indicated he would do what he can do help.

Another serious concern is what effect this Case had on our Tribe's Constitution. The Courts decision stating the Shawnee had no rights to the Former Reservation also makes our constitutional claim of jurisdiction in this Former Reservation void. Thus leaving our tribe with jurisdiction only on Shawnee trust land.

Further, in Probates of deceased tribal members, the BIA have taken the position that the Potawatomi have beneficiary interest in these Absentee Shawnee Allotments, not the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Our tribe have submitted letters of protest in each of the current 9 or 10 pending Probates Cases and have not received any response from the BIA.

I'm very concerned of the fact that previous Executive Committees have not taken up this very serious issue previously, since the Collier case is now 10 years old. I have serious doubts of the capabilities of some candidates for the Executive Committee to carry this issue forward and to come to some resolution in favor of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. I would urge tribal members to take a serious look at the issues affecting our tribe and consider which candidates have the best capabilities to resolve

these issues.

Issues? What issues? Let me advise you that there are many in just about everything the tribe is now doing or not doing. Here are a few examples; the above Pottawatomi issue, the Joint Venture Project, the Thunderbird Casino, Thunderbird Entertainment Center, Inc., The proposed Casino on the Tribal Complex, ASEDA, The Tribal Store and Restaurant, Oklahoma and TEC gaming Compact, Various Contracts by Former Governor Miller without authorizing EC resolutions, EC administrative organizational structure, and on and on. Again, the most serious issue in my mind, is the Collier/Pottawatomi Case. We do not need the two candidates who previously served on the Executive Committee and did nothing about this, instead drew the double salary for personal gain. Help me to protect our Tribal Rights and Interests.

Respectfully Submitted, Lt. Governor
Dan Little Axe

Secretary's Report

Hello Everyone

I hope all is good, and everyone enjoyed the Easter Holiday. I would like to thank the Health Department for putting on the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and for all of their hard work. Great Job!

I would like to apologize for not being able to attend the April General Council. I was attending school on April 17th all day and received my Medication Administration Technician – MAT Certification. I had put a formal request into the Governor's Office back on March 10th to either move the General Council back one week or to move it up one week so that I could attend and this was voted down at the March Regular EC Meeting.

It has been very busy in my office with meeting after meeting with other Members of the Executive Committee and with other departments. We have met to seek innovative ways to get our Tribe back on track. As we progress, hopefully to have some new and exciting news for our tribal members in the near future concerning the new Health Clinic. Currently, we are waiting on the rating from the Fitch Rating Group then proceed with selling the bonds. This has been a long awaited process but it will be all worth it when we see the new clinic open for business.

In the Representative's last news article she mentioned that a second meeting with the Tribal Members that were subject to disenrollment didn't occur. The ones who attended the first hearings were asked that if they had any other information that was not presented during the hearing to submit it to enrollment for further research. Only a few did so.

Enrollment Ordinance Article VII, Loss of Membership.

There is two ways in which membership in the Tribe may be lost. One is voluntary called Relinquishment. The other is involuntary and called Disenrollment. Article VII, Section B. Disenrollment: The burden of proof in disenrollment actions rests with the Tribe. The Enrollment Office did the necessary research and did not find anything that changes our decision on disenrolling

these individuals. We requested from the individuals who showed up at their hearing to please bring any information they may have to help prove otherwise. Which some did and some didn't. Still there is no change in the research to prove otherwise.

Article VII, Section 1. Who may be disenrolled? - A tribal member shall be disenrolled when it is discovered that he/she was erroneously enrolled in that he/she did not submit adequate documentation proving he/she met the constitutional membership criteria at the time of enrollment. This "erroneous enrollment" may have resulted from fraudulent submissions, mistakes in blood degree computations or inadequate research;

Article VII, section 2

Procedure for Disenrollment- A member identified as subject to disenrollment pursuant to the above sub-sections shall be notified by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the intent to disenroll. Included in the notice shall be the date set for a hearing before the Executive Committee to consider the matter. Following the hearing, whether or not the affected member makes any appearance or response, the Executive Committee shall determine if the member is to be disenrolled. Such decision shall be documented in an Executive Committee resolution. The disenrolled member shall be notified of the action taken by certified mail, return receipt requested. Such notice shall include the appeal rights out lined in section VIII of the ordinance.

Article VIII Appeals

Eligible appellants- The following persons shall be eligible to file an appeal: Any applicant who has been rejected for membership, or Any person who has been disenrolled. *Timing of appeal*- Each notice of rejection or disenrollment shall provide that an appeal must be received within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the notice in order to be considered. The date stamped on the receipt of the certified letter shall be considered the beginning of that 30 day period.

I along with the Enrollment Staff have fol-

lowed the Enrollment Ordinance. The Enrollment Staff sent certified letters with return receipt to the tribal members along with the letters from the Tribal Attorney, Department of Interior, and the disenrollment letters signed by me the Tribal Secretary. The hearing date was set and sent to these Members. Three out of the fifth-teen showed up and presented some information and was asked to get with the enrollment office to combine the research and maybe change the out come of these particular cases. Only one met with the Enrollment Office. I then presented the Resolution to the Executive Committee for approval and was tabled for reasons of certain EC members asking the Enrollment to put these names in the newsletter to notify the ones who did not come to the hearings what was about to happen with the disenrollment. We can not do this because of confidentiality. So we were asked by the Treasurer to go above and beyond our duties to try and contact these Members again so the Enrollment Staff tried to contact them by phone and by sending out one more set of letters certified mail and return receipt. Still nothing. I presented this to the General Council in October of 2009 to inform everyone what we were doing and that each Member had been notified. Then presented another Resolution to the EC and it was removed. At this time I just gave up on the ideal of doing my job that was required by the Constitution. If you can't get the EC to work with you then there is nothing more to do. At the Special General Council held in February, I was asked to entertain a resolution to the Department of Interior to host a Secretarial Election to lower the blood quantum so I submitted a Resolution to the EC asking the DOI to host the Secretarial Election and it was tabled because it was not specific enough. I am currently submitting another resolution to the EC for approval for the DOI to do a Secretarial Election and maybe this time it will get approved so that we may get this matter cleared up and then we won't have to disenroll anyone. The question I will propose as follows:

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER APRIL NEWSLETTER 2010

Do you want to lower the blood quantum to one eighth (1/8)? Yes or No

On another note we are in the progress of submitting for a grant that will help rural areas with Broadband Services. The application and project relies solely on the tribe partnering with Aero-Surf Communications, Inc. Aero-Surf is willing to enter into an agreement which would provide services for tribal programs and services to tribal members and low income Native Americans and a graduated scale payment system based on service speeds. There will be multiple levels of service available including a no-obligation, pay as you use option that may be of benefit to tribal members who are reluctant or financially unable to commit to longer term contracts. Aero-Surf will operate the system and will provide the tribe a portion of the profits without the Tribe having to be involved in the day to day operations of the service in addition to the free tribal access and reduced (cost of bandwidth based) cost to the tribal community members. These services will also include discounts to tribal members.

I would like to say thank you to all the Employees that worked on this Broadband Grant, great job. It was a last minute grant to get in and they pulled it off. Thank you again for your hard work and your dedication.

Along with the Broadband grant we are also in the process of working with International Conference Group, LLC, for providing telecommunications services. Will keep you updated as progress is made on these two projects.

Hope to have more in my next article. If you should have any questions or concerns please feel free to call or come by the office.

Secretary Lopez

Wow! I don't even know where to begin after reading all the news from the various candidates running for office. I am quite astounded at some of the comments made by some. The only thing I can give is my version of what I feel is the truth. Hopefully, I'll do just that in this article.

First and most important the AST budget is not in chaos as stated by others. Although I must admit after reading some of the comments from others I can see why they feel chaos. I felt confused and chaotic because of the misrepresentation of facts or perhaps they just didn't know.

Second and most important is the fact the AST tribal budget is NOT one million dollars in deficit. The Controller, the Assistant Controller and I will continue to look for that deficit, but I can assure you when the 09 audit is done it will NOT reflect a one million dollar deficit. I think those statements could be called "bad politics" or as some would say "hate mail" before an election.

We did have a deficit of \$57,892.94 At my last news article I had felt hopeful we would end the year with a small increase. We did not. Our controller, Belinda Collins warned the EC that we could not afford to increase a few budgets. The EC increased funding of a few programs that required immediate assistance for tribal members. We felt we had to do that but the results were in the expenses/revenue line item we had the deficit of \$57,892.94. Overall and the bottom line for the tribe we did end the year with a \$337,000 in the black. We sold small investments from the general fund which gave us the \$337,000.

A statement was made by the current Lt. Governor that "Treasurer C" didn't file for reelection because of this deficit. If I were afraid of a deficit I don't think I would have come into office as Treasurer in July 08 and faced the task of reducing an approximate deficit of \$850,000. From July of 08 to December 31, 2008, I worked diligently with the Finance department, the EC and the employees of this Tribe and we were able to reduce that \$800,000 deficit so that we ended the year with no deficit. I am not the

run away type. But I am the type that tells the truth.

I am retiring because I want to take better care of my self, smell the roses more, drink more coffee, go to the mall when I want, sleep late in the morning and spend more time with family and friends. I loved being retired in 2003-2007 and plan to love it again. I hope I see some of you at the mall walking. I'll be there very soon. These are the reasons I am retiring.

I don't know what your work ethic is; but here is my mine. I believe that when you are hired to do something or elected to do something you must do that job to the best of your ability. Work hard, do you best and be at work at the hours required and more if that is what it takes. That is what I believe it and I feel I have done that as your Treasurer.

Our Finance department has come along way since July of 08. All our accounts are update/reconciled in a timely way. Because of this we on target for finishing our 09 audit in the next few months. I do see our Tribal budget ending the 2010 in the black. Our financial picture is not in chaos. We are slowly making progress. Chaos happens when there is a lack of understanding.

The All Nations Bank is still on target to open the branch on our campus in FY 10. The EC will be getting an update on March 15. I'll be sharing that information in the next newsletter. The loan portfolio continues to increase with the new management.

The joint venture is still in place. We should have the bonds rated by Fitch and sold by the end of March. Today is 3/10/10 hopefully we'll hear something this week. We had an investment company in the fall of 09 that failed to meet the deadlines established and upon recommendation by the BancFirst (our lender) we made an agreement with Wells Nelson Associates to handle the process. This change which was necessary made everything run behind several months. When the bonds are sold we will begin construction. A lot has been said about the Joint Venture. I've asked the Health Department, the AG's office, the Finance Department and my office to put together an overall chronological

history of the Joint Venture from the start to the current date of what has happened, who signed what, why things were done certain ways, how much money has/will be spent, how the payments will be made, the referendum vote, etc. It should cover just about every possible question. Hopefully, this will give all the Tribal people a good overview of what is going on with the Joint Venture. This will be for you so you can understand this very complex process. This document will be presented in a non-bias way without condemnation of anyone. You can draw your own conclusions. We will have this document available for each person at the General Council meeting. I've informed the Governor's office and he agrees this would be a good thing to do.

I am for getting all the truth about all areas of concern out to the Tribal people. You are very important and you should know the truth about all aspects of the Tribe; as much as we can get out to you. When you know the truth then you can make good decisions. When I know the truth I always feel a sense of freedom. I hope you feel the same.

TREASURER MAY NEWSLETTER

Hello again. I have a short newsletter this month. We are still waiting to hear about the bond sale for the Joint Venture. We have all the paper work at the rating agency and hopefully we'll have a conference call next week (April 19-23) and hear the news. I hope you enjoyed reading all the questions and answer in the General Council book about the Joint Venture. These were questions that have been asked for sometime and hopefully your particular questions were answered. The EC met with the CEO and President of our Tribal bank AllNations on March 15. (See their article listed below). We are still on target for opening the branch bank on our campus before the end of 2010. These two individuals are doing a great job of moving the bank forward. It will really look nice to see our own bank open on our campus. The 09 audit is well on its way and should be completed by the end of April. You really should get a copy of it after it is completed. This will give you a good picture of what the

financial situation is for the Tribe. We have an outstanding Finance department. Again, it has been my privilege to work for the AS Tribe. We have some wonderful professional employees at the tribe who are dedicated to doing a good job for the tribe. Thank you for your time. Have a wonderful Spring time.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MAY 2010

The Finance Office has made great progress in getting the day to day activities flowing efficiently and effectively through communication between the Finance office and Programs. In working together, we have found the most time effective and cost effective process for transacting business. Thanks to the Executive Committee and all the programs for their support and understanding during this endeavor.

Our 2009 Audit is underway and began March 8, 2010. The expected completion date is April 30, 2010 and we are on track. Accounting is caught up and Financials are being completed Quarterly and being reported to the Department of Interior – December 31, 2009 reports were submitted on February 12, 2010; and 1st Quarter 2010 will be submitted by April 30, 2010.

The National Business Center has completed the review of the Tribe's 2010 indirect cost proposal and we have an approved rate; which was sent to all program directors for Grant writing so they can include indirect cost in all grants.

Once the 2009 Audit is completed we will begin the Indirect Cost Proposal for 2011. It is imperative the accounting / bookkeeping be caught up and continues to stay caught up so that audits go smoothly. Audits affect the ability to submit indirect cost proposals which affects grants. We expect the audit to be completed by the end of April so that we can prepare the indirect cost proposal; which is due by June 2010.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Finance Department has a very hard working group of people and it is an honor to work with them and at the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. This department would like to extend a special thanks and note of appreciation to

the Executive Committee for providing the tools, resources and support to enable the finance staff to accomplish what has been accomplished. A special thanks and note of appreciation to Program Managers and employees of the Tribe for their assistance and dedication in our group effort toward accomplishing our goal. Now that we are caught up, we are dedicated to continue our efforts in this direction.

If you have any questions or needs, please call 405-275-4030 ext 162 and I will be glad to assist you in any way I can.

Thank you,
Belinda Collins, Controller

Hello From ALLNATIONS Bank:

April, 2010

All is well in Calumet, Oklahoma. The wheat crop looks good. Wheat prices are not so good, but prices may improve by harvest time. Cattle prices are good so all of the cattle ranchers are happy. Everyone can use a little rain; it's coming. Banking has been very good. Deposits continue to grow and are now at \$21,300,000. Loans have grown almost \$1,000,000, and we now have \$13,200,000 in loans. Profits are maintaining good growth despite the low interest rate environment that we find ourselves in. The interest rate scenario is a double-edged sword that we live with. We, as consumers, like low interest rates on our loans, but we hate the low yield on our savings accounts, CD's and other investments. As consumers, we are hoping that low interest rates prevail on loans, but, on the other hand, as shareholders in AllNations Bank, we will reap a greater profit in a raising rate environment. So when rates start to rise, you will have some consolation because of your ownership in the bank. It is still our plan to make application with the Oklahoma State Bank Department in May to open the branch in Shawnee. It will take the bank department several months to approve the request. We will use that time to further prepare for the hopeful year-end opening. It appears that the current proposed financial

regulatory restructuring bill that is before the US Senate does not address the “too big to fail,” adequate regulation of nonbank lenders and revisions in consumer protections rules adequately. We fear that the bill that is on the table for the US Senate will burden community banks with regulations that will make it more difficult to serve the “average consumer and small business.” Small community banks are not responsible for the current crisis, so we are supporting our banking trade associations in the fight to protect small community banks from “over regulation.” Once again, Gene and I continue to wish all the members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma good health and financial success.

Robert P Billy, President and Gene Davis CEO, Chairman

TAX CATEGORY	FY-2010 YTD TAX COLLECTIONS (thru 3/31/2010)				% OF COLLECTIONS
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL	
Sales (6%)	\$6,427.61	\$6,733.05	\$7,875.54	\$21,036.20	3.63%
Gaming % of free cash	\$51,581.00	\$144,551.00	\$266,645.00	\$462,777.00	79.88%
Employee (1%)	\$10,591.43	\$8,094.39	\$7,956.42	\$26,642.24	4.60%
Severance (8%)	\$1,337.71	\$1,422.00	\$3,983.15	\$6,742.86	1.16%
Motor Vehicle	\$7,677.61	\$13,795.32	\$13,902.50	\$35,375.43	6.11%
Tobacco Refund	\$0.00	\$15,292.49	\$10,187.03	\$25,479.52	4.40%
TOTAL TAXES	\$77,615.36	\$189,888.25	\$310,549.64	\$578,053.25	
Miscellaneous	\$795.00	\$282.50	\$217.50	\$1,295.00	0.22%
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$78,410.36	\$190,170.75	\$310,767.14	\$579,348.25	100%

Joint Venture Project

The Executive Committee receives a lot of questions on the Joint Venture Project, which is the project to build a new health care clinic in Little Axe. In order to address some of these questions, the Executive Committee has prepared this list of questions and answers. If you have any additional questions, please contact an Executive Committee member.

What is the joint venture project?

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma and the Indian Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services jointly enter into a Joint Venture Construction Project for the construction of health care facilities. The Tribe will design and construct the Facility and provide the initial equipment. IHS will lease the facility and the land incidental thereto under a no-cost lease for a minimum of 20 years thereafter and include in its annual budget requests funding for staffing and supplies to operate and maintain the facility, which is added to the Tribe’s Compact.

Why is it called the joint venture?

It is called a joint venture because it is an agreement between the Indian Health Service and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma to enter into an IHS Joint Venture Construction Project. A project that is to be completed with responsibilities from both parties.

Where will the joint venture be located?

The Tribe will construct a 72,597 square foot outpatient health care facility which will be located on 25 acres in Cleveland County, Oklahoma. This facility shall be located across Highway 9 from Thunderbird Casino and the current Little Axe clinic.

How did the location of the joint venture come about?

The Executive Committee selected the location by resolution on January 16, 2008. Additionally, the Tribe prepared a feasibility analysis as part of its application process and the Little Axe Replacement Clinic provided the Tribe with the best opportunity to be selected for a joint venture project.

Why is the new clinic 72,597 square feet?

It is based on the known user population in that area and their respective health care needs.

How will the joint venture be funded?

- A. To construct the building: the Joint Venture will originally be funded by a loan from BancFirst. BancFirst will retain 10% of the debt. The remaining 90% of debt shall be sold to investors in the form of 100% guaranteed Certificates of Participations by Wells Nelson.
- B. To fund staffing and supplies: IHS will provide a reoccurring \$11.9 million a year in addition to our compacted IHS dollars with an additional 125 staff members being funding.

What funds will be used?

The \$26 Million borrowed from BancFirst will be used to construct.

What has been used thus far?

Only internal funds of \$2,924,286.23 has been spent so far. Health has spent \$2,227,160.76. Roads has spent \$300,000.00. Indian Community Development Block Grant has spent \$397,125.47.

Why has the Tribe funded part of the project?

The Department of Interior required the Tribe have 20% equity share in the funded project.

How will the joint venture improve services, business for the Tribe?

It will create employment opportunities for Tribal citizens.

It will create a need for a day care in the area.

The construction agreement will provide \$440,000.00 to the Tribe's new TERO Office.

When will the joint venture be completed?

Approximately, January 2012.

Do you have a completed view of what the AST clinic will look like?

Yes, we have artist renderings and full complete construction designs and documents.

Who is BancFirst?

BancFirst is the lender for the Joint Venture Project.

What part will they fund?

BancFirst will provide the \$26 million loan that is necessary to complete the process based on the fact that the Department of Interior (DOI) has guaranteed 90% of the loan.

What is the amount that DOI will guarantee?

DOI will guarantee up to \$23,400,000.00 of the borrowed amount.

What is significant about the DOI guarantee?

The 90% guarantee given to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe is the single largest loan guarantee that the Department of Interior has ever guaranteed.

What does this guarantee mean?

It means that if the Tribe is unable to make its payments, the DOI will step in and pay 90% of the loan.

What happens if the Tribe defaults on its loan payments?

If the Tribe cannot make its loan payments, then the DOI guarantee will go into effect and pay off 90% of the loan. In addition, IHS would step in and run the clinic. Any proceeds from the IHS run clinic would

be paid to the DOI to re-pay any funds that the DOI had to pay as the guarantor of the loan. Tribe will retain ownership of the land.

What will the payment be for the joint venture?

There is an amortization schedule that dictates what the Tribe's payment will be each year. The average payment will be approximately \$1,900,000.00 a year.

From what source will this payment be paid?

The Tribe shall make its payment from revenues collected from third party billing.

Will the payment be monthly, yearly, etc.?

There will be two semi-annual interest payments each year and one yearly principal payment made each year.

Who will hold the first mortgage on the land?

Nobody has a first mortgage on the land. BancFirst has a leasehold mortgage meaning that they have an interest in the lease between IHS and the Tribe.

What is a leasehold mortgage?

It is a mortgage on the lease between IHS and the Tribe. It is not a mortgage or interest in the land.

Why is this mortgage necessary?

The leasehold mortgage is necessary as BancFirst required some type of security interest in the project in order to get approval from the Lending Committee. It was also a requirement of the DOI Loan Guaranty.

What is the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Healthcare Authority, Inc.?

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Healthcare Authority, Inc. is a corporation created under the Corporate Code of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. It was established to manage and oversee all of the health care operations of the Tribe as well as provide an additional layer of liability protection to the Tribe. It is overseen by the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Healthcare Authority, Inc. Board of Directors. This Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Tribe.

What is the Li-Si-Wi-Nwi Health, Inc.?

Li-Si-Wi-Nwi Health, Inc. is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of Oklahoma. It was created to manage and oversee the operations of the Little Axe Clinic and new clinic. This Board was created specifically to allow the Tribe to be eligible to purchase Oklahoma State Tax Credits. This Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Tribe.

Why are there two boards?

There are two boards because there are two corporations and each corporation requires a separate board.

Who selected the board members?

The Executive Committee sitting as Shareholder's Representative appointed the members of each Board of Directors.

Who is on the two boards?

Nathan Boren, MD – currently serves as the Medical Director of the Absentee Shawnee Little Axe Clinic. A practicing physician with the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health Program.

Greg Terrell – currently serves as the Sr. Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Norman Regional Health System in Norman, Oklahoma. Mr. Terrell has approximately 29 years of experience working in the health administration field. 25 of those years have been in a health management capacity.

Chuck Skillings – currently is the President/ Chief Executive Officer of Unity Health Systems, Shawnee, Oklahoma and has been for approximately 10 years. He is a member of the Oklahoma Hospital Association and American College of Healthcare Executives

Representative Lisa Johnson-Billy – currently serves at an Oklahoma State Representative for District 42 out of Purcell, Oklahoma. She served on the Oklahoma Legislative Public Health House Committee and the State Tribal Relations Joint Committee; the Legislative Subcommittee on Public Health and the Social Services House Committee. She is a member of the Chickasaw Nation.

Tim Tall Chief – recently retired from being the Deputy Commissioner of Administration for the Oklahoma State Health Department. He serves on the Osage Nation Health and Wellness Advisory Board. He is a member of the American Public Health Association. He is a member of the Osage Nation

Beverly Felton – is an Absentee Shawnee Tribal Citizen and registered nurse. Ms. Felton is the Practical Nursing Coordinator for the Moore Norman Technology Center, Norman, Oklahoma. She is a member of the American Nurses Association and American Association of University Women.

Troy Little Axe, Jr. – is an Absentee Shawnee Tribal Citizen. He is a licensed attorney and Partner in Legal Advocates for Indian Country, LLP, law firm. He is also a founding Board Member of the North-eastern Tribal Health System in Miami, Oklahoma.

The Boards have had their first meeting and selected Chuck Skillings as President of both Boards and Beverly Felton as Secretary of both Boards.

How many board members will there be?

There are seven board members, with two of the seven board members being Tribal citizens. There is one non-voting board member who is a member of the Executive Committee. There is a total of eight (8).

What is their role on the two boards?

Fiduciary responsibility.

What is their authority?

To complete their duties as defined in the service agreement.

Who is Wells, Nelson?

It is the investment banking company that was contracted with to complete the sale of the Certificates of Participation and purchase/sale of the Oklahoma Tax Credits.

What is their role in this project?

Complete the sale of the Certificates of Participation and complete the purchase/sale of the Oklahoma Tax Credits

What is the Fitch rating for the bonds?

The rating is pending, but expected to be AAA.

Why do we need to set up a for profit Oklahoma corporation?

We needed to set up a for profit Oklahoma corporation to be eligible for the Oklahoma tax credits.

How will these tax credits be used for Li-Si-Wi-Nwi Health, Inc.?

The tax credits will capitalize the corporation as \$2,880,000 dollars. It provides a base of funds for the Tribe to purchase the B Series Certificates of Purchases.

How soon will Li-Si-Wi-Nwi Health, Inc. get these tax credits?

They will get the tax credits at the sale and funding of the transaction.

What is the amount of the tax credits?

\$5,760,000.00 million when they are sold; Li-Si-Wi-Nwi Health, Inc. will get \$2,880,000.00.

Who purchases the A Series Certificates of Participation and the B Series Certificates of Participation?

Private purchasers shall purchase the A Series Certificates of Participation and the Tribe shall purchase the B Series Certificates of Participation.

Who signed the \$3 million construction contract?

Governor Scott Miller

Why was the construction contract \$3 million only?

It was the amount of funds that the health programs, BIA Roads fund and ICDBG had internally to fund the construction.

Who signed the \$18.6 million contract?

Governor George Blanchard

What date was the contract signed?

July 6, 2009.

What did this cover?

The remaining balance of the construction costs.

What funds were used to pay all the expenses to date?

Health funds, Bureau of Indian Affairs roads funds and Indian Community Development Block Grant funds.

How will the health department make payments for this loan?

Health department collects Medicaid and funds from 3rd parties, i.e. 3rd party insurance. Health programs collected \$2,162,000 in third party collections for 2009.

Did we use Indian Health Service funds for construction costs?

No, we used historic health fund balance and third party revenues.

Has any General Fund monies been used for the Joint Venture Project?

No, no general fund monies have been committed or used.

What did the Referendum Election on May 17th, 2008 mean?

The question voted on at the Referendum Election read as follows:

Effective immediately, General Council hereby approves and delegates authority for a period of one year from the date of this election to the Executive Committee to apply for and obtain a loan not to exceed the amount of twenty-five million dollars

(\$25,000,000.00) to design, construct and equip a joint venture construction program in association with the Indian Health Service, by encumbering the to be constructed building(s) and up to twenty-five (25) acres, where the facility will be built. The meaning of the statement is (if it had been approved) General Council was giving the Executive Committee authority to borrow money and encumber the new clinic and land.

What does encumber mean?

It means the Executive Committee would directly mortgage the property and clinic and use it as collateral on the loan. Just like when one buys a home or a car.

Why did the Executive Committee ask for this authority from General Council?

The Constitution of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma expressly reserves to General Council the authority to encumber trust assets of the Tribe, therefore the Executive Committee, through the referendum, requested permission to encumber trust assets. The question placed on the referendum ballot did not request approval to proceed with the Joint Venture Project. Since the Referendum Election did not pass, the Executive Committee pursued other avenues for funding the project without encumbering the land and property.

Will Indian Health Service own the building?

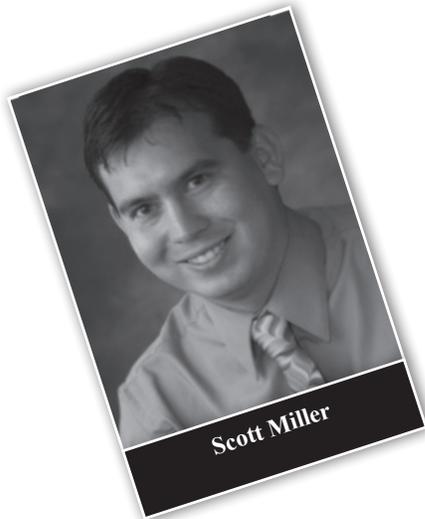
Indian Health Service will not own the building or the land where the clinic is built. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma will own the building and the land.

Will Indian Health Service be running the clinic after it is built?

No, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma will be operating the health clinic.

THE CANDIDATE ZONE

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE ELECTION COMMISSION



The following candidates will proceed to the Run Off Election to be held on June 19, 2010

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Lt. Governor
Isaac Gibson, Jr.
Dan Little Axe, Sr.

Treasurer
Scott Miller
Kathy Deere

Representative
Jeff Gibson
Betty Watson

CANDIDATE LETTER



Tribal members, family, and friends....thank you for the opportunity to allow us to run in our tribal election.

We didn't have the chance to get out and visit anyone before the primary, but since the primary election we have had tribal members all over the state who have given us their thoughts on different issues...and we have listened with an open mind. It's time now that we go out and visit all of you we can, so you can give us your personal opinion on what you think about the tribe...

Both Jeff and I believe the tribe as a whole is ready to move forward leave the past behind... Now is the time to build the casinos, and to explore other business ventures that will financially benefit the tribe.

If you would like to talk to one or both of us, give us a call we will gladly stop by...looking forward to talking to you before the election...thanks

Isaac Gibson Jr.
for
AST Lieutenant Gov
405-596-7129

Jeff Gibson
for
AST Tribal Representative
405-476-1562

VOTE JUNE 19th ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL ELECTION

CANDIDATE *Letter*



Scott Miller

Ho wa se li si mi mo gi ke li ko te yi qa!

I hope everyone is well and in good spirits. The run-off election is fast approaching and it is very critical everyone goes to vote on Saturday, June 19th. This is a very important election with three offices up for election and the direction of our Tribe in the balance.

I am running for Treasurer, but I must say to you, the tribal citizens have been cheated when it comes to the productivity from certain tribal officials. No written reports of activities while in office, no accountability to the people even while performing their constitutional duties of the AST. When information is given it is archaic & something we already know, i.e. the CPN vs. Collier case [1998].

The case has been decided by the U.S. Supreme Court and cannot be changed unless the U.S. Congress makes a law overcoming the decision. We would not be in this situation if a Tribal Treasurer in the 90's would have not refused to pay for an attorney to defend the Tribe in the case, but here we are today. Yes it would be great if we could get a new law on the books to allow us to put lands into trust, however it will take time and money. A candidate in this election speaks of his "unfinished business" on this issue, but we have not seen any plan or time frame of how this issue would be resolved, much less any dedication to his duties.

I attended the recent General Council and came away with the impression some folks may not understand what it takes to make progress for our Tribe. I feel there is too much concern with who controls what instead of what are members of the Executive Committee doing to progress our tribe. There are many opportunities passing by our Tribe because we get too distracted with who has power.

I find it disturbing progress has come to a grinding halt due to the lack of understanding and unwillingness to understand processes and project workings. I am for progress, but I cannot see where our top two elected officials talk about progress [if there is any-it is certainly not being put in writing-informing the Tribal citizens].

Progress is sometimes difficult and requires initiative and persistence to make it happen. Sometimes it is complicated and difficult to understand for some, especially when it comes to funding. A good example is the Joint Venture project. Not everybody totally understands how the funding is structured, some even refuse to understand how the funding is structured and will go as far to tell you it will fail. Three candidates in this election appear to want this project to fail. Why? Who knows why, maybe because they refuse to understand the funding structure and the positive impact our Tribe can have by expanding health services. I would question those persons on why they want something positive to fail for our Tribe and what they would differnt.

I hope those of you who could not attend General Council request a book to see what is going on with our Tribe. Additionally, someone took the time to dedicate a section to Q&A about the Joint Venture and a timeline of events (p. 88-96), so that everyone will understand.

There are three important areas I feel our Tribe needs to work on immediately:

1. Gaming. A second gaming facility will bring additional tax revenue for General Fund programs.
2. Economic Development. Become 8A certified again and compete for government contracts. Use Tribally owned properties to create businesses or attract reputable companies to bring their business to our lands.
3. Health. Complete the Joint Venture Project. We will gain funding from Indian Health Service and provide our people with new services.

All three areas can have a positive economic impact for the Tribe's economy. They can provide job opportunities; business opportunities for Tribal citizens who may own a company; and additional sources of income to the Tribe.

It is important we elect the person who understands the Tribe's budgeting process and how governmental accounting functions. It can be difficult for people to understand if they have not worked in the tribal world or worked for the tribe many years ago before self-governance. There are many more controls in place now and federal regulations to follow. The tribe itself

has procedures established for finance to follow in the Administrative Systems Manual. These are in place to protect the finances of our Tribe and make each program accountable for operation and expenditures.

Every election a candidate or two use the per cap promise to get your vote, knowing good and well you will not receive one. Has anyone received a per cap payment since the last two elections? **No!** Everything you have been promised in the last two elections is not for your benefit. Instead, examples of questions you should consider about the candidates are; are they willing to put in their full time and effort for the tribe? Do they have what it takes to protect and progress our Tribe? Are they truly sincere about helping ALL TRIBAL CITIZENS?

The duties of an elected office are far more than being "customer relations". It's about making decisions on behalf of the people and FOR THE PEOPLE, AS A WHOLE. It's about dedicating your full time and attention to your duties and issues of the Tribe. It's about developing businesses and business relationships. It's about fighting for our people when our sovereignty is threatened.

When going to the polls on Saturday, June 19th, think about who you want to represent you; individuals who are not fully committed to the people and have trouble understanding how the Tribe works today or individuals who are willing to fully dedicate their time and ready to make progress for the Tribe.

This is a very important election please remember to vote! I appreciate your support on Saturday, June 19th.

Ne yi wa!

**Vote for Scott Miller Absentee Shawnee
Treasurer 2010**



CANDIDATE LETTER

Dear Tribal Members:

I want to thank all the voters who braved the "rare Oklahoma" snow storm and icy roads to go to the polls and vote in the primary election that was held March 20, 2010. The results of the primary election have the following candidates in a run-off election to be held June 19, 2010:

Lt. Governor-Dan Little Axe and Isaac Gibson, Jr.
Treasurer-Kathy Deere and Scott Miller
Representative-Betty Watson and Jeff Gibson

There were over 300 voters, which was a great turn out in spite of the snow and the icy roads. In addition, there were many absentee ballots that were spoiled and could not be counted for various reasons. So, please, if you vote by absentee ballot, please follow the instructions for completing and returning your ballot.

I do not want to point fingers in this article, but I feel like the truth has to be told in order for you, the membership, to know what is at stake in this election.

The past Governor has attempted to put your/our tribe in debt by borrowing 26 million dollars for a Joint Venture Clinic that was voted down by our members. As Governor he went against and around the membership vote by mortgaging our land and borrowing the 26 million dollars for the joint venture. He signed a construction contract for this venture before he had secured the loan to build the clinic and has spent \$3,484,517.95 on the start of construction on the Clinic without completing the loan to build the Clinic. The present Executive Committee is still attempting to secure the loan but has been able to arrange the bond financing for this project to date.

Just how did they get this done after the membership voted this Joint Venture down by a referendum vote? Here's how they circumvented the vote of the people. They created a newly formed State Health Board, "LiSiWiNwi Health Inc.", and used this newly created health board to borrow this

money. Then they transferred the property where the joint venture is to be built to the Realty Department with the full authority to use it as collateral in borrowing the 26 million dollars. The Executive Committee did not have the authority to transfer the use of the property to the Realty Department and then use it as collateral, when it clearly states in our Constitution that those powers are reserved to the General Council, who meets twice a year. The General Council never voted to use this land as collateral for the \$26M loan. But the Executive Committee circumvented the vote of the people and approved the use of the land as collateral for the \$26M loan according to the 2008 Resolutions passed by the Acting Lt. Gov. Lopez, Secretary Carpenter and Representative Isaac Gibson, Jr. all voted YES. The Treasurer E. Longhorn was absent during there Special Executive Committee meetings.

What the past Governor and the rest of the Executive Committee voting for this Joint Venture failed to the membership is the effect this Joint Venture could possibly have on our health programs, if we cannot repay this \$26M loan. They said that third party revenue will pay for this loan. The real truth is that we currently use third party revenue to help pay for the Clinic and Pharmacy in Shawnee. If you use this money to pay for the Joint Venture loan, the Clinic and Pharmacy in Shawnee will have to be closed.

If the third party revenue is not enough to pay for the loan, ask yourself "Where will the money come from to pay the loan?" That answer is the tribe and its general fund. Just think for a minute, what make up our general fund? It is the revenues that we get from taxes, gaming revenue, rental income and investments. Is this enough to pay the loan? The answer is NO. At the present time, our tribe is operating in a deficit after spending more than what we are currently bringing in through our general fund. Our gaming is not generating any revenue, (look at the tax report in the newsletter) and we don't have any other investments or other economic development projects to repay the loan.

It is time to ask this important question. Was this Joint Venture Clinic really necessary for the Tribe to go into debt to borrow \$26M and was this in the best business interest of our Tribe? And, how is this going to generate any income to our Tribe? I did not support this Joint Venture project and the membership of our didn't either by voting it down. Let's not move forward with the \$26M loan that the EC is attempting to secure by selling bonds for this project.

In last month's newsletter, Mr. Miller spoke of budgets. I

would disagree with his comment that our tribe's budget is different from your or mine because your budget depends on the amount of money in your paycheck. You would not spend more than what you make. The same is true with the Tribe, do not spend more than what you have coming in. Ask yourself this question, "As Treasurer will Mr. Miller continue to spend more than we bring into our General Fund?" What will he do as Treasurer, if elected, and we cannot repay the loan and where is the money going to come from?

This is a very important election and you need to consider and evaluate each candidate as of you are hiring them to run your business for you. Because, in essence, that is exactly what you are doing. Tribes are multi-million dollar companies and you should elect qualified individuals with the experience to this business for you. If you had a successful business, would you hire someone with very little experience or hire someone to "learn on the job" at your expense? I certainly wouldn't. I would select the best qualified and experienced individual I could find.

Vote for someone that cares about an honest and open government, where everyone knows the difference between what is right or wrong and has no "hidden agenda", a person who will follow the wishes of the people. It is time to go in another direction with honesty, integrity and clear leadership for our future! Thank you for your consideration and I would appreciate your vote on June 19, 2010.

Betty Mahardy Watson, Candidate for Representative
Absentee Shawnee Tribe



Support the
Candidates (Dan
-Kathy-Betty)



Date: Saturday, May 15, 2010
Time: 1:00-7:00 pm

Contact person: Kathy Deere, 816-7874

Come and enjoy a time
of fellowship, food, and fun with us.

SILENT AUCTION

SURPRISE BOXES AUCTION

50/50 BIINGO

Absentee Shawnee Resource Center, Little Axe, OK

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

CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 22, 2010

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

LITTLE AXE RESOURCE CENTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

BRIANA PONKILLA (405) 275-4030 or bponkilla@astribe.com

THE GOVERNOR'S CORNER



My Friends and Relatives
ne we kí ní ke no ke na hí le wa la mí ke
<always ask these questions.
kí mo ge ní ní to tí ko ke hí se
ne ho yo wí ge yo lo mí

1. Hello or hi
a-ho Or Huh-ho
2. How are you?
hí ke ho wa se lí sí mí mo
3. How are the kids doing?
hí ta pe ho wa se lí sí mí mo ke
ke tí pe lo fa mí ke
4. Everything good at home?
ya tí yí ne hí we yí se kí gí ke we ya he ho wa
se

5. How are your brothers and sisters doing?
na he wa se lí sí mí mo ke ke ga ne ní ke
6. How many grandchildren do you have?
ka fe we ke ho se ta fi ke ke po ní ke
7. Have you planted your garden yet?
hí na kí ke ma ge ma ke ne ge ka
8. What did you plant?
na he wa ke tí ge ka
9. Did you get rain yesterday?
hí ke mo wí ne ne tí se ho lí ko
10. You live at the old home place?
hí we yí se kí na ke mí ya pí tí ya qa
ke tí pe

Information from Your Family Doctor

Metabolic Syndrome: What Is It and What Can I Do About It?

What is metabolic syndrome?

Metabolic syndrome (sometimes called syndrome X) is a group of risk factors for heart disease. You may have metabolic syndrome if you are overweight and have high blood pressure and high levels of sugar or fats in your blood. Many patients with adult-onset diabetes also have metabolic syndrome.

Why is it important?

With each risk factor you have, your risk for heart disease goes up. If you have all of the risk factors, you are six times as likely to get heart disease. Even if your cholesterol level is normal, you still may be at risk for a heart attack or stroke.

Metabolic syndrome happens when you don't get enough exercise and you eat a diet with too many calories and too much saturated fat. You can lower your risk of heart disease and diabetes by changing some habits, stopping smoking, and losing weight.

How can exercise help reduce the symptoms of metabolic syndrome?

How much exercise and what kind of exercise you should do depends on your fitness level now. Not being active is the biggest risk factor for heart disease. If you don't already exercise, start by walking for five minutes every day. It may be hard at first, so go slowly. If you have a medical problem, talk with your doctor before you start walking.

Once you are walking regularly, you should slowly increase how fast and how far you walk. Even-

tually you should walk for 30 to 60 minutes at least five days a week. If you already exercise this much, consider adding resistance exercises to build muscle strength.

How do I start exercising?

Many people find it hard to start an exercise program. There are a lot of books, videos, and programs to help. Find a friend to exercise with and get in shape together. Remember that a good exercise program includes three parts: warm-up and stretching, cardiovascular exercise (such as walking and biking), and strength training.

Can my diet reduce the risk of metabolic syndrome?

Yes; what you eat can affect how you feel. See the table on the next page for some healthy food choices. To lower your risk, try to make the following changes to your daily diet:

Eat fewer calories. Try to eat less at each meal, and skip dessert. Snack on low-calorie foods such as carrot sticks or rice cakes. Try not to eat fried foods. When eating out, ask that gravy, sauces, or salad dressings be served on the side, and use only a little of them. Cut down on the amount of fat added to your starches (for example, don't put butter on a baked potato or a slice of bread). Remove the skin from chicken after cooking and before eating.

Eat less saturated fat. Change from full-fat dairy products (such as whole milk, cheese, yogurt, cottage cheese) to reduced-fat and then low-fat (or skim) versions. Use only small amounts of butter or use a margarine that has no trans-fatty acids (such as tub or squeeze packages of margarine). Eat smaller portions of red meat (4 to 6 ounces instead of 6 to 8 ounces). Buy leaner cuts of meat. Eat chicken

breasts instead of dark meat. Have at least one meatless dinner per week (but do not use eggs or cheese instead of meat in this meal).

Eat more whole grains. Eat whole wheat bread, brown rice, oatmeal, and puffed-grain cereals. Whole-wheat pasta or pastas made from quinoa (say: keen-wha) or other grains are sold in health food stores and some supermarkets. Eat whole grain crackers and side dishes such as bulgur wheat.

Eat more fruits and vegetables. We should all eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables each day. Eat fruit for snacks instead of chips. Count how many fruit and vegetable servings you eat each day. Look for ways to get your "five-a-day" (two servings of fruit and three servings of vegetables).

Eat fish. Fish has omega-3 fatty acids, which are good for your heart. Adding fish to your diet is healthier than red meat or cheese. Tuna, salmon, whitefish, and mackerel are good choices. Baking, broiling, or poaching fish will help you avoid extra calories from bread-ing and frying.

Use healthier fats. Olive oil, canola oil, and sesame oil are healthier than corn oil or vegetable shortening. Use only small amounts of lard, pork fat, or vegetable shortening for cooking. Try using the healthier oils in your recipes. These small changes will bring you large health benefits.

Making Better Carbohydrate Choices

Poor carbohydrate choices (low in fiber, some high in sugar and/or fat)

Better carbohydrate choices (high in fiber, low in sugar and fat)

Apple juice (presweetened)

Apple (whole, with skin)

Bran muffin

Oatmeal (rolled oats)

Carrot cake

Angel food cake with fresh fruit

Chocolate chip cookies

Oatmeal cookies

Corn flakes cereal

Raisin bran cereal

Corn, sweet (cooked)

Lentils (boiled)

Croissant

English muffin

Doughnut

Whole wheat waffles

Fried tortilla or corn chips

Baked tortilla or corn chips

Potato (russet, baked)

Sweet potato, yam (baked)

Rice (white, long grain)

Brown rice (steamed)

White bread or bagel

Seven-grain or whole wheat bread

This handout is provided to you by your family doctor and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Other health-related information is available from the AAFP online at <http://familydoctor.org>.

This information provides a general overview and may not apply to everyone. Talk to your family doctor to find out if this information applies to you and to get more information on this subject.

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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

Jodi Marquette American Indian Wills Clinic

American Indian people face many unique challenges in accessing quality estate planning services. In an effort to address some of these challenges, the Oklahoma City University School of Law is pleased to offer free estate planning services through the Jodi Marquette American Indian Wills Clinic.

What Is Offered? - Estate planning provided by Oklahoma City University School of Law students under the supervision of a licensed attorney and clinical law professor.

Who Is Eligible? - Any American Indian who is a resident of the State of Oklahoma. Preference is given to those who own Indian land.

How Much Does it Cost? - No cost. Thanks to a generous anonymous donation, the work of the wills clinic is provided to clients free of charge.

Who Do I Contact? - To schedule an appointment or for more information contact the Native American Legal Resource Center at (405) 208-5017.

Native American Legal Resource Center
2501 N. Blackwelder - Sarkey's Suite 209
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
Phone: 405-208-5017
Fax: 405-208-5185

Jodi Marquette
American Indian Wills Clinic

**Free Estate
Planning Services**

for American Indians

Who Are Oklahoma Residents

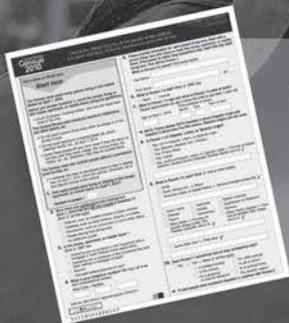
*Preference will be given to those who
own Indian property.*

What Is Offered? - Estate planning provided by Oklahoma City University School of Law students under the supervision of a licensed attorney and clinical law professor.

Who Do I Contact? - To schedule an appointment or for more information contact the Native American Legal Resource Center at (405) 208-5017.

Native American Legal Resource Center
2501 N. Blackwelder - Sarkey's Suite 209
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
Phone: 405-208-5017
Fax: 405-208-5185

IF I DON'T SAY IT, WHO'S GOING TO SAY IT FOR ME?



Remaining silent will not allow our voice to be heard in the 2010 Census. The 2010 Census helps determine resources such as schools, housing, roads, and hospitals.

WE MOVE FORWARD WHEN WE PARTICIPATE | 2010CENSUS.GOV



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

PAID FOR BY U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Cultural Preservation

The Cultural Preservation Department was recently invited guests of Pleasant Grove School in Shawnee. The week of April 5-9 was Native American Heritage Week as observed by Pleasant Grove. Pleasant Grove's Mrs. Coker extended the invitation to Cultural Preservation Director, Andy Warrior. As part of the learning and enlightenment, the Cultural Preservation Department was able to share and expose the students to different tribal customs and identities. Director Andy Warrior gave a brief talk about the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Those that attended the Cultural Preservation demonstration are pictured: L to R Levi Littlecreek- Absentee Shawnee tribal member, Andy Warrior- Cultural Preservation Director, Clay Martinez- Absentee Shawnee tribal member, Henryetta Ellis- Cultural Preservation/AST Library, Tresha Spoon- Director of Education, not pictured Alicia Engler- Cultural Preservation, Michael Mann- Cultural Advisory Council Vice President.



The Personal Meaning of our Absentee Shawnee Ceremonial Dances

To any outsider looking in at the Shawnees, it might appear these ceremonial dances are an act of congregating to perform a simple dance, sing some simple songs, followed by a speech in our language but all of these efforts cannot truly be appreciated unless you live the lifestyle that has been passed down from generation to generation. It is when you live this way of life that you begin to realize these ceremonial dances have spiritual meaning.

Any race of people has created a means to find connection to some supreme being. When we are able to recognize and give praise for all the creations around us, it is then we are able to realize the things we use in our everyday lives are given to us from God. Then we are prone to create a means of giving thanks in a form we create and practice because of the faith that has been instilled in us through our parents, grandparents and all others who are believers of our way of life. It is the faith in this lifestyle that pushes us through the hardships that go along with the ceremonial way of life that we choose to follow. And at times, it is faith that will be the self persuasion we need to continue to push ourselves to participate and do these things, that sometimes we just don't quite understand why we do them.

While the following does not convey the full meaning of our dances it provides a basic explanation:

We perform the Spring Bread Dance in order to recognize the return of life through Mother Nature. This time of the year brings rejuvenation of life in all manners of existence. The return of the green grass, the budding of the trees, new animal life and the mere presence of surviving the harsh winter time of dormancy. It is at this dance we give praise to what lies in our future and ask that what lies in our future be beneficial to our people.

The War Dance is a representation of remembrance of another time and lifestyle of old. This dance pays respect to the members of the Warrior clan that at one time were the protectors of our tribe. Through the years this respect has changed to include the men who have served in the military, but who still fill that role as protector, and thru the dance recognize their contribution in defending the rights of our country.

The Fall Bread Dance is a time to reflect back on the recent year of prosperity that has been beneficial to our people and to give thanks through the manner of dance and song. We recognize what has been given to us for our survival and as we prepare to hibernate for the winter time we take time to talk to God, just as we would at the other dances, to thank him for what has been provided to us and ask for continued protection over ourselves.

As you can see, each one of these dances has a significant meaning in its own particular way. If each are looked at individually, then every one of them looks in a certain direction of the existence of our people, one to the future, one of a time long ago and the other of the near past.

The reason we do these dances could be explained with a more philosophical approach. Again, it reverts back to Faith. Our faith in these ceremonies goes so far back in time that we, the people of today, have no means to refute it and this faith has become the basis of our morals and values as a people. The ceremonial way of life has been taught to us in a way that is not only practiced at the dance ground, but it also spills over into our everyday way of living. Our actions are influenced by our faith in the spiritual meaning these dances represent, and by that, it influences the decisions we make in our lives.

As we become older and begin to see the significance our ceremonies hold for us spiritually, we begin to realize the cycle our ceremonial life takes us through focuses on our generation for a period of time, but then the focus shifts to our children, nieces, nephews and younger generations. It is because of them we eventually realize we want to provide something for them, just the same way our parents and grandparents provided a way for our generation. And in order for us to pass on this identity, we have to participate and practice these dances so that the next generations will witness what is done and be influenced by our actions. By providing them the opportunity to participate, then they will begin to develop a feeling of possessing something that is truly meant for them and grasp the concept of how important these dances are to our people. It will also create a spiritual bridge to what we as Shawnees consider appeasing to God in the manner that we believe he gave to us to distinguish us as Shawnees.

The faith, we as a people, have in these ceremonial dances are our means of tying our existence to God. Just as Christians have belief in the Bible and through the Bible they have tied their existence with God through Jesus Christ, we have these dances that are on a comparable equal level of importance. It is through song and dance we worship in the most simplistic and humblest manner that our people have followed for centuries.



Come & Celebrate Mother's Day

AST Gift Shop

(located in Building 1 at the AST complex)

Hours: 8:00 to 5:00

Phone: (405)275-4030

Ask for Alicia Engler or Henryetta



**Receive 15 % off your gift shop
purchase.**

(excludes Pendleton & Consignment items)

Sale starts May 3-May 7, 2010

BLING

(Believing in Native Girls)

p
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t

"Modina was one of the guest speakers at Riverside Indian School, Anadarko, Oklahoma on March 27th

for "Believing in Native Girls (BLING) project." The meeting was a Native Power Women's Tea Party. It

is a health promotion project for girls 12-18 years of age.

The program holds weekly teachings with the

girls on sexual and mental health and well being. "We

talked about the road to success, and mostly about goals and key character traits that contribute to success, as well

as my own personal history that included boarding school attendance, how my experiences contributed to developing my philosophy as a young girl, a woman, a mother, and grandmother. To help make my presentation more personal, I actually wrote the young girls a letter that I used as

a handout," Modina stated.

The Tiger Family Reunion

May 29, 2010

*Lake Thunderbird State Park
Little Axe Shelter*

10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

*Bring food, drinks, games,
chairs, and family.*

*(ALL friends and relatives of
the late Jim Tiger and the late
Annie Mann Tiger are welcome.)*

*Please contact Jan Maxwell for
questions and/or comments at
(405) 514-5520*

submitted by Jan Maxwell

Dear Shawnee tribal members,

Hello my name is Shawnee Antonio Tapia I am a U.S. Army Infantry soldier currently serving in Afghanistan. I just wanted to tell everyone thank you for your support, prayers, and words of kindness you all have given for my brief visit back in December. Recently I have given great thought about being inducted into the Veterans Assoc. It gives me great pleasure to know I am now apart of the great many warriors who have served and fought for our nations freedoms, beliefs, and various things we as American Indians and citizens enjoy on a daily basis. I am also proud to be apart of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. I also want to say I am proud to be fighting for my people and our freedom. As an Infantryman I have overcome many challenging things as a soldier and as a person. The mental and physical challenges I face daily as an infantry soldier have made me a stronger person overall. I just wanted to write and give thanks to my mother Linda and the rest of my family in Oklahoma. I cannot forget my wife Sonya and my son Carlito the thought of coming home to them alone has put my heart at ease and has given me the strength to carry on. I also wanted to thank the tribe for all the help you have provided for me. As I continue my tour in Afghanistan I wanted to ask for your continued prayers and support it will be much appreciated. I only have around 10 weeks left and I am excited to be back home there is nothing like it. I can't wait to be back home with my friends family and friends alike. One last thing, I love my country and my job so much I re-enlisted today for four more years and I couldn't imagine a better job to have than serving you all and my family, much love to you all.

Si-li-no-ke ka-no-la,

Specialist Shawnee A. Tapia
U.S. Army Infantry.
Operation Enduring Freedom 2009-2010

Thank you!



Happy Birthday Grandma!! We love you.
Skyla, Lliyah, Mikaylah, Robyn, Shawn,
Joaquin, and Silas

Happy Birthday and Mother's Day Mom!!!!
Love,
Jac and Lance



Happy Birthday
And Many More!!!
ROY GENE GIBSON
From
Marvin & Sherry



Happy 8th Birthday
Christian Daniel Byers

We love you very much!
Auntie Sherry & Uncle Marvin

Glendine Blanchard
May 10

UNCLE DALE (DAVIS)
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MAY 21ST
MAKE AUNT SHARON
COOK HOT DOGS!!
LOVE YA
KEVIN ,LEILA ,
KANTYNN AND KANYNN

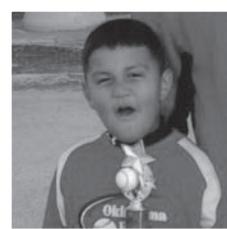
Happy Birthday!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY POPS(DALE DAVIS)
WE LOVE YOU
JOCELYN ,JUSTIN ,JARETT
AND CODY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD (ROY)
WE WISH YOU A GREAT DAY
LOVE KEVIN,LEILA,NIKKI,PAT
AND OF COURSE YOUR
WONDERFUL WIFE

GRANDPA ROY HAPPY BIRTHDAY
ON MAY 7 WE LOVE YOU BUNCHES
KANTYNN AND KANYNN

Happy Birthday
Chubs Foreman
From
Sherry & Marvin



TO MY SUGARBABY KANTYNN JAMES
HAPPY 7TH BIRTHDAY ON MAY 30TH
LOVE GRANNY AND GRANDPA AND AUNT NIKKI AND UNCLE PAT

TO MY SON KANTYNN KASECA HAPPY 7TH BIRTHDAY
LOVE MOM ,DAD,AND SISTER KANYNN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHUBS
ON MAY 28TH
LOVE THE FOREMANS
AND KASECAS

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY
To a very special mom
Velma Blanchard
We love you!
Marvin & Sherry

Cripps, Anita Louise
Foreman Jr, Leonard Dewayne
Megehee, Tonia Lynn
Bullard, Adam Drew
Gray, Branden Tyler
Evans, Lisa Michelle
Talbert, Elainia Michelle
Johnson, Nicholas James
Allen, Lucinda Nicole
Walker, Jo Ann Louise
Wolfe Sr., Houston Hugh
Battise, Wannetta Jean
Wilkerson, Barbara Lee
Allen, Patricia Ann
Wilson, Lana Louise
Alford, Amy Dianne
Masquat Jr., George
Alford, Magdalena Spaneta
Smith, Jeremiah Robert
Ellis, Heather Ann
Masquat, Chelcy Nicole
Williams, Verna May
Ramirez, Elicia Marie-Alka
Brister, April Angela
Panther, Jeffery Wayne
Kaseca, David Allen
Wucinski, Gary Ray
Fife, Gabriel Douglas
Gibson, Jeffrey Wayne
Spoon, Joplin Dupre
Hood Jr., Warren Wesley
Snake, Norma Louise
Hood, Elena Ann
Littlecreek, Tristyn Denae
Godwin, Lucy G.
Little Charley, Cheryl Jean
Megehee, Douglas Dewayne
Soap Jr, John Lee
Spoon Jr., Robert Ray
Witt, Ambra Denise
Pearl, Melvin Joe
Bateman, Alberta Denise
Irvin, Steven Benjamin
Hunt, Dominique Annastasia Marie
Littlecreek, Tiffany Nicole
New Moon, Jake Lee
Little Creek, Vernon Dale
Tiger, Roland
Spybuck, Easton Cade
Baughman, Brenda Jane
Conover, Gloria Jean
Young, Lynda Renee
Graves Pynch, Karen Sue
Battise, Tasheena Seannay
Footracer, Lee Anna Gail Stubb
Johnson, Walter Kirby
New Moon, Jennifer Brooke
Smith, Valerie Ann
Byers, Christian Daniel
Bryant III, Chester A.

Johnson, Whitney Brooke
Johnson Jr., Richard Taft
Gibson, David Michael
Warrior, Kenneth James
Kaseca, Barry Alvin
Blanchard, #263781, Joey Edward
Wakolee, Carmen Jean
Wilson, Francis Lynn
Wilson, Carla Marie
Surface Jr., Robert Monroe
Blackburn, Gayle Ann
Belvin, Justin Ray
Coffee, Larry Otis
Ott-Proctor, Lylli Lee Ann
Clinesmith, Blake Weston
Bentley, Curtis Lee
Warrior, Johnnie Andrew
Citty, Lindsey Nicole
Soap, Roger Eugene
Williams, Colton Alexander
Rolette, Joshua David Michael
Hernandez, Jennifer Lois
Moore, Emily Renee
Kowitz, Michael Raymond
Molina, Roy Gilbert Rivera
Sanders, Patty Ruth
Griffin, Diane Sue Berry
Hale, Kathy Sue
Bustamante, Andrea Nadine
Tallchief, John G.
Dibler Jr., George
Colungo, Steven Lee
Williams, Glenn Aaron
Ahtone, Catlin Ray
Littlecreek, Anderson Doreece
Denny, Jacqueline
Blanchard, Glendine
Raisbeck, David Nathaniel
Davis, Dale Allen
Grass, Amelia Ann
Mann, Sally Arlene
Thorpe, Burke James
Humphrey, Carol Lee
Pawpa, Donald Wayne
Buckner, June
Stevens, Laurence Paul
Tiger, Jennifer Diane
Johnson, Gabriella Kayann
White, Clayton Randall
Rock, Micheal Eugene
Lovins, Earl Dean
Blanchard, Caelynn Blu
Gibson Sr., Roy Gene
Rolette, Gilbert Earl
Szoke, Debra Jean
Hendrick, Luke Michael
Nice, Chelsea Nicole
Wilson, Diana Lynn
Matthews, Mary Caroline
McGowan, Patricia Lynn

Washington, Lucille Axe
Johnson, Priscilla Grace
Rupe, Dorothy Ann
Johnson Harjo, Curtis Ray
Cuellar, Orietta Faith
Montgomery, Matthew Schyler
Daugherty
Wesley, Ula Mae Welch
Pynch, Lauren Karly
Powell, Fawn Laverene
Spicer, Amber Jo
Morgan, Polly A Littlebear
Gray, Dakota Christian
Starr III, Henry James
Smith, Teresa Renee
Gaut, Crystal Lynne
Spoon, Landon Joe
Little Axe, Sabrina
Bigpond, Roy
Bender, Leal Desma
Kaseca, Kantynn James
Uchida Jr., Stephen Robert
Neugent, Alisa Marie
Starr, Anthony Craig
Box, Dorothy Lorene
Sultuska, Ella L.
Robison, Thomas Aaron
Wilkerson, Katie Evalyn
Strain, Cynthia Ann
Sultuska, Jerry Wayne
Edwards, Glen W.
Schulenberg, Donald Derek
Minesinger, Scott Brooker
Bettelyoun, Lula Mae
Powell, Kendall Lynn
Tallchief IV, Eves
Creamer, Cora Mae Starr
Oldham, George Lynn
Buckley, Gerald Wayne
Smith, Vanessa Rae
Wilson, Christopher Blaine
Wallace, Brenda Gayle
Coon, Justin Kyler
Watson, Thomas Aaron
Ellis, Michael Frank
Breeding, Sean K. C.
Blanchard, Joseph Henry
Longhorn, Sean Ray
Salazar, Terry Lee
Hood, Lisa
Keith, Marshall Collins
Spriggs, Warren Paul
Johnson, Coree Lee
Little Charley, Terry Lee
Atwell, David Eugene
Blanchard, Dakota Joshua
Elephant Jr., Edward Elmer
Ramirez Jr., Florentino
Collett, Bonnie Sue
Taylor, Darwin Jacob

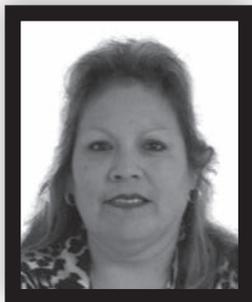
Grass, Larra Marie
MacK, Rylan Emory
Williams, Ruth Helen
Maxfield, Cordelia Dirt
Jackson III, Mark Sweeney
Lopez Jr, Rolando
Neugent, Alena Dee
Watson, Janelle Ilise
Squire, Nathan Gene
Shular, Monte Lee
Ferrell, Alyssa Kay
Brady, Lynn Marie
Hutchinson, Velma Rae
Johnson, Michael Scott Isaiah
Rudloff, Lacey Rei
Watson, Brittany L. P. D.
Galloway, Zachary Adam
Lovins, Audrey Ann
Kaseca, Roy James
Kmatz, Mindy Lynnette
Hill, Yvette Carmel
Wilson, Cecil Alan
Littlecreek, Dakota Dwight
Graves, Sharol Annette
Deere, Shawneen Estelline
Summers, Dorothy Jean Dirt
Noyes, Paula Jo
Combs, Michelle Lynn
MacGill, Georgia Sue
Bates, Akiane Karee
Mitchell, Desiree Rose
Meyer, Doreen
Feeling, Lavonna Jean
Alford Sr., Elroy R.
Robison, Morgan Tell
Robertson, Rita Jean York
Munroe, Douglas
Parker, Shawn Ian
Roach, Dakota Eugene
Henry, Eddie Allen
Fife, Teresa Laura Irene
Longhorn, Weda Louise
Morton, Jeremiah James
Watkins, Jamie Lynn
Kobs, Jennifer Ann
Hood, Thomas Edgar
Rolette, Domini Antoinette
Miller, Casey Ryan
Mathany, Susanne Christine
Atchico, John Edward
Charley, Melloney Ann
Springer, Delores Ann
Harris, Konner Lee Little Charley
Alford, Christian Shawnee
Mendoza, Amanda Rane
Wilson, Helen June
Onzahwah, Deborah Kay
Ellis, Holly Diana
Smith, Richard Alexander

“Thank You for Caring”



Special congratulations go out to our very own Contract Health Specialist, Flora Mann. Because of outstanding character and achievement she was elected into the National Technical Honor Society at Gordon Cooper Technology Center. We are all so proud of her as she works towards her LPN license. Keep up the good work!

“Your Work is Appreciated”



We would also like to acknowledge Tina Ontiveros-Adame for her academic achievements. As a result of her dedication to scholarly success, the Phi Theta Kappa chapter at Seminole State College invited her to accept membership into the international honor society. We commend her on her hard work, great job!

***Nurses names are:

Holly Ellis, RN
Roxann Patterson, RN
Debi Sloat, RN
Valene Bartmess, RN
Sylvia Swanson, RN

Newton Sloat, LPN
Nancy Ward, LPN
Angela Green, LPN
Tammy Simmons, LPN
Dian Osburn, LPN
Christina Fullbright, LPN

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.

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.

THE MEDIA DEPARTMENT'S
FACT OF THE
MONTH...

“Almost” is the longest word in the English language with all the letters in alphabetical order.

www.nationmaster.com

AST Education Department holds EOC Tech Fire Academy Meeting



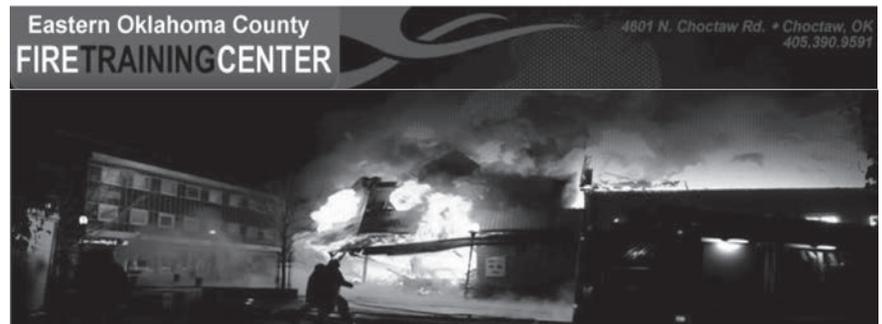
Robert Lincoln (Instructor), Mark Masters (Instructor), and Joe Bennett (Instructor) present fire academy information to those in attendance.

The AST Education Department held an informational meeting on April 13th at the Little Axe Resource Center to provide tribal members with information on the Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center's full-time, Summer, Fire Academy specializing in Structural and Wild Land Firefighting presented by Robert Lincoln, Mark Masters, and Joe Bennett, all are Instructors at the EOC Tech Fire Academy.

The program was designed to introduce and prepare Native Americans for a position in the fire service as a career Firefighter or volunteer Firefighter. This program available to tribal members as a means to prepare them for the workforce in the above mentioned fields.

Fire Academy Core Curriculum

- First Responder
- Firefighter I
- Firefighter II
- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Hazardous Materials Operations
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas
- Flashover
- Wild Land
- Basic Auto Extrication
- IFSAC testing (National Certification)



The Course is 12 weeks in length, M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Fire Academy will begin May 26th, 2010 and end August 20th, 2010

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

The process begins with an application from the candidates which EOC Tech will provide, followed by selection process through interviewing and a physical agility test at our facility.

If you have questions, please contact the Education Department or Robert Lincoln Fire Academy Instructor (405) 788-7767, or Mark Masters Fire Academy Instructor (405) 747-1887, or **Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center, 4601 N. CHOCTAW RD. CHOCTAW, OK.**

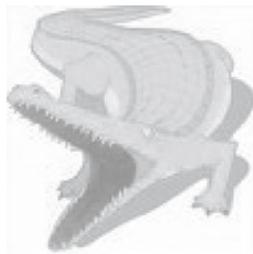
Tribal Youth Program sponsors Spring Break Camp

The Camp Nikoti-Tribal Youth Program sponsored the 2nd annual Melokami Youth Camp in collaboration with AST Cultural Preservation, AST Domestic Violence, AST Indian Child Welfare, AST Office of Environmental Health and Engineering, and AST Diabetes and Wellness. This camp was held during the week of Spring Break, March 15-19, 2010 at the Brendle Corner Community Building in Little Axe.

Melokami Youth Camp included daily activities like Absentee Shawnee Language instruction, team building games, cultural arts and crafts, physical fitness games, and a time of reflection for the youth to document anything they wanted to about their day. Presentations were given on various topics like: leadership, personal finance, teen dating violence, tobacco prevention, educational options after high school, internet safety, and water quality and conservation. Youth completed photo collages and wrote a list of five positive things about themselves to end the busy week on a very positive note.



**Camp Nikoti
Counselors and Volunteers
Needed!
Applications Available Now and are
Due by May 14th.**



Counselors must be at least 16 years of age to apply.

Volunteers must be at least 15 years of age. You may pick up an application at the Absentee Shawnee Tribal complex in the basement of building #3. Questions? Call 275-4030 ext. 193 and ask for Margaret Ellis.

THE OUTBACK



Summer
Leadership and Recreation
Camp

Call 275-4030 ext. 193 and ask for Margaret Ellis.

Ages 11-14 yrs.

Sign Up Will Begin May 17th!

LIMITED SPACE IS AVAILABLE. FIRST
COME, FIRST SERVE



Following in Our Footsteps

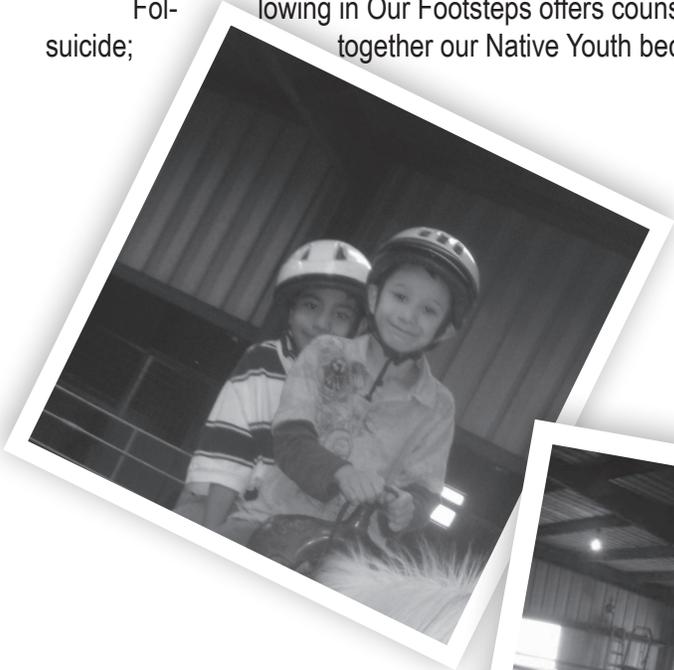
Our spring break retreat was amazing...to say the least. We had digital imagery, photography, making dream catchers, beading key chains, guitar, drums, museums, hiking, and horseback riding.

We are starting a baseball league this summer and want you and your children to be involved. Additionally, we are planting a garden and need Following in Our Footstep participants to volunteer for "sweat equity" to be able to be involved in the float trip this summer.

It is so imperative to keep our young children from methamphetamine and other drug use. We are educating our youth in alternative ways and exposing them to positive alternatives that will give them something to do that is valuable.

Suicide is something that no one wants to address; especially when thinking of our youth. When suicide impacts our lives it is tragic. As most of you know Pottawatomie County is ranked 3rd in suicide completions in the State of Oklahoma.

Following in Our Footsteps offers counseling services, education, and activities to help decrease meth and suicide; together our Native Youth become motivated and learn healthy lifestyle changes.



ALL NATIONS BASEBALL

Coming together as one building strong morals and confidents as one nation!

AGES 7-19

League Breakdown: Coach Pitch 7-10 Kid Pitch 11-15 Fast Pitch 16-19

PRICES

- No costs only requires dedication and fun!!!!

DATES

- Sign up deadlines: TBA
- coach meetings: TBA
- Season Starts: TBA



Baseball registration form

Fill out and return to ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE, or call (405)585-3133.

Age _____ M/F _____ Special Requests _____

Name _____ Birth date _____

School _____ Parents name _____ Birth date _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone (home) _____ cell _____ city _____ state _____

Zip _____

Shirt size (CIRCLE): YXS YS YM YL YXL AS AM AL AXL

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE will not assume responsibility for any injury incurred while participating in any athletic events or any athletic sporting events. Nor will ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE be responsible for any lost or stolen property. I read and understand this agreement and hereby agree that ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE is not responsible for and injury or lost or stolen property and agree to release any photography or footage relaying baseball activities.

_____ Sign Name _____ Date _____

Interested in coaching? _____

Assistant coach _____

Shirt size _____ phone number _____

Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Program

The Domestic Violence Department had a busy month. 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**.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe Domestic Violence Department would like to thank everyone for helping to bring awareness to Sexual Assault for the month of April. Please continue to bring awareness to this problem throughout the year.

Attached are a few of the activities that the Domestic Violence Department had in conjunction with Absentee Shawnee Tribe Indian Child Welfare.

Listed below are a few statistics regarding Native Americans and Sexual Assault:

- Native Americans are victims of rape or sexual assault at more than double the rate of other racial groups.
- For Native American victims of violence, the offender was slightly more likely to be a stranger than an intimate partner, family member or acquaintance.
- Native Americans described the offender as an acquaintance in 34% of rapes/sexual assaults, and as an intimate partner or family member in 25% of sexual assaults.

Southwest Ctr. for L. and Pol'y, Statistics (2005), <http://www.swclap.org/statistics.htm>; Steven W. Perry, U.S. Dep't of Just., NCJ 203097, *A Bureau of Justice Statistics Statistical Profile, 1992-2002: American Indians and Crime* (2004), available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/aic02.htm>

Thank you,

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

Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Events for April

April 6, 2010- Balloon Release & Proclamation 2:00 pm

April 14, 2010- Cookies & Refreshments 12:00 pm

April 20, 2010- Woman's Self Defense with ASTPD 1:30-4:30 pm

April 27, 2010- Lunch & Scavenger Hunt/Challenge 11:30-1:00 pm

Indian Child Welfare/ Domestic violence

These are the winners of the scavenger hunt! On behalf of ICW and Domestic Violence Departments thank you for your participation!

Anthony Johnson
Mike Greenwood
Debbie Onzahwah
Emily Longman
Tamara Tehauno



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE VETERANS ASSOCIATION

To find out more about the AST Veterans Association, schedule the Color Guard or request a Military Funeral Honor call:

David (405) 245-4802
Walter (405) 683-1247
John (405) 481-3822
astveterans@gmail.com

Address: Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Veterans Association
P.O. Box 247
Tecumseh, OK 74873



The next membership meeting will be Wednesday, **May 12th** at the **Thunderbird Casino** (far Southeast end, a.k.a. The meeting room.) The meeting will begin at **7pm**. A pot-luck dinner will follow the meeting.

Thunderbird CASINO

Thunderbird Entertainment Center, Inc. (TEC, Inc.) is a private corporation that was created under the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Corporation Code in 2000. The Incorporator and creator of Thunderbird Entertainment Center, Inc. was Mickey Burke. When it was created Mickey Burke was the sole Board of Director and occupied the positions of President and Secretary. The sole shareholder of the corporation is the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma.

In 2000, Mickey Burke established TEC, Inc. with the initial purpose of obtaining a liquor license with the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission, like most corporations, the certificate of incorporation included the stipulation that TEC, Inc. could engage in any lawful business. TEC, Inc. entered into a management agreement with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe to operate the Jockey Club within Thunderbird Casino.

In 2008, the TEC, Inc. Board of Directors was expanded. Additionally, a management agreement to operate all casinos belonging to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe was signed between the Tribe and TEC, Inc. Originally, it was the intent of the Executive Committee to have Executive Committee members on the Board of Director to ensure proper set-up of the corporation's Board of Directors and to establish rules and regulations. It was and still continues to be the intent of the Executive Committee to replace and limit Executive Committee members and replace them with business professionals once the corporation was established.

The Executive Committee sitting as the Shareholders' Representative elects the Board of Directors of Thunderbird Entertainment Center, Inc. Currently, there are five members of the Board of Directors who hold one-year terms. The current members of the Board of Directors are Scott Miller; Troy Little Axe, Jr.; Briana Ponkilla; Alecia Onzawah; and Michelle Lopez. The members of the Board of Directors are not paid for their

services. The Executive Committee has the ability to elect the members of the Board of Directors in June of each year and may select whomever they want to serve while maintaining the integrity of the corporation.

The day to day operations of Thunderbird Casino were delegated to the General Managers. The General Managers report to the Board of Directors, however, monthly financial reports are sent to Treasurer Anita Chisholm, Controller Belinda Collins, the Absentee Shawnee Tax Commission, the Tax Administrator Les Cusher and the Absentee Shawnee Gaming Commission. The corporate documents are held by the Corporations Secretary, while the Tribal Secretary's Office maintains the incorporation documents.

The Thunderbird Entertainment Center, Inc. Board of Directors meets once a month at Thunderbird Casino and the Executive Committee is invited to attend each meeting as well. The Executive Committee and the TEC, Inc. Board have had several joint meetings over the last year. In fact, on April 15, 2010, the Executive Committee and the TEC, Inc. Board of Directors met jointly.

It has come to the attention of the Executive Committee that there are tribal citizens who believe that TEC, Inc. should be dissolved. While it is a possibility, the Executive Committee believes that tribal citizens should all be knowledgeable about the reasons that TEC, Inc. was created as well as the pros and cons of dissolving the corporation, prior to that action being taken.

Pros for dissolving Thunderbird Entertainment Center, Inc.:

- By dissolving the TEC, Inc., the Executive Committee would have more control over the operations of Thunderbird Casino if the Executive Committee retained oversight of gaming.
-

- Gaming could be consolidated with all economic development under the Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority, Inc.

Cons:

- While TEC, Inc. may have been created for the purpose of obtaining a liquor license, the real purpose of the corporation has been to provide increased protection of the Tribe from liability. Currently, the Oklahoma Supreme Court has ruled corporations, businesses and Tribe's who hold liquor licenses have subjected themselves to the authority and jurisdiction of the State of Oklahoma in regards to liquor related torts. Having TEC, Inc. limits the assets that a defendant may seek to obtain in a tort lawsuit. If TEC, Inc. were dissolved, the assets of the Tribe would be at risk in tort claim cases.
- Currently, all contracts with vendors and businesses are contracted with Thunderbird Entertainment Center, Inc. Again, the reason for this is to separate the Tribe from the business and limit the Tribe's liability in the event of a contract dispute. If the corporation were dissolved, these contracts would have to be renegotiated or assumed by the Tribe. This would negatively affect revenue and profit as it would appear to vendors that Thunderbird Casino is not stable and vendors may renegotiate at less favorable terms.
- Currently, the liquor license is held by Thunderbird Entertainment Center, Inc. If the Corporation is dissolved prior to another entity obtaining a liquor license for Thunderbird Casino, it could directly impact gross revenues as some gamblers may choose to gamble at a different casino that serves alcohol. This would negatively affect revenue

and profit. Obtaining a new liquor license could be a lengthy process as there are requirements that must be fulfilled prior to the liquor license being approved.

- Gaming could be consolidated with all economic development under the Absentee Shawnee Economic Development Authority, Inc. This idea was suggested when ASEDA, Inc. was created, however at this time, it does not appear that the ASEDA Board is in a position to oversee the Tribe's biggest asset.
- Dissolving the TEC, Inc. Corporation is a lengthy process that will require action by the Tribal Court to ensure that all business obligations and debts are properly handled. If the Tribe were to assume oversight of gaming and Thunderbird Casino, it is possible the Court would want the Tribe to assume any debts of Thunderbird Casino, too.
- Additionally, the National Indian Gaming Commission may have concerns with the Tribe having management oversight of gaming as well as oversight over the regulatory authority, the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Gaming Commission.

At the April, 2010 General Council Meeting, a motion was made to direct the Executive Committee to dissolve Thunderbird Entertainment Center, Inc. and a vote was held. The vote was 46 in favor of dissolving; 35 opposed to dissolving; and 2 spoiled ballots. While General Council voted to dissolve Thunderbird Entertainment Center, Inc., that vote did not have any authority and can only be considered a political request. Upon examining the corporate code, only a unanimous vote of the shareholders (every member of the Tribe), a court order, or a majority of the Board of Directors and majority of the shareholders may dissolve the corporation. Even with a vote approving dissolution by a majority of the Board of Directors and shareholders, a court order dissolving the corporation would more than likely be necessary. The Executive Committee cannot unilaterally dissolve the corporation.



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.

Absentee Shawnee Tribe

**Enrollment office
Address Change Request**

Date: _____ CDIB# _____ Birth Date: _____

Full Name: ☆ _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Home Phone (____) _____

_____ Cell Phone (____) _____

Tribal Member Signature Date

**Please Mail to:
Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Enrollment Office
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK. 74801**

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.

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Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority

1117 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.

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

**If you'd like to submit an ad
or article give us a call at
(405) 598-1279 or send us an
e-mail at
mediadept@astribe.com**

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



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.



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE
OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
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SHAWNEE, OK 74801

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Shawnee, OK 74801

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LI-SI-WI-NWI
GRAPHICS & PRINTING

2010 TRIBAL PHONE NUMBERS

Tribal Complex	(405) 275-4030
or	1-800 256-3341
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

**Some services that are offered
include:**

Business Cards
Invitations
Announcements
Calendars
Banners

Logo Designs
Graphics
Brochures
Envelope Designs
Copies