

ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS

JANUARY 2010

NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



TRIBAL COUNCIL NEWS:

Happy New Year! We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2010. May God protect and guide us all throughout this coming year.

A new year brings new changes, one change that we must address rather quickly will be the search for a new Tribal Administrator. During the month of December, Alton LeBlanc resigned unexpectedly as our Tribal Administrator to pursue another job opportunity. He has since moved on to Florida to pursue his new career and we wish him the best in any future endeavors. Tina Battise is currently serving as the Interim Tribal Administrator until the position is filled. We appreciate the patience, understanding, and cooperation of all tribal members and em-

ployees as we deal with this matter. As mentioned already, we are searching and hope to have this position filled within the next couple of months.

Another change to include in the new year is the changes in the Housing Board of Commissioners By-Laws and understanding of the rules of the board. The Tribal Council temporarily instilled 5-members to a 7-member panel. We will be seeking volunteers to fill the remaining panel within the next several weeks. Anyone (including management projects) interested in serving on the Housing Board of Commissioners or for more information, please contact Tribal Council Secretary Melanie Battise at (936) 563-1191.

The Tribal Council has always strived for change, whether it will be infrastructure, economic development, or investment opportunities that will increase the stability of the Tribe and the Tribal people. With this said, the Tribal Council acquired the services of Gavin Clarkson, Law Professor at the University of Houston and the foremost expert in Tribal Finance and Economic Development. He will be assisting the Tribe to seek new opportunities, business, and infrastructure on and/or off the Reservation for the future benefit of the Tribe.

Several months ago, we sent out a survey to on-reservation members on a program that may benefit our Tribal people. Remember

Commodity cheese? The survey was to seek a feasibility study on how many Tribal homes would qualify for this program and if it would be applicable to submit an application to the USDA FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on the Reservation). As a result, we can justify pursuing this program and we would be the smallest Tribe to apply. More details will be distributed in the coming months.

Reminder: There is a Tribal Meeting this Saturday, January 9, at the Special Events Center. The topic of discussion will be the Tribal Constitution and By-Laws, which a report was mailed out to all Tribal members, on and off the reservation. As mentioned in previous

TRIBAL COUNCIL (CONT.)

Newsletter, your opinion is very important as this affects all tribal members, so please make plans to attend this meeting. The meeting is at 10:00 A.M. at the Special Events Center and an agenda for the meeting is inserted with this newsletter. Copies of this Constitution was sent to each home a while back and we ask your cooperation in bringing our copy to the meeting. We hope to see you all there.

The Annual Tribal Budget Meeting has been set for Thursday, January 14, and will be held at the Special Events Center at 7:00 P.M. An agenda for the meeting is inserted in this newsletter and we encourage all Tribal members to attend.

The following are actions taken by the Tribal Council during the month of December:

- Considered any and all actions pertaining to personal appearance by Cecil Watt.
- Considered matters pertaining to US Census Bureau
- Considered any and all actions pertaining to proposed Grant Process Policies
- Discussed matters pertaining to Tribal museum efforts and Cultural Expression 2010
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2009-53-2010 Road Maintenance Contract
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2009-54-2010 Road Transportation Planning Contract
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2009-55-ARRA-TIP Design
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2009-56-2009 Roads Maintenance Extension
- Approved 2010 Tribal Holiday List
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2009-58-Humble Smoke Shop
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2009-59-Leggett Smoke Shop
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2009-60-Livingston Smoke Shop
- Tabled ACITC Resolution #2009-61-AC One Stop Ischoopa
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2009-62-Lake Management
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2009-63-Appointment of Housing Board Members
- Approved revised Housing Board By-Laws
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2009-64-HIP Authorization
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2009-65-Tribal Economic Development Bond Application
- Approved free consultation agreement
- Considered any and all actions pertaining to Brenco/Shell Agreement
- Approved proposal of services from K&L Gates

REMINDER.....

A MEETING ON THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 9, 2010, AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE SPECIAL EVENTS CENTER.

TRIBAL DOCUMENTS:

Wishing a Happy Birthday to the following Elders of the Tribe for the month of January:

- 01/08– Lucille Alexander
- 01/10– Daniel Trevino, Jr.
- 01/12– Laberta Williams
- 01/19– Maxine Silva
- 01/20– Anna Lou Obe
- 01/22– Lillian Battise
- 01/24– Gary Bullock, Sr.
- 01/26– Henrietta Poncho
- 01/27– Maldrid Battise
- 01/29– Denise Sylestine
- 01/31– Thomas Sylestine

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Tribal members and Tribal employees!
The Tribal election for this year

will be in June so if anyone who wants to be on the pending list of the Tribal Roll Entry for Adoption will need to fill out an application and have it turned in to the Tribal Documents office by April 30, 2010. To anyone who wants to reapply for tribal adoption, they will have to fill out a new application. This is a new tribal election so a new application is needed.

Thank you to anyone who has updated your documents to my office. This makes it so much easier for me to have in your personal file in case you, as a Tribal member, need information for yourself or for your children. But please keep in mind, this office cannot release information on a Tribal member as all is kept strictly confidential such as address, phone

number, etc. Once information is given to the Tribal Documents office it is the property of the Tribe and will not be released to anyone. Thank you very much for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please call me at 936/563-1180.

Charlene Williams Alec
Tribal Documents Clerk



The grand prize winner during the annual Christmas dinner was Carlena Bullock. She won a 55 inch television. Congratulations!



H1N1 VACCINE:

Did you know that the local Chief Kina Health Clinic and its health initiatives are under the guidance of the Nashville Area Office? The Chief Medical officer is Harry J. Brown, MD and we would like to share some information, which he sent.

First, the good news:

Influenza-like illness seems to have peaked in the US as a whole in early November, and the number of cases has been on the decline. Over 80 million doses of H1N1 vaccine have been pro-

duced to date and has been shown to be safe and effective.

Now the bad news:

Many experts expect a second wave of illness after the first of the year (this is the usual pattern for influenza). The second wave may be bigger than the first. Remember the first cases in April into the summer months caused a big stir..

The Death rate for the American-Indian/Alaskan Native Population has been about 4 times that of the

general population. (Article available on website)

At least one healthcare worker has died from H1N1 Influenza.

The H1N1 vaccine is available at the local clinic. We had a lot of seasonal flu cases during the months of September through December. Come get your H1N1 vaccine. Protect yourself. Please do not become a statistic for the H1N1.

Call the clinic if you need the vaccine and cannot come to the clinic.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE:

The employee profile selection for the month of January is Mark Alec.

Mark works in the Lake Management Department. His job duties includes picking up trash, cutting grass, cleaning the restrooms and making sure all the cabins at the lake are clean and ready for the visitors who rent them.

Mark's hobbies are fishing and watching/playing basketball.

He is of the Bear clan.

His family consist of Mitchell, Michael, Marshall and Micayla.

He attended and graduated from Big Sandy High School.

His church affiliation is with the

Assembly of God Church.

His favorite sport is Basketball and his favorite movie is "8 Seconds".

Mark says his favorite actor is Adam Sandler and his favorite actress is Sandra Bullock.

His favorite song is "All My Rowdy Friends" by Hank Williams Jr.



2009 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR:

Congratulations to the 2009 Male and Female Employee of the year. The female employee is

Wanda Walker, Family Services Coordinator with our Headstart Program. She has been employed by the Tribe for five years.

The male employee is Charley Sylestine, who is the mechanic with our maintenance department.

Charley has been employed by the Tribe for sixteen years. Congratulations to both of these individuals on your recognition and your achievements.



CHRISTMAS ON THE LAKE:

.First, we would like to thank everyone who took the time to set up a display around Lake Tombigbee. You are all so creative with your designs and they really looked great. We know it took a lot of time and work and we sincerely appreciate your participation.

On the evening of December 16, a panel of judges viewed the displays

and selected the winners. The winners are as follows:

- First Place....Glenda Williams and Tanisha Sylestine
- Second Place....Lenora Williams
- Third Place....Judy Williams

We know it is only the beginning of the new year however, we want

.you to think about a design you would like to display around the lake for Christmas 2010. Get together with you department, organization, church, family, or friends and start planning for this year's display contest.



ALABAMA-COUSHATTA POWWOW ASSOCIATION:

Our final flyer will be printed this month and will be available for anyone wanting to take some to distribute.

As mentioned before, the vendor fee has increased. The vendor fee for **non-tribal** will be **\$200.00** whether for one or two nights. The fee for **Tribal members** has now been increased to **\$50.00**. Food vendors will be limited to **two (2) items only** and **absolutely no soda drinks**. **The Powwow Association will have ex-**

rights to frybread, Indian Tacos and soda drinks.

We are in the process of attending some festivals to sell Indian Tacos and looking for anyone who is willing to help in any capacity by donating supplies or helping out in the booth. If you can or would like to assist just contact any Powwow Association member.

42nd Annual Powwow
June 4 & 5, 2010

ALABAMA-COUSHATTA INDIAN CLUB:

As we begin our 31st year, here's hoping that everyone will have a good and prosperous 2010.

The next club meeting will be **Wednesday, January 13, 2010, at 7:00 P.M. at Deni's House.**

Last month in our newsletter article, we forgot to mention a very important person who was very instrumental for the Veteran's Day program...Portia Alec. Portia set up our Veteran's pictures on power point and made the presentation. She also helped set up the tables and chairs and was available for whatever help was needed.

Thank you Portia! TAH!

We ask that you keep our young people who are serving in the military in your prayers:

- Ernest Drappeaux, Jr., U.S. Army
- Simon Johnson, U.S. Army
- Chenoah Liscano, U.S. Navy
- Courtney Stafford, U.S. Army
- Roger Wesley, U.S. Navy

If there are others, please let us know and we would like to have the mailing address for all of them



TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE:

Keeping Your Home Safe From Carbon Monoxide:

Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas and can be harmful, even fatal, when breathed for long periods of time. In the home, carbon monoxide may come from fuel burning appliances that are being used incorrectly or have been improperly installed or maintained. In the garage, idling cars exhaust fumes cause the most carbon monoxide poisoning that often time result in deaths.

Symptoms:

- Low levels can cause shortness of breath, mild nausea and mild headaches.
- Moderate levels can cause severe headaches, dizziness, mental confusion, nausea, feeling faint. Moderate levels can result in death if it persists for a long period of time.
- High levels can cause death in minutes. * If your symptoms only appear at home and disappear when you leave home, there may be a carbon monoxide problem. You may need to have your furnace inspected by a certified heating system professional.

Play it Safe:

If you think you have a carbon

monoxide poisoning:

- **GET FRESH AIR IMMEDIATELY**, Open doors and windows, turn off combustion appliances and leave the house.

Prevention:

Make sure all new appliances are properly vented, and don't sleep in a room with an unventilated gas or kerosene space heater. Do not use gasoline powered engines in enclosed spaces and do not ever use a charcoal grill indoors. (above information source: US EPA website) If you suspect carbon monoxide in your home, you can call for free in-home scan;

Tribal Emergency Management Coordinator, William Sylestine at (936) 563-1346

Checkout this website:

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/P2Recycle/renew/renew.html>

The Resource Exchange Network for Eliminating Waste (RENEW) is a free materials-exchange network established by the Texas Legislature in 1987 to promote the reuse or recycling of industrial wastes. The network is a marketing channel for industrials, businesses, and governmental units who wish to sell surplus materials, by-products, and wastes to those

who will reclaim or reuse them. RENEW listings for materials online is a cooperative effort between the TCEQ and Southwest Network for Zero Waste.

The Tribal Environmental Staff would like to extend our best wishes to the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Community in 2010.

Cecilia Flores

Tribal Environmental Specialist

Amon Sylestine

Water Quality Specialist



SOCIAL SERVICES:

The Social Services staff would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! 2010 is here! This New Year has started with people making resolutions for a better life. Unfortunately, resolutions do not happen overnight, and some of us do struggle to get there. The Social Services staff would like to emphasize that there are several services within our program that can provide assistance for your household. Our goal is to assist the needs of the community in any way possible. Please come in the office and apply for services that will benefit your family.

When applying for utility assistance, please bring proof of income for the last 30 days for everyone in your household, your social security card, and the bill

for which you are requesting assistance. The process may take a couple of days, so we ask you to bear with us. First, we take your application, next assess it, then determine income eligibility, and finally, we turn in the requisitions to Procurement/Accounting. If you are requesting propane, this may take a little bit longer since during this time of year, the propane company is very busy. So, we suggest that you check your propane tanks before you run out. If you are at 15%, then it is time to order. Please do not run out because you will be charged a service fee for checking your lines, and someone must be home before they can refuel. With electricity, please come in for assistance before you are issued a termination letter. We have been

experiencing many applicants requesting assistance too close or past the deadline. We cannot guarantee meeting the deadline for disconnected services or for ensuring the fuel before you ran out. The Social Services Staff is here to serve the people in our Tribal community, so if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us.



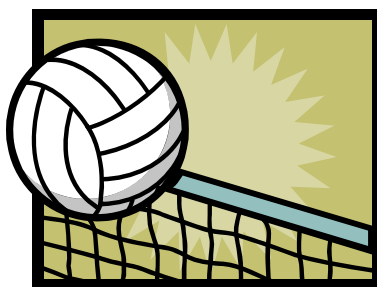
Santa Claus, even with his busy schedule, stopped in for a short visit with the children at Headstart. He brought a gift to each child in all of the classes. Thank you, Santa, for coming to see us.



INDIAN VILLAGE ASSEMBLY OF GOD:

The Indian Village Assembly of God Church is planning a Co-ed Volleyball Tournament at the end of this month. The date is January 22-23, 2010.

Due to the Multi-Purpose Center being under construction, more details will be posted on local bulletin boards at a later date.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Aniya Jade SanMiguel was born on December 27, 2009. She weighed 6 lbs. 14 ounces.

She is the daughter of Kaitlyn Torres and Jose SanMiguel, granddaughter of Danette Williams-Torres, Great-granddaughter of Delma Williams. Proud Aunt and Uncles are Wendi Nicole, Bryan

and Jacob.

Congratulations!

Nicole, Aubrianna and Josiah



Herbert Johnson Jr. was the winner of this 32 inch television during the annual Christmas dinner.

THANK YOU

The family of Jaymen Eric and Cain Ty Robinson would like to express their appreciation to each and everyone for their prayers and support while they were in the hospital, and during the time of loss of our beloved twins.

We would like to thank the community for the prayers, words of encouragement, phone calls and just for being there for the family, for the donations of money, there are too many names to mention but we will always remember each of you.

All the flowers and plants were lovely, and the food was delicious. Thank you to a special lady, Maxine Polite, who was there from the beginning to the end of the services, who assisted with cleaning, cooking and taking care of the family.

We thank the Indian Presbyterian

Church, First Texas Indian Baptist Church and Indian Village Assembly of God Church for the sharing of music, scriptures, and prayers. Thank you to Brother David Busby for officiating the service, and for his words of inspiration.

Thank you to the Assembly of God Church for the meal that was served after the services.

We ask the community to accept our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. Please continue your prayers for the family. God bless each and every one.

Monique Hernandez, Tairia, Izabella & Jacob Robinson family and relatives.

In loving memory: Born: November 22, 2009 Jaymen Eric and Cain Ty Robinson. God came to take his precious twins to be his angels in heaven.

Jaymen Eric on December 7, 2009 and Cain Ty on December 10, 2009.



The children from the Headstart Program entertained parents and other visitors with songs during their Christmas party. Santa came for a visit after the program.

The deadline for the next issue of this NEWSLETTER is Tuesday, February 2, 2010, by 5:00 p.m. You may bring in your article to the Public Relations Office, fax them to 936/563-1237 or email to alec.mary@actribe.org or sawa@actribe.org. We ask that you get your articles to us by the time designated above so that we may get the NEWSLETTER to you in a timely manner. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**Benefit Powwows: February 6, 2010, March 6, 2010, April 3, 2010, May 1, 2010
42nd Annual Powwow—June 4 & 5, 2010**



Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
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