

AUGUST  
2023

# THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

KINWIKIISFWA  
"long month"



# YA'SASILAWIIYAKWE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(LITERALLY, "WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO")

AUG 7	REGISTRATION OPENS FOR TRAUMA SUPPORT GROUP <small>MORE INFO ON PG. 14</small>	SEPT 4	OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY	SEPT 30	ORANGE SHIRT DAY
	MONTHLY BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING* <small>MIAMI, OK</small>	SEPT 5	MONTHLY BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING* <small>MIAMI, OK</small>	OCT 1	REGISTRATION OPENS FOR 2024 LANGUAGE CLASSES
SEPT 1	REQUESTS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT DUE TO ELECTION COMMITTEE <small>MORE INFO ON PG. 15</small>	SEPT 7	TRAUMA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS BEGIN	OCT 2	MONTHLY BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING* <small>MIAMI, OK</small>
	HIGHER EDUCATION AWARDS FALL DEADLINE <small>MORE INFO AT SHAWNEE-NSN.GOV/EDUCATION</small>	SEPT 14	VOTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS DUE TO ELECTION COMMITTEE <small>MORE INFO ON PG. 15</small>	OCT 5	OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF TECUMSEH MEMORIAL DAY
	SCHOOL CLOTHING & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM DEADLINE <small>MORE INFO ON PG. 14</small>	SEPT 15-16	GENERAL COUNCIL WEEKEND <small>MORE INFO ON PG. 15</small>	OCT 9	OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY
		SEPT 22	GOLDEN MESA CASINO EXPANSION GROUNDBREAKING <small>MORE INFO ON PG. 7</small>		



Note regarding the monthly meetings of the Shawnee Tribe Business Council (STBC): At their regular monthly meeting on September 6, 2022, STBC unanimously voted to adopt a new rule of parliamentary procedure for all meetings of the Shawnee Tribe Business and General Council informally known as a "second read rule." The second read rule stipulates that the Council may not act on new business during the same meeting in which said business is first introduced. In essence, tribal business must be introduced for a first read and discussion in one meeting, then the Council may take action in a subsequent meeting.

Dates & times for special meetings to accommodate the second read rule will be posted on the Tribe's website at [shawnee-nsn.gov/events](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/events).

## OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (DVAM)

Be on the lookout for announcements from the Behavioral and Mental Health Department about a DVAM event near tribal headquarters in Miami to highlight the stories of domestic violence survivors and provide resources for individuals and families.

Violence is not traditional or Shawnee ways. Let's create a world where no person knows the impacts of abuse from their loved ones.



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### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

We recognize that digital communications via social media and the internet are not necessarily preferred by or accessible to every citizen of the Shawnee Tribe. As such, we will always strive to introduce new services & programs for citizens through the Shawnee Journal or other direct mailings to all citizens before we broadcast them on our website or social media channel[s].

### FOLLOW US!

Follow the official Shawnee Tribe Facebook, YouTube and Instagram accounts @saawanooki.

### KNOW ANY SHAWNEES WHO'VE MOVED RECENTLY?

Let them know to update their address with our enrollment department so they continue receiving tribal news!

### PIYEETAACIMOOWENEEFA "LITTLE NEWS MESSAGES"

Get Shawnee Tribe news and updates once a month by subscribing to our e-newsletter. Sign up at [shawnee-nsn.gov/newsletter](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/newsletter) or scan here with your smartphone.



# KIWIITAMAAKONAAKI HOKIMAAKI

## MESSAGES FROM THE CHIEFS



**CHIEF  
BEN BARNES**

As the celebration of Independence Day fades into the background, this is the time of year that the Business Council begins to look toward the next fiscal year and plan programming for Shawnee families. We generally have two sorts of programs: those that come from federal funding sources and those that are entirely funded by the Tribe's revenue stream. It is the latter that I want to write about. The staff provides feedback to the Tribe's administration, and we adjust existing programs and add new ones from the analysis of the prior year's participation and successes. We also take into account citizen feedback throughout the year, and then we work with our staff and administration to approve the budgets for the coming cycle.

With that in mind, we will be increasing funding to several popular programs and adding new ones to address necessitous issues that arise throughout the year. Just a few of these are additional COVID relief payments to our adult citizens, improved council chambers with multimedia and recording capabilities, as well as one that I hope reaches people in a most desperate need. I am anticipating that the Shawnee Tribe will be a recipient of a portion of the opioid class action settlement very soon. It is my hope that we can use those dollars to send Shawnees to effective rehabilitation centers. Details for this are still emergent, and our team will keep you apprised of details as we receive them via the tribal website. Visit [shawnee-nsn.gov](http://shawnee-nsn.gov).

The media team has been hard at work revamping the website, and the cultural center will also be announcing very soon not just a reopening but a re-envisioning of its role in our community. The Language program is being used and enjoyed by hundreds of people, and it only makes

sense that Culture and Language come together in the same facility. I always hoped that the Shawnee Tribe Cultural Center would be a place for Shawnees to tell their own stories, but now I see a day when they will tell those stories in Shawnee.

Finally, I want to give an update about Oklahoma City and Washington DC. I have been very impressed with Oklahoma Attorney Gentner Drummond, as he upholds the law in Oklahoma. Not only has he tried to hold Governor Stitt to the law, but he has been responsive to requests by tribes, including ours, to reopen and examine missing and murdered Indigenous persons cases here in Oklahoma. In other State of Oklahoma updates, the Tribe joined with other tribal nations and was successful in having the Governor's veto of Senate Bill 249 overturned. Students' rights to wear their eagle feathers or regalia in graduation ceremonies are now protected by legislation that will become the template for similar bills elsewhere. We also anticipate that our legislative allies in the state capitol have the necessary votes to overturn the Governor's veto of the tobacco compact legislation that benefits Oklahoma's tribal nations.

**“ I ALWAYS HOPED THAT THE SHAWNEE TRIBE CULTURAL CENTER WOULD BE A PLACE FOR SHAWNEES TO TELL THEIR OWN STORIES, BUT NOW I SEE A DAY WHEN THEY WILL TELL THOSE STORIES IN SHAWNEE. ”**

As your council looks down the road into the future, we will continue to increase our capacity for communication, fighting for Indigenous peoples of all ages, and bringing help to those most in need.

niyaawe, hiini leki.

Chief Ben Barnes





## SECOND CHIEF ROY BALDRIDGE

caaki wiyeefa (everyone)–

I hope that everyone reading this article is doing well. In this election cycle, there will be a vote for retaining our current Chief or electing a new one. With that in mind, I decided to cover our constitution and the information it contains about the position of Chief.

### Our constitution states:

*It shall be the duty of the Chief to call and preside at all meetings of the Shawnee Tribal Council and the Business Council. The Chief shall have general supervision of the affairs of the tribe and shall perform all duties pertaining to the office of the Chief. The Chief shall be responsible for hiring and firing of employees in accordance with the laws to be adopted by the Business Council; day to day operations of the tribe; operation of federally funded contracts; and other executive functions as may be delegated to the Chief from time to time. Such functions may be further delegated through the employment of Tribal Managers who shall report to the Chief.*

### On employment by the Shawnee Tribe of persons related to the Chairman:

*No person shall be employed in any capacity by the Shawnee Tribe who is related to the Chairman by affinity or consanguinity within the first degree. Relation within the first degree includes parent, child, spouse, parent of spouse and child of spouse. All other relatives are not included within the first degree.*

### On the Business Council:

*The Business Council of the Shawnee Tribe shall have the power to transact all business on behalf of the Shawnee Tribe in all matters on which the Tribe is authorized to act. Voting members of the Business Council shall be all members except the Chief. The Chief shall exercise the privilege to vote only when a tie vote occurs among the Business Council. In addition to the transaction of business on behalf of the Tribe, the duties of the Business Council shall be to adopt such methods as necessary to comply*

*with this requirement. No Shawnee Business Council member shall be an employee of the Shawnee Tribe, nor shall they engage in business with the Shawnee Tribe for profit unless full disclosure of the transaction is made to the Business Council and approved in advance. Payments received for fulfilling the duties of a Business Council member shall not be considered tribal employment. [As amended, September 20th, 2003.] [As amended, September 17th, 2011.]*

Several years ago, our Tribal Council agreed to start efforts to make changes to our constitution in preparation for the future. Members of the Business Council and Tribal Citizens volunteered to meet to discuss options. Out of those discussions, the amendment allowing dual citizenship was made. At the time, our tribe had lost TCNS funds which had allowed us to fund college assistance, school clothing, emergency assistance and general assistance. Voting to allow dual citizenship allowed many of our citizens who were eligible for citizenship elsewhere to have the ability to access needed services that we could not provide at the time. Since that time, we have finished our casino, went through a pandemic and have grown staff to serve our tribal population, which has doubled. My reason for mentioning this is that there is still work to be done. Above, you can see the term Chairman and Chief used. Cleaning up the language of our constitution is something that can now be resumed.

My main point is to show that the position of Chief is a very important one. It is not all-powerful as some might perceive. During Business Council meetings, while the Chief presents the agenda, he/she does not have a vote unless there is a tie. There are limitations on the positions of Chief and Second Chief regarding the hiring of family that do not exist for Secretary, Treasurer, or any other Councilor. I believe that the Shawnee Tribe has been very lucky when it has come to the leaders we have had. Whether the title was Chief or Chairman, they all had successes and failures. They were all human. The groundwork they laid is responsible for our status today. It is our hope that someday they can be appropriately honored.

niyaawe (thank you),

**Roy D. Baldridge**  
Second Chief

# WEBSITE UPDATES

## SHAWNEE TRIBE'S HOME ONLINE HAS A NEW LOOK

This month, we are launching a new look and some new content on the official Shawnee Tribe website, shawnee-nsn.gov. This website was rebuilt with a new content management system to make viewing easier from mobile devices and tablets. Site visitors also now have access to back issues of this mailing in the Shawnee Journal archive, as well as new forms to contact elected officials.



# U.S. CAPITOL CHRIST

The 2023 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree will be harvested from Monongahela National Forest, which is part of the Shawnee ancestral homeland. The Shawnee Tribal Historic Preservation Department is teaming up with National Forest staff to ensure the Capitol Christmas Tree includes representation of the Shawnee Tribe!

Our staff will be set up with ornament-making supplies during the Friday night community dinner and stomp dance on General Council weekend, and you're invited to stop by and make a Shawnee-inspired ornament or two! Ornaments cannot be returned.



# SAVE THE DATE:

## GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 22



### GOLDEN MESA CASINO EXPANSION

Less than five years since the doors officially opened, Golden Mesa Casino & Shawnee Development are ready to continue building the biggest & best entertainment destination in the Oklahoma panhandle!



#### GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

6PM

GOLDEN MESA CASINO  
2469 MILE 28 ROAD,  
GUYMON, OK 73942

Follow along for news &  
updates to come!



@GoldenMesaCasino  
@saawanooki

# MAS TREE PROJECT

ARE YOU A SHAWNEE **ARTIST** OR  
**CRAFTSPERSON** INTERESTED IN HELPING  
US MAKE LARGER-SCALE ORNAMENTS FOR  
THE U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE?

Reach out to Erin Paden by August 21 for more details on how to get involved!  
epaden@shawnee-tribe.com

VISIT [USCAPITOLCHRISTMASTREE.COM](https://uscapitolchristmastree.com) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
HISTORY OF THE U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE, OR [FS.USDA.GOV/MNF](https://fs.usda.gov/mnf)  
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST.





# MAALAAKWAHI KE'NEEMEPE: What Does a THPO Do? “LET’S LOOK CLOSER”



**TONYA TIPTON**  
**THPO**

Tonya Tipton is a Shawnee citizen and has been serving as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) in a full-time capacity for the past two years. Tonya joined the tribe's staff as Enrollment Officer in 2016, but she also helped coordinate the tribe's responses to the numerous requests for consultation that pour in regarding NAGPRA and other historic preservation laws. In 2020, the tribe took the necessary steps to begin receiving federal assistance from the Historic Preservation Fund allocated to THPOs. This helped offset costs so Tonya could transition into the role of THPO full-time and the tribe could bring on Erin Paden, Tribal Historic Preservation Specialist.

## **What exactly is a THPO, and what does a THPO do?**

**Tonya:** In the 1960s, the National Historic Preservation Act became law, which was a huge piece of legislation that effectively made preserving historic sites across America a permanent priority at the federal level. Then in the 1990s, Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and they amended the NHPA to allocate funds specifically for tribal nations to create THPO positions through the National Park Service. Those laws and others, like the Indian Arts & Crafts Act, provide much of the framework for a THPO's role, but what a THPO does varies from tribe to tribe based on their specific history and priorities. Any project that uses federal funding is required to abide by Section 106 [of the NHPA] and NAGPRA, so there is a lot of consulting between THPOs and outside agencies. Our general responsibility as THPOs is cultural resource management, which involves identifying, assessing, and ensuring the preservation of those resources. In practice, this means the work ranges from responding to consultation requests to building ongoing partnerships

with those agencies and organizations in our historical homelands. For me, it's about protecting those resources and keeping our story alive so it can continue well into the future.

## **What are “cultural resources”?**

**T:** A cultural resource is anything that holds cultural or historical significance to a group of people. So, there are intangible cultural resources like language, songs, and ceremonies, and some THPOs are responsible for managing their preservation, but I'm responsible for protecting our tangible cultural resources like historic buildings, land, archaeological sites, and artifacts.

## **You mentioned that a THPO's role varies from tribe to tribe. What factors unique to the Shawnee Tribe have most impacted your job?**

**T:** The size of our historical footprint is just so massive, which means there's lots of work to do. The tribe has had a presence in 26 states, all of which have unique governments, plus county- and city-level governments. Any institution in our historic homeland that receives federal funding is required to consult directly with us. We get 30 to 40 new inquiries coming in every single day, then we only have a 30-day period to respond in most cases. A lot of the inquiries are coming from departments of transportation or highway administrations looking for consultation on road development projects, but there are others like the University of Tennessee—they want to know the tribe's wishes on things like cutting the grass and taking care of trees near historic mound sites that are in their care. Other times we're working on longer-term things like figuring out management agreements with partner agencies.

## **What does a typical day in your role look like?**

**T:** Well, it's almost never what I planned for. [laughs] Something always inevitably comes up and I have to switch gears. Zoom has become very popular since the pandemic, so we typically have three to four consultation meetings in a day. Erin primarily reviews the Section 106 projects coming in, and I focus on NAGPRA-related projects and our administrative things. And sometimes, a Section 106 project turns into a NAGPRA project, so we're constantly overlapping. We work in the Cultural Center with the language team next door, so they get roped into our inquiries pretty often, too, if there's a language aspect involved.

## **What challenges and rewards have you faced in your role thus far?**

**T:** One challenging aspect has been just keeping tabs on it all with limited resources and a small team. The funding that NPS sets aside for THPOs is fantastic, but it isn't much when you consider how much work there is. Another challenge is how far Miami is from our homelands. When we get word about something going on at a site, it's not like we can just hop in the car and get there in thirty minutes. But I find this job incredibly rewarding. Number one, these are our ancestors, and number two, these are our homelands. And we have to protect them. I'm working for our present Shawnee citizens, yes, but I'm also working for our ancestors and our future tribal citizens. ◀





# WEEMEYAKWE:

## Portions of Shawnee Homeland May Be Inscribed to World Heritage List

“WHERE WE COME FROM”

WRITTEN BY

**GREG JONES**

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA COORDINATOR

This fall will be an exciting time in the Shawnee homelands. Eight mound sites in various parts of Ohio, collectively known as the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, are being considered for World Heritage inscription. World Heritage inscription is a big deal. The earthworks are approximately 2,000 years old and lie in the middle of the Shawnee homelands. If inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage List, these sprawling earthworks that our Shawnee ancestors communed with and perhaps built will be acknowledged on the same level as places like the Great Pyramid of Giza, Machu Picchu, Stonehenge, the Grand Canyon, and closer to home, Cahokia Mounds.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) bestows the designation to a “site, area, or landmark of significant cultural, natural, or historical value.” Each nomination goes

through a rigorous evaluation process conducted by the World Heritage Committee, which consists of representatives from different countries. The committee reviews the 300-page nomination dossier, assesses the site’s value, and determines whether it meets the criteria for official inscription onto the World Heritage List.

In mid-June, I traveled with our tribal historic preservation team to Ohio and witnessed their impressive scale firsthand. I also met the sites’ current stewards from the Ohio History Connection and National Park Service. Key staff from these entities and Chief Glenna Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe talked about the nomination process and the significance of bringing the World Heritage designation to the Hopewell mounds.

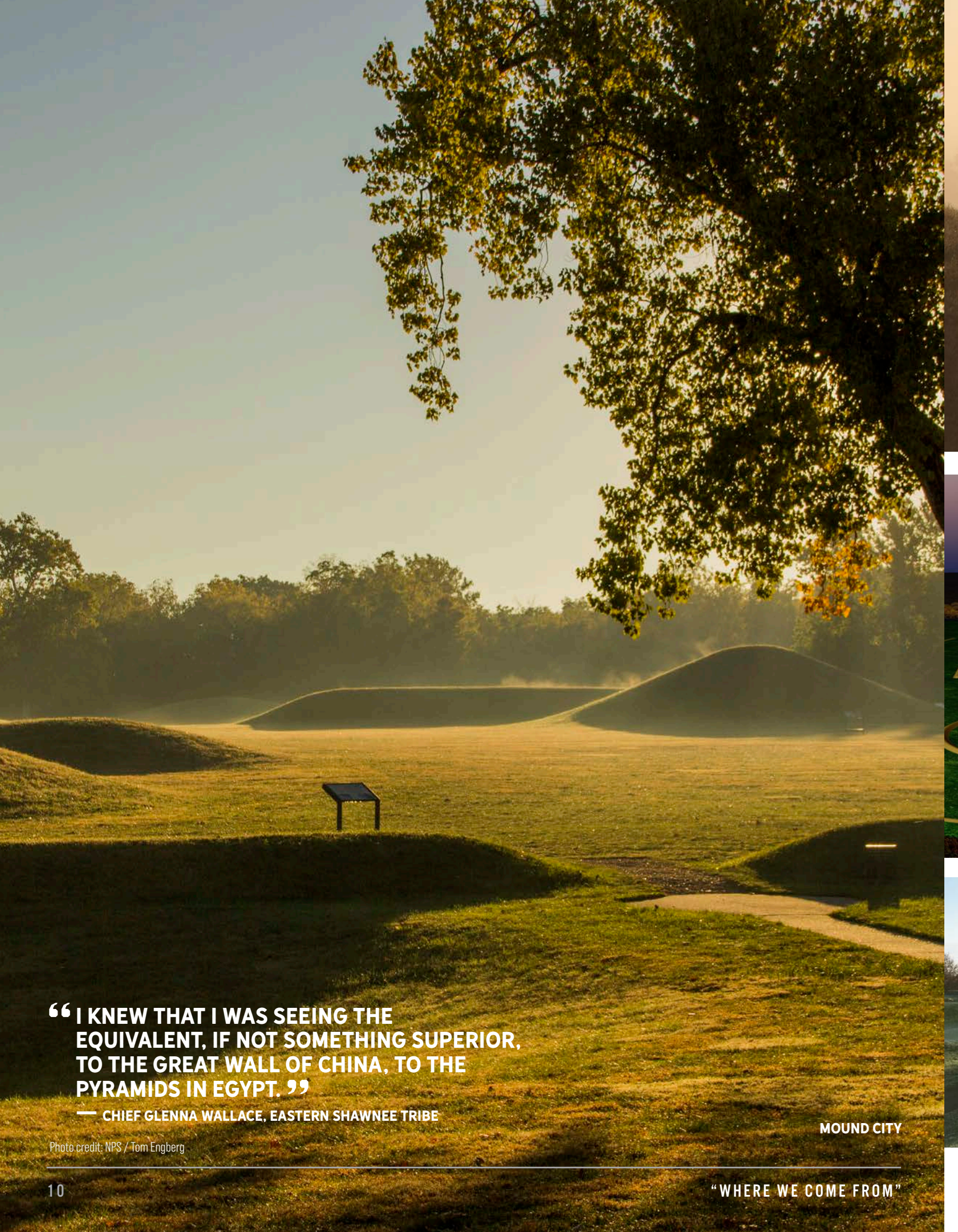
To be considered for World Heritage status, a site must meet at least one of the ten criteria established by UNESCO.

Dr. Bret Ruby, Archeologist & Chief of Resource Management for Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, explained, “There’s two criteria under which these are being nominated to the World Heritage list, and there’s

Photo credit: NPS / Tom Engberg

HOPETON EARTHWORKS





**“ I KNEW THAT I WAS SEEING THE  
EQUIVALENT, IF NOT SOMETHING SUPERIOR,  
TO THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA, TO THE  
PYRAMIDS IN EGYPT. ”**

**— CHIEF GLENNA WALLACE, EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE**

**MOUND CITY**

Photo credit: NPS / Tom Engberg



Photo credit: NPS / Tom Engberg

**MOUND CITY**



**OCTAGON EARTHWORKS LUNAR  
ALIGNMENT RENDERING**

Photos courtesy of the Ohio History Connection

a set of ten criteria that one might select from. We selected two criteria that these sites really manifest. The first criteria is that these are works of creative human genius, and that's reflected in the monumental scale and geometric precision and the astronomical alignments of these geometric earthworks... And the second criteria that we selected was that these sites bear unique or exceptional testimony to a remarkable cultural tradition that, in this case, is a historical tradition. It has resonance today in the present and continuations into the present."

Chief Wallace spoke about her first visit to the Newark Earthworks, which are part of this nomination. "Because of those experiences that I'd had at Crowder College, because of all the travels to seventy different countries," she said, "because of seeing World Heritage site after World Heritage site, when I walked up those wooden step steps on that platform [at the Octagon Earthworks in Newark] and looked out and saw what I saw, I knew that I was seeing the equivalent, if not something superior, to the Great Wall of China, to the pyramids in Egypt."



**OCTAGON EARTHWORKS**

Photos courtesy of the Ohio History Connection

**“ THESE ARE WORKS OF  
CREATIVE HUMAN GENIUS,  
AND THAT’S REFLECTED IN THE  
MONUMENTAL SCALE AND  
GEOMETRIC PRECISION AND THE  
ASTRONOMICAL  
ALIGNMENTS OF THESE  
GEOMETRIC EARTHWORKS. ”**

**— DR. BRET RUBY, HOPEWELL CULTURE NATIONAL  
HISTORICAL PARK ARCHEOLOGIST**





She continued, “This was that marvelous, this is that sacred, and what has happened to it? There is a golf course on the top of it,” referencing Moundbuilders Country Club, which recently lost its legal claim to the site when the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that Ohio History Connection can buy out the club's leasehold via eminent domain.

World Heritage status would not only bring international recognition to these sites and the genius achievements of the Native people who built them. The designation would also enable the site managers to protect and preserve them more scrupulously, so they may last for thousands more years to come.

The World Heritage Committee is set to meet for final deliberations and decision-making in September 10-25 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. ◀

Hear more about the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks World Heritage nomination on the tribe's YouTube channel @saawanooki.

Scan here with your phone's camera to hear the full audio story:





# CITIZEN SERVICES NEWS

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING DEADLINES



### WORKFORCE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

**NEW**

Through this new program, the Shawnee Tribe will provide funds to assist with reimbursable expenses incurred in the pursuit of workforce entry or reentry, career changes, and other costs associated with maintaining employment.

The tribe will reimburse a maximum of \$500 per eligible citizen per award year. Citizens must be age 16 or older. Applicant income, location, or dual citizenship status will not be used to determine applicant eligibility.

#### Examples of reimbursable expenses include, but are not limited to:

- » Licensing and testing fees
- » Continuing education fees
- » Costs associated with internships or apprenticeships
- » Uniforms, scrubs, slip-resistant shoes or work boots, interview clothing
- » Other required work-related equipment

#### Examples of non-reimbursable expenses include, but are not limited to:

- » Transportation costs
- » Housing expenses
- » Childcare
- » Cell phones, laptops, and tablets

Questions? You can reach Mikah or Joshua at [socialservices@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:socialservices@shawnee-tribe.com) (918) 542-2441, ext. 129.

Visit [shawnee-nsn.gov/WRP](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/WRP) for full information, or use your phone to scan here:



# SCHOOL CLOTHING & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

**Upcoming Deadline: September 1**

The Shawnee Tribe provides funds to assist with reimbursable expenses incurred in the purchase of school clothing, shoes, and required purchases for participation in extracurricular activities. A direct purchase option for clothing and shoes is available to families unable to prepurchase.

Any Shawnee citizen enrolled in a state-certified Head Start or Pre-K through 12th grade educational institution or program qualifies for this benefit. The citizen's family income, location, or dual citizenship status are not used to determine eligibility.

Visit [shawnee-nsn.gov/SCECARP](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/SCECARP) for full information, or use your phone to scan here:

**Questions?**

You can reach Mikah or Joshua at [socialservices@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:socialservices@shawnee-tribe.com) (918) 542-2441, ext. 129.



## TRAUMA SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP **NEW**

Shawnee Tribe Behavioral and Mental Health invites you to join an upcoming trauma support group centered around the book *The Body Keeps the Score* by Dr. Bessel van der Kolk.

**When: Every other Thursday  
from 6:00-8:00 PM**

**Meetings will begin Thursday, September 7  
and conclude in early 2024.**

**Where: Shawnee Tribe Community Building  
108 S. Eight Tribes Trail, Miami, OK 74354**

Participation is limited to 15 seats. All participants will be provided a copy of the book. **Registration will open on August 7.**

From the group facilitator, Kyle Miller, Director of Behavioral and Mental Health: Indigenous people have endured a long history of trauma, from forced removal and relocations to the systematic erasure of culture, language, and identity. The ongoing effects of colonization and subsequent intergenerational re-traumatization have had lasting effects



on Native individuals, families, and Indian Country as a whole. Because of this, it is vital that we create brave spaces where we can come together to share experiences and support one another on our healing journeys. Through discussions guided by our shared reading, we hope to gain a better understanding of our own experiences and the experiences of other Shawnee people to reinforce resiliency and promote healing in body, mind, spirit, and community.

**Questions?**

You can reach Kyle directly at [kyle.miller@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:kyle.miller@shawnee-tribe.com) 918-544-6017.

To sign up for the support group or just learn more about the Behavioral and Mental Health Department, visit [shawnee-nsn.gov/mental-health](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/mental-health) or use your phone to scan here:





# GENERAL COUNCIL & ELECTION WEEKEND

**SEPTEMBER 15–16**

## HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In accordance with the Constitution of the Shawnee Tribe (Title 6, Shawnee Tribe Elections Act), the Shawnee Tribe Election Committee announces an election shall be held on September 16, 2023, for the following elective offices:

- Chief
- Business Council Seat 1
- Business Council Seat 2

In addition to the offices to be elected, the Shawnee Tribe Ad Hoc Salary Commission will put the following question before the citizens for a “yes” or “no” vote:

Ballot Question:

Shall the monthly stipends for the Business Council Treasurer and Secretary be increased to \$2,100 per month and shall the At-Large Council members stipends be increased to \$1,400 per month, effective October 1, 2023?

YES

NO

### ABSENTEE VOTING (VOTE-BY-MAIL)

Ballot request form may be found online at [shawnee-nsn.gov/elections](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/elections) or by scanning here with your smartphone:



**FRIDAY  
9/1**

**REQUESTS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT  
DUE TO ELECTION COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY  
9/14**

**5:00PM**

**VOTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS DUE  
TO ELECTION COMMITTEE**

In-person delivery:  
32 A Street SE, Miami, OK 74354

Mailing address:  
PO Box 189, Miami, OK 74355

**FRIDAY  
9/15**

**9:00AM – 6:00PM**

**POLLS OPEN FOR EARLY  
IN-PERSON VOTING**

People's Community Center at Bowlin Spring  
428099 East 270 Road  
Chelsea, OK 74016

**7:00PM**

**COMMUNITY DINNER & STOMP DANCE**

Miami Tribe Council House  
2319 Newman Road  
Miami, OK 74354 (0.5 miles west of former Prairie Sun Casino)

**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT ACTIVITY**

COME-AND-GO More info on pg. 6

**SATURDAY  
9/16**

**8:00 – 11:00AM**

**POLLS OPEN**

People's Community Center at Bowlin Spring  
428099 East 270 Road, Chelsea, OK 74016

**11:00AM**

**GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING BEGINS**

People's Community Center at Bowlin Spring  
428099 East 270 Road  
Chelsea, OK 74016

**DOOR PRIZE: BLACKSTONE GRIDDLE!**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MEETING,  
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED**

Catering by Bowlin's BBQ.

# 2023 ELECTIONS

## Meet the Candidates

### CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

BEN BARNES (Incumbent)

CYNTHIA GREENFEATHER

### CANDIDATES FOR BUSINESS COUNCIL SEAT 1

HEIDI BIGKNIFE RANKIN

JANA EDWARDS-JOHNSON

RUSTY SATTERWHITE

JOHN SPARKMAN

RANDY WHITE

### CANDIDATES FOR BUSINESS COUNCIL SEAT 2

MORRIS BLUEJACKET

DIANA McLEAN (Incumbent)



# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF



## **BEN BARNES**

**(INCUMBENT)**

**HOMETOWN: MIAMI, OK**

**CURRENT CITY: MIAMI, OK**

**OCCUPATION: CHIEF OF THE SHAWNEE TRIBE**

For over 25 years, I have served in leadership roles in Indian Country, professionally at director-level positions in Tribal Gaming. Since 2008, it has been a true honor and privilege to work for my own community, working to bring a better future to all Shawnee People, wherever we might live. Like many of you, my children grew older and as they began having children, I wondered if my experience in business and learning from other Tribal Nations could be put to use for Shawnee People. I am the eldest of six children yet we lost our folks when we were too young, but I have always found that we had a special place inside of our Shawnee community. Our father gave us a fine example of the adults we should become, principled in our dealings, considerate of others, and to serve Shawnee people with a spirit of a “boceli,” the one who helps.

These past years, we have accomplished much despite a pandemic and having to sue the U.S. Treasury. As we continue to build sustainable programs for our families, elders, and children, we will also be building the wealth of the tribe while nurturing our youth.

### ***If re-elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Office of the Chief?***

Leadership. Measured, reasoned leadership. As part of the Business Council, I get excited about the opportunity to lead initiatives which have helped families. Councilperson McLean's advocacy for school clothing is one example, while Roy and myself launched our family court and Indian Child Welfare Office. These programs have directly impacted households and saved families by keeping them together and out of state foster care systems. Stewardship. This administration launched many processes and policies to ensure we will be good stewards of the Tribe's assets. We have increased our land and real estate holdings while creating policy to protect the assets from bad actors. Examples of this include “tone at the top” audits and multi-signatory payment requirements while authoring and launching policy/procedures for the entire organization. This Business Council has been supportive of these efforts as well as the third-parties we have brought to assist our financial efforts. The Shawnee Tribe can be proud of our financial security, resting safe knowing that we passed legislation, the “Revenue Allocation Plan” which prevents the government from bloat or overspending.

Finally, Community. Since the launch of the Shawnee Language platform, people are gathering together and coming home. It is our language that bind us together.

### ***What issues affecting Shawnee citizens would you intend to prioritize most?***

Early in this administration, we surveyed our citizens to discover what were the areas that concerned Shawnee citizens the most. To no one's surprise, it was Education, Employment, and Health. However, to everyone's surprise, a pandemic descended on the entire world and up-ended many things, including the priorities. I cannot say that things have returned to normal as the labor market has changed. We recognize that we have to not only get our children ready by supporting their educational efforts but also our adult learners and breadwinners. Health is still a concern for many as the costs for any treatments have only increased since we completed the survey. I anticipate the tribal nation will be supporting our elderly with assistance for their care while we also build up services within the nation as well as our partners, such as Northeastern Tribal Health Systems in Miami, OK. I should also mention that we need to build up our youth and give them an opportunity to feel part of the community. I believe in programs like 4-H, FFA, and other civic organizations, but none of those teach our youth about tribal sovereignty so we will be launching our own Shawnee Youth Council.

### ***If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?***

My email is [chief@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:chief@shawnee-tribe.com) but I am also easy to reach across all social media platforms. I will readily give my cell number out to citizens as some issues are delicate and people need privacy. We also have the main phone line system where all Shawnee staff and offices can be reached. That number is 918-542-2441. I should also announce that our media department will soon be launching a new website for the Tribe. Contacting Business Council persons will become extremely easy on the new website.

# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF



## CYNTHIA GREENFEATHER

**HOMETOWN:** BRISTOW, OK

**CURRENT CITY:** BRISTOW, OK

**OCCUPATION:** EMPLOYED CLAREMORE INDIAN HOSPITAL

I am a 53-year-old, professional, female citizen of the Shawnee Tribe. I live near Bristow, Oklahoma on a 60-acre farm, with my wonderful spouse Timothy. We have 5 children, 8 grandsons, and 2 granddaughters on the way. My family and Shawnee heritage serve as the foundation for the person I am today. My father taught me to respect everyone and help those in need through humility and service. "Honoring" our elders with the dignity they deserve, so we may preserve our culture, and proud native American history for future generations to come. Family, Faith, and Love, serve as my cornerstones of strength. My peace is found "listening" to the elders speak of things from their past that bring them joy. I enjoy sharing "Time-out" at the lake with my family and "personal" time at home working on the farm.

To reinstate the Voice of citizens within the Shawnee Tribe and provide a "Transparent" and "Open" government that benefits all of the Shawnee citizens in a professional, fair, and honest manner. So that all Shawnee Tribe members prosper in our sovereignty.

### ***If elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Office of the Chief?***

Honesty, fairness, transparency, dignity, integrity, work ethic and an open mind are qualities I will bring to the B.C. and the "Office of the Chief." I have extensive experience with government contracts, large budgets, and employee development. My Shawnee heritage is important to me, and I will value the cultural heritage, language, and the pursuit of expanding our tribal traditions and history so that we may maintain our identity in the modern world. I will encourage free speech, open dialogue, and pursue agendas that benefit all citizens.

### ***What issues affecting Shawnee citizens would you intend to prioritize most?***

Term limits for all government offices and seats, including Chief & 2nd Chief. Open video recording and links to such for all open meetings, open posting of B.C. Meeting minutes. Renewed importance of 1st & 2nd "readings" for potential Business Council legislation with the appropriate 30-day postings for citizen dialogue. I WILL SEEK REPEAL OF ALL 2022/2023 "OFFICE OF THE CHIEF" LEGISLATION IN REGARD TO: THE ELECTION ACT, THE ETHICS ACT, & THE RECORDS ACT. I will seek to ensure that the Economic Development Committee be placed under the umbrella of the Business Council in no uncertain manner. I will seek all methods of economic development that provide strength for our nation, jobs for its citizens, and potential growth for our nation beyond gaming solutions. Priority will be given to cultural knowledge from our elders, I will seek an open debate and discussion involving the Shawnee Mission Labor School debate that includes all tribes and people involved. I will pursue and advocate for elder assistance programs, tribal job opportunities, citizen business start-up programs, and citizen low-income housing assistance. There will be a concerted effort to provide our youth with additional secondary education assistance and College or Vocational grants.

### ***If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?***

Please feel free to contact me anytime 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday thru Friday by phone at 316-734-0184. OR by email at: cpayne316@yahoo.com



# CANDIDATES FOR BUSINESS COUNCIL SEAT 1



## HEIDI BIGKNIFE RANKIN

HOMETOWN: DENVER, CO

CURRENT CITY: TULSA, OK

OCCUPATION: ARTIST

Hatito or hello friends and fellow citizens, I am Heidi BigKnife. My Shawnee roots stretch from Vinita, Oklahoma to our tribal lands in Kansas and Ohio. I am an artist and live and work in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Most of my art practice is focused on designing and fabricating contemporary jewelry. I have operated my business BigKnife Designs for almost 30 years. I am a graduate of Beloit College (BA) and The Institute of American Indian Arts (AFA 2-D and 3-D Design). Although I did not grow up around our tribe and traditions I returned to the stomp ground over 30 years ago and am an active participant in ceremonial activities at White Oak.

A Business Committee position will allow me to increase my service to the tribe, bring attention to arts, culture and resources, and honor the ongoing needs of our citizens.

### ***If elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?***

I will bring the qualities of logistics, passion, deep integrity, cultural conscience, environmental awareness, dedication to my tribe and a solid work ethic to the Business Committee. Managing an art business for three decades has equipped me to manage time and resources in the studio while juggling side jobs and contract work. Many of my designs are inspired by our culture and stories that I have absorbed at ceremonial and community events and art shows across the country. At these events I am often the sole Shawnee member. At public events I strive to present myself in a way that brings honor to our tribe while I educate the general public about our history and culture in a way that informs without revealing too much. As a self-described recycling fanatic, I collect and haul home anything from the stomp ground that I can keep out of the waste stream to be recycled. I am passionate about art, the environment and Shawnee culture and am eager to bring this energy to the Business Committee.

### ***What issues affecting Shawnee citizens would you intend to prioritize most?***

Our tribe has seen incredible growth in citizenship and finances over the last decades. I am incredibly proud of the way our leaders have worked to secure our success and to allocate our resources to citizens in the areas of education, childcare assistance, home improvement and maintenance. Our funding has also been used to create an incredible Shawnee language program with a full time staff of language professionals. With these programs receiving attention and funding I would like to encourage an expansion of our scope to include environmental awareness and arts and culture. With new federal grants coming online for renewables, can we transition our tribal complex, our stomp ground and even citizen homes to solar and wind power? Is it possible to bring recycling to our grounds and complex? What will it take to reopen our Cultural Center? What part can art play in the future of the Shawnee Mission? My goal is to answer these questions and then work towards bringing them to fruition. Please vote for me in September and let's show the world more of the wonderful things the Shawnee tribe can do. Niyaawe!

### ***If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?***

For questions or concerns citizens can contact me through my gmail address: heidib777@gmail.com Please type "Shawnee Tribe" in the subject line.

# CANDIDATES FOR BUSINESS COUNCIL SEAT 1



## JANA EDWARDS-JOHNSON

**HOMETOWN: MIAMI, OK**

**CURRENT CITY: MIAMI, OK**

**OCCUPATION: DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES.**

**EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**

Hato (Hello), My name is Jana Johnson, Holly-Ma-Peashe - Rabbit Clan, the great-great-great-great-granddaughter of Newton and Nancy McNeer, a mother to two incredible women, a grandmother, an advocate, and a citizen of the Shawnee Tribe. Growing up on my family's allotted land on Hudson Creek taught me that life experiences and family is what is important. We cared for each other and worked together to ensure food was on the table and, most importantly, our elders and children were cared for. After graduating Phi-Theta Kappa with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Pittsburg State University, my 24-year career in education began. My tenure in education was spent mediating and advocating on behalf of children, their parents, and teachers. After leaving education to pursue my dream of working in tribal administration, my new title is Director of Health and Social Services/Vital Statistics for the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

Attending every Business Council meeting, serving on the Shawnee Elder Advisory Committee, Chairing the Shawnee Tribal Salary Commission, and being elected to Seat 1 of the Business Council will allow me to remain a strong voice and advocate for our citizens.

### ***If elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?***

It would be an honor to be a member of the Shawnee Business Council. As your Business Councilwoman, voting for programs and legislation that will benefit many Shawnee citizens, not just a few, will be my objective. Strong leadership, advocacy, mediation, and organizational skills will be brought with me to Seat 1. Working on my Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law at the University of Oklahoma can provide me with knowledge of state and federal laws that could impact the Shawnee tribe and our citizens. Genealogy and tribal history are a passion of mine; history continues to tell us that our elders are the key holders of our collective history. We must ensure they have a holistic life by supporting their health, safety, and food security needs. As our elders

are our collective history, the Shawnee children are our future. Chief Wilma Mankiller has been quoted as saying, In Iroquois society, leaders are encouraged to remember seven generations in the past and consider seven generations in the future when making decisions that affect the people. As a Shawnee citizen, ask yourself whether we are making decisions that support Chief Mankiller's philosophy on generational prosperity.

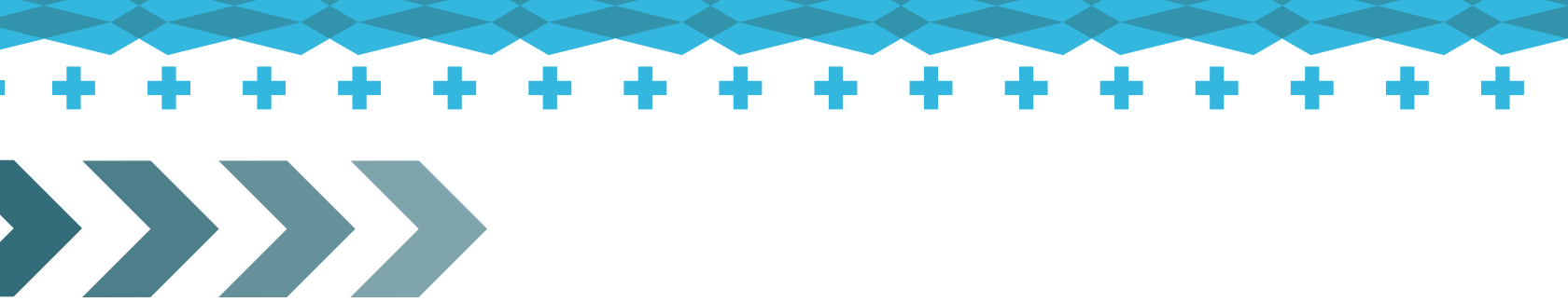
### ***What issues affecting Shawnee citizens would you intend to prioritize most?***

During Business Council's allotted time for public comment, I have addressed the following:  
Developing an Elders Department; Promote Shawnee-owned businesses on the webpage; Internships/Apprenticeships within the tribal government, or with Shawnee business owners; Food security, elders shouldn't have to choose between medicine and food; Business development beyond the casino; Daycare at the casino for the employees; Housing/employment opportunities in Guymon; Youth community service program to work with elders; Transparency of how tribal monies are spent; Accessibility to tribal records/information that doesn't violate HIPAA; Business Council meetings accessibility via live streaming; Continue to develop programs to ensure educational, vocational, leadership, and citizenship.

### ***If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?***

Lastly, I will represent you with honesty and integrity. Listening to your concerns while being a voice for all Shawnee citizens. My vote will be yours as I am your elected representative on Business Council. Please feel free to email me at johnsonje226@gmail.com or text me at 918-605-9711. Niyaawe (Thank you)





## **RUSTY SATTERWHITE**

**HOMETOWN: BLUEJACKET, OKLAHOMA**

**CURRENT CITY: WELCH, OKLAHOMA**

**OCCUPATION: EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

My name is Rusty Satterwhite, my wife and I have just celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary and we have two adult children. I have spent most of my adult career in public service. I served in the Oklahoma National Guard for eleven years and was deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan. I retired from the Craig County Sheriff's department as a Captain after 12 years of service. I have been a small business owner and have volunteered my time as football coach for over 15 years. I currently belong to two community service organizations and look forward to serving the citizens of the Shawnee Tribe.

I believe that I have a lot to offer my fellow citizens and would enjoy the opportunity to serve.

### ***If elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?***

I've been on the welch city council for 8 years and the bluejacket city council for 6. I'm a driven person to better myself and better the people I represent.

### ***What issues affecting Shawnee citizens would you intend to prioritize most?***

I look forward to growing the Shawnee nation through expanding our economic and cultural ties to this state and all the states of the Shawnee nation.

### ***If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?***

Anyone can reach me on my cellphone (918) 961-7664, on Facebook or in person at my residence in Welch at 589 south commercial street. I look forward to hearing, meeting and helping the Shawnee community in any capacity I can.

# CANDIDATES FOR BUSINESS COUNCIL SEAT 1



## JOHN SPARKMAN

HOMETOWN: PICHER, OKLAHOMA

CURRENT CITY: QUAPAW, OKLAHOMA

OCCUPATION: SELF-EMPLOYED

- » Graduate of Picher High School
- » Graduate of NEO A&M, Assoc. of Arts Degree (Bus. Admin.)
- » Single
- » Volunteered many years and Chaired, Picher Mining Field Reunion Committee. Helped to establish Picher Mining Field Museum.
- » Served 18 years with Picher Public Schools Board of Education, 10 years as President.
- » Executive Director, Picher Housing Authority (HUD program) for 23 years. All clean audits.
- » Formed Tar Creek Basin Steering Committee to address health issues of children and environmental issues facing residents. Worked with local, state & federal officials, Committee's work brought about a \$50 million dollar buyout of Picher-Cardin residents from the EPA Superfund Site.
- » Past President, Picher Lions Club.
- » Miami Masonic Lodge
- » Grand Lake Shrine Club, Local Out-reach Coordinator Shriner's Hospital for Children
- » Shawnee Development, LLC.

"I am here to help" I would consider it an honor to work with our elders and other tribal members for the future of Shawnee Tribe.

### ***If elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?***

It would be my ability to listen and work with all people. I have worked with thousands of citizens over the years in the private sector. My experience working with local, state and federal elected officials along with state and federal agencies, could be a benefit for the Shawnee Tribe. Developing relationships is very key for Shawnee Tribe's future.

### ***What issues affecting Shawnee citizens would you intend to prioritize most?***

For our elders, what can we do to aid them in utilities, housing, food availability, healthcare, etc.. It's so difficult for our elders to get by in this day and time. We can never do enough for them. I'm sure we can come up with ways to assist them. Education of our youth is very important for our tribe's future. Education covers so many aspects, not just book learning, but education regarding the dangers of addictions our tribal youth face. We can never let up in this battle protecting them. They depend on us and we will be depending on them in the future.

### ***If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?***

I am old school, just give me a call at 918-533-1010 or drop a note to P.O. Box 66 Quapaw, OK 74363

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,  
John Sparkman





## RANDY WHITE

HOMETOWN: VINITA, OK

CURRENT CITY: VINITA, OK

OCCUPATION: RETIRED

I am a 66-year-old Army veteran and attended Vinita Public Schools and White Oak schools. I have been married to Donna for 42 years. We have a daughter, Jennifer Cates, and husband Kevin, and a son, Jay White, and wife Laura. We have three grandchildren, Cody, Adriana, and Korbin. I was raised on my grandma's homestead in a 2-bedroom house, with no running water and no electricity until the 1980s. I have coached little league in Vinita for over 25 years, refereed, was an umpire, and a rodeo judge. I have been invited to schools to talk about native culture and teach how to make Cherokee baskets. In the army, I was top secret background investigation and traveled to Iran, Turkey, Greece, Italy, and Germany. I was a member of the Big Red One Fort Riley, Fort Carson, Fort Sill, Fort Leonardwood, and Fort Benning.

I am running to help Shawnee citizens with food, housing, and jobs.

### ***If elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?***

I earned an associate's degree from NEO for Industrial Safety and completed the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. I also completed the Department of Correction Training, numerous Fire Fighting Trainings, and Afton Vo-Tech for Accounting I & II. I am a retired Vinita Fire Fighter after

25 years. I was an Assistant Chief for the Fire Department and worked for the City of Vinita as the Safety Coordinator for 15 years, wrote a grant to get Craig County citizens smoke detectors. I also served on the Johnson O'Malley committee for 15 years getting Indian funds for education.

### ***What issues affecting Shawnee citizens would you intend to prioritize most?***

Issues affecting Shawnee citizens are housing, food distribution, and veterans needing grants that are available to them. To carry forth by creating laws of the tribal law through supervision of all government department services, contracts, and programs to keep pace with governmental goals and federal requirements. Helping young people understand how to start applying for scholarships at an early age.

### ***If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?***

Citizens can contact me by phone at 918-944-6483 or by email at [nanadonna.2019@gmail.com](mailto:nanadonna.2019@gmail.com).

## CANDIDATES FOR BUSINESS COUNCIL SEAT 2



### **MORRIS BLUEJACKET**

**HOMETOWN: BLUEJACKET, OK**

**CURRENT CITY: BLUEJACKET, OK**

**OCCUPATION: RETIRED**

Born in Vinita raised in BlueJacket. Graduate of BlueJacket High School. I am married to Pattie (McLain) BlueJacket for 46 years. We have One son Tab & wife Tiffany, 5 Grandchildren. I have worked in state & county government for the past 34 years, the last 12 years I was Emergency Manager, Floodplain Manager, and Safety Coordinator. At the same time serving as Town of Bluejacket Board of Trustees 24 years, 20 of which was as mayor, I was a volunteer firefighter 20 years now retired. I serve on Grand Gateway Board of Directors and Chairman of the Craig County 911 Trust Authority.

I would like to do my part in helping the Shawnee Tribe grow and prosper. I feel I have experience in many areas that could help.

***If elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?***

I feel I have the ability to look at both sides of issues. Over the years I have served on many boards a lot of time in leadership positions. I know that you must do what is best for the people you represent.

***What issues affecting Shawnee citizens would you intend to prioritize most?***

We must protect the elders and children first. I want to see the tribe expand in other business locally.

***If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?***

Morris BlueJacket  
PO Box 167  
Bluejacket, OK 74333  
918-244-1452





## **DIANA McLEAN**

**(INCUMBENT)**

**HOMETOWN: HUTCHINSON, KS**

**CURRENT CITY: BARTLESVILLE, OK**

**OCCUPATION: I WORKED AT AND RETIRED FROM AT&T**

My name is Diana McLean, and I am running for re-election to the Business Council of the Shawnee Tribe. I am a descendant of Martha A. Long Shufeldt Storey. I have been involved in our tribe for many of the past years. I was given my Shawnee name by Victoria Daugherty, our last official Tribal Historian. Prior to becoming a part of the Business Council, I attended meetings and volunteered when asked. I was asked to serve on the Election Committee before my current appointment. As a councilperson, in our meetings, I have always been one to initiate many active discussions, which led to several initiatives such as our current Procurement Policy. I voted along with other Business Members to sue the federal government over CARES funding which resulted in an increase in funding for our tribe. I have also been attending conferences to learn from other tribes and government agencies.

I want to continue the progress the tribe has experienced over the last four years. Progress in building a stable budget and new programs that can be maintained for generations to come. I would also like to continue involvement in the expansion of our casino.

### ***If re-elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?***

I am committed to our tribe. I believe that I can work with people and compromise on occasion. I believe that I can take a commonsense approach to many issues, seeing the possible outcomes, either good or bad. I am committed to seeing that every child, adult and elder has resources if needed. Resources that can be maintained for years to come.

### ***What issues affecting Shawnee citizens would you intend to prioritize most?***

Our elders are one of my top priorities. And I would like to get more involved in Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples issues. I also want to develop an agricultural program for the tribe.

### ***If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?***

dmclean@shawnee-tribe.com

# ICYMI: SHAWNEE SCHOLARS BANQUET & YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

## SHAWNEE SCHOLARS BANQUET

The first annual Shawnee Scholars Banquet was held on May 21 at the tribe's community building in Miami, OK. The honorees included Shawnee citizens graduating from high school or GED programs, as well as vo-tech, college & university grads and their family members. Many of the tribe's elected officials were also in attendance, including Chief Ben Barnes, who gave a brief keynote address.





## YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR



The first annual Shawnee Language Fair was held at the Miami Tribe Council House on Saturday, July 15.



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# THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

2023



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OKLA CITY OK

**COVID-19 RELIEF FOR ADULT CITIZENS IS COMING SOON!**  
The Tribe will begin accepting applications in mid-August. Citizens age 18 and up will receive a paper application in the mail, and an online application will be available at [shawnee-nsn.gov/covid-relief](https://shawnee-nsn.gov/covid-relief)

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