



# The Shawnee Journal

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

Volume 9, issue 11

Summer 2011

## Points of Interest:

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



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## Children's Pow Wow & Funfest

On June 11, 2011 the Shawnee Tribe will be hosting the annual Children's Pow Wow and Funfest at the Ottawa Pow Wow grounds in Miami, OK. Directions to the grounds are 3.6 miles East on OK-10 from the toll booth at the Will Rogers Turnpike entrance in Miami, Turn right onto South—137, turn left onto East 110 Road, turn right onto South—613 Road and end at 11400 613 Road.

Activities include educational and fun games, entertainment, prizes, exhibition dancing, and storytelling. The fun fest activities will be held from 12 noon until 5 pm. Arena entertainment will be held from 12 noon until 6 pm. Gourd Dancing will be held from 3—5pm, A dinner will be served from 5—7 pm that is free and open to all attendees. The

Grand Entry will be starting at 7 pm. The day will end with stomp dancing starting at 11:30 pm. All Pow Wow princess are invited to attend the event. The 2010 outgoing Princess is Kayera Smith, and the incoming 2011 Princess is Shawneese Hernandez.

Special Appearances this year include the Tallahassee Wvko-kaye Ceremonial Grounds. A performance by the children's dance group instructed by Shawn King, and the Shawnee Tribe Language Preservation Class.

The staff for this year's Pow Wow includes Head Man ~ Geoff Tyner, Head Lady ~ Rebekka Schlichting, Head Singer ~ Shawn Ellick, Head Gourd Dancer ~ Walter Dye, Head Boy ~ Trevor White, Head Girl ~ Audrianna LaFalier, MC ~ Brad Kills Crow,

and Arena Director Dude Blalock. Pow Wow coordinators are Tena Booth and Bruce Martin.

The Pow Wow is sponsored by the CCDF programs of the Shawnee Tribe, the Miami Nation, Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma, the Ottawa Tribe, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Quapaw Tribe, the Wyandotte Nation and the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma.

The Shawnee Tribe would like to take this opportunity to thank staff member Tena Booth for her tireless effort in organizing this event. Tena works very hard to provide such a great event for the youth in our community. Tena is always open to any ideas or suggestions you might have to make the Pow Wow and even bigger success. Give her a call!

## Education Achievement Award



During the May Business Committee meeting, Business Committee members voted to fund a rewards program for Shawnee Tribal members who complete certain levels of academic achievement.

Starting in May 2011, any tribal member who graduates from an accredited high school will receive \$100 for this achievement. Any tribal member who receives an Associates degree will receive \$200. Any tribal member who completes a Bachelor program will receive \$350, and any tribal member who completes their Masters degree will receive \$500. If a student completes

every degree possible from high school through a masters program, they could earn up to a total of \$1,150.00, beginning May 2011. Unfortunately, we will not be able to reward achievements prior to May 2011.

Applications for this program may be obtained by calling the tribal office and asking for Agnes Sappington. Ms Sappington will mail the Education Achievement Award application to you. The application will be a one page information sheet you must complete as well as submitting a copy of your diploma and college or high school transcript that shows the completed level.

We hope this program will instill an understanding with younger students about the importance of proper preparation for a higher education and to raise the aspirations of many students to in-

clude college in their future plans. The Tribe has established an education fund that is funded by the proceeds from our Motor Fuels Compact with the State of Oklahoma. However, individuals have made donations to this fund. The Tribe appreciates tribal members that wish to assist our young people.

If you would like to make a donation to the Education Fund, please call the Tribal office or you can mail your donation to the tribal office indicating it is for the Education Fund. Your donation is tax deductible, and we promise we will put your money to good use. Your tribal officials and staff feel that investing in the education of our tribal youth is an investment in our Tribe's future.

## School Supplies



The Shawnee Tribal will be offering school supplies on August 2, 3, and 4, 2011, from 4 - 7 pm at the Shawnee Tribal office. Tribal children living within 100 miles of Miami, Oklahoma and attending Pre-K through 8th grade are eligible to receive supplies. Backpacks are stuffed with fundamentals like paper, pencils, glue, crayons and items required by schools in the area along with a new book courtesy of Scholastic Book Club. To pick up school supplies please bring each child's enrollment card at time of pick up. Tribal staff will mail reminder postcards to Tribal households within the service area in July. Please make sure that any family members who are moving this summer remember to change their address with the Tribe's Enrollment and Genealogy Department.

Please call the tribal office at 918-542-2441 if you have any questions.

## 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 has been working on deliverables for the FY 2011 grant in the amount of \$110,000.00.

Activities planned for the upcoming summer months include developing a education project for tribal youth in the form of an activity book. The book will help increase awareness of the need to have environmental protec-

tion and provide children with steps they can take to protect their environment. The book will be mailed to every tribal household that has an enrolled child between the ages of 5-10 years old. Be on the look out for this project in your mailbox soon.

Another project planned for fiscal year 2011 is an education project in the form of a downloadable activity that will be placed on the tribal website. The project will focus on solar energy and alternative uses to change the world of energy. We hope to stimulate an interest in solar

energy and alternative energy solutions. A postcard will be mailed out to each tribal household announcing when the project is live on the website.



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 [shawneetribes@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:shawneetribes@shawnee-tribe.com).

## Tribal Members In The News



On March 5, 2011, tribal member Destiny Breshears participated in a Tulsa Park and Recreation Gymnastic meet. Destiny won 1st place All Around in her division. She scored a 9.3 on the vault, a 8.8 on the bars, a 9.3 on the beam and a 8.5 on the floor. Destiny is the daughter of tribal member Charles Breshears and his wife Susan. She is also the granddaughter of Shawnee Tribe Business Committee Member, Carolyn Smith.



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 [shawneetribes@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:shawneetribes@shawnee-tribe.com).

## Echos of the Past

Oklahoma had only become a state a few years before a talented group of young women would garner international acclaim for the state. At a time when the state image during the Great Depression of the 1930's and the Dust Bowl depicted destitute "Okies" leaving drifting dirt farms for California, five artist of ballet were countering that image on a world wide stage. More recognized as a state with multiple Indian tribes, cowboys, western swing music or more recently criminals of the 30's, these Indian ballerinas caused outsiders to view Oklahoma in a different light. Their names were Rosella Hightower, Elizabeth and Marjorie Tallchief, Moscelyn Larkin and Yvonne Chouteau.

These Indian princesses of ballet, honored state-wide in a 1997 ceremony for their achievements, were all born in the 1920's and as teenagers of the "30's" their road to acclaim was made more difficult by the depression years. In addition, they were born and raised during a time when the federal government, constantly pursuing assimilation of Indians into the white culture, banned traditional tribal rituals including dance. In keeping with their teachings, at the conclusion of their professional careers, two of the ballerinas re-

turned to Oklahoma and assumed those responsibilities.

Moscelyn Larkin was born on January 14, 1925 in Miami. The only child of Eva Matlagova and Ruben Larkin, of Shawnee and Peoria descent. Prior to their marriage, Eva had migrated from Russia and danced in the ballet. Moscelyn's mother coached her until her early teens then she moved to New York for more intensive training. At age 15, she joined the Original Ballet Russe, first as a soloist and then as a ballerina toured the western hemisphere. During her tour she met her future husband, Roman Jasinski. Following their marriage, the couple continued to tour during World War II, then returned to New York where she appeared frequently as the prima ballerina on the Radio City Music Hall. In 1954 the Jasinski's moved to Tulsa and formed the Tulsa Ballet Theater. Moscelyn was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1978.

Her counterpart, Yvonne Chouteau, a great, great, great granddaughter of Jean Pierre Chouteau, the "father of Oklahoma", was born in Fort Worth, Texas on March 7, 1929. She was the only child of Col. C.E. and Lucy Chouteau who, shortly after her birth, moved to Vinita, Oklahoma. She was also of

Shawnee descent. Her inspiration to dance came at age four, after seeing professional ballet in Oklahoma City. Her parents arranged study at the School of American Ballet and at the age of fourteen she became the youngest dancer ever accepted with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. She continued her career with them for the next fourteen years. In 1956 Yvonne married Migual Terekhov, a principal dancer with Ballet Russe and in 1960 the couple moved to Oklahoma to become artists in residence at the University of Oklahoma. In 1963 they organized the Oklahoma City Civic Ballet. Among other awards during her outstanding career, she was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1947 when she was just eighteen.

During their careers as artist and teachers, both Larkin and Chouteau demonstrated their love for ballet first by achieving at a level of superiority as teenagers, then in later years by imparting their skills to others. In so doing these two Indian ballerinas not only set the bar high as professionals but established themselves as role models for future generations of teenagers to pursue their dreams.

*Taken from an article in March 17th edition of The Grand Laker*

## Update from the Chairman

Our Tribe continues to be progressive. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will see an article about tribal government providing money to encourage our young people to continue their education. We appreciate tribal members that have made monetary contributions to our education fund.

On a personal note, my grandson Todd Shores, graduated from Northeastern State University on May 7th with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Health. I am very proud of him! So much for grandpa stories!!!!

Next month we will be having our 3rd Annual Intertribal Children's Pow Wow and Funfest at the Ottawa Pow Wow grounds. I want to thank Tena Booth for all her hard work and effort to make the Pow Wow such a great event. I also want to recognize the other Tribes in the area that have come on board to help expand this successful event.

Along the same line of working with other Tribes, we are exploring possibilities of other ventures with Tribes. One is looking into building a residential care facility. If this should become a reality, it would be 2 years away. In our preliminary talks with the Housing and Urban Development we have been given the authorization to explore this possibility. So, yes it may be a couple of years away, but it is a great project to help our elders.

Our landless situation continues to be a major detriment to this Tribe. Be assured that we are trying everything to resolve this issue. I want to recognize the work that Ben Barnes and Roy Baldrige are doing with our Language Program. They are doing a great job! I can't say enough good things about our staff and Business Committee. It is a genuine pleasure to work with them. They are a very dedicated group of people. I am proud to be a part of them!

Please remember to honor all our Veterans this Memorial Day !

Ron

## Language Program Update

The Tribe's Language Program is about to conclude its first full year with a successful group of young graduates. These hard working kids have put their minds and voices to work learning their Shawnee Language. They each had to memorize one hundred and fifty words and phrases and be able to say them in Shawnee. They also have learned how to greet each one another, say farewell, and other conversational phrases. We are very proud of them.

In June, we will be having a Graduation Banquet to celebrate their accomplishments. The location and time of the Banquet is still being decided. Each of our graduates will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment and a Prize of either an Xbox 360, Wii, Playstation3, or a mini-10 Laptop computer.

Our Graduates still have one more class to attend on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Ottawa Powwow grounds at 7PM, so for those kids that are still working and need some more help, you still have time! We will be serving dinner and will be stomp-dancing after class.

It's never too late to start learning your Language, as we have made the material so that anyone, child or adult, can jump in and start learning Shawnee at any time. Please come and join us on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Ottawa Powwow grounds at 7PM. It will be fun for the whole family.

GiKe WeYaFi NiTiMiGeKo

*(gah-KEE wee-ya-THAH nah-tah-mah-chee-KOE)*

"Everyone help one another"

Ben Barnes



SHAWNEE TRIBE  
P.O. BOX 189  
MIAMI, OK 74355

Phone: 918-542-2441  
Fax: 918-542-2922  
E-mail: shawneetribel@shawnee-tribe.com

**MAIL TO:**

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

*MEMORIAL DAY*

**05/30/1011**

*INDEPENDENCE DAY*

**07/04/2011**

*LABOR DAY*

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2011**

**INTER TRIBAL  
CHILDREN'S  
POW WOW  
JUNE 11, 2011**

**ELDER OLYMPICS**

**JUNE 17TH**

**OTTAWA PEORIA BLDG**

**9—2 PM**

**CALL LINDA PLOTT @**

**918-541-1990 TO REGISTER**

**APPLICATIONS NOW  
AVAILABLE FOR:**

**CCDF  
DAY CARE  
ASSISTANCE**

**SUMMER SCHOOL  
EDUCATION  
ASSISTANCE**

**NAHASDA  
EMERGENCY  
ASSISTANCE**