

MAY 2025

THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL



HOTEHIMIKIISFWA
“strawberry month”



YA'SASILAWIIYAKWE

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TO VIEW ALL UPCOMING EVENTS, OFFICE CLOSURES, AND MORE, VISIT SHAWNEE-NSN.GOV/CALENDAR ONLINE OR SCAN HERE WITH YOUR PHONE:



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2025 READERSHIP SURVEY

Dear reader,

skata ke'notoolepe (We want to hear from you). Starting in 2023, we introduced two regular features in every issue of this quarterly newsletter—"weemeyakwe," with a focus on the tribe's heritage, ancestors, and homelands, and "maalaakwahi ke'neemepe," which highlights new and ongoing initiatives. Last year, we added another section dedicated to vitalizing the Shawnee language, and in the most recent issue, we began publishing a list that memorializes fellow tribal citizens who have recently passed away. As we strive to continue enhancing The Shawnee Journal, we are eager to hear your feedback on the newsletter's present format and suggestions for its future. Your insights are vital to helping our media team remain small and effective while continuing to deliver the most useful and noteworthy tribal news and stories.

To participate in our 2025 Readership Survey, scan this code with your smartphone or visit shawnee-nsn.gov/survey-2025. If you prefer to take the survey over the phone, please contact us during business hours at (918) 542-2441, ext. 137.



P.S. - Eligible survey participants will be entered to win a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card!



MAGGIE BOYETT
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



PRINCELLA PARKER REDCORN
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

KIWIITAMAAKONAAKI HOKIMAAKI

MESSAGES FROM THE CHIEFS



**CHIEF
BEN BARNES**

hato ni'kaanaki (greetings, my friends)

As Easter and planting season return, many of us are beginning to turn our minds to our spring gardens. I want to tell you a story about some corn that recently returned to us.

In early April, a person affiliated with the Seed Savers Exchange contacted me about a variety of corn called "Tecumseh flint corn" that the Ho-Chunk people have been preserving for several generations. This speckled flint corn is actually misnamed. The seed is reportedly from Prophetstown during the time of the Prophet. When people were beginning to gather in large numbers to listen to messages from Tecumseh's brother Tenskwatawa, aka, the Prophet, they established a large town near present-day West Lafayette, Indiana. All of these people from all sorts of communities brought with them their seeds so they could feed themselves. The gathering together of all these many seeds, from far corners of the eastern United States, created a speckled, red, white, blue, and yellow corn cob that reflected the multicultural community that was Prophetstown.



As I see it, the variety of the corn brought to this place made the corn a stronger hybrid when compared to the original seeds, with each corn planted by various persons contributing to the strength of not just the corn but their community. While there are some obvious lessons there, the one that I want to take the time today to share with you is that this corn resembles Shawnee people today. We come in all sorts of varieties, shapes, colors, and walks of life, and it is because of this that we have always found our resilience.

As for this corn, we are going to attempt to grow it out for a larger future distribution to interested Shawnee citizens because the Tribe wants to establish a seed and agriculture program to provide for our people. However, to do so, first, we have to grow out this corn so there is enough. And just as it is with this crop, the Tribe is growing out our ability for future programs and opportunities by growing out our "seed corn."

In August, our Golden Mesa Casino expansion and new hotel will open to the public, and with that comes the potential for additional growth as a government and as a Shawnee community. We are always looking to a future where we can fully fund our affairs without the need for federal grant funds, but this is going to take time.

So for now, I encourage you to plant your seeds in fertile soil as the Tribe is also doing, and enjoy the weather during what's shaping up to be a fantastic springtime.

**Ben Barnes
Chief**



**SECOND CHIEF
ROY
BALDRIDGE**

hato caakiwiyeefa (Greetings, everyone)–

I hope that all of you are doing well during these tough times. During this period of federal government layoffs, reduction in force and suspension of federal grants, we have been working to ensure that our tribal programs will be unaffected.

For several years now, many of you have had the opportunity to listen to representatives from FSA who are contracted to provide financial advice to the tribe. During the COVID outbreak, our relationship with FSA enabled our tribe to avoid layoffs, which affected many tribes across the country. Currently, the relationship helps us ensure that programs supported by federal grants are maintained while the federal government restructures agencies such as HUD, Education, Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc.

In my last letter (February 2025), I mentioned that Chief Barnes is currently the chairman of the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma. Over the past couple of years, this organization, which has representation from 32 of the state's 38 federally recognized tribes, has been engaged in fighting for the tribal right to issue tags for our citizens and protect tribes' exclusivity rights regarding gaming in Oklahoma. Also involved along with Chief Barnes in the UINO effort have been Carolyn Foster, Diana McLean, Keni Hood and me.

Oklahoma's current governor would like to see a one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to tags, and he sees tribal tags as a threat to state authority. He has also tried to force renegotiation of gaming compacts upon gaming tribes to increase the amount of profits going to the State of Oklahoma. In the matter of tags, while several of the larger tribes have chosen to compact with the state, many of the remaining tribes have chosen not to. Many tribes, such as ours, provide tag benefits the state does not, such as those for veterans and the disabled.

Regarding gaming, many of you in Oklahoma have seen commercials produced by the Chickasaw Nation educating the public about the

assistance their nation provides for the public, tribal and non-tribal. The same can be said for every gaming tribe across the state, whether it is assistance with building roads and bridges or supporting community projects.

Part of this effort to engage with the state has involved an independent tribal-state discussion in Oklahoma City. To date, this effort has involved Chief Barnes, Keni Hood, Chris Floyd, me and administrative staff. Chris Floyd has gone above and beyond in his efforts to guide Shawnee Development and issues dealing with the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association.

In these times, when it is apparent that grant resources are reduced, it will be more important that we work with tribal and non-tribal organizations to pool resources when indicated. With that in mind, Councilor Diana McLean sits on the board of Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging, which consists of tribes covering Craig, Mayes, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers and Washington counties. For several years, Secretary Carolyn Foster has held seats on boards at the Northeastern Medical Clinic in Miami, OK, and the Claremore Indian Hospital in Claremore, OK.

For the past couple of years, Councilor Keni Hood has attended annual meetings hosted by the Chickasaw Nation, promoting economic development among tribes across the state with me. We have also attended a summit hosted by Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Mike Staubus of Shawnee Development also attended this year's summit. At the economic development summit, workplace organization and other issues are discussed. The summit was originally established to provide a resource for gaming tribes in the areas of gaming management, accounting, hospitality or real estate.

Finally, I would like to report that we are approaching the completion of our casino expansion, with information about the grand opening coming soon, as well as information regarding the growth and expansion of Shawnee Development. We continue in our effort to build upon the work of past leaders such as Freddie Halfmoon, Pam Chibitty, Chris White, Don Greenfeather, James Squirrel and Ron Sparkman. We wouldn't be here today without their efforts.

niyaawe (Thank you),

**Roy D. Baldrige
Second Chief**

THE SHAWNEE TRIBE BUSINESS COUNCIL



**SECRETARY
CAROLYN
FOSTER**



**TREASURER
MARK
McDOWELL**



**SEAT 1
JOHN
SPARKMAN**



**SEAT 2
DIANA
McLEAN**



**SEAT 3
DREW
DIXON**



**SEAT 4
COREY
WINESBURG**



**SEAT 5
MONTY
COOMBES**



**SEAT 6
LEE
BLUEJACKET**



**SEAT 7
KENI
HOOD**



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING IS THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND MANAGE EMOTIONS, BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, AND MAKE RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS. IT'S AN IMPORTANT PART OF DEVELOPING HEALTHY IDENTITIES AND ACHIEVING GOALS.

TIPS TO IMPROVE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

BUILD RESILIENCE

Develop a strong support group, maintain a positive outlook, practice self-care, set realistic goals, embrace change, learn problem-solving skills, and reflect on experience.

FIND BALANCE

Set priorities, establish boundaries, create a schedule, practice flexibility, make time for yourself, maintain healthy relationships, stay mindful, limit multitasking, and seek support.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Be genuine and authentic, actively listen, find common interests, stay in touch, be supportive, practice social activities, be respectful, express appreciation, be patient, and communicate openly.

MANAGE STRESS

Identify stressors, practice mindfulness, exercise regularly, establish a routine, prioritize sleep, stay connected, limit caffeine and alcohol, engage in hobbies, and practice time management.

BE KIND TO YOURSELF

Practice self-compassion, acknowledge mistakes, set realistic expectations, engage in positive self-talk, take time for self-care, and prioritize your needs.

REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

Identify your support network (friends, family, spiritual, or religious leaders or mentors).

MAKE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHOICES

Practice self-compassion, acknowledge mistakes, set realistic expectations, engage in positive self-talk, take time for self-care, and prioritize your needs.

EXPLORE LIFE'S MEANING

Dive into your spiritual/religious beliefs, cultural background, individual beliefs, and personal experiences.



THIS MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SHAWNEE TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & VICTIM SERVICES DEPARTMENT.



JOIN US!

LUNCH & LEARN MONDAYS

Noon – 1:00 PM CDT
Free Zoom Meeting Series



Scan QR Code for more info and meeting link, or visit shawnee-nsn.gov

~~Mar. 17~~ What is Therapy?

May 12 Dealing with Anxiety & Depression

July 14 Setting & Achieving Goals

~~Mar. 31~~ Building a Relationship with Your Child

June 2 Cultivating Mindfulness & Presence

July 28 Understanding & Managing Fear

April 14 Managing Stress

June 16 Exploring Identity & Self-Discovery

Aug. 11 Improving Communication Skills

~~April 28~~ Navigating Relationship Challenges

June 30 Managing Anger & Frustration

Aug. 25 Managing Symptoms of Trauma

ABOUT :



This Lunch & Learn Meeting series aims to create a supportive and engaging Zoom community that allows survivors of domestic violence and intimate partner violence to learn about mental health, psychology, and personal growth through psychoeducation. No cost to join, and no registration necessary.

HOSTED BY :



Meetings hosted by Shawnee Tribe Behavioral Health and facilitated by Haylee Fields, MS, LPC-C. Please direct any questions or concerns to Haylee via email or phone: hfields@shawnee-tribe.com (918) 542-2441, ext. 145



This publication and meeting series have been supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-23-GG-01617-TRIB awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this series are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

The Shawnee Tribe Higher Education Program looks forward to celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2024 (Fall/Winter) and Class of 2025 (Spring/Summer) at the annual honor banquet next month in Miami.

This year's banquet will be a come-and-go reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres, an address from Chief Ben Barnes, and door prizes for grads—there will be three \$500 gift card giveaways! Only eligible graduates may enter the giveaway drawing. Winners will be announced immediately following Chief's remarks. Must be present to win.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

5:00 - 7:00 PM

**SHAWNEE TRIBE COMMUNITY BUILDING
108 S. EIGHT TRIBES TRAIL, MIAMI, OK 74354**



WE ARE LOOKING FOR

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

How to participate

To be eligible to participate, you must be:

- 21-65 years of age
- Shawnee Tribe community member (enrolled OR active in traditional Shawnee community)
- Fluent in English

Compensation will be provided

About our research

The Neu-AIRR lab is recruiting Shawnee Tribe community members for a new research study to better understand cultural factors and substance use.

We use functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and electroencephalography (EEG) to take live images of the brain and record brain activity in real time. It's painless and involves no radiation.

**CONTACT US:
918-899-3482**



SHAWNEE TRIBE ENTERS NEW AGREEMENT WITH OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

HERE'S WHAT THIS MEANS FOR SHAWNEE TAG-HOLDERS ON OKLAHOMA TOLL ROADS

The Shawnee Tribe is announcing a new agreement with the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority that will provide OTA access to Shawnee Tribe motor vehicle registration records for toll collection purposes. This agreement ensures that tolls accrued by tribal citizens using OTA turnpikes are properly assigned to the registered owners of vehicles with Shawnee Tribe-issued license plates.

"We genuinely appreciate the partnership we've built with the Shawnee Tribe and want to reassure Shawnee citizens that we are ready to work with them to quickly resolve any invoicing questions or concerns," said Joe Echelle, OTA executive director.

Effective March 16, 2025, motorists with Shawnee Tribe-issued license plates who do not have a PIKEPASS account will receive monthly OTA invoices for tolls accumulated through the PlatePay system. PlatePay is a video toll collection system that captures an image of the vehicle's license plate and invoices the registered owner.

Data Privacy and Scam Text Alert: The Shawnee Tribe Tag Office will only share the registered owner's name, address, and plate number with OTA for toll collection purposes. Motorists should be aware of a recent increase in fraudulent text message schemes nationwide claiming unpaid or overdue toll invoices designed to trick people into paying scammers. These texts are not from PIKEPASS or the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. Report suspicious texts as spam. If you've shared personal information or clicked any links, secure your financial accounts and report a complaint at ic3.gov.

The Shawnee Tribe encourages all citizens with Shawnee Tribe-issued plates to review their toll payment options to avoid higher charges. For questions or assistance regarding this change, please contact the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority at 1-800-PIKEPASS or visit their website at oklahoma.gov/ota. The Shawnee Tribe Tag Office is available at 918-542-2441, ext. 102

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PIKEPASS:

You will receive invoices for PlatePay tolls at the standard PlatePay rate, which is approximately double the PIKEPASS rate. Invoices can be paid securely at platepay.com by entering invoice information or looking up license plate information. To sign up for a PIKEPASS account, visit pikepass.com or call OTA.

IF YOU HAVE A PIKEPASS:

This change does not affect you, but you should check your PIKEPASS account information to ensure "Shawnee Tribe" is listed as your plate issuer. PIKEPASS billing will continue as usual.

TO REDUCE PLATEPAY TOLL CHARGES:

Citizens receiving PlatePay invoices can contact OTA directly to request a toll reduction. This will require obtaining a PIKEPASS account.



KIPIYECIPAKICIIPE – "COMING HOME" COMMUNITY DINNER & STOMP DANCE

Saturday, June 21

**MIAMI TRIBE COMMUNITY CENTER
2319 NEWMAN RD., MIAMI, OK 74354**



Hotel & Casino Expansion Grand Opening

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 22
GUYMON, OK**

Stay tuned to shawnee-nsn.gov for more details!

TA'SAAWANWAATOWEEYAKWE:

"WHERE WE SPEAK SHAWNEE"

HOWE MELO'KAMI! KEHAPE M'TEKWI'KIKI!
NOW IT IS SPRING! LET'S ALL GO TO THE WOODS!

This list will help you learn the Shawnee names for creatures, plants, places, and things you might find on a visit to the woods in springtime, as well as how to talk about seeing them. Use the list and practice saying each item's name as you search for them in the woodland scene illustrated on the next two pages. As you find each wiyehi/wiyeeefa in pages 12-13, check them off your list on page 10. **Get with a partner and take turns asking each other what you see, or practice on your own!**

PRACTICE CONVERSATION:

[Redacted conversation text]

After you've practiced some, take it outside! On your next bike ride, mushroom hunt, or walk through the park, see how many of these names you recall, or go the extra mile and turn the list into a scavenger hunt! More advanced kalawiiwena (phrases) can be found in the conversation below, and you can scan this QR code to log in on SLIPstream and see even more springtime words and phrases.



[Redacted conversation text]

NEHIWE KINEEME? LOOK FOR CREATURES, PLANTS AND OTHER THINGS IN THIS WOODLAND SCENE, THEN CHECK THEM OFF ON PG 10.



ILLUSTRATION BY BAILEY QUISHENBERRY

WEEMEYAKWE

WHERE WE COME FROM

This information brought to you by the Indiana University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

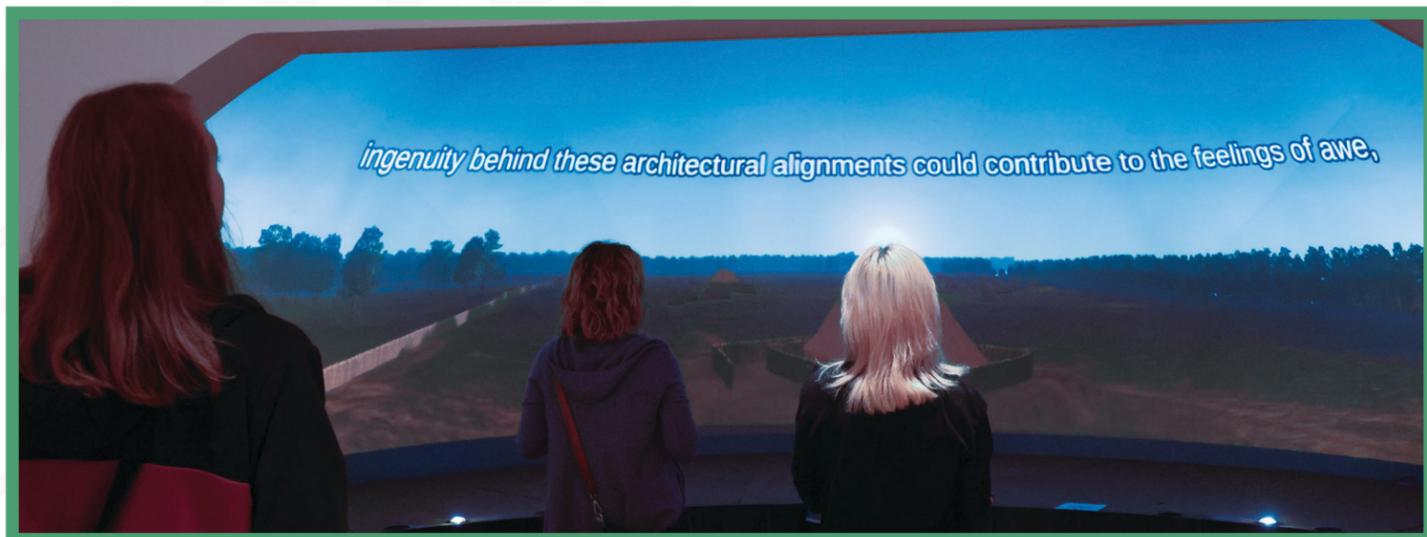
[Photo credit: Angel Mounds State Historic Site]

A community established themselves on the banks of a powerful river over 900 years ago. The Indigenous Peoples in this community grew corn and other crops, hunted game, and fished to sustain their families. They took great care to honor the land and to observe the cyclical journeys of the sun, moon, and stars.

The Indigenous Peoples built sturdy walls to protect their relatives and great mounds of earth. These structures were designed to align with the movements of the sky – the sun, stars, and moon. Then, after 300 years of continuous inhabitation, the Indigenous Peoples of this great town decided to leave their fields and mounds behind.

This site is currently known as Angel Mounds. We are not completely sure what the Indigenous Peoples called their community, but through collaboration with Indigenous descendant peoples it was decided to call this community "the city on the river."

The Indiana University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology will showcase the story of the city on the river in an upcoming exhibition opening later this month. *City on the River* is the culmination of several years of close partnership and collaboration with the Angel Mounds Exhibition Advisory Council, which includes members of living Indigenous descendant communities ancestrally connected to the site and for whom the site still holds significance, including the Shawnee Tribe. The exhibition will tell the story of the People who lived there through material culture from the site, an immersive virtual reality experience, learning interactives, videos about Native American culture and language, contemporary art, and personal stories about family, animals, and Indigenous land management.



CITY ON THE RIVER

Connecting Indigenous Past, Present, and Futures

Native American language art storytelling culture
 Archaeology interactive
 Angel Mounds virtual reality experience
 Indigenous Peoples community home



Museum attendees preview the virtual reality experience in *City on the River*.
Photo credit: IUMAA

Exhibition Opening Community Celebration

Saturday, May 31, 2025
12:00 - 3:00 pm
416 N Indiana Ave
Bloomington, IN 47408
Free admission & open to all



2025 TRIBAL ELECTIONS UPDATE

AN ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025, FOR THE FOLLOWING ELECTIVE OFFICES:

- SECOND CHIEF (4-YEAR TERM, CURRENTLY HELD BY ROY BALDRIDGE)
- BUSINESS COUNCIL SEAT 5 (4-YEAR TERM, CURRENTLY HELD BY MONTY COOMBES)
- BUSINESS COUNCIL SEAT 6 (4-YEAR TERM, CURRENTLY HELD BY LEE BLUEJACKET)



INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY ARE OUTLINED IN TITLE 6, "ELECTIONS ACT," AVAILABLE ONLINE AT SHAWNEE-NSN.GOV/ELECTIONS-ACT.

FILING DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JUNE 20

NO HAND-DELIVERED OR MAILED FILINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THE FILING DEADLINE.

VISIT SHAWNEE-NSN.GOV/ELECTIONS FOR IMPORTANT DATES AND CANDIDACY FILING PAPERWORK. THE ELECTION COMMITTEE CAN BE REACHED AT ELECTIONS@SHAWNEE-TRIBE.COM OR (918) 325-6341.

LOCATION REMINDER:

In-Person Voting and the Annual Meeting of the Tribal Council will take place at the Craig County Fairgrounds & Community Center.



915 E. APPERSON RD., VINITA, OK 74301

HASENOOKI IN MEMORIAM

The Shawnee Tribe extends its deep condolences to the family and friends of citizens who have recently passed on.

- WANDA LEE DOAN (NEWMAN)
- GRACE JEANNINE GALLAGHER (GARRETT)
- LAURA NADINE GALVIN (McCABE)
- DAVID FRANKLIN LEWIS
- JOHN FLEMING McCORMICK, JR.

Please note: Surviving family members of the deceased have reported the names listed here to the Citizen Enrollment Department. For assistance or to notify the tribe of a citizen's passing, visit shawnee-nsn.gov/enrollment or contact enrollment@shawnee-tribe.com.

SHAWNEE TRIBE BURIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Tribal citizens are eligible for up to \$5,000 in assistance covering funeral and burial costs after all other financial and insurance funding has been depleted. Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted within 180 calendar days from the date of death. Visit shawnee-nsn.gov/burial for more information, or contact Program Specialist Tammy Burkybile at (918) 542-2441, ext. 106, for assistance.



CALL FOR PROJECTS: 2025 SHAWNEE LANGUAGE FAIR



Shawnee language learners of all ages and abilities are invited to join the Shawnee Language Immersion Program for the 2025 Language Fair, Dinner and Stomp Dance on Saturday, July 26, at the Emma “Mock” Donaldson saawanwaatoweewika east of Miami, OK. Citizens of all three Shawnee nations are eligible to participate. Submissions will not be judged for the complexity of the language used but rather on each contestant’s ability to incorporate the language they know, understand, and feel confident speaking in a creative project. Use what you’ve learned in class to make something of your own, and, most of all, have fun! Over \$6,000 in prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each category.

CATEGORY	WRITTEN LENGTH	MAX. VIDEO LENGTH
KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 2	1–3 WORDS OR PHRASES	2 MINUTES
GRADES 3–5	4–10 SENTENCES	3 MINUTES
GRADES 6–8	6–16 SENTENCES	4 MINUTES
GRADES 9–12	10–20 SENTENCES	6 MINUTES
ADULT STUDENTS– SLIP LEVELS 1–3	10–20 SENTENCES	6 MINUTES
ADULT STUDENTS– MIINA, WAAPIKO, M’SKOCI’FAKI, TAAMI	10–20 SENTENCES	6 MINUTES
ADULT CLPs & APPRENTICES	10–20 SENTENCES	6 MINUTES

All entries must primarily consist of written and spoken Shawnee, a written and spoken English translation, and accompanying image(s). Shawnee text must be written using either the Shawnee Tribe orthography or bibabebo. A non-exhaustive list of possible project format is below; however, final fair presentations must be submitted as an MP4 or MOV video file and meet the maximum allowable duration guidelines in the table on page 18. Participants whose video presentations exceed the maximum allowable duration will be asked to trim their presentations or indicate start & end timestamps to meet the guidelines. Assistance in creating the final video presentation will be available for every contestant who needs it.

- COMIC STRIP
- POSTER
- ZINE
- VIDEO
- SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION
- CHILDREN’S BOOK
- SHORT STORY
- SONG
- POEM
- MIXED MEDIA

IMPORTANT DATES

THURSDAY, MAY 15 - GRAMMAR & SPELL CHECK DEADLINE

This is the final deadline to guarantee you’ll receive assistance revising the text for your 2025 Language Fair project. Send the final draft text of your work in both saawanwaatoweewe (Shawnee) and teko’siyaatoweewe (English) to anastasia@shawnee-tribe.com.

MONDAY, JULY 7 - FINAL PROJECT & PRESENTATION DEADLINE

Send final projects in video format to joel@shawnee-tribe.com, balexander@shawnee-tribe.com, and anastasia@shawnee-tribe.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 26 - LANGUAGE FAIR, DINNER, & STOMP DANCE

4:00 PM – Language Fair and Presentation of Awards
 6:00 PM – Dinner
 7:30 PM – Stomp dance



MAY

THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

2025



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

PRE-SORT STANDARD
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AND @SHAWNEECHIEF
ON FACEBOOK



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@SAAWANOOKI

