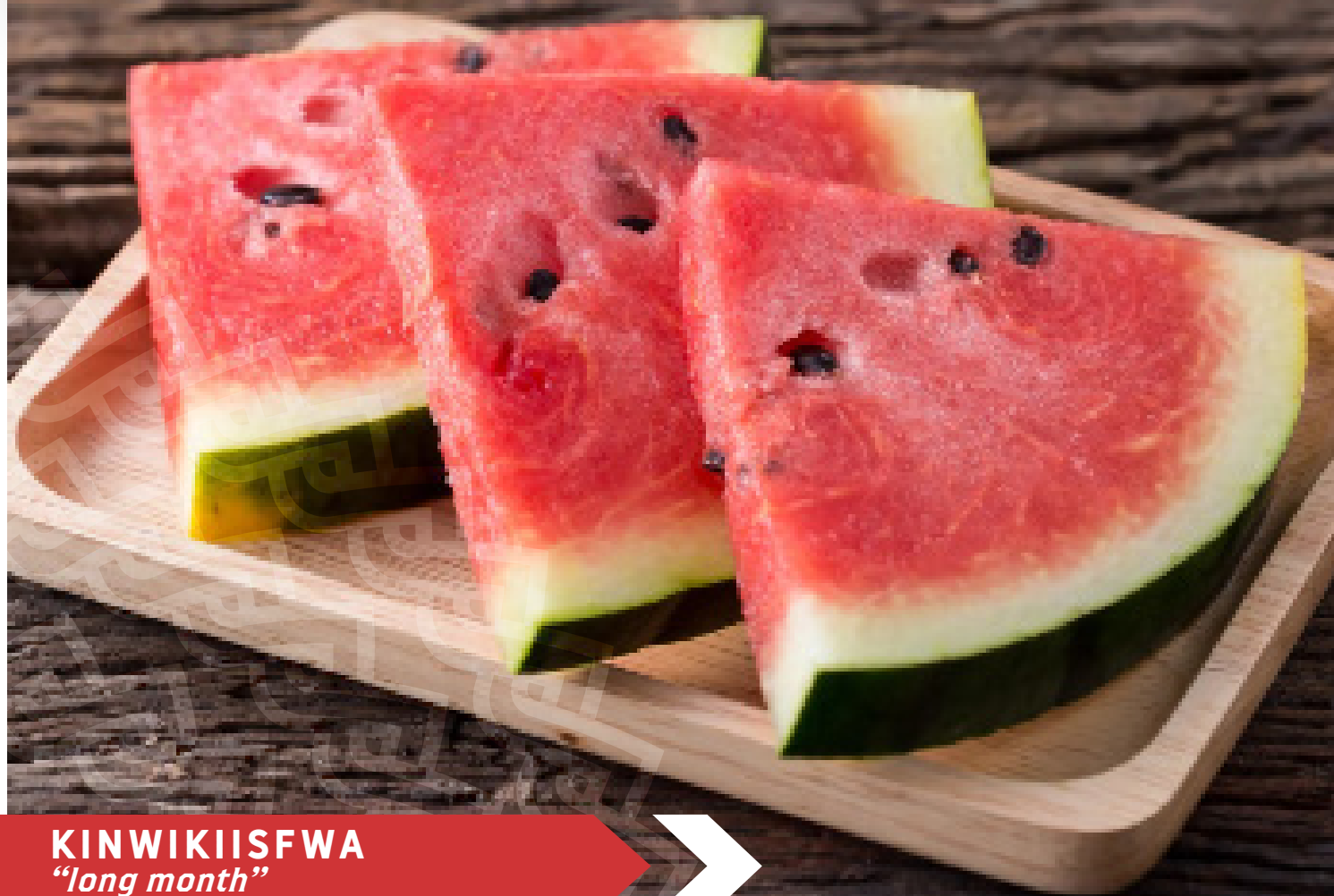


AUGUST 2026

THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL



KINWIKIISFWA
"long month"



YA'SASILAWIIYAKWE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

"WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO"

AUG 3	MONTHLY BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING MIAMI, OK
AUG 26	LUNCH & LEARN: RECOGNIZING RED FLAGS
SEP 1	DEADLINE: HIGHER EDUCATION AWARDS FALL TERM VO-TECH APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED ON A ROLLING BASIS
SEP 2	NEW FISCAL YEAR FUNDS: APPLY FOR SCHOOL CLOTHING & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM PROGRAM YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 — SEPTEMBER 1, 2027
SEP 7	TRIBAL OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY
SEP 8	MONTHLY BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING MIAMI, OK
SEP 18	2026 COMMUNITY DINNER & STOMP DANCE MIAMI, OK
SEP 19	GENERAL COUNCIL VINITA, OK
OCT 1	NEW FISCAL YEAR FUNDS: APPLY FOR ELDER ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM PROGRAM YEAR RUNS OCTOBER 1, 2026 — SEPTEMBER 30, 2027
OCT 5	TRIBAL OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF TECUMSEH MEMORIAL DAY
OCT 6	MONTHLY BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING MIAMI, OK
OCT 12	TRIBAL OFFICES CLOSES IN OBSERVANCE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY
OCT 20	FALL ELDERS' LUNCHEON
NOV 1	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
NOV 2	MONTHLY BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING MIAMI, OK

TO VIEW ALL UPCOMING EVENTS, OFFICE CLOSURES, AND MORE, VISIT [SHAWNEE-NSN.GOV/CALENDAR](https://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) 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 PIYEETAACIMOOWENEEFA "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 or scan this code with your smartphone's camera.



KIWIITAMAAKONAAKI HOKIMAAKI

MESSAGES FROM THE CHIEFS



**CHIEF
BEN BARNES**

hato ni'kaanaki (Greetings, my friends)

In June, I received a call from Chickasaw Nation Secretary of State Bill Lance. By now, many of you are aware of the content of that conversation, but for those who have not heard, it was announced this week that Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby will be retiring after decades of dedicated service to his nation and its citizens.

I wanted to take a moment to share what Governor Anoatubby has meant to the Shawnee Tribe—not just through our economic success in Guymon, Oklahoma, but through the example he has set as a tribal leader.

Governor Anoatubby and our prior Shawnee Chief, Ron Sparkman both served on a tribal advisory committee under a former Oklahoma governor. During their time together, they developed not only a friendship, but also a vision. Our two tribal governments would work together to find a place within Oklahoma for a Shawnee-owned casino, with the assistance of the Chickasaw Nation and its economic development arm, Global Gaming.

We all know the success of that operation, but our Shawnee government has also looked to other tribal nations—including the Miami Tribe, the Cherokee Nation, the Muscogee Nation, and especially the Chickasaw Nation—as examples of strong tribal leadership and governance. The nation Governor Bill Anoatubby has built is one that seeks out the best people for the job, keeps politics out of the workplace, and empowers talented professionals to do what they do best. He has been a nation-builder in every sense of the word and has provided a steady hand that continues to guide his nation toward a strong future.

Chief Roy Baldridge and I have long viewed Governor Anoatubby as a model on how to successfully manage the economic engine we have built together, but also as an example of stewardship and leadership. His commitment to his people, his nation, and the future of Indian Country has earned the respect of tribal, state, and national leaders alike.

On behalf of the Business Council and all Shawnee citizens, I want to wish Governor Bill Anoatubby a wonderful and well-deserved retirement. We thank him for his friendship, partnership, and tireless example of leadership, and we wish him and his family all the best in the years ahead.

**Ben Barnes
Chief**



**SECOND CHIEF
ROY
BALDRIDGE**

hato caakiwiyeefa (Greetings, everyone)—

For more than twenty years, I have had the privilege of serving the Shawnee Tribe on the Business Council. During that time, I have witnessed remarkable growth in our tribal population, programs, services, and financial strength. These accomplishments are a reflection of the dedication, resilience, and commitment of our citizens, whose engagement and support continue to shape the voice and future of our Nation.

The growth and progress we celebrate today are the direct result of citizens who have exercised their voices through voting, volunteered their time and talents, and remained actively engaged in the life of our Tribe. Throughout my service on the Business Council, I have had the opportunity to work alongside tribal leaders, employees, and citizens across the country. Those experiences have reinforced my appreciation for the strength of our Shawnee people.

One of our greatest strengths is having a council that can thoughtfully discuss complex issues, hold differing viewpoints, and ultimately work together in the best interest of our citizens. Every member of the current council has remained committed to supporting our families, protecting our resources, and advancing opportunities for future generations. Council members regularly listen to citizen concerns, advocate for improvements, and work to ensure that programs and services continue to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Beyond their responsibilities on the Business Council, several council members dedicate their time and expertise to organizations that benefit both the Shawnee Tribe and Indian Country. Secretary Carolyn Foster serves on the Northeastern Oklahoma Indian Health Board. Treasurer Mark McDowell is actively involved with the Native American Financial Officers Association. Diana McLean represents the Tribe on the Grand Lake Area Council on Aging Board. John Sparkman serves on the Shawnee Development Board alongside Treasurer McDowell. Keni Hood has contributed to numerous museum boards and has assisted the Historic Preservation Department. Corey Winesburg currently assists Loyal Shawnee Inc. Ceremonial Grounds along with Malachi Sears, as the council representatives. Councilors Drew

Dixon and Monty Coombes also provide support on a variety of important initiatives that strengthen our community.

Councilor Coombes has also traveled to our casino in Guymon to observe operations and gain firsthand insight into its activities.

In addition, Treasurer Foster and Councilors McLean, Hood, and Sears have represented the Shawnee Tribe through participation in the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, an organization that advocates on behalf of 32 of Oklahoma's 38 federally recognized tribes.

Councilors Foster, McLean, Hood, Dixon, Winesburg, and Sears have also attended the Oklahoma Sovereignty Symposium, where tribal leaders, judges, attorneys, and representatives from across Indian Country gather to discuss issues affecting tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and the future of Native nations.

Councilor's Winesburg, Hood and Treasurer McDowell have attended meetings at the National Congress of American Indians where national issues and policy movements affecting tribal nations are discussed.

Finally, Councilor Hood has accompanied Chief Barnes and I on trips to the Oklahoma State Legislature to discuss issues affecting our citizens in Oklahoma.

Service on the Business Council extends far beyond attending meetings and making decisions. It requires listening to citizens, representing the Tribe with integrity, building relationships, and advocating for the continued success and well-being of the Shawnee people. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside individuals who remain dedicated to that responsibility and to the future of our Nation.

The progress of the Shawnee Tribe has always been rooted in the strength of its people. Our citizens continue to guide the future of our Nation through their participation, their ideas, and their commitment to our shared values. As leaders, our responsibility is to listen, serve, and make decisions that honor those who came before us while creating opportunities for future generations. It is a responsibility I do not take lightly, and I remain grateful for the trust our citizens place in those elected to serve.

niyaawe (Thank you),

**Roy D. Baldridge
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
MALACHI
SEARS**



**SEAT 7
KENI
HOOD**

MEET THE CANDIDATES 2026



MARK McDOWELL
TREASURER (I)
FIRST APPOINTED 2018



KENI HOOD
BUSINESS COUNCIL SEAT 7 (I)
FIRST APPOINTED 2019

2026 ELECTION & GENERAL COUNCIL WEEKEND

General Council weekend will kick off the evening of Friday, September 18, with a community dinner & stomp dance in Miami. The annual meeting of the Tribal Council will be held on Saturday, September 19, at the Craig County Community Center at the Fairgrounds in Vinita. Door prize entries, catered lunch & refreshments will be provided for annual meeting attendees.

Please note: The two incumbent candidates for the offices of Treasurer and Business Council Seat 7 are unopposed and are deemed elected. Therefore, no voting will take place prior to the annual meeting.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 18
7:00 PM

Community dinner & stomp dance
Miami Tribe Council House – Miami, OK

Saturday, September 19
11:30 AM

Annual Meeting of the Tribal Council
Craig County Fairground & Community Center –
Vinita, OK

ENTER TO WIN!



OUTDOOR FIREPIT BUNDLE



TURTLEBOX SPEAKER

Must be present to be entered into the drawing on Gen Council day, and present to win



GOLDEN MESA
CASINO



Escape to Golden Mesa Casino & Hotel!



Golden Mesa Casino & Hotel proudly offers over 1,100 gaming machines, 10 tables, including 3 high limit tables, Luxury hotel, fine dining at Cimarron Ridge, Panhandle Press coffee shop and Silver Saddle gift shop.

LEARN MORE:



goldenmesa.com



WEEMEYAKWE

WHERE WE COME FROM

ANCIENT RITUAL PLACES IN CENTRAL KENTUCKY

by David Pollack, A. Gwynn Henderson,
and Edward R. Henry



A LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) map showing the three North Elkhorn Creek enclosures. LiDAR is a remote sensing technology that uses pulsed lasers to produce precise, highly accurate topographic maps.

A people's relationship to their homeland is dynamic. How they alter the landscape reflects their sense of place, their social relationships, and their connections to their ancestors.

This is as true now as it was in the past.

THE NORTH ELKHORN CREEK EARTHWORKS

Around 500 BCE, near North Elkhorn Creek in central Kentucky, ancestors of the sawanwah (Shawnee) began to alter the landscape to express their spirituality in very visible ways. They built large oval enclosures. Later, they constructed smaller, circular enclosures. For over 2,000 years, Native people came together in this ritual precinct to mark the movement of the sun, moon, and stars. To celebrate the changing seasons. To strengthen social ties with one another. Traces of these earthworks are still visible today

THE PETER ENCLOSURE: PHASE ONE

The first landscape change was the construction of the large Peter Enclosure. People used, maintained, and modified it for over 300 years. First, they built an oval arrangement of over 3,000 wooden posts. It surrounded more than 25 acres of a broad ridgetop. Each post averaged eight inches in diameter. While builders may have left open the spaces between the posts, it is more likely that they wove smaller saplings between them to create a screen. Worshipers used this enclosure for a century.



Investigations revealed dark soil stains, shown here partially excavated, where wooden posts once stood. Archaeologists estimate that 110 posts made up Winchester Farm's post-screen enclosure

Think of the effort it took to build it! To cut down each tree with a stone ax. Shape it with a stone adze. Bring each prepared post to its place: a hole dug with only a wooden digging stick. All this work took time, and it needed someone to organize people to make such an ambitious project a reality.

And how many trees would it have taken to maintain this large structure for 100 years? Let's do the math. If workers replaced each post every 20 years (because of deterioration due to rot or insects or weathering), then the ancestors of the Shawnee would have replaced each post at least five times. Three thousand posts replaced five times totals 15,000 posts. Undoubtedly, as the years passed, builders would have traveled farther and farther to find suitable trees. And in the process, they would have changed the surrounding landscape.

THE PETER ENCLOSURE: PHASE TWO

Around 400 BCE, the people who used the Peter Enclosure changed how they worshiped there. Did a lack of suitable nearby trees force

this change? Did their rituals or beliefs change? We do not know. But whatever the cause, they removed the wooden post screen. And in its place, they dug a 6-foot-deep by 9-foot-wide ditch enclosing an area of similar size. They used this new earthwork-enclosed space for at least 200 years.

Digging the ditch meant moving a lot of earth and stone. Workers had few tools: wooden digging sticks and baskets made from river cane or other material. They used the digging sticks to loosen the soil, and they moved the soil in baskets. And the energy to remove more than 6,000 tons of earth? That came from human muscle.

Where did the soil go? Recent excavations show that these ancient builders piled the soil up on the ground on either side of the ditch, forming embankments. Archaeologists estimate that each embankment originally stood about three feet tall. Erosion and plowing have worn down the embankments, so they are now hard to see.



MOUNT HOREB AND WINCHESTER FARM ENCLOSURES

Around 200 BCE, the descendants of the people who used the Peter Enclosure built new, and much smaller, enclosures. Mount Horeb and Winchester Farm measured less than 100 feet in diameter, and covered only 0.3 and 0.1 acres, respectively. Their size implies that smaller groups of people used these sacred spaces.

These small earthworks share a few elements with the larger Peter Enclosure. Posts surrounded the central area at both Mount Horeb and Winchester Farm. And, as at Peter, following the construction of a wooden post screen enclosure, worshipers dug a deep ditch and created embankments. But unlike at Peter, worshipers at Mount Horeb left a section of the circle undug, creating a formal causeway.



Artist's reconstruction of the Mount Horeb Enclosure.



View of Mount Horeb looking west, showing (from left to right) the embankment, ditch, central area, and an edge

LINKING THE GENERATIONS

Regardless of size, the woven wooden screens and earthen embankment walls of each North Elkhorn Creek enclosure formed symbolic boundaries, setting ritual spaces apart from the regular world. It is likely that only the people directly involved in the ceremonies could enter these sacred spaces.

The people of central Kentucky stopped building enclosures at the North Elkhorn Creek ritual precinct about 1500 years ago. We do not know why. Their landmarks endured, however, silent witnesses to ancient beliefs; physical records of their makers' commitment.

Over the centuries, descendants of the people who built the enclosures continued to visit and maintain their ancestors' earthworks. A testament to the power of place, these ancient ritual spaces connect generations of Native people across millennia.

To Learn More

For more information about Kentucky's earthen enclosures and the power of place, download the Early-Middle Woodland period poster and booklet for Kentucky Archaeology Month 2024 at <https://kyopa.org/kentucky-archaeology-month/>

Read more about the Mount Horeb Earthworks here: <https://archaeology.ky.gov/Find-a-Site/Pages/Mt.-Horeb.aspx>

Authors' Biography



A. Gwynn Henderson [Education Director] and David Pollack [Director] work for the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, Department of Society, Culture, Crime & Justice Studies at Western Kentucky University. They received their PhDs in Anthropology from the University of Kentucky in 1998. Edward R. Henry [Associate Professor, Colorado State University] received his PhD in Anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis in 2018. He studies the ways ancient people in Eastern North America created deep historical ties to places across their landscapes. His research focuses on earthen enclosures.

TA'SAAWANWAATOWEYAKWE

WHERE WE SPEAK SHAWNEE

PASSING ON TRADITION: BOW MAKING CONNECTS SHAWNEE YOUTH TO ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE

A traditional bow-making workshop recently brought together Shawnee youth and cultural instructors to share knowledge, skills, and values that have been passed down through generations.

The opportunity began when a request was made to teach Shawnee relatives the traditional craft of bow making. Having previously shared these skills with Muscogee participants, Lonie Hamilton and Andy Bonifazi were honored to continue the tradition working with Shawnee youth eager to learn.

Using staves of Osage orange—also known locally as bodark or hedge apple—the participants transformed raw pieces of wood into handcrafted bows. For the instructors, witnessing that transformation was nothing short of remarkable.

“Watching them take a raw stave and turn it into these beautiful bows is magic,” Lonie shared. “Being able to pass on this old tradition is a blessing.”

The knowledge being shared traces back to respected elders who dedicated their lives to preserving traditional practices. Lonie reflected on a promise made to a mentor before his passing—to continue teaching for as long as possible. That commitment remains a driving force behind the work today.

More than simply crafting bows, the workshop emphasized the cultural teachings connected to the process. Participants learned about the importance of respecting the natural world and maintaining a relationship with the land. Trees are not viewed merely as resources, but as relatives and living beings deserving of respect.



The harvesting process itself is approached ceremonially. Offerings are made, and gratitude is expressed before a tree is selected. In many Indigenous traditions, trees are referred to as the “Standing People” or the “Tree Nation,” reflecting their role as teachers and relatives within creation.

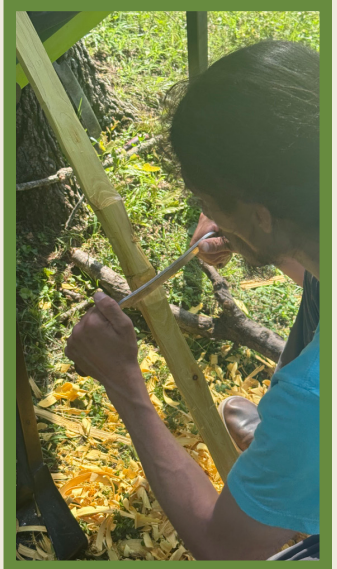
The instructors noted that these teachings cannot be fully understood through words alone. True understanding comes through participation—through working with the materials, learning by doing, and experiencing the process firsthand.

Perhaps most encouraging was the enthusiasm displayed by the young men participating in the workshop. Their interest in culture, traditions, and ancestral knowledge left a lasting impression on those teaching.

“When we lose touch with our ancestors and the things they

teach us, we lose more than can ever be recovered,” Lonie reflected.

The workshop served as a reminder that cultural preservation depends on both those willing to teach and those eager to learn. Through experiences like traditional bow making, ancestral knowledge continues to live on, ensuring future generations remain connected to their heritage, their communities, and the teachings of those who came before them.



CCDF

(CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND)

The Shawnee Tribe provides child care assistance through the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). These funds are available to any Native American family that meet the eligibility requirements.

Eligibility requirements include the following:

- Must be Native American
- Must be working or going to school
- Must reside within service area (see list below)
- Must meet income guidelines

For Families

The Shawnee Tribe CCDF program is available to:

- Help find the right child care setting
- Assist in paying for child care
- Provide health and safety information for child care programs in the 4-State area
- Give guidance in reporting child abuse and neglect

For Child Care Providers

The Shawnee Tribe CCDF program is available to:

- Provide training opportunities
- Offer financial support to meet licensing requirements
- Support classroom enrichment through grants
- Provide a reliable, consistent source of income through child care subsidy payments



Counties Served

Arkansas

- Benton
- Carrol
- Crawford
- Franklin
- Madison
- Washington

Missouri

- Barry
- Barton
- Cedar
- Christian
- Dade
- Greene
- Jasper
- Lawrence
- McDonald
- Newton
- Stone
- Vernon

Kansas

- Allen
- Anderson
- Bourbon
- Cherokee
- Crawford
- Labette
- Linn
- Montgomery
- Neosho
- Wilson
- Adair
- Cherokee
- Craig
- Creek
- Delaware
- Mayes
- Muskogee
- Nowata
- Ottawa
- Rogers
- Tulsa
- Wagoner
- Washington

Contact Us

Phone: 918-542-7232
For more information visit our website:
www.shawnee-tribe.com



CCDF Q&A

- **Does the applicant have to be a Shawnee Tribal member?** No, someone in the household must be a member of a federally recognized tribe.
- **Can my stepchild receive assistance?** Yes, as long as someone in the household is a member of a federally recognized tribe. The enrolled member makes the home an Indian home.
- **Is the CCDF program income based?** Yes, eligibility is based on the family's net monthly income and family size. Ex: the max net monthly income for a family of 4 is \$6,653
- **Do you have to be an Oklahoma resident?** No, native American families who reside in the 41 counties surrounding the Shawnee Tribal offices or within a 100-mile radius as the crow flies from Miami, OK. The coverage area includes counties in NE Oklahoma, SE Kansas, SW Missouri, and NW Arkansas.
- **Does the applicant need to be employed?** Applicants must be employed or attending school full-time.
- **Is there a co-payment?** The Shawnee Tribe CCDF program waives all monthly payments.
- **How do I apply?** Applications can be found on the Shawnee Tribe website at shawnee-tribe.com under Citizen Services and then under Child Care Assistance (CCDF) or at the CCDF office located at 21 N. Eight Tribes Trail.
- **What is required to apply?** There is a check list in the application packet indicating what is needed to go along with the application.
- **What ages are covered?** Ages 0-12 years of age
- **Can I pick any provider?** As long as they are State licensed



For more information, scan here
with your phone.



SHAWNEE TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



At Shawnee Tribe Behavioral Health, our goal is to help address both emotional wellness and everyday barriers that may impact stability and overall well-being.

Whether someone is seeking therapy, support navigating resources, or help taking the next step toward stability and wellness, our Behavioral Health Department is here to provide support and guidance.

Our Behavioral Health Department provides compassionate, client-centered support for individuals experiencing emotional, mental health, or life challenges. We are committed to helping people build coping skills, strengthen emotional wellness, and connect with resources that improve overall quality of life.

Upcoming Events:

Outreach Events:
Quapaw Farmers Market
(September 4th and October 16th 10am-2pm)

General Council *(September 19th)*

Octoberfest *(October 11th 9:30am-1pm, Vinita)*

RISE Collaboration DV Awareness Event *(TBA)*

Domestic Violence Awareness Bingo will provide the community with the opportunity to learn about the dynamics of domestic violence while spreading awareness and decreasing bias in an interactive way. *(October 2nd 5:30-7:30pm at the Community Building. The event is open to the community).*

<https://shawnee-nsn.gov/mental-health/>

Therapy Services:

We offer professional therapy services with two therapists on staff who work with individuals facing a wide range of concerns, including:

- Anxiety and stress
- Depression
- Trauma and PTSD
- Relationship and family concerns
- Emotional regulation difficulties
- Life transitions
- Grief and loss
- Self-esteem concerns
- And more

Case Management Services:

In addition to therapy, we provide case management services to help individuals connect with community resources and individualized support. Provided by two Behavioral Health Advocates. Our team can assist with:

- Housing resources
- Employment support
- Food assistance
- Transportation resources
- Community referrals and advocacy
- Accessing local support services
- Court Advocacy



For more information, scan here with your phone.



RECYCLING SPOTLIGHT

From October 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, the Shawnee Tribe's recycling efforts have continued to make a meaningful and measurable impact on our environment and community. Through the dedication of our employees, citizens, and Environmental Department initiatives, we have successfully recycled a combined total of 1,988 pounds of material, including 932 pounds of paper, 656 pounds of cardboard, 256 pounds of plastic, and 144 pounds of aluminum.

These efforts represent far more than numbers — they reflect a growing culture of environmental stewardship within the Shawnee Tribe. Every item recycled helps reduce landfill waste, conserve natural resources, and protect the environment for future generations.

As a direct result of these recycling efforts from October 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, the Shawnee Tribe has helped save approximately:



3,785
KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY



14,253
GALLONS OF WATER



350
GALLONS OF OIL



14
TREES

These savings demonstrate the real-world impact that small daily actions can have when a community works together toward a common goal. Recycling paper and cardboard helps preserve forests and wildlife habitats, while recycling aluminum and plastic significantly reduces energy consumption and pollution associated with manufacturing new materials.

The continued progress of the Shawnee Tribe recycling program highlights our commitment to sustainability, environmental responsibility, and protecting the resources entrusted to us. With continued participation and awareness, we can build on this momentum and create an even greater positive impact for our Tribe and future generations.

Together, we are proving that even small efforts can create lasting change.



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF SHAWNEE CITIZENS

The Higher Education Award Program provides financial assistance to eligible Shawnee citizens pursuing higher education opportunities.

How to Apply

Submit a completed application along with:

- Current class schedule
- Most recent school transcript
- State ID or Passport
- Shawnee tribal Citizenship card

via email to education@shawnee-tribe.com, or mail your application to Shawnee Tribe Higher Education, P.O. Box 189, Miami, OK 74355.

Academic Requirements

To remain eligible for the Higher Education Award Program, students must maintain a minimum term GPA per semester of 2.0. Students who withdraw from courses after receiving funding may become ineligible for future awards.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply for the Higher Education Award Program?

The program is available to Shawnee citizens who are enrolled in an accredited college or university, or an accredited certification or vocational training program.

How much funding can I receive?

Degree Programs

- Associate and Bachelor's Degree: \$150 per credit hour
- Master's Degree: \$300 per credit hour
- Doctoral Degree: \$500 per credit hour

Certificate Programs

- Short-term Certificate Program (less than 6 months): \$1,000
- Mid-term Certificate Program (6-12 months): \$2,000
- Long-term Certificate Program (12 months or longer): \$3,000

What documents are required with my application?

Applicants must submit:

- A completed higher education application
- Current class schedule including credit hours or program length
- Most recent school transcript including past two term GPA's for most recent completed terms
- State photo ID or Passport
- Shawnee tribal citizenship card

How will I receive my award funds?

Funds are mailed directly to the accredited institution at which citizens are enrolled.



For more information, scan here with your phone.



SCHOOL CLOTHING AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM [SCECARP]



The Shawnee Tribe School Clothing & Extracurricular Activities Reimbursement Program assists eligible Shawnee Tribal families with school clothing, shoes, and qualifying extracurricular activity expenses for students enrolled in Head Start/Pre-K through 12th grade, including homeschool students with additional enrollment verification.

Eligible students may receive up to \$800 per program year for school clothing and shoes and up to \$400 per program year for extracurricular activity expenses. The program also offers a Direct Purchase option for qualifying families who are unable to pre-purchase school clothing for reimbursement. The upcoming program year runs from September 2, 2026, through September 1, 2027.

Due to the continued growth of the program and the high volume of applications received each year, applicants are encouraged to review program requirements carefully and submit complete documentation.

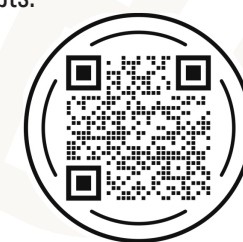
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to submit a new application packet every time I turn in receipts?

No. Only one completed application packet per student is required each program year. With just one approved application, families may continue submitting reimbursement requests throughout the year until the benefit limit or request has been reached. Update documents with any contact information changes. Please write student names on the receipts to keep the receipts with the correct student.

Does "6 reimbursement requests" mean only 6 receipts?

No. The limit refers to reimbursement submissions, not the number of receipts. Each reimbursement request may include multiple receipts.



For more information, scan here with your phone.

What makes a receipt eligible?

Receipts must be itemized and include the purchase date, vendor/store name, and total purchase amount. We must have the original hard copy receipt from in-store purchases. Online receipts can be sent digitally and require delivery confirmation. Purchases must fall within the current program year.

How long does processing take?

Due to the high volume of applications, processing typically takes 4-6 weeks from the date a complete application and all required documents are received. Processing times may increase during the July-September deadline period.

For questions regarding SCECARP eligibility, receipts, or reimbursement guidelines, please contact the Shawnee Tribe Social Services at 918-542-2441 ext. 129.





DO YOU HAVE A STORM SHELTER SAFETY PLAN?

Apply now for a storm shelter installation, ensuring your safety during severe weather.*

Email housing@Shawnee-tribe.com for info.

BE READY. BE SAFE. BE PREPARED.

*Available to Shawnee Citizens living in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, Mississippi, and Alabama.



IS YOUR HOME HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE?

Wheelchair ramps and other home improvements that enhance accessibility are available to enrolled citizens.

Email housing@shawnee-tribe.com for info.



LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services. LIHEAP provides financial assistance to help very low income households pay for the costs of heating and cooling their homes. The Shawnee Tribe has to abide by the requirements and guidelines issued by the US Department of Health and Human Services for the LIHEAP program when distributing funds. More information about LIHEAP can be found at acf.hhs.gov.

Because LIHEAP funding is state-based, a tribal nation can serve only residents of the state in which it is headquartered. This is the reason why Shawnee Tribe LIHEAP funding is available only to Oklahoma residents.

Eligibility Requirements & Application

Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- » Enrolled citizen of the Shawnee Tribe
- » Oklahoma resident
- » Gross household income falls at or below appropriate threshold on household size

Applications and required documentation may be submitted via email, mail, or in person at Shawnee Tribe Housing and Resource Center. Citizens who intend to apply for this benefit are encouraged to contact Monica Neyman at mneyman@Shawnee-tribe.com or (918) 542-2441, ext. 135 for assistance.



FIRE PREVENTION SAFETY CHECKLIST:

- Test all fire alarms and check batteries.
- Test all carbon monoxide detectors and check batteries.
- Test all fire extinguishers and verify expiration dates.
- Create a Family Escape Plan.
- Test and clean space heaters as needed.
- Clean fireplace and chimney.
- Check electrical connections and wiring-avoid overloading circuits.
- Ensure electrical items not in use are unplugged from the outlet.
- Never leave burning candles unattended!



Shawnee Tribal Citizens can apply today for new smoke alarms detectors, and extinguishers!

Scan to get started.



JOIN US! BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LUNCH & LEARN WEDNESDAY

Free Zoom Meeting Series
August 26th
Noon – 1:00 PM CDT



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

>> SUMMER EVENTS <<

April 22, 2026
SHAWNEE STAFF
CLEANUP ON EARTH DAY
Miami, OK



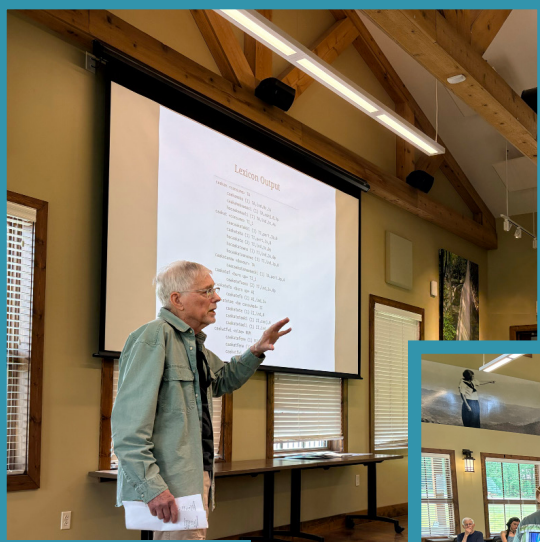
May 2, 2026
ENVIRONMENTAL
DEPARTMENT RAIN
BARREL PROJECT
Miami, OK



May 12, 2026
ELDERS' LUNCHEON
Miami, OK



June 25 - 27, 2026
**3RD ANNUAL SHAWNEE
LANGUAGE CONFERENCE**
Berea, KY



June 27, 2026
GRADUATE HONOR
BANQUET
Miami, OK



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IN MEMORIAM

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

ROBERT LYNN GAILEY
CAROLYN SUE (SLACK) COLLIER
JOHNNY LEE HUDSON
BARRY KERR (FORMER SECOND CHIEF)

SHAWNEE TRIBE BURIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Shawnee Tribe Burial Assistance Program is available to assist Shawnee Tribal citizens and their families during times of loss. This program may provide up to \$5000 in assistance toward eligible funeral and burial expenses for enrolled Shawnee citizens.

Families are encouraged to ensure loved ones are properly enrolled with the Shawnee Tribe and that enrollment information remains current. While no one likes to think about difficult times ahead, planning and preparedness can help ease stress for families during moments of grief and transition.

Applications and supporting documents must be submitted within 180 calendar days from the date of death. Payment is made directly to the funeral home. Please note that this is not a reimbursement program. Assistance is awarded as funding is available.

For questions regarding the Burial Assistance Program or enrollment information, please contact Shawnee Tribe Social Services at 918-542-2441 ext. 106.



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THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

2026



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