

GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA

THE TURTLE SPEAKS



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FEBRUARY 2011

Long Building Dedication



On Friday, January 21, 2011 the Wyandotte Nation held a dedication ceremony for a new building. This building has been named the “Long Building” in honor of Juanita (Long) McQuiston. Mrs. McQuiston has served on the Board of Director’s off and on for 30-40 years. Juanita has also served as the Tribe’s Historian and has been to Washington D.C. and the National Archives to retrieve Tribal artifacts. She worked diligently in the 1970’s to assist with rebuilding the Tribal Roll when the Tribe was reinstated as a Federally Recognized Tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act. All of her time over the many

years has been volunteered and she is always willing to assist both Tribal employees and Tribal members in need of historical information.

Numerous members of the Long family were on hand for the dedication. Patty Garrison, niece of Juanita, presented her with a picture of her father, Grover Long. The photo was taken in approximately 1902 while Mr. Long was attending the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. The beautifully framed photo will hang in the lobby of the Long Building. Juanita stated at the ceremony “I just wanted to say that I wanted to thank the Wyandotte Tribe and Nation and I’d like to thank Chief Bearskin and our Second Chief Billy Friend. I am just proud to be a Wyandotte and glad I had the chance to do what I did. I had a lot of help along the way from the personnel. I really appreciate them and all they did because we have great personnel here. I love my tribe and I want to thank our Creator”.

The Long Building was funded with the revenue from tribal businesses and will house all casino operations and small business operations such as accounting, human resources and administrative services.

Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

Wyandotte Nation
Board of Directors
Leaford Bearskin

Chief

Billy Friend

Second Chief

Ramona Reid

Councilperson

Vivian Fink

Councilperson

Norman Hildebrand

Councilperson

Juanita McQuiston

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:

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The Chief Says



Chief Leaford Bearskin

The New Year has started and January has brought news that at least one of our economic development ventures looks promising. Further research and development is promising. Several other projects will be researched and developed to satisfy us of their possibilities.

The New Year appears to

be worthwhile. You will be kept up to date on our progress.



From Billy Friend - Second Chief



unto those things which are before". 2010 was a great year for the Wyandotte Nation and the Nation was able to accomplish several major projects which will benefit our tribal citizens for years to come and we are thankful to our Creator for all that has been done.

commitment and dedication to the Wyandotte Nation over the years.

Being Second Chief of the Wyandotte Nation is both a privilege and a great responsibility. I am determined to make the very best of the upcoming year. We have strong, motivated group of employees here at the Nation and by working together we will accomplish our goals for the New Year.

Once again, I want to wish you and your families, a happy and successful 2011.

Kweh,

I hope this letter finds all Wyandotte's doing well and that you each had a wonderful Holiday season. I also want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Each New Year is an opportunity to remember the events of the past and look forward with hope to the year ahead. I am often reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul to the people of Philippi when he said "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth

That being said we are looking forward to new challenges and new opportunities in 2011 that will enable us to continue to fulfill our mission of "improving the quality of life for every tribal citizen". Our new wellness center expansion will be completed in April and we will look forward to having our Turtle Tot graduation ceremony in the new gymnasium in May and our Annual Meeting in September. We also have recently opened up our new economic development office building which has been dedicated to Juanita Long McQuiston and will be called the "Long Building" in honor of Juanita and the Long family's

ske'noh (peace to all)
Billy Friend
Second Chief



Komáhskwema'a (Green Corn Feast)

From the Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee

Mark your calendars and make plans to come to Wyandotte in September, a few days before the Annual Meeting and PowWow, to be part of the Wyandotte Nation Green Corn Feast. The Green Corn Feast will take place on Thursday, September 8, 2011, during Culture Days scheduled for September 6 through 9.

This will be the second year in the process of reinstating our Green Corn Feast or thanksgiving ceremony. In 2010, the Green Corn Feast was held at the home of Carol and Richard Zane Smith. In 2011, it will be held on Wyandotte Nation property adjacent to the PowWow grounds.

The Wyandotte Green Corn Feast has not been held apart from the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma in over 100 years. From the early 1900s until the present time, those Wyandottes who wanted to participate in this traditional ceremony have done so with the Seneca-Cayuga. Now, in addition to joining them the first full week of August each year, Wyandottes will have the opportunity to have our own ceremony. Traditionally the Wyandotte Green Corn Feast was held on August 15. However, since many of our citizens travel great distances to Oklahoma, having the Green Corn Feast in September is a good change that will enable more people to also attend the Annual Meeting and PowWow.

The Green Corn Feast is a thanksgiving ceremony and it is the traditional ceremony where names are given, beginning with babies. There is a protocol for giving and receiving

names that requires research and discussion. Traditionally it was not possible for someone to name his or herself or to select a name for his or her child, because this was the responsibility of a clan leader. The clan leader lived in the same village and observed the newborn or individual until it was time for them to receive a name. The clan leader selected a name that fit the individual. We are requesting that those who wish to receive a name to please contact the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Heritage Department for a naming request form or to download the form from our website. You must be present to receive your name, and not all who apply can be given a name due to the time involved.

Today, many in our nation do not know any history about clans or to what clan they belong. The Culture Committee has discussed this and feels that if someone can go back to a generation in his or her family where the clan was known – they should claim that clan as theirs. If someone thinks they belong to a certain clan, but can't verify it with all certainty, they may claim it with the unanimous consensus of all their present family members. In other words, brothers and sisters of the same family need to belong to the same clan. If someone does not have any idea about what clan he or she belongs to, the Culture Committee will try to research the information, however we cannot guarantee success in determining your clan. Clans signify groups of families and had responsibilities. In our history, clans sustained each other in good and bad times and were the basis of community. Because our citizens are spread across the United States, the role of

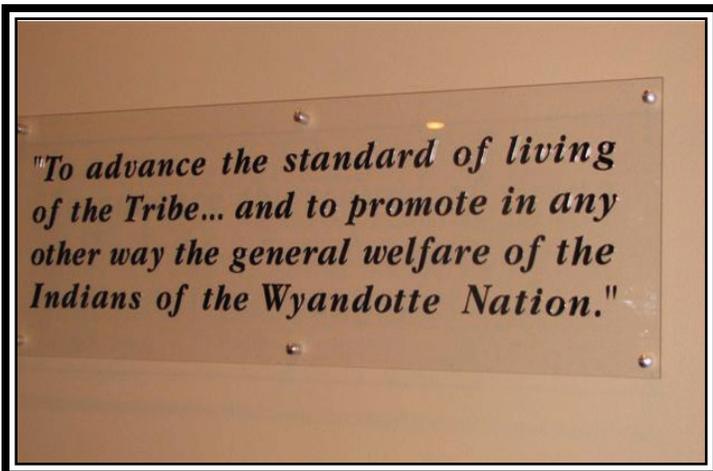
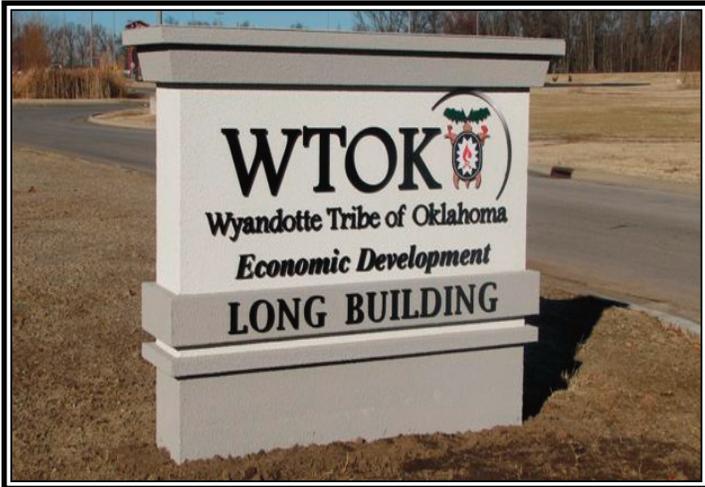
clans in today's daily life can't be the same as it historically was. It is our hope and belief that annually celebrating the Wyandotte Green Corn Feast will make us more committed to one another as individuals and our nation even stronger.

The Green Corn Feast is open to all Wyandots - Oklahoma, Kansas, Anderton and the Huron-Wendat of Wendake, citizens of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma and other neighboring tribes and nations. Family and friends are invited; however, it is not a public event as is the PowWow.

We are dedicating Tuesday and Wednesday of Culture Days to studying and preparing for the Green Corn Feast which will be held on Thursday, September 8. The Green Corn Feast will include preparing the ceremonial grounds and food, prayer and prayer songs, a Thanksgiving address, naming ceremony, the Big Feather Dance, Bean Dance, Woman's Dance, Closing speech, eating together, playing the peach seed and moccasin games, social dances and a stomp dance. The Seneca-Cayuga will help us, but the work to be done is Wyandotte responsibility.

Your help is needed! If you are willing to work at the Green Corn Feast site before September or want more information, please contact Lloyd Divine or Richard Zane Smith at culture@wyandotte-nation.org. There is much to be learned and we are all learning together. We need to understand that our language, clans and ceremonies are not extinct but have been dormant until the time for reawakening – and that time is now! See you in September

Long Building



Casino News

by Trudy Pendergraft



Another great year at the Turtle for all, we made some changes with a new kiosk for promotions, where our guest can come in and swipe for prizes. A big thanks to Adam, Casey and of course John, we call him Mac Gyver. These young men are from WNC in the Marketing Department, team work is the answer. We have other great teams with community events that have been taking place. One of those is the Park of Lights at Twin Bridges State Park. We took third place prize and turned it back to the Park Partners to go back into the community. Plans are being made for the Lucky Turtle's seventh anniversary coming up on May 17th, 2011. Come in and see what is going on in YOUR Casino. Have a great year from your Turtle family.

by Casey Ellett



As the chill of winter descends we find ourselves warming up the soup pot and putting out the welcoming mat for all seeking comfort, and fun. Twin bridges restaurant and lounge served up a storm on New Years Eve, to reward our VIPs. We will be hosting a get together on January 24th to meet and greet the new Casino Host, our own Cassie Holt. She is transitioning well into her new position. She will be overseeing several upcoming events.

The concession stand makeover is days out now, and we all eagerly await the new set-up and fresher offerings. Come in and try our international nights Wednesday is Spaghetti and Meatball night, Thursday is Fiesta Day, and coming soon Asian Day. Or play a little Wii in the lounge.



By Teresa Welters

Wyandotte Nation Casino is getting ready for a successful 2011 with lots great promotions, changes, and some new faces to contribute to our current outstanding staff. Employees and guests are excited to see the renovation

of Campfire Concessions underway.

Along with a fresh look in the concessions area, WNC also has a new face for its loyal patrons. Cassie Holt has been selected to be Wyandotte Nation Casino's Host! Cassie has been employed in Twin Bridges Restaurant for one year as a server, and has already had a chance to converse with some of our best players. We are excited to be able to reach our best players on a personal level once again, and we are confident that Cassie will do an outstanding job!

The New Years' Eve Celebration was a great opportunity for our guests to meet Cassie as the Casino's Host. Both the employees and guests were able to kick off 2011 with high spirits in celebration with our \$10,000 gift giveaway to our best players. Thanks to our HR department, employees were also excited to be involved in a gift giveaway, and received some great prizes.

Thank you to all who make Wyandotte Nation Casino such a great place to work and play! Get ready for an exciting 2011!

Sophie Elizabeth



Sophie Elizabeth Leek was born on Dec. 27, to Mollie (DeWeese) and Joshua Leek. She weighed 6lbs. 2oz. and was 20 ½ inches long. She was welcomed home by big brother Gavin. Mollie is a former Wyandotte Nation Princess. Sophie is the granddaughter of Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director.



Medicare Advantage

Those unhappy with private plans have until mid-February to change. URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/full_story_107346.html(*this news item will not be available after 04/05/2011)

By Robert Preidt

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 5 (HealthDay News) -- People enrolled in Medicare Advantage private health plans have until Feb. 14 to leave those plans, but a national consumer group urges a careful review of options before making any decision.

During what the Medicare agency calls the Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period, people who leave a private plan can switch only to traditional Medicare coverage administered by the federal government.

"People with Medicare who become unhappy with their Medicare Advantage plan have one more opportunity to change their coverage before being locked in until next fall," Joe Baker, president of the nonprofit Medicare Rights Center, said in a news release from the center. "Because the window is shorter than in past years, consumers should review their coverage options carefully and consider all of the implications of making a change before doing so."

Traditional Medicare does not cover the full cost of care so many consumers who enroll in traditional Medicare buy supplementary coverage, called Medigap plans, to help pay out-of-pocket costs. However, people who switch from a Medicare Advantage plan to traditional Medicare may be limited in their ability to purchase supplemental coverage because of variations in state laws, according to the Medicare Rights Center.

The group advises consumers to call their State Health Insurance Assistance Program to find out if they can buy Medigap policies.

It also warns that some people who leave a private plan may have to join a stand-alone Medicare prescription drug plan to maintain drug coverage.

When choosing a drug coverage plan, the group says, people should consider:

- Premium and co-payment costs
- Whether medications they take are included on the plan's list of covered drugs
- Whether the plan has restrictions, such as quantity limits, prior authorization or step therapy

SOURCE: Medicare Rights Center, news release, Jan. 3, 2011

Prevention



Untreated depression is the number one cause of suicide. If you're feeling sad for a day or two, then this is not depression.

Depression is when you experience a prolonged period of sadness that interferes with your ability to function. Depression occurs because of an imbalance of chemicals in the brain. Depression is an illness, and is treatable. If you are depressed, and are not treated you may be at risk for suicide. Symptoms of suicide may include:

- Withdrawing from family and friends

- Feeling hopeless
- Feeling helpless
- Feeling strong anger or rage
- Talking or writing about death
- Giving things away
- Change in weight or appetite
- Giving personal belongings away
- Fatigue or loss of energy
- Intense anxiety, agitation, restlessness or being slowed down
- Having a plan of suicide

If you or a loved one has these symptoms, talk with your doctor about how you are feeling. If you needed someone to talk to immediately call 1-800-273-TALK.

PLEASE SEND YOUR MEMBER NEWS TO:
TURTLE TALK
 64700 E HWY 60
 WYANDOTTE, OK 74370
 OR FAX TO
 (918) 678-2944

Roll #1351

Each edition of the tribal newsletter will include a Roll Number. The lucky tribal member will receive a tribal t-shirt mailed to them. Contact Kim Garcia at 918-678-2297 ext. 217 to claim your prize.

Tribal Department Reports

Bearskin Healthcare

We encourage you to read this important information regarding Contract Health Services. This will help you understand how Contract Health Services work.

There have been a lot of misunderstandings involving the Contract Health Services. Here are some examples:

- If you call in your emergency on an ER visit, this does not mean that your visit will be paid for. This is only a qualification for consideration by a determination from the Contract Health Services Committee. The only cases being considered at this time are Category I or Priority I cases. If your illness has persisted for days, you have the opportunity to come in to the clinic to avoid an unnecessary emergency room visit, which might not be paid for or considered a Category I case. Any family member can call in an emergency visit if you are unable to since it has to be called in within 72 hours.
- If you are denied, you have 30 days to appeal this decision. You cannot wait months, 1 year, or more.
- If you choose to go on your own to a physician for services, or any other type of facility, you cannot expect for the Bearskin Contract Health Services to pick up your bill on your balances. In order to qualify for payment, you will need to come through this clinic and let our physician write up a referral to be submitted to our Contract Health Services to be reviewed at a committee meeting which are usually held every Tuesday. These days are subject to change occasionally.
- In order to be eligible for Contract Health Services through the Bearskin Health Clinic, you need to have a current chart here or electronic health record. If you do not, you will not be considered until you fill out the information and send it in to the clinic.
- Once you have been approved on a visit or an emergency room visit, you are required to report each and every visit ahead of the scheduled time, in order for this to be approved through the Contract Health Services committee. Every visit has to be pre-approved. If you do not contact Bridget Burleson, our Contract Health Specialist, before going to another scheduled appointment, that visit will not be paid for by our funds. This is a very strict requirement. This is to emphasize that this is the patient's responsibility, not the physician's office or the hospital's offices.
- If you do not have insurance, you may be required to fill out an application at Department of Health Services in your county. It is mandatory that you apply within the month of your hospital visit, ER visit, or whatever the case may be. You can have the hospital call in to the state DHS office if it falls on the last day of the month. These are necessary rules that we have to abide by and are going to be changing in the next few months. The new rules will require the patient to apply before treatment at a physician's office. If you have

an ER visit, and do not have health insurance, you will be required to apply the day of the ER visit. The hospitals should have information on how to do this while you are at the hospital. They can fax this to the DHS office. If you have any questions regarding these new rules, you can contact Bridget Burleson at Ext. 227.

Please read these Contract Health Services Guidelines carefully. It is very critical that you abide by these rules. I wish we did have the funds to take care of every health problem that comes across our clinic, but unfortunately, we do not.

Bearskin Health Clinic Contract Health Services (CHS) is a federally funded program to assist eligible patients financially with specialized care that is not directly available from the Bearskin Health Clinic. Other contracted facilities are Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, Integris Baptist Regional Health Center in Grove and Miami, St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin, Missouri, Craig General Hospital in Vinita, Wagoner Community Hospital in Wagoner, and Claremore IHS Hospital. **ASSISTANCE DEPENDS ON ELIGIBILITY, RESIDENCE, MEDICAL PRIORITIES, ALTERNATE RESOURCES, AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING.**

The Bearskin Health Clinic CHS program also contracts with specialty care physicians, hospitals, diagnostic groups and other health care providers to treat our patients at pre-arranged fees.

The Contract Health Service Program is funded yearly with federal funds by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Not all referrals for specialty care can be paid for by Bearskin Health Clinic Contract Health Services, because the funding they receive cannot accommodate every need of every patient. Medical priorities have been established for determining which referrals can be authorized for payment.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BEARSKIN HEALTH CLINIC CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES:

1. Must be eligible for direct patient care services provided by Bearskin Health Clinic contracted facilities and/or an IHS facility. An individual is eligible if they are of Indian descent and a member of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe.

2. Non-Indians may be eligible in these situations: A non-Indian woman who is pregnant with an eligible Indian's child through pregnancy and postpartum; A non-Indian member of an eligible Indian's household who resides within the CHS service area is eligible for CHS if the Medical Officer in charge determines that services are necessary to control a public health hazard or an acute infectious disease. Patient must reside within the Bearskin Health Clinic 12 county CHS service area.

(continued on next page)

Department Reports (cont.)

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3. Out-Of-State residents are not eligible for CHS funds.

4. You must use all other resources to pay for your medical care, such as Medicare, Medicaid, VA, Worker's Comp, Title 19, Sooner Care, automobile insurance, and/or group health insurance, including IHS facilities when applicable.

5. CHS IS A PAYOR OF LAST RESORT!

The priority system helps patients have equal opportunity for specialty services and to make sure the funds are used to give the best possible benefits.

When services are not available at Bearskin Health Clinic and contracted facilities or at an IHS facility where the patient regularly receives care, a physician will initiate a referral to a contract specialty provider.

Contract Health Services Specialist at the Bearskin Health Clinic prepares all referrals to submit weekly for the CHS Review Committee. The Review Committee meets every week. They have an average of 20 cases on a weekly basis. Referrals from the Bearskin Health Clinic are reviewed and categorized in accordance with approved Bearskin Health Clinic CHS medical priorities.

If your referral is denied, the patient and/or provider has 30 days from the date of the denial letter is received to appeal for reconsideration. Appeal should be made in writing and mailed to: Attn: Appeals Review Board, Bearskin Health Clinic, One Turtle Drive, Wyandotte, OK 74370.

EMERGENCY CALL-IN PROCEDURES:

Call-ins are to be reported to the Bearskin Health Clinic in Wyandotte, Oklahoma (918) 678-2282 Ext. 227. This call should be made when a patient has an emergency and is unable to go to the nearest Bearskin Health Clinic contracted facility or IHS facility. The patient must call the CHS office within 72 hours after the beginning of the treatment (**THIS DOES NOT GUARAN-**

TEE PAYMENT UNTIL IT IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE CHS REVIEW COMMITTEE!)

REFERRAL STEPS ARE:

1. Nurse/Provider will direct your referral to the Contract Health Services office.

2. Contract Health Services Specialist will counsel with you regarding eligibility, alternate resources such as Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, VA, Workman's Comp, Sooner Care, and Title 19, and schedules the appointment if necessary.

3. Patient will need a referral from Bearskin Health Clinic for each additional procedures, tests, follow-up exams, and or hospitalization. This is the patient's responsibility to contact the CHS Specialist each and every time!

4. If a patient schedules or reschedules an appointment without proper CHS authorization, the patient will be responsible for payment!

5. Get to know your CHS Specialist at the Bearskin Health Clinic to help with any scheduling and questions regarding Contract Health Services.

Further clarification and/or additional information concerning CHS may be obtained from the Contract Health Services Specialist, Bridget Burleson at 918-678-2282, Ext. 227.

Family Services

Winter has arrived in Wyandotte Territory with temperatures dipping near zero degrees recently. Mother Nature was very kind to us throughout late fall and early winter, enabling many to better prepare for what was to come. I hope our tribal families attending the December Holiday festivities enjoyed them as much as we did. Next year, with the completion of Fitness Center expansion, there will be so much more room for the Annual Meeting, the children's Christmas Party and/or other tribal events to come. It is going to be an exciting year at the Wyandotte Nation!! As tribal members, you have

much to proud of, not only about your heritage, but about the advancement, improvements and future things to come for this Nation. As a gift I received "The Spirit of Indian Women", and I wanted to share a few words of wisdom I found inspiring in the book to begin our new year: "Everything on the earth has a purpose, every disease an herb to cure it, and every person a mission. This is the Indian theory of existence. Children were encouraged to develop strict discipline and a high regard for sharing". As we move into the New Year, let us each ask what our mission on earth is, how we can share with one another, and how we can teach our children the right way to care and share with one another.

In the November, 2010 Turtle Speaks, there were announcements of new programs and increased program funding offered under the Family Services Department. Below is a recap of those announcements for those of you who may have missed them.

BURIAL ASSISTANCE: (RADIUS: NATIONWIDE: AMOUNT \$1,000.00)

Burial Assistance has been increased to \$1,000.00 effective October 1, 2010. Payment is made directly to the Funeral Home. This application process must be executed within 60 days of death.

NEW ENROLLEE BENEFIT: (RADIUS: NATIONWIDE: AMOUNT

\$100.00) Enroll your child before his/her first birthday to receive a \$100.00 gift card and a baby blanket with the tribal logo. A membership application and birth certificate must be provided to receive this benefit.

MEDICAL: FUEL ASSISTANCE (RADIUS: 50 Mile: AMOUNT \$250.00)

Tribal members residing within a 50 mile radius of the tribal headquarters may apply for fuel assistance to go to your medical appointments. Medical conditions must be related to a critical illness, a life threatening illness, or follow up treatments due to a serious medical condition.

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Department Reports (cont.)

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SENIOR CITIZENS ENERGY ASSISTANCE (RADIUS INCREASE: 200 MILES-AMOUNT \$100.00). Guidelines: 62+ years of age may apply for winter utility assistance October 1-March of 2011. \$100.00 is paid directly to the utility company. Summer utility assistance begins July 1, 2011-September 30, 2011.

ELDERS ASSISTANCE CHECK REQUEST: (RADIUS: 100 MILE: AMOUNT \$250.00) A \$250.00 per year Elders Assistance Program is provided to tribal elders 62+ to help enhance life quality. This program may be used to supplement other tribal programs: It may be used for household expenses/repairs/rent or other personal needs. Payment is made directly to the vendor or you may be reimbursed directly by providing original receipts for purchases.

CHILDRENS WINTER CLOTHING: (RADIUS 200 MILES: AMOUNT \$100.00) Effective December 1, 2010 through March 1, 2011, a \$100.00 clothing allowance is provided to tribal members age pre-K through the 12th grade. Families that are income eligible may obtain Wal-Mart Gift Cards by providing check stubs for all employed family members or we can accept a copy of your 2009 Federal Income tax return. Families that are not income guideline eligible are required to use a cost reimbursement program and submit receipts for reimbursement.

SCHOOL EXPENSE ASSISTANCE CHECK: EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: (RADIUS 50 MILES: AMOUNT \$100.00) The School expenses assistance be allotted from October to May to tribal members ages preK-10th grade for expenses related to school attendance and school participation such as: class pictures, school lunches, school supplies, instrument rental, lab fees, testing fees, sports activities, academic fees, ect. If you have a question regarding allowable expenses, please call.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR OR SENIOR

ASSISTANCE CHECK REQUEST: (RADIUS 50 MILES: AMOUNT \$250.00). The \$250.00 High School Junior and Senior assistance program is provided to tribal members to help offset the added expense of junior/senior expenses. The application must be supported by a statement from the high school official on letterhead stating the date of planned graduation. The student must state the purpose of the assistance such as yearbook, class pictures, cap and gown, announcements, letter jacket, pictures, class ring, school lunches, school supplies, instrument rental, testing fees, college testing, sports activities or other related expenses. Payment can be made directly to the vendor, or reimbursed to you with proof of payment receipts.

In addition to the above named programs the Family Services Staff administers the following services: Oklahoma Tribal Tag Program, Tribal Enrollment, Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood Requests, infant child passenger safety seats, fall school supplies, emergency assistance, Oklahoma Low Income Home Energy Program, Promoting Safe and Stable Families, and Indian Child Welfare.

As not all applications are on the Nation's website, please contact us if you need an application, or if you have questions regarding family services programs. Until next issue, stay warm and remember Spring is already the corner. Kate Randall: 918-678-2297 #224, Dana Butterfield at 918-678-2297 Extension # 219.

Environmental Department Nov. 2010 – Jan. 2011

The month of November our department welcomed Jessica Stoerger as our Environmental Education Technician. Jessica comes to us with a background in Fish and Wildlife Biology. Jessica grew up just over the line in Newton County, MO. She is married and has two children.

November just seemed to fly by for our department. Jessica has been busy with recycling duties. She has established a recycling route with the new Tribal Housing Complex located to the North of the Tribal Offices. Jessica also picks up cardboard from the Wyandotte Nation Casino, the Turtle Stop and the Bank of Wyandotte on a regular schedule throughout each week. She is working with Wyandotte Schools to add them to the recycling route in the near future. If you have not met Jessica yet, stop by our department for a visit. Between thanksgiving Dinners and meetings we stayed busy and never looked back.

The first week of December found Christen attending the RTOC/EPA Summit in Dallas, TX. On December 1st Janice and Jessica performed the quarterly Water 106 Nutrient sampling on 6 sites, located on the Spring and Neosho Rivers, Lost and Sycamore Creeks. Janice stays busy keeping up with both of the Tribal Wells and the sampling schedules set forth by EPA. This month, along with regular daily duties, found us enjoying the Christmas season with fellow co-workers. Thank you to the Wyandotte Nation, Chief Bearskin, 2nd Chief Billy Friend and the Board of Directors for another wonderful year! Their support and belief in our department, helps us to be able to be a strong voice for a healthy environment for generations to come!

January starts our turn around the corner for the Environmental Department. With all the holidays behind us, the day-to-day duties increase. Christen and Kathleen have been very involved with NATURE (Native American Tribes Understanding Resources in the Environment), 6TREATY, TCTC and TCTIT Meetings. These groups involve Tribes from within Ottawa County, each one with its own agenda and issues related to the environment. In the ever looming foreground is the heavy metals contamination from years of mining within (continued on next page)

Department Reports (cont.)

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the Tri-State Mining District. We continue to work with Federal, State and Local agencies towards the goal of a cleaner and healthier environment for all tribal members.

This year in our 319 Non-point Source Grant, we will be working with a local contractor, performing private septic system assessments. We will be assessing whether septic systems are performing properly or failing. The assessment area will be within the Wyandotte Nation Watershed area. If you are not sure you are located within this water shed, you may contact either Christen Lee or Kathleen Welch. Thru the EPA Water 106 Grant, our department continues to offer water sampling of private well systems for Tribal members within a 50 mile radius of the tribal office. The samples will be sent to an EPA certified lab, and analyzed for e-coli bacteria and heavy metals.

The Department will be sending out a short fishing survey to help us gather natural resource information for our Grand Lake Claim. Those who participate will be entered into a drawing for a prize! Any response is great and we appreciate all Tribal members help!

For more information please feel free to contact our office at 918 – 678 – 2297. Contact information is located below.

Christen Lee, Env. Director (Ext. 241)
Kathleen Welch, Env. Assistant (Ext. 235)

Janice Wilson, Water Tech (Ext. 245)
Jessica Stoerger, Env. Ed. Tech (Ext. 252)

Planning/Development

Construction is on schedule at the Wellness Center. Sheet rock is going up and the maple flooring will be going down soon on the gymnasium floor. We will be including a Tribal Logo on the basketball court, bottom of pool, and on the wall mats in the gymnasium. There will also be a Culture wall in the room

entering the gymnasium. Lloyd Divine and Sallie Cotter Andrews have been working very hard on this project with hopes this will be the beginning of creating a Culture Center in the future.

We have been in the process of planning and implementing to help the Housing Department relocate into their new offices. They will be located across from the playground in the new housing addition. We added water and sewer lines to tap in to our current system, and applied for water and sewer permits from DEQ in order to do this. We have also worked with Empire to get electricity to the new office building.

Debbie Dry and Ron Kaiser traveled to Washington D.C. in January to a workshop held by The Department of Justice. We were there to help with the implementation of the Sex Offender Registration & Notification Act (SORNA). All the tribes are expected to implement this or opt out. Opting out would mean turning it over to the state and risk losing our sovereignty.

Elder Services

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. Santa came to visit and gave out some nice goodie bags! Below is a picture of Chief on Santa's lap. We are not sure if he was asking for a pony or tips on the ponies. Anyway we all had a great time!



We are holding a food drive in our Title VI Building. Our local food banks were hit pretty hard this holiday season

so we decided to partner with our community and help replenish their shelves.

We are now part of the Northeast Oklahoma Tribal Transit Consortium. If you or someone you know that lives in our area needs a ride to our center, the Doctor, shopping, etc. Please call 1-877-542-1356 to schedule a ride.

Oklahoma Health Care Solutions are visiting us twice per month now. They are providing hot hand waxing, manicures, pedicures, arts and crafts and bingo. They are going to host an Oldie Wed game for our Valentine's Party, February 11 right after lunch. It should be a hoot! They will also be here February 18.

Our Easter Party will be April 21, right after lunch. As usual we will have an egg hunt, bonnet contest and men's sexy leg contest.

Bearskin Health Center is providing blood pressures and blood sugars the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Our Caregiver Support Group Meeting is the first Thursday of each month, in the Education building conference room and the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group is the first Friday of each month at the First United Methodist Church in Grove, OK. Both meetings begin at 10:30 a.m.

As always it is a great pleasure to serve here at the Wyandotte Nation. If we can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Brenda House, Director, Elder Services ext. 227

Dari Ann Hunnicutt, Caregiver Specialist ext. 253

Kandi Smith, Food Service Team Supervisor ext. 228

Leesa Hibbard, Lynda Wilson, and Seth Higginbotham, Food Service Team Members ext. 228

Berle Blevins, Experience Works Program ext. 228

John Charloe, Vista Volunteer ext. 227

Menu ext. 226

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Department Reports (cont.)

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Housing Department

Around the beginning of November, families began to move into the newly constructed single family units. Currently, all twelve of the single family units are rented and the residents seem to be adjusting to and enjoying their new residences very well. It has been exciting to be able to provide new housing opportunities for our tribal families.

In the near future, we are planning to build three additional senior duplex units. We are hoping to be able to begin construction on the units sometime this spring.

The Housing Department will soon be

moving to a new location. We have placed an office near the new housing division behind the current tribal headquarters. Our new address for the office location will be 64600 E 145 Rd, Wyandotte, OK 74370. However, we will continue receiving mail at the regular administration address of 64700 E Hwy 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370. When we move to our new office, we will be getting new contact information. However, we do not have that information now, so we will include the new contact information in the next Turtle Talk edition. We are hope to be in our new office by the first of March.

If you would like to fill out an appli-

cation for housing or have any other questions about housing programs please contact our office. Federal Income Guidelines are followed.

Also, if you live in the Indian Health Service Area and are in need of water or sanitation services, please contact the office.

Kathy DeWeese- Housing Director
Valari Eby- Housing Specialist
Paul Paquin- Project Coordinator
Don Graham- Project Coordinator
Brian Adkins- Residential Maintenance Technician

Education Department

Pre-school:

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool has been very busy since the last issue with all of the holiday festivities and classroom work. The new housing addition has brought some new children to the area and potential preschool students. Our spring semester will bring Holiday parties, Week of the Young Child festivities, preschool pow-wow and the end of the year graduation ceremonies.

Before and After School Program:

The before and after school program enrollment remains steady with approximately thirty children utilizing the program while their parents work or attend school. If you are searching for a quality program for your child to attend, please contact Tammy at ext 230.

Library:

Winter is a wonderful time to become a patron of the library. With the latest titles in print and on video, let the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Library save you a drive. Stop by and check out this hidden treasure.

Child Care & Development Fund Program:

The Child Care and Development Fund is the program that provides child care assistance to families with small children. Our annual report that was submitted in December reflected that we assisted 225 children in fiscal year 2010.

Tribal Scholarships:

Grades from the fall semester of 2010 are due with the schedule for spring of 2011 to receive the next semesters funding. Applications for fall semester of 2011 are now available for mailing and all education forms will soon be added to the member's only section of the Wyandotte Nation web site. Applications are to be returned with all documentation requested no later than May 2, 2011. The tribe has funding available for vocational educational programs, as well as, undergraduate

and master's level college classes.

If you have questions about the education programs at the Wyandotte Nation, please contact Tammy Charles at Ext. 230.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA):

The WIA program has been able to fund a few new short term clients to the program recently. A primary focus has been placed on students who will finish their education in less than a year. If you are interested in more information, contact Arthur at ext 234.

Submitted by:
Tammy R. Charles



Micah Wooldridge

Services Provided to Tribal Members



Service	Program Contact	Phone Number	Extension
Dental	Amanda Johnston	(918) 678-2282	257
Vision	Amanda Johnston	(918) 678-2282	257
Clinic (for appointments)	Linda Coatney or Elaine Fidler	(918) 678-2282	228
Pharmacy (Call in only)	Carolyn Nesvold	(918) 678-2282	224
Fitness Center	Kelly Walker	(918) 678-2282	259
Contract Health	Bridget Burleson	(918) 678-2282	227
Diabetes Clinic	Donna Krewson	(918) 678-2282	258
Nutrition	Brenda House	(918) 678-2297	227
Caregiver Services	Dari Ann Hunnicutt	(918) 678-2297	253
Enrollment	Dana Butterfield	(918) 678-2297	219
Tags	Dana Butterfield	(918) 678-2297	219
Housing Programs	Kathy DeWeese	(918) 678-2297	239
Student Housing Assistance	Kathy DeWeese	(918) 678-2297	239
Housing Improvements	Kathy DeWeese	(918) 678-2297	239
Well-Septic Construction	Kathy DeWeese	(918) 678-2297	239
School Supplies	Kate Randall	(918) 678-2297	224
Car Seats	Kate Randall	(918) 678-2297	224
Emergency Assistance	Kate Randall	(918) 678-2297	224
Scholarships	Tammy Charles	(918) 678-2297	230
Job Training	Arthur Anderson	(918) 678-2297	230
Preschool	Tammy Charles	(918) 678-2297	230
Library	Tammy Charles	(918) 678-2297	230
Adult Education	Tammy Charles	(918) 678-2297	230
Childcare	Tammy Charles	(918) 678-2297	230
Environmental	Christen Lee	(918) 678-2297	241
Human Resources	Deana Howard	(918) 678-2297	220
Turtle Trax Printing	Pat Wilson	(918) 678-2297	238