



THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

// DECEMBER 2021

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THE SHAWNEE TRIBE

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEFS



CHIEF
BEN BARNES

hato saawanooki

(Hello Shawnee citizens)


Our offices have been very busy the past three months.

On September 30, we commemorated Orange Shirt Day at our historic Shawnee Indian Manual Labor School in Fairway, Kansas. Our efforts to learn more about and honor our Shawnee children who attended the residential school continue, and we will not stop until we have a full understanding of the mission's history.

After the Orange Shirt Day event, we shifted gears to commemorating the anniversary of the death of Tecumseh. We did not celebrate his death, but rather his life. He has been attributed as to having said...

"Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people."

It is with this mindfulness and with full remembrance of all our former Shawnee leaders, chairmen, chiefs, and hokimaki and hokimawikweeki, pociliki noki pocilikweeki, men and women, that gave themselves to our people that we will commemorate Tecumseh Day every October 5 into perpetuity.



On November 12, tribal leadership gathered at waapakomiisi—our White Oak ceremonial grounds—in Northeast Oklahoma with Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation Chuck Hoskin, Jr. Our people have been practicing our traditional ceremonials at White Oak for over 100 years. And on November 12, Chief Hoskin and I entered our two tribes into a memorandum of agreement to establish the 155 acres at White Oak as a cultural preserve, which ensures that our sacred place will be protected for future generations.

You can read more about these three events in the later pages of this newsletter.

Second Chief Baldrige and I also spent much time lobbying for support of the Shawnee Tribe's interests in the Kansas State legislature and at the federal level in Washington D.C.

My hope for our tribal nation is that our work as a government shows the world how proud Shawnee people are of our culture. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

niyaawe, (thank you)



Ben Barnes
Chief

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEFS

hatito caaki wiyeefa

(Hello everyone)

I hope all is well as we enter the winter season. In addition to events and meetings, our tribal programs officers have been busy strategically planning for upcoming social service program rollouts, and more information will be mailed to you in early 2022.

I'm also very pleased that even with all the new growth in our staff at headquarters, over 60% of our workforce are Native citizens, and nearly half of those are Shawnee citizens.

As I previously mentioned, we continue to engage the federal, state and local governments in issues that affect our tribe. In several cases, we are exploring ways we can enter partnerships that can benefit our tribe and the communities we reside in. We strive to build a future that will guarantee a positive future for our families, specifically our children, grandchildren and generations that follow.

I always try to make the point to say we. I say that because it takes all of us working together to make it all possible. Whether it is the Business Council, support staff, volunteers or citizens, we all share in the successes and failures. We cannot afford to think

SECOND CHIEF
ROY BALDRIDGE

of ourselves as individuals because any decision we make can have blanket effects on each of us and across Indian Country positively and negatively. With that being said, I will state that we always carefully study outcomes as we work toward a positive future for our Shawnee Communities.

Have a safe holiday and happy new year!

niyaawe



Roy D. Baldrige
Second Chief

COVID-19 UPDATE

ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

The Shawnee Tribe moved back into Phase 2 of a safe reopening plan. Tribal leadership and the Emergency Management Officer continue to evaluate the current data and track the COVID-19 case status trends in Ottawa and Texas county.

SHAWNEE TRIBE PHASE 2 QUICK REFERENCE:

- Single visitor access to Shawnee Tribe facilities is permitted.
- Masks and temperature screenings are required.
- Social distancing is essential.

Visit shawnee-tribe.com for more information.



ELECTION RESULTS

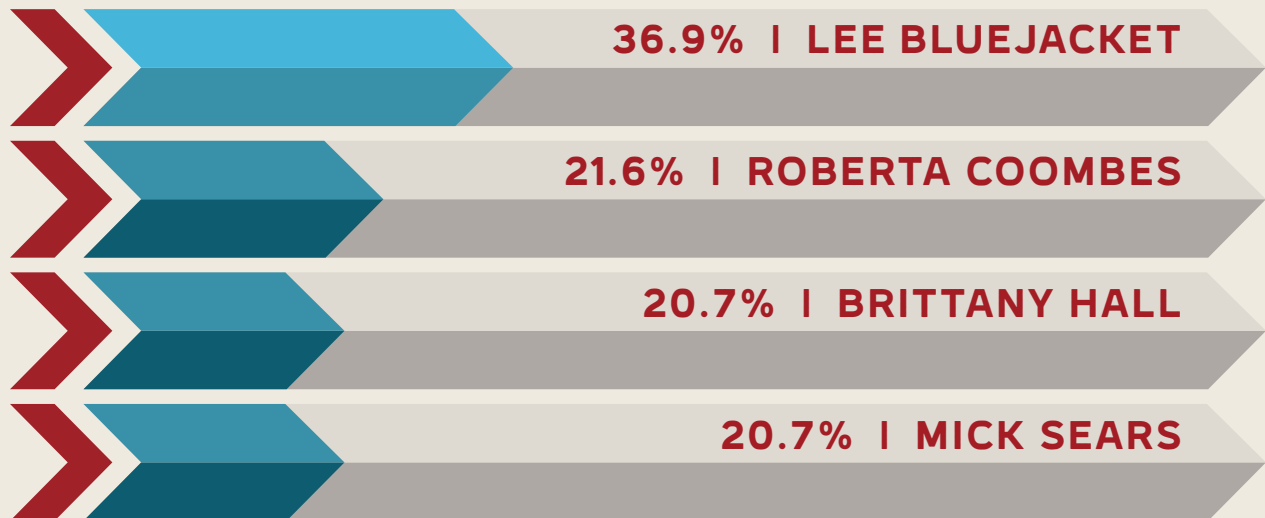
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

The Shawnee Tribe Annual General Council Meeting and Business Council Election took place at the Ottawa Powwow Grounds on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

The polls were open from 8:00 to 11:00 am. Business Council Election results were announced at General Council, have been posted at the Shawnee Tribe judicial building since the election and were announced to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

◀ ELECTION RESULTS ▶





**SCAN TO VIEW
OUR FACEBOOK ALBUM!**



The COVID-19 procedures set in place included temperature checks of all attendees, family tents to enable households to sit together, masks, physically distanced seating, hand-washing stations and bottled beverages were provided.

A special thank you goes out to Ms. Roberta Coombes for her dedicated years of service to Shawnee Tribe Business Council. niyaawe!

SAVE THE DATE

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING 2022

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

COMMEMORATION OF ORANGE SHIRT DAY

AT SHAWNEE INDIAN MISSION STATE HISTORIC SITE



On September 30, 2021, the Shawnee Tribe commemorated “Orange Shirt Day” at the Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site in Fairway, KS. Chief Ben Barnes spoke to Shawnee citizens in attendance, the Kansas City Native and non-Native community, invited press and local and national leadership representatives to encourage comprehensive federal investigation into all residential boarding schools beginning in the 19th century. Orange t-shirts were distributed, and many in attendance toured inside the East building, formerly the boys dormitory.

“The Shawnee Tribe is proud to embrace and adopt Orange Shirt Day,” said Chief Barnes. “And on this day, we urge every American to honor boarding school survivors and the memory of the children who never made it home.”

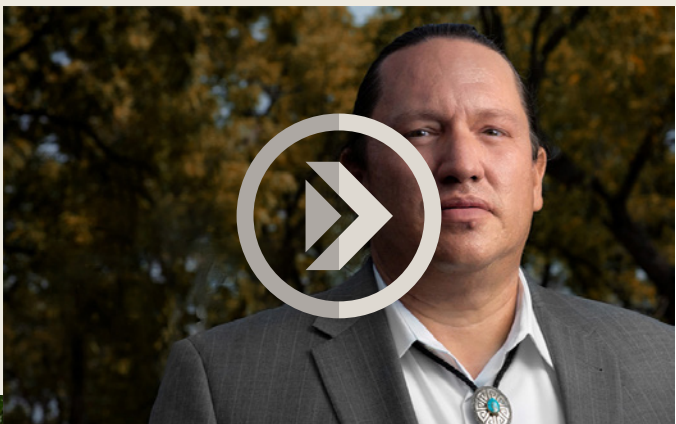
Explore more in the News & Community section of shawnee-tribe.com

Orange Shirt Day began in Canada in 2013 to remember the thousands of Indigenous children killed at church-run residential schools. Tribal nations and advocates across America are adopting this movement to support thorough investigations of similar conditions at boarding schools in the U.S.

WRITE to your U.S. Congressmen to communicate the importance of this issue and ask that they support the The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies.

Look up your congressmen's contact information at

CONGRESS.GOV/REPRESENTATIVES/FIND-YOUR-REPRESENTATIVE



**WATCH CHIEF BARNES
SPEAK ABOUT THE
SHAWNEE INDIAN
MISSION**

**SCAN THIS WITH YOUR
PHONE'S CAMERA**



TECUMSEH MEMORIAL DAY PROCLAMATION

OCTOBER 5



To commemorate the day of Tecumseh's death at the Battle of the Thames and honor his courageous life of service to the Shawnee people and Indian Country at large, Shawnee Tribe leadership officially declared October 5 as **"Tecumseh Memorial Day."**

"[It's] a day to give of ourselves to our communities," said Chief Ben Barnes, "Because we Shawnee believe that we are only as strong as our communities, we are committed to all of them, regardless of the dotted lines of borders and distance."

Starting with Tecumseh Memorial Day, 2021, Shawnee Tribe employees received one day of paid time off from work to observe the holiday. The holiday was specifically set aside to perform acts of service to the local community or to the Shawnee Tribe. Beginning in 2022, the Tribe will facilitate formal options for group service projects.

Leadership encouraged Shawnee employees to spend this year's holiday volunteering at a shelter, cooking a meal for the homeless or personal elder relatives, cleaning up the streets in the neighborhood, or giving time back to the Tribe to get ahead on a project at work, like donating a few hours at tribal headquarters to help process COVID-19 Relief Applications for tribal citizens.



CULTURAL CENTER ARCHIVES

MUKURTU PORTAL NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR USE

The Mukurtu digital repository for the “kileki haatota yeesi lawiwaaci - Sharing History Project” (previously the Nilekiwe Yesilawiwaci Sharing History Project) is now accepting applications for access from the Tribal community!

This collection contains 546 digitized items from the 17th through 20th centuries documenting the history of the Shawnee through those times covering a variety of topics, from warfare to international relations between Tribal nations to famous Shawnee individuals. These documents are primarily written by outsiders—missionaries, government officials, or researchers. Hardly any were written by Shawnee people. This collection’s goal is to facilitate the reclamation of this history by those it is about and the continuation of this research through the inclusion of Indigenous voices and viewpoints. We at the Shawnee Tribe Cultural Center hope that our work will help further that goal.

Many of the digital archives site documents contain information identified as culturally sensitive or sacred by the Shawnee

Tribe Cultural and Historic Preservation Committee. For this reason, we are asking for community members to request access, which will be reviewed and approved by the Committee to use the digital archive. By creating accounts for each of our users after a review by the Committee, we aim to mitigate any harm that these documents could cause by being openly publicly accessible. The physical archives at the Shawnee Tribe Cultural Center are currently closed to the public under the direction of the Tribe in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, so we encourage applications to the digital archives site in the interim.

For a complete description of how to apply for access to the site, visit shawneeculture.org/archives.

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



SHAWNEE LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

CLASSES BEGIN IN JANUARY

hato caaki wiyeefa, ha koowesilaasamamopwa *“greetings everyone, are you breathing well?”*

Shawnee Language Immersion Program (SLIP) is gearing up for another year of virtual classes via Zoom. This year we will be offering four Level 1 classes and four Level 2 classes for a total of eight units.

Classes will begin the week of January 3, 2022 and will be taught weekly until September 2022. Students will have the opportunity to attend a total of 34 class sessions over the course of the school year. Classes are designed for adults and school-aged children.

COURSES

LEVEL 1

will introduce students to the orthography and will cover 8 units with 3 lessons per unit with review weeks for each unit. Each lesson will contain vocabulary and phrases that will correlate with the dialogue of the lesson.

LEVEL 2

will introduce weather related vocabulary and phrases in the introductory lesson and will follow the same pattern of Level 1 courses with 8 units and 3 lessons per unit. Each lesson will contain vocabulary and phrases that will correlate with the dialogue of the lesson and have a higher degree of difficulty than Level 1.

HOW TO ENROLL

Classes will be taught at various times on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

All classes are available to members of the 3 Federally recognized Shawnee Tribes, their spouses and children. We are limited to the number of students we can have in live classes to 15 students per class, **and class attendance rosters are almost completely full!** However, all lessons will be recorded and made available to everyone each week after all classes have concluded. Recorded sessions will be posted each week on our online language portal SLIPStream for all Shawnee Citizens.

To request enrollment in live classes or to request access to SLIPstream, email us at shawneelanguage@shawnee-tribe.com with the following information:

- 1. Name**
- 2. Copy of Tribal Enrollment**
- 3. Number of family member(s) attending.**
- 4. State that you live in**
- 5. Email address that will be used to contact you**
- 6. Level you wish to enroll in (1 or 2)**
- 7. Class time you are available. (You may list more than 1, in case the first choice is full)**

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, and we look forward to hearing from you.

niyaawe (thank you)
SLIP Team



SHAWNEE TRIBE BUSINESS COUNCIL GATHERS IN PERSON FOR DECEMBER MEETING

Out of an abundance of caution with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shawnee Tribe Business Council has been meeting via Zoom since early in 2020. On Monday, December 6, the council was able to meet in person at Venue 29 in Miami for their monthly meeting and a holiday meal.

niyaaawe for your service, Business Council!



SAVE THE DATES: COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Please join the Shawnee Tribe Business Council and administrative leadership for crucial community discussions regarding the Shawnee Tribe Constitution and the Elections Act. The Tribe has scheduled meetings in various locations to ensure citizens have multiple opportunities to choose from. **Masks will be required.**

➤ **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5**
MIAMI, OK

➤ **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10**
TULSA, OK

➤ **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5**
SOUTH COFFEYVILLE, OK

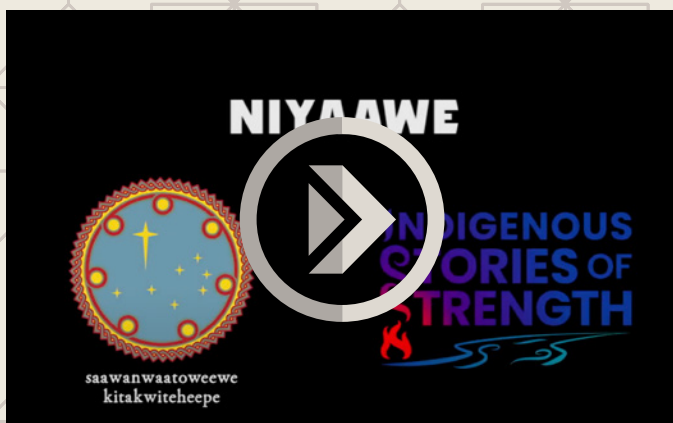
➤ **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12**
ZOOM CONFERENCE

Please watch our social media channels, e-newsletter and website for specific details about the meeting venues and times. If you have questions, please email info@shawnee-tribe.com.

SHAWNEE STRENGTH DURING COVID-19



The Shawnee Tribe featured the language immersion program's commitment to revitalizing the Shawnee language in spite of the coronavirus pandemic in a 10-minute video called "Shawnee Strength During COVID-19." On November 4, the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health held a webinar telling Indigenous Stories of Strength from across Indian Country. The virtual showcase celebrated Native innovation, collective action and survival during the COVID-19 pandemic.



WATCH
SHAWNEE STRENGTH
DURING COVID-19

SCAN THIS WITH YOUR
PHONE'S CAMERA



SHAWNEE TRIBE & CHEROKEE NATION

JOIN TO DESIGNATE CULTURAL PRESERVE IN NORTHEAST OKLA.

WHITE OAK, Okla. — Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. and Chief of the Shawnee Tribe Benjamin Barnes signed a Memorandum of Agreement Friday designating the cultural preserve near the town of White Oak in Craig County.

Under the MOA, the Cherokee Nation’s 155 acres will be used primarily as a cultural preserve to support the Shawnee Tribe as well as conservation traditions. The cultural preserve provides additional access to cultural resources near the Shawnee ceremonial grounds and reinforces preservation of the Tribe’s traditional grounds previously set aside under a long-term assignment.

“Land has always been sacred for our people and having dedicated preserves throughout our Cherokee Nation Reservation, including here in Craig County, for conservation, medicinal plant gathering and traditional activities connects us to our roots,” Chief Hoskin said. “We’ve established a hunting

and fishing preserve in Sequoyah County, and now dedicating this cultural preserve in Craig County is proving how vital the establishment of the Cherokee Nation Park, Wildlands, Fishing and Hunting Preserve Act of 2021 truly is. Cherokee Nation has an enduring friendship with the Shawnee tribe dating back to the 19th century. This agreement further solidifies that friendship for generations to come.”

The MOA started November 2021 for a term of 50 years.

“Our Shawnee ceremonials at White Oak and the ceremonials of our Cherokee relatives are very different from each other, but similar in that they’ve been stewarded over centuries and centuries by our respective ancestors,” says Chief Barnes, “I appreciate that Chief Hoskin mirrors my own values and those of the Shawnee Tribe—our cultures and languages need to be preserved for our grandchildren’s grandchildren. We can develop new ways





of generating financial income, but we can't replace these sacred spaces and practices."

Sherry Gardner, the Shawnee Ceremonial Grounds Head Lady, said "we all have a major responsibility to preserve our culture."

"The Loyal Shawnee Ceremonial Grounds have been here for over 100 years," Gardner said. "I have followed in the footsteps of my grandmother, my aunt and my mother at these ceremonial grounds. In recent years, we have had many of our young people return and participate in our traditional ceremonials. So, to have the lands around our grounds protected and preserved means we can carry on our cultural traditions and not have that disturbed and continue to pass it on to our young people as we have done for centuries."

"This was a special day in a special place," said Shawnee ceremonial leader and Tribal Language Director Joel Barnes, "These grounds—yoma waapa'komiisi ta'menyeeleki—this is a home to us. It's always a good day when we can gather here, and we're all glad to know we can keep gathering here as we have been."

Under the Cherokee Nation Park, Wildlands, Fishing and Hunting Preserve Act of 2021, the Cherokee Nation designated four new reserves. The Cherokee Nation Hunting Preserve is

nearly 4,400 acres of tribal fee property in Sequoyah County for hunting and fishing and traditional outdoor activities.

"I was proud to be a sponsor of the Cherokee Nation Park, Wildlands and Fishing and Hunting Preserve Act earlier this year," said Victoria Vazquez, Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Cherokee Nation, from Vinita. "I'm prouder still that it establishes a preserve here in Craig County that strengthens our friendship with the Shawnee Tribe."

The tribe established the 155 acres of reserve land in Craig County and 810 acres of land in Adair County to be used by the Cherokee Nation's Medicine Keepers program for traditional and medicinal plant gathering and Cherokee cultural activities.

The Cherokee Nation Sallisaw Creek Park is 800 acres of tribal trust land in Sequoyah County. It is a partially developed public park that can be used for hunting, fishing, camping and other recreational purposes.

"This act has been extremely beneficial for our tribe and citizens, and we hope to identify land for future conservation efforts and add to our preserves in more areas across the reservation," said Cherokee Nation Secretary of Natural Resources Chad Harsha.



KEEP IN TOUCH!

- **HAVE YOU OR A SHAWNEE LOVED ONE MOVED RECENTLY?**
UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS WITH THE ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT! CALL HEADQUARTERS,
OR VISIT: SHAWNEE-NSN.GOV/ENROLLMENT
- **WANT SHAWNEE NEWS DELIVERED TO YOUR EMAIL?**
SIGN UP ONLINE TO RECEIVE PIYEETAACIMOOWENEEFA “*little news messages*”
AT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: SHAWNEE-NSN.GOV/SUBSCRIPTION



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: _____

SAAWANWAATOWEEWE

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.

koona *snow*

weepi *cold*

pepooni *winter*

pepekica *dark*

halaakwa *star*

wa'feeya *light*

meniteheewe *joy*

tawiteta *fireplace*

siipineetaakana *socks*

faakici piitenika *coat*

melaas'pokwaki *candy*

hawikeepicika *ribbon*

F A A K I C I P I I T E N I K A
A N A K A A T E E N I P I I S W
A K I C I P E E K I W A H F F P
A I K A W K O P S A A L E M E P
D C R I T N A E Y B H P R G W U
I C I A M E S M K D D B J F E N
L M I K W N T U F B V Y P F E E
W U A T E K G I E M O U R R H T
X E P A N P A P W P O F P Y E F
Y J E L N Y E A G A T C I T T P
W D G P D O A P L G T Q I Q I E
O G M F I W O M X A M S O T N D
T O D A N U B K C I H M M L E N
P E P O O N I W A F E E Y A M P

THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL // NOVEMBER 2021



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

PRSRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 777
OKLA CITY, OK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20 –
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24
The tribe's phone and internet services will be offline
and unreliable during this time. Regular business hours
will resume Monday, December 27.

TRIBAL OFFICES CLOSED FOR IT MAINTENANCE

UPCOMING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – MIAMI, OK
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – SOUTH COFFEYVILLE, OK
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – TULSA, OK
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 – ZOOM SESSION
Come meet the Business Council and join in community discussions.
More information on page 13!

SHAWNEE TRIBE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

UPCOMING

SUBSCRIBE TO
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YOUTUBE



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ON FACEBOOK
@SAWANOOKI
AND CHIEF BARNES
@SHAWNEECHIEF



FOLLOW
@SAWANOOKI
AND @CHIEFBARNESI



The Shawnee Tribe is getting digital: be sure to find us on your favorite social media app to keep updated on the latest news and information.