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- Tribe to open Sonic Drive-In
- Community Center breaks ground

The Turtle Speaks

GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA



Volume 17, Issue 3

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August 2013

A family's search

Closure comes to
sisters of brother killed
in Korean War

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Second Chief	Norman Hildebrand, Jr.
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Councilperson	Vivian Fink
Councilperson	Juanita McQuiston
Councilperson	Eric Lofland

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Contact us

Submit a story idea or your latest news and photos. To submit, email William Swaim at wswaim@wtok.org or call (918) 848-0724.

Scan the code



You will see these images throughout this issue. They are QR codes and they link to will take you directly to additional photos, video or, like the image above, take you directly to our Facebook page from your phone or tablet.

Have a smartphone or tablet? If so, there are FREE applications available for your smartphone or tablet that read/scan the codes. So, try it out. No cost.

Have a dumbphone? No problem. If you visit our Facebook page, you will see some of the additional photos and videos posted there.

Golf Scramble benefits annual Pow-Wow



Gary Johnson tees off on the first hole at the Eagle Creek Country Club course during the Wyandotte Nation Annual Golf Scramble. Money raised from the May 17 event went toward the Sept. 13-15 Pow-Wow. (William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation)

Featured Event

Annual Cultural Days

Wednesday, Sept. 11

9 to 9:15 am – Welcome and introductions.
 9:15 to 10:30 am – Our Great Chiefs from 1649-1843 (Lloyd Divine).
 10:30 to 10:45 am – Break.
 10:45 to Noon – Language (Dr. Craig Kopriss).
 Noon to 1 pm – Lunch On Your Own.
 1 to 2 pm – Know Your Nation (Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand).
 2 to 4 pm – Special Interests. Your choice; Pine Needle Basket Weaving, Advanced Language or (TBD).
 4 to 4:15 pm – Break.
 4:15 to 5:30 pm - Wyandotte (Clan Based) Government. (Marilyn Young)
 5:30 to 6 pm – Break and travel time to Title VI Building.
 6 to 8 pm – Annual fried chicken dinner.
 8 pm – Wampum Belt of Friendship.

Thursday, Sept. 12

9 to 9:15 am – Welcome and introductions.
 9:15 to 10:30 am – Our Great Chiefs from 1844 (David Culver and Deryl Wright).
 10:30 to 10:45 am – Break.
 10:45 to Noon – Language (Dr. Craig Kopriss).
 Noon to 1 pm – Lunch On Your Own.
 1 to 2 pm – Know Your Nation (Tribal Department Directors).
 2 to 4 pm – Special Interests. (See above)
 4 to 4:15 pm – Break.

4:15 to 5:30 pm - Wyandotte (Election Based) Government. (Katie Chinn)
 5:30 to 6 pm – Break and travel time to Title VI Building.
 6 to 8 pm – Traditional Dinner.
 8 pm – Wampum Belt of Friendship.

Friday, Sept. 13

9 to 9:15 am – Welcome and introductions.
 9:15 to 10:30 am – Language (Dr. Craig Kopriss).
 10:30 to 10:45 – Break.
 10:45 to Noon – Q&A (Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee).
 Noon to 1 pm – Lunch on your own.
 1 to 5 pm – Participants will be given a choice to work on their special interest projects, Wampum Belt of Friendship, or take a tour of the grave sites of our chiefs.
 5 to 7 pm – Dinner on your own.
 8 pm –Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow.

Saturday, Sept. 14

10 am – Wyandotte Nation Annual Meeting.
 1:30 p.m. / 7 p.m. – Pow-Wow.

Sunday, Sept. 15

1:30 p.m. – Pow-Wow.

If you plan to attend Culture Days 2013 please register online at: www.wyandotte-nation.org/community/tribal-heritage/culture-days/2013-schedule/

Interns have learning opportunity



From the Chief ...
Billy Friend

Kweh,
I hope this quarter's Turtle Talk finds all doing well and having a great summer.

Once again we find ourselves at that time of year when we begin preparing for our Annual Meeting, Cultural Week, and Pow-Wow. These events continue to grow and improve each year as more people get involved.

I would like to encourage you and your family to attend and get involved in as many of these activities as you can, either as a volunteer or as a participant.

In the Spring of 2008, the Board of Directors approved a summer intern program for all Wyandotte students ages 16-22. We are now in our

fifth year of the program and it has been one of the greatest programs the Tribe has ever done. I believe we have some of the most outstanding Indian youth in the Nation and each summer they prove that while working throughout our tribal programs.

Our goal was to introduce them to what we do as a tribal government, teach them about our culture, and help them identify what it is to be Wyandotte. The long range goal of the program is that



our youth will continue and complete their education, and return some day to work for the Wyandotte Nation.

Each year the program is culminated with a trip to one of our former homelands. This year we will be taking them to the Detroit, Mich., area to join with the Wyandots of Anderdon.

We will tour our former homelands and visit our historical sites in Michigan and also cross over into what was formerly the Anderdon Reserve in Canada.

This will be our first intern trip to Michigan and Canada, and we want to thank Chief Ted Roll and his staff for helping arrange all the events for us while we are there.

The summer intern program is completely funded through our tribal sales and excise taxes.

We have several projects that are currently in progress here at the Nation. We recently broke ground on our new Community Center in our Heritage Acres housing addition here in Wyandotte. The 7,184-square foot center will serve as a multi-purpose facility for our tribal community.

On the economic development side, we will be breaking ground soon on a new Sonic Drive-In in Seneca, Mo. This will create another direction and another diversified enterprise for the Wyandotte Nation. We are very excited about this new opportunity and the potential for additional restaurants in the future.

We are truly blessed at the

See **Opportunity**, Page 5

Chief Bearskin set foundation for Tribe's success

Kweh,
I hope everyone is in good health and enjoying life to the fullest. As I am writing this article I am one month into my third year as Second Chief of the greatest Indian Nation in the country, the Wyandotte Nation.

I was like a lot of young Wyandottes growing up, I knew I was Wyandotte but had nothing to relate to or to identify with even being Wyandotte. I knew I was Wyandotte because my grandmother told me I was. Then in 1983 a gentleman by the name of Leaford



From the Second Chief ...
Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Bearskin decided to run for Chief. My grandmother told me it was important that I attend the election meeting so I went. Little did I know that election would change the Wyandotte Tribe forever.

Leaford Bearskin was elected Chief at that meeting and from that day forward he started the foundation for what is now the Wyandotte Nation. This year marking the 30th anni-

versary of that election I am proud to say that Chief Billy Friend, myself, the Board of Directors, department heads and all Wyandotte Nation employees are continuing to carry on that foundation



Chief Bearskin established during his 28 years in office. This is my farewell to a man that I have admired, respected and very proud to have the honor to call him Chief and friend.

The Wyandotte Nation is constantly evolving. We have a recycling center, broke ground on a Community center, soon to be breaking ground on a Sonic Drive-in in Seneca, Mo., and with the addition of our other businesses the Wyandotte Nation has a very

See **Success**, Page 5

Preschoolers don first cap & gown

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation held its 2013 Preschool Graduation Tuesday, May 14 at the Bearskin Fitness Center gymnasium. Eight tribal citizens and 32 children overall donned their first cap and gown during the evening ceremony in front of a packed house.

“This is my 12th graduation ceremony and we have really enjoyed our new location at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium. The evening was a great event that showcased the children who attend our program,” said Tammy Charles, Wyandotte Nation Education Director.

The children sang a variety of songs and the ceremony concluded with the students receiving their diplomas from Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Among the students in the preschool, 22 were Kumon Honor Students, including Blaze Graham of Seneca, Mo., who was the top Kumon Honor Student in the U.S.

“Blaze is a student with a gift for Mathematics,” Charles said. “The Kumon Honor Roll recognizes students in Pre-K that reach the level of 4A200 by December of the school year.

“The Tribal Administration has been very supportive of the Preschool Program and always sets aside time to attend the events, including Thanksgiving, the Pow-Wow and Graduation to recognize and honor the children.”

Students in the program were from communities in Oklahoma and Missouri.

Pictured: Paxton Bruegel, a Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen from Seneca, Mo. (William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation)



For more photos, visit our [Facebook](#) page



Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow



Photos by William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation

The Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow was held April 25 for the first time at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow grounds.



For more photos from the event, visit our Facebook page.

Opportunity

Continued from Page 3

Wyandotte Nation to have an exceptional economic development operation. Our businesses are continually growing and looking at new ways to expand and do things better. The great

news is that our businesses provide us with the resources that are needed to provide the programs and services that all Wyandotte's enjoy.

In closing I would like to say that who we are, where we have come from, and

what we have built together are truly our greatest assets at the Wyandotte Nation. I am looking forward with great anticipation to seeing many of you again and hopefully some for the first time at our Culture Week, Pow-Wow and Annual Meeting. Until then may God watch

over, bless and protect you and your family.

**Tizameh,
Chief Friend**

“I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.” - Psalms 16:8

Success

Continued from Page 3

diverse portfolio. Casinos are quick revenue producers, but with the competition in this area it is hard to sustain revenue growth. The Wyandotte Nation is very sound financially and always looking to the future, just like Chief Bearskin taught us.

Our Tribal Court system is moving right along, I have sat in on a couple of court sessions and found it very interesting. Hopefully this fall we will have good

news about our grant for our Cultural Center and Museum; a little prayer from everyone certainly will be appreciated.

The pow-wow grounds look great and we anticipate everyone that can, will try to attend Culture Week, Annual Meeting and Pow-wow. It is always a pleasure to see friends and family during this week. It is a special time for families to get together to learn about their heritage and culture.

This year we are taking

our summer interns to the Detroit area for the first time to learn about their Wyandotte history in Michigan. Chief Ted Roll of the Wyandots of Anderdon will guide us through the many points of interest in the Detroit area, a big (tizameh) thank you to Chief Roll.

This trip will be the maiden voyage for our new bus we purchased for our preschool and will also be used for the elders day trips as well as other activities scheduled for the Wyandotte Nation.

It is a pleasure and honor

to serve the Wyandotte Nation as Second Chief, and to be a part of the future growth of the greatest Indian Nation in the country.

**Tizameh,
Norman Hildebrand, Jr.
Second Chief**

“Keep close to Nature's heart and break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean. None of Nature's landscapes are ugly so long as they are wild.” - John Muir, Conservationist

2013 Election Candidates

Following are the Wyandotte Nation 2013 Election Candidates that have met the qualifications for candidacy:

Chief

Billy Friend

Board of Directors

Juanita McQuiston

Ramona Reid

Donna Mercer

Eric Lofland

Grievance Committee

Derald Clemons

Isaac Tanner

Darlene Trimble

Catherine Hitchcock

Candidate Eric Lofland

My name is Eric Lofland and I am a proud member of the Wyandotte Nation. I have served the people of the Wyandotte Nation for the past three years on the Board of Directors.



I am a graduate of Wyandotte High School and have lived in Wyandotte my entire life. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Business and a Minor in Ag Economics from Oklahoma State University. I have worked the past 11 years as an Insurance and Financial Agent at Tristate Insurance.

When I was in high school I had the chance to work in the summer youth program. I got to see firsthand how great the tribe was run and the great employees we have. The last three years serving on the Board of Directors has been a great experience.

I truly believe the Wyandotte Nation has the best tribal members and employees of any tribe. With my current employment as an Insurance and Financial Agent it has allowed me to be free for any tribal business that is required of me.

I have greatly enjoyed serving the people of the Wyandotte Nation and hope you will give me the opportunity to continue serving on the Board of Directors.

Candidate: Derald Clemons



Hello, my name is Derald Clemons. I am running for a position on the Grievance Committee.

I was raised in Seneca, Mo. My wife, Kandi and I currently reside

in Wyandotte, Okla., where I have lived for the past 30 years.

I have a daughter Shelby a son Trey, and three stepsons, Ryan, Steven, and Conner. I also have two Grandchildren Ben and Brooklynn.

My Wyandotte ancestry is through the Adam Brown lineage.

I was employed by Eagle Picher Industries for 15 years. I am cur-

rently the Surveillance Director for the Eastern Shawnee Tribe where I have been employed for 10 years. I am responsible for coordinating and supervising the activities of 30 to 35 employees at two locations.

I am very proud to be a member of the Wyandotte Nation and it would be an honor for me to serve in this capacity for my tribe.

Candidate: Donna Mercer

Kweh. My name is Donna Mercer and I am announcing my candidacy for the Board of Directors of the Wyandotte Nation.

My professional career includes 31 years of experience working in tribal government administration, 14 of those years working under the direction of Chief Leaford Bearskin. Under Chief Bearskin's leadership, I learned the importance of always looking to the future, for our people and where we need to be 10 years down the road. We must never be satisfied with what we have now, but must always look ahead to improving the lives of our tribal citizens and to contributing to the growth, safety, and prosperity of the community in which we live.

My career in tribal government began with the Quapaw Tribe as a program assistant, followed by advancement to the director of the Housing improvement Program. I soon learned the importance of knowledge of policies and procedures and the necessity of regulation and accountability. Not only to the tribe, but to the funding agencies that provided the government funds as well. In 1987 I went

to work for the Wyandotte Nation as accounting director and later advanced to Government Compliance Officer. While serving as Government Compliance Officer I was responsible for the correlation of all policies and implementation concerning not only federal regulations but tribal regulation as well.

My current position as tribal administrator for the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma has allowed me to be instrumental in multiple facets of expansion of the tribal government operation.

I have many dreams and visions for the Wyandotte Nation and with your support; together we can strive to improve services for all tribal members as we continue to move forward. We can strive to increase funding allowing us to increase services to our citizens wherever they may reside. I would like to see improvement in the areas of education, health care, jobs, and social services. I have assisted in the development of policies and regulations for these types of programs over the past 11 years and feel that what I have learned regarding what works and does not will benefit these pro-

grams for the Wyandotte Nation.

I am proud of my Native American heritage and have been blessed by our good Lord to have worked in tribal government for so many years and I feel these years have prepared me for this next step in my service to the Native American community. Over the years when I have been in cultural settings, I have been asked, "Who is your family?" My reply is always that the tribe is my family. Tribal members are all important to me. It does not matter which family I come from, it is what is in my heart that matters.

I know there are many concerns among our people but, as Chief Bearskin always said, just think what we can do for our tribe, community, and nation if we just work together. I am a firm believer in this. By working together and listening to all concerns, we will grow and prosper.

I humbly ask for your support and your vote in the upcoming election.

My promise to you is to work for each and every one of you with honesty, transparency, and compassion.

Election Ordinance

ARTICLE VI

Candidacy for Tribal Officials Section 1. Qualifications of Elected Officials

A person shall be eligible to run for and hold an elective office of the Wyandotte Nation if such person meets the following requirements:

(a) Be an enrolled member of the Wyandotte Nation; with an extensive knowledge of the Wyandotte Culture.

(b) Twenty-five (25) years of age or older at the time of filing for candidacy;

(c) Agree to physically reside within

a 50-mile radius of the administration office during the term of office.

(d) Must, to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, be able to pass a criminal background check, possess either a four-year degree in a business related area or a minimum of five years' experience in tribal government administration.

(e) Must not be a part of the immediate family of any elected official, or member of the Election Board that would be serving during the same time frame.

(f) Must not be an employee of the Wyandotte Nation on the date on which the person is sworn into office

except that:

(1) This provision shall not apply to any person who is a member of the Board of Directors and an employee of the Wyandotte Nation on the date of passage of this election ordinance; and

(2) This provision shall not prohibit a member of the Board of Directors from being employed by the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma, a federal chartered corporation, and its subdivisions or by any entity created under the laws of the Wyandotte Nation to promote the economic development of the Nation.

NOTE: Candidates were given the opportunity to submit a letter for publication. Those letters appear on this page. The election will take place the day of the Annual Meeting, Saturday, Sept. 14.



Pictured from left, Chief Billy Friend, Architect Robert Johnson, Builders Unlimited Inc.'s Steve Wright, Councilperson Juanita McQuiston, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand Jr., Councilperson Eric Lofland, and Councilperson Ramona Reid.

Community Center expected to be completed by December

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation broke ground on a 7,184 square foot Community Center Friday morning, July 12, near the newer housing developments in Wyandotte, Okla.

“This Community Center is going to be a great addition for all of our Tribal citizens who live here,” said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend to a large crowd attending the groundbreaking ceremony.

Floor plans for the \$1.2 million community center, located at 14325 Porcupine Rd., will provide

“All those components it takes to build a community – a strong Indian and Wyandotte community. We’re adding those pieces one piece at a time to complete that puzzle. This is a big piece of that puzzle.”

- Chief Billy Friend

space for a senior center, activity center, kitchen and a saferoom. It will also be the new home to the Wyandotte Nation housing department, which should make the offices more accessible to all. An ICDBG (Indian Community Development Block

Grant) of \$800,000 helped fund it.

Chief Friend said the Community Center is just another step in the Tribe’s ongoing process of improving the community. He said it takes several things to build the community, including quality

healthcare, education and housing. All of which the Wyandotte Nation has made strides to address for its tribal citizens.

“All those components it takes to build a community – a strong Indian and Wyandotte community,” he said. “We’re adding those pieces one piece at a time to complete that puzzle. This is a big piece of that puzzle.”

Native American owned Builders Unlimited Inc., based out of Tulsa, will do the construction on the project. The project is expected to be completed by December.

Tribal court another step in building 'community'

Judge: Tribal courts 'essential' to maintaining sovereignty

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation's establishment of a tribal court marks a historic occasion for the Tribe and its citizens.

"We operate as a tribal government and there are essential government services we provide to our tribal members. The court system is one of those essential government functions," said Chief Billy Friend. "It is a great day here for the Wyandotte Nation that we can actually provide this not only as a function, but a service to our citizens."

The Wyandotte Nation is governed by a Constitution. According to the Constitution, having a judicial branch is a requirement for tribal government.

Chief Friend said this helps the Tribe fulfill its Constitutional requirement to have an executive, legislative and judicial branch of government. He said it was a process two years in the making.

With the official swearing in of Judge Jon Douthitt and Prosecutor Geri Wisner on April 24, the court opened its doors and held its first session.

Douthitt and Wisner recognized the historical significance of the court for the Wyandotte Nation.

"The establishment of tribal courts is essential to



William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation

Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr. swear Judge Jon Douthitt and Prosecutor Geri Wisner into office, marking a historical occasion for the Tribe.

obtaining and maintaining tribal sovereignty," said Douthitt, of the Cherokee Nation, during an interview with area media. "To me, that is one of the most important things a tribe can do is to establish their own court system."

Wisner, of the Muscogee Creek Nation, added to the judge's comments, saying it is important to point out Indians have had a system of law since the beginning of time. She said what the Tribe is doing now is exercising those inherent traditions.

The court will handle criminal and civil cases where the Tribe has jurisdiction. Douthitt and Wisner both said determining jurisdiction can be tricky.

"It encompasses a number of factors that are not neces-

sarily relevant when looking at jurisdiction in the state or federal system," Wisner said. "For example, we have to consider not only where the action took place, but we also have to consider the races of the parties involved. Analysis of that will determine whether we have criminal jurisdiction or not. Civil jurisdiction is a little less confined."

The tribal court will not have jurisdiction over major crimes, such as murder.

Douthitt said he wants to make sure tribal members understand the court is here and available to resolve their disputes.

For Wisner, she said it is

"Even though the Tribe has recently stood up their court, the fact still remains that before Columbus stepped foot, before a Constitution of the United States was written, tribes had a sense and system of justice. It wasn't necessarily codified into statutes and codes, but there was an innate, inherent system of justice in what was right and wrong, and recognition for what those consequences were."

— Prosecutor Geri Wisner



important for her to talk to tribal members, especially with the elders, where the tribal knowledge is, and find out how the Tribe traditionally addressed these issues.

Chief Friend said the next step is to establish higher courts, including a Supreme Court and Appellate Court.

"Our goal here is to build community. We are going through a community building process," he said. "Part of that goal is to draw tribal citizens back to this area. As we grow, and we grow this community, we'll have more tribal citizens in this area, so the need for the courts becomes much greater."

First Town Hall meetings wrap up in California

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation wrapped up its first ever Town Hall meetings last May with back-to-back meetings in Irvine and Sacramento, Calif. The first of the three meetings took place in Seattle.



Reunion



Town Hall



William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation
Cousins Ted Nesvold and Josephine Stewart reunited for just the second time in the last 50 years.

“This is something we just started for the first time this year,” said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend to the crowd in Irvine. “It was something several years, I began to think about and dwell on. We have over 5,000 tribal citizens nationwide. I thought: how can we connect, how can we reach out and begin to build relationships and connections with all of our tribal citizens, because we want all citizens to know what it is to be Wyandotte and to be proud to be Wyandotte. This is the beginning step.”

Chief Friend reported on the “State of the Nation” and discussed what the Wyandotte Nation does and how it

operates.

“Fellow Wyandottes, it is my honor today as Chief of the Wyandotte Nation, to report unto you the state of our Nation. I would say the state of our Nation is strong and growing,” Chief Friend told those in attendance at the Sacramento gathering.

The Town Hall meetings, however, were more than just a chance to bring the Tribe’s Annual Meeting on the road. It was an opportunity for family to reunite and for Wyandottes spread out across the nation to gather and build new connections.

“I felt a part of a community. A part of a community

I did not know existed,” said Josephine Stewart, from the Sacramento area, who reunited with Cousin Ted Nesvold, of Wyandotte, Okla. “I was amazed at the number of people that are just in this locale where I live.”

For Ted, a Wyandotte Nation Honor Guardsman, the meetings were a chance to put a face with a name.

“I see names, names and more names in the Turtle Talk. Today you put a face with to that name. Then they are not names, they are people,” he said.

The meeting of Josephine and Ted was one of the many stories of families reconnect-

ing after a long time away. The cousins met for just the second time in the last 50 years. (See related video).

“It’s been a lot of years since we really knew one another,” Ted said. “It’s been a pleasure, it’s been an honor and this deal (Town Hall Meetings) has really brought family together that have been long gone for years.”

Josephine echoed those thoughts, adding, “You don’t really appreciate the ties you have with your family until you are apart. When you come back together, that’s when the memories flood back and you realize this person right here was a part of me and he is a part of what I am today.”

The two met up at a pow-wow about 15 years ago. Prior to that, it had been nearly 35 years. Josephine said the last time she saw Ted then; he was headed off to the Air Force.

“I can remember standing, watching him walk out the door with his Air Force uniform on. He left that day - that’s the first memory I saw when I saw his face today - I could see him walking toward me in his uniform and all those memories came flooding back and I was a child again,” she said.

“I think being a member of the Wyandotte Nation is a privilege, and I think something like what we experienced today helps me at least to realize how important it is in my life and what it means to me. Part of my heart is the Wyandotte Nation.”



William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation
Wyandottes enjoyed a feast in Irvine (left) and packed into the Sacramento Town Hall (right) to hear the State of the Nation. For more photos, visit our Facebook page.

ODEQ honors Nation with Clean Community recognition

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality honored the Wyandotte Nation as a Clean Community for the Tribe's environmental efforts during a ceremony Monday afternoon at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center in Wyandotte, Okla.

"If we look at the kinds of environmental challenges that we face today, they are challenges that we aren't going to solve through our regulatory system, we are going to solve them by working together," said Fenton Rood, ODEQ's Environmental Programs Manager.

"The environmental programs of the Wyandotte Nation are so sufficiently successful that your reputation speaks for itself among other environmental professionals."

The ODEQ presented a certificate to Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr. for the Tribe's recycling effort, including tire recycling.

The Wyandotte Nation recently opened the Lost Creek Recycling Center and held its first tire recycling event during the Environmental Festival in early May.

Ferrella March, a program specialist with ODEQ, said the Clean Community

Video



William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation

From left, ODEQ Environmental Programs Manager Fenton Rood, ODEQ Program Specialist Ferrella March, Wyandotte Nation Environmental Director Christen Lee, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr., and Wyandotte Nation Environmental Program Assistant Kathy Welch.

Program is all about prevention and recognizing communities, organizations and tribes, such as the Wyandotte Nation, for its leadership and environmental stewardship.

"It is also all about collaboration. We believe that by working together and sharing resources, we can

accomplish great things," March said. "That is why we are here today to recognize you as great leaders in environmental stewardship."

Hildebrand said the Wyandotte Nation was honored to receive the recognition.

"Christen Lee, our Environmental Director,

has a great staff in Kathy Welch, Janice Wilson and Jon Quick. They are very passionate and dedicated in what they do," the second chief said. "Because of that passion and dedication, they are really making strides in trying to clean up the quality of the environment here in the Wyandotte area."

West honored as Employee of the Year



Julie West, a member of the Wyandotte Nation, was recently named Employee of the Year by her co-workers.

Julie has been employed by the tribe since January 1999, and has worked in both the Environmental and Accounting departments.

West was chosen for her strong work ethic, dependability, loyalty, and positive attitude. She is very passionate about

her job and takes on additional assignments as well as volunteering for projects outside of her normal job responsibilities.

In her spare time, Julie enjoys photography, fixing up houses, and spending time with her family.

Congratulations Julie! We appreciate all of the hard work you do to make the Wyandotte Nation successful.



The Wyandotte Nation held its annual Fireworks Display July 3 at the pow-wow grounds.

A show of ...

PATRIOTISM

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SWAIM



Kids from the summer program put on a Patriotic Program at the Title VI building in Wyandotte on July 3.

For a video slideshow, visit our Facebook page or scan the code.



Chief Bearskin honored at Memorial Day ceremony

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard chose Chief Leaford Bearskin as its honoree during the 2013 Memorial Day Ceremony May 27.

Video

The ceremony was held at the Wyandotte Nation Cemetery on Hwy 60 near tribal headquarters in Wyandotte.

Chief Bearskin garnered many honors during his Air Force career, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic Pacific Campaign, Medal for Humane Action, Occupation Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Air



William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation
The Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard chose Chief Leaford Bearskin to honor on Memorial Day.

Force Longevity Service Award (three bronze Oak Leaf Clusters).

“Again an enemy from across the big water trespassed against our good friends and our great country. Once again the Great White Father spoke and said, ‘We

need warriors to fight for our good friends and our great country.’ And, once again my people quit being farmers, quit being school teachers, quit being storekeepers, quit being ministers, and quit being statesmen. They took up the white man’s war paint

and tomahawk.

“I, myself, fought our enemy over the great waters of the Pacific. I fought with the white man’s tools – airplanes, bombs, and machine guns. Our white man’s medicine was strong and the enemy was defeated.

“Many of our warriors went to this fight. Some became heroes, even in the eyes of the white man. They fought hard and they fought well. There were some who did not return. They went to the Happy Hunting Ground from Pearl Harbor, Bataan, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Anzio, Normandy, and many other faraway places. Their friends and relatives were very sad – but they were also very proud.” – **Chief Leaford Bearskin, Lt Colonel, USAF**



Velva (Wright) Spoon receives her brother William's service medals from Lt. Col. Steve Gray during an impromptu presentation at Joplin's Mercy Hospital in May. William Wright went missing in action during the Korean War.

a family's

SEARCH FOR

closure

PHOTOS & STORY
BY WILLIAM SWAIM



The hardest kind of war: After eight sleepless days of combat (note ripped fatigues), Pfc. William H. Wright rests by cleaning his M1.

6

As Velva (Wright) Spoon lay weak in the hospital bed, her left hand reached up, clutching the hand of her sister, Helen (Wright) Harper.

With the other hand she tightly gripped her Cousin Deryl Wright's hand.

Her daughter, Ilene, stood by her bedside with a hand on her shoulder.

The last 24 hours had been an emotional ride for the 96-year old Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen. Only a day had passed since she was diagnosed with terminal bone cancer. Doctors at Mercy Hospital in Joplin, Mo., told the family there was no cure. She only had a few

weeks to live.

Now, just a day later, with family and friends surrounding her, Velva's emotional journey was about to take another turn.

This journey didn't start 24 hours earlier, but nearly 60 years ago when her younger brother, E-5 Sgt. William Henry Wright, Jr., went missing in action and was later presumed dead, reportedly killed during a fierce battle in the Korean War. His remains were never recovered.

For 60 years the family sought answers, writing letter after letter to the U.S. military, only to be stonewalled about the

See Closure, Page 13

Closure

Continued from Page 12

circumstances surrounding his death.

While the family may never know the official details surrounding his death, they were able to at least receive some closure as William's medals, which were stolen from his brother Loren years before, were reissued and presented to the family just two days after Memorial Day.

For Velva, of Wyandotte, Okla., the moment was a whirlwind of emotion, as she went from sadness to the comfort of knowing the medals recognizing William's sacrifice were in the family's possession once again.

For her, she said, it was relief as she lives out the last few days of her life, knowing her time would come soon to join her brothers.

"It took over 60 years to have closure, but we have it," Velva said.

The moment may have never happened after all these years had several factors not played out.

It started with the dying wish of Velva's brother, Loren, when he passed away Feb. 3.

Among the missing

William Henry Wright, Jr., an enrolled member of the Wyandotte Nation, was the son of William Henry "Bill" Wright, Sr. and Julie Anna Lamar, and the grandson of James Michael Wright and Mary Dawson. He was born March 19, 1927, in Neosho, Mo.

William answered the call to serve his country on Aug. 6, 1948, leaving life on the farm in Neosho to join the Army, just two years before hostilities broke out in Korea.

He graduated from basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., and then learned to become a Light Weapons Infantryman at Fort Lawton, Wash.

William was later assigned to the 17th Infantry Regiment in Japan before being transferred to the 27th Infantry Regiment. His unit was sent to Korea to help defend the troops holding on to the Pusan Peninsula.

The unit later breached the 38th parallel and pushed the North Koreans all the way back to the Yalu River.

The Chinese 13th Army then entered the battle, launching a



Helen (Wright) Harper can't fight back tears as her brother's service medals are returned to the family.

series of surprise attacks along the Chongchon River on the night of Nov. 25, 1950. American and South Korean lines were smashed and a battle ensued, causing a systematic retreat as United Nation forces endured heavy losses.

On Nov. 28, 1950, William went missing in action during the Battle of the Chongchon River. His status was changed from MIA to presumed dead on Dec. 31, 1953.

His brother Loren shipped to Korea the same day William was declared MIA. Loren later spoke to a fellow soldier of William who believed he saw him killed, taking a direct hit while fighting the enemy.

The soldier's recount is the only information the family would receive regarding the circumstances of their brother's death. Despite Velva and Helen sending dozens of letters over the years requesting information on their brother's death, the only response they received was "we'll let you know when we find out anything."

What information that may have been available, was believed burned during a July 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center.

The fire damaged or destroyed millions of personnel files, including William's.

Sherri Clemons, the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Heritage Director, said it is believed William is the only enrolled Wyandotte Nation tribal member to ever be declared MIA.

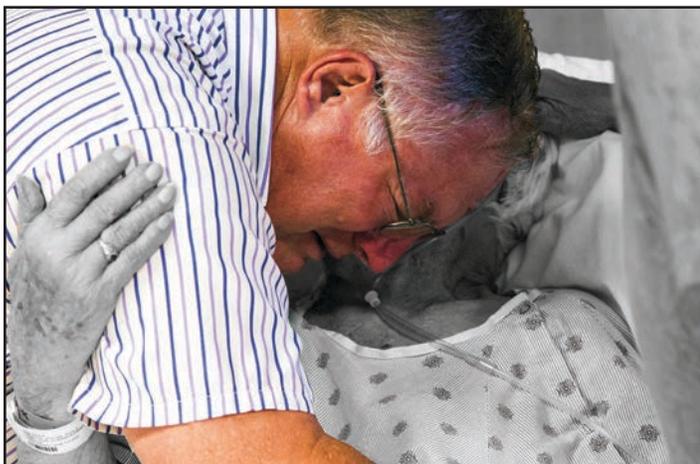
A brother's dying wish

Just about three months before Deryl was at the bedside of Velva, he was at Loren's bedside. Loren was also terminally ill with cancer.

"I asked him, 'is there anything I can do? Anything I can do to help?' He laid there silent for a minute and said, 'there really is something you can do. You can get my brother's medals and put them in the Wyandotte Nation museum,'" Deryl recounted. "I said, 'Loren, I will get them.'"

He said Loren was in possession of the medals at one time, but they were stolen and he never got them back. "I think he felt some guilt about that."

Loren passed away a short time later.



Deryl Wright embraces Velva during the emotional medal presentation ceremony at Joplin's Mercy Hospital.

Closure

Continued from Page 13

Deryl was determined to not let the dying wish go unresolved. After talking to the Veterans Administration in Arkansas, he was basically told his chances were “slim and none” to get William’s medals reissued, especially after many of his records were lost in the fire regarding his service.



Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Steve Gray discussed the Korean War during the medals presentation ceremony.

He was advised to get someone to help.

Deryl said he next went to U.S. Senator John Boozman (R-Ark). “He told me he would help me get them. And he did.”

He said the plan was to present the medals at the Wyandotte Nation’s Annual Meeting in September to the eldest member of the family, Velva, who would then give the medals to the tribe.

The plan changed with Velva’s diagnosis. Deryl had stopped into the Senator’s office on May 29 to inform them of Velva’s condition and was talking to Lt. Colonel (Ret) Steve Gray. Gray said he would have no problem presenting the medals to her that day.

From there, Deryl contacted Clemons and Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr. The Wyandotte Nation arranged to have a member of the Honor Guard present for the impromptu ceremony at the hospital.

Second Chief Hildebrand and Ted Nesvold, of the Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard, were present with the Wright family when Lt. Colonel Gray made the presentation of med-

als - just several hours after the meeting in the Senator’s office.

Finding closure

For nearly 60 years after William’s presumed death, the family searched for answers. In just a few short months after Loren lost his battle with cancer, the family found a semblance of closure.

“We finally got the closure we needed,” Helen said.

Lt. Colonel Gray presented Velva with the medals, which included the United Nations Service Medal for Korea, the Korean War Service Medal with Bronze Star Service Device, National Defense Service Medal, and The Purple Heart.

The medals will be presented again at the Wyandotte Nation’s Annual Meeting in September.

Loren’s son, Michael, was one of the family members present for the ceremony.

“I know my dad is happy today because he wanted this to happen so badly,” Michael said.

Gray also presented a letter to the family from Sen. Boozman, who was unable to

attend.

The last lines of Sen. Boozman’s letter read: “Today we pause, reflect, honor, and pay tribute for his sacrifice by bestowing these symbols of a grateful nation. He was truly a member of the greatest

generation.”

The moment was an emotional one for the family.

“It’s such a relief. This would not have been possible... we could not have done this without this man,” Velva said, grabbing Deryl’s hand.

For Deryl, it wasn’t just one person’s effort.

“It was everyone working together. It was the family, Sen. Boozman, the hospital, the Wyandotte Nation, all working together,” he said. “I mean, how do you thank all the people who made it happen? It wasn’t an ‘I,’ it was an ‘us.’”

“For me to see Velva and Helen get those medals, it was a very settling moment. They had been waiting most of their lives for this to happen.”

Velva passed away recently (see the obituary below).

Velva Dean Spoon

Velva Dean Spoon, 96, Wyandotte, formerly of Neosho, died July 14, 2013 at Wyandotte, following a two month illness.

Velva was born Oct. 28, 1916 in Miami, Okla., the daughter of Wm Henry Wright, Sr. and Julie Anna Lamar Wright. She moved to Neosho at the age of 3 and had worked as a dental assistant 18 years for Dr. Sale. She moved to Wyandotte in 2011 and was a member of the Church of Christ, Seneca and was the oldest member of the Wyandotte Nation.

Velva and William O. Spoon were married on July 1, 1937 in Miami and he preceded her in death in 1979. She is survived by three children, Jimmy Spoon, Broken Arrow, Okla.; Larry Spoon and wife, Peggy, Grove, Okla.; Ilene Caywood, Wyandotte, and Faye Kraft, Calif.; a

brother, Eugene Wright, Wyandotte, a sister, Helen Harper, Neosho; 14 grandchildren, Lesa, William, Leslie, Rhonda, David, Julie, Lori, Pami, Jimmy, Jr., Dennis Bill, Patricia, Mary and Donna; 45 great-grandchildren; 81 great-great-grandchildren and 77 great-great-great-grandchildren. Bill and Velva’s legacy lives on.

In addition to her husband and parents, she is preceded in death by brothers, William, Loren and Bobby Wright and sisters, Opal, Eva Jo, Harriett, June, Zella Bird, Fern and Dorothy. Services were held Thursday, July 18, 2013 at the Hillcrest Church of Christ.

Interment was at Gibson Cemetery. Contributions in memory of Velva may be made to Good Shepherd Hospice, c/o Clark Funeral Home, PO Box 66, Neosho, Mo. 64850.

Police, community to host National Night Out event

The Wyandotte Tribal/Municipal Police Department and the Wyandotte Community will be hosting the annual National Night Out event with a community block party Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Wyandotte High School.

The night events will consist of burgers, hot dogs, prize drawings and much more.

National Night Out is celebrated each year on the first Tuesday of August. This year will be the 30th Anniversary of communities

coming together with local law enforcement to form stronger partnerships.

The introduction of National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," began in 1984 as an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie, and to send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. That first year, 2.5 million Americans

took part across 400 communities in 23 states.

Annually, over 15,000 communities across the United States join forces and celebrate National Night Out. A nation-wide attendance of 37 million people from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases world-wide will come together in an effort to promote a Police Community Partnership through crime, drug and violence awareness prevention and neighborhood unity.

Basis for Health Services

ISSUE: An awareness of the legal basis for the federal obligation to provide health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives is important when designing health care programs, developing federal budgets, coordinating with other agencies, and obtaining regulation waivers for selected Indian programs.

BACKGROUND: The trust relationship establishes a responsibility for a variety of services and benefits to Indian people based on their status as Indians, including health care. This relationship has been defined in case law and statute as a political relationship that further distinguishes Indians from racial classification for purposes of affirmative action laws and other federal statutes that establish federally funded programs for the general public.

Treaties between the United States Government and Indian Tribes frequently call for the provision of medical services, the services of physicians, or the provision of hospitals for the care of Indian people. Even before these treaties, the United States Constitution specifically addressed the federal government's primacy role in dealing with Indians in the commerce and treaty clauses.

STATUS: There still exists a belief that American Indians and Alaska Natives are not citizens of their states and are not eligible for state programs and benefits.

American Indians and Alaska Natives, as citizens of the United States, are eligible to participate in all public, private, and state health programs available to the general population. In addition, they also have treaty rights to federal health care services through the Department of Health and Human Services.

The federal trust responsibility to uphold the treaty responsibility for health care to Indians is accomplished by consulting with Indian Tribes and then actively advocating for policy, legislative, and budgetary planning for Indian health care.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For referral to the appropriate spokesperson, contact the IHS Public Affairs Staff at (301) 443-3593.

Come Meet Our Chiefs!

Who was the Rat, Kondiaronk and Sastaretsi? Who was our first elected chief? What was a Half-King and Warpole? The history of our chiefs is filled with men of incredible genius and tragedy. Come discover the history of our chiefs!



**10th ANNUAL
CULTURE DAYS**
September 11th thru 13th



**REGISTER
ONLINE AT:**
www.wyandotte-nation.org

**Wyandotte Nation
Culture Days**
Preserving the future of our past!

Lucky Turtle Casino

By WACY HUMBLE

Along with the weather, the promotions are heating up at Lucky Turtle Casino!

The recent renovations and new gaming system have allowed the Turtle to execute events and promotions that would have been impossible a year ago. These upgrades have allowed LTC to keep the personal touch that guests love, but also the variety of events that keep them coming back. With promotions ranging from \$5 match play Tuesdays and Thursdays, to Happy-Go-Lucky Saturdays and Power Hour Sundays there is literally an event everyone.

Get ready to get for wild with the Off-Road Ruckus coming in September. On Sept. 14, the Lucky Turtle Casino will be giving away a brand-new 2013 Can-Am Outlander 650 ATV for the outdoor enthusiast. Guests can earn entries Aug. 12-Sept. 14 for this incredible grand prize.

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

7th Street Casino

By CASEY ELLETT

7th Street Casino has been mixing it up all summer long. Recently, 7th Street Casino welcomed a unique guest, Jerry Springer visited 7th Street Casino July 22, and the crowd went wild. Springer autographed over 500 photos and roughly 600 T-shirts in just a brief two hour visit. And yes, there were several "Jerry, Jerry, Jerry" chants throughout the day!

As far as promotions, 7th Street Casino is taking a ride on the wild side with Sizzlin' Summer Scooter Challenge. Every Tuesday and Wednesday, one lucky guest has been riding home a brand-new Tao Tao 49cc scooter. Combine this thrilling event with the always popular Motown Monday and Coed Night on Thursdays, and prepare for a week of excitement.

As always, we would like to conclude with a thank you to all who help make 7th Street Casino an entertainment destination for guests, and pleasure to work for.

Wyandotte Nation to open Drive-In

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation is bringing a Sonic Drive-In to Seneca, Mo., as part of the Tribe's ongoing push for economic diversification. Seneca is located about 10 miles from Wyandotte.

"The opportunity to put a Sonic Drive-In in Seneca that will serve surrounding communities is really enticing to us," said Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma CEO Kelly Carpino. Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK), the Wyandotte Nation's federally chartered corporation, drives economic development for the Tribe. "It brings something to the area that we think is needed, and gives a boost to these local economies."

Oklahoma City-based Sonic Corp. is the nation's largest chain of drive-in restaurants with more than 3,500 corporate and franchise stores.

The expected completion date for the Sonic Drive-In, located on Hwy 43 and just off of Hwy 60, is the beginning of October. Construction documents for the project have gone out to bid. Bids are due back by July 29 for review and a groundbreaking ceremony will be held shortly

after a contractor is selected.

Carpino said the Sonic will have a modern layout with 21 stalls and a drive through. She said it will bring 30-35 full and part-time jobs to the area.



"The opportunity to put a Sonic Drive-In in Seneca that will serve surrounding communities is really enticing to us."

- Kelly Carpino
WTOK CEO

She said the Tribe had been exploring franchise opportunities to continue to grow its business interests.

"It creates another direction, another diversified enterprise for the Wyandotte Nation," Carpino said. "We're excited about that. It gives us a lot of growth opportunity to potentially

develop additional restaurants in the future."

The WTOK business enterprises include telecommunications, IT, food service, precision manufacturing and the entertainment industry. The Tribe's economic development supports various programs for tribal citizens, including healthcare, housing, and education programs.

"We have looked at several concepts. What eventually brought us to Sonic was the opportunity to become part of a very recognizable brand," Carpino said. "The effectiveness of Sonic's media and promotional strategy along with an amazing product line drew our attention to the Sonic franchise. The decision was solidified by Sonic's new small building prototype that is a perfect fit for smaller, secondary markets within Sonic's core."

Carpino said the Wyandotte Nation likes the idea of locating in smaller communities, such as Seneca, making Sonic a great choice.

"The Wyandotte Nation really likes to be a supporter of the local communities. If we can do things to benefit those communities, that is an added bonus for us," she said.

By KATY BERRYMAN

The new lunch and dinner menus are here! Chef Charles Bowen and company have brought a fresh look, options, and taste to Twin Bridges Restaurant; featuring classic favorites along with a variety of new surprises.

As always, Twin Bridges Restaurant dishes are all house-made, fresh and from scratch. So far the new menus are going over extremely well with their

new flavors, beautiful plating and unique offerings.

Twin Bridges Restaurant famous fried chicken is being served up all-you-can-eat style every Sunday for only \$12.99. Recently, TBR added all-you-can-eat pasta to Wednesday evenings. For just \$10.99, guests can choose their preferred pasta, sauce and meat topping. That's what we call a steal of a real meal deal!

Twin Bridges Lounge is

drawing quite the crowd every Thursday night with the all new Mic Night Mixer (karaoke). Both guests and employees love the atmosphere, but most importantly having a great experience at each event.

The Twin Bridges Restaurant and lounge staff continues to provide wonderful service and fresh flavors to all its guests, and continues to be one of the prime dining venues in the area.

Twin Bridges Restaurant

Wyandotte Precision Products hires new GM



By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

Steve Selby, like many, sought a better career opportunity and a place where he could be instrumental in a company's success.

Selby, a Joplin native, will have that opportunity after taking over as General Manager for Wyandotte Precision Products (WPP).

"I've enjoyed every minute I've been here and look forward to it," Selby said. "The atmosphere here is very friendly - it is almost like a family - and that is hard to find anymore."

Wyandotte Precision Products, 5502 N. Dennis Weaver Drive, is a supplier/partner offering a strategic blend of machining, engineering, reverse engineering, manufacturing and machine build/rebuild capabilities.

Wyandotte Precision's experienced and creative machinists specialize in solving problems by offering engineering services, reverse engineering and CAD drawing capabilities.

Located in a well-equipped 13,500 square foot building located at Joplin Regional Airport, Wyandotte Precision serves customers in the four state area with plans to expand its reach. Wyandotte Precision is 100 percent owned by the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma and is a member of the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce.

Wyandotte Precision Products President Ron Brown said he is happy to have Selby on board.

"We provide our customers with precision products and timely delivery," Brown said. "He brings engineering design-build capabilities and experience we didn't have. It



William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation

WPP's new general manager, Steve Selby, pictured right, looks over plans with Shop Lead Larry Robinson.

will open doors to additional customers we weren't able to address before."

Selby comes from Modine Manufacturing in Joplin. Previously, he has worked for American Tool & Engineering in Joplin as its vice president; as a manufacturing engineer for General Fire Extinguisher Corp. in Northbrook, Ill., and then returned to Joplin to work in the same role for Midcon Cables before joining Modine.

Born and raised in Joplin, Selby has spent most of his life and career in the area. He and his wife, Kim, served on the Joplin Senior League for several years, and they coached their kids' youth baseball and softball teams.

"To say the least we like a good baseball game," Selby said.

His son, Dane, is a Marine Corps Sargent while his daughter, Stevi, will be a junior at the University of Arkansas. He and his wife have been married for 22 years.

He said his experience and contacts he made while working at American Tool & Engineering will be beneficial for WPP.

"We worked with customers from all over, coast-to-coast,

and I want to see Wyandotte Precision Products grow to that point, where we can do that," Selby said. "Most of the customers there were out of town in higher rate markets. We didn't have to compete with the smaller shops and the super low shop rates.

"Wyandotte Precision could also get into markets where the shop rate is much higher. As far as the quality level of the work, we can do it just as well as those in higher rate markets. Hopefully, it will make us very profitable."

One of his main goals is to help Wyandotte Precision achieve ISO 9000 certification. Selby said there are several steps to attain certification and they are working toward it. He said the certification basically signifies the company is doing everything the way it should be done, to do this level of work.

"It will open the door to more work we can do. We're already qualified to do it, but we don't have the certification," he said. "It is something I'd like to see happen pretty quickly."

As for the future, Selby said, "All I can see is bigger and better things for Wyandotte Precision Products."

WYANDOTTE
NATION
CASINO

Wyandotte Nation Casino

By KATY BERRYMAN

Wyandotte Nation Casino is wrapping up yet another series of successful summer promotions, and gearing up for a variety exciting end-of-summer and fall events.

June and July have been a blast with the Second Annual Win FREE PLAY for a Year Giveaway. This year's drawings have been bigger than we could have ever anticipated. With two lucky players winning over \$10,000 in FREE PLAY each event, it is easy to see why we have averaged over 500 players on the casino floor at each drawing time.

August promises to be an exhilarating month with The Livin' on the Edge Slot Tournament. With four straight weeks of slot tournaments, we are sure to give guests a time they will never forget. The top scorer of each week will be heading home with \$1,000 cash and the top scorer of the entire month will drive home in a brand new 2013 Ford Edge.

As September approaches, Wyandotte Nation Casino will gear for The Touchdown Tailgate Giveaway. Details are still being ironed out, but we can guarantee that one lucky guest will be driving home in the ultimate tailgate ride - a 2014 Chevy Silverado 1500 4x4.

As always, we want to thank all the individuals that help make these incredible events possible.

News & Notes

Harris Family Reunion

Again this year we'll meet at the Pow-Wow grounds. So after the election and lunch, bring a chair, dessert or drink, camera, pictures and stories to tell.

We'll be under the trees on the west side of the large parking lot.

Hope to see you there!

Ramona Reid
Teh-on 'di shiwa

Police vehicle donated



From left, Wyandotte Nation Police Chief Ken Murphy, Wyandotte's Fire Chief and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr. in front of the donated police vehicle.

The Wyandotte Nation recently donated one of it's out of service police vehicles to the Wyandotte Fire Department.

"We made a vow a long time ago that anywhere we had a business that we were going to be good neighbors," the Second Chief said. "We're always willing to help the Wyandotte city and the Wyandotte schools."

Veterans cemetery donation



From left, NE Oklahoma Veterans Memorial Cemetery Secretary Ronnie Jo Garrett, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend, Cmdr. Clifford Barnes and Adjutant David Gilbreath.

The Wyandotte Nation made a \$1,000 donation to the Northeast Oklahoma Veterans Memorial Cemetery, located just north of Miami, Okla.

"We believe in taking care of our veterans and their causes," Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend said.

Community News

A freshman year to remember for Wyandotte student

Rachel Wright Tasihkwa'aute'hke (her Wyandotte name means "little horse"), a member of the Wyandotte Nation and is also of Osage and Cherokee descent, participated in her freshman year of FFA at Wyandotte High School in Wyandotte, Okla.

She was invited to go to the summer of 2012 to the OSU Fun Days as an 8th grader to participate. While there she placed 8th overall individual in cattle grading. In her fall semester of 2012 she was 5th in Greenhand in the local competition.

Also her freshman year she was able to be a part of the freshman Agriculture Science quiz bowl team of 2013. They went undefeated on the district level, winning the championship, then onto the state level also undefeated, winning the state championship.

She also won the 2013 Equine Science Proficiency Award in Placement for her work in training and breaking horses.

Her parents are Tracy and Rebecca Wright; her siblings are Sara and JT Wright of Wyandotte. Her grandparents



Submitted Photo

Rachel Wright with her awards.

are Tracy Wright, of Billings, Mont.; and Sherri and David Clark of Broken Arrow, Okla. Her great grandparents are the late Tracy Wright Sr. and Gertrude Wright of Miami, Okla.; and the late John Morgan and Virginia Morgan of Commerce, Okla.

SHE'S HERE!
Eva Isabella Espinosa

Introducing our sweet new arrival.
Eva was born on April 7th, 2013 at 1:44pm.
7 lbs. 9 oz. and 20 inches long.

Her first breath took ours away!
Proud parents,
Angela and Nando Espinosa

Submit your News: Submit a story idea or your latest news and photos. To submit, email William Swaim at wswaim@wtok.org or call (918) 848-0724. Or mail to: The Wyandotte Nation, 64700 E Hwy 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370, ATTN: TurtleTalk

Tribal Department Reports

Housing

The Community Center groundbreaking ceremony was held July 12 (see related story) with construction beginning shortly after. Weather permitting the center could be complete by the end of the current year. The Housing Offices will be relocating to the center once construction is finished.

With the cool spring days and the warm summer weather, the park in Heritage Acres housing addition has been getting plenty of use. It's always fun for us to hear the kids laughing as they play on the swings, slides, bouncing animals, and climb the big Bear! The park is open to anyone in the community. Bring your kids out and let them enjoy the fresh air while playing in the park.

If you would like any more information on our rental/home-ownership program or the housing rehabilitation 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.

Applications for all of the Housing programs can be picked up at our office, mailed, faxed or e-mailed. 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.*

Planning/ Development

Ground was broken July 12 for our Community Center that will be located near our duplexes. The start date is July 22, and the anticipated completion date is scheduled to be

in December. The grant that is funding the building is from the ICDBG (Indian Community Development Block Grant) from last year.

We are still awaiting word on the grant application we submitted for the Culture Center.

If you have any questions for the Planning/Development Department, you may contact:

- *Ron Kaiser, Planning/Development Director, (918) 678-2297 ext. 225*

- *Debbie Dry, Planning/Development Specialist, (918) 678-2297 ext. 215*

Family Services

As we head into a new school year, and prepare our children for the path they will walk in this life, remember, it all starts at home with you. Our teachers work diligently with our children all school year long.

As parents, it is our responsibility to "teach" our children the good ways of our ancestors. Children were considered to be linked to the spirit world, and were indulged rather than punished. The Europeans were shocked that Native Americans did not use physical punishment to discipline their children. The children were taught by example that physical violence had no place in childrearing.

Native Mothers oftentimes nursed a child until the age of 3. Again surprising Europeans, illustrating, what closeness a Native Mother bestowed upon their infant. After the child was weaned, the child then was unconfined and learned by example of the elders. The children remained under watchful eyes of all of the village community.

Rather than expect our school system to educate your children, remember their path begins at home with you.



Submitted Photos

The world is rapidly changing by and through education and technology. Our ancestor ways may be lost to many but not when it comes to Wyandotte Family Values. Through our tribal connection to its citizens, the Wyandotte Nation is here for you - our extended family.

In the hectic months to come, take that extra time for your child(ren). The most important life lessons begin at home.

The Family Services Department would like to remind everyone of the wonderful services provided by our Tribe for school age children. Expenses for our children are ever increasing as they grow and participate in more activities. These programs are available for students who are in preschool through the 12th grade. Students must be enrolled members of the Wyandotte Nation and live within a 200-mile radius of the Wyandotte Nation offices. Applications for these programs can be obtained in the Family Services Department. School Supply applications are also



available on the Wyandotte Nation website.

All programs require applications: Applications may be requested by contacting the Wyandotte Nation by email, by facsimile or through the U.S. postal service. Some applications may be on the Wyandotte Nation website.

AUG. 1, 2013. School Supplies: (THE 200 MILE RADIUS APPLIES FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR FALL OF 2013) Wal-Mart gift cards will be available to buy school supplies in the amount of \$100 for each student.

Continued on Page 20

Tips for Energy Efficiency

Here are some tips to help make your home more energy efficient during the heat of summer:

- **Use ceiling fans:** Running a ceiling fan can make a room feel almost four degrees cooler

(which can allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees with no noticeable change in comfort).

- **Close windows and shades during the day:** Keeping shades and windows closed can keep the sunlight and heat

out of a home making it feel cooler inside.

- **For central air conditioners:** the higher the number of the Seasonal Efficiency Rating (SEER), the more efficient the air conditioner will be. Usually, a rating of 14.5 or higher can give

the greatest efficiency levels.

- **For room air conditioners:** again, the higher the number of the SEER, the more efficient the air conditioner will be. Usually, a rating of 10.8 or higher can give the greatest efficiency levels.

Tribal Department Reports

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Receipts for items purchased with these cards must be returned to Family Services by Oct. 1, 2013. You may also opt to not use a gift card by submitting paid receipts for reimbursement. We will accept receipts dated July 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2013. This allows you to shop at the store of your choice. The application is available on the website. If you choose to email your application, please use the following contact: lradaugh@wyandotte-nation.org.

OCT. 1, 2013. Extracurricular Activities/School Expense Assistance: \$100 per school age child Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2014. Students may be reimbursed for expenses related to school attendance and school participation such as instruments, academic fees, sports activities, uniforms, school lunches, class pictures, etc. Extracurricular activities outside of school may be considered for payment. Example: Gymnastics, YMCA, archery, karate.

OCT. 1, 2013. High School Junior/Senior Assistance: This program allows \$250 to students to help offset the added expenses of Jr./Sr. year, such as yearbook, class pictures, cap and gown, announcements, letter jacket, class ring, instruments, school lunches, testing fees, college fees, sports activities or other related expenses. Payment can be made directly to the vendor, or reimbursed to you with proof of payment.

DEC. 1, 2013. Winter Clothing Allowance: Effective Dec. 1, 2013 through March 1, 2014, a \$100 clothing allowance is provided to tribal members in Pre-K through 12th grade. Families may obtain a Wal-Mart gift card for \$100 or present receipts to be reimbursed for an amount not to exceed \$100. Receipts for items purchased with the Wal-Mart cards must be returned in order to be eligible for this program in the future.

New Receipt Requirement

PLEASE NOTE: ALL SCHOOL RELATED PROGRAMS BEGINNING OCT. 1, 2013 REQUIRE RECEIPTS THAT ARE DATED OCT. 1 OR LATER. THE WYANDOTTE NATION FISCAL YEAR IS OCT. 1, 2013-SEPT. 30, 2014. NO EXCEPTIONS.

EXPANDED RADIUS ANNOUNCEMENT: ALL SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS PRESCHOOL THROUGH 12TH GRADE ARE

Back to School Tips

Reset their body clock: One of the fun things about summer can be staying up late catching fireflies and sleeping late in the morning! It is a good idea to slowly back up your child's bed-time beginning a couple of weeks before school starts. Children ages 3-6 need 10 to 12 hours of sleep per day, ages 7-12 need 10-11 hours and ages 12-18 need 8-9 hours of sleep for their bodies to function properly.

Get them on board: Explain to your child that you are "resetting their body clock." Help them understand how import-

ant sleep is for their bodies to have energy.

Make it worth it: Consider allowing your child to watch television at wake-up time, or play a video game before they get out of bed. This will give incentive to waking up then the getting out of bed will come easier when the time comes. Although, watching television in the morning does not work for everyone during the school year.

Don't force it: If your child is too "wound up" the night before school, don't worry about it too

much. You can't force yourself to go to sleep. Excitement will push them through the first day.

Get excited: Try to get your child excited about school by encouraging them. Remind them of friends they will get to see again and activities they enjoy at school. Try to make "back to school" a positive time for them. Ease any anxieties your child may have about the upcoming school year. Simply spending time with them and listening can be comforting and give them opportunity to express their fears.

ELIGIBLE FOR SCHOOL-RELATED PROGRAMS FOR THE FOLLOWING STATES: OKLAHOMA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS.

Senior Citizens Programs/Announcements

Summer Senior Citizen Energy Assistance: Tribal members age 62 and older who live within a 200-mile radius of the Tribal offices are eligible to apply for \$100 for summer energy assistance. This program is available from July 1, 2013 through Sept. 30, 2013.

Elders Assistance: A \$250 per year Elders Assistance Program is provided to Tribal members age 62 and older to help enhance life quality. This program may be used for household expenses, repairs, rent or other personal needs. Payment can be made directly to the vendor or you may be reimbursed with receipts for purchases. The deadline to apply for the 2013 Elders Assistance program is Sept. 30, 2013.

Notice to Senior Citizens: EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 2013, THE RADIUS FOR SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS HAS BEEN EXPANDED FROM 200 MILES TO INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING STATES: OKLAHOMA, ARKANSAS, MISSOURI AND KANSAS. Beginning Oct. 1, 2013 all seniors living in the four-state area are eligible to apply for the following programs in 2013/2014: \$250 Elders assistance, \$100 Winter utility assistance and

\$100 summer of 2014 summer utility assistance.

Other Announcements

Child Passenger Safety Seats: The child passenger safety seats are available only at the tribal headquarters. Parent may receive three age appropriate safety seats as their child grows—from newborn-booster.

Tribal Tag Program: The Wyandotte Nation Tax Commission offers Tribal tags to all Wyandotte Nation Citizens in the State of Oklahoma. Type of license plates offered are passenger vehicles, RV's/travel trailers and motorcycles. Handicap tags are available for passenger vehicles with the approved documentation. If you have not registered a vehicle with the Wyandotte Nation and would like information about the process, please contact Dana Butterfield. New and renewal tags may be processed through the mail. Insurance verification is required for all renewals and new purchases.

Burial Assistance: This program is available nationwide for any enrolled Wyandotte Nation Citizen and will pay \$1,500 towards the expenses associated with a funeral service/burial. A copy of a death certificate and statement from the funeral home is required and the funds can be paid to the next of kin if all of the expenses have been paid in full.

Tribal Enrollment: The deadline for Membership applications to be received in the Enrollment Office is Aug. 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 Wal-Mart gift card and a blanket with the Tribal logo. 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.

The enrollment staff is now able to issue Membership/Citizenship cards with a photo for any Citizen age 18 and over. These photo cards have been approved for use as identification for employment purposes by the Social Security Administration as well as other identification purposes.

Citizens are able to request an application for a new Membership/Citizenship card from the Enrollment Office by mail, at the office, or it can be downloaded from the Family Services section of the Tribe's website. If requesting by mail you will be asked to obtain a "passport" photo from an entity in your local area and return the application along with the photo and your signature, which will then be scanned into the system. Non-photo Citizenship cards are also available.

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Please keep in mind that this is an election year and you will be required to show your membership/citizenship card to vote on Saturday, Sept. 14. If you don't have the new photo citizenship card then you will also be required to provide another type of photo ID along with your membership/citizenship card.

Indian Child Welfare News

We are still looking for Tribal Foster and Adoptive Parents! Call Tara or Kate if you are interested in more information about how to become a Foster or Adoptive Parent. Tara will have a Foster Parent Recruitment booth at the Annual Meeting. Come by and say hello!

In accordance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, any Native American child that has been removed from his or her home due to abuse or neglect must be placed within certain guidelines.

The first preference for placement is a family member. The second is with another Native American family.

It is important for the Wyandotte Tribe to have homes ready and available if the need arises. Wyandotte Tribal Foster homes can be available to house children who are members of any tribe. The Family Services Department receives requests on a weekly basis for open Tribal Foster Homes. Please consider opening your home to a child today. It is a very rewarding endeavor.



National Trails Day event

Kids from the Wyandotte Nation summer program get a close look at a turtle during the June National Trails Day event at Twin Bridges State Park near Wyandotte.

William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation

Indian Child Welfare/Promoting Safe and Stable Families: If your family has been involved in a State Court Proceeding regarding the removal of your children, please contact the Wyandotte Nation. It is mandatory that States contact the Tribe if this occurs, due to the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act. If the family does not provide the State with proof of Indian status (membership card), often times the Tribe is unaware of the State Court involvement.

Our goal is to help aid in the

reunification of parents and children. Through the Promoting Safe and Stable Family Grant, the Tribe may be able to aid your family or other at risk families by providing court intervention and emergency services.

Environmental Department

With the warmer weather comes more activities for our department. On May 2-3 we hosted our 6th Annual Environmental Festival. We had a very good turnout of vendors from area tribes and local agencies.

Students from Wyandotte Nation Preschool and Wyandotte and Fairland Elementary Schools attended the festival. In conjunction with the Festival we hosted a tire and e-waste collection, with a total of 272 tires for the two-day event.

The week of June 9-14 we had our Summer Kids Education Program in the afternoon. On June 14 we ended with the National Trail Hiking Day event, which was hosted by Twin Bridges State Park.

The event had a hiking trail for students to walk on, and several area tribes and local agencies had stations set up for the students to learn about nature.

Upcoming Events

For the past several years our department has hosted booths in the Exhibits Building at the Ottawa County Fair, Miami, Okla. This year is no exception as we will be set up during the fair from Aug. 20-24.

We have invited other Environmental Departments from area tribes and local agencies to participate. Please take time to stop by and visit us.

Services Provided

- Private Well Drinking Water Sampling for tribal and non-tribal citizens within a 50 mile radius of the Tribal Offices.
- Septic System Assessments for tribal and non-tribal citizens living within the Grand Lake Watershed Area.

Department Contacts

(918) 678-2297

Christen Lee (Director) Ext. 241

Janice Wilson (Water Tech) Ext. 245

Kathleen Welch (Assistant) Ext. 235

Jon Quick (Recycling) Ext. 252

Recycle Center – 918-678-4001

Elder Services

We were able to re-schedule our outing to the horse races in Claremore, Okla. There were 21 in attendance. We enjoyed a nice lunch and had a lot of fun betting on the ponies. We made a stop at Brahms on the way home for ice cream. Everyone had a great time! We plan to make another trip in October.

The Medicare Part D/ Diabetes Screening Initiative that received state and regional awards is being recognized nationally. We will be attending the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference in Louisville, Ky., the end of July to receive the award. The Honorees are: Wyandotte Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Quapaw Tribe, Ottawa Tribe, Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging, The Lions Club, St. Maude Mercy Hospital and Afton Vo-tech Nursing Program. The award is given for our partnership of tribal and state entities working together to make a difference in the lives of all elders.

Our quarterly health inspection was conducted June 17. We passed with flying colors as usual. Kudos to the Title VI staff!



Environmental Festival

Kids from area schools take part in some of the displays at the 6th Annual Environmental Festival. (Submitted Photo)

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We are very proud to unveil our new Proud Citizen/Wyandotte Nation license plate frames in our gift shop at a cost of \$12.

Our music parties are still the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Come out and play with us.



Caregiver

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

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

- Brenda House, Elder Services Director ext. 227

- Kandi Smith, Food Service Team Supervisor ext. 228

- Lynda Wilson, Seth Higginbotham, Berle Blevins, Food Service Team Members ext. 228

- Menu, ext. 226

Education

Preschool

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool is busy preparing for a new group of students to enter the doors Aug. 13. Acceptance letters have been sent and parents have called to confirm attendance.

Open house will be held on Monday, Aug. 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The 2013-2014 will again see four classrooms in operation with a capacity of 80 students. Our program plans include a variety of educational field trips, Kumon Math and innovative learning activities in

the classrooms. If you are interested in more information about our Preschool program, please contact the education offices and we will be glad to assist you.

When the school year resumes, our before and after school programs will begin again to fill the gap for parents in the area who are working or attending school. To enroll, contact the tribal offices for assistance.

Summer Program

It does not seem possible but every summer it feels like our Summer Program keeps getting better.

During the program, we averaged 72 children daily and those children benefited from

multiple educational programs and a schedule full of fun in and out of the sun! Swim lessons, Bearskin Culture Program, scuba diving, Just For Kids events, Air and Space Museum, Dickerson Park Zoo and much more filled the calendars of our 3-12 year olds.

The Education Department was again blessed to have the opportunity to interact with our Summer Intern program. Jason Baldwin, Slade Botts, Marco Favela, Cortney Hamilton, Kortney Nesvold, Torey Seigel, Emilee Wills, and Nick Wills did a fantastic job as they assisted the teachers with the children enrolled in the Summer Program.

To raise awareness for the need for physical activity within our summer program, each group began an age appropriate exercise program. The children who met the miles accumulated goal for his or her classroom were awarded with a trip to a local water park.

Library

It is my pleasure to announce that the Wyandotte Nation Tribal library is now fully electronically inventoried and has implemented the Alexandria Software for self-check-out procedures.

Katie Griffin and Brittany Watkins worked for the intern program under LeeAnna Rada-baugh and Elnora Wyrick to enter all materials into the database and apply the labels that have enabled us to streamline the operations for our



Submitted Photo

Youth enjoy the Summer Reading program in the library.

patrons.

The Summer Reading program for youth has had a steady number of children visiting our library and utilizing our book collection to continue to build their reading repertoire and to earn prizes by completing written reports.

We continue to add new items to our collection. If you have any special requests or are in need of more information about the services

offered by our library, please visit our facility or feel free to call the Education office.

Scholarships

Scholarship applications continue to arrive at the tribal offices and I am happy to announce that as long as there is funding available we

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Health Fest 2013

Saturday, October 12, 2013
8 a.m. to Noon

Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center
1 Turtle Drive, Wyandotte, OK

FREE Flu Vaccination for first 100 (if available)

<p>FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cholesterol* Blood Pressure Blood Sugar* Body Fat Analysis 	<p>FREE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Crafts Pumpkin Painting Inflatable Kids Games Hay Rides
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*For the most accurate test results, fasting is recommended.

Friday, October 11, 2013

FREE 5K and Fun Walk

FREE Health Screenings • Informational Booths • Refreshments
Games for the Kids • Lots of Door Prizes!

For more information, call 918.678.2070



24th Annual WYANDOTTE POW-WOW

September 13-15, 2013

\$25,000



In Prize Money

Contests in all Categories

Friday 8:00 p.m.	Grand Entries Saturday 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Sunday 1:30 p.m.
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12th Annual Veterans Honor Program

All Veterans Welcomed

HEAD STAFF

Head Singer	Cheever Toppah
Head Man Dancer	Scott Evans
Head Lady Dancer	Angela Satepauhoodle
Head Gourd Dancer	Earl Plumley
Honor Guard	Wyandotte Honor Guard
Arena Director	Dude Blalock
Head Judge	Jay Blalock
Master of Ceremonies	Steve Kinder
Northern Drum	John David Ballard
Wyandotte Nation	
Princess	Emilee Wills
Jr. Princess	Veronica Burnside

**Location: Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds
5.2 miles East of Wyandotte, OK on Highway 60**

Host Motel: Indigo Sky
1-888-992-SKY1(7591)

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will continue to fund students that missed the initial deadline of May 1, 2013.

New applicants that have been accepted should have received their notification letters and I would like to remind you that the contact information for the school and copy of schedule are due no later than Oct. 1.

To renew for subsequent semesters, please send, fax or email a copy of your schedule and grades no later than Feb. 15 for spring semester and Oct. 1 for fall semesters.

If you are a junior or senior in high school I want to urge you to visit with your school counselor or call the office about the following topics... ACT test dates, filing for FAFSA and the FASFA 4Caster, and concurrent college course work. The Wyandotte Nation wishes to support you in all areas of your education program... please do not hesitate to call if we can be of assistance to you.

Funding for vocational programs, Master's Degree course work and GED certification are all benefits afforded to our tribal citizens. If you have questions about any of the above opportunities call the Education Department for answers, applications and guidance.

Child Care

The biennial plan for the Child Care and Development Fund has been submitted and we are awaiting approval for the Department of Health and Human Services Child Care Bureau. This federal grant is the key piece of funding for our Preschool program and we are excited about the opportunities that it allows for us to implement in our classrooms.

The child care subsidy program is available for tribal members that reside within a 100 mile radius of our office. If you are in need of services, regardless of your location, call us and we will do our best to locate help for your family.

Workforce Investment Act

Our WIA Program is available to citizens of federally recognized tribes that reside in Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri. The primary focus is for short term vocational assistance and career development opportunities.

Important Numbers

Services provided to tribal members:

Police Department
Ken Murphy (918) 678-3100 x12
kmurphy@wntpd.com

Nutrition & Caregiver Services
Brenda House (918) 678-2297 x227
bhhouse@wyandotte-nation.org

Enrollment / Tags
Dana Butterfield (918) 678-2297 x219
dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

Tribal Social Worker
Tara Gragg (918) 678-2297 x255
tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org

Education / Library / Child Care
Tammy Charles (918) 678-2297 x230
tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org

School Supplies / Emergency Assistance / Car Seats
Kate Randall (918) 678-2297 x224
krandall@wyandotte-nation.org

Human Resources
Deana Howard (918) 678-2297 x220
dhoward@wyandotte-nation.org

Environmental
Christen Lee (918) 678-2297 x241
cleec@wyandotte-nation.org

Historical
Sherrri Clemons (918) 678-2297 x224
sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org

Planning / Development
Ron Kaiser (918) 678-2297 x225
rkaiser@wyandotte-nation.org

Housing
Kathy DeWeese (918) 678-2297 x239
kdeweese@wyandotte-nation.org

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center
Kelly Walker (918) 678-3259
kwalker@wyandotte-nation.org

Clinic Appointments
Linda Coatney (918) 678-3228
lcoatney@wyandotte-nation.org
Elaine Fidler (918) 678-3230
efidler@wyandotte-nation.org

Dental / Vision
Amanda Johnston (918) 678-3221
ajohnston@wyandotte-nation.org

Pharmacy (call-in only)
(918) 678-3244

Fitness Center
Sharon Bartley (918) 678-3231
sbartley@wyandotte-nation.org

Contract Health
Bridget Burleson (918) 678-3227
bburleson@wyandotte-nation.org

Diabetes Clinic
Donna Spaulding (918) 678-3258
dspaulding@wyandotte-nation.org

POW-WOW CONTEST SCHEDULE

Friday, September 13
Evening

Jr. Boys Grass
Womens Cloth
Mens Straight
Jr. Girl's Fancy
Golden Age Women



Gourd Dancing
1 hour prior to
all sessions.

Saturday, September 14
Afternoon

Boys Traditional
Womens Fancy
Mens Grass
Jr. Girls Jingle

Saturday, September 14
Evening

Tiny Tots
Men's Fancy
Jr. Girls Cloth
Womens Buckskin
Jr. Boys Straight

Sunday, September 15
Afternoon

Golden Age Men
Womens Jingle
Jr. Boys Fancy
Jr. Girls Buckskin
Mens Traditional

ALL
SPECIALS
HELD
SATURDAY
AFTERNOON
CONTACT
THE ARENA
DIRECTOR
FOR
ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY NIGHT

49 Contest
Jennifer Lunsford
Coordinator

SATURDAY NIGHT

Stomp Dance
Troy Littleaxe Sr.
Coordinator

SUNDAY MORNING

Special Grandparent Day
Honor Dance
Prizes for the Oldest
Grandmother and
Grandfather present



Must Be Registered and Participate In Two Grand Entries and Two Exhibitions To Qualify For Contests.

Must Be Registered In Only One Category.

Must Be In Full Dress To Receive Contest Monies.

All Decisions by the Committee are Final!

The above schedule is intended as a guide only, and is subject to change at the discretion of the Pow-Wow committee!

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

**SHERRI CLEMONS
WYANDOTTE NATION
64700 E Hwy 60
WYANDOTTE, OK 74370
918-678-2297 EXT. 244**

**NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFTS
OR ACCIDENTS. ABSOLUTELY
NO FIREARMS, DRUGS, OR
ALCOHOL ALLOWED!**

Everyone welcome! Bring your cameras and lawn chairs!