



The Shawnee Journal

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

SUMMER 2017

Points of Interest:

- ▲ **More Kids In the Woods Update**
- ▲ **Chief's Update**
- ▲ **ANNUAL MEETING**

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2017 Annual Meeting

As prescribed by Article IX of the Constitution of the Shawnee Tribe, the annual meeting is held the 3rd Saturday in September. This year's annual meeting will be held Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the tribal community building (1/4 mile North of Will Rogers Turnpike entrance) in Miami, Oklahoma.

Chris Floyd, Chairman of the Election Committee announces that an election will not be held. Candidates for two Business Council seats #5 and #6 have been certified by the Election Committee. All candidates are running unopposed and will commence their four year terms in October. These candidates are Business

Council Members Joel Barnes and Roberta Coombes.

Each tribal member will receive an Annual Report providing financial and program status updates. Any tribal business may be transacted at the meeting; it is not necessary to place items on the agenda in advance. We encourage all members to attend, and voice your opinion. This is your chance to be involved with your Tribe's future direction.

Light refreshments will be served starting at 9:30 am. The Tribe's Gift Shop will also be open after the Annual Meeting if anyone would like to purchase logo items featuring the Tribal seal and flag and Pendleton items. We will also be issuing new picture tribal enrollment cards for

anyone that would like to come over to the social service building after the meeting.

The Tribe will be hosting a Community Meeting on the Friday night before to discuss the potential constitutional amendments that will be proposed during the Annual Meeting. The Community Services Building will open at 6pm Friday, September 15th, 2017. Look for more information on page 4 of this newsletter on potential constitutional amendments. We welcome everyone to come and take the opportunity to socialize and learn more about your Tribe.

If you have any questions regarding the Annual Meeting please call the Tribal office at 918-542-2441.

More Kids In The Woods

This is the third year that the Shawnee tribe traveled with youth to the Shawnee National Forest.

This year our numbers grew to 12 young tribal members with ages ranging from 12 to 19.

While at the forest, these young people were able to observe several of the jobs performed by employees of the Forest Service. They were able to participate in activities such as plant identification, dip netting, shocking streams for fish inventory and meeting with forest law enforcement officials.



During the week there were several hikes throughout different parts of the forest, canoeing

and swimming. In 2017, parents of some of the young tribal members volunteered to

chaperone. It was a great experience. It appeared that everyone had a good time.

Students this year were paid a stipend for attending the camp and for the work they completed during the week. An additional program initiated was a paid eight-week internship



program located at the Mark Twain National Forest. Being a small tribe, there have not been many employment opportunities available. It is our hope that we may be able to offer more opportunities through partnerships with agencies like the U.S. Forest Service. Look for additional information in this newsletter about these opportunities.

If anyone is interested in volunteering as chaperone for future trips to the Shawnee National forest or are interested in a paid internship, please contact the tribal office.

Employment Opportunities for Tribal Members

The Shawnee Tribe and the United States Forest Service have a cooperative program to find tribal citizens interested in a job in wildland fire program. An ideal candidate would be a recent grad (associates or bachelor's degree) in a related field, a military vet, or someone with existing wildland fire experience. Even if you are not the "ideal" candidate, if you think that you would like to work outdoors, working hard

to conserve our ancestral forests, this might be your opportunity.

Details: 6 month training program, \$800 a month plus room and board, those that finish will be eligible to be hired as fire bosses elsewhere in the US Forest Service.

I encourage adults and young people to apply. This is a life opportunity that

could open the door to federal employment and a rewarding career doing important work.

Contact Ben Barnes, Shawnee Tribe, at ben.barnes@gmail.com or at the website listed on the flyer included in this newsletter. I will also answer questions here, if I know the answer. If I don't know, I can get it for you. ~ Second Chief Ben Barnes

Children and Family Services Program Update

Did you know the Shawnee Tribe currently serves 91 families and 150 children that receive childcare services within a 100 mile radius of the Shawnee Childcare Administrative office? The CCDF program works with State and Tribal governments to help tribal families who struggle with work and childcare needs. The following trainings were offered to childcare providers and those who care for children; Safe Sleep, Emergency Preparedness, Taking Art Outdoor, Extreme Playground Makeover and Infection Prevention & Control.

The annual Northwest Arkansas Spring Childcare conference in Springdale Arkansas was held on June 3rd, over 300 childcare providers and administrators attended to receive their ongoing training requirements. CCDF Administrators from the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Ottawa Tribe and Shawnee Tribe were presenters at this annual conference.

While parents are busy making summertime plans for their kids, so are the staff at the CCDF Shawnee Tribe office.

On June 10th the 2017 Intertribal Children's Powwow has a huge success as a result of the dedicated volunteers, staff and the generous

support of our local tribes.

The fun fest and kids activities kicks off the evening Powwow. This element of the event continues to be popular and well attended. This required efforts of more than 100 volunteers to serve over 1,100 event attendees. There were a combined total of 43 tribal and community vendors that showcased their programs, products and services throughout the afternoon. Kids also enjoyed a free lunch that was sponsored by NEO Sodexo's summer food programs. Other activities included carnival rides, inflatable fun entertainment, cultural crafts to make and take home along with photo booths and balloon artists. Definitely something for everyone.

With great honor we would like to welcome the 2017 Intertribal Children's Powwow Princess, Olivia Littlecook. We would like to acknowledge and thank Mallory Blackfox as the 2016 Powwow Princess.

Countless hours goes into this event planning process. This year's event would not have been possible if not for the coordinated effort and support of the nine tribes of Northeastern Oklahoma.

July 10 – 14th Just for Kids



(JFK) summer day camp designed for kids 6-12 years

successfully hosted an average of 130 kids per day. The theme of this camp was "Kid Chef". Designed to help kids learn about health and disease prevention activities were centered on fun, fitness and kids in the kitchen. This week long camp was sponsored by NE Tribal Health Systems, local tribal CCDF programs and the NE Vo-



Tech Nursing program.

Every year the Shawnee Tribe provides backpacks for our tribally enrolled youth from preschool to 8th grade. These packs were assembled by volunteers and staff and given out at the CCDF office on July 26th & 27th on a first come, first serve basis. To date, collectively 153 backpacks have been distributed.

Community Meeting

Shawnee citizens,

As our General Council approaches, I am always mindful of how we as a people have managed to maintain our tribe and affairs in such a kind and cooperative manner. The ultimate authority of Shawnee people, our citizens, is what gives our Nation such a unique character. As such, it is also the time where we can look forward into the future about who we are to be as a people.

Your business council has been discussing possible amendments to our Constitution that we must now consider as we approach new economic endeavors. With the potential of managing a new casino venture in Guymon, Oklahoma, we have to ensure that we have a proper code of laws for the governance of the tribe's authority to self-govern our affairs. We

also have heard the voices of our Shawnee people that have been excluded from citizenship within the tribe because they are also citizens elsewhere of another tribal nation. If this is the will of our General Council, it too can be amended if that is the will of the General Council.

Another consideration that we must amend within our governing document is that currently only the General Council of our Tribe can enter into contractual agreements that includes language of "limited waivers of sovereign immunity." Having worked in the casino industry for more than 20 years, I can attest that this type of language occurs in contracts often and we must fix this so that the Tribe can properly manage its business affairs.

There are other amendments that need to be considered as

the language within our current document reflects the time in which it was drafted in attempts to appease those that held the authority to recognize our sovereign nation as an Indigenous Nation of the United States.

There is much to discuss about constitutional amendments, therefore we will be having a meeting the evening before the annual meeting (Friday 6 PM, September 15th at the Shawnee Community Building) to discuss constitutional amendments, the process, and the necessary steps that must be taken for our business affairs.

I ask that you please attend this important, historic opportunity to consider how we are to shape our Tribal Nation's governing document.

Niyaawe,

Ben Barnes, Second Chief

Tribal Child Support Services

The Shawnee Tribe has partnered with the Modoc Tribal Child Support program to proudly offer services to 19 Tribes across the State of Oklahoma!

Through its partnership with the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, State CSE partners, and the various Tribes; the Modoc Tribe will work with Tribal and State courts to ensure that non-custodial parents are held accountable to their children. The Shawnee Tribe is a Tribe that contracts with the Mo-

doc Tribe.

The focus of the program is to ensure that every child, who resides within the jurisdiction of the Modoc Tribe and the Tribes they serve, receives the full benefit of child support. We are committed to ensuring that children receive their mandated child support in a timely manner, establish paternity for minor children, as well as establish and modify child support orders. Whether you already have an existing case with the State or do not currently have an active child

support case, contact their office today to learn more about how they can help!

The services they offer are paternity establishment, establishment of child support orders, locate, enforcement of support orders, payment disbursement and STEPP.

Visit them on their website at www.modoc-cse.org or call them toll free at 888-540-1501. Their physical address is 615 H St SE Miami, OK and their mailing address is P.O. Box 1110 Miami, OK 74355.

Shawnee Language

How the Moon got his face

Eric Wensman

Research Manager

My brother was telling me a story that I had never heard before and it was told to him by our oldest brother. Our mother's oldest sister's oldest son, Gerald Wade. It is a Shawnee story about how the man in the moon got his face.

Onetime (**pelako'lakwa**), there was this Shawnee boy (**skilawa'tethi**) he liked to hunt rabbits by setting traps. But after a while the rabbits (**petaki'nethikey**) that he was trapping started missing, something was taking them during the night. **Skilawa'tethi** he knew something was getting them because his traps were being sprung between dusk and dawn. But he couldn't figure out who or what might be taking them. So **Skilawa'tethi** decided he was going wait by one of his traps and see who the culprit might be.

As he sat there waiting he saw the moon (**Tepe'Kisathwa**) start to rise in east. **Tepe'Kisathwa** shined his light (**wathe'ya**) illuminating everything around him. **Skilawa'tethi** he could see clearly so he knew he would be able to catch whomever was getting his **petaki'nethikey**. Anxiously he awaited the culprit but at a glance he noticed **Tepe'kisathwa** was starting to descend toward earth (**Hoski'tamkwe**).

All at once a rabbit sprung **Skilawa'tethi's** trap. **Skilawa'tethi** became excited because he knew he was about to see who the thief was.

But, he still couldn't figure out why **Tepe'kisathwa** was coming down to **Hoski'tamkwe**. Pretty soon (**Pelochee'he**) **Tepe'kisathwa** was coming toward him so he hid behind a tree to see what **Tepe'kisathwa** was about to do. To his surprise it was **Tepe'kisathwa** who was taking his **petaki'nethikey**.

Tepe'kisathwa he liked eating rabbits too! When **Tepe'kisathwa** grabbed the rabbit **Skilawa'tethi** reached out to take it from him. Then a fierce struggle commenced between the two. Each tugging on the rabbit, neither one willing to release the poor **petaki'nithi**.

As each one tugged, neither one was willing to let go, **Skilawatethi** reach down and grabbed a handful of dirt and started throwing it into **Tepe'kisathwa's** face. **Tepe'kisathwa** started yelling at **Skilawa'tethi** **Nakekalo!!** (stop!!). **Skilawa'tethi** yelled **kay'pakthen'na!!** (drop it!) but **Tepe'kisathwa** would not let go.

So **Skilawa'tethi** grabbed another handful of dirt and threw it in his face and all of sudden he released **petaki'nethi**. **Tepe'kisathwa's** face was covered in dirt and all you could see was his eyes and mouth.

Tepe'kisathwa quickly arose back into the night's sky, because he knew he had been caught, and decided that is where he will stay.

So now when you look at the moon you will see his **Tepe'kisathwa's** face covered in dirt outlining his eyes and mouth all because **Skilawa'tethi** fought for his game.

Status on Gaming Project



IN REPLY REFER TO:
Branch of Trust Services

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Southern Plains Regional Office
P.O. Box 368
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

JUL 13 2017

Chief Ron Sparkman
Shawnee Tribe
P.O. Box 189
Miami, Oklahoma 74355

Dear Chief Sparkman:

As required by Indian Affairs Directive, 52 IAM 12, issued on June 24, 2010, by the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, we are hereby providing a quarterly status report of the Tribe's pending fee-to-trust cases. This directive provides guidelines for processing fee-to-trust applications as well as procedures for acknowledging receipt of the application.

Therefore, please be advised that there is one fee-to-trust acquisition applications currently pending. This application is as follows:

Property Name:	Shawnee Tribe, Guymon Tract
Acres:	102.98
Purpose:	Gaming
Status:	Pending Decision of the Assistant Secretary

In accordance with the guidelines, quarterly reports will be provided to the Tribe the first week in the months of October, January, April and July. Should you have questions, please contact Sandra Ray, Realty Officer at (405) 247-1559, or Mary Zumwalt, Realty Specialist at (405) 247-1536.

Sincerely,

Regional Director

ACTING

Shawnee Dress Making Class

On June 24th the Shawnee Tribe hosted a Shawnee Dress Making class that was awesome! There were guest speakers from White Oak and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Women of each community shared their thoughts and ideas about the beliefs of what a Shawnee dress needs to look like. Along with these women, there were women from the Eastern Shawnee Tribe and other women from here in the community that shared their beliefs of their tribal dress similar to the Shawnee. They spoke about how you are to make them and when certain times of the day you can sew and cannot, according to Shawnee beliefs. That cause we now live in a modern society where women work outside the home as well as raising a family and there is no longer enough time in the day. It was agreed on by the ladies you can always tell “Ha wa te”.



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topic was spoken about at length because in modern society where women work as raising a family and there is no time in the day. It was agreed on by the ladies that the Creator you need more time

Everyone that attended agreed that the class was well worth the time and effort and should already have been an ongoing discussion between the two divisions. The atmosphere was not all serious and the building was full of laughter with new friendships being made. Each lady that spoke about the Shawnee dress spoke candidly about how they learned to make them and who were their influences in their beliefs. Each lady shared how the knowledge had been handed down to them by either their mothers, aunts or grandmothers. The class brought back special memories that all was willing to share with one another.



Sorry to say if you didn't get an opportunity to attend you really missed out! Hopefully in the future we can do it again. The Absentees want to host the next one, so be sure to look for it again and try to attend.

you didn't get an opportunity to attend you really missed out! Hopefully in the future we can do it again. The Absentees want to host the next one, so be sure to look for it again and try to attend.



Neyahway!!

Eric A. Wensman
Cultural Research Manager

Environmental Program Update

THE DIRTY TRUTH ABOUT VERMICOMPOSTING

Vermicomposting, or worm composting, turns kitchen scraps and other green waste into a rich, dark soil that smells like earth and feels like magic. Made of almost pure worm castings, it's a sort of super compost. Not only is it rich in nutrients but it's also loaded with the microorganisms that create and maintain health soil.

Because it's usually made in modest quantities, vermicomposting is often used as top or side dressing for one's most demanding and deserving plants. Mixed with regular compost it adds a boost to garden soil. Blended with potting soil, it invigorates plants growing in containers, outside or in. Properly made vermicomposting has a slight, natural smell and is perfectly suitable for indoor use.

In general, having a worm bin requires very little attention. Worms are surprisingly low-maintenance housemates. They don't need to be fed every day, they make no noise, and their bins only need to be cleaned every three to six months. They can make for a fascinating learning experience for kids that not only includes biology with one of their favorite creatures, but also wider environmental lessons. Composting with worms isn't just good for plants. It is also good for the planet. It keeps food waste and other organic material out of our trash and reduces use of landfills. No wonder it's encouraged by state, county, and city municipalities who deal with waste disposal and it's costs, both in dollars and environmental damage. The following information will serve as a brief overview as an introductory to Vermicomposting, not a step by step.

What You Will Need In addition to your readily available kitchen scraps, you'll need worms, a container, and bedding. The size of your worm bin and the amount of worms you'll need will depend on how much useable kitchen waste your family generates.

The Right Worm For the Job "A worm is a worm is a worm" may sum up your idea on the subject, but all worms aren't created equal. Don't try using your garden-variety night crawlers. They need to worm their way through dirt to eat and survive and don't dine on organic waste. Most smaller worms found in your landscape are also not suitable. The worms needed for composting are red wigglers, brandling or manure worms. They will eat their weight in garbage every day, reproduce prolifically, survive a variety of feeding conditions, and they do well in composting bins. If you give them adequate food and a good home they can double their populations every 90 days. You may want to start out slow and with fewer worms than you think you'll need and the resulting worm population explosion will take care of the rest.

Bins A good worm composting bin is easy-to-use and efficient. There are a number of fine commercial bins available or the handy among us can build their own. They have easy but very specific needs. And will be need to be kept in a dark quiet corner at temperatures between 55-77 degrees F.

What To Feed You may be asking yourself what is it that worms eat? Although a simple process, they are quite picky. It's easy to avoid problems if you supply your worms the right wastes. Fruit scraps, vegetable peels, tea bags, and coffee grounds are all good. Avoid meat or meat by-products as well as dairy products and oil foods. All those trimmings will do is attract pests like flies and rodents while harming your worms.

Harvesting Castings Once the contents of your bin have turned to worm castings, brown, earth-looking stuff, it's time to harvest the castings and give your worms new bedding. Worms castings can be harvested any time from every 2-6 months depending on how many worms you have and how much food you've been giving them.

Our Environmental Department has recently started our own Vermicomposting Program and are still learning but it is a lot of fun with great benefits. We will be using our worm bins in conjunction with children's activities including but not limited to several Environmental Festivals that occur year around, our Children's Pow Wow and as teaching tools in class rooms and child care centers. Vermicomposting is a relative simple process, but a process none the less. If you are interested in learning more about it or creating your own worm bins. Please feel free to give Rosanna Sheppard a call at our office, or drop on by to see our worms and let her show you our process. We would even like to share our worms to help you start your own.



Update from the Chief

When the Shawnee Tribe was federally recognized by Congress in 2000 a decision was made at our very first meeting to NOT allow dual enrollment, this passed overwhelmingly. Each of us signed an application stating we were not a member of another federally recognized Tribe. That remains in effect till present. It MAY arise at our Annual Meeting this year (September 16th) to amend our constitution to allow dual enrollment, should this arise, I ask you to join me in opposing this change. Let's leave it alone. Dual enrollment

separates our people. For example, if your ancestors were on the Wallace Roll you are not eligible to join another Tribe. Let's stop this division so we do not have two classes of Tribal members. I hope it doesn't come up; we are getting along just fine like we are.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read a letter from the BIA stating that our casino project is on hold until an Assistant Secretary is appointed; not only ours but all gaming projects are on hold. Yes, we are expecting to be approved in due time. Let me say we have a

great partner in Chickasaw Nation. We could not have done this without them.

Your Tribe is in excellent shape. The Heritage Center is under construction and will be a great addition to our Tribe. We have completed our annual audit and have it available for anyone to review. Our staff has done an excellent job in managing the assets of our Tribe. Let them know you appreciate it. I look forward to our Annual Meeting on September 16th !

Ron

COBELL Settlement Clinic

For area tribal citizens that never received or feel that they did not get COBELL payments ~ The Shawnee Tribe and Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. (OILS) will be having a clinic at the Shawnee Tribe Community Building, 108 Eight Tribes Trail, Miami, Oklahoma, on **Thursday, August 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** to assist with any claims regarding the Cobell vs. Salazar class action lawsuit (Cobell). The time to file a claim as an eligible claimant or heir to an eligible claimant is scheduled to end November 27, 2017. This clinic is designed to assist you in filing and finalizing your claim to determine eligibility. Please bring any paperwork you feel will assist the staff in filing your claim, such as birth/death certificates, probate orders, genealogy, etc. Staff from OILS as well as Shawnee officials will be on hand to provide assistance. Please contact Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. at 1-800-658-1497 for any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the clinic date.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact The Shawnee Tribe at (918) 542-2441 or email at ben.barnes@gmail.com.



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THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

**PUBLICATION
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SUMMER 2017

**THE TRIBAL OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED THE
FOLLOWING DAYS:**

LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY

SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

COLUMBUS DAY

OCTOBER 9, 2017

VETERAN'S DAY

NOVEMBER 10, 2017

Go check out our
website at
[www.shawnee-
tribe.com](http://www.shawnee-tribe.com).

Most forms and ap-
plications are availa-
ble online.

**Please be sure to
look for the new
photo id member-
ship form online.**

**APPLICATIONS NOW
AVAILABLE FOR:**

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ASSISTANCE**

**NAHASDA
EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE**

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE