



THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

// JUNE 2021

Our newsletters, logos and website have all gotten a facelift!
Read about some of the new design elements on page 3.

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THE SHAWNEE TRIBE

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF

Content warning: This latter half of this message references residential schools for Native children, the Kamloops Indian Residential School, and the Shawnee Indian Mission.

GREETINGS TRIBAL CITIZEN,

As we emerge from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic and begin adjusting to a new “normal,” we are poised to undergo enormous growth over the coming months. **While the gravity of the pandemic slowed us all down and pulled back our plans made before the pandemic, we were able to use this time to improve our plans for the growth of our Nation, our communities, families, and our individual citizens.** We are now released from the harshest parts of the virus and shooting forward at speed not previously possible with the successful vaccine roll-out and much-improved infrastructure of the Shawnee Tribe.

Despite pandemic restrictions lifting at the Shawnee Tribe and with America-at-large encouraging everyone to return to business as usual, I encourage each of you to be gentle with yourself and your relatives as we enter this new phase. Last month, a trip to Shawnee Indian Mission reminded me of this counsel on being gentle with each other. This guidance, as well as the exhortation of ke'melonaatehe—to do something in a measured, unhurried, and considered pace—have also been apparent to me through the work our Shawnee Language Program staff are doing. This awareness, this calling to mind that we are fellow human beings and relatives to one another, is present within our language's prayers and our oldest recorded language materials. Being gentle, measured, and considerate is fine advice for not just Shawnee people but perhaps all people during a time of division and discord.

So, I encourage you, as we find our way forward together, we will do it measured and considerate with each other. **For those the most harmed by this global pandemic, help is finally on the way.**

Last year was full of moments where we had to act decisively to protect Shawnee people — most notably, our lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Treasury regarding their decision to treat the Shawnee Tribe as not existing with their terrible error assigning us a population of zero people. Treasury's mishandling of CARES

**CHIEF
BEN BARNES**

Relief funding distribution forced us to bring suit against Treasury and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and that lawsuit is finally coming to an end — but not because we are getting the full justice Shawnee people deserve. Rather, we have reached an agreement with Treasury because of timing. The Shawnee Tribe is set to receive less than half of the amount outlined in our claims, but we feel that we are better off making the most of this offer, given that our government only has until December 31, 2021, to utilize all CARES funding. In principle, my office would prefer to continue fighting this suit for our Tribe, but to do so would continue to prolong our people's long-overdue relief from the pandemic.

I am proud of and grateful to the Shawnee Tribe Business Council for their quick, mindful, and unanimous decision-making that guided us through the litigation process. The unanimity of the council was in lockstep with the feelings of myself and the Second Chief, Roy Baldrige, to bring suit and subsequently appeal our first-round court loss, secured a measured victory for the Shawnee Tribe, but perhaps more importantly, a victory for all of Indian Country. **Because of the actions taken by the Shawnee Tribe, we proved to the United States government that their flawed formula could not, nor will it be used in the future when deciding these sorts of payments to tribal nations.**

It is my privilege and pleasure to inform you that our attorneys are finalizing negotiation with the United States for 5.2 million dollars of “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act” (CARES Act) monies and potentially all of our legal fees incurred in our fight to obtain justice. The Shawnee Business Council is currently working to deliver a transparent plan for the COVID-19 relief funding the Tribe will receive, and Shawnee citizens can expect more information very soon.

Once we finalize our CARES Act settlement agreement, we will be sending additional information to every Shawnee household additional information on how your Shawnee government plans to use those funds to assist Shawnee people. **To ensure you receive all updates regarding COVID-19 relief programs and other tribal news, be sure you do the following:**

- Follow our new Shawnee Tribe Facebook page for ongoing updates: facebook.com/saawanooki.
- Visit our website and sign up to receive monthly newsletters in your email inbox.
- Make sure your mailing address is up to date!

To sign up for email newsletters or to update your mailing address, you can also fill out and mail us the form on page 10, or call the Shawnee Tribe's headquarters at (918) 542-2441 and ask our staff to assist you.

Finally, as I write this, the news breaks about the 215 children found in a Canadian boarding school for Native children. Unfortunately, this sort of heartbreak is not unique to Canada. At the 2019 Shawnee General Council meeting, the body of our Tribal Nation decreed we form a cultural sites committee, which

has become what we now know as the “Shawnee Tribe Cultural and Historic Places Committee” (STCHPC). From this effort, the Shawnee Tribe has become involved with our own legacy of boarding schools for Native children.

These past months, we have begun working with the State of Kansas and the city of Fairway to ensure that our interests at the Shawnee Indian Methodist Manual Labor School. It was here that the Methodists running the mission forced young Shawnee children to work as field hands and manual laborers. In the windowless attics of the still – standing dormitory, you can see where our children were forced to sleep and carved messages left behind on the rafters.

During our research, we discovered that parents arrived at the school to check on their children, only to learn right then they had died. We are concerned because there is no cemetery at the Shawnee Indian Mission. We do not know where these children of ours have been buried, but the Shawnee Tribe and the STCHPC will continue this work in Kansas and other areas of Shawnee historic occupation.

As the pandemic continues to abate, we will invite Shawnee citizens to visit the Shawnee Indian Mission as descendants of those children as well as official delegates. This is one of our places, a place of our history, and one that I hope each of you will come to know in the coming weeks and months. The Shawnee Tribe is also working within the State of Ohio to provide accurate interpretation to more majestic sites.

In Peebles, Ohio, the Great Serpent Mound is an effigy mound and the largest in the world depicting a snake. Partnerships between ourselves, the Ohio History Connection, and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe have resulted in our being able to provide valuable, historical context to this place. This site is another of our special places, one that in the future, Shawnee citizens will be asked to visit on a pilgrimage of sorts to view the lands of our forebears. The Shawnee Tribe's staff, committee persons, volunteers, and elected officials have accomplished much during the past year, despite a global pandemic.

I am proud of the contributions of each of our staff members, and as you read these pages, I hope that you are as well.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you. Niyaawe.

hini lekhi, ke'pekwihooolo



Ben Barnes
Chief

A FRESH LOOK

NEW DESIGNS WITH OLD WAYS IN MIND

SAAWANWAATOWEWE

In the design for the language department’s seal, we utilized the **Pleiades constellation**, whose seven stars correspond to the seven river stones used to tie our ceremonial drum. The seal is anchored by the ko’koom’fena star and bound by a guilloche pattern recovered from ancient Shawnee pottery.



saawanwaatowewe
kitakwitcheepe

SHAWNEE TRIBAL COURT

The Shawnee Tribal Court will also be known as teepweeweweneki, or “the truth-telling place.” This seal is also bound by the guilloche pattern recovered from Shawnee pottery shards, and it’s crowned with the silhouette of two white oak leaves.



SHAWNEE RANGERS

Our law enforcement officers are known as rangers, rather than police. Shawnees first work in contemporary law enforcement was alongside Texas Rangers during the Republic of Texas era. mameseniweta loosely translates to “one who arrests.”



GAMING COMMISSION

We incorporated ribbon bets and **Kentucky coffee seeds** for the Gaming Commission’s new seal—a nod to the games we play at spring and fall bread dances.



TAG RENEWALS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!



NEED A NEW TAG?

You can visit our booth at the Programs & Services Fair on **Friday, June 25** or come by the Tag Office **Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm.**

We recommend calling ahead to make an appointment during office hours. **918-542-2441.**

Email questions to tagrenewals@shawnee-tribe.com.

ARE YOU AN ESSENTIAL WORKER? CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Essential workers within 100 miles of Shawnee Tribal headquarters are eligible for direct childcare services through the Shawnee Tribe CCDF program. Applicants will complete an Essential Worker Declaration which would include federal essential worker classifications, such as health care sector employees, emergency responders, food service workers & suppliers and sanitation workers and many others as listed on the U.S Government and State of Oklahoma Essential Workers list. View the essential workers list at shawnee-tribe.org/ccdf.

If you are an essential worker and would like to apply or need more information please contact Diana Baker at diana@shawnee-tribe.com or Sean Graham at sean@shawnee-tribe.com.

Not an essential worker but curious about childcare assistance for which you would be eligible? Contact Diana or Sean at the emails listed above.

This program is sustained through Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) funds.

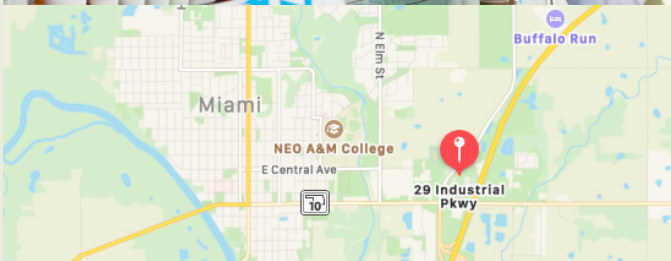
PROGRAMS & SERVICE FAIR

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

FROM 1:00 TO 7:00 PM

Stop by tribal headquarters in Miami on June 25 for food trucks, giveaways, snow cones and more!

Our staff will be available to assist you with program applications and answer your questions about citizen services and program eligibility.



29 S HWY 69A, MIAMI, OK 74354
LOOK FOR THE TENTS AND FOOD TRUCKS!

**THIS
FRIDAY!**

WHAT TO FIND:

HOUSING & UTILITY ASSISTANCE

ELDER ASSISTANCE

CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT

VEHICLE TAGS

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT INDIAN CHILD WELFARE?

OUR ICW DIRECTOR STEPHANIE HAILEY
WOULD BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU.



918-542-2441, EXTENSION 301
STEPHANIE@SHAWNEE-TRIBE.COM

WANT TO HEAR FROM US MORE OFTEN?

- **SIGN UP FOR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTERS
AND CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT SHAWNEE-TRIBE.COM**
- **FOLLOW OUR OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE
FACEBOOK.COM/SAAWANOOKI**
- **PREFER TO RECEIVE NEWS THROUGH MAIL?
LET US KNOW BY CALLING 918-542-2441 OR FILLING OUT AND
MAILING BACK THE FORM BELOW!**
- **KNOW ANY SHAWNEES WHO'VE MOVED RECENTLY?
LET THEM KNOW TO UPDATE THEIR ADDRESS WITH US!**

CUT OUT AND MAIL YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO:

**SHAWNEE TRIBE
29 S HWY 69A
MIAMI, OKLAHOMA 74354**



I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS:

(CHECK ONE OR BOTH)

- VIA: EMAIL
 NEW MAILING ADDRESS

CITIZEN NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

COVID-19 UPDATE

TRIBAL FACILITIES REOPENING

TRIBE ENTERS PHASE III OF REOPENING PLAN ON JUNE 21.

With the threat of spreading COVID-19 continuing to decrease, Shawnee Tribal facilities will begin following Phase III of its reopening plan.

TO KEEP IN MIND

- ACCESS TO ALL SHAWNEE TRIBAL OFFICES AND BUILDINGS WILL BE LIMITED TO TEN VISITORS AT A TIME, WITH UP TO TWO VISITORS MEETING IN A STAFF MEMBER'S OFFICE.
- CITIZENS ARE RECOMMENDED TO CALL AHEAD AND SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH STAFF. [918-542-2441](tel:918-542-2441)
- THE SHAWNEE TRIBE CULTURAL CENTER WILL REOPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON TUESDAY, JULY 6.
- ALL VISITORS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK UPON ENTERING TRIBAL FACILITIES.
- PUBLIC OR CULTURAL GATHERINGS OF 10 OR LESS PEOPLE ARE ALLOWABLE.
- INDOOR GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE WILL BE HELD AT THE DISCRETION OF TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION.



MEET EMILY HOMOLKA

SHAWNEE TRIBE CULTURAL CENTER ARCHIVIST



Emily Homolka graduated with her Master's in Library and Information Studies from the School of Information at the University of British Columbia, focusing on archives and digital repositories.

Since then, she has worked at several community centered archives and digitization projects, including the British Columbia Regional Digitized History project, which brought access to local, regional history to a broad audience via digitization and the Outer Banks History Center, a North Carolina state archive.

“As the archivist for the Shawnee Tribe Cultural Center, I am currently working on the Nilekiwe Yesilawiwaci Sharing History project to inventory, rehouse, and partially digitize the Noe/Warren Collection: records relating to Shawnee history that were collected over the years by Randolph Noe and Stephen Warren, as part of their research on Shawnee people. I've spent the past several months going through thousands of records to re-establish order and take inventory of what we have in all of the boxes stored on shelves in the archives.

When I come across a name I've seen before in a newly found record, it almost feels like I'm meeting them again and learning a bit more about their life each time. Over the next few months, I will be moving into the digitization part of our project, scanning a portion of the records and making them available online. I hope this will share that sense of reawakening and growing familiarity that I have had with the wider community.”

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



“IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL LEARNING MORE ABOUT SHAWNEE HISTORY AS I GO THROUGH THE MATERIALS, PARTICULARLY AS I START TO RECOGNIZE THE INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE PLAYED A PART IN THAT HISTORY.”

— EMILY HOMOLKA



SAAWANWAATOWEWE

SHAWNEE LANGUAGE WORD SEARCH

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden LEFT, DOWN and DIAGONAL.

NOTE: The glottal stops have been removed from the word search grid.

mekin'cike (plant a garden)

pitaawe (plow)

miin'ke (get seeds)

skitameki (watermelon)

siinipokwaki (cantaloupe)

m'skwatewalwi (tomato)

ka'siceeyaaki (cucumber)

taami (corn)

s p m s i i n i p o k w a k i f e c
l k o s k a s i c e e y a a k i k m
c t i l k t p c n l s c l o e n f e
a f c t p w p h l s o k n w r p n k
c f m f a h a y p t m p f m a k p i
t s s n f m l t v k a i i p c m n n
k y f w t w e a e m a a i t m h l c
e n w h k l p k h w i p m n a o k i
n l o y h o w o i t a c m i k a p k
f h k c o a m s a o s l t o y e w e
c n c k p s c k y m e p w i s m s e
a t l e s f i m p k n c f i s a c h

SHAWNEE TRIBE SUPPORTING PITT STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

Starting in the fall semester, students who transfer to or already are enrolled in one of two early childhood programs at Pittsburg State University will be eligible for full scholarships, to be paid for with an annual \$600,000 contribution three Oklahoma tribes will make in 2021-22 and again in 2022-23.

“The goal is that each student receives \$7,000 to \$10,000 per semester for two years,” said Amber Tankersley, who coordinates PSU’s early childhood programs, part of the Family & Consumer Sciences Department in the College of Arts and Sciences. “The intent is that it covers everything. This is all about removing barriers.”

“Operating a tribally licensed childcare center, we understand the importance of having available, high quality, affordable childcare and that cannot be overstated,” said Tracy Beckwith, CCDF director for the Miami Tribe.

Diana Baker, CCDF director for the Shawnee Tribe, noted that parents want to know their children are in a safe, healthy learning environment while they are at work.

“THE GOAL IS THAT EACH STUDENT RECEIVES \$7,000 TO \$10,000 PER SEMESTER FOR TWO YEARS.”

— AMBER TANKERSLEY

In making the announcement, Tankersley was joined by members of the Miami Tribe, Ottawa Tribe, and Shawnee Tribe in Little Gorillas Preschool, where students majoring in early childhood gain hands-on experience working with children.

The scholarship program was prompted by a shortage of childcare providers in the Four State Area, largely due to the pandemic. Offering scholarships was a way to boost the number of qualified, reliable childcare providers in the near future.

“The pandemic has had an overwhelming effect on the American economy and few businesses have been more impacted than those who provide childcare,” said Carol Essex, who directs the Child Care Development Fund, a federal grant program, for the Ottawa Tribe.

The passage of the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) provides the resources necessary to respond to the Covid-19 health emergency; funds are to be used for a variety of activities related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19.

“Particularly during the Covid-19 crisis those parents deemed essential workers were dependent on reliable childcare to continue work,” she said.

In addition to full scholarships, students will have to intern or job shadow in a variety of childcare settings with the hope of encouraging them to consider operating their own family childcare homes or centers when they graduate.

“This is such a unique and life-changing opportunity,” said Tankersley. “It’s an opportunity for students to go to school for free, and then we’ll wind up having some great early childhood professionals in the workforce. We are completely in awe and dumbfounded — it’s incredible.”

Recipients will be chosen by the end of June. They must maintain full-time status; part-time students taking a minimum of six hours would be eligible for partial assistance.



SHAWNEE TRIBE
29 S HWY 69A
MIAMI, OKLAHOMA
74354 U.S.A.

PRSRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 777
OKLA CITY OK

OUT OF AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION, WE WILL
LIKELY HOLD GENERAL COUNCIL OUTDOORS THIS
SUMMER AS WE DID IN 2020.

ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 19

JOIN US FOR FOOD, GIVEAWAYS AND FAMILY FUN,
AND LEARN FROM OUR STAFF ABOUT PROGRAMS
AVAILABLE TO CITIZENS! MORE INFO ON PAGE 07.

SHAWNEE TRIBAL HEADQUARTERS
1:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PROGRAMS & SERVICES FAIR

JUNE 25



DID YOU KNOW?
YOU CAN VIEW A SHAWNEE TRIBE COMMUNITY CALENDAR
ON OUR WEBSITE? ON YOUR COMPUTER OR PHONE,
VISIT SHAWNEE-TRIBE.ORG/EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

