

# GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA

## THE TURTLE SPEAKS



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website: [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org)

NOVEMBER 2012



**Children's Christmas Party**  
**December 8th at 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**  
**Bearskin Wellness & Fitness Gym**  
**Ages 0-12**

### New Wyandotte Nation Supplemental Healthcare Benefit

Submitted By: Chief Billy Friend  
 We are pleased to announce an exciting new benefit for every Wyandotte Tribal Citizen. The Wyandotte Nation Supplemental Healthcare Benefit will take effect on January 1, 2013. This new benefit is one that has long been envisioned by our Board of Directors and now due to the hard work of our Tribal staff and all of our dedicated employees this vision will now become a reality. Our mission here is to "improve the quality of life for every Tribal Citizen" and this new benefit will help fulfill a part of that mission in providing funds toward each Citizen's healthcare needs. We have teamed up with FMH CoreSource out of Overland Park, Kansas and they will

administer this new benefit plan on behalf of the Nation. Every adult Tribal Citizen (18 and over) will be eligible for up to \$1,000.00 and adult Tribal Citizens who have Wyandotte Nation dependents (under 18) will be eligible for up to \$2,000.00 maximum per family. With your Supplemental Healthcare Benefit account, you can pay out-of-pocket or be reimbursed for medical expenses such as prescriptions and dental or vision expenses, as well as medical deductibles or co-insurance which are not covered by other healthcare benefits. In the next few weeks you will be receiving information in the mail about this plan from our third (continued on page 6)

#### Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

**Wyandotte Nation**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Billy Friend**  
 Chief  
**Norman Hildebrand, Jr.**  
 Second Chief  
**Ramona Reid**  
 Councilperson  
**Vivian Fink**  
 Councilperson  
**Juanita McQuiston**  
 Councilperson  
**Eric Lofland**  
 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.....



Kweh,

I hope this quarters Turtle Talk finds you and your family doing well and enjoying the fall season. This time of year finds us preparing for the Thanksgiving holiday and we as Wyandotte People have many rea-

sons to be thankful.

It has not been that many years ago that the Wyandotte Nation was operating only a few essential programs and services for the Wyandotte people. None of those programs or services was funded at an appropriate level. The total funding was not adequate when compared to the needs of our Wyandotte people. Our Nation, like most others in that time, relied heavily on federal funding. Those funds were never guaranteed and for many years those resources did not improve enough to cover inflation.

As Wyandotte's, we were challenged to come up with proposals to grow our Tribe, reach a level of self-sufficiency and most importantly, serve Wyandotte people. It was clear

that something had to be done to improve our futures. At that time we developed what was believed to be an effective plan with the best chance of success. This plan was put into action immediately.

It was determined in the mid 1990s that the best avenue for success rested in Tribal Self-Determination and Tribal economic development. The Wyandotte strategy was to create Tribal businesses that took advantage of the talents we had to offer, and build those businesses into success stories. We believed that if we "planned our work and worked our plan" we would meet with success. We continue on that course today.

Did we encounter some bumps and (continued on page 18)

## From Norman Hildebrand, Jr. -Second Chief



Kweh

I hope everyone is well and anticipating the brilliant colors of fall, that is if we get enough rain.

We had another hot summer but thankfully not as bad as last year, but

when somebody mentions Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow the weather seems to change for the better. We had a storm that knocked out the power on Friday night and we had to cancel everything that evening. On Saturday and Sunday we were blessed with good weather and large crowds.

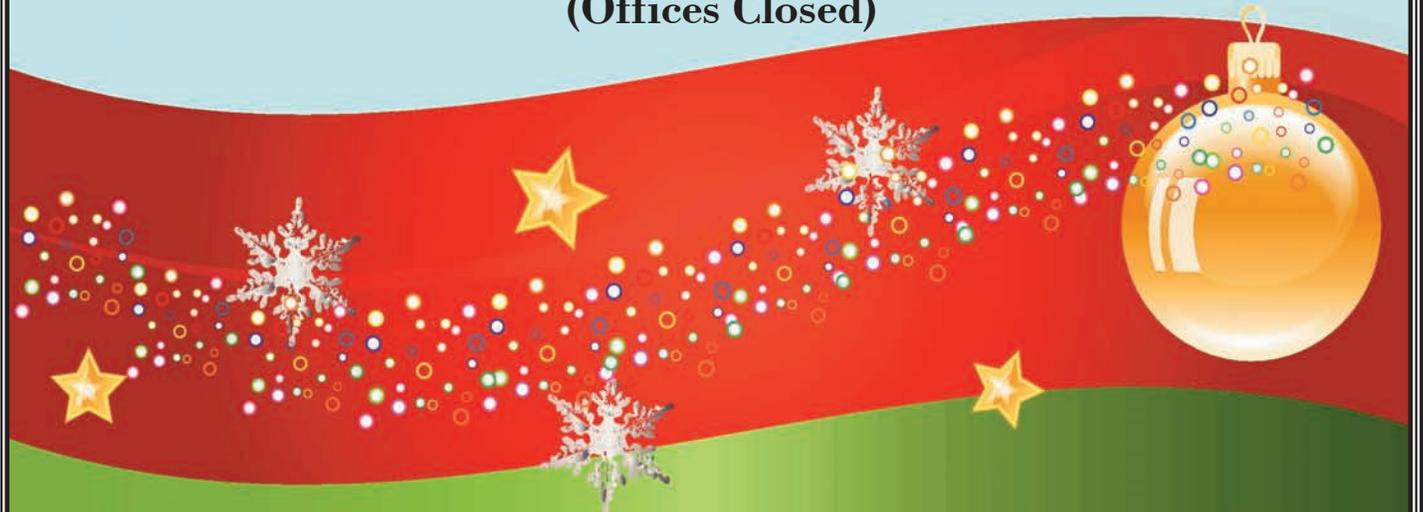
Culture Days was another big success with special interests, language, history and the Marius Barbeau exhibit from Canada that will be at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman, OK. through November 25, 2012. We took two chartered buses and a van of Wyandotte Nation members, Wyandot of Kansas and Anderdon Wyandot of Michigan. We were

thrilled to have Grand Chief Ted Roll and Second Chief Clyde Pidgeon, their spouses and a small delegation from the Anderdon Wyandot visit our facilities and join us in celebrating the centennial of Dr. Marius Barbeau's visit to Oklahoma. I want to thank Lloyd Divine, Sallie Andrews, the Culture Committee and everyone that contributed their time and knowledge in making the exhibit a huge success. I want to especially thank Dr. Swan and his staff, Sam Noble Museum of Natural History and the University of Oklahoma as without them this would not have happened.

Once again we had a large crowd at (continued on page 18)

## Holiday List of Events

<b>November 9</b>	<b>Preschool Thanksgiving Dinner</b>
<b>November 12</b>	<b>Veterans Day (Offices Closed)</b>
<b>November 15</b>	<b>Title VI Thanksgiving Dinner</b>
<b>November 22 &amp; 23</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holidays (Offices Closed)</b>
<b>December 8</b>	<b>Children's Christmas Party</b>
<b>December 13</b>	<b>Title VI Christmas Dinner</b>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>Staff Christmas Party (Offices Closed)</b>
<b>December 24 &amp; 25</b>	<b>Christmas Holidays (Offices Closed)</b>
<b>December 31 &amp; Jan 1</b>	<b>New Year's Holiday (Offices Closed)</b>
<b>January 21</b>	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Offices Closed)</b>



## The Gathering of Traditions Exhibit at Sam Noble

Closing on November 25

Go Soon To See It

By Sallie Cotter Andrews

There is a "once in a lifetime experience" available right now that will end on November 25. Don't miss it. Plan a trip and go to Norman, OK, before November 25 to see the "Gathering of Traditions" exhibit at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. You will see before your eyes an extraordinary collection of 50 Wyandotte and Seneca-Cayuga artifacts and photographs that are all over 100 years old. The artifacts have been stored in the Canadian Museum of Civilization for these many years and will soon go back to Canada. If you go see them, the experience will change the way you think about our history and will deeply touch your spirit.

Most of the artifacts were used in the daily lives of our people, a point of uniqueness about this exhibit that was noted by the ethnologists and curators of the Sam Noble Museum. The items were both useful and artistically beautiful, demonstrating that life was hard but that our peoples' spirit still maintained a sense of beauty. As you look at the dolls, baby moc-

casins, jewelry, bows and arrows, drum and drumstick, clothing, belt and more you will find a unique door opening to understanding our history. Don't miss this opportunity to view this exhibit that will end shortly. Even if you were at the grand opening on September 6, please go back again when the atmosphere is more quiet and you can take a closer look. You probably won't see these artifacts again. The Nation owes a great deal of thanks to Chief Billy Friend, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand and the Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors for their complete support of this project which demonstrates their commitment to educating our people about our history. I would also like to thank the writers and researchers who helped compile the individual biographies that were gathered for the exhibit. The writers and researchers are: Barbara Conrad Aston, Paul Barton, John Charloe, Katie Chinn, David Culver, Lloyd Divine, Debbie Dry, Patty Burnside Garrison, Judith (Hap) Jolitz, Marty Curtin LeBenne, Marcella Monroe, Beverlee Pettit, Earlene Angel Roskob, Ashley Simmons, Richard Zane Smith, Jeremy Turner, Holly Zane

and Sallie Cotter Andrews. These stories, which are on our website, are now a permanent part of our collection and will never be forgotten. Tizhameh. Get going to Norman, OK, soon!! Your admission is free. Confirm their hours of operation at [www.snomnh.ou.edu](http://www.snomnh.ou.edu).



Chief Billy Friend addresses guests and dignitaries including representatives of the Canadian Embassy, the CEO of the Canadian Museum of Civilization and The University of Oklahoma President David Boren at the opening ceremonies for "A Gathering of Traditions - A Centennial Celebration of Dr. Charles Marius Barbeau in Oklahoma" at the Sam Noble Museum on September 6, 2012, in Norman, OK.



Chief Friend with Jean Moon of Upper Sandusky, Ohio after Chief had spoke at the Old Mission Church in Upper Sandusky on October 14. Jean has been a long time friend of the tribe and helps arrange all of the tours of the area when we take our summer interns or others to Ohio.



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.

## 2012 Pow-Wow Honored Person - Brenda House



Brenda has worked for Wyandotte Nation since July of 1987. She was

originally hired as a cook for the Elder Service program (also known as Title VI). She was later promoted to Head Cook and progressed her career by becoming the Director of the Title VI program. Since becoming the director of the Title VI program she has joined many committees to help improve the Elder Services programs. Brenda spent many countless nights bringing her work home. She would do paper work and reports as well as make sure that all of us kids did our homework, ate din-

ner and took our baths before tucking us in at night, and then she had to look forward to getting up and doing it all over again the next day. She always made herself available for the elders and staff at any time they needed her day or night. On many occasions she spent the night on the phone with an elder or staff member supporting their needs whether work related or personal. Over the years with the Wyandotte Nation and Elder Services Program she has taken the elders on (continued on page 19)

## Member News

### Independent Legal Shield Associates



Glenn & Kim Schiffbauer  
Dear Wyandotte Tribal members. While I live far from you, I keep you close to my heart. I was born and grew up in Espanola, New Mexico. It was not until 1979 that I learned of my heritage. And, finally in 2009 I had the resources to make the journey there for our Cultural Days.

LegalShield membership is to attorney & court fees that health insurance is to doctors & hospital bills. But the analogy ends here since as LegalShield members, you will never see a raise in your monthly fees, no co-pays, no hidden fees and your membership rates NEVER go up. Plus, our legal and identity theft plans are month-to-month so no long-term contracts. LegalShield has an experienced, full-service law firm in Oklahoma already chosen for you and your family,

and you are covered in all states but Alaska.

My wife, Kim, and I became associates after our LegalShield attorneys helped us with a major mortgage issue for our family. And, we can help protect you & your family as well—traffic tickets, wills, contracts, bankruptcy, divorce, real estate child support issues and much, much more. For just \$17 per month you, too, can receive the legal guidance and protection that LegalShield offers our 1.4 million families across the country.

We will be there the week of November 25th and would be honored to meet with you and your family. We can help you worry less & live more.

If you have a current legal situation, we can help immediately. Just contact us immediately & we can help. Kim is also certified in LegalShield Group Benefits and Small Business Legal Plans as well as Identity Theft Shield—credit reports, monitoring and ID restoration.

Glenn Schiffbauer  
505-501-0222  
glennschiffbauer@q.com

Kim Schiffbauer  
505-501-1808  
kimschiffbauer@gmail.com



## Member News

### Myonza Parkerton



Myonza was born on July 17, 1913, in Wyandotte, Ok. to Kenneth and Katherine Walker. She was named after her Wyandotte Indian great-grandmother. She passed away on Saturday, July 14, 2012, three days before her 99th birthday.

Myonza was the oldest of four children. The family moved to the Los Angeles area in 1929. She was a graduate of Polytechnic High School in Long Beach and Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles. She met Howard Parkerton when they were students at Otis Art Institute. They married on November 5, 1938. Their daughter Kathryn was born in 1945. Myonza, Howard and their daughter moved to Fresno in 1953, where

Howard owned and operated Picker Parts, an agricultural parts company.

Myonza was an active member of the Fresno Cotton Wives and the Fig Garden Women's Club, where she was well known for her floral arrangements. Myonza loved to travel with Howard. She went to Europe, Japan, and Latin America. After Howard passed away in 1978, she traveled with her family to Hawaii, Alaska and through the Panama Canal.

She was preceded in death by Howard, her beloved husband; sisters, Mary Lilien and Betty Smith; and brother Kenny Walker.

She is survived by her daughter, Kathryn Splivalo and her husband Mike; grandsons, Michael Green and his wife Julie, and Christopher Green and his wife Witt-Yi; and three great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Myonza's Life was held at the family home on Sunday, August 19, 2012, at 11:00 am.

## Eli Brumbaugh

### Friends

The Wyandotte tribe works very hard for scholarship money for our young people. I know this will sound like the ravings of a proud parent, which I am. Yet, I want the tribal members to know what their scholarship money is doing. My son Eli Brumbaugh is a senior at the Kansas City Art Institute in Kansas City, Mo. Eli has received a number of scholarships and has maintained them from his freshman year. Besides the Wyandotte Nation Scholarship, he has received the AIGA World Studio Scholarship, American Advertising Federation Scholarship, and the KCAI merit based annual scholarship.

Eli has also received a number of awards. Some of which may not be listed because he doesn't always tell me when he receives one. The Armin Hofmann award, Folly Theater Jazz poster contest, Shigeo Fukuda Design Lecture poster, KCAI School of Design Award, and the A8 2012 Design Award from AIGA. Voted best CD cover 2009 by the Houston Press. Also contributing artist Canon Pixma 9000 MKII commercial contest winner.

Eli has worked very hard, and has earned his awards on his own. We are very proud of him and grateful for the scholarship from the Wyandotte Nation.

Thank you, Hal & Janice Brumbaugh

## Health Benefit

(continued from page 1)

party administrator FMH CoreSource explaining the details of this new plan. In December you will be receiving your "Benny Card" which is a Mastercard that you can begin using on January 1, 2013. We hope this new program will be a great benefit to all of our Tribal Citizens and their families across the United States. It is our hope that this is just one of many new benefits that we will be able to offer in the future.

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

# Casino News



By: Wacy Humble

The Lucky Turtle Casino is getting a makeover! As many of you may know, the Lucky Turtle renovations are well under way, and things are

looking good. Upon completion of the renovations, the Lucky Turtle Casino will have new paint, new carpet, higher ceilings, enhanced lighting, flat screen TV's, and a variety of new games. Guests and employees alike are very excited to experience the new feel and look!

Despite the renovation projects, the Lucky Turtle has still been moving along strong with monthly promotions. In September, we had an excellent turnout for the 2nd Annual LTC TV Giveaway, where ten lucky winners took home a flat screen TV! In the month of October, guests have been collecting Halloween themed Lucky Turtle T-shirts every Friday, but that's not all, the exciting promotions continue in November when we will kick off Lucky's 4-Wheelin' Fiasco! Guests will be able to earn entries by playing their favorite games for a chance to win a brand new 2013 Honda Foreman 500 4x4 ATV in December; the perfect Christmas gift!

As always we greatly appreciate all of the valued guests and team members at Lucky Turtle Casino, and look forward to the future with many exciting things to come.



By Casey Ellett

Another fiscal year is in the books, and we are proud to announce that Wyandotte Na-

tion Casino's 2012 fiscal year was the biggest play year we have ever had. Thanks to a strong September, we were able to break our coin-in record set in 2010. We fully attribute the success of the year to our outstanding team members and strong management that put us in a position to have a great year, and have a great time getting there.

Now that the 2012 fiscal year is over, we are ready to jump head first into 2013 with some great promotions. Starting in November, guest will be able to earn entries for a 2013 Dodge Challenger R/T giveaway scheduled for December. Add in a New Year's Eve with over \$17,000 in prizes, and you get an action-packed November and December that is sure to catch the attention of the four state area. It doesn't end there either; just wait for January to see some real surprises.

As always we would like to say "thank you" to all parties who help make Wyandotte Nation Casino feel more like a privilege to be here, rather than a job. Let's get ready for an exciting 2013!



By: Wacy Humble

Twin Bridges Restaurant and Lounge is winding down from the summer, and preparing for the busy holiday season!

The summer months were a huge success for Chef Bowen and his team as they continue to satisfy customers with delicious lunch and dinner dining! With that said, the holiday season is just around the corner and there is no better place to partake in a Thanksgiving meal than Twin Bridges Restaurant. Chef Bowen will be serving up a scrumptious plateful of your turkey day favorites including turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, and an artisan roll all made from scratch! Plus, top it off with a delicious slice of house-made pumpkin pie. This is sure to be a Thanksgiving feast you don't want to miss! Stay tuned for many new additions to the already delicious Twin Bridges Restaurant menu in the near future.

Football season is in full swing, and so is Twin Bridges Lounge. The lounge is the place to be to enjoy amazing food and unbelievable drink specials! The Game Day Specials are sure to fulfill anyone's game day needs; ranging from Big Game Buckets, Football Beer Towers, and delicious chips and salsa during televised pro and college football games. Twin Bridges Restaurant and Lounge continues to strive to be one of the premier dining experiences in the area, exceeding in food and customer service.



By Casey Ellett

7th Street Casino is turning up the heat, and the Kansas City market is loving it! 7th Street Casino recently introduced several new promotions including Happy Hour, Luck be a Lady (ladies night), Boys Night Out (men's night), the Ghouls and

Goblins Slot Tournament (Halloween promotion), and Let's Talk Turkey Hot Seats for November. Thus far, guests have truly enjoyed the new promotions, and their response rates have proved it.

7th Street Casino is also proud to announce that we have just acquired five new billboard locations, along with some outstanding TV and radio advertisements, and we hope to have the new 7th Street website launched soon!

It truly is an exciting time to be at 7th Street with so many new projects on the way. We will continue our mission to make 7th Street Casino the premier gaming location in the Kansas City area.



# Tribal Department Reports

## Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department

Throughout the summer months we have had the pleasure of having Mr. Brett Richardson as an intern. Brett has been very helpful in assisting in recycling activities and our Water 106 Grant during our Bio-assessments performed on Mason Springs Valley and Roark Creeks. Brett will continue his internship with us for the upcoming year and is enrolled at Missouri Southern State University in the Environmental Health Program.

August picked up where July left off, with our department continuing to perform water monitoring and recycling duties on a regular schedule. On August 6 – 8th, Christen Lee and Kathleen Welch traveled to Tulsa for ITEC (Inter Tribal Environmental Conference). This conference allows Tribes throughout Oklahoma and EPA Region 6 employees to give presentations, and allow them to highlight the work and activities performed within their departments for the fiscal year.

On August 11th Christen Lee and Jessica Stoerger set up a booth at the Shoal Creek Water Festival. This event was held at Wildcat Glades near Joplin, MO, on shoal Creek. Many adults and children stopped by to learn about water issues in the environment.



The week of August 20 -24th, Christen traveled to Coos Bay, Oregon for a Tribal Lands Forum. Also during this week our department had a booth at the Ottawa County Free Fair. For the past four 4 years we have invited area tribes and Environmental Agencies to share

time and space at the booth. This year we were happy to have the Eastern Shawnee, Seneca Cayuga, Modoc, and Quapaw Tribes, along with LEAD Agency share booth space with us. Each sharing program information and providing handouts to the public. We also had a craft table set up and several children of all ages stopped by to make their own personalized bug box.



Our department moved quickly into September and continued to stay busy with water monitoring and recycling activities. Jessica Stoerger attended the Recycling on the Rock Conference in Little Rock, AR on September 14th and 15th. Towards the end of the month was the 14th Annual Tar Creek Conference, held on the 26th and 27th. On the morning of the 26th, Kathleen Welch assisted Tim Kent (Quapaw Tribe) in giving a tour of Tar Creek, to the West Central University of Ada, OK. The afternoon of the 26th and all day on the 27th, various speakers gave presentations on health effects taking place in the Tar Creek Superfund site and surrounding Ottawa County.

October brought in some cooler weather and many outreach activities. During the first week we had booths at two health fairs, the first being at our Tribal Title VI Program, and the other at the NE Tribal Health Fair held at the Christian Church, in Miami, OK. Christen Lee and Brett Richardson (MSSU Intern) set up a craft booth at the Bearskin Health Fair on Saturday, October 13th. Christen Lee and Kathleen Welch attended the National Non-Point Source Monitoring Workshop on

the 15th through the 17th at Tulsa, OK. One of the many cool parts of our job is when we are able to assist the Education Department with field trips. Thursday, October 18th was no exception, as Christen and Kathleen accompanied them to the "Right Choices" pumpkin patch.

Upcoming events include the Tri-State



Trustee Council Meeting on November 14th and 15th, to be held at Kansas City, MO. Christen and Kathleen will be attending this meeting along with other N.E. Oklahoma Tribes, State and Federal Agencies for discussions and updates on related NRD issues within the tri-state area.

December 10th – 14th Christen Lee will be attending the Tribal Summit at Dallas, TX.

Our department continues to offer free private water well tests and septic system assessments for tribal and non-tribal citizens within the Grand Lake Watershed area. For more information you may call our department at 918-678-2297.

### Contact Information:

Christen Lee (Env. Director)

EXT. 241

Kathleen Welch (Env. Assistant)

Ext. 235

Janice Wilson (Env. Water Tech)

Ext. 245

Jessica Stoerger (Env. Education Tech)

Ext. 252



## Tribal Department Reports

### ELDER SERVICES

It was so good to see everyone at the Cultural Days, Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow.

I would like to thank all of those involved in the selection of choosing me as the 2012 Honored Person. I had no clue that it was me until Chief Friend announced my name at the Annual Meeting. Of all of the other awards that I have received over the last 25 years, this is definitely the most cherished honor that I have ever received. I am truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful family!

Thank you again,  
Brenda House

Once again, the Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee Tribe partnered with the Oklahoma Lions Service Foundation, Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging, NEO Vo-tech Nursing Program, Hearing Life, and the St. Jude Mobile Mammogram Unit to provide free health screenings and Medicare Part D information. We also partnered with the Quapaw Tribe, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Ottawa Tribe and Good Shepherd Hospice and held our second annual "Picnic in the Park." We didn't get to have it in the park because of rain but Kelly and the gang from Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center, graciously let us move it to the gym. We had a great time playing games, eating hot dogs and hamburgers and listening to Duke Mason sing his wonderful Elvis songs! We are already gearing up for the holidays. Our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner will be Thursday, November 15 and our Christmas Dinner will be Thursday, December 13. These will be sit down dinners with staff from other departments assisting with serving the elders.

### CAREGIVER

The Northeast Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition will have a Caregiver Christmas Banquet Dec 6, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the First Christian Church in

Miami, OK. We will have speakers, games and goodies. Lunch will also be provided. All Caregivers are invited to attend.

The Caregiver Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month in the Education/Environmental conference room at 10:30 am. It is open to all Caregivers. Please contact Brenda for information.

We wish you all a very Happy, Healthy Holiday Season!

As always it is a pleasure serving the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Citizens. Please feel free to come by and visit us anytime.

Brenda House, Elder Services Director ext. 227

Kandi Smith, Food Service Team Supervisor ext. 228

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

Berle Blevins, Experience Works Program ext. 228

Menu, ext. 226

### Family Services

Since the August edition of the "The Turtle Speaks", the Wyandotte Nation held the September 8th Annual Meeting as well as the Nation's much celebrated 23rd Pow-Wow. There was a large turnout for both the Annual Meeting and the Pow-Wow. Although there was a rain out on Friday night, Saturday afternoon proved to be perfect. There were 90 contest dancers this year and a large spectator crowd for Saturday night. Every year, after the Pow-Wow, my spirit is renewed. I feel the sacred spirit within every man and every woman and how we, as Indian people, are linked to the Great Spirit. In today's technological world, we lose our connection to anything of sacred value that can provide balance in the daily world we live in. As soon as the drum begins, and the dancers enter the arena, the energy of our ancestors is with us. Although our visitors come from all Indian Nations, with their own culture

and history, during this weekend on sacred ground we are all one people. In the coming year let us pass on to our children the beauty, teachings, stories and songs of the Nation. Visit the Wyandotte Nation Library, the internet, the Tribe's website, or public library in your region. There is much to share. Until we meet again, Aho.

If you missed the Annual Meeting, Family Services would like to recap our new, existing, and expanded social service programs. We hope our Citizens will take advantage of these programs. The Mission Statement of the Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department is to provide services to Wyandotte Tribal Families in a manner that will preserve, promote, and secure the family unit.

Programs Administered by Family Services: (All programs require Applications)

**Burial Assistance:** Nationwide Program: Benefit: \$1,500.00

**New Enrollee Benefit:** Nationwide Program: \$100.00 Gift Card and Baby blanket with the Tribal logo by enrolling your infant before its first birthday.

**Winter Senior Citizens Energy Assistance Program:** No income guidelines apply: Benefit \$100.00: Begins October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013. Radius 200 miles: 62+ age

**Elders Assistance:** No income guidelines apply: Benefit \$250.00: Begins October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013. This benefit is for senior citizens 62+ age: Radius 200 miles.

**Winter Liheap:** Contingent upon Federal Funding. Income guidelines apply: If funded Oklahoma residents will receive a postcard from the Wyandotte Nation in December.

**Children's Winter Clothing:** No income guidelines apply: 200 mile radius: \$100.00 per school age child, effective December 1, 2012, ending March 1, 2013.

**Children's extracurricular Activities:** (continued on next page)

## Tribal Department Reports

(continued from previous page)

No income guidelines apply; 200 mile radius: \$100.00 per school age child, effective October 1, 2012.

**Junior/Senior High school Assistance Program:** No income guidelines apply: 200 mile radius: \$250.00 per school year: effective October 1.2012

**School Supply Program:** No income guidelines apply: 200 mile radius: \$100.00 per school age child per school year: August 1st through September 30th.

**Child Passenger Safety Seats:** No income guidelines apply: Infant seats must be picked up at the Tribal headquarters: Sizes include newborn through booster.

**Promoting Safe & Stable Families:** The "PSSF" program is a State and Federally funded program that provides family preservation and support services designed to prevent the breakup of Indian families. This program may be able to assist at risk families with need based social services, referrals, and emergency assistance.

**Indian Child Welfare:** The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Acts mandates the Tribe be notified in the event a Wyandotte Child is involved in State Court Proceedings to ensure placement preferences are met as well as reunification efforts to keep families together.

### **Seeking Foster Parents**

Do you like to help others better themselves?

Do you have love to offer a child in need?

Do you have a comfortable income?

Have you ever considered becoming a Foster Parent?

Wyandotte Nation Family Services is looking for generous people in Oklahoma to open their homes to Native American children in the foster care system. There is a growing need for Native American foster homes. However, applicants must also be willing to foster non-native children. The Wyandotte Nation has a Tribal/State agreement with the state of Oklahoma that allows us to use each other's foster

homes. If you live outside of Oklahoma, we encourage you to contact your local State Social Services Department to inquire about becoming a Tribal Foster Parent!

The application process includes, but is not limited to: background checks, a home assessment, financial assessment, and letters of recommendation. Approved Foster Parents must complete 27 hours of pre-service OKPRIDE training which includes sessions on how to nurture traumatized children. Each year following, 12 hours of additional training must be completed, some of which can be completed online. All training is free of charge. Foster Parents are not paid a salary, but receive a reimbursement to help meet the needs of the foster children in their care.

This may seem like a large amount of commitment, but the positive rewards of being a Foster Parent far outweigh the negatives!

For more information, please contact Tara Gragg at ext. 255 or Kate Randall at ext. 224.

### **News From the Enrollment Department:**

The Enrollment staff has been busy issuing new Citizenship ID's. The new ID's have the capability to have the Citizen's photo and signature for those 18 and over, if desired. The photo ID's have been approved for use as identification for employment purposes by the Social Security Administration, as well as, other identification purposes. Please feel free to stop by the office if you are in the area to have your picture and signature taken for your new ID. If you are not able to come to the office you can call or email to request an application, which can be sent back to the Enrollment Department along with a passport type photo to receive your ID. If you know of an adult Wyandotte Nation citizen who is not receiving a newsletter please encourage them to call the office and update their information with the Enrollment Department. The new Wyandotte Nation Supplemental Health Benefit information will

start being mailed the first part of December to every adult Citizen that we have current mailing addresses, so it is vital for everyone to keep their information current with us.

At the Annual Meeting held September 8, 2012, there were 173 new Tribal Citizens added to the Roll. You can find a list of those individuals in this edition of the newsletter.

The deadline for Citizenship applications to be received in the Enrollment Office for acceptance at next year's Annual Meeting is August 15, 2013. An ORIGINAL state certified birth certificate must be included with each application and the application must be signed. If an application is received by a child's first birthday then they will receive a \$100.00 Walmart gift card and a blanket with the Tribal symbol. Please remember that the Wyandotte Nation Constitution does not allow for dual enrollment. If the applicant is enrolled with another federally recognized tribe then their application will be denied based on that status, unless the application is accompanied by relinquishment documentation from the other tribe.

**Tribal Tags:** Available in the entire State of Oklahoma:

### **Tribal Heritage**

Kweh, Kweh ! It has been a fantastic year for the Wyandotte's and the Cultural side! The exhibit was such an amazing and exciting time for each of us. To be able to see the everyday things our ancestors used and just to be close to something they touched or made is something we all seem to long for . I was with some families who were able to see things made by their family member, it was so wonderful. They could not take their eyes off the piece that connected them.

The Sam Nobel Museum was a delight to work with on the project, Dr. Daniel Swan seemed to jump thru hoops to make it happen for the Wyandotte and Seneca Cayuga people. He and his team did a wonderful job in every aspect . (continued on next page)

## Tribal Department Reports

(continued from previous page)

Thank you Dr. Swan. We also want to thank the Chiefs and the Board Members for the commitment and support in getting it all together. Without their dedication to it nothing would happen.

Wyandotte Nation 23rd Annual Pow-Wow went off like the wind! 50 mph winds came blowing thru just before start time! Thankfully no one was hurt at the grounds, thanks to Carolyn Nesvold (committee member) who was at the grounds and got everyone to the restrooms. Thank you Carolyn. Unfortunately we had to cancel the Pow-Wow on Friday evening. The Committee had anticipated some bad weather, but the place for backup was out of power also. Saturday proved to be beautiful! The crowning of our two new Princesses was amazing! We first would like to thank Cortney Glass Chavez for the outstanding job she has done representing the Wyandotte Nation, attending many pow-wows, school functions, and anywhere else she was asked to attend. Thank you Cortney! Our new Princess is Emilee Wills, and Jr. Princess Veronica Burnside. These two young ladies are awesome! They work so well together and have become fast friends. To watch them do the Lord's Prayer in amazing sync is breath taking. We are very proud of both ladies!

The children's Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 8th 10a.m.-12p.m. at the Bearskin Fitness center. Santa will be located in the gym. All tribal members ages newborn- 12 years of age are invited to come see Santa and receive a gift. As always refreshments will be served.

Sherri L. Clemons  
Tribal Heritage Director  
Wyandotte Nation

### HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Our newest senior duplex is complete and we welcome our newest senior residents. The project was completed on schedule and the residents were able to move in the first week of July.

The Community Center will be the next project under construction. This will be located in the new housing area. The center will have a saferoom, a kitchen, a computer room and a game room, as well as the housing offices. We are looking forward to this center, and feel it will be a great asset to the community. If you would like more information on our housing program, please contact our office. Federal income guidelines are followed.

If you live in the Indian Health Service Area, which includes nine counties in Oklahoma, 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 Richards-Housing Specialist  
Paul Paquin-Project Coordinator  
Levi Griffin-Project Coordinator  
Don Graham-Residential Maintenance Technician

### Education Department

#### Preschool:

Preschool classes for the 2012-2013 school year began on August 15 with seventy two children beginning their school year with our program. Since that time, we have added six children brining our enrollment to seventy eight. That leaves two openings for children to join. If you are interested in our Preschool program please request an application soon as we can only accommodate 80 students at this time. Wyandotte Nation Preschool students were recently recognized at the Wyandotte Nation night at the Wyandotte Bears Football Game. We wish to thank the Wyandotte Public Schools Administration for the opportunity to attend a game and root for our local Bears.

We attended several fall outings, a safety program at the Wyandotte Fire Station and are preparing for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The students are truly blessed to be a part of the Wyandotte Nation Preschool.

#### Before and After School Program:

The before and after school program is

growing and the children are really enjoying the new enrichment opportunities that the staff has been implementing. They have made fall placemats for elder centers, snack and cooking projects and they are currently working on some Christmas gifts for parents.

#### Library:

The library will be receiving some new shelving soon to hold the ever expanding collection of materials for our patrons. We are proud to announce that the library was featured in the Seneca paper to promote our Tribal services as the community of Seneca may soon be without a local library. In the very near future we will be automating our inventory for easier material look up and check out process. If you have a book you are trying to locate, please ask Leeanna or Elnora to assist you.

#### Child Care & Development Fund Program:

The Child Care program is very busy in the fall providing training to our local providers to better prepare them to care for our Native American children. Our annual report will be due soon and that will reveal all of the services that have been provided and guide the department to best utilize the dollar to care for the children. If you have questions about this program please feel free to call or email the office.

#### Tribal Scholarships:

Scholarships for the fall semester have been completed and in a few weeks those grades and the schedules for the next semester will be due for spring 2013. A reminder to all current scholarship recipients and those who are interested in applying...deadline for spring semester is February 15 and the fall cut-off date is October 1.

Students who will graduate high school in spring 2013 can request an application after January 1, 2013.

#### Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

The workforce meetings with Kansas and Missouri are proving to be beneficial as all agencies work together to meet (continued on next page)

## Tribal Department Reports

(continued from previous page)  
 the needs of eligible Native American students in our service area. Current WIA recipients need to submit their documentation for further funding at the close of the semester.

If you are interested in any of the programs that are housed in the Education Department, please call our offices or send an email and we will do our very best to help you with answers and services.

Submitted by:

Tammy R. Charles  
 Education Director

### Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center

The 11th Annual Bearskin Health Fest was held on October 13, 2012 at Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. Free preventative health screenings were the major attraction. Among the health screenings offered at the event were cholesterol screenings, blood glucose checks, blood pressure readings, body fat analysis, as well as free flu

shots to the first 100 participants. While these screenings did not replace a full physical exam, they provided valuable information between exams, preventing potential problems or leading to early diagnosis and treatment of existing conditions. Over 317 individuals registered for the event.

In addition to the free health screenings, the event featured more than 20 informational booths, which provide an opportunity for the community to visit with a variety of area health and wellness professionals, fitness class demonstrations, one mile fun run and a Stomp out Meth 5K, sponsored by the Eastern Shawnee and Wyandotte Nation Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiatives and live music featuring the "Workman Bluegrass Band".

Vendors participating in the event include: Wyandotte Nation Police Department, A Natural Health and Wellness Center, Lions Club, Industrial Physical Therapy, Inc., SleepWell, The Gabriel Project, Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Sacred Rose Healthcare,

Eastern Shawnee Children and Family Services, Encompass Home Health, Ottawa County Health Department, Amedisys Home Health, Inter-Tribal Council WIC, Osborn Drugs, Hearing Life, Brown-Winters Funeral Home, Integris Home Health, Legacy Hospice, Good Shepherd Hospice, Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department, Estate Planning, Scentsy, Acupuncture, MAH Industries, LLC, Grand Gateway AAA / Pelivan Transit, Compassionate Care, Eastern Shawnee Tribal Police Department.

Children who attended the event were treated to pumpkin painting, hayrides, puppet show, face painting, crafts sponsored by the Wyandotte Nation Environmental Team, inflatable bounce house and a mechanical bucking dinosaur.

Overall the event was a huge success. The Bearskin staff members did an exceptional job. We are proud of the teamwork displayed in promoting and hosting such a wonderful community event!



## Tribal Department Reports

### Human Resources

We have recently added a Human Resource Module and a web based time keeping system to assist in payroll and the record keeping system. This will allow employees the ability to access their personal information and make any changes on-line. In addition, it allows employees to print payroll information and copies of their W-2's. We are very excited about these new systems and the options that are available to employees.

### Wyandotte Nation 2012 Tribal Role Additions:

Abbott, Raylan Michael  
 Adam, Margaret Doreen  
 Adams, Shea Nizhoni  
 Armstrong, Domonick Geln Alexander  
 Armstrong, Lydia Claire  
 Austin, Jeanette Peggy Sue  
 Badley, William Jordan  
 Barcenas, Gracen Isabella Daniele  
 Barrett, Jeremiah Matthew  
 Barrett, Phillip Elijah  
 Bauer, Moki Onawah  
 Bearskin, Amberly Renae  
 Bearskin, Kailey Ann  
 Bettes, Jacob Ryan  
 Bettes, Liam Joel  
 Bettes, Lucas Jacob  
 Bettes, Mac James  
 Boland, Sophie Marie  
 Bond, Jaxon James  
 Bond, Jaxton Hunter  
 Bott, Destiny Joy  
 Bowman, Cage Anthony  
 Bowman, Cash David  
 Bradley, Rian William  
 Bryson, Caelyn Nicole  
 Bui, Kaiya Ly  
 Burger, Fiona Starr  
 Chesley, Logan Matthew  
 Clapp, Abygail Renay  
 Cochran, Carol Ann  
 Cochran, Julie Jean  
 Collinsworth, Kace Todd  
 Cooper, Nevaeh Grace  
 Cotney, Joseph Lee  
 Cox, April Denise  
 Cox, Eric Michael  
 Coyle, Alyssa Michelle  
 Cummings, Bentley Joseph  
 Disdier, Tensley Grace  
 Dunaway, Chloe Brynn  
 Dunaway, Connor Brooks  
 Dunaway, Crew Hudson  
 Edwards, Elyana Danae  
 Elliott, Jamie Calvin  
 Eng, Isaac Ray  
 Epperson, Jaren Maverick  
 Espy, Tucker Jackson  
 Estes, Jack Riley  
 Estes, Joshua David  
 Estes, Kathleen Elizabeth  
 Estes, Ryan Jeffrey  
 Farmer, Addison Leigh  
 Farmer, Brylee Nicole  
 Farmer, Dylan Michael  
 Franklin III, William Robert  
 Franklin, Christopher Dean  
 Franklin, Garnett Lee  
 Franklin, William Albert  
 Franks-Filley, Noah Dante  
 Frey, Bret Newton  
 Funk, Soren Chase  
 Ganzer, Amanda Kay  
 Ganzer, Jacob Edward  
 Genzler, Morgan Marie  
 Glover, Zachary Tyler  
 Goddard, Joshua Robert  
 Goddard, Michaela Brooke  
 Goodrich, Mikel Edward  
 Grant, Alexander James  
 Green, Kaitlynn Michelle  
 Green, Kiley Nicole  
 Greene, Lindsay Dawn  
 Gulley, Eunice Ferne  
 Gwatney, Kelsea Danielle  
 Hamilton, Evieanna Loraine  
 Hampton Jr., Justin William Romero  
 Hampton, Jazzlyn Christine  
 Harney, Alley Kathleen  
 Harris, Dean Allen  
 Harris, Hunter Norman  
 Heikkila, Chad Gene  
 Heikkila, Tasha May  
 Heikkila, Tina Dawn  
 Heim, James Douglas  
 Heim, Shelby Ann  
 Hildebrand, Grace Elizabeth  
 Hildebrand, Kristen Nicole  
 Hildebrand, Matthew Taylor  
 Hogan, Elsie Claire Taylor  
 Howard, Lylla Grace  
 Howerter, Faybian Michael  
 Huerta, Nikola Isaiah  
 Hunter, Holly Marie  
 Hutson, Duncan Robert  
 Hutson, Kennedy Elaine  
 Jackson, Adam Lee  
 Jackson, James Dean  
 James, Autumn Faithlynn  
 Johnson, Airika Kaitlyn  
 Johnson, Kodi Degan  
 Johnson, Kohl Rae Robert  
 Johnson, Tami Louise  
 Johnston, Carter Lee  
 Knight IV, William Frederick Ranson  
 Knight, Meghan Rachelle  
 Knight, Mija Payton  
 Knight, Monica Gabrielle  
 Koch, Amity Jade  
 Koenings, Kearis Lynda  
 Koenings, Phoenix Amy  
 Kromka, Amy Michelle  
 Kromka, Jennifer Brooks  
 Lawson, Koda Cross  
 Lewis, Krista Rose  
 Lingenfelter, Alexa Anne  
 Lingle, Paige Rainbow Ann-Marie  
 Logan, Mikah Jo  
 Long, Deryck James  
 Lyman, Jared Lane  
 Machala, Emily Marie  
 Macklin, Zeth Lee Andrew  
 Macy, Christopher Michael  
 McAlister II, Thomas Cedric  
 McAlister, Jada Nichelle  
 McCord, Bryson Maverick Lee  
 McDaniel, Ella Jo Dicie  
 Nance, Nicholas Sean  
 Nickerson, Benjamin Fox Quinn  
 O'Banion, Skyelar Rose  
 Ortiz, Anthony Angelo  
 Ortiz, Mario Alexander  
 Ortiz, Nicholas Shorty  
 Pratt, Charles Devon  
 Pryor, Noah Wayne  
 Rea, Kara Eileen  
 Riley, Gracie Lynn  
 Ritter, Calvin Andrew  
 Ritter, Calvin Arthur  
 Ritter, Douglas Andrew  
 Ritter, Jennifer Rebecca  
 Ritter, Justin Andrew  
 Roy, Dena Jean  
 (continued on next page)

## Tribal Department Reports

(continued from previous page)  
 Rozo, Jackson Enrique  
 Rupert, Kinzley Rebecca Azhlee  
 Russell, Brayden Michael  
 Sako, John Michael  
 Sako, Samuel Robert  
 Sapp, Aiden Edward  
 Sapp, Kerry Anne  
 Scott, Edan Cloud  
 Scott, Killian Ryan  
 Sherry III, James Kevin

Shockey, Koy Thomas  
 Smith, Jett Lee  
 Smith, Nathanael David  
 Spencer, Jennifer Rae  
 Steele, Deanna Kay  
 Strack, Daniel Michael Gage  
 Sullivan, Deanna Lynn  
 Taylor, Owen Gregory  
 Turley, Jordan Anthony  
 Vaughn, Ashley Marie  
 Vaughn, Jessica Renee

Villeneuve, Brenda Lee  
 Villeneuve, Rhonda Renee  
 Villeneuve, Sharon Ann  
 Wallis, Mckenzie Lynn  
 Washburn, Landyn Anthony Lee  
 Weaver, Collin Michael  
 Weaver, Emma Marie  
 West, Kailey Sarah  
 Wright, Brittany Nicole  
 Zane, Connor Ash

## Stomp out Meth 5K Results

The Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiatives hosted their first 5k on October 13th, 2012. The Stomp out Meth 5k was a great success. There was a total of 126 participants register for the 5k/fun walk. We want to congratulate all the runners/walkers who participated in the Stomp out Meth 5k. We want to say thank you to the Wyandotte Nation Police Department for helping with the traffic and a big thank you to everyone who came out and supported our community event.

### 5K RUN AGE GROUP RESULTS

#### MALE AGE GROUP: 1 - 14

Place	Name	Age	City/state	Guntime	Pace	Bib#
1	Coy Vowels	13	Wyandotte OK	22:15.00	7:10	112
2	Caleb Garcia	13	Joplin MO	35:26.65	11:25	37
3	Halie Thomas	13	Neosho MO	41:35.95	13:24	109
4	Gavin Kihenia	9	Wyandotte OK	42:05.30	13:33	66

#### FEMALE AGE GROUP: 1 - 14

Place	Name	Age	City/state	Guntime	Pace	Bib#
1	Anna Smith	11	Miami OK	26:09.90	8:26	104
2	Tamra Renova	11	Wagnor OK	33:29.50	10:47	94
3	Ally Bartley	9	Wyandotte OK	36:26.45	11:44	5
4	Emma Burns	13	Wyandotte OK	45:50.35	14:46	21



Overall Male Winners: Left to right  
 Mason Pittman, Coy Vowels, Robert Berry



Overall Female Winners: Left to right  
 Angie Douthit, Miriam Graham, Anna Smith

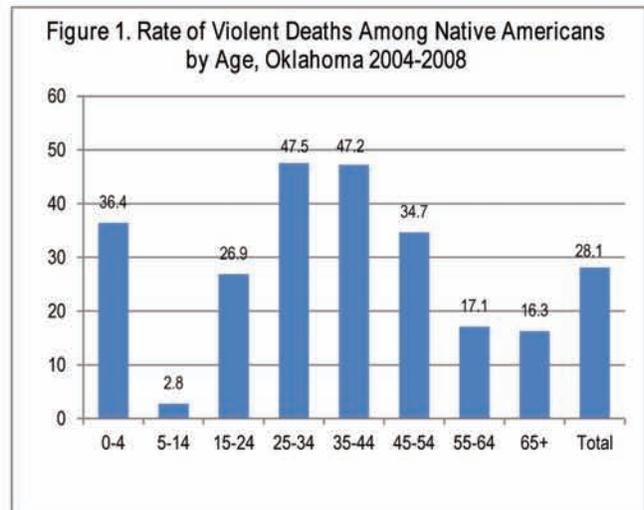
# OK-VDRS BRIEF REPORT

Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System

## Violent Deaths among Native Americans in Oklahoma

Every year more than 50,000 people die from violence in the U.S. Violent deaths in the U.S. occur disproportionately among Native Americans (NA). From 2004-2007, average homicide rates for NA were 20% higher and suicide rates were 8% higher than the U.S. Oklahoma's population has one of the highest concentrations of NA of any state in the U.S. Nine percent of Oklahoma's population is Native American compare to 1% of the U.S. population. Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OK-VDRS) data were used to determine the prevalence of violent deaths among NA in Oklahoma and identify disparities between NA and non-NA.

- From 2004-2008 there were 4,560 violent deaths among Oklahoma residents; 457 (10%) of the victims were NA.
- Seventy-four percent of NA victims were male and 26% were female.
- The mean age of NA victims was 32 years (range <1 - 80 years).
- Forty nine percent of violent deaths among NA were suicide, 26% were of undetermined manner death, 23% were homicide, 1% was legal intervention and less than 1% was unintentional firearm injury death.



- Rates of violent deaths among NA were highest among persons 25-44 years of age (Figure 1).
- The mean age of non-NA victims was 40 years (range <1 - 101 years).
- The overall violent death rate among NA was 17% higher than the rate among non-NA (28.1 and 24.0 per 100,000 population, respectively). The suicide rate among NA was 5% less than the rate among non-NA. The undetermined manner death among NA was more than twice the rate for non-NA, and the homicide rate among NA was 20% higher than the rate among non-NA (Table 1).

Table 1. Comparison of Violent Death Rates among Native Americans and Non-Native Americans by Manner, Oklahoma 2004-2008

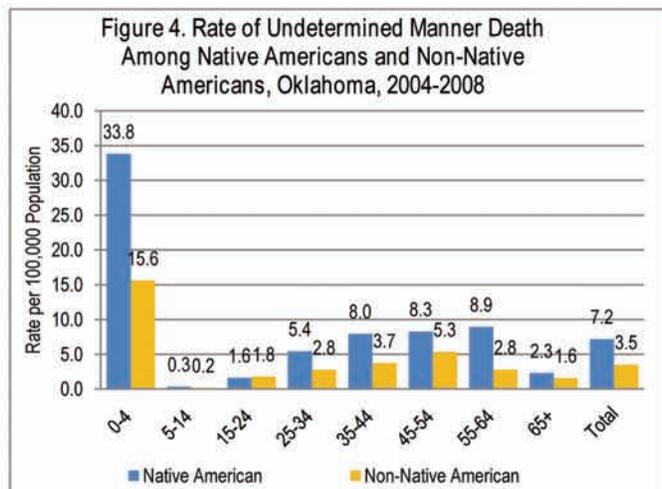
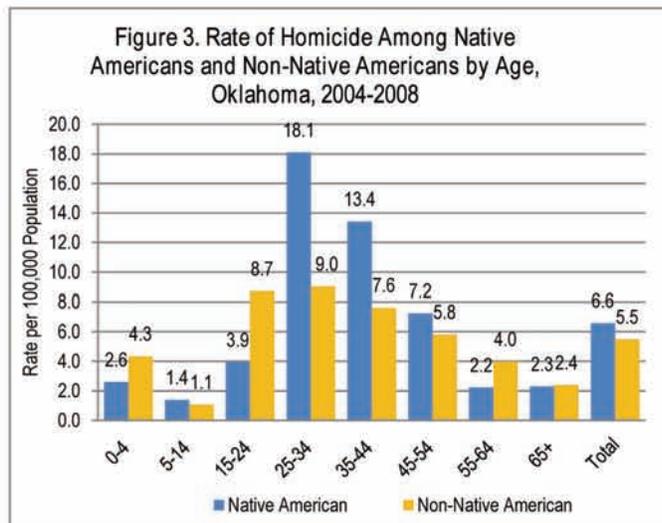
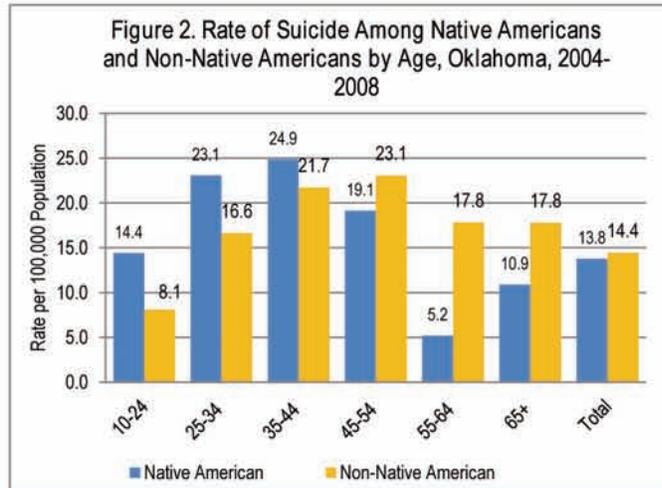
	Native American (Rate*)	Non-Native American (Rate*)	Ratio Native American/ Non-Native American
All Violent Death	28.1	24	1.17
Suicide	13.8	14.4	0.95
Homicide	6.6	5.5	1.20
Unknown Manner Death	7.2	3.5	2.05
Legal Intervention	0.4	0.3	1.33
Unintentional Firearm	0.1	0.3	0.33

\*Rate per 100,000 population

**OK-VDRS BRIEF REPORT**

**Violent Deaths among Native Americans in Oklahoma**

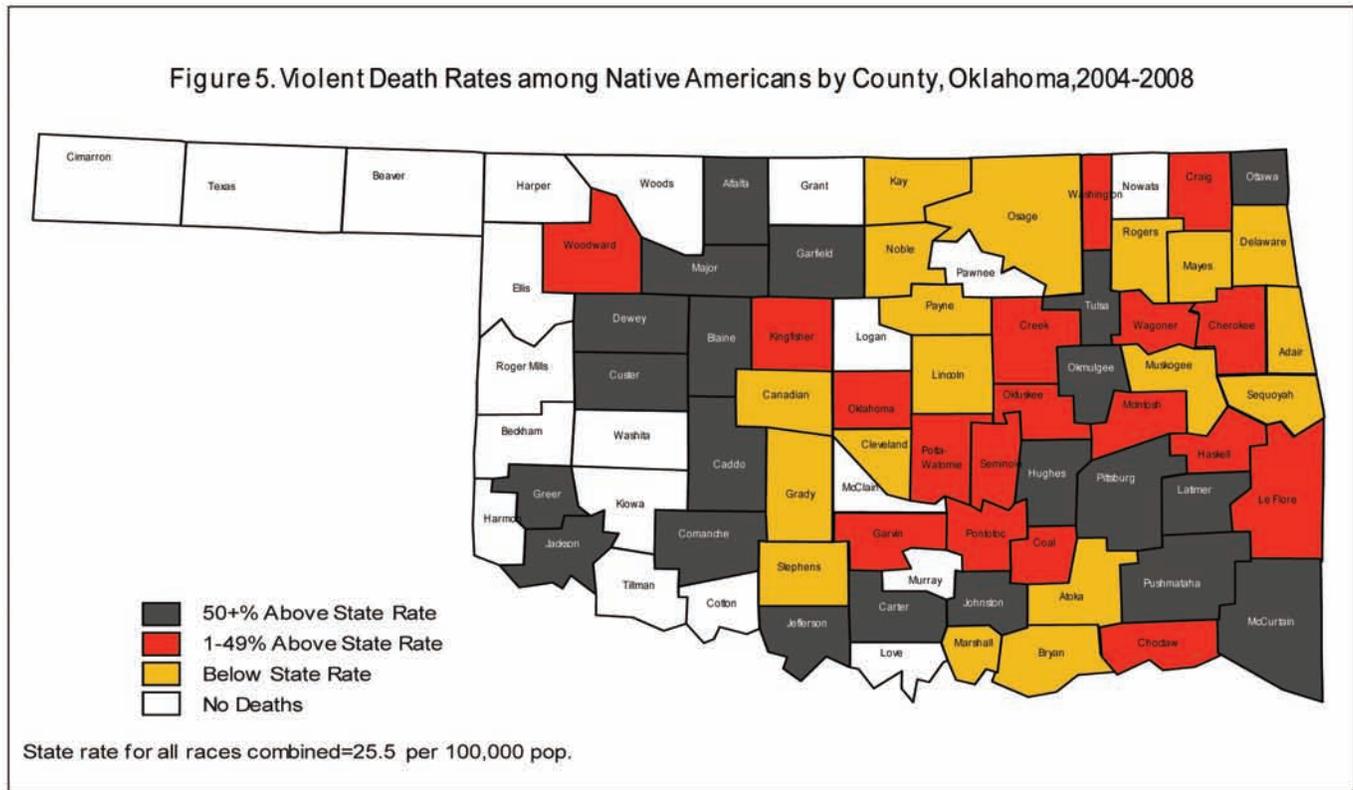
- While the overall suicide rate among NA was slightly less than the rate among non-NA, suicide rate among NA youth 10-24 years of age was 78% higher than the rate among non-NA in that age group (Figure 2).
- The homicide rate among NA 25-44 years of age was nearly twice the homicide rate among non-NA in that age group (Figure 3).
- NA children 0-4 years of age had the highest rate of undetermined manner death (Figure 4). Ninety four percent of victims (49/52) were less than one year of age and 6% were 1-4 years of age.
- Firearms (48%) were the most common weapon/method used to kill among NA victims. Firearms were also the most common weapon/method used to kill among non-NA (59%).
- NA victims were more likely to be single/never married than non-NA (OR=1.63, 95% CI, 1.33-1.98).
- NA victims were more likely to be using alcohol at the time of death compare to non-NA (OR=1.85, 95% CI, 1.47-2.32), and drug use was similar among NA victims and non-NA victims at the time of death.
- Current depressed mood and intimate partner problems (18% each) were the leading circumstances of suicide among NA, followed by mental health problems (15%).
- Arguments and intimate partner violence were the leading circumstances of homicide among NA (49% and 22% respectively).
- In 39 counties, the rate of violent death among NA was higher than the state rate for all races combined. In 18 counties, the rate of violent death among NA was less than the state rate, and in 20 counties, there were no violent deaths among NA (Figure 5).



**OK-VDRS Brief Report**

**Violent Deaths among Native Americans in Oklahoma**

Figure 5. Violent Death Rates among Native Americans by County, Oklahoma, 2004-2008



Prepared by:  
 H. Julien Kabore, MPH  
 Injury Prevention Service  
 Oklahoma State Department of Health

The Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OK-VDRS) is a statewide surveillance system for suicides, homicides, undetermined manner deaths, unintentional firearm injury deaths and legal intervention deaths. Data are collected from medical examiner reports, death certificates, law enforcement reports, and child fatality review data. The data are included in the National Violent Death Reporting System and can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/>.



# The Chief Says . . .

(continued from page 2)

detours along the way? Yes. That is to be expected when developing new businesses and opportunities. As we made our way through twists and turns of venture, we gained valuable experience. We soon were on a straight and narrow path that has brought us to where we are today.

Resources produced by our Tribal businesses are introduced to all the various programs, services, outreach and opportunities Wyandotte people can access today. Many of these resources have been dedicated to the revitalization and preservation of our Wyandotte culture, language and tribal heritage, with the ultimate goal of building a Tribal Culture Center in the very near future. This out-

come is the result of a number of bright, industrious, hard-working people dedicated to delivering outstanding business achievements and great futures for all Wyandotte's citizens.

We have come a long way these last 25 years. Every Wyandotte citizen today has many opportunities from which to choose. These opportunities extend from education, jobs, housing, health care and so much more. This year for the first time we are able to offer a healthcare benefit that will be available for every Wyandotte citizen to access regardless of the where they may reside. Wyandotte's today are benefitting from our commercial success in a multitude of ways. The goal, as always, is to "improve the quality of

life for every Wyandotte citizen".

I believe we are just beginning to see what we can do if we remain committed and dedicated to our vision. We have accomplished so much together and there are great things ahead for our Nation. I have had the privilege of being a part of these achievements for the past 14 years, 8 years as an employee and 6 years as both Second Chief and Chief. I deeply appreciate your faith in me as your leader. The trust you have placed in me is both humbling and inspiring! I look forward to serving you for years to come.

Tizameh,

Chief Friend



## 2nd Chief continued . . .

(continued from page 2)

annual meeting where they voted in 173 new members.

Welcome to all the new members of the Wyandotte Nation. We also surprised Brenda House as our Honored Person of 2012. She is Director of our Title VI and Elder Services Programs and does a wonderful job. The Holidays are fast approaching so be sure and read everything in our Turtle Talk for the various activities that will be going on here at the Wyandotte Nation the next several

weeks.

Progress of our new projects are moving right along. We will have more parking at the Bearskin Wellness Center, the building will be going up soon for the recycling center and early next year we can break ground on our new community center. The face of the Wyandotte Nation is ever changing, but always changing for the betterment of its citizens. This is due to the fact that Leadership and Department Heads have one goal in mind and that is

making life better for the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation.

It is my extreme pleasure to serve you as Second Chief of the Wyandotte Nation.

Tizameh

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.  
Second Chief

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." Mahatma Gandhi

## Wyandotte Nation Tag Office

Please call Dana or Tara at (800) 256-2539  
ext. 219 and ext. 255 respectively for appointments.  
Handicapped Plates available



## Honored Person - Brenda House continued. . .

(continued from page 5)

numerous trips and events, such as Bells Amusement Park in Tulsa, OK., The Wildlife Safari and Zoo in Gentry, Ar., and even a trip to Nashville, TN to see the amazing home of Elvis Presley at Graceland. During these trips she was able to build an even stronger bond with the elders, which is so strong I consider them my additional grandparents.

She has received multiple awards for her continued support as an Elder Services Director. She is a proud member of the Oklahoma Indian Council, Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging and NICOA (National Indian Council on Aging) just to mention a few. She has also been recognized as Title VI director of the year.

Brenda has been such an asset to the Title VI Program and Wyandotte Nation. She has just celebrated her 25th year of employment with them. And even though she is not a tribal member and doesn't even have an Indian card, she has been taken under the wing of the Wyandotte Nation and considered part of the family.

Except for her family, Brenda has always put 'her elders' first and foremost. She has always gone above and beyond her duty to see that they were treated fairly and that their needs were met to the best of her ability. She was a great boss and is a greater friend. She treats everyone with respect and always sets a good example. Whether at business meetings, conferences or at work in the Center, Brenda is always a model representative of the Wyandotte Nation. Although she has been unable to prove her Native heritage, she is accepted and respected by many people of various Tribes across the country. Janice Wilson

I have been coming to Wyandotte Center since I retired in 2000. It has become my home away from home. Brenda House is a very special person for the Elders. She cares about everyone. She treats everyone like we are all family, which we are. She loves each and every one. The food is excellent.

If anyone is ill she calls to check on them and sends

cards. My day is not complete if I can't come here to see everyone. She cares about her workers too. Everyone is so friendly because of their boss.

We Love Brenda House! Sue Jones

I am one of the Elders that have known Brenda since she started. She has always been a friend and helpful to each one. She has gone out of her way on many occasions to satisfy every person.

Brenda has taken us on trips over the years and has been a mother hen to all of us. On one trip I recall she took us to Branson, each person had time to do as they wished - my husband decided to take a helicopter ride, when he got back she was interested enough to talk to him and find out all about it.

She is a very caring and helpful friend! Evelyn Byrd

In the twenty plus years that we have known Brenda, she has demonstrated these traits:

- Makes us seniors feel welcome every time that we visit the nutrition center.
- Has a pleasant smile for everyone.
- Is full of life, laughter, and stories.
- Looks for ways to keep us seniors happy.
- Cares about us and takes time to visit always.
- Is generous and kind to us all.
- Is never too busy to take care of "Her" seniors.
- Goes the extra mile to arrange trips and events, for example: A senior night at the center commemorating the 1950's with a cake walk, dances, games, root beer floats, etc.
- Lends a helping hand whether emotional or physical, like helping with our trays, etc.
- Has a kind heart and is unselfish.
- Is forgiving when we become too loud with our card games and allows us the time to finish that last game.

We thank you Brenda for being there for us seniors.  
Pete and Roberta Baker

# Culture Days a Fabulous Success



**Picture Left:**  
Deryl Wayne Wright, Cathy Wright and Pat Taffner learn loom beading techniques in Kim Garcia's class.



**Picture Right:**  
Marilyn Young learns how to Fingerweave in the clas taught by Hap Jolitz and Judy Manthe.



Linda Sioui from Wendake, Canada, explains her research in cultural identity during the History session of Cultural Days 2012.



Holly Zane works with Dr. Craig Kopr in the Advanced Language class.



**Left Photo:**  
Sallie Andrews  
Judith Kukowski



**Right Photo:**  
Bruce Pearson  
Craig Kopr

## Cultural Days



The Wyandotte Nation Culture Days 2012 brought 148 Wendat people together in Wyandotte, Oklahoma, from 18 states and Canada! The largest group (following Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas) was the delegation from the Wyandot of Anderdon Nation from Michigan and Canada. Juanita McQuiston, seated on the right, welcomed the group which included: Marty Curtin LaBenne (seated next to Juanita), and (back row l-r) Grand Chief Ted Roll, Brenda Roll, Catherine Tamaro, Marge Repella, Judith Kukowski, Second Chief Clyde Pidgeon and John Kukowski. Also attending from Michigan and not in this picture were Nancy Chinn (Wyandotte Nation) and Vic Lupu, and Chantal Gros Louis Humphreys (Wendat of Wendake Nation) and Dave Humphreys.



Culture Days 2012 gave 19 members of the Longhouse Women e-group the chance to meet in person! Organized over a decade ago by Beverlee Pettit (Wyandotte Nation) as an educational group, the Longhouse Women has over 50 members from Wendat of Wendake, Wyandot of Anderdon Nation, Wyandot Nation of Kansas and the Wyandotte Nation. For information about membership, please email [wyandotte-girl51@yahoo.com](mailto:wyandotte-girl51@yahoo.com). In this photo are (front row l-r) Rhonda Klindworth, Marty Curtin LaBenne, Judith Kukowski and Catherine Tamaro; (middle row l-r) Sandy Myszka, Katie Chinn, Linda Sioui, Earlene Roskob and Sallie Andrews; (back row l-r) Hap Jolitz, Chantal Gros Louis Humphreys, Nancy Chinn and Judy Manthe. Not in the photo but at Culture Days were Juanita McQuiston, Barbara Aston, Patty Garrison, Holly and Kristen Zane and Julie West.



**Cultural Committee**



**Cultural Dinner**

# 2012 Pow-Wow Pictures



# 2012 Pow-Wow Pictures



## Services Provided to Tribal Members

Services	Program Contacts	Phone Numbers	Ext.	Email
Clinic	Kelly Walker	(918)-678-3259	4459	kwalker@wyandotte-nation.org
Dental - Vision	Amanda Johnston	(918)-678-3221	4457	ajohnston@wyandotte-nation.org
Clinic (for appointments)	Linda Coatney	(918)-678-3228	4428	lcoatney@wyandotte-nation.org
Clinic (for appointments)	Elaine Fidler	(918)-678-3230	4430	efidler@wyandotte-nation.org
Pharmacy (Call in only)	Brian Workman	(918)-678-2282	4424	bworkman@wyandotte-nation.org
Fitness Center	Sharon Bartley	(918)-678-2070	4431	slbartley@wyandotte-nation.org
Contract Health	Bridget Burleson	(918)-678-3227	4427	bburleson@wyandotte-nation.org
Diabetes Clinic	Donna Spaulding	(918)-678-3258	4458	dspaulding@wyandotte-nation.org
Nutrition	Brenda House	(918)-678-2297	227	bhouse@wyandotte-nation.org
Caregiver Services	Brenda House	(918)-678-2297	227	bhouse@wyandotte-nation.org
Enrollment / Tags	Dana Butterfield	(918)-678-2297	219	dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org
Tribal Social Worker	Tara Gragg	(918)-678-2297	255	tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org
Housing Programs	Kathy DeWeese	(918)-678-2297	239	kdeweese@wyandotte-nation.org
Student Housing Assistance	Kathy DeWeese	(918)-678-2297	239	kdeweese@wyandotte-nation.org
Housing Improvements	Kathy DeWeese	(918)-678-2297	239	kdeweese@wyandotte-nation.org
Well Septic Construction	Kathy DeWeese	(918)-678-2297	239	kdeweese@wyandotte-nation.org
School Supplies	Kate Randall	(918)-678-2297	224	krandall@wyandotte-nation.org
Car Seats	Kate Randall	(918)-678-2297	224	krandall@wyandotte-nation.org
Emergency Assistance	Kate Randall	(918)-678-2297	224	krandall@wyandotte-nation.org
Scholarships	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230	tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org
Job Training	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230	tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org
Preschool	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230	tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org
Library	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230	tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org
Adult Education	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230	tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org
Childcare	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230	tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org
Environmental	Christen Lee	(918)-678-2297	241	clee@wyandotte-nation.org
Human Resources	Deana Howard	(918)-678-2297	220	dhoward@wyandotte-nation.org
Historical	Sherri Clemons	(918)-678-2297	224	sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org
Planning/Development	Ron Kaiser	(918) 678-2297	225	rkaiser@wyandotte-nation.org
Duty Phone		(918) 325-0025		kmurphy@wyandotte-nation.org