Greetings. I hope this correspondence finds you well. The Otoe-Missouria Tribe has approved a $ per capita payment for December. The finance department worked very hard to get the payments out as early as possible. I hope that the payment will be helpful to you and your families this holiday season.

Thank you to all of those who participated in our annual General Council Elections held during the third week of November. We were able to assemble a quorum at the meeting and three new Election Board Members were selected. Congratulations to First Member Wesley Harader, Second Member Melanie Harader, and Secretary Danny Kikiga for your re-elections to the Office of Tribal Council. I am forwarding to work with you again this year on the Tribal Council. The assistance to all people in need this Christmas is $100 per tribal member.

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe Council held its annual General Council Meeting for the holiday season. The meeting was held in the Tribal Council Room in the Tribal Complex on Thursday, December 17 at 10 a.m. The Otoe-Missouria Tribe is a sovereign nation, a constituent governmental body of the United States, and a member of the U.S. Congress. The Otoe-Missouria Tribe was approved for 1800 acres of land in the area of Council, Nebraska, in 1874. The Tribe was recognized as a tribe by the Indian Claims Commission in 1946, and was confirmed by the Department of Interior in 1970. The Tribe is a member of the Northwest Area Agency on Aging. The Tribe has an elected government, which includes a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Tribe has a population of approximately 5000 people. The Tribe is headquartered in the Tribal Complex, located at 1855 Highway 177, Red Rock, OK 74551. The Tribe has a Tribal Council to appoint their representatives to the General Council Meeting. The Tribe has a Tribal Council to appoint their representatives to the General Council Meeting. The Tribe has a Tribal Council to appoint their representatives to the General Council Meeting. The Tribe has a Tribal Council to appoint their representatives to the General Council Meeting.
By Chief Eric Payne

Aho relatives,

China (CHEE-nah) prior to going to your car. When in the car, lock it in the trunk. Do not leave packages or valuables in the car, with children inside. Use an anti-theft device.

We have always prided ourselves on serving our People the best to keep you safe during this busy time of year. “Con-artists” may be out trying various methods of distracting you for any reason. At this time of year, “con-artists” may be around and will continue to serve our Members with their day-to-day needs.

In closing I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

I have always pleased to pray for our Members who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Our Members, Grandchildren, then, Elder’s and the Men and Women who serve our Country, May God Bless you and yours in the days to come!

Respectfully,  
Ted W. Grant  
Vice-Chairman  

By Heather Payne

The Otoe-Missouria Employment & Training program hosted a Native Pride Holiday Arts & Craft Fair on Friday, December 2 at the Tribal Complex.

“Many organizations hold arts and craft shows this time of year,” says Otoe-Missouria Employment & Training Director Judy McGlaslin. “Our focus on Native American made products sets us apart from the other fairs.”

This is the sixth year the tribe has held the arts & craft shows. It was originally designed to promote Native American enter- preneurs, artisans and crafts people.

“Almost all of the artists and crafts people are entrepreneurs,” McGlaslin says. “They are runn- ing their own business. Some may be supporting themselves or their families on that in- come.”

This year, the vendors sold moccasins, Native American clothing and dance regalia, sculptures, woodwork, paint- ings, baskets, food, skilled and crafts, toys, bedding, blankets, pillows, quilts and jewelry. “You never know what you might find for sale at this event,” McGlaslin says. “We had some fabulous vendors and artisans. People definitely found some unique gifts.”

Photos by Mari Suz Black.

Big Chief Eric Payne

The holiday season is here again. As you are celebrating this Christmas, please keep in mind how those families are who are mourning. For the Otoe-Missouria Police Department we recognize another somber anniversary on December 20. This is the 18th in a series of 20th Anniversary of Otoe-Missouria Police Officer Defford “DJ” Oyebi Jr. Officer Oyebi was killed in a two-vehicle ac- cident while responding to a call. At the time of his passing, Officer Oyebi had served with the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Police for 2 years. He was an enemed member of the Kasa Tribe and an Otoe-Missouria descendant. Officer Oyebi was survived by his wife, two daughters, son, mother and sisters.

I did not join the department until after Officer Oyebi’s death and did not have the pleasure of knowing him. I do know his family and remember his death.

After his death, Officer Oyebi’s widow Tiffany, joined the military and put herself through col- lege. His children are now grown and doing well in college. They are a proud legacy to their father.

Officer Oyebi’s sister Angela and mother Mary work at the tribal complex and I see them often. At this time of year, I notice sadness in Mary’s eyes. As a father of a police officer myself, I can only imagine what she has gone through over the years since DJ’s passing. A memorial wall of police patches was created to honor Officer Oyebi in our Cultural Building many years ago. I still add to the wall patches donated by officers throughout the U.S. who want to honor Officer Oyebi in our Cultural Building. Many years ago, I still add to the wall patches donated by officers throughout the U.S. who want to honor Officer Oyebi in our Cultural Building.

During this difficult time, our entire depart- ment wishes Mary, Angela, Tiffany, Courtney, Carrie and Tyler comfort and strength. God bless.

From the Chief of Police

From the Vice Chairman

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During this difficult time, our entire department wishes Mary, Angela, Tiffany, Courtney, Carrie and Tyler comfort and strength. God bless.
From the Treasurer Minors Trust Account

Dear tribal members,

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope everyone has an enjoyable time with your family and friends and have the memories to last a lifetime. I hope you have an enjoyable holiday season. If you have any questions, you can contact Carol Bible, by phone at 508-723-4666 ext. 248 or by email, cbible@omcna.org. Please make sure that you keep your mailing address updated with the Enrollment Department. All tribal communication with you and your family is done through the mailing address that Enrollment has on file for you and your children. Please make sure you keep it updated with the Enrollment Department at all times.

Sincerely,

Carol Bible

From the Otoe-Missouria Environmental Department

It is Christmas time! A time of giving to your family, friends, and community. However, it can also be a time of overconsuming, excess waste and stress. This season includes a lot of festivities for the environment. We would like to give you a “gift” of tips to save money and help the environment this Christmas season.

Between Thanksgiving and New Year’s day, Americans throw away a million extra tons of garbage each week, including holiday wrapping and packaging according to Robert Lilienfield. Lilienfield is co-author of the book Use Less Stuff: Environmental Solutions for Who We Really Are. We would like to share some tips to consider when choosing and giving gifts.

Be creative and think about the true meaning of Christmas for you and your family. If we think back about the best part of Christmas it doesn’t involve around excessive buying or elaborate wrapping paper. Make some memories. As life gets more hectic, it has gotten easier to over consume during the holiday season. Consider the opportunity to revisit old traditions or create a new tradition. Get together as a family and make decorations, cards and gifts. These memories will make far surpass the gifts. Environmentally this saves purchasing supplies to make a gift off the shopping list. Many of the “convenient” gift items have traveled all the way from China and are made from nonrenewable materials. It’s better to use large carbon footprint by traveling such a long distance.

Creative decoration can be made from any number of existing materials you have around the house or recycled materials such as colored paper, old magazines, ribbons, etc. Other ideas include popcorn and cranberry garlands or using empty wine- create shapes from these materials do for a nature walk and use so materials found in the garden or other natural areas. Collect pine cones, nuts, berries, sprigs of evergreen plants, apples, oranges, etc. To create wreaths, cones, pieces, simple ornaments, etc. The good thing about these natural ornaments is that once you are done with them, you can throw back outside and don’t have to store them.

Making homemade gifts is a great way to help your budget as well as being eco-friendly. This is an excellent opportunity to use your skills and talents to give a gift that is more personal than a store bought gift. Homemade food is always a delicious, appreciated gift. If any of your family members are in the kitchen, use your imagination and create something else. Keep in mind the interests and needs of each recipient. This might take a little more planning and thought but will make the gift much more memorable than a store bought item. It could be personalized photos, albums that don’t have to be limited to just photos. Other ideas include family recipes, a photo memory or memory album, craft patterns, scrapbook memories or other collectibles. Other ideas that you could consider next year.

Create a recycling point in your house for collecting bottles, newspapers, magazines, paper, paper, packaging and cards. Most of these items can be recycled. During the holiday season don’t take the time to do this simple task. It makes it easier for them to do this Christmas.

These are just a few of the tips the CAFEI has available. You don’t have to change everything at once, every little bit helps. If you have a few extra questions or would like more information, don’t hesitate to contact us. Have a Very Merry and Green Christmas!
New Flu Information for 2016-2017

From the CDC

Getting an annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu. Flu affects millions of people every year, and can cause fever, body aches, cough and sore throat. Flu vaccine is the only way to prevent flu. If you get the flu despite getting vaccinated, you are more likely to be sick for a shorter period of time and to have milder symptoms. It is not possible to get the flu from the flu vaccine because the flu viruses in the vaccine have been killed or made very weak by the manufacturer. This year’s recommendations recommend vaccines that are effective against four strains of influenza virus—two strains of the influenza A virus (one H3N2 and one H1N1) and one strain of the influenza B virus. The U.S. Flu Vaccine Advisory Committee, which meets annually to select the strains to include in the vaccine to be used the following January, has recommended four component vaccines for the 2016-2017 season—two seasonally circulating strains of influenza A virus and one strain of the influenza B virus (B/Victoria lineage). Three-dose flu vaccines include four component vaccines to include the same three seasonally circulating viruses and an additional B virus called B/Yamagata lineage. If you are 6 months and older, it is important to get your flu vaccine before activity starts in your community. The timing of flu is very unpredictable and can vary from year to year. It’s not possible to predict which flu viruses will be the most common during a particular season. It’s important to get your flu vaccine now so that you will be protected before the flu season starts. Flu viruses are present year-round, but they usually peak in the United States in the fall and winter. Flu season is defined as the period from October through April. Flu vaccines are approved for use in people 6 months and older each year. This year’s recommendations recommend the following list of four strains of flu virus for the 2016-2017 season:

- Influenza A virus (H1N1)pdm09
- Influenza A virus (H3N2)
- Influenza B virus (B/Victoria/23/2004-like)
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The United States experiences epidemics of seasonal flu each year. This year’s flu season is expected to be similar to last year’s flu season. The United States experiences epidemics of seasonal flu each year. Flu activity peaks in the United States during the fall and winter months. Influenza activity typically begins to increase in October or November and usually peaks in January or February. Activity typically begins to decrease in March and April. Flu activity tends to increase during outbreaks of influenza. When and how often should I get vaccinated?

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Holiday Greetings from the Tribal Council Secretary

Greetings,

Hope this letter finds you in good health and in good cheer. I hope all had a Good Thanksgiving with family and friends. Let’s all be thankful for our family, friends, traditions, good food and for what we have been blessed. I would like to congratulate the re-elected Councilman and Councilwoman and I look forward to continue working with them for the betterment of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe.

As the holiday season nears, let us remember those in need and keep our Children, Elders, Mourners, Service Men and Women in our thoughts and prayers.

Again I would like to thank you for your support and wish each of you a Very Blessed Christmas and a Safe and Prosperous New Year. God Bless each of you, your homes and our Otoe-Missouria Tribe.

Sincerely,
SnadVega
Oto-Missouria Tribal Secretary

Jiwere-Nut’achi
Ich’e
Oto-Missouria Language Department

Reason For The Season

Luke, Chapter 2, versus B-14
(From Rev. Moses Merrill’s History of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (1837) with accompanying King James Bible translations)

Verse 8
Wdnoce lketl wdhseka mlel swdra wdmenunei, hlha kerowa tlncewd wdnoce krlketl mlginei.

Verse 11
Hedą wethta, Wakąnda dahładą etawe e’asą uhąwe wexa; hedą naxiresjinye.

Verse 12
Hedą oxrasji Wakąnda wawayį etawe, “Naxire skunyiwi re,” wigi askų.  Wayne ragitdąwena worage pisji una’ųda gidąwena ege ke, nlahltlraneik.

Verse 13
And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Verse 14
And an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Verse 6
Etl wagį, Wdktl wdwye tva kanlhltl ltlifke, Wdktl tlhutu atva alhsl ohva wyhe; etl nlheragcinei.
Three Otoe-Missouria Elders Honored by AARP Oklahoma

50 Indian Elders were honored with an audience of more than 700 at AARP Oklahoma’s 8th Annual Elders Celebration at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City on Monday, October 10. As the distinguished honorees were announced, they stood to applause and a medallion was presented to each.

Don Childs
Otoe-Missouria Tribe

Most deserving of this honor is Don Childs who is an Air Force veteran and member of the Otoe-Missouria. Members often turn to this elder, who participates in tribal dancing, for knowledge and compassion. Mr. Childs lends his expertise to the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Council.

Randall Whitemore
Otoe-Missouria Tribe

Known for his immense kindness, members of Mr. Whitemore’s triad hold him in the highest respect. Often, tribal members will seek out Mr. Whitemore asking him to perform prayer services for their family members. As the Tribe’s Director of Elders, he is responsible for providing wellness services to the multigenerational elders community on a daily basis. Whether it is delivery of daily meals to homebound elders or transporting elders, Mr. Whitemore humbly completes each task knowing the impact it makes on another’s life.

Joyce Williams
American Indian Center

Joyce was named Woman of the Year at the 2015 Oklahoma Native American Center’s Indian of the Year Awards. Joyce is a decorated U.S. Army veteran and is a beloved elder who has always been willing to lend a helping hand, speak on behalf of the tribe, and do so with conviction and compassion.

Virginia Thomas
Otoe-Missouria Tribe

Ms. Thomas graduated from Ponca High School and attended Oklahoma State University. She achieved her Bachelor’s degree and went on to study for her Master’s degree. Her many roles include that of spouse, mother, Stewards’ First Lady and lifelong civic leader. Stewler benefited from her commitment to organizations such as the Stewlers Arts and Humanities Council, American Legion Auxiliary, Girl’s State, Stewlers Museum Association, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Stewlers and Chairman of the Historical Society. Today, Ms. Thomas remains very active in the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, most recently calling her State Representative requesting funds for completion of the American Indian Center in Oklahoma City.

Elder Tips for this winter season

Warmest Regards,
Melanie Harader
2nd Member

Williams, Henrietta Lizzette
William P. Seymour,
Albert Leroy Henry,
Barbara Lamar Curtis,
David Dwayne Thornton,
Earlene Ann Miller,
Anthony G. Stewart,
Hal Dule Rencomer,
Walter D. Harris III,
Loretta M. Hess,
R. Elisabeth Childs,
Joseph Ivan Cline,
Cecil Maxwell DeRoin,
Doris Lois Hunter,
Joseph Ivan Cline,
Claudia Lea Kaskaske,
Louis Faw Faw Jr.,
Darren Elton Kihega,
Willis E. Robedeaux,
Derek Shane Green,
Doris Lois Hunter,
Joseph Ivan Cline,
Cecil Maxwell DeRoin,
Doris Lois Hunter,
Joseph Ivan Cline,
Claudia Lea Kaskaske,
Albert Shockaksee Sr.,
Barbara Whitehorn,
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Joseph Ivan Cline,
Cecil Maxwell DeRoin,
Happy Birthday Thunder Sky DeRoin from Mommy & Gio

Happy 2nd Birthday Wassose Slayne Moore December 29 from your daddy Cody Lane Moore daddy loves you

Happy Birthday Chuyu Family News

Announcement Submission Policy
Please send your birthday, wedding, birth, anniversary, awards, school and athletic news to hpayne@omtribe.org or 8151 HWY 177, Red Rock, OK 74651. Submissions will not be returned. Due to space limitations, preference is given to announcements about enrolled Otoe-Missouria Tribal Members. Announcements about descendants will be considered if space allows. The deadline for submissions to the spring newsletter is Monday, March 6, 2017. Thank you!

Happy Birthday wishes for Phillip C. Price December 18th

Land and Cattle Company
CATTLE AND HORSE HAY FOR SALE!
VOLUME DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE • 5’ x 6’ ROUND BALES
Contact for pricing:
Scott Harader - Operations Manager
405-595-6785 or Scott.Harader@omdevelopment.org

Happy Birthday Stormy Don
Love Dad, Mom, Kennetha, Tashina, Olene

Happy 1st Birthday Fancie Cedar! Mommy loves you!

Happy 1st Birthday (September 3, 2016) to BLAZEN JUSTICE WILSON, great grandson of Quannah Young. His dad Joshua, mom Tabitha and brother Brayden all wish him God’s blessings and many more birthdays. Blaze is the great, great, great grandson of the late Joseph T. Young Sr (Bear Clan).

Happy 1st Birthday to Victoria Kaylean Price December 6

Happy 14th Birthday Zavius.
We love you lots.
You are my pride n joy.
G. Sma Narwa Tabhe
Mother - Margarit Burges
Lots of love.
From all ur Grandma’s!!!

Happy 1st Birthday to Wasose Slayne Moore December 29 from your daddy Cody Lane Moore daddy loves you

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Head Start Happenings...

By Sarah Kelley, Head Start Director

Head Start is excited to be open and serving the smallest members of the tribe! Students who develop a love of learning early in life will continue down that same path throughout their school years and into college, and that is what we strive to accomplish here at Head Start.

My name is Sarah Kelly, and I am excited to be serving as Director of the Head Start for the Otoe-Missouria Tribe. A little about myself...I was born and raised in Ponca City. I have an Associates, Bachelor's, and Master's in Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education. In addition, I am a National Board Certified Teacher with credentials in Early Childhood Literacy. I have 15 years of classroom teaching experience, 8 of which were spent teaching Kindergarten. My husband, Shawn and I have two children, Emalee and Ross, that attend Newkirk Public Schools, and are active in showing livestock, 4H, band and baseball.

Our new building includes three Head Start classrooms, a small library, offices for administration, a laundry room, and a canteen/safe room. We also have three additional classrooms and a breakfast feeding room for Early Head Start pending Grant approval. If you have not had a chance to visit our new facilities, please stop by and do so! Because of our late start to the school year, Santa will be visiting Head Start during our classroom parties on December 20th instead of our traditional program at the Cultural Center. We will also have special visitors with gifts from the Consumer Finance Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Department, and The Otoe-Missouria Tribal Lending Program, as well as St Mary's 5th grade Service Project group.

We are grateful for each of these departments and their contributions to our program! Happy Holidays from Head Start!!

Spring Semester Assistance Deadline January 15

By Gloree Tah, Education Director

The Otoe-Missouria Higher Education Department is gearing up for Spring 2016 applications. The January 15, 2016 deadline will be here soon. All students must apply every semester for funding. There is one application for both new and returning students and it’s available at on the tribe’s website. Please include all contact information on the application, including a current email address.

The department’s email address is highered@omtribe.org. Please send all applications, documents and supporting information to this address.

Students are no longer required to mail physical copies of their applications and most supporting documents; they should instead email them to the above address or fax them to (580)723-1057.

If you haven’t received acknowledgment that Higher Education received the document within a few days, please contact a Higher Ed staff member.

Physical transcripts and book receipts must still be mailed or brought into the office in Truman Daily Learning Center (Head Start), room 101 or 106. We do accept official e-transcripts, if available. This is not the unofficial grade available through the student portal. Any cost associated with obtaining transcripts are the responsibility of the student.

We must complete, sign and mail a Change of Address Form to the Enrollment Office before changing addresses for all communications including financial assistance and per capita payments. This form must be supplied by tribal ID to the Enrollment Office.

Address Change Form

Please be advised that the Otoe-Missouria Enrollment Department, 8131 Highway 177 Red Rock, OK 74651-0348

Printed Name:
First
Middle
Last
Tribal ID
DOB
Phone Number:
Email Address:
Social Security Number:
New Mailing Address:
Enrollment Office.
Residential - Commercial

Cylinders - RV/Motor Homes - Motor Fuels

Otoe-Missouria Daycare Center

The Tribal Daycare Center, and staff, are
holding a winter coat drive! Donations of good used winter coats, clothes, boots, gloves, and hats can be dropped off at the Center.

Donations are being accepted December 14th – 28th Distribution to any Community Member in need will be December 29th and 30th Please help us keep kids warm!

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Spring Semester Assistance Deadline January 15

The Otoe-Missouria Higher Education Department is gearing up for Spring 2016 applications. The January 15, 2016 deadline will be here soon. All students must apply every semester for funding. There is one application for both new and returning students and it’s available at on the tribe’s website. Please include all contact information on the application, including a current email address.

The department’s email address is highered@omtribe.org. Please send all applications, documents and supporting information to this address.

Students are no longer required to mail physical copies of their applications and most supporting documents; they should instead email them to the above address or fax them to (580)723-1057.

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