

## HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

*Gene Dixon - Monica Bettis*

One project was completed in March. Contracts are out on two other projects to start this month (April). We have two other projects proposed for later.

Gene attended a three day workshop in Oklahoma City on Housing Construction Inspection in March, conducted by Training Service Association. He also attended a two day workshop this month held by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Muskogee for all Housing Improvement Program Coordinators on new 25 CFR 256 regulations, FmHA - HUD - Human Services.

We again urge all who need home improvements in our area to contact this office as it will soon be time to submit our new inventory and priority list.

Contact Gene Dixon or Monica Bettis at 918-666-2435 or drop by this office for inquiries or applications.

Gene Dixon  
HIP Coordinator

**EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE  
OF OKLAHOMA**  
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# SHOOTING STAR

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(918) 666-2435

**EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA  
TRIBAL NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 92

NUMBER 2

## Tribal News In Brief

The tribes proposed revised Constitution is in Washington, D.C. at the present time. It was submitted to the Secretary of the Interior at the end of February. The Secretary has ninety (90) days in which to review and make recommendations for changes, so we should be hearing something by late May or early June.

An Open house for the Vision Center was held March 19 and 20, with approximately seventy (70) persons coming in to look us over. Many were amazed by our facility and the equipment that we have.

Punch and cake were served the guests and door prizes such as free Levi sun glasses, free exams, and 50% off on eye glasses were given to ten lucky winners. March was the best month ever for our vision center and can be attributed largely to the open house.

We also have a new eye doctor. His name is James Goff and he's from Joplin, Missouri. He has his own practice there but comes to our clinic on Thursday's and occasionally on Tuesday's (when our appointments are heavy). Our patients seem well pleased with him and we really appreciate having him.

We recently received notification that our DHHS, Title VI Nutrition program and the Department of Education Basic Library Grant were refunded for another year.

At this time, monies received for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program have basically been allocated out, with fifteen (15) Eastern Shawnee tribal families benefiting from this program. The income guidelines were somewhat stricter this year, this was to insure that the families with the greatest need received the assistance.

Thanks to our die hard trash pickup crew, the Tribes hiway sections are clean once again. Over the winter months we all forgot to do our deep knee

bends and toe touches, so guess what, we found all those muscles in our bodies that hadn't been used for a while.

Fawnda Bluejacket says the next time Shelly Crossley volunteers them for the messiest part of the hiway just because they're the youngest, she volunteers herself only.

Clean up days were April 3rd and 10th. The next tentative dates are planned for June. We sure would appreciate any help given by other tribal members.

Joe Kraus, normally a very laid-back, calm, cool and collected sort of person nearly lost it when an elderly man riding a bicycle stopped and asked for a drink of water. Joe had part of a glass of warm water in his pickup, that he had been drinking from, which he gave to the elderly fellow. As the old guy was drinking, Joe noticed Neal Captain making his rounds with bags and fresh, cold water, so they gave the old guy a drink of fresh water. CLIMAX: The old guy drank the water, thanked the guys, got on his bike and threw the styrofoam cup on the ground. Good thing for him he had gotten his second wind cause Joe lost his cool.

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The Eastern Shawnee newsletter is funded under the Tribes Bureau of Indian Affairs Community Services program and is distributed to tribal members at no cost.

Tribal members not receiving the news letter but wishing to, need to keep the tribal office informed of any name changes and/or current addresses and zip codes.

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### **EASTERN SHAWNEE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

#### **CHIEF**

George J. Captain

#### **1ST COUNCILPERSON**

Glenna J. Wallace

#### **2ND COUNCILPERSON**

Dorma Hollis

#### **3RD COUNCILPERSON**

Diana Blizzard

#### **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

(Vacant)

## **AoA Nutrition Program**

*Debbie Scribner, Director*

Well, spring is here, the trees are budding, the flowers are blooming and it seems new life is all around.

Our Nutrition program is starting into its fourth year and we are getting more and more participants all the time. We took six of our elders to Muskogee to the Azalea Festival April 9. We took a picnic lunch and spent a couple of hours just walking around the park enjoying all the beautiful flowers.

Our Easter party was April 16 and a very good pot luck dinner was enjoyed by all. We had an Easter egg hunt with several of the people participating. The weather, although damp, didn't dampen any bunny spirits. There were prizes for the best decorated eggs. First prize was won by Bessie Hayes, her egg was decorated like an easter bunny. Dorcas Cameron won 2nd place with a pretty face painted on her egg. Florence Routh won the door prize, it was a very pretty gold colored picture frame on one side and clock on the opposite side. Danny Millard won a prize for finding the most eggs.

Our elders enjoyed the Azalea Festival so much, we are planning on more outings this summer.

## **News of Tribal Members**

Brandon Blizzard, son of Jeff and Diana Blizzard, Fairland, OK has just completed his 3rd year of wrestling with the Miami Take Down Club. Brandon for the biggest part of the year wrestled in Division I - 46 lbs. He began the year by competing in Salina, OK and then placed 2nd in Sperry, OK where he wrestled in two divisions, both at 46 lbs. In Division I he received a 4th place trophy and in Division II he received a 2nd place trophy. From there he went to Broken Arrow and Sapulpa, OK where he took 3rd place at each tournament. The next two tournaments were the NEO Tri-State Classic, Miami, OK and the Vinita Open where he received a trophy and a belt buckle along with the bracket sheets for 1st place honors. He then went to the Tulsa Rangers tourney and took 3rd. Brandon then participated in the Tulsa Nationals, "The Toughest Tournament In The World." At this tournament there were 1,594 wrestlers participating and he took 2nd place in his division. Brandon got to meet Olympic Gold Medalist, Kenny Monday; former wrestling great, Danny Hodge and Oklahoma University wrestling coach, Stan Able and got their autographs. He then traveled to Grove, OK and placed 1st. The Northeast Oklahoma Regionals were held in Oologah, OK and he placed 5th. Brandon was an alternate for the Oklahoma Kids State Tournament.

For his final tournament of the year he went to Seneca, MO and wrestled in Division II-50 lbs and took 2nd place.

We would like to thank the Eastern Shawnee Tribal Bingo, the Eastern Shawnee Vision Center and Native American Casino for buying ads for our tournament.

Diana Blizzard

### **Rumer Godden:**

There is an Indian belief that everyone is a house of four rooms: a physical, a mental, an emotional and a spiritual room. Most of us tend to live in one room most of the time, but unless we go into every room every day, even if only to keep it aired, we are not complete.

*-House of Four Rooms*

## **Shawnee Land Chosen For Challenge Course**

On the lands high above the Eastern Shawnee tribal park, the first Indian Health Service funded Challenge & Confidence Course in the country is being built.

The Challenge & Confidence Course is a series of games, logs, ropes, platforms, trees and cables. All ages are given physical and mental challenges which for many will be an experience of a lifetime. This combination of games, obstacles, and problem solving activities add up to high adventure and excitement, all within a caring and supportive atmosphere.

The philosophy of the course is "Challenge by Choice". Each participant voluntarily and freely engages in any activity. No one is ever required, forced or coerced to do any activity.

The support within the group encourages the development and willingness to try and realize that success is personal. Each person makes their own decisions and commitments based on what they are willing to risk.

Taking one more step than previously thought possible is far more important than attaining the apparent goal of a given task. The impact of this approach is strongly felt within the entire group and teamwork and cooperation is achieved with surprising speed. Even more profound is the effect upon the individual, who often develops clearer insight and a better self-esteem.

Five tribes offered land as possible sites for the course. The Peorias, Wyandotte, Miami, Seneca and Eastern Shawnee. Each site had to be evaluated, and finally the lands of the Eastern Shawnee was chosen. The beautiful scenic area with both the creek and the many trees make an ideal site.

Outdoor Adventure of Oklahoma State University was selected to provide technical assistance to construct the high elements, many as high as 40 feet above ground.

REC volunteered vital help in setting the poles needed for the course. With the help of REC we have been able to add an exciting Rapelling Climbing Tower.

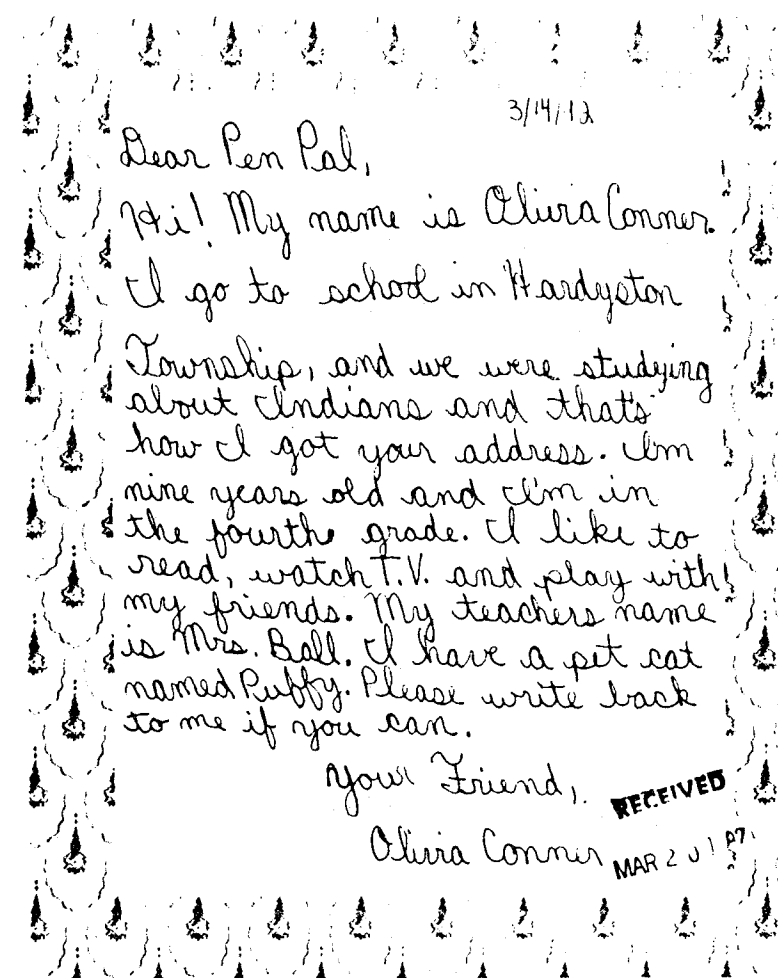
The high elements will be constructed during April by OSU. The training for certifying staff to work with groups going through the course will be May 7, 8, 9, 10. If any tribal members are interested in learning more about "the Challenge" they can contact Norma Kraus at (918) 666-2435. We will be taking groups through early in May to show those interested what is involved.

We are especially grateful for Northeast Okla. Electric Coop, Pioneer Sand and Gravel of Commerce and the following people for their assistance: Mike Kogger, JB Payton, Shirley Payton, Mary Brewer, Fred Payton, Ed Rogers and Dallas Wall.

The Tribal Adventure Council consists of Tom Payton, Gary Stewart, Rebecca Jim, Wanona Schmidt, Jimmy DuShane, Patty Warren, John DePoe and Don Walker.

Along with the high ropes project, Skye Petty, a 7th grader from Miami will be constructing a nature trail as a project for his Eagle Scout award. The trail will wind amongst the beautiful hills. Trees along the trail will be identified and marketed. Only 20% of all scouts receive the Eagle Scout Award and we feel privileged to be able to help him in his quest.

Rebecca Jim



Olivia's address is: Olivia Conner - 79 Silver Grove Rd.  
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