

FEB 2026

# THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL



**SKIPIYEKIISFWA**  
*"sap/maple month"*



# YA'SASILAWIIYAKWE

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TO VIEW ALL UPCOMING EVENTS, OFFICE CLOSURES, AND MORE, VISIT [SHAWNEE-NSN.GOV/CALENDAR](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/calendar) ONLINE OR SCAN HERE WITH YOUR PHONE:



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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Recognizing that digital communications via social media and the Internet are not necessarily preferred by or accessible to every tribal citizen, the Communications & Media Department will always strive to introduce new citizens services & programs through this publication or other direct mailings to all Shawnee households before they are broadcast online. Many opportunities for tribal citizens may arise between publications, however, particularly those coordinated with other tribes and third-party organizations. Those who can are encouraged to follow the tribe's digital channels for the most up-to-date information—primarily the tribal website ([shawnee-nsn.gov](http://shawnee-nsn.gov)) and monthly e-mail newsletter, "piyeetaacimooweneefa."

## KNOW ANY SHAWNEES WHO'VE MOVED RECENTLY?

Let them know to update their mailing address with the Citizen Enrollment Department to ensure they continue receiving tribal news!

## SIGN UP TO RECEIVE PIYEETAACIMOOWENEFA "LITTLE NEWS MESSAGES"

Get Shawnee Tribe news updates on the first Friday of every month. Subscribe to the e-newsletter at [shawnee-nsn.gov/subscribe](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/subscribe) or scan this code with your smartphone's camera.



# KIWIITAMAAKONAAKI HOKIMAAKI

## MESSAGES FROM THE CHIEFS



**CHIEF  
BEN BARNES**

When you receive this message, the Christmas and New Year seasons will have passed, and it is always a time of reflection. This December, we did some of our own reflection when we dedicated our new permanent council chamber to honor Ambassador Ron Sparkman (page 10).

Both he and I shared some memories that I want to share with you today. I recall a time when we had Business Committee meetings at the White Oak school and our simple fundraiser was box suppers. Those of us of a certain age will know what box suppers were, but for you younger ones, it was a complete cooked meal in a decorated box that was a mystery to those who would then offer an auction bid upon the contents of that box for that evening's supper. Many families would come together to ensure that the business of the Shawnee people could be taken care of through the donation of their best home-cooked preparations for those auctions. Before cable TV and the internet, this was an event that excited our folks and they were eager to share their cooked-creations.

I even recall having a "mystery pie" where people had to pay a dollar to guess what the pie was made of and the winning guesser would win the pie. I remember my mother being proud that her peanut butter pie brought in a significant amount of dollars from people's failed guesses.

Ambassador Ron Sparkman also shared memories of the old chiefs of the InterTribal Council and how they met around a dining room table. I can recall Chief Floyd Leonard of the Miami Tribe describing how they kept entire records and proceedings of their tribe in the trunk of a car and how that was common among many of these old Tribal leaders.

As we enter this New Year, I just want to take the time to reflect on all our past leaders, council and committee persons and what they did to keep our tribe alive. We all owe considerable gratitude to those who came before us; people like James Squirrel, Don Greenfeather, Jerome Shawnee, Chris White, Shirley Staubus, Georgie Honey, Fred Halfmoon, and so many others. If it hadn't been for a single document that Freddy Halfmoon had signed and kept a copy of, we couldn't have been a tribe today.

The legacy of all our people is only possible because of what we have done together, such as the recent ribbon-cutting for the expansion of the Golden Mesa Casino & Hotel back last fall. We've come so far in the last few years, but it has been because of so many people that prepared us to be successful.



TO WATCH HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GOLDEN MESA CASINO & HOTEL RIBBON-CUTTING, SCAN HERE:



**Ben Barnes  
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  
MALACHI  
SEARS**



**SEAT 7  
KENI  
HOOD**



**SECOND CHIEF  
ROY  
BALDRIDGE**

*hato caakiwiyefa,*

I hope that the holidays were kind to everyone. Since my last report we have seen the completion of our tribal council chambers, which was dedicated to our former Chief and current Ambassador Ron Sparkman, and of the buildings that now house our Behavioral Health, Indian Child Welfare, Accounting and Human Resources departments. It has been a slow process largely due to issues that resulted in lack of supplies (tariffs). We now have spaces that ensure privacy and safety for citizens who are being provided with services at our offices.

With the beginning of 2026, we begin the process of evaluating current programs to improve service delivery. The Business Council will also begin the process of discussing the next budget for the upcoming fiscal year. If you have any questions or suggestions, remember that you can email any of our current council members or call me at the office. We are all here to serve our families, friends and citizens.

It appears that this year will be great with the completion of the above-mentioned projects as well as the completed expansion of the Golden Mesa Casino and Hotel project in Guymon. The growth of Shawnee Development and their efforts toward diversification will also help us toward a more sustainable future.

Under Chief Barnes' leadership, the Business Council will continue to engage in discussions with other tribes across the country and state, local authorities in our current and former homelands, and the federal government on issues that affect us.

Our government will also work toward building up our Shawnee community as evidenced by the tribe's language revitalization program, social activities such as the elders' dinner, our donation to the FAMILY Discovery Center in Oklahoma City, availability of the Shawnee Community Building for citizen use, and other events. In closing, I would like to suggest that while building community, we continue to find a way to honor our past leaders and heroes, whether business councilors or citizens that have that have given unselfishly.



TO WATCH THE FAMILY DISCOVERY CENTER: SHAWNEE VIP PREVIEW, SCAN HERE:



Niyaawe,

**Roy D. Baldrige  
Second Chief**

# RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!



## 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.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

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.



## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

To be eligible to participate, you must be:

- 18-65 years of age
- Shawnee Tribe community member (enrolled OR active in traditional Shawnee community)
- Fluent in English



Compensation will be provided

## CONTACT US

**(918) 899-3482**

## ONLINE APPLICATIONS TO REQUEST A 2026 ABSENTEE BALLOT ARE NOW OPEN!

APPLY EARLY, DON'T WAIT!



- Citizens who have submitted an Application for Absentee Ballot can expect to receive their ballots beginning in mid-July.
- The deadline to submit an Application for an Absentee Ballot is August 31, 2026.



Apply online to receive a 2026 Absentee Ballot at [shawnee-nsn.gov/elections](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/elections)



## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Shawnee Tribe LIHEAP funds for home heating assistance are available for Oklahoma residents who meet the income guidelines set forth by the US Department of Health and Human Services (see table below).

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	1-PERSON	2-PERSON	3-PERSON	4-PERSON	5-PERSON	6-PERSON
MAX. INCOME	\$29,308	\$38,326	\$47,344	\$56,362	\$65,379	\$74,397

If your household is larger than 6 people, please contact Tammy Burkybile (918) 542-2441, x 106.

## The Shawnee Tribe has made exciting updates to the Elder Assistance Reimbursement Program!



- Annual reimbursement doubled to \$1,000 for elders 65+
- Applications are available on the Shawnee Tribe website, at the Tribal headquarters, or can be mailed by calling Tammy Burkybile (918) 542-2441, ext. #106 or by email [tburkybile@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:tburkybile@shawnee-tribe.com).
- Please allow 4-6 weeks from the application submission to the time of payment.

For complete info, tap/click here, or go to [shawnee-nsn.gov/elders](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/elders)



# GRADUATION REGALIA AND 2026 HONOR BANQUET

## ATTENTION ALL SHAWNEE GRADS!

Please complete the online application form by Wednesday, April 15, 2026, to request your regalia for 2026 (Spring/Summer) commencement ceremonies.



### CELEBRATING

# AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

## AT THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION RECYCLING EVENT!



Pictured from left to right: Cindy Riley - Shawnee Tribe Environmental Manager, Joe Hooper - Muscogee Creek Nation Recycling Technician, Amy King - Muscogee Creek Nation Environmental Dept., James Williams - Muscogee Creek Nation Director of Environmental Services, Randy Gee - Environmental protection Agency Region 6.

On November 15, Shawnee Tribe's Environmental Manager, Cindy Riley, participated in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's recycling event to explore new ways of collecting and processing materials— from electronics and batteries to tires, and many more items—and to bring those best practices back to our own tribal community.

### Key take-aways:

- Expand the types of items we accept at drop-off points (e-waste, batteries, cardboard).
- Boost community education about Recycle Right - knowing what belongs in the bin and what doesn't.
- Improve access and infrastructure: clear signage, standardized containers, community-wide collection events.

### Next steps:

- We are currently applying for a grant that would allow for expanded services for e-waste, which is one of the fastest growing solid waste streams in the world.
- We have a plan in place to expand our recycling program to include one e-waste receptacle for the 2026 fiscal year.
- Together, we can grow our program, increase participation, and strengthen our stewardship of the environment.

## 2026 HONOR BANQUET

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026  
SHAWNEE TRIBE COMMUNITY BUILDING  
108 S. EIGHT TRIBES TRAIL  
MIAMI, OK 74354



Scan here with your smartphone or visit [shawnee-nsn.gov/grads](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/grads).

Celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2025 (Fall/Winter) and the Class of 2026 (Spring/Summer).

Please RSVP to the Honor Banquet no later than Friday, May 22, 2026.

Questions? Contact Ella Kohler at [education@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:education@shawnee-tribe.com) or (918) 542-2441, ext. 133.

# CHIEF RON SPARKMAN SHAWNEE TRIBE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

## MAALAAKWAHI KE'NEEMEPE (LET'S LOOK CLOSER)

On Monday, December 8, the new Chief Ron Sparkman Shawnee Tribe Council Chambers, located at 29 S. Main Street, held its naming, dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony. The newly designed interiors included the main tribal chambers, private tribal chambers, kitchen and prep space, restrooms, and a private meeting space all adorned with modern flooring, walls, lighting, fixtures and state-of-the-art screen monitors and televisions for the audience and council.

"This is an exercise of sovereignty, where we come together as a government and have a dedicated place to manage our affairs," said Chief Ben Barnes.

In attendance were the business council, tribal staff, citizens, Miami Mayor Bless Parker, City of Miami staff, members from the Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce, local tribal representatives from Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Wyandotte Nation, Miami Nation, Seneca Cayuga Tribe, Larry Smith the previous owner of the building, the construction team, and the guest of honor Ambassador Ron Sparkman and his family.

Ambassador Ron Sparkman gave remarks on the history of the building, his time with the Inter-Tribal Council of Miami and what it meant to him to have the tribal council chambers named after him.

"This is just unbelievable," said Ambassador Ron Sparkman. "I'm so proud of the leadership of Chief Barnes and the rest of this council of keeping things going forward."

The Ribbon-Cutting followed the speeches and took place in front of the newly renovated building. Light refreshments were served, including cookies with the Shawnee Tribe's seal and flag.

Later that evening, the business council held its first monthly meeting in the tribal chambers.



TO VIEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NAMING, DEDICATION AND RIBBON-CUTTING, VISIT [YOUTUBE.COM/@SAAWANOOKI](https://www.youtube.com/@SAAWANOOKI) ONLINE OR SCAN HERE WITH YOUR PHONE :



# COMING HOME: CATAHECASSA'S 1816 VISIT TO EASTERN CLARK COUNTY, KENTUCKY

## WEEMEYAKWE / "WHERE WE COME FROM"

BY A. GWYNN HENDERSON AND DAVID POLLACK

On September 7, 1816, readers skimming the Niles' Weekly Register might have noticed a story about two groups of Shawnee men visiting central Kentucky. It appears on a page with a variety of national and international news: an accounting of how many immigrants had arrived in America, details of Simón Bolívar's defeat, and a summary of European social and political events.

EMIGRATION.

In our paper of the week before last, we gave a list of the vessels with the number of their passengers, accounts of whose arrival at the ports of the United States had reached us for the week just then past—the amount was 1474 persons. Last week they amounted (we believe) to about 800.—The week, ending yesterday morning, furnished us with the following list, which takes in, perhaps, about three-fourths, or four-fifths of the whole number; as we have probably overlooked some, not receiving papers from every port, and at others, if the passengers be not numerous, they are not noticed at all.

Ship	Where from	Arrived at	Passengers.
Integrity,	London,	New-York	11
Cyrus,	Dublin,	—	34
United States,	Havre-de-grace,	—	23
Anity,	Liverpool,	—	10
Minerva,	—	—	16
Laura,	Hull,	—	12
Alexandria,	Dublin,	—	48
Rockingham,	Liverpool,	—	21
Howard,	—	—	20
Jane,	Londonderry,	—	150
Unity,	Amsterdam,	Philadelphia,	23
Nancy,	Belfast,	Baltimore,	61
Brig Concord,	Dundee,	New-York,	22
Swallow,	Waterford,	—	56
Recovery,	Londonderry,	—	58
Prince of Waterloo,	Belfast,	Amboy,	—
Aurora,	Aberdeen,	New-York,	8
Elizabeth,	Dublin,	—	48
Langdon Cheever,	Greenock,	—	24
Elizabeth,	Dublin,	—	42
Venus,	Sligo,	—	65
Philippa,	Galway,	Amboy,	—
Traveler,	Leith,	New-York,	62
Hope,	Newry,	Philadelphia,	52
			897
Add for the Prince of Waterloo and Philippa, which were regular passenger-vessels, 65 each,			130
			1027

*Bolívar's expedition.*—We have details of the defeat of Bolívar. He appears to have lost 400 men.

August 9.—There appears to be no doubt but that the small fleet under the Mexican flag which were last month at the Balize, are now at the bay of Matagordy, on the Spanish Main to the S. W. of the Balize, about 150 leagues: that the Mexican congress have the utmost confidence in their ultimate success; that the royal cause droops, and that next fall or winter will place the city of Mexico in the hands of the republicans.

John and William Perry, two Shawanese chiefs, and the son of the gallant Logan, who lost his life in our service during the war, have arrived in this place, on a visit to their army acquaintance, and to see the country. These Indians accompanied our troops as friends in most of the campaigns in the north-west, and always conducted themselves with faithfulness and gallantry. They will, doubtless, be well received and treated with hospitality. The celebrated chief Blackhoof, long distinguished by his attachment to our government, and three others we understand, are on a visit in Bourbon county.

—Lexington Reporter.

### LATEST FROM EUROPE.

London dates of the 22d July.

It is reported that the sovereigns who signed the "Holy Alliance" are to have a meeting, for purposes not stated. Direct accounts from St. Helena to the 6th of June have been received in England; and the contents of the despatches brought from thence were thought of such importance as to be sent to all the cabinet ministers—Bonaparte was well and in good spirits.—Four Spanish vessels captured off Cadiz by the Buenos-Ayreal privateers had 400,000\$ in specie on board. The princess of Wales has wandered to Constantinople. The matches between Ferdinand of Spain and his brother with the Portuguese princesses, have been broken off—the

Copy of a section of a page from Niles' Weekly Register for September 7, 1816. The article about the Shawnee men's visits is outlined in red; mention of Catahecassa's visit is highlighted in yellow. Niles' Weekly Register, edited and published by Hezekiah Niles until 1836, was one of the most influential papers in the United States. Image provided by Stephen Warren.

Subscribers who stopped to read the story in full would have learned that the first group had come to Lexington, Kentucky, to visit their former army buddy. What brought the second group to Bourbon County, located northeast of Lexington, was not mentioned. The important person in that group, however, was named: Catahecassa (also called Black Hoof), principal civil chief of the Shawnee.

In his mid-70s in 1816, Catahecassa was no stranger to travel. In his youth, he had taken part in conflicts scattered across the Ohio Valley and upper Midwest. In his later years, as a diplomat, he had traveled to Washington D.C. to advocate for the Shawnee people. At the time of this trip, he was still active in Shawnee political affairs.

Unlike those 1816 readers, we do know one reason – perhaps the main reason – why Catahecassa and his companions came to central Kentucky: to visit the area near Goffs Corner in eastern Clark County.

How do we know this?

Interviews carried out by Rev. John D. Shane of Cincinnati in the 1840s and 1850s with Kentucky's aging early settlers. Shane had interviewed Clark County residents about the history of the Goffs Corner area. And those who had met the great Shawnee leader, orator, and diplomat and his companions in 1816 shared their experiences with Shane.



Portrait of Catahecassa (Black Hoof), 1838. Print by J. T. Bowen Lithography Company after a painting by Charles Bird King. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. Catahecassa believed that peace and blending with Whites was the only way for the Shawnee Nation to keep their remaining lands and communities together. Charles Bird King would have painted his famous subject sometime between 1821 and 1831, while Catahecassa was on a diplomatic visit to Washington D.C. This portrait of Catahecassa survives only as a lithograph, since the original was lost in a fire.

TO VIEW PORTRAIT ON THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, SCAN HERE WITH YOUR PHONE:



### Why the Goffs Corner Area?

Eastern Clark County near Goffs Corner is a beautiful, even magical, rural place today. Bounded by Upper Howard's Creek on the west and Lulbeograd Creek on the east, it is the last real level spot travelers cross before they enter Kentucky's Eastern Mountains.

In 1816, it was a rural place, too. Widely scattered farmhouses, agricultural fields, and woodlands. Fresh and saltwater springs and salt licks. Good soil for crops. Diverse resources available to anyone living in this boundary zone of the Kentucky Bluegrass and the mountains. But there was no seat of government to visit, no powerful men to persuade.

Why, then, visit? What made this place so special to Catahecassa?

Memories. Memories of home.

### The Trip

The travelers likely had started south from Wapakoneta in northwestern Ohio, where Catahecassa lived at the time. By modern calculations, the men would have covered a distance of about 220 miles on their way to their destination. If they had cut across country, the route might have been shorter. Travel in the early 1800s would not have been particularly easy. "Roads" were dusty tracks or muddy traces that extended from settlement to settlement, and true roads would not appear for decades.

### The Visit

In their remembrances, the Clark County residents describe Catahecassa as an elderly man who said he had made the trip to "keep this place in mind" and to show it to his young companions.

Local resident Jesse Daniels remembered breakfasting with the travelers. Catahecassa, known for his oratory skills, delivered a speech, translated by one of his Kentucky hosts who was traveling with the group. Daniels recalled that in this speech, Catahecassa recounted the history of the area. He mentioned the Shawnee settlement where he had lived in 1754 and commented that hostilities with a southern tribe had forced his community to move away.

### One Link in a Long Chain of Indigenous History

Catahecassa's 1816 visit could be considered a kind of pilgrimage to his old home. If he truly was born around 1740, then he would have been around 14 years old when he and his family lived there.

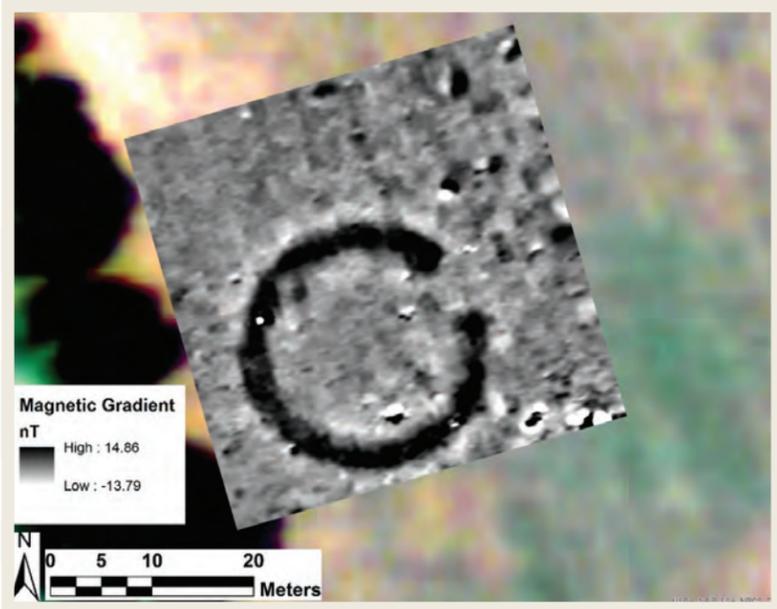
But there is more to this story than one Shawnee man's return to the home of his youth. His is one link in a long chain of Native stories – thousands of individual stories – that reaches back over 10,000 years. These stories are written on the landscape. Remnants of scores of ancient seasonal camps. A circular farming village that more than 200 people may have called home for four decades over 700 years ago.

But there is more.

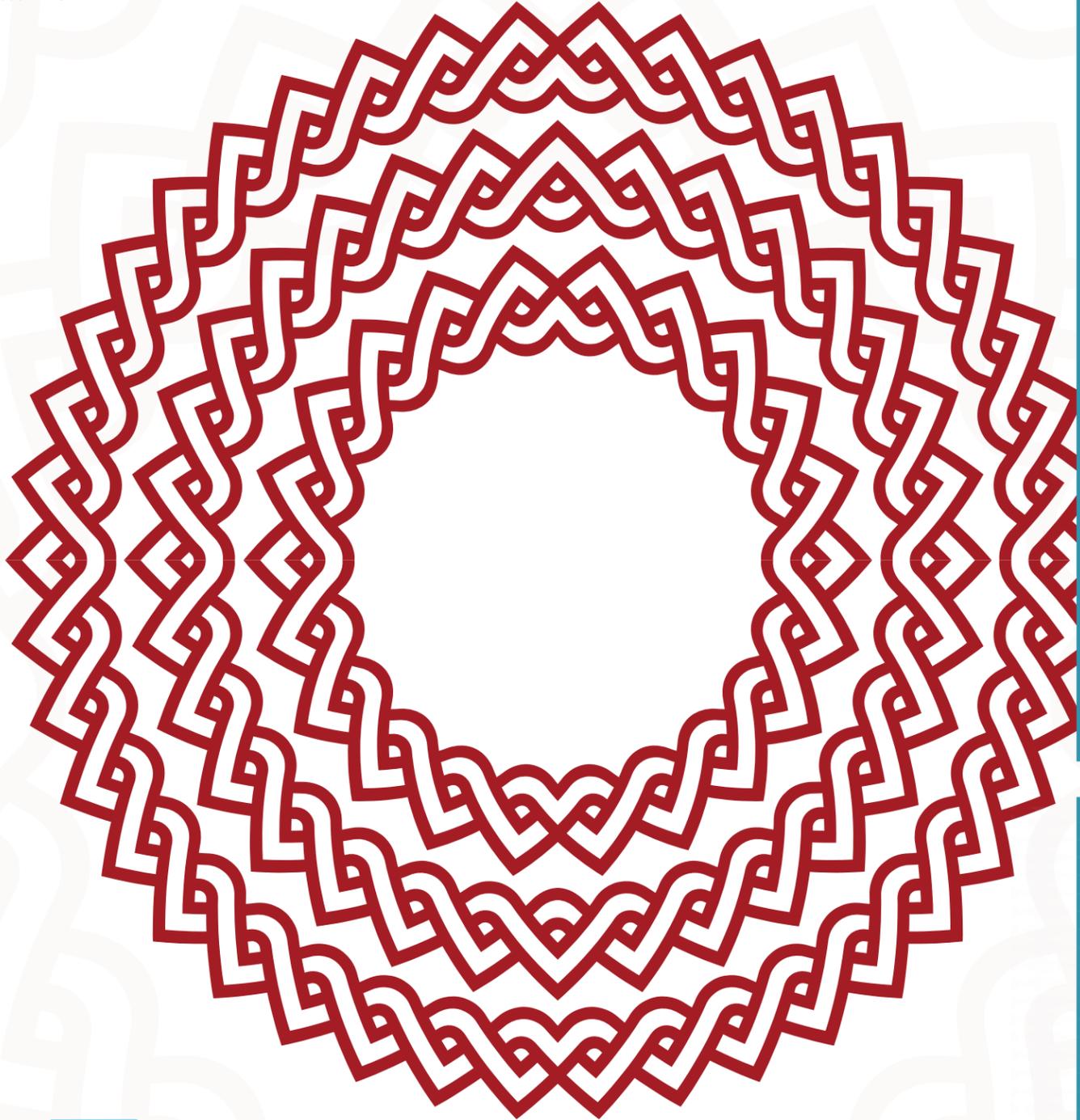
This area is also an ancient spiritual place. Native peoples built earthen burial mounds and circular enclosures on the ridgetops more than 2,000 years ago. Some enclosures are clearly visible today. Their causeways are aligned to the summer solstice sunrise and to the major moonrise, when the moon appears to pause in the Northern sky.

These ancient monuments remained sacred places even after their builders no longer visited them. Large, tall, rock-chinked, commemorative wooden marker poles were erected near some enclosures.

Archaeological research shows that later Indigenous peoples visited, revered, and often took care of these ancient monuments for over 2,000 years. These circular enclosures would have been known to, and likely even visited by, the young Catahecassa and his family.



A subsurface map of the Earthwalker circular enclosure. Notice the enclosure's entrance. Archaeologists made this map during a magnetometer survey of the site - a geophysical technique using magnetic field strength and direction to record features below ground. Image used with permission, Edward R. Henry.



**Taking Meaning for Us Today**

Home is not only where we live now; it is also the place our hearts consider home. Catahecassa's visit illustrates how strong the pull of memories can be.

Neither the readers of *Niles' Weekly Register* nor us today can know for certain what called to Catahecassa from across the miles and through the years. But it was a strong call, significant enough for him to make that journey home.

His visit reminds us to hold these places in our hearts and preserve and protect them. They make us who we are, and we cannot be whole without them.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT A CIRCULAR ENCLOSURE NEAR GOFFS CORNER, KENTUCKY READ THE EARTHWALKER SITE PROFILE ON DISCOVER KENTUCKY ARCHAEOLOGY, SCAN HERE WITH YOUR PHONE:



TO APPRECIATE CATAHECASSA'S ORATORY TALENT, READ THE FEBRUARY 5, 1802, SPEECH HE DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND THE DELAWARE AND SHAWNEE NATIONS, SCAN HERE WITH YOUR PHONE:



**AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHY**



A. Gwynn Henderson (Education Director) and David Pollack (Director) work for the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, a program of the Department of Society, Culture, Crime & Justice Studies at Western Kentucky University. They received their PhDs in Anthropology from the University of Kentucky in 1998. One of their ongoing research projects focuses on the lifeways of ancient Native farming cultures of the middle Ohio Valley.



# TA'SAAWANWAATOWEEYAKWE

## THE LANGUAGE CORNER / "WHERE WE SPEAK SHAWNEE"



In December, we carried on the tradition of pepooni hatfo'keewe (winter storytelling) for the second year in a row at the Emma "Mock" Donaldson saawanwaatoweewika (Shawnee Language House). About 100 Shawnees and the nearby community gathered to share a feast of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] prepared by Mikala Hill, Eloisa Roach, and Andrea Conway.

After the feast, the audience was surprised with Shawnee [REDACTED] singers) led by CLP Margaret Sewell. They sang three [REDACTED] (songs) in Shawnee, from children songs written for Shawnee to the Shawnee version of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Rudolph [REDACTED]. With full bellies and joyful hearts, we settled in for an evening of [REDACTED] and enjoyed [REDACTED] (Apprentices) and [REDACTED] (Master) telling nine [REDACTED] (stories). Each story was illustrated by [REDACTED] (Apprentice) Bailey Quishenberry.

Take a look at some of the beautiful story illustrations included in this publication!

JOIN THE PEPOONI HATFO'KEEWE (WINTER STORYTELLING) COURSE ON SLIPSTREAM TO EXPLORE ALL THE STORIES AND VIDEO RECORDINGS FROM EACH YEAR, SCAN HERE WITH YOUR PHONE:



RYAN CONWAY

"FIRST CREATION"



MASON HUDSON

"LION AND ALL ANIMALS"



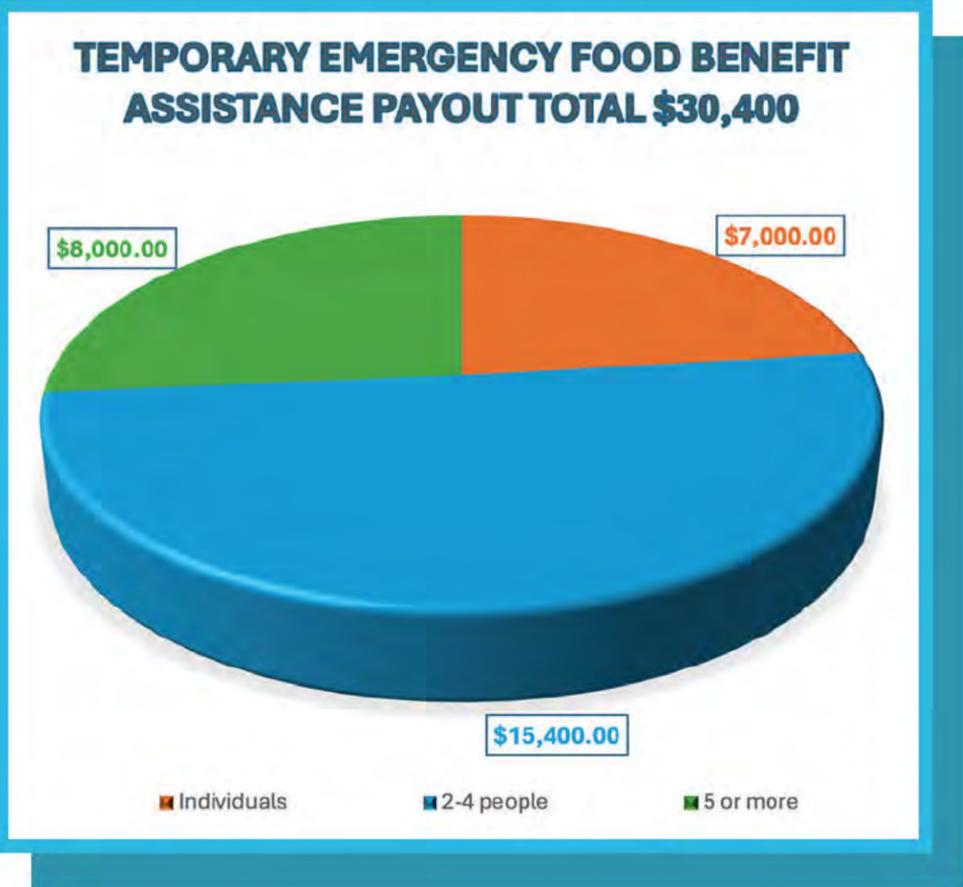
DILLON PIERCE

"THUNDERBIRDS"





# TEMPORARY EMERGENCY FOOD BENEFIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



On October 22, 2025, the Shawnee Tribe was notified that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) would pause operations during the month of November due to a protracted government shutdown. In response, the Shawnee Tribe developed the Temporary Emergency Food Benefit Assistance Program, which was established on October 29, 2025, to support Shawnee Tribe families who were current SNAP recipients. The program was publicly announced and began accepting applications at the start of November. Through this emergency initiative, a total of \$30,400.00 was distributed to 95 Shawnee Tribe families.



STEVE ROACH & ELOISA ROACH

"HUMMINGBIRD AND TURTLE"



BAILEY QUISHENBERRY

"CREATION OF FLORIDA"



## 2026 SHAWNEE LANGUAGE FAIR



saawanwaatoweeewe  
kitakwitheepe

Shawnee language learners of all ages and abilities are invited to join the Shawnee Language Immersion Program for the 2026 Language Fair, Dinner and Stomp Dance on **Saturday, July 25**, in Miami, OK. Citizens of all three Shawnee nations are eligible to participate. Over \$6,000 in prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each category—see below for important deadlines.

- Deadline Overview**
- **Wednesday, April 15** – Registration Deadline
  - **Friday, May 1** – First Draft Deadline
  - **Monday, June 1** – Grammar & Spell Check Deadline
  - **Monday, July 6** – Final Project & Presentation Deadline
  - **Saturday, July 25** – Language Fair, Dinner & Stomp Dance

Ready to register now?  
 Email [shawneelanguage@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:shawneelanguage@shawnee-tribe.com) with your full name, tribal ID, category, and project concept. Find information on entry requirements, contest categories and more at [shawnee-nsn.gov/slip](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/slip).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

# WINTER EVENTS



OCTOBER 2-3, 2025  
STAFF RETREAT  
GUYMON, OK



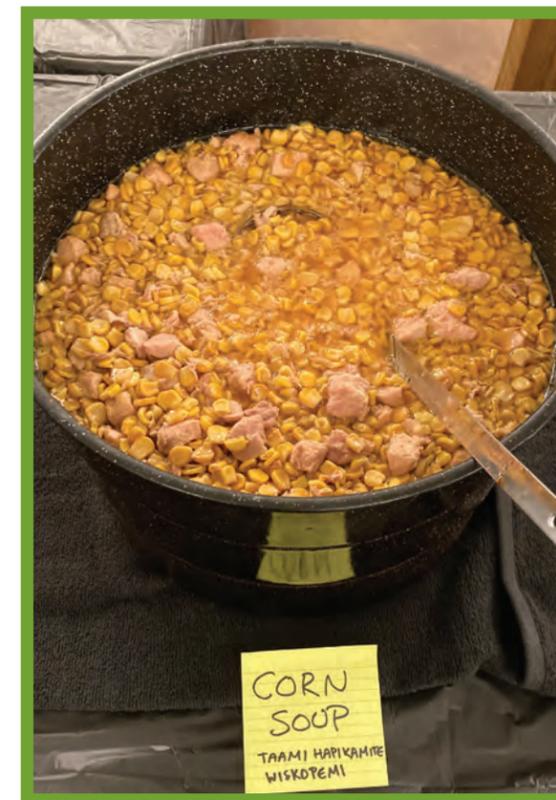
OCTOBER 31, 2025  
TRICK OR  
TREATING EVENT  
MIAMI, OK



NOVEMBER 5, 2025  
ELDERS' LUNCHEON  
MIAMI, OK



DECEMBER 6, 2025  
PEPOONI  
HATFO'KEEWE  
(WINTER STORYTELLING)  
MIAMI, OK





DECEMBER 10, 2025  
STAFF HOLIDAY PARTY  
MIAMI, OK



# HASENOOKI

IN MEMORIAM

THE SHAWNEE TRIBE EXTENDS ITS DEEP CONDOLENCES TO THE SURVIVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CITIZENS WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED ON.

- DEANA KAY (PARKS) O'VIVION
- SALLY RENEE (SAPPINGTON) MARTIN
- LAWRENCE GREEN
- JEREMY AICETE-INYAKA BRAVE-HEART
- ASHTON BROOKE BEACOM

### 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. Burial assistance is not a reimbursement program; benefits are paid directly to the funeral home.

Visit [shawnee-nsn.gov/burial](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/burial) for more information or contact Program Specialist Tammy Burkybile at (918) 542-2441, ext. 106, for assistance.

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](http://shawnee-nsn.gov/enrollment) or contact [enrollment@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:enrollment@shawnee-tribe.com).



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# THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

2026



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