

GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA

THE TURTLE SPEAKS



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MAY 20

Retirement



As some of you already know after 28 years as Chief of the Wyandotte Nation I have announced my retirement effective May 31, 2011. It is with great pride I have served my people all these years. As Chief I have met so many wonderful people over the years.

In accordance with the Constitution and Election Ordinance, in the event that there is a vacancy in the office of the Chief, the Second Chief shall immediately succeed the Chief. Second Chief Billy Friend will fulfill my term as Chief of the Wyandotte Nation effective June 1, 2011. I am leaving the office in excellent hands.

Billy has done a superb job as Second Chief and will continue to do so as Chief.

All of our Board of Directors, Department Heads, and employees of the Wyandotte Nation have made our accomplishments possible and our tribal members have benefited from all our efforts.

Again and again I have said to our tribal members, tribal employees, and many people across the United States, I am the proudest Chief in the Indian World.

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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From Billy Friend - Second Chief



Kweh,

Once again I hope this quarter's newsletter finds all doing well and having a great year. As always things begin to really pick up this time of year here at the tribal headquarters and summer will be upon us before we know it.

Our new addition to the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is just days away from completion and is going to be a great addition to our current facilities. It will allow us to further expand our fitness and wellness programs for all ages and will be a great benefit to the surrounding community. We will be planning a grand opening sometime early this summer. I welcome everyone that has the opportunity to stop by for a tour of the facility when you are in the area.

As many of you may now know Chief Bearskin has announced his retirement effective May 31st of this year. He has served the Wyandotte Nation as Chief for the past 28 years. During his 28 years of service his accomplishments are far too numerous to list in the short amount of space that is allowed for this article. His influence

has not only been felt by our Nation, but throughout the state of Oklahoma and across the United States. He has been a loyal and fierce advocate of tribal sovereignty and rights for not only the Wyandotte Nation, but for all tribes across this great nation. During the 1980's and 90's no one was more outspoken than Chief Bearskin when it came to the rights of Indian tribes to govern themselves and break away from the years of control and mismanagement by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service. Under his leadership the Wyandotte Nation became one of the first small tribes to sign a compact with the federal government under the Indian Self Determination and Education Act to govern ourselves and break away from the federal bureaucracies. These are just a few of the things that Chief was so passionate about during his time as the leader of the Wyandotte Nation.

Personally, Chief Bearskin is my mentor, leader and most of all he is my friend. Anyone that knows Chief will always tell you that he always treated everyone the same, but always had a way of making you feel like you were the most important. For someone who was viewed as a fierce and stern leader, you will never find a more caring and compassionate person than Chief Bearskin. He is a father figure to every employee and grandpa to all of our children. I have often told peo-

ple that Chief has very seldom given me spoken advice, but I learned every day from him just by his actions and the way he treated others. I read a quote one time that basically said "the key to success is not worrying about who is going to get the credit" and that is how Chief has lead the past 28 years, he always emphasized the "we" and never the "I". I have had many people ask me how I am going to fill Chief Bearskin's shoes and I tell them you don't fill the shoes of man like Chief Leaford Bearskin, but you have them bronzed and put them high upon a shelf and spend the rest of your life trying to live up to them.

According to our Constitution and By-laws I will assume the position of Chief on June 1st and will finish out Chief Bearskin's current term. I humbly ask for your prayers and support as I take on the responsibilities of Chief of the Wyandotte Nation.



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

Members Bring Nurturing Touch

Wyandotte Nation Members Bring Nurturing Touch to Orphans in Vietnam

The work of the Liddle Kidz Foundation involves a great deal of traveling across the US, Canada and around the world, providing education on the benefits of infant and pediatric massage therapy and developing pediatric massage programs. Founder, Tina Allen (Wyandotte Tribal Member) has educated staff and developed pediatric massage programs in leading medical institutions such as The Mayo Clinic, Shriners Hospital, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA, AI DuPont/Nemours Foundation, Children's Mercy Hospital and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. This continued traveling has created the opportunity for Tina, her husband Shad, a professional recording artist, and their son Otis to spend time visiting the Wyandotte Nation in Oklahoma.



In December, 2010, Tina, Shad and their two-year old son, Otis (Wyandotte Tribal Member), took a group of 18 volunteer healthcare professionals

to Vietnam to provide nurturing touch and pediatric massage to the many orphaned children throughout the country.

Tina writes about some of her favorite moments from the Vietnam journey below:

As the number of orphans escalates around the world, there is an increasing demand for sensory stimulation, nurturing touch and developmentally appropriate care within orphanages and childcare settings. It is the vision of the Liddle Kidz Foundation to make a true difference for children who have been orphaned, along with their caregivers, who lack the necessary support to provide them with best developmental care possible.

Our volunteer group spent two weeks in Vietnam traveling from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) to Hanoi, providing hands-on massage therapy and nurturing touch to hundreds of infants and children. To create sustainable impact, we also taught staff and caregivers to provide massage for children that are seemingly untouchable.

In Vinh Long, we spent the day at a government facility. Where, during our welcome, we learned we were the first American/Canadian group ever allowed within the facility walls. Overall, it appeared that the majority of the children were healthy and well, and may suffer from very slight medical challenges.

However, I noticed that staff occasionally left the first floor, where we were working, to make their way up two staircases to a second floor. I respectfully, and secretly, made my way upstairs to the second floor to discover

more rooms set off of a long outdoor hallway. It was upstairs where we needed to be. Here there were children with developmental delays, down syndrome, hydrocephalus, cleft palates and lips, and cerebral palsy.

I asked the team to join me upstairs. As soon as the team entered the room, I said, "Find a child who needs you, meet them, pick them up and hold them." The team hesitated for just a moment, maybe in shock, maybe not understanding just yet that these children were never removed from those cribs.

It was in the last room where I chose to start working. Children there had severe contractures and were non verbal, lying in large wooden slatted cribs without mattresses. One little boy caught my attention. In his crib I could see wear marks in the wooden slats where his body touched and wore out the wood. Using massage,



and some range of motion, I tried to loosen his tight muscles and frozen joints. This proved a challenge to find any movement. We spent a majority of our time making eye contact, while I held him, rocked him and spoke to him. It wasn't long before he laughed. He laughed, it was amazing! He is not different from another child, he just needed love, attention, and nurturing (continued on next page)

Nurturing continued

(continued from previous page)
to find his childlike giggle.

During our journey our main focus was to bring nurturing touch to orphans throughout the country. We journeyed from south to north to spread nurturing touch and education. We didn't know it at the beginning of our journey, but at our last stop we would realize our impact went far beyond the healing touch we provided to children. At the end of the trip, it all came to realization with a visit to Friendship Village.

Friendship Village is a facility dedicated to men, women and children who are suffering the affects of Agent Orange. The devastating impact of this chemical has been so long felt. On the morning of our visit, we started with an infant and pediatric massage class for the staff, volunteers and visiting healthcare providers from the Hanoi Children's Hospital. However, in the afternoon we had a very unique opportunity to provide nurturing touch for the Vietnam Veterans affected by Agent Orange and injuries

of the war.

Many of the therapists were a bit perplexed at first, because we had been so intensely focused on children, but the veterans quickly won them over and by the end tears were shed and deep insights were gained. The volunteers said it was the first time they realized what a powerful role they could play in healing the effects of the Vietnam war.

During the sessions, there was a group of therapists working in a smaller room with a second set of veterans. One experience that had everyone reeling was when a couple of the therapists began to sing Beatles songs as they were massaging the vets. This simple act brought the vets to tears which in turn brought the singing therapists to tears. We would have never thought, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" was so profound. Unconditional love was shared that day, and throughout our entire Vietnam journey.

For more information about the Liddle Kidz Foundation, please visit: www.LiddleKidz.com

About Liddle Kidz Foundation

Liddle Kidz Foundation Global uses the power of touch to reach the world's most vulnerable children with experiences of appropriate nurturing touch that they often lack.

With nurturing, compassion and touch therapy, children will develop and reach their full potential. We strive to address their critical tactile needs by working directly with their families and healthcare providers in pediatric hospitals, hospices, and orphanages to provide comprehensive nurturing services, consultation, education, program development and support. We are committed to furthering the development of touch therapy services for vulnerable and underserved populations internationally. Through education and support we work to create replicable and sustainable change.

Children are our greatest gift and should be treated with extraordinary care!

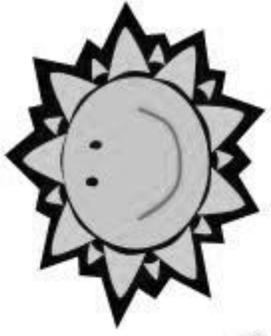
D.A.R.E.

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police and the Wyandotte Public Schools have partnered to add the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program to the fifth-grade curriculum this year. Police Chief Ken Murphy says "the department is excited to have the opportunity to be in the classroom and help students learn to make healthy choices". Over 60 students will participate this year but the program will likely be expanded to additional grades in the coming school year. A new study from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) found that fifth-grade students who take part in comprehensive, interactive school-based prevention programs starting as early as first grade were half as likely as their peers to use alcohol or other drugs, act out violently, or engage in sexual activity.

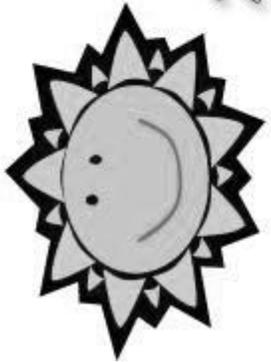
D.A.R.E. Fast Facts

Millions of children will benefit this year from the D.A.R.E. program
220 new communities started D.A.R.E. in last three years
75% of USA school districts and 43 countries teach D.A.R.E.
10,000+ communities using D.A.R.E.
75,000+ D.A.R.E. officers trained/certified throughout USA
\$12 per child from K through 12 for all educational materials
(as a non-profit D.A.R.E. is the most affordable program available)





Wyandotte Nation 2011 Summer Youth Program



The Wyandotte Nation Government is seeking Wyandotte Nation Tribal Members to fill positions for the 2011 Summer Youth Program.

Criteria for this program:

- ✓ Enrolled in high school or college and able to provide proof of enrollment upon request
- ✓ Must be ages 16 – 22
- ✓ Able to provide a Wyandotte Nation membership card upon request
- ✓ Have dependable transportation to and from work
- ✓ Ability to fulfill the requirements of the assigned position
- ✓ Pass a physical, background check and drug screen

Eligible participants will work 40 hours per week at \$8.50/hour. Current assignments are available in the following areas: Turtle Trax Print Shop, Bearskin Fitness Center, Law Enforcement, Wyandotte Nation Administration, Education, Housing, Environmental and Maintenance Departments. The Summer Youth Program will begin the Monday following the last day of school.

Applications are available at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Building located at 64700 East Highway 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370.

For more information and schedule an interview please contact Deana Howard, HR Specialist, Wyandotte Nation Government - toll free 800-256-2539 ext 220, email dhoward@wyandotte-nation.org or fax 918-678-2944.

Member News

Gaming Promotion



Please join me in welcoming Teresa Wilson as our new Background Investigator in our Gaming Commission Department. Teresa has worked for The Lucky Turtle Casino for over seven years and brings a wealth of casino knowledge with her. In her spare time, Teresa enjoys being outdoors, fishing, golfing, and spending time with her family.

Teresa is very passionate about working for her tribe and we are very pleased to have her on our team. We wish her much success in her new position.

Skye Elizabeth Lofland



Curtis and Jamie Lofland of Webb City, MO are proud parents of daughter, Skye Elizabeth, born April 5, 2011 at 7:49pm. weighing 7lbs 6oz and measuring 20 1/2 inches. Big Brother is Trevor James Lofland. Grandparents are Jim and Debbie Johnson and Doug and Judy Lofland of Wyandotte. Great-Grandparents are Joe and Norma Johnson of Grove, Bill and Norma Leader of Seneca, Norman and Joann Hughes of Miami, and Charles and Rosemary Lofland of Wyandotte.

Congratulations!



The Wyandotte Nation would like to congratulate Norman Hildebrand (left) and Eric Lofland (right) on their appointments. Norman will take over for Billy Friend as 2nd Chief and Eric has been elected for the position on the Board of Directors.

Roll #3484

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 García at 918-678-2297 ext. 217 to claim your prize.

Carla Culver Scholarship

Recently a scholarship has been established in honor of Carla Culver. Donations for this scholarship can be made to Wyandotte Nation, Culver Scholarship Fund.

Casino News



by Trudy Pendergraft

The Turtle is getting ready for the race for the 7th anniversary on May 17th. Chief Bearskin and 2nd chief Billy Friend will be here at 1pm to cut the cake and start the celebration. VGT will be here at 6 pm to start drawings every 15 minutes for \$77.00 and at 9 pm the final drawing for \$777.00. Come in, have some cake, and help us celebrate.

We will be displaying a riding lawn mower by the Turtle sign out front for our June give away. Come in and play any machine and if you hit triple bars or better you will receive an entry ticket. July is even better. You will be playing for a beautiful fishing boat. Come in and see the rules to find out how you can become a finalist.

Lucky said he hopes to see you on the 17th.



by Teresa Welters

Twin Bridges Restaurant and Lounge and Campfire concessions look forward to a great spring season. Our outlook is fresh and our specials are fabulous.

Campfire is undergoing a total remodel and will be transformed soon. Come join us in the Restaurant Mothers' Day for our delicious buffet serving all day.

We are featuring our smoked spare ribs or a fried chicken plate on Sundays.

Our award winning Baby back ribs are featured on Tuesdays. Wii tournaments are hosted in the Lounge. Come try your hand at bowling. Our large salad bar has brought a delightful addition to the menu. As always, Prime rib is offered on Friday and Saturday nights.



By Teresa Welters

Wyandotte Nation Casino is gearing up for spring with some exhilarating promotions and events! During the month of April, Wyandotte Nation Casino is celebrating its 4th Anniversary, and the Lucky Turtle Casino is celebrating 7 amazing years of business in May. These special occasions combined with some hot summer promotions are sure to make the next few months exciting ones.

The Community Action Team has been working hard to continue raising funds for local charities. Wyandotte Nation Casino employees have planned, organized, and executed several events in the past month including: a bake sale auction, a charity yard sale, fundraising t-shirt sales, and an April Fool's blind auction. These events raised nearly \$3,000 for local charities.

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CASINO CAFÉ NOW OPEN!

The Casino Café is now open inside the 7th Street Casino! After getting much appreciated feedback from their loyal players, the casino went into a construction phase to give their players exactly what they asked for. The Casino Café is scheduled to go to a 24/7 operation in the next few days and offers items fresh off the grill. Or, if you're in a hurry, they also have pre-made items available through the deli case. Daily Specials are an exceptional value at \$4.95 and the atmosphere is sure to provide you with a nice relaxing time!

With the restructuring of the restaurant area into a quaint cafe, it has allowed for more gaming space for our guests! This has provided us the opportunity to introduce some exciting new games and themes for our players. It has been fun making these changes and our guests have enjoyed the new service and benefits of playing at the 7th Street Casino! We hope you can stop in and check it out on your next visit!

Tribal Department Reports

BEARSKIN HEALTH CLINIC CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES

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.**
- 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 GUARANTEE 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** procedure, test, follow-up exam, 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.

(continued on next page)

Tribal Department Reports

(continued from previous page)

THE CLINIC NEEDS YOUR INFORMATION

The Bearskin Health Clinic is having some difficulty in obtaining certain information that is required from our tribal members. Some of the information we are required to have is:

- Current ID such as Drivers License or Picture ID (this has to be scanned)
- Copy of tribal card (including babies after enrolled, or letter from tribal office until enrolled)
- Copy of SS# card (including babies, application should be made as soon as possible after birth)
- Name change documentation such as marriage license, court orders, divorce papers
(Name cannot be changed without this documentation in our system)
- Bringing in Insurance Card (this has to be scanned)

This information is critical for reporting the data to Indian Health Services at the end of each fiscal year. I know it seems we are always asking for this information, but it is required not only for our tribal audits, but for the User Population Reports submitted every year. We would appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Thank you.

Karen Duderstadt, Business Services Manager, Bearskin Health Clinic

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

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. We can't help that these are necessary rules that we have to abide by. These rules 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.

Karen Duderstadt, Business Services Manager, Bearskin Health Clinic



Tribal Department Reports

Family Services

Kate Randall, Family Services
Dana Butterfield, Tag & Enrollment

SPRING AND SUMMER NEWS FROM FAMILY SERVICES:

Spring has arrived in Wyandotte Territory after a rather brutal February. I don't know about your part of the country, but here in Indian Country we saw around 18 inches of snow fall in February. Thankfully, unlike prior ice storms, we were fortunate to have our electricity. (One certainly admires the fortitude of our ancestors). With the changing of our seasons here in Native Oklahoma, one can expect just about any change in the weather. Whatever blows our way, we are getting prepared for it. The new storm shelter, located at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center, should open by May 17 as well as the entire expansion project. The new gym will sure make a great location to host future events. Speaking of events and programs to come, all tribal departments have many events and programs to report on in this newsletter. If you have any questions pertaining to the Family Services Programs, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Family Services Mission Statement is to promote, protect and preserve the family unit.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Spring has also been busy here at the Wyandotte Nation as the school year ends and summer projects being. The Family Services Department Staff, in conjunction with the 9 Ottawa County Tribes, hosted the "National Week of the Young Child" events the week of April 18, 2011. The Turtle Tots preschool attended the events. This annual event focuses on not only early childhood development, but positive messages for all of our Ottawa County grade school students.

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP:

During the month of June, the Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department, Environmental Department, and Bearskin Fitness Center Staff will host an afternoon youth camp. The focus of the camp is to promote fitness education, environmental education, and Native Arts. The afternoon youth program is open to include our tribal members ages 7-12. Please contact Dana or Kate for dates and additional details.

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OTHER FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS:

Tribal license plates, nationwide new enrollee initiatives, tribal enrollment and membership cards, Certificate of Indian Blood cards, children's safety passenger seats, emergency assistance, Indian Child Welfare, Promoting Safe & Stable Families, adoptions, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (December 2011), Senior Citizen Energy Program (Summer July 1-September 30), nationwide burial assistance, school supplies (August 1st, 2011) children's winter clothing (December 1, 2011) Domestic Violence and need based family services. Service area and income restrictions may apply.

CERTIFICATE OF DEGREE OF INDIAN BLOOD: (CDIB) WHAT IS IT? HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM AN ENROLLMENT CARD?

A CDIB card is an official U.S. document that certifies an individual possesses a specific degree of Native American blood of a federally recognized Indian Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community. Your CDIB card is issued by the Wyandotte Nation after the applicant has provided the Nation a completed genealogy with supporting legal documents such as birth certificates, showing their descent, through one or both birth parents, from an enrolled Indian or an Indian listed on a base roll (The Wyandotte Nation 1937 Base Roll). Blood degree cannot be obtained through adoptive parents. The blood degree on previously issued CDIBs or on the base roll in the filer's ancestry are used to determine the

filer's blood degree. A CDIB does NOT establish membership in a tribe. A CDIB Card is NOT automatically issued upon enrollment with the Wyandotte Nation. This process requires that a separate application be completed. **PLEASE NOTE: CDIB cards may be required for some Federal entities to receive services such as food programs, scholarships, health services or programs offered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.**

YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR ENROLLMENT CARD - WHAT IS IT?

Tribal membership for the Wyandotte Nation is based on the Constitution of the Wyandotte Nation. New enrollees, regardless of age, are voted upon by the Tribal council at the Nation's Annual Meeting held in September of each year. In order to be eligible for membership, the following criteria apply.

PLEASE NOTE: Wyandotte Nation programs require proof of your tribal Membership card only.

Section 1. Membership

A. All persons whose names appear on the official Census Roll of the Nation as of January 1, 1937.

B. All direct lineal descendants of persons identified in the official Census Roll of the Nation as of January 1, 1937, provided that they are not currently enrolled in any other Indian Tribe, tribal nation, pueblo, Indian band, or native village

C. The degree of blood quantum of an individual proven to possess Wyandotte blood will not be a factor in determining Wyandotte membership.

Section 2: Membership by Council

Vote: A person of Wyandotte Nation ancestry who does not meet the requirements of Section 1 of the Constitution may be accepted for membership by a majority vote of the Nation Council. However, all direct lineal descendants of the Absentee Wyandotte referred to in the Treaty of 1855 and (continued on next page)

Tribal Department Reports

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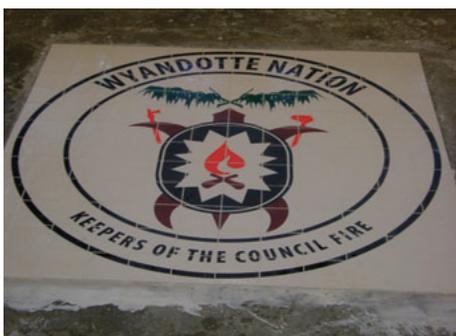
Treat of 1867 are not eligible for membership. All direct lineal descendants of persons who trace their lineage to the Olive roll census of Absentee Wyandotte of April 28, 1904 may not apply nor are they eligible for membership

Example: Membership Card

Example: Certificate Degree Indian Blood Card (Examples on page 13)

Planning/Development

Construction is almost complete on the Wellness Center. The pictures show the turtle on center court of the gymnasium, the turtle in the middle of the pool and the Culture Wall. A lot of time has been spent to make the expansion benefit as many tribal as well as community members as possible. We think the new expansion will have something for everyone.



Wyandotte Nation has just been notified that we were awarded the Indian Community Development Block Grant that we applied for. This is a competitive grant we apply for once a year, and it helped fund the Wellness Center Expansion and the Water Tower Project. This grant will be used to help fund housing rehabilitation.

We have submitted a grant application to implement the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). This is Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. The application was submitted through the office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking (SMART), which is an office in the Department of Justice. This would allow Wyandotte Nation to create a position to identify and monitor sex offenders, residing, working, visiting or moving through the area.

We are currently working on the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, which is a grant we will submit to the Department of Justice. There are three parts that we are applying for; the first part is Public Safety and Community Policing, and would be used for hiring and equipment. The second part is Methamphetamine enforcement, to increase the capacity of Tribal law enforcement to interdict illegal drugs and drug manufacturing/distribution networks. The third part is, Tribal Youth Program. The objective is to implement a year round healthy alternative youth program in the Wyandotte Community that targets youth age 12 - 17, approximately 40 in each program year, for participation in an after school and summer program.

We are also working on a grant application through the BIA Indian Highway Safety Program. The goal is to prevent distracted driving and promote highway safety.

Housing Department

Three new senior duplexes are in the

process of being built! We are very excited to be able to serve six additional seniors. If you have not had a chance to see the new housing area, we invite you to drive by. All twelve of the family units are occupied, and a new park has been added for the children.

We have received a grant which will allow us to rehabilitate eleven homes. The renovations will provide these homes with weatherization updates, such as new windows, roofs, siding and other items to help with heating and cooling expenses.

By the time you read this, the housing department should be in our new location. The office will now be located just west of the cemetery. We are excited about this move, and look forward to having you drop by and see us.

If you would like more information on our housing, or would like to fill out an application, please contact us. Federal Income guidelines are followed.

If you live in the Indian Health Service Area and are in need of water or sanitation services, please contact us for an application.

We look forward to serving you.

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

Environmental Department

The first day of Spring was officially March 20th, and our department started out with a bang. On March 25th we hosted our annual Recycling Round Up/E-Waste Day. This year we added E-waste to our items that we collected, and then delivered the e-waste products to Neosho Recycling Center, Neosho, MO. We collected 880 lbs of scrap metal and delivered it to CCM of Joplin, MO.

(continued on next page)

Tribal Department Reports

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April 8th, we held our 4th Annual Environmental Festival at Twin Bridges State Park. We had a total of 13 Vendor Booths, ranging from 7 Tribal Environmental Departments, Crowder College, NRCS, ODCC, Wildcat Glades, ODEQ, US Park Service, and Red Cedar Recycling. We had a total of 252 students in attendance, 38 patrons, 30 vendor employees, and 17 Wyandotte Nation Employee volunteers. Department employee Jessica Stoerger constructed a stream erosion table that was a big hit with students and adults alike. Crowder College had several solar energy products that were of major interest to the high school students, and the Peoria Tribe furnished a Fire/Smoke Trailer and taught the students about proper fire/smoke evacuation procedures.



We would like to say thank you to

everyone who attended, and those who volunteered your time and resources to make our Festival a huge success.

April 15th, our department had a booth at the Miami Spring Expo. We took RENIE Robot with us and talked to the children and adults about the importance of recycling. We try to attend as many community programs as possible, so as to get education to the public about the importance of recycling, clean water and other environmental issues.



With warmer weather in hand our department will be busy with upcoming bio-assessments on creeks within the area, soil testing and many other outdoor activities.

We would like to remind all tribal members within a 50 mile radius of two very important services we offer free of charge. They are water testing of private wells and a septic system assessment. For the private well test, we will come out to your residence and collect a water sample from your kitchen sink and then deliver it to an EPA certified lab for bacteria and heavy metals analysis.

For the septic system assessment, we have contracted with a certified septic system installer to conduct an assess-

ment of septic systems. This will be a basic assessment to determine if your system is performing properly. If during the assessment, it is discovered that there is a problem with your system, you will be notified and we will work with you to find possible ways to remedy the problem. This service is available for tribal and non-tribal citizens alike. If you would like to have either of these services performed please contact our department at 918-678-2297.

Christen Lee (ext. 241)

Kathleen A. Welch (ext. 235)

Janice Wilson (ext. 245)

Jessica Stoerger

ELDER SERVICES

John Charloe, VISTA Volunteer, Erin Corbit, Purchasing Assistant, and Brenda House, Elder Services Director, had the privilege to interview and video Chief Bearskin. The video touches on the life of Chief Bearskin as a child, his military career, his tenure as Chief here at the Wyandotte Nation, some history of the Wyandottes and many other topics. We want to thank Chief for taking the time to sit down with us and allow us to capture this historical event for present and future generations to enjoy. It was a great honor for us! Lloyd Divine will be placing this on our website sometime in the near future.

We will be going to the horse races Tuesday, May 10, 2011, at the Will Rogers Downs in Claremore, OK. Tammy Charles, our Education Director will pick us up in the Turtle Tot bus in front of the Title VI building at 10:45 a.m. We will arrive at the track at approximately 12:00 p.m. and have lunch in the Club House Restaurant. Post time is 12:30 p.m. There is also a casino under the stadium. Come out and play with us!

Tina Golden from Oklahoma Healthcare Solutions will be here Friday, May 20, to give free manicures after lunch.

Bearskin Health Center provides free blood pressure and blood sugar (continued on next page)

Tribal Department Reports

(continued from previous page)
screenings the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am here in the Title VI Building.

We still have our music parties the second and fourth Thursday of each month, before and after lunch.

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 am.

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

Menu ext. 226

Tribal Heritage

Kweh, Kweh Everyone!

Tribal Heritage Department has been very busy the past few months and will be just as busy the following months. We are very excited for the upcoming events ahead of us.

Sherri Clemons, Director, has been attending meetings on preservation of artifacts and documents in hopes of a museum in the future. We do not have a lot on hand right now due to no storage space and climate control environment. So the future on this may be brighter.

The Wyandotte Nation will host its annual ceremony on Memorial Day in the Wyandotte Cemetery May 30, 2011 at 10 am. We encourage everyone to attend. This is in honor of all veterans who paid a dear price for the freedom we enjoy.

Pow-Wow and Cultural Days are going to be packed with new and exciting things. If you can make it, this is a great year to attend. Many thoughts and prayers go into the entire week. I would like to thank the Pow -Wow and Cultural Committees for all the dedicated work they each contribute for each of these events.

Many wonderful things are happening in the Nation right now and it makes me proud to be a member of this great Nation.

Stay in touch and pray for everyone's health and safety.

Health Services Director



Congratulations to Kelly Walker on her recent promotion to Health Services Director. Kelly has been with the Tribe for nine years and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in the Health and Fitness field. We are very fortunate to have Kelly in this new position and wish her much success!

WYANDOTTE NATION OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP CARD

This is to certify that _____
Roll Number _____ is an Official Member of the
Wyandotte Nation.



WYANDOTTE NATION
P.O. Box 250
Wyandotte, OK 74370
(918) 678-2297

CERTIFICATE OF DEGREE OF INDIAN BLOOD

This is to certify that _____
born _____ is _____ degree Indian blood
of the Wyandotte Tribe.

_____ Date _____ Issuing Officer _____

Tribal Department Reports

Preschool:

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool program is about to end another year of classroom work. The Preschool Pow-Wow was held in the Wyandotte High School Gymnasium on April 12 and was attended by around 500 people. Week of the Young Child Events were well attended and enjoyed by students and family members. Graduation ceremonies will be held in the new Bearskin Wellness Center gymnasium and classes dismiss for summer on May 20.

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:

Some new western titles, as well as, movies and other books have recently been added. Jessie Winscott is always available to help patrons look for titles they desire to read!

Child Care & Development Fund Program:

The Child Care and Development Fund staff is in the process of writing the two year plan for the program. This document serves as the blueprint for program operation. We strive to assist all Wyandotte tribal members in our service area as they attend education classes or work.

Tribal Scholarships:

Applications are coming into the education office almost daily as soon to be high school graduates are preparing for their next level of education. The applications were due on May 2, 2011 and notification letters will be mailed in June. To continue funding for fall semester of 2011, submit your current schedule, grades and next semester schedule as soon as possible. Don't forget to contact the tribal office if you are considering any type of educational program to see how we may be of assistance to you.

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 was recently recognized at the National Workforce Conference for quality of service and performance. Congratulations to Mr. Anderson! If you are interested in our WIA program contact Arthur at ext. 234.

Submitted by:
Tammy R. Charles



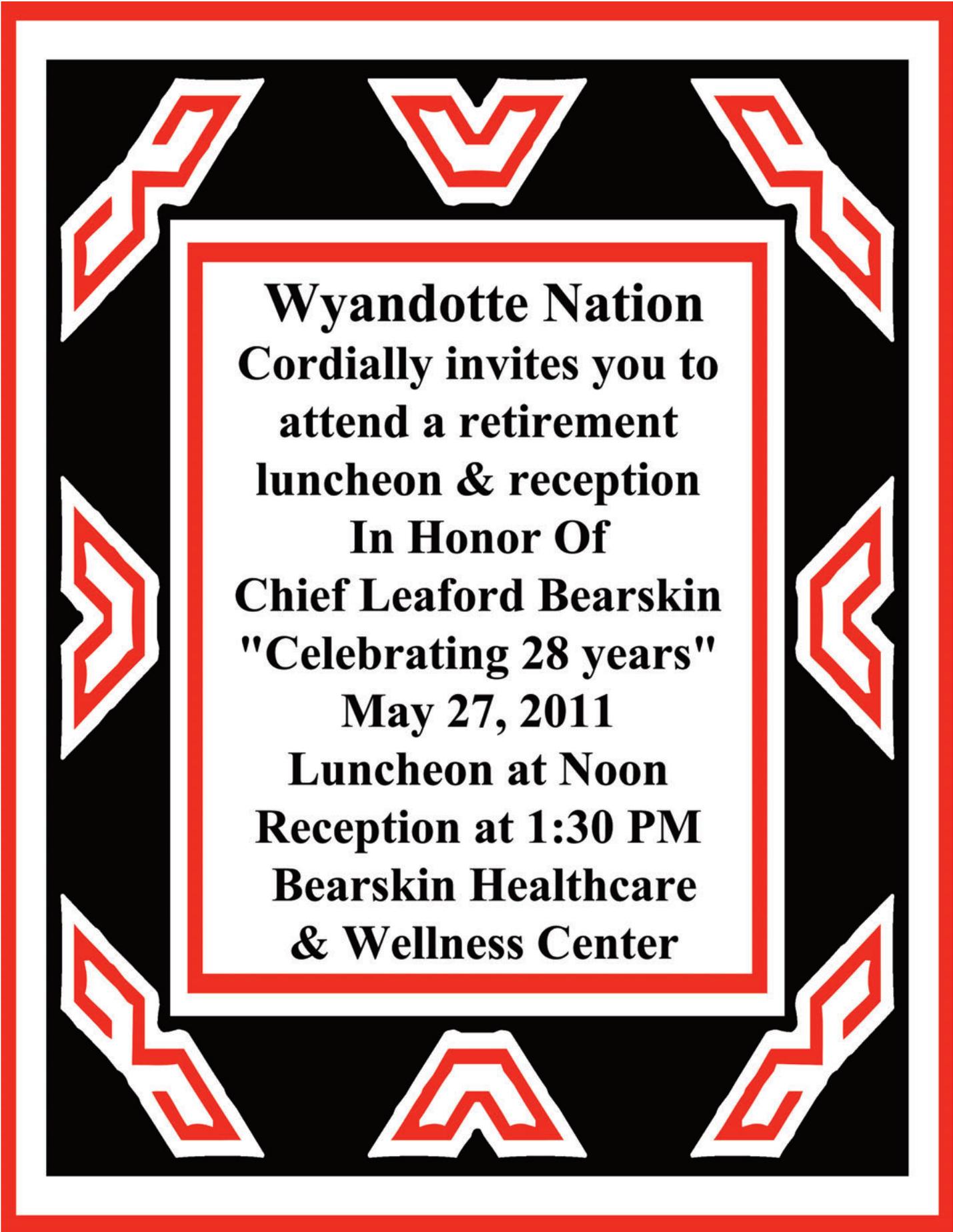
L to R: Rebecca Wright, JT Wright, Micah Wooldridge, Connor Marlow, Angelina Rutledge



Micah Wooldridge with Papa Rentfrow.



Arthur Anderson with his award for the Outstanding Grantee Award presented to Wyandotte Nation



**Wyandotte Nation
Cordially invites you to
attend a retirement
luncheon & reception
In Honor Of
Chief Leaford Bearskin
"Celebrating 28 years"
May 27, 2011
Luncheon at Noon
Reception at 1:30 PM
Bearskin Healthcare
& Wellness Center**

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