April 15, 2021

NAWA PAWNEE NATION

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I hope that the Lord’s grace, mercy, and peace find each and every one of you well. As we begin a new year, my hope and prayer is that we, as Pawnee people see a much brighter and prosperous year than the previous one.

We may have new challenges that await us in the coming year, but with the help of our heavenly Father and the resilience of our Pawnee people, we will be able to face any circumstance that may come our way.

2020 was marked with numerous hardships, such as the economy’s downturn, loss of jobs, the closing of public gatherings, illness, and death that were all brought on because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we begin this new year, we look forward to seeing a better year to come as we have witnessed the production and distribution of the Moderna, Pfizer, and the newly released Johnson and Johnson vaccine. I commend our healthcare workers at the IHS location in Pawnee for their diligent work in testing our tribal members efficiently and, at the same time, administering the vaccine to our tribal members with the same efficiency. In March 2021, I had the opportunity to receive the Pfizer vaccine. The level of professionalism and care I received from the moment I checked in until I could begin a leave exceeded my expectations. I am happy to report that I had no complications with the vaccine, and I would encourage anyone who has an opportunity to receive the vaccine to do so.

With a 95% effective rate at preventing the COVID-19 illness in people, this will certainly help us and protect our most vulnerable such as our elders and children.

With the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and the rate of individuals receiving it, there’s hope for a better year ahead of us.

My hope is that we begin to see a return to our tribal gatherings when it is safe to do so. I believe when we are finally able to safely reunite with one another at gatherings such as our Veteran’s dances, handgames, language classes, and much more; we will see a much larger crowd than has been in the past. I believe not being able to have our cultural gatherings and seeing our loved ones on these occasions has renewed a greater appreciation of them. Sometimes you do not really know how much something, or even someone, meant to you until you cannot have it. My encouragement to you is when this pandemic has reached a point that it is safe once again to meet for our cultural gatherings, you take every opportunity you have to attend and do not take them for granted.

Once again, as I continue to serve you as your Vice President, I will do everything that I can to keep our Pawnee people’s best interest at heart. I pray we could all be able to plan and enjoy our upcoming events.

Still, my hope is that when I look back at all that I have accomplished and put in motion during this time, I have the assurance of God’s guidance and His grace.

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The Pawnee Nation Election Commission encourages all members of the Pawnee Nation to exercise their right to VOTE. Your personal involvement in this process can and will strengthen our Nation, now and in the future. All members of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, who are eighteen (18) years of age or over on the date of the election are eligible to vote. Your 2021 Election Commission

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Within our tribal government and working diligently believe that I have begun to do that in the efforts made that “I will do everything that I can possibly do to lay the short time I have served. It is this help that will allow have helped me work so hard and achieve so much in the thankful for the ones that God has placed in my life who me to continue to serve you to the best of my ability as Vice-President of the Pawnee Nation Business Council.

After much prayer and consideration, it is my will to serve you once again as your Vice President. I am thankful for the ones who have encouraged and have helped me work so hard and achieve so much in the short time I have served. It is this help that will allow me to continue to serve you to the best of my ability as Vice-President of the Pawnee Nation Business Council.

As I ran last year for the office of Vice President, I stated that “I will do everything that I can possibly do to lay the groundwork that will allow the Nation heading in the right direction for the betterment of our people,” I believe that I have begun to do that in the efforts made within our tribal government and working diligently with that in mind. I have had the opportunity to meet with several of our division directors and our employees at the Pawnee Nation, I have not been able to meet everyone of our employees, and I still plan to do so in the time to come because I believe that the better our programs operate, the better we can offer our people. I also had a chance to visit with some of our elders to learn more about particular areas to help them as a Nation. I continue to believe that we would not be where we are today if it were not for the road they helped pave to get us where we are. They have given us a huge debt of gratitude for the work they have done. I have also worked diligently to voice to preserve and maintain our language and culture for the Pawnee Nation. We, as the Pawnee Business Council, have passed a resolution to bring the Pawnee alphabet. We are also working to secure grants to fund our language program and hire our instructors as full-time employees at the Pawnee Nation. This will ensure the last impact of our Pawnee language. I continue to be a voice for our culture and work with our Cultural Resource Division to ensure that we maintain and secure a future for our Pawnee people for generations to come. Lastly, I keep the greatest part of my service as your Vice-President. I will continue to vote on items that will benefit our people, who are indubitably the most important people in this Council. I will also benefit our future tribal members for the benefit of our people.

Going into this election, close to me that I needed to spend some time praying and considering running for reelection. As I stated last year, “I will do everything that I can possibly do to lay the groundwork that will allow the Nation heading in the right direction for the betterment of our people.” I believe that I have begun to do that in the efforts made within our tribal government and working diligently with that in mind. I have had the opportunity to meet with several of our division directors and our employees at the Pawnee Nation, I have not been able to meet everyone of our employees, and I still plan to do so in the time to come because I believe that the better our programs operate, the better we can offer our people. I also had a chance to visit with some of our elders to learn more about particular areas to help them as a Nation. I continue to believe that we would not be where we are today if it were not for the road they helped pave to get us where we are. They have given us a huge debt of gratitude for the work they have done. I have also worked diligently to voice to preserve and maintain our language and culture for the Pawnee Nation. We, as the Pawnee Business Council, have passed a resolution to bring the Pawnee alphabet. We are also working to secure grants to fund our language program and hire our instructors as full-time employees at the Pawnee Nation. This will ensure the last impact of our Pawnee language. I continue to be a voice for our culture and work with our Cultural Resource Division to ensure that we maintain and secure a future for our Pawnee people for generations to come. Lastly, I keep the greatest part of my service as your Vice-President. I will continue to vote on items that will benefit our people, who are indubitably the most important people in this Council. I will also benefit our future tribal members for the benefit of our people.

Vice-President

Jordie D. Kanuho

Vice-President Secretary

Pawnee Nation Multi-Purpose Building
808 Morris Road-Pawnee, OK 74058
For any questions, please contact the Pawnee Nation Election Commission at elections@pawneenation.org or on your mobile www.pawneenation.org

This position will require and the amount of attention running for reelection. I understand the commitment I needed to spend some time praying and considering running for reelection. I understand the commitment I needed to spend some time praying and considering running for reelection. I understand the commitment I needed to spend some time praying and considering running for reelection. I understand the commitment I needed to spend some time praying and considering running for reelection. I understand the commitment I needed to spend some time praying and considering running for reelection. I understand the commitment I needed to spend some time praying and considering running for reelection. I understand the commitment I needed to spend some time praying and considering running for reelection. I understand the commitment I needed to spend some time praying and considering running for reelection. 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2021 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
PAM COOK - SECRETARY

I am Pam Cook, and I am announcing my candidacy for Secretary of the Pawnee Nation Business Council. I am the daughter of the late Gordon Cook and Jean Cook, and I am a proud member of the Pawnee Nation Business Council. My mother was a teacher and my father was a barber. He was a member of the Pawnee Nation Business Council. My brother is a teacher and my sister is a businesswoman. My parents instilled in me the values of hard work, dedication, and leadership.

Throughout my career, I have managed for Indian Individual Money accounts as Trustee, Bureau of Land Management, and at the time I was Secretary of the Pawnee Nation Business Council. As a member of the Pawnee Nation Business Council, I have managed projects for the AQT, including the construction of the Pawnee Power plant.

I am a strong advocate for the Pawnee Nation and its people. I believe that the Pawnee Nation has the potential to become a thriving community with a strong economy and a healthy environment. I am committed to working with the Pawnee Nation Business Council to achieve these goals.

I am a person who possesses strong integrity and ethics, both in my personal and professional life. I believe that a leader should be honest, trustworthy, and accountable. I have always strived to be a good citizen and to represent my community with the utmost integrity.

I am currently residing in the Pawnee Nation, and I am a member of the Pawnee Nation Business Council. I have a strong background in business and management, and I am committed to serving the Pawnee Nation with dedication and integrity.

I am supported by my family and friends, and I am grateful for their support. I am excited to run for Secretary of the Pawnee Nation Business Council and to serve the Pawnee Nation.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cook

GEO George Gardipe - SECRETARY

I am George Gardipe, and I am announcing my candidacy for Secretary of the Pawnee Nation Business Council. I am the son of the late Charles Gardipe and Dorothy Gardipe. My parents instilled in me the values of hard work, dedication, and leadership.

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Respectfully submitted,

George Gardipe

TONETTE PONKILLA - SECRETARY

I am a member of the Pawnee Nation, and I am announcing my candidacy for Secretary of the Pawnee Nation Business Council. I am the daughter of the late Robert Ponkilla and Mary Ponkilla. My parents instilled in me the values of hard work, dedication, and leadership.

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Respectfully submitted,

Tonette Ponkilla
2021 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Gene Evans - Member Seat #3

Ninewah, I am Gene Evans, M.D., and I am running for re-election for the 4th seat on the Pawnee Nation Council. I am a retired Air Force Colonel, a member of the Pawnee nation, and I served in Vietnam. Since that time, I have continued to serve my nation and nation through duties, if elected, as a Pawnee Council member. I am ready to represent you and continue to represent your interests.

Thankfully we are beginning to see a drop in cases and I believe that leadership is not someone who broods and frets. We will see more of the Pawnee way. House, honor, family, cultural events, and community must be supported by each Pawnee in order to bring true practical practice, values, and being a hospitable and caring health care provider for our community. I have served on the Pawnee School Board of Education. I was a founding member and later served on the Board of Trustees for the Pawnee Nation College. In Medical School, I served as the student member of the curriculum committee and was chosen to represent the medical students as a past professor of Medicine for OSU. Education is a key where we can move forward in the direction of possibility. We will support programs that give our youth the advantages they need to compete as students.

I am married to James Kemble and parents are Georgia Mae Adson and the late Herbert and Alice (Simpson) Kemble. My name is Terance Fields, my name is TakesTheHorse and grandson of Elinor Nam, even though I know that he was a peace-loving man. His answer was, “I am Pawnee, what else would I do.” I think that is the basis of who we are and what we are as people. We are a warrior society, blessed with our tribal-societal strength, which is much greater than individuals pulling in all directions.

I believe in a life of purpose, guided by honesty , respect, and conviction. We must not fear our ability to compete. We must engage the world around us with courage and the need to give even one’s own life for the good of our people. From the time I joined the Marines to go to war in Viet...
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

NAWA AKITAARU. I am pleased to announce that the IHS is now vaccinating all people age 16 and up. Make your appointment by calling 918-762-6724 or 918-762-6639. Shots are given each M/T/W and F between 1pm-3:30pm, or anytime on Thursdays.

I am calling upon all Pawnees age 16 and up to come to the aid of your Nation: Get vaccinated. That is a patriotic act. It will slow the spread, protect yourselves, the ones you love, and your neighbors. Please do this now—even if you have personal doubts or qualms—to protect your Nation. Those who refuse vaccination (without valid medical reasons) will continue to endanger themselves, their families, and their nation—and that will prolong this pandemic.

The Biden Administration and Pawnee Nation are fighting the spread of infection. There is now light at the end of the tunnel. Today, the Country will hit 100 million doses administered to American citizens. If the rate of vaccination continues, herd immunity will be reached; and that will accelerate nationwide efforts to safely open schools, the economy, and the community.

This is a time for optimism, but it’s not a time for relaxation. We need all Pawnees to do your part for the next couple months: Wash your hands, stay socially distanced, keep masking up, avoid gatherings, and get vaccinated when it is your turn. Your help is needed to continue fighting the spread—not just for yourself, but your family, your friends, your neighbors. We are all in this together.

If we keep our guard up, stick together, and follow public health recommendations, we can look forward to more normal times—perhaps as early as this summer. Together we will come through this pandemic and emerge stronger, with renewed faith in each other, and in our tribal government that fulfills its most important function: protecting the Pawnee people. But your help is needed. Everyone has an important part to play. I call on each Pawnee: If you are not vaccinated, it is your turn to slow the spread. Please call and make your appointment today.

Thank you. May Atius bless and protect our Nation.

With Respect,
Walter E. Echo-Hawk,
President, Pawnee Business Council

ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, individuals are required to get screened, temperature taken, and wear masks when coming to the Enrollment Department. We are able to provide you with a mask if you do not have a mask, and we also have children’s masks. We apologize for any inconvenience as we are taking precautions to keep you and the employees of Pawnee Nation as safe as possible. Please remember to update your address with the Enrollment Department if you move. You may update your address online at the Pawnee Nation website, www.pawneenation.org, or request a Change of Address form to be mailed or emailed to you. You may also download the Change of Address Form and the Application for Enrollment on the website. Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) membership cards are $5.00 payable to “Pawnee Nation Enrollment” by check, money order, or cashier’s check. CDIB membership cards are free for those 62 years and older. Please give us a call or email us if you have any questions regarding any Enrollment services or would like to call before coming from out of town.

Hours: 8:00 – 5:00 Monday - Friday
Phone: 918-762-3873 Option #7
Email: enrollment@pawneenation.org

Carrie Peters, Enrollment Manager
Suzie Kanuho, Enrollment Specialist

OKLAHOMA CITY AREA

COMMUNITY VACCINE EVENTS

- All Oklahoma City Area federal facilities are currently making appointments for American Indians and Alaskan Natives, as well as their Non-Native household members and caregivers.

Contact local facility for more information on vaccine events, age requirements and to schedule an appointment.

- Claremore - Visit Facebook.
- Clinton, Watonga, El Reno: 580-331-3433
- Haskell SU: 755-843-3750 Option 7 - Option 1
- Lawton: 580-354-5020
- Anadarko and Carnegie: 405-247-7989
- Pawnee Health Center: 918-762-6639
- 918-762-6724
- Wewoka Health Center: 405-551-1855
- 405-257-7620
- 405-257-7319
- 405-257-7316

PLEASE VISIT FACILITY FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS OF COVID-19 VACCINE EVENTS

- 3/10 - Weatherford, OK - Clinton Health Center
- 3/11 - Woodward/Seiling - Clinton Health Center
- 3/12 - Wichita Tribe Building - Anadarko HC
- 3/12 - Wewoka Clinic (8am - 4:30pm)
- 3/19 - Wewoka Clinic (8am-4:30pm)
- 3/19 - Fort Sill Apache Tribe Building - Anadarko HC
- 3/24 - Delaware Tribe Building - Anadarko HC
- 3/26 - Wichita Tribe Building - Anadarko HC
- 3/29 - Oklahoma City - Oklahoma City Area Office
- 4/2 - Red Buffalo Hall - Anadarko Health Center
- 4/9 - Wichita Tribe Building - Anadarko Health Center

Daily Clinic Vaccines:
- Claremore Indian Hospital
- Pawnee Indian Health Center
- Haskell Indian Health Center
- Lawton Indian Hospital

Drive thru vaccine Clinics:
- Clinton Indian Health Center:
  - M-W-F (9 am -noon) & (1 pm - 4pm)
- Watonga Indian Health Center:
  - M-T-F (9 am - 11:30am)
- EL Reno HC:
  - Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe’s R.E.Sp.E.C.T. Gymnasium
  - Thursday (9 am –noon) & (1 pm - 4pm)
EXPANDING COVID-19 VACCINE ACCESS AT PAWNEE INDIAN HEALTH CENTER

Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us many lessons about keeping our communities and tribal members safe. From social-distancing and hand washing to wearing masks, we remained vigilant in these practices to protect our people and stay healthy. This was especially important because our population has a higher risk of serious complications from diabetes, heart disease, and others.

Thankfully, within the last few months, the COVID-19 vaccine was authorized and released to healthcare facilities, including the Pawnee Indian Health Center. We have been vaccinating first responders, staff and patients since mid-December. Since this time, our vaccine workgroup has administered over 3,500 vaccine doses. This may seem like a significant number, but it is not the majority of our active patient population. There are still many people in the community that are reluctant to get the vaccine or may not know that the vaccine is available to them at this time.

To ensure widespread protection against the COVID-19 virus, the Pawnee Indian Health Center is expanding vaccine access to all individuals age 16 and up. This includes tribal members and descendants of a federally recognized tribe, as well as non-tribal members and non-natives.

Realizing that our native communities are interwoven with rural areas, towns, and cities, we will have a greater impact on stopping the COVID-19 virus by immunizing as many people as possible, including natives and non-natives.

If you are age 16 and above and would like to be scheduled for a vaccine appointment or know someone that needs the vaccine, please call us at 918-762-6724 or 918-762-6639. A chart at Pawnee Indian Health Center is required to start the process. If you do not have a chart with us, please complete the chart application and return it to our Business Office either by mail (Pawnee Indian Health Center, 1201 Heritage Circle, Pawnee, OK 74058) fax (918-762-6460) or hand delivery, Monday through Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm.

A completed application includes the following documents.

1. Completed application
2. CDIB or Tribal Membership Card or Proof of Tribal Descendant from a Federally Recognized Tribe (if applicable)
3. Photo ID
4. Private Insurance or Medicare or Medicaid Card
5. Proof of Residence (if the residence is inside the Pawnee Service Unit).

For questions, please call 918-762-2517 and request to speak with a staff member in Patient Registration.

[Address and Contact Information]

Pawnee Indian Health Center
ATTN: Patient Registration

[Contact Information]
ROBERT LESLIE EVANS
DECEMBER 5, 1937 - SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

JOHN DAVID YANDELL
FEBRUARY 17, 1941 - DECEMBER 28, 2020

DARYL GEORGE TAROB HORSECHEF
APRIL 10, 1935 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

HAROLD DEAN WILLIAMS
DECEMBER 2, 1947 - DECEMBER 4, 2020

GWENDOLYN ANNE WILLIAMS
SEPTEMBER 16, 1926 - DECEMBER 30, 2020

FRANCIS ELLIOT (MOOSE) MORRIS
JULY 1, 1964 - DECEMBER 30, 2020

BLANCHE MATLOCK SMITH
DECEMBER 3, 1947 - DECEMBER 4, 2020

LEAH ANNETTE MOORE
FEBRUARY 16, 1947 - AUGUST 19, 2020

SHARLENE L. ARNOLD
FEBRUARY 14, 1950 - DECEMBER 24, 2020

NEVA MOORE
FEBRUARY 17, 1947 - DECEMBER 20, 2020

ROE MITCHELL TOADTRY
JUNE 4, 1942 - DECEMBER 20, 2020

NANCY SUS MOORE
MAY 26, 1938 - JANUARY 13, 2021

WILLIAM JOSEPH PERRY
MAY 24, 1966 - JANUARY 20, 2021

BILL EDGAR MATTHEWS SR
JUNE 18, 1967 - JANUARY 20, 2021

RUSSELL LLOYD TIGER
OCTOBER 12, 1947 - FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Barbara Jean Atwood
MAY 20, 1963 - DECEMBER 3, 2021

Phyllis Anne Williams
MAY 24, 1966 - JANUARY 13, 2021
MAY 30, 1956 - MARCH 15, 2021

Emery Rice, 79, of Skiatook, died Friday, March 12, 2021, at the home of her son Ablaza Kent.

She was born on February 6, 1942, in Skiatook, a daughter of Arthur and Gerri Rice. She was a member of Skiatook Baptist Church.

She is proceeded in death by her parents; brothers, George Joseph “Joey” Rice and George Joseph “Bob” Rice; sisters, Ruthie Rice and Louise Stevens; and granddaughter, Raven Morgan. She was a grandmother.

Emery attended Okmulgee Technical Institute and received her Drafting Medal. She then attended Okmulgee Community College as a Field Artilleryman with a Good Conduct Medal. She was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps Reserve at Camp Pendleton. On January 8, 1964, he entered the United States Marine Corps and served in Korea, Japan, Okinawa, and many other places. He was a璜ow, a nurse and a part of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Emery was an Oklahoma Indian Bikers Associate as a Board Member for the Oklahoma City Business Development Corporation. She was the American Indian Exposition Coordinator and was also a long-standing member. She served as a Board Member for the Oklahoma City Sovereignty Symposium in Oklahoma City.

Emery was a co-founder of the Oklahoma City Native American Marine Corps Veterans as a Board Member for 40+ years and a Thunder Holder for 40+ years.

Emery is survived by her son Ablaza Kent. In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial contribution to the Oklahoma Red Rock Otoe-Missouria Tribal Cemetery.

A graveside service will be held on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., at the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Cemetery, Red Rock, OK with military honors.

OBITUARIES

ARIANE KAELI BUFFALOHEAD

Forty, was born in Oklahoma City, OK on August 18, 1992, to parents Kim Faye Primeaux and George Thomas Echohawk.

On February 18, 1942, in Stillwater, OK, she was married to Robert A. Echohawk, and he preceded her in death. She was a member of the Pawnee Tribe.

Ariane is survived by her son Ablaza Kent. She is preceded in death by her husband Mitch Kent, grandfather Herb Rice, sister Louise Stevens and brother Anthony Buffalohead Jr.

Many cousins, nephews, nieces, and many loved ones who were a part of her life.

Gerri Marie Echo Hawk

On March 16th, 2021, Gerri Marie Echo Hawk passed away from a long illness. Gerri was born on January 20, 1940, in Pawnee, OK to parents; brothers, George Joseph "Joey" Rice and George Joseph "Bob" Rice; sisters, Ruthie Rice and Louise Stevens.

Gerri attended Okmulgee Technical Institute and received her Drafting Medal. She then attended Okmulgee Community College as a Field Artilleryman with a Good Conduct Medal. She was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps Reserve at Camp Pendleton. On January 8, 1964, he entered the United States Marine Corps and served in Korea, Japan, Okinawa, and many other places. He was a璜ow, a nurse and a part of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Gerri was an Oklahoma Indian Bikers Associate as a Board Member for the Oklahoma City Business Development Corporation. She was the American Indian Exposition Coordinator and was also a long-standing member. She served as a Board Member for the Oklahoma City Sovereignty Symposium in Oklahoma City.

Gerri was a co-founder of the Oklahoma City Native American Marine Corps Veterans as a Board Member for 40+ years and a Thunder Holder for 40+ years.

Gerri is survived by her son Ablaza Kent. In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial contribution to the Oklahoma Red Rock Otoe-Missouria Tribal Cemetery.

A graveside service will be held on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., at the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Cemetery, Red Rock, OK with military honors.

ATTENTION!

NEW COVID-19 VACCINATION ELIGIBILITY

The Pawnee Indian Health Center is expanding COVID-19 vaccine access to all individuals age 16 and up. This includes natives and non-natives. Those interested in obtaining the Pfizer vaccine may contact us at 918-762-6724 or 918-762-6639. This is a two-dose vaccine series. Patients will be scheduled for both appointments and provided a vaccine card.

A chart is required to start the process. If you do not have a chart with us, please print the chart application pinned at the top of our Facebook page (Pawnee Indian Health Service). You can call our Business Office at 918-762-2517 to request an application.
Nawa Akitaru!
The Pawnee Nation Diabetes Program’s overall purpose focuses on three primary areas:
1. Prevention: Best practice is Physical Activity programming for Diabetes Prevention and Care, including the DHCS Wellness Program.
2. Resources: Provide outside resources and supplemental support to meet the needs of Diabetic Clients.
3. Outreach: Provide nutrition and health education; collaboration with outside entities to raise awareness of diabetes.

Our current prevention and outreach activities include:
- Nine-week community transformation challenge called “Shapeshiftin’ In A Good Way,” led by a certified trainer, Marlin Miller, of Masters of Gravity. Thirty individuals signed up to participate in this challenge. Included were screenings of blood sugar, blood pressure, weight, waist & hip measurements, before and after photos, goal setting, 30-minute strength & resistance daily workouts, one-on-one training sessions, and gym membership fees paid.
- Tiwari Club, also known as the walking/running/moving club. Sign-ups are throughout the year and include pre, mid, and post screenings of blood pressure and blood sugar, quarterly 50k or 10k challenges to receive club gear, and the shoe assistance program. Each participant is responsible for tracking their own physical activity and turning it into the Diabetes Program staff.
- The Wellness Program hosts free weekly workout classes for the community. On Mondays, there is a cardio class called FIGHT or RIPPED, and occasionally we will have Zumba. On Tuesdays, there is a Yoga class. All classes are held at the Pawnee Nation Wellness Center Gym (blue gym) from 6 pm - 7 pm. More information can be found on our Facebook page.
- Collaborations with Pawnee Public Schools to talk about Diabetes Prevention and help lead physical activities.

All prevention and outreach activities are open to the Pawnee Community, Indigenous & non-Indigenous individuals of all ages. It is our goal to help preserve our wellness through motivation, support, and encouragement of physical activity.

Our current supplemental resources for diabetic clients in our program include:
- Prescription eyewear assistance up to $150/yearly.
- A shoe assistance program to encourage clients to complete yearly lab work, eye, dental & foot exams, a nutrition visit, and two glucometer downloads.
- A case of nutritional supplement shakes, per a doctor’s order, monthly.
- Blood glucose testing supplies such as test strips, lancets, alcohol wipes, cotton balls, and band-aids issued once a month. A glucometer to test blood sugar is issued once a year.
- Diabetic socks, one pair, per month.

Eligibility requirements for supplemental support can be found on the Pawnee Nation website under the Diabetes Program.

The Diabetes Program staff includes Mee-Kai Clark - Program Coordinator, and Chebon Gooden – Program Assistant. The Diabetes Program is in the Health & Community Services Building at 400 Agency Road.

Contact number is (918) 762-3873 x4.

RÂHIKÛCU’ GYM

Nawa Akitaru!
Râhikûcu’ Gym located at 491 Agency Road in Pawnee, Oklahoma, had our grand opening on January 11th, 2021, with a successful turn out rate of up to 175 membership sign-ups and counting, ranging from young members to the elderly.

The meaning of Râhikûcu’ is Warrior and/or Brave in honor of our courageous soldiers who lost their lives in battle.

Râhikûcu’ Gym offers a variety of equipment such as free weights, weight machines, different cardio machines as well as male and female restrooms which include large lockers for your personal use and showers anytime of the day, 24/7. We also have a water bottle refill fountain.

With Covid-19 still among us throughout the nation, we are using caution and only allowing ten people in at a time as well as requiring masks while entering the facility. Masks must be worn while going from station to station but may be taken off once at the station.

Disinfectant spray and towels are provided to wipe down after use of our equipment. Staff in the facility also clean and disinfects throughout the day making it our priority everyone stays safe and healthy.

With the Covid-19 pandemic, we are encouraging all members to participate in this challenge. Included were screenings of blood sugar, blood pressure, weight, waist & hip measurements, before and after photos, goal setting, 30-minute strength & resistance daily workouts, one-on-one training sessions, and gym membership fees paid.

Here below is a list of our membership fees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Bi-Annual</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pawnee Tribal Members</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawnee Tribal Members &amp; IHS employees</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$375</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federally Recognized Tribal Members</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$375</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Tribal Members</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Youth 13-17</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans &amp; Active Duty</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Elders</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Family/Non-Tribal Family</td>
<td>$75 &amp; $150</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporation</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$1250</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further inquiries please contact Stephanie Sewell, Fitness Center Coordinator, at ssew@pawneenation.org.

This service is for anyone and is restricted to the Pawnee Nation service boundary and is provided until materials are depleted.
It has been a year now since the Covid-19 Pandemic came into being. We have endured over 500,000 deaths nationally. There have been many lives lost to the Covid-19 virus in our community. Many more are suffering from grief due to this. Some are seeking help, while some are self-medicating to try and cope with this affliction. This article will place focus on self-medicating concern with emphasis on overdosing.

The numbers for this article come from our ambulance service and those who are first responders for these occurrences. During this time frame, there were reports of 17 overdose cases in Pawnee, (9) were female and (6) were male. It has been reported that (6) were treated with naloxone as a life-saving measure. This is becoming a major concern for our community. On a national level, according to the Center of Disease Control (CDC), there was a decrease in overdose deaths (6) were treated with naloxone as a life-saving measure.

The Pawnee Nation Learning Center is staffed with a center manager, assistant manager, two master teachers, four teachers, a cook, and a boater position. The Pawnee Nation Learning Center is hiring for a teacher for the two-year olds. Please visit the Pawnee Nation website for job opportunities available. The Pawnee Nation Learning center currently has 52 children enrolled and only 38 attending during the current year. The Pandemic has been a health care challenge to essential personnel to families who were already enrolled before the pandemic. The Pawnee Nation Learning Center staff have been on our toes, making sure we are taking all necessary precautions to keep our children safe and healthy due to this pandemic. Our COVID-19 procedures were placed last April 2020, and we continue to follow them. Our staff is required to wear their masks at all times while working with our children. Parents are not allowed into the buildings during this time to help stop the spread of infectious diseases. Staff and children's temperatures are taken before they can enter the building. We have received several donations for staff and children's masks, and we are always grateful for those who think of that! Six out of eleven staff members received their COVID-19 vaccines in January 2021. This was voluntary, not mandatory. The Pawnee Nation Learning Center has some great news to share! In February of 2021, we received $430,084.00 from the Coronavirus, CARES, and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CIRSA). These funds will be used to renovate the old fitness center into our new afterschool classroom. We are excited to have all our classrooms in one building. The Pawnee Nation Learning Center, alongside our Education Director, Orzy Kneefel, will greatly benefit from this expanded space with transportation and Safety Department and the Planning Division during this renovation. The Pawnee Nation Learning Center plans to have our renovations completed by May 31, 2021. For any questions please contact the Pawnee Nation Learning Center at 918-762-3067.
STRENGTH IN UNITY

The spirit of cooperation for the betterment of the community was on display early in March as the City of Pawnee, Pawnee Nation and the United Community Action Program came together to provide the financial support necessary for the Unity Healthcare Association to operate an additional COVID vaccination site in Pawnee.

Unity has already secured approval from the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) to administer the vaccine and, according to Unity spokesperson Kelly Davis, could receive vaccine from OSDH in time to offer injections on March 27.

“We've chosen to do this on Saturdays to make getting the vaccination a little easier for working people” Davis added, “and we are hoping to provide this service twice a month.”

Unity has reserved dates at the Women’s Building on the Pawnee County Fairgrounds as the vaccination site but also has access to Pawnee Nation’s COVID center on Morris Road.

“The biggest hurdle for Unity was putting together the money needed to obtain the supplies and equipment required by the Health Department to approve our application, like a freezer and recording thermometer, PPE for providers, syringes, sharps containers, disinfectant, Band-Aids, alcohol wipes, and office supplies,” stated Unity founding member Dr. Gene Evans. The staff from Dr. Evans’ clinic will provide the vaccinations.

“The willingness of the City, the Nation, and UCAP to pitch in on this is evidence of their commitment to making things better in Pawnee when the need arises. We want to thank Mayor Tom Briggs, President Walter Echo-Hawk, and Executive Director Johnny Bryant for their eagerness to help us solve this problem,” Dr. Evans added.

Unity anticipates that the Moderna vaccine will be made available for its clinic, but OSDH will make the final decision on which vaccine is delivered closer to the proposed date. Individuals interested in receiving the vaccine must sign up on OSDH's vaccination portal. Questions regarding this sign-up procedure can be directed to Unity at 539-222-0379 or to OSDH at 800-522-0203.

Pawnee Tribal Members

CONTACT MY OFFICE CONCERNING THE LOCATIONS OF YOUR FAMILY’S ORIGINAL ALLOTMENT HOUSES, BARNs, STRUCTURES. ALSO INFORMATION REGARDING FAMILY BURIAL PLOTS NOT CONTAINED WITHIN THE NORTH CEMETERY, THE SOUTH CEMETERY, OR THE CAWÎ’ CEMETERY, SUCH AS FAMILY GRAVEYARDS ON ORIGINAL ALLOTMENTS. THIS INFORMATION WILL NOT BE ACCESSIBLE BY THE PUBLIC.

THE INFORMATION WILL BE USED TO OVERLAY ACROSS OUR ORIGINAL RESERVATION TO ASSIST IN THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW OF BIA AND OTHER GOVERNMENT-RELATED PROJECTS. CURRENTLY, PROJECTS OCCURRING ACROSS OUR ORIGINAL RESERVATION COULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT OUR TRIBAL HISTORY THROUGH THE INADVERTENT DESTRUCTION OF PAWNEE FAMILY STRUCTURES AND UNMARKED GRAVESITES.

MATT REED
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, PAWNEE NATION
657 HARRISON STREET, PAWNEE, OKLAHOMA 74058
(918) 762-2180 EXT 220
JREED@PAWNEENATION.ORG
The month of April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The most important thing that can be done to help children thrive is to support families before they reach a crisis. The Pawnee Nation Indian Child Welfare Program provides prevention services, intervention, referrals for services and advocacy/monitoring court cases in state and tribal cases. The Pawnee Nation ICW Program also recruits and certifies Indian homes to serve as foster care placements for Tribal children removed from their homes for abuse or neglect. The Pawnee Nation ICW Program may be contacted at (918) 762-3654. The Pawnee Nation ICW Program is in the Pawnee Nation Resource Complex at 1202 Heritage Circle. At this time, due to COVID-19 precautions and procedure, our building is currently locked, temperatures are taken, and masks are required. Our office can be contacted to schedule an appointment.

Amanda Farren, ICW Coordinator
Brandi Johnson, ICW Assistant

PAWNEE INDIAN HEALTH CENTER
PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 BY MAKING AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE VACCINE!
Beneficiary and Non-beneficiaries AGES 16+ ARE ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL:

918-762-6639
OR
918-762-6724

STAY SAFE & VACCINATE

REGULAR ELECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2021

April 9, 2021 DEADLINE FOR “REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS”
April 15, 2021 CANDIDATE FORUM at Multi-Purpose Building at 6 PM.
May 1, 2021 ELECTION DAY
POLLS OPEN 8:00 A.M.
POLLS CLOSE 7:00 PM.
LOCATION: Multi-Purpose Building, 808 Morris Road, Pawnee, Oklahoma 74058
POLL WATCHERS: Be present by 7:45 pm for counting of the ballots
May 4, 2021 POST ELECTION RESULTS: Unofficial until after Protest Period 4:00 PM., Tribal Reserve
May 5-7, 2021 PROTEST PERIOD: ANY VOTER MAY PROTEST IN WRITING
(A REQUEST FOR RECOUNT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH $500.00 RECOUNT FEE)
May 7, 2021 PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM.
May 13, 2021 ELECTION COMMISSION WILL RESPOND TO PROTESTS NO LATER THAN May 13, 2021
May 14, 2021 ISSUE CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION
May 18, 2021 INAUGURATION