

ASCOG NEWS 'N BRIEFS APRIL 2019 Edition 345



L to R Tillman County Commissioner Greg Petty, Lawton Mayor Stan Booker, McClain County Commissioner Terry Daniel, Cotton County Commissioner Mike Woods, KCA Tribal Representative John Wahnee

ASCOG'S NEW TRUSTEES

Five new members joined ASCOG's Board of Trustees on March 21, 2019, after taking the Oath of Office Administered by Judge (Retired) Gerald R. Hayes who is also the Cotton County Citizen-At-Large representative. The new Trustees include Lawton Mayor **STAN BOOKER** replacing retired Mayor Fred Fitch, McClain County Commissioner **TERRY DANIEL** replacing retired Commissioner Charles "Shorty" Foster, Tillman County Commissioner **GREG PETTY** replacing retired Commissioner Jimmy Smith, Cotton County Commissioner **MIKE WOODS** and KCA Tribal Group Representative **JOHN WAHNEE** who is the Comanche Nation Administrative Assistant, and the first tribal representative ASCOG has had in several years. Additionally, **EDWARD ESCHITI** agreed to continue serving on the Board in his new capacity as the Minority Representative for Cotton, Jefferson, and Tillman Counties.

ASCOG trustees and employees extend their appreciation to those who served for many years. We share many fond memories, but we also look forward to working with the new trustees and making new memories.



RAY FRIEDL RE-APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF SOUTH CENTRAL OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

The **South Central Oklahoma Development Foundation** owns the buildings ASCOG occupies at 802 and 804 W. Main in Duncan. The Foundation has 3 Directors who are appointed to their positions by ASCOG's Board of Trustees on rotating 3 year terms where one position is due for re-appointment annually. At ASCOG's March 21, 2019, Board of Trustees meeting, Ray Friedl was re-appointed as one of the Directors. Officers of the Foundation are: **J. R. GIBSON**, President; **RAY FRIEDL**, Vice President; and **BLAINE H. SMITH, JR.**, Secretary.

2019 OKLAHOMA SENIOR PROTECTION SUMMIT COMING TO DUNCAN APRIL 4

The Oklahoma Insurance Department and three other state agencies will host the summit at the Simmons Center in Duncan on Thursday, April 4. The summit will cover discussions about fraud against the elderly and is open to seniors and those who work with seniors. For more information, click this link:

[https://www.ok.gov/oid/2019 Oklahoma Senior Protection Summit.html](https://www.ok.gov/oid/2019_Oklahoma_Senior_Protection_Summit.html).

APRIL 8 IS SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Senior Day at the Capitol is set for Monday, April 8 at 9:30 a.m. Registration is required to receive a free box lunch for seniors. For more information and to register, click this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/senior-day-at-the-capitol-tickets-56058451337>.

SENIOR DAY AT COMANCHE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 19

ASCOG AAA staff will be present to discuss elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. For more information, contact the Senior Center for Creative Living at 580.248.0471.

Approved **OPERATIONAL GRANTS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS** will be submitted to forestry this month. All departments worked diligently to gather needed information for completion. Training for new Firefighters and those needing refresher training continues for such subjects as Auto Extrication, Wild Land training, and Firefighter One certification. If you help with training ideas or presentations, contact **PERRY BRINEGAR** at 580.736.7023.



REAP SPOTLIGHT REPORT

WAURIKA INMATE HOUSING BUILDING

The City of Waurika, Town of Ryan, City of Comanche, and Jefferson County District 3 applied for a 2011 REAP Grant to replace the Department of Correction Work Center and make a regional inmate work center. Each of the entities asked for \$39,500 making the total grant request \$158,000. The grant was for material to build the building. The inmates housed at the old Work Center were to provide the labor to build the new building with the skills they already had or had obtained while in prison for non-violent crimes. The inmates were being used by each of the listed entities (plus other qualified government agencies in the area) as a meaningful workforce to do everything from janitorial or mowing to building projects. The new work center would have housed approximately 100 to 130 inmates and create 2-3 new jobs. With the increase in inmates, this project would have provided a much larger work force that was very vital to

most communities in South Central Oklahoma.

The material was purchased, and construction had begun. Unfortunately before the building could be completed, the Department of Corrections closed all the work centers across the state. There were no inmates to perform the labor to finish the building so it lay partially built and incomplete.



The City of Waurika applied for a 2018 REAP Grant in the amount of \$45,000 to complete the project. All exterior windows and doors were installed, the roof was put on, and enough work has been done on the interior to house a limited number of municipal and county inmates. It has taken quite a lot of effort, but the result is a useful building that anybody would like to have.



COMMUNITY EXPANSION FOR NUTRITION ASSISTANCE (CENA) APPLICATIONS COMING IN APRIL

ASCOG's Area Agency on Aging will be publishing the state fiscal year 2020 CENA applications for independent (non-Title III) senior centers during the month of April. Please watch the ASCOG.org website and your email inbox for the new applications. For more information, contact **KEN JONES** at jone_ke@ascog.org.

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Upcoming new volunteer training will be held on April 10 and 11 from 9 AM to 4 PM at the Great Plains Technology Center, 4500 SW Lee Blvd Lawton, OK. The Ombudsman Program continues to recruit members from communities to spend at least two hours a week visiting and advocating for quality of care and life of residents in nursing homes and assisted living homes. For more information on how to become a volunteer contact **DACIA NIX** at nix_da@ascog.org or **KIM RHODES** at rhod_ki@ascog.org Ombudsman Supervisors at 580.736.7975 or 580.736.7974

MASONIC GRANT FOR SENIORS

With seniors in 8 counties applying for assistance, it did not take long for all available funds to be obligated. There are no more funds available for the remainder of 2019. New funds should be available around January 8, 2020.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PLAN (CEDS) DUE BY OCTOBER 1

To receive funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), ASCOG's staff, in cooperation with local elected officials and citizens, must prepare a CEDS update every year and a revised CEDS every 3 years. To complete this requirement, ASCOG staff members will be working with members of our Board of Trustees for each of their respective counties they represent. In turn, the Trustees will help formulate and compile responses to a few questions relative to the CEDS for each county. In short, every community and every county should provide input to the plan to ensure their inclusion. Submit ideas for drawing new, better-paying jobs to your communities even if all you have now is a wild idea. You cannot receive federal assistance to make your idea come to fruition unless the project is included in the CEDS document. Ideas? Contact any Trustee from your county or ASCOG's CED staff. They will appreciate the input.

2020 CENSUS

Results of the 2020 Census will change everything from legislative redistricting to the amount of money coming into the state, county, and community for such things as nutrition sites, schools, roads and bridges, etc. **It is imperative to count and include every individual.** Each community and county is encouraged to pass a proclamation to partner with the US Census Bureau to get an accurate count. If you need a template, contact **RONNIE WARD** at 580.736.7970.

SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (SORTPO)

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) solicited ASCOG and our sister organization, SWODA, to develop rural transportation plans for all of Southwest Oklahoma. Together, ASCOG and SWODA have a total of 16 counties covering the SW quarter of the state. The two agencies combined efforts, and SORTPO was formed to identify key personnel for policy and technical committees to develop rural transportation plans for these 16 counties. SORTPO members are currently developing plans for Comanche and Caddo counties. They are the last remaining counties in ASCOG's area to receive plans.

Upon completion, the individual county plans will serve as the foundation for a sixteen-county plan which will in turn serve as a foundation for our part of the state plan. If you know of any roads, bridges, traffic issues, signage, etc. that should be included in a long-term transportation plan, please share your thoughts and ideas with SORTPO members. One of the main goals is to identify best trucking routes to improve economic development in our area. **We need residents of both counties to participate in the on-line survey** found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DHDZMPS>. You can also contact **TOM ZIGLER** at (580) 736-7971 or **MIKE DIXON** at (580) 736-7965 for more information.

APRIL - FAIR HOUSING MONTH

Each CDBG grant applicant and/or recipient must pass resolutions annually declaring their city, town, or county endorses Fair Housing practices. Grant recipients must do this before they apply for a CDBG grant and then annually until the grant project is completed. Additionally, grant recipients must also document at least one Fair Housing activity annually such as sponsoring school coloring contests related to Fair Housing or holding public input hearings, etc. For more information, contact **TOM ZIGLER**.

CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE

CDBG grant applications for water/wastewater engineering or construction grant applications must be submitted by May 1, 2019. Commerce will reject any application unless it includes a copy of completed audit or agreed upon procedures for the fiscal year that ended in 2018. We have advertised this information in our last few newsletters with a due date for us as March 14, 2019. While that date has come and gone, we will still try to assist you if you were waiting on some key information to get started. Contact **TOM ZIGLER** at (580) 736-7971 or **MIKE DIXON** at (580) 736-7965.



2018 REAP RECIPIENTS

Recipients of 2018 REAP grants are strongly encouraged to complete your projects as soon as possible. The deadline is June 30, 2019! If you have questions or need to discuss problems you are having getting the projects completed, we need to know **NOW**. Contact **MIKE DIXON** at 580.736.7965 or **TOM ZIGLER** at 580.736.7971.

CHANGES APPROVED **FOR 2020 REAP** **APPLICATIONS!!!!**

Entities wishing to apply for REAP Funding **must attend a mandatory REAP training workshop**. The attendee must be an elected official or an individual appointed by the board or council to represent the entity making application. The training will be conducted by ASCOG staff, and the training will consist of the following: review of the 2020 REAP Application and Instructions, review of the 2020 REAP Contract, discussion of the 5-year Strategic Plan, discussion and review of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grants, discussion on the importance of the end of the Fiscal Year Audit and discussion on any aspects of the 2020 REAP Application.

The date, time, and location of the workshop will be in the May 2019 issue. If you have questions, please contact **TOM ZIGLER** at (580) 736-7971 or **MIKE DIXON** at (580) 736-7965.

TOWN ADVISOR SERVICES

ASCOG's Board of Trustees adopted a competitive procedure allowing ASCOG assign staff to serve as Town Advisors. Dues-paying members of the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG) are entitled to basic services. This program is designed to fill the needs of communities that need more than basic services including preparing and administering grants, guiding local staff to ensure statutory requirements are being met, strategic planning, asset identification and mapping, bookkeeping, billing, capital improvement planning, etc.

After you determine what you can afford and the level of services you desire, we will provide a program tailor-made for your community.

For further information, please contact ASCOG Staff.



Taxes due April 15th!

CAREGIVER RESPITE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Caregiver Respite vouchers may be used to pay for care for seniors who are homebound so that their family members/informal caregivers may have time away to take care of personal and/or household needs. Caregivers may hire the Respite Provider of their choice as long as they are 18 or above and do not live in the same residence as the care recipient.

For more information or if you would like to schedule a Caregiver Respite presentation for your organization, please contact: **CINDY HALE**, ASCOG Caregiver Program Coordinator hale_ci@ascog.org Office (580) 736-7976 Cell (580) 560-4445.

Caregiver Respite Information Presentations will be given at the following Nutrition Centers, as well as other locations throughout the ASCOG service area:

- April 3 – Anadarko Nutrition 11 am
- April 11 – Chickasha Nutrition 11 am
- April 18 – King Center/Lawton Nutrition 11 am
- April 25 – Blanchard Nutrition 11 am

FREE ADVERTISING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY EVENTS!!!

ANY INFORMATION OR FLYERS MUST BE RECEIVED A MONTH BEFORE THE EVENT TO ENSURE IT WILL INCLUDED IN THE PROPER NEWSLETTER.

Email information or flyers to ward_ro@ascog.org.

Are your volunteer fire departments hosting a fundraiser? Send us the information, and we will include in the newsletter. Big community event coming up? Let us know.

We reserve the right to limit advertising due to space or time constrictions. We also reserve the right to reject any advertisement for any reason or to edit it for appropriateness before publishing.

SENIOR GAMES

April 2, 2019

Simmons Center

Duncan, OK

(580) 252-2900

Seniors over the age of 50 who are looking to stay active and engage in a little friendly competition are invited to attend the annual Senior Games held at the Simmons Center in Duncan. This fun event features games like horseshoe, rolling pin toss, and shuffleboard, and each participant is sent home with a participation ribbon. More than just exercise and competition, the event welcomes both returning and new participants out for a day of socializing. Even physically disabled seniors are able to compete in certain events, and coordinators encourage everyone to go at their own pace. Save the date for Duncan's Senior Games this spring.



WAURIKA RATTLESNAKE HUNT

April 11-14, 2019

Main Street

Waurika, OK

(580) 228-2838



Come for the thrill of Waurika's annual rattlesnake hunt. Activities include carnival rides, games, food vendors, a flea market, thrill show and caravan hunting of Diamondback rattlesnakes. Have a "fantastic" time as you witness snake handlers perform daring and courageous feats in a pit with live rattlesnakes. Have your picture taken with a live Diamondback rattlesnake in the on-site photobooth, or put your taste buds to the test

with a helping of deep-fried rattlesnake meat. Snake meat, rattlers and hides will be up for sale. Join in the 5K or one-mile fun run on Saturday. Prizes are awarded for the longest snake captured, the most rattles and more.

OKLAHOMA CROSS COUNTRY RACING ASSOCIATION

Round 4 Race - April 13-14, 2019

Pettijohn's Off-Road Park

Rush Springs, OK

(405) 309-5227

Grab your bikes and head to Rush Springs for a weekend of thrilling cross-country racing at Pettijohn's Off-Road Park. Sanctioned by the Oklahoma Cross Country Racing Association, the hare scramble style tracks at this race range from thick woods to wide open deserts and are fully loaded with an assortment of natural and man-made obstacles, including rocks, creek crossings, mud, roots and dust. ATV riders will race on Saturday, and motocross bikers are set to navigate these deceptive tracks on Sunday. A separate short course will be set up for mini racers. From pee wee to senior, all ages, sizes and classes are welcome to compete in this race, so gather the family and grab your bikes to come out watch, ride and race.



TRYKES 'N TREAD CAR SHOW

April 13-14, 2019

Great Plains Coliseum

Lawton, OK

(580) 695-8882; (580) 248-4192



Admire awesome paint jobs, impressive engines and shiny chrome at the Trykes 'N Tread Car Show. Held at the Great Plains Coliseum in Lawton, this event is open to all makes, models, sizes and classes of cars and trucks. The annex will be filled with vintage cars, hot rods, imports, race cars, low riders, trick trucks and much more. From remodeled classic cars to decked-out newer models, the Trykes 'N Tread Car Show has it all. Take in the excitement of the burn out contest and car limbo. There will also be cruising and live entertainment, as well as vendors to browse through and children's games to play.

HOLY CITY OF THE WICHITAS EASTER PASSION PLAY

April 13-20, 2019

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge
Lawton, OK
(580) 429-3361

The annual Holy City of the Wichitas Easter Passion Play is a narrated dramatization of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This Easter passion play is the longest running of its kind in the United States. Created in 1926, this passion play drama is held outdoors in the Holy City of the Wichitas near Lawton with the stunning Wichita Mountains serving as a backdrop. Come to the Holy City of the Wichitas Easter Passion Play to witness the story of Jesus Christ portrayed in pantomime while readers broadcast the script on FM radio to crowds of visitors.

After its first year, the passion play expanded its cast, and the audience grew as well. By **1931**, the Easter passion play included 150 cast members and by 1934, the Holy City of the Wichitas welcomed over 40,000 visitors. Located within southwest Oklahoma's Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, the Holy City sits on 66 acres that resembles Israel during biblical times. The first buildings erected at the Holy City of the Wichitas, which include replicas of the walls to Jerusalem, Calvary's Mount, the Temple Court, rock shrines and more, were completed by the Federal Works Progress Administration.

In **1936**, the Lord's Supper building and Herod's Court, as well as buildings including biblical murals and paintings, were created. Attendance to the annual Easter passion play reached its peak in 1939 as 225,000 visitors filled the hall for the Easter performance.

Come to the Holy City of the Wichitas Easter Passion Play to join thousands of visitors from across Oklahoma and the nation as a cast of thousands perform this much-anticipated passion play in a replica of the Holy Land. Attendance to the passion play is free; however, donations are appreciated.



**HACKBERRY FLAT
BIRD MIGRATION TOUR**
April 12,13, 26 & 27, 2019
Hackberry Flat Center
Frederick, OK
(405) 3990-4977 or (405) 335-7057



Celebrate the spring winged migration through the Hackberry Flat Wetlands, 7,120-acres of wildlife recreational opportunities located just southwest of Frederick. Attend one of the Bird Migration Tours available from mid-April through the first of May to see migrating ducks, shorebirds and songbirds who are stopping in the wetlands to refuel for their continued journey north. Families can explore the vast mosaic of wetland habitats for prairie waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland-dependent birds.

Participants will tour the wetland in a seated, open-air trailer and discover wetland bird species, as well as other wildlife, using the Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area during spring migration. While touring the area, a wildlife biologist will explain how the wetland is managed for wetland-dependent birds and other wildlife.

Participants should be prepared for the tour by dressing for the forecasted weather. Wool blankets and binoculars are provided. And, as always, participants at any of the tours are exempt from requiring a current hunting/fishing license or Wildlife Conservation Passport while at Hackberry Flat that day. Due to the length of the tour, children must be at least eight years old.

APACHE RATTLESNAKE FESTIVAL

April 18-21, 2019

119 E. Evans Ave., Apache, OK

(580) 588-2880 or (580) 588-3440

Get up close and personal with Oklahoma rattlesnakes at the annual Apache Rattlesnake Festival. Attracting thousands of visitors each year, the Apache Rattlesnake Festival allows festival-goers to take a hands-on approach to gathering rattlesnakes, or allows them to remain safely behind glass while viewing these magnificent predators. Feel an adrenaline rush as you participate in a guided snake hunt, or try something new and sample fried rattlesnake. Guided snake hunts begin at 10am.



Prizes will be awarded for the most and largest rattlesnakes captured during the hunts, and a snake pit with live snakes and snake handlers will be set up to the delight of festival-goers. Don't miss the festival's open air flea market, or take the kids over to the carnival area where they can enjoy a wide variety of rides.

The Apache Rattlesnake Festival, going strong for over 30 years, is known for its amazing rattlesnake round-ups, but also features an impressive array of activities for the whole family. Come to this festival in Apache for a carnival, plenty of games, hundreds of vendors and delicious fair food. Enjoy live music performed for the crowds, or stick around for the annual powwow.



EASTER EGG HUNT

April 20, 2019

Duncan Moose Lodge 2202

1712 W. Seminole RD, Duncan, OK

(580) 252-2900

Give the kids a chance to celebrate Easter with the community at the Duncan Moose Lodge. Kids will have a blast picking up plenty of plastic eggs during this annual event. Hunts will be broken down by age divisions up to age 12. play.

CRUISIN' THE CHISHOLM TRAIL CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW

**April 13-20, 2019
Main Street, Duncan
(580) 252-8696**

Fire up your engines and travel to Duncan for the annual Cruisin' the Chisholm Trail Car & Motorcycle Show, a massive display of classic cars, modified vehicles and vintage trucks. Bring your motorcycle and participate in the show's poker run while traveling up and down the historic Chisholm Trail. Cruisin' the Chisholm Trail Car & Motorcycle Show will also feature children's activities and live entertainment.

Make your way to the downtown area and browse through rows of vintage cars that line six blocks of Duncan's Main Street. Concessions and craft vendors will also be available. Make sure to stick around for the Saturday afternoon burnout competition, known for its huge spectacle of horsepower. All registrants will receive a dash plaque and free lunch. Bring the whole family, shine up your vehicle and spend the day in Duncan cruisin' the Chisholm Trail.



TWO BULLS CHALLENGE

**April 26-27, 2019
Stephens County Expo Center
Duncan, OK
(580) 786-1010**

Enjoy three nights of action-packed excitement at the Two Bulls Challenge in Duncan. Held at the Stephens County Expo Center, Two Bulls features great bulls and riders teaming up to test their talent. Bring out the whole family to this fun event and watch from the edge of your seat as bucking bulls take to the arena.

OKLAHOMA CROSS COUNTRY RACING ASSOCIATION

Round 5 Race - April 13-14, 2019

Baldwin Ranch
Indiahoma, OK
(405) 309-5227

Grab your bikes and head to Indiahoma for a weekend of thrilling cross-country racing at the Baldwin Ranch. Sanctioned by the Oklahoma Cross Country Racing Association, the hare scramble style tracks at this race range from thick woods to wide open deserts and are fully loaded with an assortment of natural and man-made obstacles, including rocks, creek crossings, mud, roots and dust. ATV riders will race on Saturday, and motocross bikers are set to navigate these deceptive tracks on Sunday. A separate short course will be set up for mini racers. From pee wee to senior, all ages, sizes and classes are welcome to compete in this race, so gather the family and grab your bikes to come out watch, ride and race.



580 ROLLERGIRLS vs WEST TEXAS ROLLER DERBY

April 27, 2019

Great Plains Coliseum
Lawton, OK



Catch the buzz as the 580 Rollergirls put on an electrifying dance of athleticism and grace as jammers and blockers race against West Texas Roller Derby and the clock. Founded in 2010, the 580 Rollergirls is the first flat track league in Lawton. Dedicated to empowering women and growing their sport, this nonprofit is heavily involved in community-wide volunteer work. With the motto, "til the wheels fall off," expect a battle when the 580 Rollergirls take to the track. Challenging and hard-hitting, the modern sport of Flat Track Derby is governed by the WFTDA. Established in 2001, this organization

provides a standardized set of rules and safety guidelines for each league and creates a platform for national competition. From skating rinks to event centers or even parking lots, derby matches (called bouts) can be held on any skateable surface. Each bout consists of two thirty minute halves with each half being further broken down into two-minute shifts or jams. Essentially, each jam is a full-contact race on skates. Once the whistle blows, the Rollergirls' jammer struggles to fight her way through the opposing team's four blockers, scoring points off each one she passes before the timer runs out.

happy
apRILS
fOOLs!

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WHAT
A PAIR! →

