

Construction Continued



Soon to be the new Casino!



GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA THE TURTLE SPEAKS

BULK RATE
U S POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 4
Wyandotte, OK 74370

© VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

P.O. BOX 250, WYANDOTTE, OKLA. 74370

MARCH 2004



Turtle Stop before construction started

Wyandotte Nation Tag Office

Tag Days: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information or to make special arrangements, call
Dana Butterfield at (918) 678-2297 or
(800) 256-2539 ext. 219

Job Hotline
1-877-WYN-DOTT
(1-877-996-3688)
Announcements Only

Construction on Turtle Stop Additions

Turtle Talk Article Planning/Development

The first quarter of 2004 has seen tremendous changes brought about by construction activities. At the Turtle Stop, the Renovation/Expansion project has been non-stop. The framework for the car wash is now visible. The roof is on and the store is almost completely enclosed. On a daily basis the hectic pace of business and construction is not only exciting but also consuming. The management and staff of the Turtle Stop need to be commended for the work that is above and beyond in making this construction project happen.

At the sewage treatment plant, equipment is being delivered and installed each and every day despite the weather. The really big visible change is the construction of the lab. The project is still on target for a Summer 2004 comple-

tion.

Constant growth and tribal activities requires that the Planning Department continue to seek out new programs for delivery of Tribal services. In this quarter, several new projects have been evaluated and a request for a grant, that will expand the capabilities of the Family Service Department, has been submitted. Preparations are underway for negotiation with the Department of Interior for the new self-governance annual funding agreement. Much effort has been spent to identify additional sources of funding for new housing projects and it has been determined that a market analysis is necessary to be accomplished prior to submission of any new grant applications.

Julie Donnelly, who is interim facilities manager, has undertaken great efforts to modernize and upgrade all Tribal facilities. This has grown out of

the inventory functions that are still underway. Most people will not notice changes to the roofline of the administration and the Artie Nesvold Community building, however this new look has long-range effects of eliminating flat roofs and improving the overall appearance of the facilities.

The Planning Department recently received notification from the Bureau of Indian Affairs that a grant to investigate ground water had been approved. In conjunction with a hydrologist a plan of study is being developed to complete the objectives of the grant, which will provide information as to the quality and quantity of ground water within the Historic jurisdiction of the tribe. (See page 12 for more information on the Turtle Stop and sewage treatment plant construction.)



The Chief Says...

Springtime is just around the corner. This is most people's favorite time of the year. There appears to be an awakening to start all over again. We can think back to the first of the year and the resolutions we made - and have forgotten; the gardening instincts start stirring and later on weeds grow where we planted vegetables; fishing, hunting, swimming, etc. are top priority; belly buttons are exposed; school is out soon; the Pennsylvania groundhog predicts bad weather and makes you think things like - what does a groundhog know about national weather? He ought to predict only Pennsylvania weather. Come to think about it though, he can beat most of our weather forecasters!

Here in Wyandotte Oklahoma, we have started working on a new organizational chart for our Wyandotte Nation. It will be designed to service our growing organization and will fit into servicing our entire populace nationwide.

We continue to push hard on economic development programs so we can finance all the things we have planned for our Tribal members.

Be proud that you are a Wyandotte.



Chief Leaford Bearskin

Culture

By Jim Bland
Second Chief

I hope all enjoyed the winter; we had a little bit of everything here at Wyandotte. We had a little snow and cold weather, but for the most part it hasn't been too bad.

The first week of June will be our first annual Cultural Week. We hope to see a lot of you folks here for that week to learn about our culture and maybe help us make new culture. Speaking of culture, we just lost an employee recently who has helped us with our pow-wow and helped make it what it is today - Barbara Kyser-Collier -- we appreciate what you did to help us make our tribal pow-wow what it is today. I know Sherri Clemons knows what I am talking about and a lot of other people do too. So, I want to invite all that will come and help us make the Cultural Week a big success.

Fellow tribal members, we have a good Tribe and a lot of good things are happening. Come in sometime and let Chief Bearskin and myself tell you what is going on. I know it is hard sometimes to catch Chief and I here because of what we're trying to make happen. Come and see me; my door is always open to you.

Caregivers Program

Introduction

The Wyandotte Nation has received a grant through the Senior Nutrition Program, Title VI. This new program was developed to help families caring for an older relative with a chronic illness or disability. The funding will provide support services for family caregivers and grandparents raising grandchildren.

Are you a caregiver?

1. Do you perform tasks to help with shopping, bills, errands, transportation, etc. for your spouse or parents?
 2. Do you provide personal care for your spouse or parents? If you answered "YES" to any of the above, you are a caregiver.
- Caregivers services
1. Individual Counseling
 2. Support Groups
 3. Training to assist the caregiver in making decisions and solving problems relating to their care giving roles.
 4. RESPITE: To enable caregivers to be temporarily relieved from their responsibilities. Our program will pay a respite provider of the families choice, so they can do errands or have a day off.

Eligibility

1. Caregiver or families caring for a frail person (55) years of age or older.
2. Native American grant requires a CDIB card.
3. No income guidelines to qualify.
4. Family members (55) years or older who

are primary caregivers of grandchildren (18) years of age or under. For out of state referrals call Eldercare Locator 1-800-677-1116. Questions on caregivers? Call Dari Ann Hunnicutt 1-800-256-2539 ext. 253

CAREGIVER RESPITE PROGRAM

The Wyandotte Nation received funds through the Title VI program to help caregivers on a temporary basis to receive respite. This program will open the door for you to apply to OASIS (Oklahoma Area Wide Services Information System) for long-term respite.

If you are a primary caregiver for an elderly family member, our respite care allows the caregiver to take a break, having confidence that their family member is receiving proper care.

Do you know any grandparents who are raising their grandchildren? Our respite program covers grandparents too.

If you or the person you are caring for has a CDIB card, and you are over the age of 55. Please call 1-918-678-2297 ext. 253.

Environmental Program

By Janice Wilson

We have been very busy the last few months with our recycling program, water monitoring, and various environmental meetings. We are also getting geared up for the Keep America Beautiful Campaign in March, April, and May. RENIE the Robot was sent to the factory to be repaired/improved and has returned in fine condition ready for another season of recycling education. The Program is also seeking funding for a project in conjunction with Tulsa University Science staff. Alas we are sad to announce the departure of our beloved Environmental Director, Barbara Kyser-Collier. We wish her well in her new job & will miss her immensely. The Program staff would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Christen Creson as the new Program Manager.

Meetings:

- Jan. 6:** Tar Creek Trustee Council
- Jan. 7:** OTCAC meeting at Vo-Tech at Afton
- Jan. 8:** Meeting with TU Science Staff
- Jan. 13:** Tribal Environmental Council of Oklahoma
- Jan. 22:** Environmental Federation of Oklahoma Seminar
- Jan. 29:** Water Quality Standards Comment Meeting at Quapaw Tribe
- Jan. 30:** NATURE Meeting
- Feb. 10-11:** RTOC Meeting
- Feb. 13:** NATURE Meeting



Family Tree Charts

We have copies of the following family tree charts for \$3.50 each plus \$3.00 per order for postage and handling charge.

- Armstrong Family Tree
- Silas Armstrong Family Tree #1
- Silas Armstrong Family Tree #2
- Brown Family Tree
- Clark Northrup Family Tree
- Conley Family Tree
- Garrett Family Tree
- Ladd Family Tree
- Long Family Tree
- Pipe Mudeater Family Tree
- Robitaille Family Tree
- Walker Family Tree
- Ebenezer O. Zane Family Tree
- Hannah Zane Family Tree
- Zane Family Tree

Contact Sherri Clemons at the Historical Preservation Office to order: (800) 256-2539 or (918) 678-2297 ext. 244

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http://www.wyandotte-network.com

"Name our Casino Prize Winner"



The Board of Directors could not decide on a name for the casino so they requested that the staff provide suggestions and that a valuable prize would be given. After nearly a month of collecting names (we had over 150 suggestions) the Board of Directors chose the Lucky Turtle Casino as the name. Charlie Robitaille submitted this name and was awarded a \$50 cash prize. As a matter of fact if we had a first and second place Charlie would have won that too. As the construction of the Turtle Stop progresses we anticipate many changes to the facility and an advertising campaign for the Lucky Turtle Casino is coming about.

Turtle Talk Delivery

For those members who would like to have their Turtle Talk e-mailed to them, please e-mail Pat Wilson, pwilson@wyandotte-nation.org. On the subject line please state Turtle Talk delivery. It will be sent as a PDF file. For those that do not have Acrobat Reader, go to www.adobe.com and download a free reader by clicking on  & follow directions. If you have trouble downloading, contact Pat Wilson, 918-678-2297 ext. 238.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Wyandotte Nation Tribal Members are encouraged to complete applications for job openings. It is very important that all sections are read and completed for proper identification of knowledge, skills and abilities. Each section of the application is reviewed and selections for interviews are based on information provided through this document. Applicants may also attach their resume with the completed application form. Application forms may be obtained at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Office.

Gift Shop News



*** FOR WINTER***

Izod Jackets with tribal logo!
Black or Gray - \$60
Fleece Jackets with tribal logo!
Cream or Gray - \$34
Fleece Blankets with tribal logo
and carrying strap!
Red, Black or Gray - \$30

Handcrafted Pottery
by tribal member Matthew Zane
starting at \$15
Prints by Jim Stuckenberg \$55

Leanin' Tree Cards
Decorative Stationary - 18 sheets
with envelopes \$8.50
Laser and Inkjet compatible

Still Available
Decorative Gourds

Wyandotte Nation T-shirts,
\$6 to \$18 dollars
Sizes : Sm -M- Lg - 2X - 3X

***Check out our other Gift
Items***
Wyandotte Nation Coffee Cups
1 - for \$5.00 2 - \$9.00

Hand-made Shawls
beginning at \$55

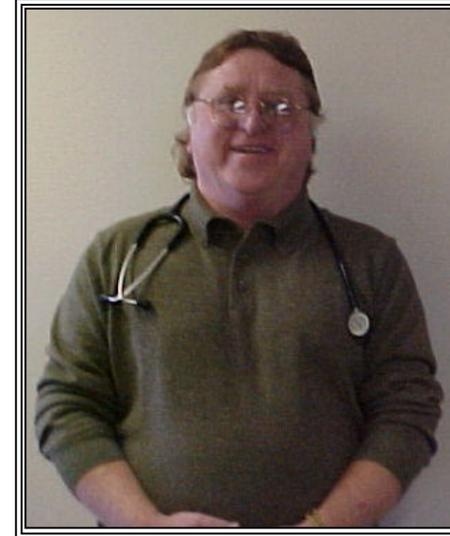
Indian art on leather - \$18.00
Mandellas (4 sizes) \$25 - \$145
Sand Paintings \$25 - \$40
Various Ceramics \$1.50 and up
Authentic Silver and Turquoise
Jewelry

Wyandotte Cookbooks
Volumes 1 and 2 - \$6 each
Handmade Scrub Shirts - \$20



For information on how to place
an order, call Brenda House at
(918) 678-2297 or
1-800-256-2539 ext. 227

NEW PHYSICIAN AT BEARSKIN HEALTH CARE AND WELLNESS CENTER



The Wyandotte Nation is proud to announce Dr. Robert W. Hopper of Grove, Oklahoma has joined the medical team as Staff Physician at the Bearskin Health Care and Wellness Center in Wyandotte Oklahoma.

Dr. Hopper, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and a Vietnam Veteran, was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Bronze Star, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and parachute badge. After returning from Vietnam, he served as a Drill Sergeant at Ft. Leonardwood, Missouri, until his discharge. Dr. Hopper is an active member of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans Association in Grove, Oklahoma.

After his military service, he worked as an Iron Worker, but soon enrolled at the University of Oklahoma, Norman in 1974 and completed a degree in Philosophy of Religion and Ethics. While attending OU, he was employed by Indian Health Service in the Oklahoma City Area Office as a contracting specialist, negotiating health-care contracts with the various tribes throughout Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.

Dr. Hopper completed his BS Degree in Medicine and subsequently graduated with an M.D. Degree from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, East Lansing, Michigan in 1985. Hopper then entered a residency program in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Southwestern Michigan Area Health Education Center, Kalamazoo, Michigan from 1985 through 1987. After being commissioned with the Commission Corps, U.S. Public Health Service, Dr. Hopper was assigned to the Jay Indian Clinic, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma in Jay, Oklahoma. He served two years as Clinic Director from 1987 through 1989; he then served as Emergency Room Physician with the Claremore Indian Hospital from 1989 through 1990 before returning to the University of Oklahoma College Of Medicine, Tulsa, to finish his Internal Medicine/Pediatric Residency Program in 1992. Dr. Hopper entered private practice in Grove, Oklahoma owning Hopper Medical Clinic, while he also practiced as an Emergency Room Physician at Integris Grove General Hospital. Since 2001, he has concentrated entirely toward his private practice.

Dr. Hopper is a long standing member of the Association of American Indian Physicians, a Diplomat of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a section member with the American Academy of Sports Medicine, Community Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and Internal Medicine/Pediatrics. He is an Associate Faculty Member of the OU College of Medicine, Tulsa; a Regional Faculty Member with the American Heart Association, Section on Pediatric Life Support and Medical Director of the PALS Program with Integris Grove General Hospital and

serves as an Instructor with the ACLS Program with Integris Grove General Hospital.

Dr. Hopper has been involved with the Elementary Wrestling Program in Grove since 1987, serving as Coach, President of the Grove Take-Down Club, holds the Bronze Level Coaching Certification with U.S.A. Wrestling and has coached and supported the Olympic Style Summer Wrestling Program in Grove.

Dr. Hopper is a 32 degree Mason and a member of the Grove Lodge 187 and the Scottish Rite Temple in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Wyandotte Nation welcomes Dr. Robert Hopper and is now seeing patients Monday through Friday at the Bearskin Health Care and Wellness Center located in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. For an appointment contact 918-678-2282 or 1-888-864-0725.

Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

**Wyandotte Nation
Board of Directors
Leaford Bearskin**

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Councilperson

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Councilperson

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Councilperson

Gyah'-wish Atak-ia is published quarterly for tribal members by the Wyandotte Nation at its headquarters in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. Inquiries may be addressed to:

The Wyandotte Nation

P.O. Box 250

Wyandotte, OK 74370

(918) 678-2297 or (800) 256-2539

fax (918) 678-2944

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Traditional Pottery Class

The 2nd annual Traditional Wendat/Iroquoian pottery workshop will be held in Wyandotte Oklahoma, May 24th-29th.

This workshop will be open to Wyandotte and Seneca/Cayuga tribal members interested in learning ancient skills of pottery making used by our ancestors. The goal of the class is to revive our ancient arts and bring them back among us. Beginner and advanced students welcome. Due to the interest and class size it will be limited to those from high school age on up. It will be held at the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma tribally owned building right next to the Twin Bridges.

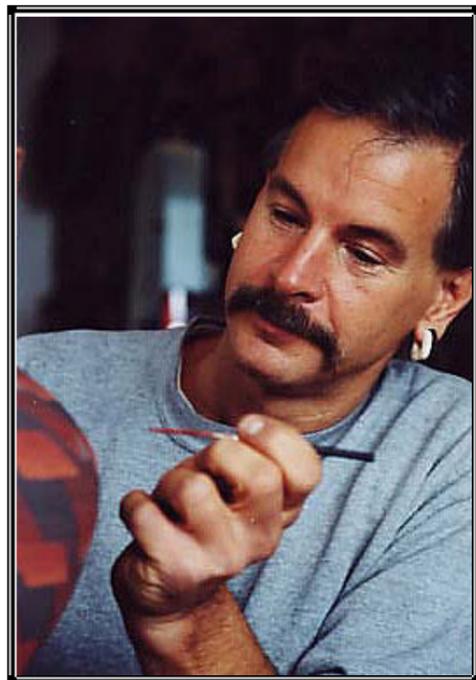
Daily workshops (9:00am to 5:00pm) will include: Gathering and processing native Oklahoma clays; Making pottery

using both coiling and "paddle and anvil" techniques of our ancestors; and wood-firing the pottery the following week.

Actual hands on pottery making will take place on the 24th-27th (any work completed after then might not be dry enough to fire).

Classes will be instructed by Richard Zane Smith, (Wyandot) professional potter/artist for over 20 years see.

Please call: 1-505-757-6642 or Sherri Clemons 1-918-678-2297 ext. 244..... for registration and information please, only those serious about learning ancient and traditional methods. Clay and tools will be provided. No charge will be required.



"Richard Zane Smith, potter and member Wyandot Nation of Kansas, will be one of the leaders of the Cultural Week activities on May 31 through June 4."

ti-yoma-wer-eh de wandat de yoma-sehš-ogya-'
Wyandotte Celebration of Culture

Language
i-hati-mędaye-h
Art
u-noda-'
History
rihwaroka-'
Government
hati-hahse-'
Religion
nohkwa-'
Community
ti-yoma-nohša-'

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Wendat Gathering

The 2005 Wendat Gathering (Wyandotte, Wyandot and Huron Nations) Kwe nde skwaweti (kwe to all)

The Wendat Gathering will be on August 20, 21, and 22 this year with the main events on Saturday, August 21. Ossossane and the camp site will be available all the week before the gathering (August 16-22). Be aware that it is a wild camp site, very few facilities, but there are few good campgrounds near by Ossossane for people who would like to have more facilities.

To those of you who are not familiar, Ossossane is in our homelands and the site where the original Gathering of our Nations took place in 1999. If you have never been to the site of your homelands, this is an event that will change your life by enabling you to walk on the earth where your ancestors walked and to learn of the rich history through the museum, Ste. Marie and other locations.

You will also meet Wendat brothers and sisters from other Nations which will be the beginning of beautiful conversations and lasting friendships.

Cultural Studying

STUDYING OUR CULTURE BRINGS US CLOSER TOGETHER

One of the nicest outcomes of Cultural Week planning has been getting acquainted with other members of our nation. With her permission, we would like to share a very nice email note from Leslie Zane.

This is what I know about our Wyandotte culture, and from you all I must learn the rest. I find it hard sometimes to read what others write but more often I am so gratified by the messages that I keep going! I don't know any of you personally and don't know what unique situations lead you to respond the way that you do.

I grew up proud to be a Wyandotte but not having much contact with other Wyandottes except my family. My family would visit Ontario and Oklahoma, but mostly what I feel about being a Wyandotte is from my family. My father, James Zane, was a WWII veteran. He was very patriotic and at the same time very proud of being Indian (I don't think he saw these things as mutually exclusive). If he were alive today he would be so happy with the direction we are taking. I feel his pride flowing through me. My father, his cousins, aunts and uncles all had black hair and dark eyes and high cheekbones. Also, all the relations of my father's age went to college after being raised in poverty in Detroit.

I have seen our Wyandotte tribe pass on the values that my father held. I know there is a cultural value of education because when I went to college the tribe was there to help and support me. When I went to our tribal pow wow, there was a color guard and a time to honor our veterans. I have noticed that our pow wow is small and very traditional, and

this taught me that we are not here to impress anyone but to nourish ourselves. I know from Turtle Talk that the words of our Chief and Second Chief, our stories, our tribal history, our families and new members, our programs and enterprises are all important because they are written down and published in each issue.

I feel I am an equal in our tribe to all other members, despite that I live 2,000 miles away from Oklahoma (by the way two hours from the nearest Wal-mart, three hours from a mall!). My vote counts, my participation is entirely up to me, but I am always given the opportunity to do so. I have noticed, too, that no one and that no family is more recognized than another, that we are all equally honored and valued. I have seen as well that our sovereignty and ability to care for ourselves are very important by the wise and quick way we react when our sovereignty is challenged, the sound way in which tribal enterprises are formed and run, and priorities such as a building a beautiful health center.

I honor my tribal values as I understand them and am excited by the addition of new ones, such as a deepening of the literacy of our tribal members in our traditional ways - language, art and culture, IF they seek such knowledge. There is room for improvement, but I have the rest of my life to contribute to the betterment of myself and my other Wyandottes. When I talk to other Indian people from a range of nations, I am struck by how different we Wyandottes seem in comparison. Our nation seems strong and healthy.

I think after reading culture group emails since January that I am in a good position - not knowing much makes everything I do learn sweeter. My best wishes to you all, Leslie Zane Fort Bragg, California



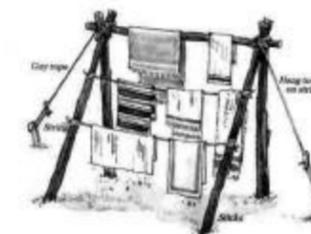
The Clothes Line

I wrote this about my grandmother as some of my fondest memories were playing outside and running through the yard as she hung up the clothes. The poem won Editor's Choice Award and was published with a group of other poets this past summer. It was also published in an on-line magazine called Autumn Leaves.

My poetry can be found on-line at http://www.beverleppetit.org/Index_Stories.html

By Beverlee Pettit

I love standing in the sunshine
feeling the breeze,
Smelling the freshness
of clean clothes.
It brings back memories
of laughter and running
My arms waving in the winds
Like the clothes on the line.
Little toes grabbing the ground
Like the clothespins pinching my
socks.
Grandmother washed clothes in the
yard.
Using a tub and washboard.
She used an apron that slipped over her
head,
Over her chest,
It tied in the back holding her together
Like the basket holding our clothes.
Her short black hair
was held back with bobby pins
yet tendrils fell
Over her face of crinkly brown leaves
And would flutter around her eyes
Like the arms of my long-sleeved shirts
When they flapped in the wind.
Her smile was like the sunshine
and she loved me.



Nation Employee Review - Get Acquainted!

Through the guiding efforts of the Wyandotte Nation Tribal leadership, the employee population continues to expand. Due to this expansion, there are many employees that the Tribal population does not always have a chance to interact with, or may not recognize when they visit the Tribal Headquarters. To help tribal members become acquainted with employees, the "Turtle Talk" will be publishing a "Nation Employee Review" in each of the quarterly newsletters.

The first Employee Review: Kim García, Wyandotte Nation Comptroller. Kim, a tribal member, was born in Seneca, MO, to Larry and Brenda (Elliott) Gray. She has lived in Seneca her entire life, graduating from Seneca High School in 1996.



Kim attended Crowder College in Neosho, MO, with financial scholarships from Crowder and the Wyandotte Nation. During her educational experience, one semester was spent in Canterbury, England through an exchange program made available by Crowder College. While there she traveled throughout Europe. She contributes her traveling opportunity in Europe to assistance received from Crowder College and her IIM (Individual Indian Monies) Account from the Wyandotte Nation. After graduating with Honors from Crowder in 1998, and receiving an Associate of Arts with a major in General Studies, she continued her education at Missouri Southern State College (now University) in Joplin, MO, majoring in International Business with an emphasis in Accounting. While attending MSSC, Kim traveled to Spain for two weeks, to visit International Businesses based in Madrid. Shortly thereafter, Kim graduated Magna Cum Laude from Missouri

Southern State College with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration (BSBA).

Kim then began her career at Talbot Industries in the Human Resources Department as an Assistant and Payroll Specialist. Within six months, she was promoted to Cost Accountant. She contributes the promotion to her interest in accounting and her fluency in Spanish. Talbot, a division of Legget & Platt, works closely with companies in Mexico. She also traveled occasionally to Mexico on business trips. She remained with Talbot Industries for over two years. Although she

enjoyed her position with Talbot, once the opening for Comptroller opened, Kim instantly realized the opportunity and was hired by the Nation in June of 2003.

As Comptroller of the Wyandotte Nation, Kim felt she could provide a needed service, while also becoming an active member of the Nation. She was also excited about giving back to the organization that had assisted her in completing her education. Kim is very grateful to the Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Assistance Program.

On a personal level, Kim married Arturo García from Mexico (hence the fluency in Spanish). Arturo is a talented photographer and is working toward opening his own business called Impresiones García. Kim has two children, Joshua, 6 and Caleb, 2. Joshua attends Kindergarten at Seneca Elementary and enjoys all types of sports and bike riding. Caleb is called her little tornado. They enjoy family time by

watching movies, outdoor adventures and just being a family.

Kim is currently enrolled in MSSU and will soon set for the Certified Public Accountant Exam (CPA). Attaining her CPA is just one goal. She also plans to learn another foreign language within 5 years. Kim enjoys learning new things and creating ideas to improve her department. She enjoys working for the Wyandotte Nation, feeling very fortunate the opportunity presented itself. She enjoys her position and feels surrounded by great people that are very helpful, which fuels her ambition for continued success.

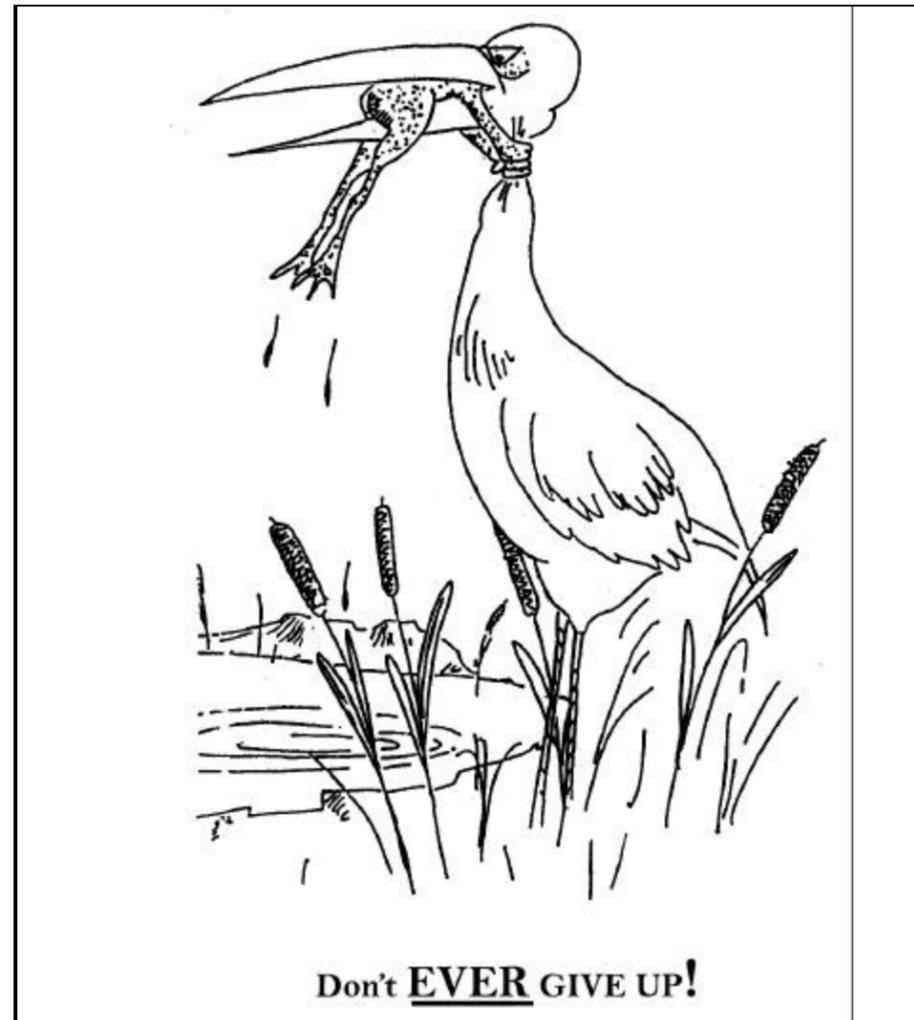
Kim has joined the Wyandotte Nation with an interest in contributing to her tribal government. She is known within the organization as the "Excel Accountess".

Kim is a valued employee and is looking forward to being a part of the continued success and growth of the Wyandotte Nation. Welcome Kim !!!

Lucky Turtle Casino

By Julie Lawson

The Wyandotte Nation is pleased to announce the Lucky Turtle Casino, which is under construction and anticipating an opening date of May, 2004. The Lucky Turtle Casino will offer a variety of Class II Machines, as a small venue, with a fun and friendly atmosphere. Located next to the Turtle Stop Convenience Store in Wyandotte and aligned with State Highway 60, The Lucky Turtle Casino will provide exposure to countless potential patrons. Our hope is to capture travelers, along with the repeat players from other local casinos, who would prefer a smaller more personal setting. Gaming is a revenue source that will further advance the Wyandotte Nation. Join the fun, bring a friend, tell a friend and be apart of the continued success of the Wyandotte Nation.



Work on the Wastewater Treatment Facility doesn't stop for a cold winter day!

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center

What You Need to Know About Contract Health Services



Contract Health Services (CHS) may pay for health services for those who live in the contract service area which is comprised of the 12 counties in Northeast Oklahoma, which are not available at the Bearskin Health Clinic. When health services are needed, which are not available at the clinic, the Bearskin Health Center Physician can write a referral. A referral is a recommendation for health services that are needed by an outside clinic or provider.

However, due to limited funding for the Clinic, all referrals received in the CHS Office are not automatically approved by the Contract Health Committee. Payment for referrals may be denied based on the availability of funds and the medical priority given to the referral.

The highest priorities for payment are given to referrals for services that are required to prevent the loss of life or limb.

Please remember the CHS Program is not an insurance program and is always the payer of last resort after all other resources have been exhausted. For more information or if you would like to receive a CHS brochure please contact the CHS office at 918-678-2282 or toll free at 888-864-0725 ext. 227.



Tribal Department Reports

Family Services

Wyandotte Nation Family Services: February, 2004

Kate Randall, Director of Family Services 1-800-256-2539, ext. 224

Dana Butterfield, Family Services Assistant 1-800-256-2539 ext. 219

Winter is in full swing in Oklahoma at this time and we look forward to new life in the spring. Mother Nature prepares us for the season changes and renews our spirit through these changes. The Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department is looking forward to the future and growth of the Nation in 2004. The Mission of Family Services is to provide services to tribal families in a manner that will preserve, promote and secure the family unit.

Family Services Programs: Tribal Operations

Tribal Enrollment: Membership applications may be requested by telephone or are available at the tribal headquarters. Eligibility requirements mandate an individual must have a descendant on a Wyandotte Nation Roll. Proof of ancestry lies with the prospective enrollee. Prior to the September, 2004 Annual Meeting all membership applications will be reviewed by an enrollment committee to determine eligibility. Deadlines for applications are August 15, 2004. Original State Certified Birth Certificates are required for Membership, however, will be returned upon request. What is a CDIB card? A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) card certifies an individual possesses a specific degree of Indian blood of a federally recognized Indian Tribe. CDIB cards verify your status as an American Indian and are recognized throughout the United States for certain Federal Programs such as Indian Health Services. Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood cards are issued from this office. To obtain a CDIB card please phone the tribal headquarters to inquire what documentation will be required. We encourage you to report address changes and enroll family members.

Individual Indian Money Account

Information:

These accounts were established in 1984 according to Public Law 98-602-October 30, 1984. To have been eligible for this one time judgment award, the act specified you were: an enrolled Wyandotte Nation tribal member who was born on or before the date of the enactment of the act and was alive on such date. Address changes should be reported to this office.

Child Passenger Safety Seats:

Car seats are available in three sizes to Wyandotte Nation tribal children. Newborn, Infant and booster seats are available at the tribal headquarters.

Social Services:

The Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department offer an array of social services to tribal members. Those services include: School supply vouchers, winter school clothing, emergency assistance, utility assistance, rental or deposit assistance, or other social services as deemed necessary. Funding may be limited to income eligible families and/or service area for certain programs. To apply or inquire, please call Kate Randall or Dana Butterfield.

Indian Child Welfare:

ICW is housed in the Family Services Department. We encourage tribal members to call if you have any questions pertaining to matters regarding children in involuntary custody proceedings. The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act was designed to protect the Indian Family from unwarranted interference by the Anglo culture. When a child is removed from his or her home, it is the intent under the Indian Child Welfare Act to place a child with family members, extended family or members of the child's tribe or other Indian Families. Foster and Adoptive Homes are needed nationwide for Indian Children. Please telephone if you would like information on how to become a foster or adoptive home in your State. In closing, Family Services has an open door policy and we want our Tribal Members to feel free to stop in at the Tribal Headquarters or call if we can be of service.

Housing Department

HOW IS YOUR HOUSING SITUATION????

The Wyandotte Tribe Housing Department is in the process of administering several different housing programs. One program is IHS-121, which will provide a rural water connection; drill a well and put in a septic and drain field. This program has, as its regulation, historical boundary guidelines--meaning that we have a designated area we can provide service. If your well, pump and/or septic is not working properly, you need to obtain one of the above, or need to be connected to rural water plus a septic system, please check with Reba or Kathy to see if you qualify for assistance.

Also, the Housing Department has an HRP Program. This is a repair program designed to help low-income Indian families who have a sub-standard home and needs renovation to be brought up to standard. This includes: roofs, heating, plumbing, insulation, storm windows, doors and perhaps floors which need to be repaired. If your home is in need of repairs in any of the above areas, once again, please contact Reba or Kathy to see if we can be of assistance to you.

The Wyandotte Tribe Housing Department also has a program which provides home-ownership opportunities to low-income Native American families. We are currently accepting application from all Native Americans with priority given to Wyandotte Tribal Members.

If you are interested in any of the above programs, please do not hesitate to contact the housing personnel to obtain an application. We will be delighted to send you an application, review to see if you qualify for any of the above programs, and TRY OUR BEST to be of service to you. ANY questions you might have, we will gladly answer.

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL!!!

Reba Guilford, Housing Director - ext 239

Kathy DeWeese, Housing Specialist -

ext 236

Education Department

Preschool

The Preschool has been very busy since the beginning of the school year. The students have presented three programs for families and the elders in the Title VI Community Building. They have performed songs, poems and finger plays that they have been learning in the classroom. We have been on two outings for children's plays at local colleges.

Many activities are planned for the Week of the Young child, which will be the week of April 18-24, 2004. Activities include a children's parade in Miami, a petting zoo, and a host of other events.

The Preschool Pow Wow will also be held in the spring. Preschool graduation will be in May and is an event that all students and families look forward to.

The after-school program is beginning a Flat Stanley project. This is a literature-based activity that involves our school age students and people across the United States in a pen-pal type project. The Education Director hopes that all who are asked to participate will do so in a willing fashion to help the education of our school age youngsters.

Library

The Wyandotte Tribal Library is open from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. We have a wonderful selection of books, tapes and periodicals for the patrons to browse through and to check out. Karen McNelis and Jessie Winscott are familiar with our facility and look forward to meeting you and providing assistance.

Child Care & Development Fund Program

The Child Care Program has been very busy as 2003 was a year for re-authorization. This entails extensive paperwork and program involvement. The program currently serves 160 families and 285 children. We utilize licensed child care centers or family child care homes to provide care for Native American children. Assistance is offered based on income, to all members of federally recognized tribes. Participants must reside within a 100-mile radius of the tribal headquarters.

Currently plans are in the works for a child care directors training workshop to be held in the summer. This workshop will assist our providers in the process of obtaining education in the child care area.

Tribal Scholarships

With the beginning of a new semester and the approaching graduation season, the Education Director is very busy issuing tribal scholarship vouchers to current students, as well as, sending out applications to prospective recipients. The deadline for application for the fall semester of 2004, is May 1, 2004, at 4 pm.

Scholarships are available for eight semesters in the amount of \$500.00 each. You must meet all criteria to remain on the program and submit your grades in a timely fashion to insure funding.

In addition to Tribal Scholarship opportunities we would like to make our Oklahoma tribal members and parents aware of an opportunity through the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. This is a program for students in 8th, 9th and 10th grade. Eligibility is determined by the amount of income reported on tax returns. Each of you are encouraged to look at the information on their web site as a way of future planning for your child. Their web address is www.okhighered.org/ohlap/. Please contact the Education Director (Carla J. Culver at ext. 230) for assistance if needed.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

The WIA program operates under the supervision of the Education Director. Brad King (ext. 234) is the Program Specialist and is able to serve all federally recognized Native American members that are seeking employment, training, and education services that reside in Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas. Currently, fifty individuals are participating in this program. Limited opportunities exist in this program but all are welcome to apply.

Wyandotte Language

As we do each spring, we are in the process of teaching the Wyandotte Language in The Wyandotte Public School System. We are using the language masters as a means to provide the

teachers with a way to hear the spoken word. Sherri Clemons, Community Liaison Specialist, teaches in the public school classrooms and has developed many new concepts for the students this year.

Pow Wow

The Wyandotte Tribal Pow Wow will be held on September 10, 11 and 12, at the Pow Wow grounds. The year's first fundraiser is a beautiful full color photo calendar of the 2003 Pow Wow and they are available for \$7.50 plus \$3.00 shipping. Contact Sherri Clemons at ext. 244 for purchase or information. The committee is working on fundraisers, selecting the head staff and improvements to the grounds. Camping space will be available during the event for those want to stay on-site.

Wyandotte Historical Publications

The Traditional Narratives Wyandotte Wendat by Marius Barbeau is available through the Historical Department at a cost of \$25.00 (includes shipping and handling) for tribal members. This text will be the main literature used for the Cultural Week Celebration that is scheduled for the first week of June 2004.

Title VI Program

The Wyandotte Nation Title VI Part A Program is a grant from DHS, Administration on Aging. The purpose of the program is to provide nutrition and socialization, promoting mental and physical well-being of the elderly. This program strives to act as an advocate for elders' rights, as well as fight against elder abuse and fraud.

Supportive services include information and assistance, transportation, telephoning, assessment, cultural, education, income support, physical fitness, recreation, shopping, and counseling.

The program serves meals five days per week from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, for Native Americans & their spouses who are 55 years or older.

PLEASE SEND YOUR
MEMBER NEWS TO:
TURTLE TALK
P.O. BOX 250
WYANDOTTE, OK 74370
OR FAX TO
(918) 678-2944