2014-2015 Tribal Princesses

Junior Tribal Princess
Raegan Battise

Tribal Princess
Camille Johnson
TRIBAL COUNCIL

The first month of the New Year has passed bringing a transitional period within your tribal government. Of the seven elected officials, only two (Chairman Ronnie Thomas and Vice-Chairperson Nita Battise) will serve in the capacity of full-time Tribal Council. Our offices are also being streamlined for a more efficient working environment. We welcome you to come by the Tribal Council offices, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you would prefer an appointment or request additional information, please contact Andrea Poncho, Executive Assistant @ 936-563-1212.

On Monday, January 12th, the Tribal Council held its first meeting of the year. Johnny Stafford and Maynard Williams took the oath of office to serve on the Tribal Council. As the meeting continued, the next agenda item was to seat the Officers of the Tribal Council; however, an issue regarding the Chairman Election was discussed. It was determined that the procedure requesting for a Tribal Council Member to have his/her name removed from the ballot was not followed. Therefore, the Acclamation of the remaining candidate was made in error. Tribal Election Judges referred the final decision back to Tribal Council.

Prior to the meeting, extensive research was made resulting in three recommendations to address this issue: (1) Submit all Council Member names for a new Chairman Election, (2) Election with both previously submitted Candidate names on the ballot or (3) Acclamation to the one remaining Candidate.

Tribal Council made the decision to hold a new Tribal Council Chairman Election. Candidates for this position are Nita Battise and Roland Poncho. A sample ballot has been mailed to all eligible tribal voters for review and consideration.

The Tribal Council Chairman Election is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, with early voting on Saturday, February 7th in the Cultural Center Building on the reservation. The polls will be opened from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You must cast your vote in person.

The Elected Chairman, along with the remaining Officers will be seated at the next scheduled Tribal Council meeting on Monday, February 23, 2015.

Throughout the month of January, meetings have been conducted with several tribal departments to discuss budget outlines, activity reports, and implementation of updated policy and procedures. This will be an ongoing process with all tribal departments.

The Southern Plains Regional Office held a Tribal Information Meeting on January 21-22, 2015 in Oklahoma City, OK in which Chairman Ronnie Thomas attended. The discussion was regarding the 2017 BIA Formulation Budget and the funding opportunities for services that can be provided to Tribes within the SPRO area.

On Tuesday, January 20, Vice-Chairperson Nita Battise, along with members of the Polk County Historical Commission, presented the Livingston Post Office a plaque to accompany the oil canvas painting displayed in the customer service area. The plaque reads “Buffalo Hunting” by Theodore Van Solen, 1940 WPA Art” and is one of thousands painted for Main Post Offices throughout the country.

On Friday, January 23, Chairman Thomas, Vice Chairperson Nita Battise, Councilmen Clint Poncho, Pete Polite, and Johnny Stafford attended a meeting with United Auburn Indian Community officials, James Pederson and legal counsel in Phoenix, AZ. The meeting was held with both Tribal Councils to discuss the 2015 Gaming Authorization Plan and Budget. After the 2014 November Elections, it became apparent of a major shift in the political arena where both the House and Senate are now held by the Republican Party. Tribal Council will work diligently with our elected State and Federal officials to strengthen our legislative issues.
TRIBAL COUNCIL (continued)

During the month and the Tribal Council meetings, the following actions were taken:

- Record the approval of ACITC Resolution #2014-91 – Houston Advanced Research Center Partnership which was polled.
- Record approval of the Polk County Chamber of Commerce Sponsorship which was approved at a previous meeting.
- Approve the 2015 Legal Services Contract for Scott Crowell.
- Accepted the report of the Tribal Election Judges.
- Decided that an Election will be conducted for Tribal Council Chairperson.
- Approved the contribution to the Multi-Cultural Festival.
- Received report of the Head Start Program.
- Approved the CDC Health Assessment Grant Application and later approved ACITC Resolution #2015-09 to support the application.
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2015-07 – Wildland Fire Management Co-op Agreement.
- Received report of Ochana Industries.
- Approved the Retail Proposal presented by ACT Holdings.
- Received report of Tribal Enrollment.
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2015-08 – BIA Fencing Project.
- Approved the AC Tobacco Tax Letterhead.
- Selected Jeremy Sylestine to serve on the ACT Holdings Board of Directors.

Tribal Council holds their regular meetings on the second and fourth Monday of the month. The scheduled meeting will be changed from the Monday, February 9th to Thursday, February 5th. The Tribal Council will be attending USET Impact Week during the week of the February 8th.

2015 Tribal Council and Mikko Colabe III

Tribal Council Members Johnny Stafford and Maynard Williams get sworn in.
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Veteran’s News

On Behalf of the Late Daniel W. Battise Family
The Following Announcement is Made:

S. Con. Res. 2
Agreed to January 12, 2015

One Hundred Fourteenth Congress
of the
United States of America
At the First Session

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the sixth day of January, two thousand and fifteen

Concurrent Resolution

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE.

Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on February 3, 2015, for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the First Special Service Force collectively, in recognition of its superior service during World War II. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The family of the late Mr. Daniel W. Battise traveled to Washington D.C. to attend a special ceremony on February 3, 2015. The First Special Service Force Unit, which Mr. Battise proudly served, were presented the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor the United States Congress can bestow. H.R. 324 permits a single gold medal to be struck to honor the First Special Service Force Unit for their distinguished service during World War II.
TRIBAL ELDERS

ATTENTION ALL TRIBAL ELDERS/SENIOR CITIZENS:
MONTHLY MEETING ON FEBRUARY 9, 2015.

We are still in the planning stage on our Annual Trip for this year. Please bring all your brochures and write ups for the place, where You would like to go. Make sure you attend this meeting.

Our Valentine Parade will be on Friday, February 13 2015 at 10:00 A.M. Please VOTE for your favorite candidate:
Our Queen candidates are: Lawrine Battise, Deborah Sylestine, Sarah Williams, Judy Williams and Laberta Williams.

Our King candidates are: Perry Williams, Ted Abbey, Foster Bullock Jr., Walter Celestine.

Tribal Council Members in Austin to meet with State Representative Senfronia Thompson

Tribal Council Members met with our State Representative James White during a visit to Austin.
**ACT HOLDINGS**

January was another busy month for ACT Holdings, LLC. Besides having our monthly board meeting, we also had our quarterly information meeting. The meeting was held on January 12, 2015. We had our first meeting with the Tribal Elders at the Senior Citizen dining room and our evening meeting at the Special Events Center. Both meetings were well attended especially the evening meeting with 48 in attendance. Updated information was given on Ochana Industries, LLC. Questions were asked on employment opportunities and government contracts. Michael Barber, of Tribal Solutions, Inc., was in attendance and answered many concerns. Michael has 25 years’ experience in leading Supply Chain Management, Federal, Tribal to Private acquisitions to partnerships as well as Operations/Contract Management. Job descriptions and applications were also handed out at each meeting. For those who picked up applications, please remember, **application deadline is March 15, 2015**. All applications must be submitted to Yolanda Poncho. Her office is located in the Cultural Center basement.

On January 12th, we also attended the Tribal Council meeting. At this meeting, ACT Holdings staff presented outgoing Tribal Council member Melanie Battise and outgoing Tribal Council member and former ACT Holdings Board Chairman Kyle Williams a proclamation of sincere appreciation for their service and dedication exhibited during their tenure in their positions and the diligence to see the culmination of the vision and formation of ACT Holdings, Limited Liability Company.

Their support for ACT Holdings, LLC and the formation of Ochana Industries, LLC has been tremendous. Thank you again for your service and dedication.
On January 26, 2015, Tribal Council appointed Jeremy Sylestine to be on the ACT Holdings Board of Directors, pursuant to the Tribal Liability Code and ACTH operating agreement. He will replace the seat of outgoing Board Member Kyle Williams. Jeremy is a tribal member and the son of Rick and Belinda Sylestine and Renae Warren, grandson of the late Mikko Oscola Clayton Sylestine, Ethelyn Sylestine and Fern Williams. Jeremy is currently working with the Travis County District Attorney’s Office in Austin, Texas. We are very pleased to have Jeremy on the Board and know he will be a great asset.

Our next board meeting will be in April. As always our door is always open. Come by and see us or give us a call. Aleelamoloo!

Bryan Small
CEO
936-563-1381

Yolanda Poncho
Executive Assistant
936-563-1382
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday Blessings to Betty Thompson and Leiton Williams on Feb. 7 who share the same birthday. We love you and may you have many more. Happy Birthday!

From your family

Monica Williams
Feb 1

Stacey Langley
Feb 26th

Austin Johnson Feb 6th
(Not Pictured)

Happy 6th Birthday to our Jett Thomas! We love you, Buddy!
-From Mom & Drakey
HAPPY BIRTHDAY (Continued)

We would like to wish ANN LOU OBE a HAPPY 75th BIRTHDAY. She celebrated her birthday with family and friends on January 20th. Mom/Ahpo is a true gem to our family. She is always there for us no matter what the circumstance! No complaints, no questions just always there to hear our needs and our thoughts, our cries and accomplishments….she always has a smile on her face and her love for her family is so precious!!! Sorry we had to reveal your ‘true age’ but no matter what age, you will always be forever young!! We love you with all our hearts!!

From your family

CONGRATULATIONS

Melissa Battise Celestine received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Child Development and Family Living with a minor in Family Consumer Science on December 13, 2014 during commencement ceremonies held at William R. Johnson Coliseum on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University located in Nacogdoches Texas. She is the daughter of Lawrine Battise and the late Jack Battise Sr. and the mother of Jennifer, Christina, Matthew, and Cheyanne Celestine. She is currently employed with the Alabama-Coushatta Head Start program.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”

Philippians 4:13
Little Girls Ages 7-11 Northern
3rd Place: Aubrianna Torres, A-C, Livingston, Tx
2nd Place: Aiylah Polite-Robinson, A-C, Livingston, Tx
1st Place: Dakota Prairie Rose Osife, Dine’, San Antonio, Tx

Little Girls Ages 7-11 Southern
3rd Place: Heaven Stephenson, A-C, Livingston, Tx
2nd Place: Minneah Williams, A-C, Cheyenne Arapaho, OKC, Ok
1st Place: Charley Battise, A-C, Absentee Shawnee, Livingston,Tx

Little Boys Ages 7-11
3rd Place: Jacob Jackson, Jena Band of Choctaw, Jena, La
2nd Place: Wesley Roady, Sioux/Maya, Plano, Tx
1st Place: Andy Hall, Blackfeet, Leesville, Tx

Junior Girls Ages 12-15
3rd Place: Kyla Sage, Cheyenne/Kiowa, Hammon, OK
2nd Place: Starrla Sage, Cheyenne/Kiowa, Hammon, OK
1st Place: Rainy Attocknie, Kiowa, Apache, Ok

Junior Boys Ages12-15
3rd Place: Seth Williams, A-C, Livingston, Tx
2nd Place: Dustin Langley, A-C/Coushatta, Elton, LA
1st Place: Sinte-skas Roberts, Choctaw/Nakoda, Atwood, Ok

Teen Girls Ages 16-18
3rd Place: Julianne Butler, Sac-Fox, Houston, Tx
2nd Place: Camille Johnson, A-C, Livingston, Tx
1st Place: Oke’tw’sha Roberts, Choctaw/Nakoda, Atwood, Ok

Teen Boys Ages 16-18
3rd Place: Lendrick Polite, A-C, Oberlin, LA
2nd Place: Colby White Thunder, A-C, Livingston, Tx
1st Place: Mu-juhtheen Roberts, Choctaw/Nakoda, Atwood, Ok
Children’s Powwow Committee Acknowledgements:

The 17th Annual Children’s Powwow was held on January 31, 2015. The committee crowned Aaliyah Skye Johnson as the 2015-16 Children’s Powwow Princess. She is the daughter of Herbert “Chickdog” & Victoria Johnson Jr., the granddaughter of Mikko Atokla Herbert “Skaalaba” & Deloris Johnson Sr all of Livingston.

Aaliyah is 7 years old and 2nd grader at BSISD elementary. She enjoys dancing at powwows and is an avid reader. She also displays an interest in dinosaurs. We congratulate her and hope that she enjoys her reign.

The 1st runner-up was Yanna Susanna Yellowfish of Dallas Tx. She is the daughter of Elyssa Yellowfish of Dallas, granddaughter of Ricky & Vicki (Battise) Yellowfish of Dallas, great granddaughter of Frances Battise of Livingston. Yanna also attends powwows and enjoys playing whatever sport is of interest to her. She is also a proud member of the Beaver Clan and is 8 years old. The committee thanks the family for her participation and hope to see her again next year.

The afternoon grand entry began at 12:00 noon and ended approximately 11:00 pm with some happy winners. We had a total of 73 contestants registered for competition.

The AC Children’s Powwow Committee would like to first thank Aiylah Polite-Robinson for serving at the 2013-14 Princess. She attended many tribal events and powwows with great pride and made many friends along the road. Even as to travel 14-16 hours to attend powwows in Albuquerque, New Mexico and Denver, Colorado. Aiylah is the daughter of Manning & Candace Polite Robinson. Grandparents are Cheryl Polite, Paula Alec, Curley Robinson, & Pete Polite. She attends BSISD elementary and is a member of Indian Village AG “Kidz4Christ” Ministries. She loves to draw and write and we hope to see her work in the future.

This committee would like to thank the many volunteers who set-up, sold raffles, clean-up crew, ran errands, etc..

The Jena Band of Choctaws
A/C Powwow Assoc.
Tobine Alec
Aniyah Williams Family
Family of the Late Trena Williams
AC Indian Club
Garrison Abbey
Roland Poncho
Angela Butler Bangstein
Yaana Yellowfish & Family
Wildcat Society
Nita Battise
Jonelle Battise
Fred Alec & Family
Wesley Roady Family
Dale Adams
Davie Johnson
Yolanda Poncho & Family
Grant Gaumer
Cecelia Flores
Stewart Poncho
Floyd Poncho
Burton Bullock
Violene Beene Family
Judy Williams
Mary Carson Fleming
Jeannette Carson Williamson
Sharon Miller
Mya & Michael Battise
Jacob Jackson Family

Bryant Celestine Family
Vanessa Battise & Family
Valerie Robinson & kids
Ashley Battise
Rochellda Sylestine
Minneah Williams Family
Kaitlyn Masters Family
Darlene Williams
Betsy Stafford
Krista & Troy Langley
Jennie Thompson
Donovan Williams
Blanche Thompson
Laberta Williams

The Committee sends their appreciations to the AC Recreation Staff for all they did beforehand and any last minute errands.

Much gratitude to AC Tribal Council, Finance Dept., and Media/Communications offices for their support.

Last, but certainly not least to the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, guardians….

Keep up the hard work. Those little one are dear and precious, we enjoy seeing them in their regalia and dancing their little hearts out.
CHIEF KINA HEALTH CLINIC

Chief Kina Health Clinic Dental Department presents:

Sealants & Flouride Varnish

For parent(s) with children ages 0-5

Come listen to help protect your children’s teeth

HAPPY TEETH CREATS HAPPY SMILES
SEALANTS & FLOURIDE VARNISH

2 of 5 presentations given by Chief Kina Health Clinic Dental Department

HIGHER EDUCATION

ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!!!

EDUCATION WORKSHOP
HELP WITH FILLING OUT FAFSA ONLINE & ALABAMA-COUSHATTA SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT APPLICATIONS

IF YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO A UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL, PLEASE BRING ALL DOCUMENTATION RECEIVED!

Saturday, February 21, 2015
Starting @ 10:00 AM
Education Building-Computer Lab

Sponsored by the Indian Education Committee and Education Staff

What to Bring:

- Income Tax information (whoever claims the student. If joint, then both parents' income tax info is needed)
- Social Security numbers for Student filing and Parent/Guardian that claims student on taxes.
- Driver's License or State Issued I.D.
- CDIB Card
BOW & ARROW EXPRESS

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
VALENTINE'S DAY SALE!

When:  Friday, February 13 and Saturday, February 14, 2015 starting at 7:30 a.m. until sold out
Where:  One Stop Ischoopa parking lot

Valentine gift baskets, fresh roses (with vase & greenery), candy, mugs, and stuffed animals will be available for purchase. You may order roses by the dozen, half dozen, three, or single.

Delivery will be available within the A/C Reservation and to Big Sandy School. Delivery to school on Friday will be at 1:00 p.m.

Contact ♥ Cheri ♥ at 328-6872 for any orders. Thank you!
NACAC NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR
FEBRUARY 12, 2015 @ NRG Center

Come attend the National College Fair at the NRG Center! If you still have questions about college, this will help you!!! This allows students to interact with admission representatives, discuss course offerings, admission and financial aid requirements, college life in general, and other important information needed in the college selection process.

- All students interested in attending this fair MUST register with Kim in Education by 02/06/2015.
- Online registration is required in Education office if attending.
- Bus will leave from Education office at precisely 4 pm, and will not return until 10-10:30 pm. The Fair is from 6-8 pm!
- Dinner will be provided for all registered students.

*Sponsored by the Indian Education Committee and Education Staff*
Pine Needle Basket Weaving Class

Starting February 10, 2015

Tuesdays only for 4 weeks
Cultural Center Training Room
6 P.M. - 8 P.M.

Accepting first 15 people over the age of 12.

Registration: February 2nd-6th

Sign up sheet will be at the receptionist desk in the Cultural Center Lobby.

Instructor:
Elliot Abbey

For more information contact Tobine Alec at the Cultural Programs Office at 936/563-1116.
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Friday, February 27 BY 5 PM

Email your news to: bullock.carlos@actribe.org or stephenson.james@actribe.org
Fax your news to: (936) 563-1137 Attention: MARCH NEWSLETTER
Call if you have questions: (936) 563-1120 or (936) 563-1131
Drop your news off in the Public Information Inbox or
Stop by the Communications/Media Relations Office (located in the Cultural Center)

Please submit all information, news, announcements, etc. by the designated time so we can see you in our next issue!

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Alabama-Coushatta Tribe
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, Texas 77351