



The Shawnee Journal

29 South Highway 69A Miami, Oklahoma 74354 918-542-2441

Volume 9, issue III

Fall 2011

Points of Interest:

- ▶ Education Assistance
- ▶ Program Updates
- ▶ Chairman's Update
- ▶ Important Dates



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2011 Christmas Party

The Tribe's annual Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd this year. As you may recall, we typically have our annual Christmas party at Cowboy Junction in Vinita, OK. Unfortunately, earlier this year they had a fire and the facility is not available to us at this time.

They are in progress of rebuilding and we look forward to holding the function again there next year. We have looked at many other facilities in the Afton and Vinita areas trying to find a central point but we were not able to find a suitable facility to handle the size of our event.

So for this year **ONLY**, we will be holding the party at the Ottawa Peoria

building. The address is 114 Eight Tribes Trail in Miami, OK. It is located immediately north of the Will Rogers turnpike gate. This year we are fortunate to combine our decorating efforts for a Christmas party with some of the other local tribes in the area. As the facility will be used many times during the month of December for different party events.

It will be a come and go event starting at 11 am and lasting until 2 pm. We will be serving hamburgers, hot-dogs, baked beans, potato salad, chips and assorted Christmas sugar cookies for dessert.

Please be sure to bring your cameras so that you will be able to take pictures of your children and family members with Santa and his elves. We will be giving out a gift to children enrolled with

the Shawnee Tribe from ages birth to thirteen. We will also have chocolates and goody bags for every family in attendance.

Throughout the party we will have entertainment by balloon sculptor Dustin Reudelhuber. He always amazes the adults and children alike with his fanciful creations like life size reindeer and Rudolph hats.

Please take time to thank your tribal staff, as they work very hard organizing this event and making sure it is an enjoyable day for all our Tribal members. We would also like to thank Chief Sparkman and his wife Dede for cooking all the hamburgers and hot dogs. We look forward to seeing you and your family at the party. Please call the tribal office at 918-542-2441 with any questions.

Breaking New Ground

The new Northeastern Tribal Health System is well underway in the construction process of the 50,000 square foot facility.

After a traditional ground breaking and a Native American blessing ceremony held in September of 2010, dirt work began in August of this year and the project is now rapidly progressing. According to the Project Director, Kim Chuculate and Project Manager Bryan Moore the site work, plumbing, electrical and fire-line have all been roughed in. Two concrete storm safe rooms that will double as conference rooms have been built within the structure of the new facility. The concrete slab is scheduled to be poured in the next few weeks. The iron work is scheduled to begin in late November as well.

The new building will replace the current 12,000 square foot clinic leased from the Seneca –Cayuga Tribe where it has been housed for the last

33 years. The much larger new facility is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2012 and it is located approximately two miles north of the current facility on Highway 69 A in Miami, OK.

Fritz Bailey of Tulsa is the architectural firm used on the project and Oakridge Builders is the contractor from Tulsa doing the construction. The Corps of Engineers is carefully following and inspecting the project to ensure that all regulations, standards, requirements and specifications are met. The Corps of Engineers is responsible for quality assurance inspections for the clinic, which helps to ensure quality construction.

An additional Health Education Center has already been funded and will also be housed on the property. The previous clinic had not had an adequate place to host educational presentations and meetings for patients, staff and the community.

The clinic has approximately

65, 000 patient visits a year and the expansion is very much needed. Patients and employees were consulted on the design details of the facility in the planning stages and their input will be seen throughout the clinic. Larger health service areas are the goal for the new clinic to provide the best quality health care possible for all Native Americans in the community.



Above is a picture of the Corps of Engineers checking a concrete pour.

Education Assistance Available

Applications are available for the post secondary education assistance for tribal members who are attending college or vocational programs. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2011. Applications can be obtained by calling the tribal office at 918-542-2441. Applications must include a completed application form and proof of enrollment which provides proof of the number of hours enrolled to qualify for full or part time status. Official proof of at least a 2.5 GPA from your previous semester or your high school transcript to qualify for the assistance.

Environmental & Natural Resources Department

The Tribe's Environmental and Natural Resources Department if funded by a General Assistance Program (GAP) grant provided each year by the Environmental Protection Agency. The department will begin working on deliverables for the FY 2012 grant in the amount of \$110,000.00.

Deliverables this fiscal year include a public outreach project in the form of a calendar. We have always received such positive feedback from the calendar project and tribal members seem to really enjoy getting

the calendar in the past years. Another deliverable this year will include a public outreach project in the form of a pamphlet educating tribal members on the importance of water conservation and efficiency in their household.

Staff will also host a 1 day training workshop on Healthy Tribal Communities for local tribal environmental departments and natural resource managers. Another deliverable the staff will implement will be an educational project in the local public grade schools about recycling.

It is the goal of the Environmental and Natural Resources Department to help tribal members increase their awareness of environmental issues and help educate them on their personal impact on the environment.



The Environmental and Natural Resources is always looking for new ideas and project to consider. If you have any ideas you would like to share, email them to shawneetribe@shawnee-tribe.com.

Tribal Members In The News



Eight American Indian students from across the United States received scholarship funding from Accenture's American Indian Scholarship fund. One of the eight was Shawnee Tribal member Ariel Barnes. The Scholarship Fund helps support the highest-achieving American Indian and Alaska Native students who are pursuing a degree and career in technology and business. Criteria for the scholarship are academic excellence, leadership ability, and a commitment to American Indian culture and community.

Ariel is the daughter of Business Council member Ben Barnes and Tonya Barnes. Ariel is a Freshman at Oklahoma State University. We are so proud of Ariel for this great accomplishment.



If you would like to have a family member featured in the newsletter please provide a photo and narrative to the tribal office. You can mail the photos to P.O. Box 189 Miami, OK 74355-0189 or email the image as a jpeg attachment to shawneetribe@shawnee-tribe.com.

NEO A&M College is Recipient of another \$2 million Indian Education Grant

For the second time in less than a year, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) has received a \$2 million Department of Education Title III grant to help serve Native American students.

The grant will provide funding to develop three programs for online degrees: **Hospitality Management (hotel and casino management), Early Childhood Education and Criminal Justice.** These programs were identified , based on projected growth statistics from the Oklahoma Employment Security Division and through discussion with the local Tribes.

“What we have proposed to do through the grant application is to bring these three degree programs 100 percent online, and that will be in addition to our on-campus options that have proven very successful,” said NEO A&M President Dr. Jeff Hale.

Hale said the program is not limited to Native American students, but Native American students will be the focus.

NEO was selected because there is ample opportunity for students to earn bachelor degrees online through area

four year schools in those fields.

A survey conducted in the Fall 2010 found that 95 percent of NEO students have reliable access to the Internet and 77 percent have access on their cellular phone or other mobile device. Students majoring in the identified programs indicated a strong preference for online courses.

The grant will fund professional development of faculty and will allow the school to hire 3 full time staff: distance education developer, online technology specialist and project analyst/assistant as well as program director. Laptop computers and tablet devices will also be utilized.

“Our intent is to be able to make new technology, whether it is the Ipads or the smart phones, more readily available to our student and faculty populations,” Hale said. “When you think about the possibilities created via a \$2,000,000 grant, I think the College and local Tribes can cover a great deal of important territory.”

Hale received word of the grant from the office of Congressman Dan Boren.



“They informed us that NEO was going to be one of a select few college and universities in the United States to receive another \$2 million Title III grant,” Hale said.

“I am pleased that NEO will receive this funding to improve its services to Native American students,” Boren said in a statement. “A fifth of NEO’s students are Native American, and the vast majority of these students are recipients of Pell Grants. This funding will help NEO increase it’s capacity to serve Native American and low income students through a program named “Merging Tradition and Technology to Create Access to High-Demand Careers.”

“This program tailors classes to fit specific needs of these students, who are in an integral part of Northeastern Oklahoma,” Boren said.

No bricks or mortar will be used with the new project, unlike the previous Title III grant. *(taken from The Chronicle of Grand Lake)*

Update from the Chairman

2011 is coming to a close. It has been a good year for our Tribe. Naturally, we would have liked for things to be better but under the economic circumstances of the country we are in good shape. To the best of my knowledge, we have met the needs of our people. Your Business Council and staff have done a great job keeping programs and services on track. The downside is that the budgets for next year are facing a 12 - 15% reduction in federal funding. We are already tightening our belts and preparing for these cuts so that our programs are not affected.

Last month, November 15th, Georgie Honey resigned as our Tribal Treasurer. She has moved to Tulsa to be closer to family. Georgie likes to tell the story that when she became Treasurer in the mid 1980's we had \$86 in the bank, so lets applaud her for the financial progress of this Tribe. Each year the AARP honors a group of Indian elders from the state of Oklahoma for their outstanding service to their Tribe. This year Georgie was selected for our Tribe. The banquet was held on October 4, 2011 in Oklahoma City. She certainly earned these accolades. Personally, I will miss her guidance, direction and unsolicited advice. She will be missed. The Business Council has selected Business Council member Roy Baldrige to fill the Treasurer position. Carolyn Foster, from Lenapah, Oklahoma, has been chosen by the Business Council to fill the remainder of Roy Baldrige's term.

I was re-elected as your Tribal leader at our Annual Meeting in September. I want to assure everyone I am humbled by being selected. I will honor the confidence and trust you have put in me. Your elected Tribal Council and staff are a great group of people to work with. They make my job easier. I am indebted to them all.

Dede and I wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ron

Shawnee Language Preservation Program Update

As your Shawnee Tribe's language program enters its second year, we would like to thank all of the families and volunteers that attend and participate in the program. We are especially thankful for all of the volunteers and the support of the Business Council. As our program grows, we know that we have wonderful people making commitments and efforts to ensure we will continue to have Shawnee speakers amongst us.

Our monthly classes have been very successful at reaching Shawnee families. We typically will have over 50 people attend our monthly classes where we learn Shawnee words and phrases. Class attendees also share in dinner and fellowship followed by an activity, such as a Stomp Dance during the warmer months.

This year we have also added a weekly class on Thursday evenings at 6:30 at the local college, NEO A&M. We have seen wonderful attendance at this class and we are able to cover much more material speeding up the rate at which our Shawnee students are learning. We will be adding more opportunities in the coming months to learn Shawnee and look forward to announcing those once those plans are in place.

If you or your family would like to become involved with our program, please contact the business office for details about the next class, time and locations. We can also be reached at shawneelan-guage@gmail.com or via Facebook at "Shawnee Language Class".

Ben Barnes



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THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

**PUBLICATION
OF THE
SHAWNEE TRIBE**

VOLUME 9, ISSUE III

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**THE TRIBAL OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED AS
FOLLOWS:**

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

11/24 & 11/25/2011

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

12/23 & 12/26/2011

NEW YEARS DAY

1/02/2012

**THE BUSINESS
COUNCIL & STAFF
WISHES EVERYONE
A MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

**APPLICATIONS NOW
AVAILABLE FOR:**

**CCDF
DAY CARE
ASSISTANCE**

**2012 SPRING
SEMESTER
EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE**