



The Turtle Speaks

# Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 18, Issue 1

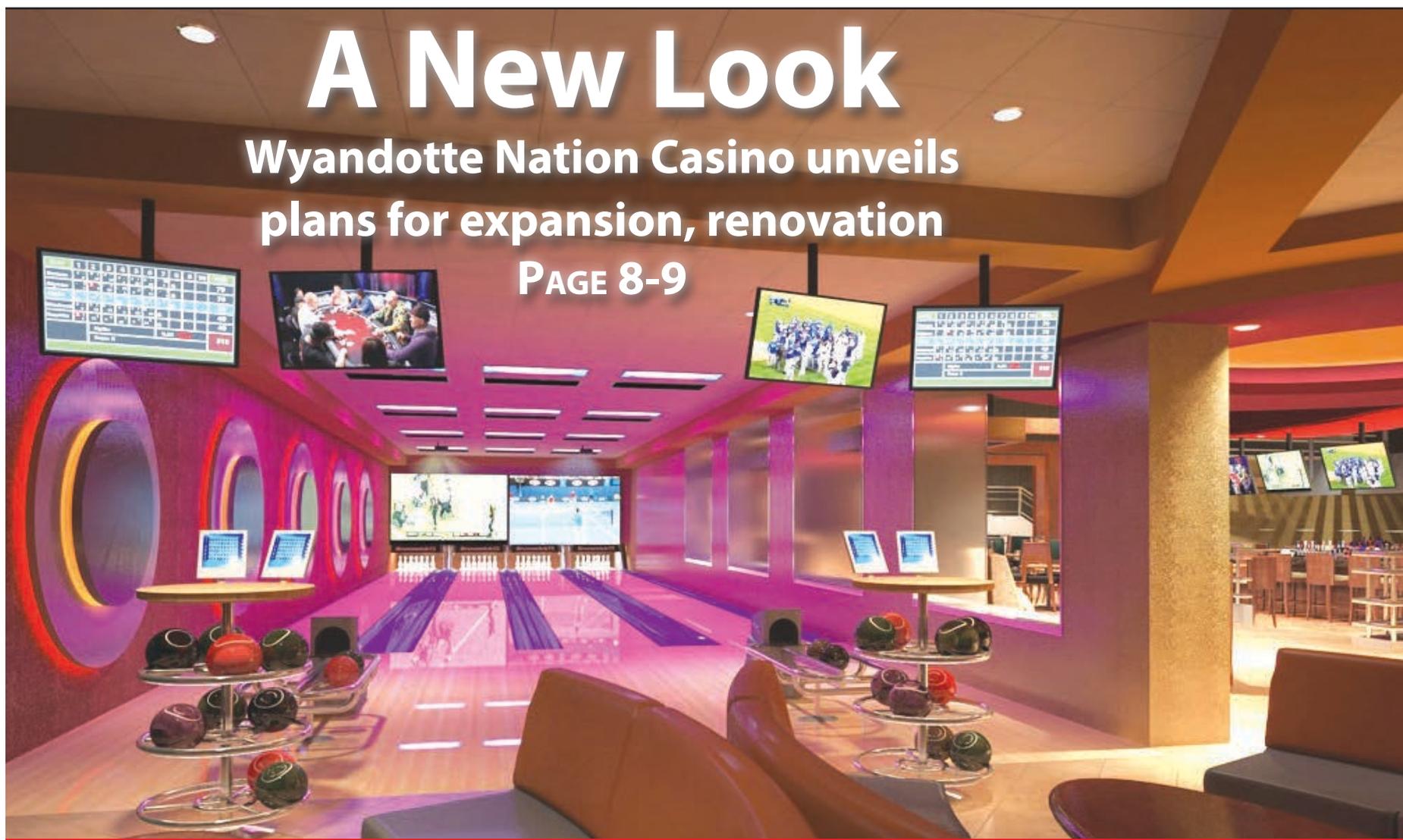
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February 2014

## A New Look

Wyandotte Nation Casino unveils  
plans for expansion, renovation

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## Board of Directors

Chief.....Billy Friend  
 Second Chief..... Norman Hildebrand, Jr.  
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**Editor/Design:** William Swaim

## Contact Us

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

## Looking for Stories: Business & People Profiles

We are looking for tribal members to feature in upcoming issues, whether you live in the Oklahoma area or some far off distant land, we want to hear from you for a 'Getting to Know..' (Q&A) or feature story.

We are also looking for tribal member-owned businesses to feature. If you own a business and want it featured in the Turtle Talk in an ad, Q&A or possible story, let us know.

**Email:** [wswaim@wtok.org](mailto:wswaim@wtok.org)



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From the Chief

Billy Friend

# Building momentum for our future after 2013 successes

Kweh,  
 I hope this letter finds all doing well and keeping warm wherever you may reside during these winter months.

The beginning of a new year offers us a moment to reflect on our achievements, and assess where we are going together as the Wyandotte Nation.

We just finished up what was a great year with a lot of major accomplishments and are now going full steam ahead on what looks like another great year ahead with many new projects in the works.

One of the highlights of 2013 was our first ever Tribal Town Hall Meetings that were held in Seattle, Wash., Irvine, Calif., and Sacramento, Calif. It was such a great honor to meet so many of our tribal citizens for the first time and to share with them about our great nation. You will find information in this The Turtle Speaks issue about our upcoming Town Hall meetings this spring in Texas and Colorado. I am looking forward to meeting and spending time with many of our citizens for

**"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."**

-- Ephesians 6:10

the first time. I hope that if you live in these areas you will make it a priority to come and participate in these events. Our goal in these meetings is to share with you about our past, present and future as a Nation and hopefully instill within you what it means to be "Wyandotte."

No matter where you may reside across this great country of ours we want you to know that you are an important part of who we are and what we do.

Some of the other accomplishments of this past year was the startup of our Tribal Court System which enables us to meet the requirements of our tribal constitution and further govern our own jurisdictions. On the economic development side we opened up the first Indian-owned Sonic Restaurant in the United States in Seneca, Mo. We opened the store

in late fall of 2013 and the sales have been better than anticipated to date. Our goal is to identify key locations in the next few years and open several more franchises.

Our Community Building in Heritage Acres will be completed early this year and will be a great asset for all our tribal citizens in the area.

We also hope to break ground on our Tribal Cultural and Activity Center in 2014. Our Culture Committee has been working together with our planning and development department on the size, scope, and design of the project. This project will be a great addition to our Nation and will provide a place and opportunity for us to share the Wyandotte story.

The dawning of 2014 provides all Wyandottes great hope and promise. We have come so far together, much as our ancestors did in generations now past. By sticking together, relying on one another and cherishing our traditions, the Wyandotte Nation finds

See **Chief**, Page 3

From the Second Chief

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

# Weather offers good chance to brush up on our history

Kweh,  
 Greetings everyone I hope this issue of The Turtle Speaks finds you warm or at least thawing out from the brutally cold weather the entire nation has experienced this year. It was bad enough to worry about El Nino and La Nina now we can add "Polar Vortex"

to that list of excuses why the weather is so horrible.

I liked the way it used to be growing up, the weather man would come on one of the two or three television channels we could get and just tell us it was going to get cold they didn't blame it on any one thing after

all it was Winter.

When the weather is too cold and icy to venture out it gives us a good reason to sit down and read a good book or story hopefully about the Wyandotte Nation and the struggles our ancestors endured to

See **Second Chief**, Page 3



# Town Hall meetings to be held in Texas, Colorado

In 2013 the Wyandotte Nation started a new tradition of hosting off-site Town Hall meetings to be able to make connections with tribal citizens/members who live away from the Tribal headquarters.

At these meetings citizens were able to meet the Chief, Second Chief and key Wyandotte Nation staff, hear the state of the Tribe, and make connections with family members and other citizens who reside in their local areas.

This year there will be two meetings and the first of these will be held in Grapevine, Texas. The meeting will be at the Courtyard Marriott, 2200 Bass Pro Court, Saturday, March 29 from 10 a.m. to Noon. Lunch will be provided after the meeting and there will be a question and answer session following lunch.

Postcard invitations will be mailed the end of February to all tribal citizens who reside in the state of Texas with a request for an RSVP so the staff will be able to plan for the proper number of attendees.

All Citizens age 18 and over



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION FILE PHOTO  
Wyandotte Nation tribal members enjoy lunch during the Sacramento Town Hall meeting in May 2013. The Wyandotte Nation will host Town Hall meetings in Colorado and Texas this year.

will receive a \$50 gift card to help offset travel expenses. Spouses and children are welcome to attend all activities.

The second Town Hall meeting will be held in the Denver, Colo., area. Staff are reviewing the demographics and consulting

with venues. Invitations will be mailed the end of March for this meeting to everyone who resides in the state of Colorado.

If you have any questions regarding either meeting, please contact Dana Butterfield at (918) 678-6319.

## 2014 Annual Meeting, Pow-Wow to be held mid September

In accordance with the Wyandotte Nation Constitution the Annual Meeting will be Sept. 13. It will be held at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center Gymnasium. There will be elections held this year for the positions of Second Chief, one (1) Board Member and two (2) Grievance Committee Members. Watch for a special mail out in April about election details. The Pow-Wow will be held Sept. 12, 13 and 14, 2014. Culture Days will take place leading up to the Pow-Wow and Annual Meeting.

## Chief

Continued from Page 2

itself engaged in unique, exciting projects. There is much more we will create together as our future continues to unfold.

As always I am both humbled and honored to serve you as Chief of the Wyandotte Nation and want you to know both you and your families are always in my prayers.

## Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

get us where we are today.

The Wyandottes were instrumental in the founding of Detroit, Michigan and Kansas City, Kansas. There are counties named Wyandotte in Michigan, Ohio and Kansas, and there is even a Wyandotte, Calif. Even though they endured many hardships they always conquered anything that was forced upon them.

Wyandottes were also known to be fierce warriors, whether it was the French, British, Colonials or a neighboring tribe they always

**"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose." -- Lyndon B. Johnson**

tried to get the Wyandottes on their side. Our ancestors fought in many Indian Wars, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, they fought with Sam Houston against the Mexicans, rode with Quantrill during the Civil War and all other World Wars since and to the present day conflicts in the Middle East.

So if it is too cold to go outside or you are tired of watching reruns get a book or get on our Website and read about the history of a very resilient people the Wyan-

dottes. It is important to learn the history of our people, the struggles and triumphs they endured for centuries has implanted a resiliency in all of us to handle whatever life throws at us today.

Here we are at the beginning of another year and everything is going well, the weather has not been cooperative for our construction projects. The Community Center is about two months behind, we are making progress on our water system expansion, and we are in the planning stage

for the new Culture Center.

We have recently heard that Natural Gas will be coming to the Wyandotte area that will open up a lot more opportunities for this area to grow.

The landscape here at the Wyandotte Nation is definitely changing, but it is changes that will help us grow as a people and a sovereign nation to better prepare for the future.

I am very proud and humbled to serve as Second Chief of the Greatest Indian Nation in the World.

# Pursuing her dream

*With support of family and tribe, Drake works to realize education, career goals*

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**  
WYANDOTTE NATION

Even at a young age, Kayla Drake, 26, realized the importance of an education.

"Going to college, getting an education, oddly enough, was a goal of mine since I was a kid," said Drake, of San Francisco, adding the seed was planted when she was 10 years old. "I've always been ambitious.

"I remember saving up my allowance when I was younger for my college books because someone told me they would be expensive. My brothers used to tease me about that. But as far as I can remember, I knew I would become an educated woman. I don't remember giving myself any other option."

Drake, with the support of her family and with key scholarship support from the Wyandotte Nation, set out to realize that goal. It was especially important as she would be the first in her immediate family to graduate from college.

A big obstacle in pursuing a degree is the rising cost of education, making the scholarship program offered by the Wyandotte Nation that much more important for tribal members wanting to pursue their dream, much like Drake did.

Drake, who grew up in Chico, Calif., said even with two working parents, the cost of paying tuition was still a bit out of reach.

She received \$500 per semester from the Tribe to offset the high cost of an education. By her final semester, she received \$1,250. To be able to take part in the program at the time, she had to be a full-time student and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. She said it served as further motivation.

"It was easy to get involved with the scholarship program. It was

## Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program

For scholarship renewal from semester to semester, you must provide current semester grades in an approved format from the higher education institution and supply a copy of the next semester schedule. For spring term those documents must be received by Feb. 15 and for fall semester Oct. 1. The vocational and master's programs receives applications throughout the year as those programs have varying start dates.

All Wyandotte Nation scholarship funds are made payable to the institution.

The state of Oklahoma has implemented a new program for individuals that have completed some college hours and are interested in completing an associate's or bachelor's degree. It is called "Reach Higher" and information is available at [www.okhighered.org/reachhigher/](http://www.okhighered.org/reachhigher/).

Regardless of where you reside, you should look at that state education agency website for information to assist you as you look at college degree and funding options.

such a big help for me. I don't know what I would have done without it," she said.

On top of being a full-time student, she worked 30-40 hours a week to help put herself through San Diego State University's business program.

"I was extremely busy to say the least; I almost never had free time. I got to the point of being so used to constantly working or doing something, that come summer break I didn't know what to do with myself," she said, laughing. "That's what made it so easy for me to transition into a real 9 to 5 job after I graduated -- I was already used to the work load.



(Above) Kayla Drake, with her grandmother Lila, at her graduation.  
(Right) Drake shows promotional material from her career as a Marketing and Social Media Associate at Codexis, Inc.



"But in the end it was worth it. I was able to graduate on time, without taking any time off, as many students end up doing. It kept me focused."

In 2011, her dream was realized. She graduated from San Diego State with a Bachelor's degree in Media Studies and Advertising.

"It was such a proud moment when I graduated. My family was able to share in that moment," Drake said. "My mom and dad didn't go to college -- it was one thing they would have liked to have pursued. So I felt, in some way, I was representing them."

Drake's education led to her career as a Marketing & Social

Media Associate at Codexis, Inc. -- a Biotech company specializing in bioengineering enzymes.

"My job is exciting and I get to wear many hats," she said, adding the career opened up opportunities for international travel as well.

The help she received from the Tribe also inspired her to influence and encourage other young American Indians to pursue their own educational goals.

"I am big on volunteering in general. I joke that it's my hobby," she said. "Some people play sports, some play musical instruments, I volunteer."

# Smart Board technology to be integrated into classroom

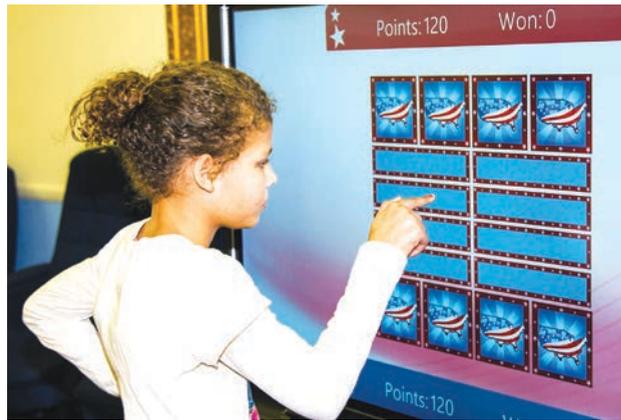
BY WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION

With an ever-evolving digital world, the Wyandotte Nation's preschool has started to dip its proverbial toes into the realm of 'digital' classrooms.

In August 2013, the preschool purchased 12 tablets to use in the classroom, and more recently, added a Smart Board.

"We're excited to have it," said Education Director Tammy Charles. "We're learning how to utilize it and enhance their (students) education."

Charles said the idea came back in November 2010 when she took three teachers to Ana-



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
Kaylee Burton tries out the new Smart Board.

heim, Calif., for the National Association for Education of Young Children. She said the four of them were in awe of the Smart

Board for kids, which at the time was a big white board, and thought it would be nice to have in the classroom.

Charles said in May of 2013, the idea really started to grow when she and Deborah Moore participated in Pittsburg State University's two-year, online Master's Degree Program for Media and Information Technology. Technology integration into the classroom was a topic there and

over the last year, the preschool has taken the steps to integrate technology and bring the program into the digital age.

The Smart Board features a touch screen to allow teachers to run programs directly from the screen. It is interactive and opens numerous learning opportunities for educators and students alike.

Charles said students can take virtual field trips to study and prepare for some of the field trips the preschool program takes during the year.

The Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors approved the purchase.

Charles said the Smart Board can be utilized across all the tribe's departments.

## Dream

Continued from Page 4

Drake volunteered for the American Indian Recruitment (AIR) Program. The AIR program was created in 1993 as a partnership between San Diego State University and the Department of American Indian Studies to "promote higher education and success in academics in the American Indian community."

She said as a volunteer she was able to talk to young American Indians and get them excited about college. "We told them, 'you don't have to be rich or a straight 'A' student to attend college, that their tribes can help them pursue an education. If you have a passion to go to school, do it.' We helped them get enrolled, but more than anything, used our experiences to give them a real life example. It was so much fun."

Her influence didn't stop there, as she has been working on her three younger brothers to get them to follow in her footsteps.

"I wanted to lead by example. To show them that if you work hard, this is what you can do, what you can accomplish," she said. "I wanted to get them excited about

## Scholarship program shows continued growth

The Wyandotte Nation scholarship program has grown in financial assistance per semester from \$500 in 2001 to \$2,250 in 2014.

According to Tammy Charles, Wyandotte Nation Education Director, as of Jan. 1, 2014, undergraduate semesters are \$2,250 for 12 or more hours, and less than full-time is funded at \$187 per credit hour.

"Previously, we funded full-time students and in 2011 we added part-time funding to allow individuals who could not attend full time, the opportunity to further their education as their schedule would allow," Charles said.

According to the report, "The Big Payoff: Educational Attainment and Synthetic Estimates of Work-Life Earnings," over an adult's working life, high school graduates can expect, on average, to earn \$1.2 million; those with a bachelor's degree \$2.1 million;

and people with a master's degree \$2.5 million.

"Our tribal members are very blessed in the respect that the tribal scholarships are not income based and they are awarded in addition to other federal funds, scholarships and other awards," Charles said.

She said the scholarship is good for eight semesters as long as a 2.0 GPA is maintained.

Many states have implemented programs to allow people to finish associates or bachelor's degrees at reduced rates. Charles said those programs, if combined with tribal funds, could help tribal citizens obtain their degree with little or no out of pocket expenses. Tribal citizenship is the only criteria for applying.

"I love helping the student and his or her family as they make decisions for higher education and enjoy building the relationship with them over time," Charles said. "At present, we have parents and their children attending college and I feel that

is what the program is designed for... the educational betterment of all citizens."

Charles worked on a recent project for Tribal Education Departments National Assembly and was able to engage in dialogue with students who were recipients of the scholarship in the early years and were thankful for the assistance, and talked of how the degree earned impacted their future. She said there are current tribal employees who have been or are recipients of scholarship funding.

"The Wyandotte Nation administration and board value education. I like to brag that our department is the only one specifically mentioned in the mission statement," Charles said. "The Education Program has the opportunity to work with every tribal citizen at some point in their lives as one is never too old to learn."

it and they are; they are already talking about which colleges they want to go to."

Drake's advice to those thinking of pursuing an education: "It's always going to be worth it to go to college. The only regret you will

have is not even trying. Do it for yourself, do it for your family, and do it for your tribe. It's such an exciting feeling and accomplishment," she said, adding, "How exciting is it that our Tribe is going to help pay for our education? It's such an

honor to receive that."

As far as her Wyandotte heritage, she said, "This is a part of me, a part of who I am. I've been able to teach my friends about Wyandotte Nation history. I'm proud to be Wyandotte."

# Christmas Celebrations



The Wyandotte Nation celebrated the Christmas holidays with an elders Christmas dinner (pictured left and right) at the Title VI building, a Turtle Tots Christmas program (middle left) and the annual Christmas Party (below) held at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center in Wyandotte, Okla. Santa Claus made an appearance at the Christmas party and took time for photos with the kids. The kids were also able to pick out a gift.



PHOTOS BY  
WILLIAM SWAIM

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# Doors open to new SONIC in Seneca

By WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation opened the doors to its new SONIC Drive-In located in Seneca, Mo., Monday, Nov. 18. Seneca is located about 10 miles from Wyandotte, Okla., where the Tribe is headquartered.

"We're very excited about the opening. It's been much anticipated," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. "We believe it will be another great economic development for the Tribe and we look forward to generating profits that can go back to benefit tribal citizens."

A pipe ceremony and ribbon cutting marked the opening for the SONIC Drive-In, 2314 Cherokee Ave. (on Hwy 43 and just off of Hwy 60). The opening marks the first for a Native American tribe in the SONIC system.

"We want to welcome Chief Friend and the Wyandotte Nation to Seneca," said Seneca Chamber of Commerce President Josh Dodson.

"We are so thankful, because this is a mission the chamber has set forth for a while to bring more businesses to town. And we are thankful they are here with us today and we

are able to be a part of the ribbon cutting and smoking ceremony. We know this will be a great asset to the community."

The smoking ceremony is sacred for the Wyandotte Nation. In the pipe was tobacco, sage, sweet grass and cedar, which is all sacred to the Wyandotte people.

"We pray today for the SONIC, that the people coming here would not only be fed, but it would be a blessing as they arrive here," Chief Friend said during the ceremony.

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

"It creates another direction, another diversified enterprise for the Wyandotte Nation," said WTKO CEO Kelly Carpino. "We're excited about that. It gives us a lot of growth opportunity to potentially develop additional restaurants in the future."



# Bearskin Services awarded two government contracts

By WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION

Bearskin Services, a 100-percent tribally-owned and SBA Certified 8(a) company, was awarded a \$7 million contract with the U.S. Army in Fort Carson, Colo., and a \$5.5 million contract with the U.S. Air Force at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi.

"Our highly qualified IT and telecommunications technicians in the field, bolstered by 20 years of Federal contracting experience, is the basis of our success," said Ka-



tie Thompson, Contracts Manager for Bearskin Services. "Developing a winning proposal takes a dedicated team, technical expertise, and a positive attitude."

For the Fort Carson facility, Bearskin technicians will provide Tier I, II, and III support, Video Conferencing Services, Operation Center Services, Facility Engineer Services, System Administra-

tion, and Database Administration Services.

"This contract award clearly demonstrates our ability to meet the demand for comprehensive technology services needed by our Armed Forces," Thompson said. "The Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma's ongoing success hinges on our unparalleled leadership in network engineering, support, and database management."

For the Columbus facility, Bearskin will provide for the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the Base Network and Telephone

Systems (BNTS), including all personnel, equipment, tools, materials, vehicles, and supervision to ensure systems are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Thompson said they are proud to support the mission of the 14th Fighter Training Wing (14 FTW) at Columbus AFB.

"We are excited to be awarded new contracts because with each award we are able to provide more benefits and services to the Wyandotte Nation and the community," Thompson said.



WYANDOTTE  
NATION  
CASINO

Introducing the NEW Wyandotte Nation Casino, Coming 2014 -

WORTHGROUP  
ARCHITECTS & DESIGNERS

COURTESY OF WORTHGROUP

(Above) Artist rendering of the new club at the Wyandotte Nation Casino. (Below) Artist rendering of the new bowling alley at WNC.

# A new look

*Entertainment options set casino apart from competition*

**BY WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION**

Over the next year, the Wyandotte Nation Casino will undergo an extensive expansion and redesign to deliver an experience for patrons like no other in the region.

"We'll offer things no one else in the area has," said WNC General Manager Gary Johnson. "It gives us the ability to do the things we always wanted to do, but didn't have the space to do it in."

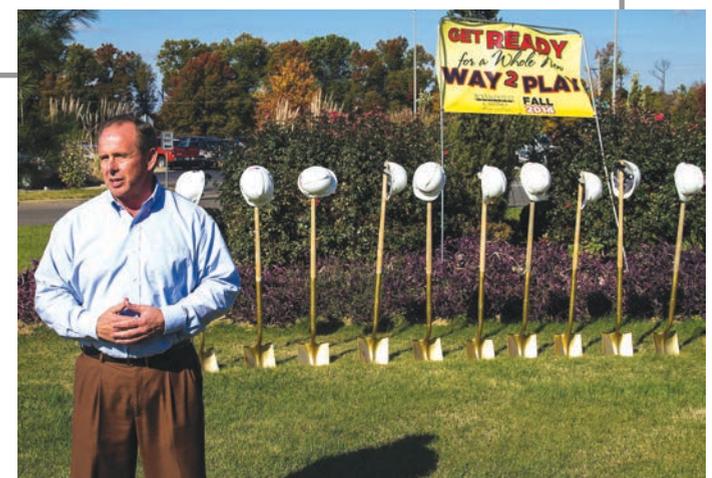
The \$7 million phase one renovation will give the casino a very modern and contemporary look,

and expand it by 25,000 square feet to make room for new features such as a club, VIP lounge, a four-lane bowling alley, rooms for private parties, a billiards and darts area, and entertainment venue that will seat around 500 people. The master project overall is estimated at \$30 million for all phases.

"I think what we tried to accomplish when we set out on this project was something different from an entertainment perspective than what any of our competitors had," said Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) CEO Kelly Carpino. Wyan-

dotte Tribe of Oklahoma is the Wyandotte Nation's federally chartered corporation and drives economic development for the Tribe.

"Whether it is a band, a concert, a comedian or whatever we choose - we wanted to create an experience where people can have more of a social gathering spot - a place where they could come for a



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend discusses the casino project during the groundbreaking ceremony Monday, Nov. 4, at the Wyandotte Nation Casino.

night of fun."

The entertainment venue will be available for large and small

See **Casino**, Page 9

# Emerging leaders

## Wyandotte Nation members graduate from SBA program

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**  
WYANDOTTE NATION

The economic development significance that tribally-owned businesses play in Native American communities is one reason the Small Business Administration launched its Emerging Leaders executive level training initiative across the U.S.

Since 2008 the initiative, in 27 cities and communities across the country, has trained more than 1,300 promising small business owners in underserved communities.

Among its most recent participants selected for this training

were Wyandotte Nation tribal members Ron Brown and Dalana Rutledge. Brown lives in Grove, Okla., and Rutledge lives in Miami, Okla.

“First of all, to be accepted into the program was a privilege, and to make it through the six months, was an accomplishment,” said Brown, President of Wyandotte Precision Products, a machine shop located in Joplin, Mo. “In the long run it will help grow Wyandotte Precision’s business with a strategic plan.”

For Rutledge, whose background is as an accounting manager and now President of Wyandotte Services, a food service business,



Wyandotte Precision Products President Ron Brown and Wyandotte Services President Dalana Rutledge with their Small Business Administration awards for graduating the SBA Emerging Leaders program.  
WILLIAM SWAIM/  
WYANDOTTE NATION

the program was a great learning experience.

“It helped me step outside my comfort zone. It’s not something I’m typically used to,” Rutledge said. “It helped my understanding of how a strategic business plan is put together from beginning to end, by looking at all the pieces and how they all work together. We had to write a growth plan from

beginning to end, and it made me focus on what direction we are going.”

Rutledge said it also helped with her personal growth as she develops her current role.

“What I am hoping to accomplish with this program, is to further develop as a leader in our company. I’m ready to take on more of the leadership role,” she said.

## Casino

Continued from Page 8

events, banquets, private parties and business meetings. Johnson said they plan to attract local, regional and national talent.

The interior of the casino will be redesigned and feature a new floor layout with expanded area for gaming.

In a highly competitive market, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend said it is important to offer entertainment that sets the casino apart.

“When the team sat down and really got creative and came up with this project, we fell in love with it. We’re very excited about it. We are offering something different in the market we are in,” the Chief said. “Most people who aren’t from this area don’t understand how competitive it is. This sets us apart.”

Chief Friend said most expansions in this area have been on the hotel side or the gaming side



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

From left, Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors Juanita McQuistion, Ramona Reid and Vivian Fink, Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr., WorthGroup architect Bryan Hamlin, Wyandotte Nation Casino General Manager Gary Johnson, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend, Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma CEO Kelly Carpino, Bank of Oklahoma representative David Lamb, Crossland Construction, Inc. project representative Curt Crossland.

of things. He said this project isn’t really focused on a gaming expansion, but more on providing another entertainment option for

those who may not necessarily be into gaming, but maybe “want to come hear a band, dance or maybe even bowl a few games.”

Chief Friend said the expansion will also create 30-40 more jobs in the area.

In addition to the other new features, the Twin Bridges Restaurant will be revamped with a contemporary look, nearly double in size and will include a martini bar, private dining and a new menu.

The Deli will also be moved with a new, larger dining area for guests.

The exterior will also feature a new façade as part of the overall project.

The project is expected to be completed in a 12 month time frame. Crossland Construction Company, Inc., is handling the construction on the project. Crossland built the casino in 2007. The WorthGroup are the architects for the project.

The casino, located at 100 Jackpot Place, will remain open throughout the renovation. Areas of the casino will be closed off during the construction.

## 7th Street Casino

By CALLI GREEN

Ending 2013 with festive style was what the holidays were about at 7th Street Casino. Not only do we look to satisfy our guests, but we want



our 7th Street Team to be the best team they can be. We love having happy team members to make great bonds with the guests at the casino.

Making sure our team and their families have a Christmas to remember is tradition at 7th Street. Every year, 7th Street Casino team members have the chance to gather to exchange holiday spirit, enjoy refreshments and have a great time shopping at Sam's Club. The team loves the experience they get from having a holiday party in the same place that they can get their seasonal shopping done.

The casino sponsors the event by giving festive presents and offering employees an exclusive opportunity to shop at Sam's Club without the hustle and bustle of holiday crowds. Sam's Club opens early and closes late one night a year solely for 7th Street Casino's holiday gathering. The event is loved by the team members at 7th Street Casino and is a yearly excitement during the season.

The VIP New Years Eve celebration at the Jack Reardon center was a hit, and paired with our giveaway event at the casino, the night was a blast. Guests who had dinner at the VIP event enjoyed an Italian buffet in a Vintage Vegas themed party room. VIP guests also enjoyed dancing until 9 p.m. while our favorite DJ, DJ Joe, played all of their favorite music. After the event at the Reardon center, VIP guests were brought back to the casino in a limo to enjoy the drawings, party favors and dancing with the rest of the 7th Street Casino crowd. We definitely brought in 2014 in an exciting and unique way.

The team is thrilled about upcoming events in 2014. Every Tuesday in February, we will be having Fast Cash Frenzy quick tournaments for cash prizes. Also in February, we have planned a President's Day Match and Win event for the President's Day holiday. Thursday nights have been changed to 3K Thrilling Thursdays, with \$3,000 worth of cash prizes given every week—we cannot wait to see the excitement of weekly winners.

The New Year has brought us fresh perspective with new incentives, gifts and other ways to honor our VIP guests. Also, on the horizon we are looking into expanding our loyalty program and card memberships for 7th Street casino guests.



### Halloween

The Turtle Tots donned their costumes and entertained a packed house at the Title VI Building in Wyandotte, Okla. during their Halloween program. The education staff dressed - appropriately - as crayons during the employee costume contest.



To see more photos, visit our Facebook page and 'Like' us.



[www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation](http://www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation)

## Tots entertain at Thanksgiving & Halloween Programs



PHOTOS BY  
WILLIAM SWAIM



### Thanksgiving

The tots decorated tables and entertained another packed house at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center Gymnasium while served up traditional Thanksgiving food.

## Twin Bridges Restaurant / The Deli

By KATY BERRYMAN

The newly remodeled Twin Bridges Restaurant is set to open mid to late February 2014. The restaurant's new design will accompany a larger dining area, private party rooms, martini bar and a re-vamped menu with old favorites and new dishes with fresh, exciting flavors.

Twin Bridges Restaurant brought a new spin to the New Year's Eve festivities at Wyandotte Nation Casino this year. The kitchen staff prepared a

large array of tasty hors d'oeuvres and special desserts for all casino guests to enjoy throughout the evening. Hot food was sent from the kitchen all night long and guests could not resist coming back for more.

The Wyandotte Nation Casino Deli gave their menu a fresh look with several new items added, keeping guests and employees satisfied with the plentiful variety. Recently, the Deli put a seasonal spin on one of their new and popular menu items,



the milkshake. An eggnog variety debuted in December, shortly following the eagerly accepted pumpkin milkshake that both guests and team members enjoyed this fall. With the temporary closing of Twin Bridges Restaurant, the Deli has provided quality food for guests to enjoy each day at Wyandotte Nation Casino. We sincerely appreciate the determined effort the entire Food & Beverage Department put forward this holiday season.

## BUSINESS PROFILE

## Q&amp;A WITH GARY LAWSON

**PRO 100, INC.  
REALTORS**

**PHONE:** (417) 540-0309  
**EMAIL:** glawson@pro100.com

**ADDRESS:** 2401 E. 32<sup>nd</sup> St.,  
STE 1, Joplin, MO 64804



**GARY  
LAWSON**

**Gary Lawson, 59**  
**Neosho, MO (born in Joplin, MO)**  
**Wyandotte - Hatfield/James**

**What influenced your decision to become a real estate agent?**

Time in my life for a career change.

**What's been the most challenging aspect of your job?**

Working with so many different organizations to get a deal done.

**What's the best and worst thing about being a real estate agent?**

The best part is meeting new people and making new friends. The worst part is the paperwork.

**What might someone be surprised to know about you?**

That I've always wanted to be in sales even though I spent 40 years in construction.

**What would you tell someone thinking about getting into the real estate business?**

It doesn't happen overnight. You need to establish a reputation of trust in your community.

**What's it like to be a real estate agent / what do you like most about being a real estate agent?**

Being a real estate agent is very rewarding and challenging. I enjoy helping people realize their dream of buying a home or selling their current home.

**If you weren't a real estate agent, what would you be doing instead?**

I don't know I really enjoy my job.

**As a real estate agent, what sort of trends are you seeing?**

The market is pretty stable at the moment. Interest rates are still fairly low. However, requirements for loans are more strict than they have been in the past.

**What do you wish other people knew about the real estate business?**

It's not as easy as people think. You have to continuously be educating yourself and stay updated with technology.

**How would someone describe you?**

Honest, reliable, and maybe a little ornery.

**What do you do when you aren't working?**

Spend time with my grandkids and fishing occasionally.

**What does it mean to you to be Wyandotte?**

I'm proud of my Indian heritage. The Wyandotte tribe has been every helpful to me and my family. I would like to be more involved with the Tribe, so I can teach my grandchildren about where they come from.

**WYANDOTTE  
NATION  
CASINO**

**Gearing up for  
exciting 2014**

**By CASEY ELLETT**

2014 is here and even though the casino is undergoing some major renovations, we have proven we still know how to show guests a good time. It was a very different New Year's Eve for Wyandotte Nation Casino this year.

With Twin Bridges Restaurant under construction and a significant amount of the gaming floor undergoing renovations we were forced to get creative. And did we ever answer the call.... With a variety of \$500 cash drawings, glow necklaces, free hors d'oeuvres, tuxedo T-shirts, party favors, bonus Free Plays, and midnight Match Plays -- we literally had something for everyone.

It is gearing up to be an action-filled 2014 with a range of exciting and engaging promotions and events.

The first quarter of the new year will be nothing short of a blast with the Chillin' and Grillin' Giveaway and The Point Pack Challenge in January, followed by a holiday filled February consisting of The Rodent Riot: A Groundhog Day Celebration, The V-day Cash Crush, and last but not least The Prize Packed Presidents' Day. March of 2014 will push forward with even more great holiday events including the Mardi Gras Madness Celebration of March 4, and the always entertaining St. Patrick's Day "Patty Party" on March 15-17.

We also anticipate hosting a variety of events highlighting the recently remodeled Twin Bridges Restaurant, which is scheduled to open mid to late February.

I would like to thank all of the Wyandotte team for their hard work, attitude, and most importantly their commitment to excellence. Once this casino expansion project is complete we are truly going to reinvent the Northeast Oklahoma gaming market.

**WANT TO PROFILE YOUR BUSINESS? CONTACT WILLIAM SWAIM, WSWAIM@WTKO.ORG**

## Lucky Turtle Casino

**By WACY HUMBLE**

The Lucky Turtle Casino sent 2013 out in style with Lucky's New Year's Eve Celebration. Undoubtedly, the Lucky Turtle was the place to be to ring in the New Year with over \$3,000 in cash prizes up for grabs throughout the night. Truly, a great end to the year. With 2013 in the books, everyone is looking forward to all of the new and exciting events

coming 2014.

The Lucky Turtle Casino kicks off January with the all-new Senior Day, (Whirling Wednesday) which includes the reintroduction of Lucky's money booth. Thus far, everyone is having a crazy good time jumping inside the money booth and attempting to grab as much cash as they can in 30 seconds.

From there we move on to February and March, which are sure to

be festive months consisting of Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, and St. Patrick's Day giveaways. On Valentine's Day, we will be handing out sweet treats from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. plus \$100 cash drawings every 20 minutes. On Mardi Gras, the Turtle will celebrate



with Power Pick drawings every 15 minutes from 6-9 p.m. Plus, in the spirit of Fat Tuesday, King Cakes and party favors will be distributed to all guests. St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated with a \$5 Match Play offer from 6-9 p.m., along with St. Patrick's Day themed party favors.

As always, we greatly appreciate all of the valued guests and staff at Lucky Turtle Casino, none of which would be possible without them.

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Human Resources

**Submitted by Deana Howard**

A reception was recently held to honor and recognize employees for their years of service with the Tribe.



Pictured from left, Sharon Bartley, Jamie Johnson, and Kate Randall.

Sharon Bartley celebrated her 25th year of service with the Wyandotte Nation. Sharon has served as an Early Childhood Teacher in our Turtle Tots Education Department and has played a key role in the success of this program. She is very passionate about her position and teaching the children enrolled in the Wyandotte Nation program.

Kate Randall was recognized for her 20 years of service with the Wyandotte Nation as the Family Services Director. Kate has done an outstanding job serving Wyandotte Nation tribal members. She has developed and implemented many programs to assist tribal members and continues to grow her department.

Jamie Johnson, Wyandotte Nation tribal member, celebrated her 5th year with the Tribe as the custodian for the Third Building. Jamie stays very busy trying to keep up with all of



Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norm Hildebrand present a Pendleton blanket to Danny Bursleson during a retirement reception.

the busy Turtle Tots and does a great job taking care of the building. She is very passionate about working for her Tribe and is always seen with a smile on her face!

Thank you all for your hard work, loyalty, dedication, and passion that you bring to the Wyandotte Nation. We appreciate each one of you and are very fortunate to have you as part of the Wyandotte Nation Family. We look forward to many more years of your success.

A retirement reception was recently held in honor of Danny Bursleson, Facilities Manager. He was presented with a Pendleton blanket by Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norm Hildebrand. Danny has been

employed with the tribe for over eight years and has done an outstanding job maintaining the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center. Danny will spend his retirement serving as Pastor for Wayside Assembly of God Church and spending time with his family.

Danny we wish you the best of luck and will miss your smiling face!

## New Hires

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is very happy to welcome Deana Sweatt. Deana will serve as the Clinical Pharmacist and will be responsible for the management of the Pharmacy. Deana has more than 29 years of combined experience as a Pharmacist in hospital, home healthcare and retail settings.

In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and four dogs. She also enjoys spending time fishing. Deana is committed to helping customers maintain and strive to improve their health and live better, healthier lives. We are very fortunate to have Deana on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

Dannie McLaughlin has joined our Maintenance Department, and will serve as Facilities Manager/Custodial Supervisor. Dannie is the spouse of a

Wyandotte Nation tribal member and is very familiar with the Tribe and its facilities. He brings a wealth of knowledge with over 30 years of construction and facilities maintenance experience.

In his spare time, Dannie enjoys spending time with his family, riding horses, and deer hunting. We are very excited to have him as part of our team and look forward to working with him. Welcome to the Wyandotte Nation team!



McLaughlin

The Bearskin Fitness Center is very happy to welcome Jerry Pettus. Jerry will serve as the Fitness Center Youth Program Assistant. Jerry attended Northeastern State University and received his B.S. degree in Health and Human Performance/Clinical Wellness.



Pettus

In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his girlfriend Chloe. He also enjoys spending time playing slow pitch softball, exercising /staying fit, and watching Cardinals baseball. We are excited to welcome Jerry to the team and wish him much success in his new position with the tribe.

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is pleased to introduce their newest member to their department, Patrick Horn. Patrick has 5 1/2 years' experience in Law Enforcement.

In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family. He also enjoys playing cards and he likes to dance. We are very fortunate to have Patrick and wish him much success in his new position. Welcome to the team Patrick!

We are very excited to have each of these new team members and wish them much success in their new positions. Welcome to Wyandotte Nation!

If you are interested in obtaining employment with the Wyandotte Nation or other Wyandotte Nation entities, please check our website for job opportunities or contact the Human Resources Department.



Horn

## Family Services

**Submitted by Kate Randall**

The 2013 Children's Christmas Party was very well attended despite the bleak weather prediction for that Saturday.

Judging from the national news, this winter has proved to be one of the coldest in the past 30 years. There were several families that were unaware the Children's Christmas party had been moved to the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Gym. Until further notice, that location will be our future location for the event.

Pictures were taken with Santa and those pictures are currently available. If your child had his/her photo taken and you would like the photo mailed to you, please call the Family Services Department, or stop by in person. If not, your child's photo will be available to you at the 2014 children's party. Again, thank you for coming.

Every staff member at the Nation looks forward to seeing the children and catching up on family news.

In addition, the New Year is bringing great things for the Wyandotte Citizens. The Supplemental Health Benefit program was renewed. See article below for more information.

Please keep the Enrollment Department updated on your address and contact information. Below is a recap of the current benefits available through the Family Services Department. Please note some programs have a limited radius.

The Wyandotte Nation has purchased an updated telephone system and the staff extensions have changed.

To better serve our tribal citizens, the Family Services Department now has four staff members. In late fall, tribal citizen Leeanna Radabaugh joined Dana Butterfield in the tag and enrollment office. Leeanna is also being cross trained in all areas of the Department.

Tara Gragg, social worker, and I are available for your family service needs. There is always a member on staff here to assist you. If you are on a limited time schedule, we welcome appointments. And, as always, we welcome you.

In closing, from "The Spirit of Indian Women," let us teach our children the value of grandparents. Next to mother, grandmother was the most important person in the

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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home. Her place could be filled by no one else. The parents were occupied keeping the home going as in today's society. The grandparents devoted their time, their attention, their wisdom of life, and their never ending patience to all the children. In the Indian way, the old people were revered for their knowledge and all children were taught to treat their elders with great respect.

Let us keep this tradition alive in our busy world.

## Programs

All Programs require applications: Applications may be requested by phone, by fax or by email. (Some applications are also available on the Nation's website).

**OKLAHOMA LIHEAP:** The "Low Income Home Energy Assistance" program was funded for the winter of 2013/14. To date 35 applications have been processed. As the last Turtle Speaks stated, we ask that tribal citizens contact the Tribe regarding this program. LIHEAP has been funded for 5 years and postcards are no longer sent out as a reminder. You must live in Oklahoma to apply. The program is income based. LIHEAP set aside funds will be allowable for 2014 crisis or summer crisis utility assistance. Shut off notices are required for crisis assistance.

**WINTER SENIOR CITIZENS ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Winter utility assistance began Oct. 1, 2013, and ends March 31, 2014. Eligibility requirements: 62+ and residing in the 4-State area. (Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas). An application and current energy bill is required. \$100 is paid directly to the utility provider. The summer senior utility program will begin on July 1, 2014.

**ELDERS ASSISTANCE:** The Elders program provides a reimbursement of \$250 to seniors 62+ that reside in the 4-State area (Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas). Most household expenses are reimbursable. A vendor may be paid directly, if you choose. The Elders program began on Oct. 1, 2013 and will end Sept. 30, 2014.

**NEW ENROLLEE BENEFIT:** This Nationwide program provides a \$100 gift card, as well as a baby blanket with the Tribal Logo. The enrollment application must be received in the

enrollment office before a child's first birthday.

**CHILDREN'S WINTER CLOTHING:** This program began on Dec. 1, 2013. The program will end March 1, 2014. The radius of this program was extended to the 4-State area of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri. Preschool age students through 12th grade are eligible. The program allows for reimbursement of up to \$100 per child for clothing to parent (with proof of receipts), or you may request a Wal-Mart gift card. (Receipts must be turned in).

**CHILDREN'S EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** This program begins on Oct. 1 of each year and ends Sept. 30 to coincide with the tribe's fiscal year. School age children living in the 4-State area are eligible to apply. The benefit is \$100 per student. This includes school lunches, pictures, dues for school programs, and activities your child is enrolled in. Payment may be made directly to a vendor, or you may apply for reimbursement with proof of payment.

**JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BENEFIT:** Effective Oct. 1, 2013, the high school junior/senior benefit was also extended to students residing in the 4-State area. The \$250 reimbursement program may be used for expenses such as class rings, graduation announcements, cap and gown, letter jackets (to name a few allowable expenses). The Wyandotte Nation can pay the vendor directly, or reimburse your family with proof of receipts.

**INFANT/CHILDREN PASSENGER SAFETY SEATS:** The Family Services Department has an array of infant and children's safety seats from birth up to 100 pounds. All safety seats must be picked up at the tribal headquarters by a parent or member of the family.

**PROMOTING SAFE & STABLE FAMILIES:** This State and Federal Program was designed to assist Tribal Families; to prevent the breakup of Indian Families; and to provide emergency services to at risk families with children. No radius restrictions apply if your children are involved in State Court Proceedings. All intakes are kept confidential. Please call if you have any issues pertaining to the safety and well-being of our tribal children.

**MEDICAL FUEL ASSISTANCE:**

Tribal members utilizing the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center may apply for travel fuel assistance or reimbursement. Oftentimes, the medical appointments are with physicians referred through contract health services. These appointments may require travelling outside the Wyandotte area to see specialists. There are several options for medical fuel depending on the number of appointments an individual has and the location(s) of those appointments. As patient information is confidential, the Family Services office would need verification of the date and location of your appointment(s). Please call if you have any questions.

**ENROLLMENT:** To be eligible for enrollment with the Wyandotte Nation an individual must be able to trace to a biological ancestor on a Wyandotte Nation roll dating from 1881 to current and not be an enrolled member/citizen of another federally recognized tribe.

New members/citizens are added to the roll at the Annual Meeting which is held the second Saturday of September. This year's meeting will be held on Sept. 13 at 10 a.m. at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center gymnasium. Applications are accepted throughout the year. Each application MUST be accompanied by an original state certified birth certificate, as well as, any other supporting legal documents as requested by Enrollment staff. DNA will only be accepted to prove paternity.

To obtain an application please contact a staff member of the Enrollment/ Family Services Department. As always, the deadline for applications to be received and be considered for the current year enrollment is Aug. 15.

**TRIBAL TAGS:** Wyandotte Nation citizens who reside in the state of Oklahoma are eligible to register their motor vehicles with the Nation. Currently, citizens can title and register passenger vehicles, RV's, travel trailers and motorcycles. Handicapped plates are available for those who meet the requirements and individuals must obtain a form from the Wyandotte Nation Tax Commission to submit to their physician for completion. Citizens may be asked to provide proof of residency to be eligible for the Tribal Tag program. For fee information or to make an appointment please contact Tax Commission staff at 918-678-6319 or 918-678-6329.

**SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH BENEFIT:** The Supplemental Health Benefit has been renewed for 2014. All tribal citizens should have received notification of this exciting news in early December from CoreSource, the company contracted to provide this service to Wyandotte Nation citizens. However, if you did not receive this notification please contact our office and a flyer can be sent to you with the important information needed concerning this program.

Wyandotte Nation citizens age 18 and over are eligible for a \$1,000 benefit and citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte Nation dependents under the age of 18 will receive a \$2,000 benefit (the family benefit does not cover spouses of tribal citizens or other non-enrolled family members). Funds can be used to pay for health care needs not met by insurance or if no insurance is available.

There are two ways to access the funds. The first is by using your Benny card. The card can be swiped at any facility that accepts MasterCard AND has an IRS approved inventory control system in place (most medical facilities and businesses with pharmacies such as Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, etc.).

The Benny card can't be used for over the counter medicines such as pain relievers and cold/flu remedies. The other option is to pay for medical expenses up front and submit a claim form to CoreSource along with receipts for reimbursement. Citizens have until March 31, 2014 to file claims for 2013 funds. If you have questions about this benefit you can contact any of the Family Services staff or CoreSource directly at 800-990-9058 x42086.

**BURIAL ASSISTANCE:** This program is available to all enrolled members/citizens nationwide and will pay \$1,500 towards the expenses of funerals, burials, cremations, etc. A burial application must be submitted to the Family Services Department along with a copy of the state certified death certificate and an itemized statement from the service provider i.e. funeral home. Payment will be made directly to the provider unless there is verification that the services have been paid in full.

**INDIAN CHILD WELFARE:** The Wyandotte Nation Indian Child Welfare Department is still looking for good Foster and Adoptive homes.

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 13

Our children are our future. We are called to take good care of them so that one day, they may take good care of us and our Earth. If you would like to know more about what it means to become a Tribal Foster Parent, please call Tara Gragg at 918-678-6355.

Well parents, the holidays are over! I hope you all had a chance to sit and play some board games with your family.

With eventful holidays also comes stress. Post-holiday stress is something most people might not think about. Trying to get back into your regular routine can be difficult, especially for children. Be aware of your child and how they may be reacting to the changes in routine. Most children have been going to bed and waking up later than usual over the school break. They (and you) may need to go to bed a little earlier to allow more time for falling asleep.

Getting enough exercise can help battle fatigue as well. Holiday food is typically delicious but unhealthy. Children also need a healthy balanced diet to give them energy at school and to be able to concentrate on their school work.

## Planning / Development

### Submitted by Ron Kaiser

The Community Center located in the Housing area was scheduled to be completed in December. Due to the severe temperatures and snow, it is behind schedule. Now that the outside work is nearing completion, the contractor should be able to make up some of the time.

We currently have an Advertisement for Bid, for the new water system expansion, which will include, standpipe, well house and miscellaneous. The project has been advertised for Native American owned contractors first. If a qualified bid is not received, it will go out to all contractors.

We will be advertising for architects, for the Culture Center soon. The Culture Center will be located SW of the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center on the South side of Turtle Drive.

We have received \$12,500 in funding, from the Federal Highway Administration, to develop a Tribal Transportation Safety Plan. We currently have the plan out for bid to various engineer firms. This will



**Work on the Wyandotte Nation's Community Center is nearly complete, but was delayed by weather and -- weather permitting -- should be completed around March.**

## Housing

### Submitted by Kathy DeWeese

Due to weather delays, the community center completion has been extended to March. The outside is completed, and the inside is well under way. With Spring around the corner, the safe room will be a great comfort to the addition. This center will provide activities for our seniors and families.

The planning stage for the construction of two duplexes is underway. These units will be two bedrooms and will be for

singles and small families.

If you would like more information on our housing programs, or if you live within the Indian Health service area and are in need of water or septic services, please contact our office.

We look forward to serving you.

- Kathy DeWeese - Housing Director
- Valari Richards - Housing Specialist
- Levi Griffin - Project Coordinator
- Paul Parker - Project Coordinator
- Don Graham - Residential Maintenance Technician

be a basic safety plan, which will address crash data analysis, interview transportation department and transit personnel, conduct a tribal safety meeting with all stakeholders, conduct Level 1 Field Evaluations and write the Tribal Safety Plan.

The Grant Review Team is very busy this time of year. We are currently working on the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), which is a grant that has several components.

One component is for Police equipment, hiring, etc. Another is what helped fund our court system last year. We were not funded for the youth portion last year, but will reapply this year.

The Team is also working on the Library Enhancement Grant. Funding from this grant is through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). We hope to staff the

library with a Librarian and provide classes, equipment and extended hours, to make our library, more user friendly.

The FEMA storm shelter applications that were mailed out to Oklahoma Tribal Members have been sent to the various county Flood Plain Administrators for verification, and are returning back to our office. They were sent out to each county in Oklahoma, and to all cities that have their own Flood Plain Administrator. Once all are returned, they will be submitted with the application to the state. This is a very long process, thank you for your patience.

If you have any questions for the Planning/Development Dept. you can contact:

- Ron Kaiser, Planning Director, (918) 678-6325
- Debbie Dry, Planning Specialist, (918) 678-6315

## Environmental

Wow, what a busy past couple of months. Along with our normal daily office duties, our monthly water monitoring and testing, and our recycling duties, we also have monthly and bi-monthly tribal environmental meetings that we attend.

One such meeting is the TECO (Tribal Environmental Operations Committee). This meeting is held on 3rd Tuesday of every other month. The last meeting was held on Nov. 19 at the Sac n Fox Nation in Stroud, OK. At this meeting election of officers was held for TECO and RTOC (Regional Tribal Operations Committee) EPA, Region 6. We are happy to announce that Wyandotte Nation was re-elected as the TECO Secretary and as a RTOC Representative for EPA Region 6.

The first part of December, we took advantage of the warm weather, and laid fabric and Arkansas Stone up at our Rain Garden, and placed an information kiosk and a bench. Our Rain Garden is located on the northwest corner of the Bearskin Fitness Center. If you are in the area, we would love for you to go by and check it out.

Our recycling duties and collection continues to grow and with the opening of the newly built Wyandotte Nation Sonic in Seneca, Mo., we have added this business to our recycling route.

During the week of Dec. 9 – 13 we held an e-waste collection. Due to the inclement weather we decided to extend it to the following week of Dec. 16, 2013 – Jan. 1st, 2014. Our Recycling Center is located at 4 Lost Creek Drive just to the west of the Bearskin Fitness Center. We are open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We also have outside bins located on the south end of the center so that recyclables can be dropped off after hours and on weekends.

## Services provided

Private Well Drinking Water Sampling for tribal and non-tribal citizens, that live within a 50 mile radius of Wyandotte Nation Tribal Offices. This consists of sampling for bacteria and heavy metals.

Septic System Assessments for tribal and non-tribal members living with in the Grand Lake Watershed.

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 14

Please note we have a new phone system in place and our numbers have changed. We now have direct lines to our offices. Please see the contact information below.

### Department Contacts

- Christen Lee – 918-678-6341
- Janice Wilson – 918-678-6345
- Kathleen Welch – 918-678-6335
- Jon Quick – 918-678-6352
- Lost Creek Recycle Center – 918-678-4001

## Elder Services

### Submitted by Brenda House

We would like to thank everyone that helped make our Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners a huge success! We served 361 meals at Thanksgiving and 257 at Christmas. We appreciate all that you do for our Elders!

We would like to welcome Corey Sims to our Wyandotte Nation Family. Corey comes to us from the Experience Works Program.

We have partnered with The Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative and are providing Thai Chi for Arthritis Classes every Wednesday beginning at 11 a.m. The classes will run for 12 weeks and will end on March 26. Thai Chi is an enjoyable exercise that can relieve your pain, improve your health and your ability to do things.

Thai Chi is easy to learn and almost anyone can do it. In fact, many people who learn the form like it so much that they continue to practice and enjoy the benefits of Thai Chi for years. Thai Chi originated in ancient China where it is considered a martial art. This program consists of slow continuous movements, strung together in a form.

Like dance, the movements are learned and follow one after the other. This program can be practiced while sitting as well as standing. Almost anyone of any physical condition can begin and continue to progress regardless of age. Thai Chi for Arthritis has been recognized as a Community Program for Better Living by the Arthritis Foundation. The classes are held in the Artie Nesvold Community Building, aka Title VI.

Our Valentine Party will be Friday, Feb. 14, during the lunch hour. We will have prizes for the oldest Valentine, couple married the longest, the newlyweds, and the one married the



## Maintenance

### Submitted by Garold Alumbaugh

We are currently in the process of getting a new building to store all of our equipment inside and out of weather so it will last and look better for years to come.

It will be used for tractor equipment, the motor coach and the environmental boat and rennie van. The building measures 50 ft. deep by 90 ft. long. It will also be used for non-motorized equip-

ment as well.

Maintenance is also doing summer inside painting and of course a lot of snow and ice removal. We are trying to keep roads and lots clear and safe for patrons and tribal members.

As always we hope that all had very happy and safe holidays and enjoyed time with family and friends. We are back to somewhat normal operations and hope everyone stays safe during inclement weather.

most times and is willing to admit it. If you live in the area, please come and join us for a fun time!

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.

We had to cancel our Caregiver Christmas Banquet at the First Christian Church in Miami, Okla., due to the inclement weather. We plan to reschedule it at a later date. We will have speakers, entertainment, vendor booths, and goodie bags. We will also have respite for caregivers that will be bringing their caregiver recipients.

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

- Brenda House, Elder Services

Director, (918) 678-6327.

- Kandi Smith, Food Service Team Supervisor, (918) 678-6328
- Seth Higginbotham, Berle Blevins, Stephanie Eads, Corey Sims, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328
- Menu, (918) 678-6326

## Education

### Submitted by Tammy Charles Preschool

In less than five months our Preschool students will have completed a year of instruction in our facility. The days, weeks and months seem to go so quickly and the program staff try to capitalize on every opportunity to have a "teaching moment."

We have three openings for our program and hope that we will fill those soon.

The children will have two more parties and family programs and the Chief Leaford Bearskin Memo-

rial Preschool Pow-Wow in the planning stages for April of 2014.

We are currently receiving applications for the school year 2014-2015.

If you are or know of someone that might be interested in the Wyandotte Nation Preschool program, please feel free to contact our office.

## Afterschool Program

Christmas break was the timing for the second afterschool program incentive trip. Twenty children and four staff enjoyed a day of roller skating and lunch as a reward for all of the time spent on homework in the afterschool program. The next trip is planned for spring break if the weather cooperates and we get to have one.

The "afterschool program" covers both before and after care of school age children and includes transportation to and from Wyandotte Public Schools, an afternoon snack, homework assistance and other opportunities for children of that age.

## Library

The Wyandotte Nation Library computer system has been upgraded!! The terminals were replaced with new machines as well as a new color printer and computer to operate the automated software for patron check in and check out of materials. The cost for printing from our computers is \$.10 for black and white and \$1 for color.

New materials are added at least two times per month and the winter months bring an increase in number of check outs of both books and movies as more people are confined inside. If you have been searching for a particular title and have not been able to locate it, please ask the staff so we may assist you in securing that title.

## Child Care & Development Fund Program

The child care program is available to assist families with child care expenditures while the adult household members work or attend training.

The report for FY 2013 was submitted in December and the Wyandotte Nation Child Care

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 15

Program assisted 135 families with 189 children in care. Wyandotte Nation children who reside outside of our service area are eligible for child care assistance from other federal grantees. If you or any of your families need our help locating a program in your area, please contact our offices.

## Tribal Scholarships

Drum roll please...as of Jan. 1, Wyandotte Nation Tribal Undergraduate Scholarships have increased to \$2,250 for full time enrollment!

The mailboxes, both USPS and email, are very busy right now! Feb. 15, 2014 is the final day to submit fall grades and spring schedules.

On the topic of submitting documents for scholarship renewal, when you prepare the items for sending please make sure it is an official document.

An official transcript is not required as it has a fee associated with it that we do not want the student burdened with. However, we cannot accept documents that are "cut and pasted." Many times these are not in a friendly format and are difficult to analyze for needed information.

With improving electronic systems, students can log into their accounts and capture screen shots of unofficial transcripts to submit. Many times both pieces of needed information, previous semester grades and current semester schedule, are located on one document.

Please understand if we must request for you to resubmit information if you did not provide us with an acceptable document.

Scholarship recipients need to send a copy of their transcript after the degree conferred has been documented.

The vocational and master's programs receives applications throughout the year as those programs have varying start dates. All Wyandotte Nation scholarship funds are made payable to the institution.

If you have any questions about any of the scholarship or adult training programs, please contact the office by phone or email. It is my pleasure to assist you in any way possible!

## Workforce Investment Act

The Workforce Investment Act is

## Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department, from left, Andrew Kinder, Mike Smith, Steve Johnston, John Dilliner, Faron Lee, Police Chief Ken Murphy, Patrick Horn, Jared Robinson, Richard Teeter, Ken Brodrick.

accepting new clients.

This program offers tuition assistance at colleges or universities or vocational programs for members of any federally recognized tribe that lives in Southeast Kansas or Southwest Missouri.

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.

As you try to contact our offices for assistance, we want to distribute our new telephone numbers: Tammy Charles 918-678-6330; Loretta Combes 918-678-6334; Annita Jolene Tucker 918-678-6331.



## Klindworth passes APS Certification

Wyandotte Nation tribal member and Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) Accounting Clerk Rhonda Klindworth is now an Accredited Payables Specialist (APS) after passing a certification exam and demonstrating a high proficiency of knowledge in Accounts Payable.

Klindworth's certification is for two years, beginning last Oct. 24 when she received her certificate, and requires 20 continuing education units over the next 24 months to stay in good standing.

Klindworth said it was a significant accomplishment for her.

## Opportunity for youth to attend NPS Academy

The National Park Service (NPS) has designed in partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) a new career development program for qualified college students called the NPS Academy. This could be an opportunity to engage more

tribal youth in the future management of our national parks. Students accepted into the program participate in a weeklong, expense-paid, spring break orientation in a national park which highlights the myriad of career paths which exist within the NPS.

Upon successful completion of the orientation, students are then placed into a summer internship with the NPS. Students also participate

in a mentoring program to further enhance their experience of living and working in a national park.

Even though the deadline (Jan. 18, 2014) has passed, applications will continue to be accepted until the program has been filled.

To learn more about the NPS Academy and how to apply, <http://www.thesca.org/serve/program/nps-academy>.

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Culture

### Submitted by Sherri Clemons

As the New Year begins, so does the planning for the year's events. This is an exciting year for Wyandotte Cultural Committee and Pow-Wow.

First, in February we are planning a moccasin class for the youth (ages 7-15, first 10 are in). We would like to keep the class small in order to be able to complete the project in one day. All supplies will be provided. If your Youth is interested; please email me your information. I will let you know when the class is scheduled. You may call me also.

Along the same lines, we are also doing a dance class for young people interested in Pow-Wow contest dancing. This is in the early stages, but should start next month as well. Again, if your children want to learn to dance, please call or email me. It is time we move forward and start addressing the needs of our youth. They are our promise to the future.

It's hard to believe we are celebrating 25 years of Pow-Wow. It has come a long ways from when Earlene Roskob started it down at Sycamore Valley. Thank you Earlene, for taking that first step 25 years ago. Barbara Collier took it to the next level. With her being raised around pow-wows her entire life (Barbara is Quapaw) she brought in inner workings of what it takes to bring the Native people to Wyandotte. She spent many hours working and sharing with the committee the ways of traditions and the different customs of the many tribes that now attend our pow-wow every year. We would like to thank Barbara for the gifts she has given the people who work on the Wyandotte Pow-Wow committee. Plan on being with us on this special weekend. It's the best party in town!

Contact Tribal Heritage Director Sherri Clemons, [sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org) or call (918) 678-6344 for more information.

The Wyandotte Nation Museum and Cultural Center is no longer just a dream! The design and planning stages are now well underway with hopes of a ground breaking ceremony in the very near future.

As the construction process begins the Culture Committee is asking tribal citizens to consider making permanent donations or temporary loans to the museum. We understand many of your family heirlooms, photographs, and artifacts are beyond valuable and irreplaceable, which may cause great hesitation in giving them to the museum. Please contact the Tribal Heritage Department to discuss all options

available for sharing and preserving your and our incredible cultural items.

If parting with your items is not an option, at least share a photo of the items. Take a photo and email it to [culture@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:culture@wyandotte-nation.org) along with a little background and historical story. We would also like copies of your old family photos. Send us your photos and we will scan them. Once scanned we will return your originals along with a digital copy on a CD for you to keep. If you don't want to send us the original photos please email digital copies to the address above. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

## Culture Events

You asked for it and the Culture Committee heard you. We are adding more events this year to come, visit with other tribal members and learn about our culture.

As mentioned in the last Turtle Talk we are adding events that will be geared towards our youth and/or allow our youth to attend during the summer. This should not detour parents or elders from attending as all will be welcome.

We have added to the calendar a Stomp Dance, Youth Culture weekend and will be adding local classes in the future. These are in addition to the annual Culture week, annual meeting and Pow-Wow in September.

Please monitor the Nation's website on a regular basis for updates, surveys and registration. Notices of updates or registration being available on the Nation's website will also be placed on our Facebook page. Registering for these events allows the committee to be prepared for the number attending and have sufficient supplies and handouts.

If you are interested in helping with these events please contact the Culture Committee.

### Save the dates:

**Stomp Dance** – Saturday, April 12, 2014, starting at noon at the Pow-Wow grounds --weather permitting. The alternate location is the Bearskin Gym. Lunch will be provided. Bring a dessert. This is open to all tribal members and their families. Don't be afraid to come if you don't know how to dance, we will have instructors to teach you. Don't be afraid to come if you don't want to dance. This will be a time to socialize with other members and get to know each other and our families.

**Youth Culture Weekend** – Friday, June 20 – Sunday, June 22, 2014. Activities will be "geared" towards youth ages 6 to 15, but all ages are welcome. Activities will include making moc-

casins, shawls, learning social native and Pow-Wow dancing to name a few. Youth ages 6 to 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 14 & 15 will have the opportunity, with parents' permission, to stay overnight at the Bearskin facility. Separate accommodations will be made between males and females. Camping will be available at the Pow-Wow grounds for families or if your family is interested in joining the teens you will need to include with your registration, and space will be based upon availability.



David Culver and Deryl Wright visit the Wright Family Cemetery.

Please note the teens will have later lights out guidelines and may not be accommodating to those with younger children or parents. Youth oriented meals will be provided by the Tribe. Additional activities, accommodations announcements will be coming.

**Culture Week** – Wednesday, Sept. 10 – Friday, Sept. 12. This year activities will be geared toward our 25th anniversary of Pow-Wow. This year will be less sitting and more time allocated to projects, which will include learning to dance, shawl and bandolier making. More details will be announced at a later date. This year we are also asking for everyone to look through old family pictures and bring them with you that we can scan and add to the collection of tribal members. We are especially interested in obtaining pictures of the original Oklahoma land allottees. Watch for details of giveaways for submitting old pictures.

**Annual Meeting Saturday**, Sept. 13, 2014.

**25th Annual Pow-Wow Friday**, Sept. 12 – Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014. WATCH THE WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES TO THIS YEAR'S EVENT.

## Cemetery Visit

Jan. 10, 2014 was an unusually warm day for January and Wyandotte Nation Cultural Committee Members Deryl Wright and David Culver took the opportunity to visit the Wright Family Cemetery. This was the first time Deryl had the opportunity to visit the cemetery since the 1950s.

The cemetery is located on the land of the original Wright Family Allotment. This cemetery was almost lost to time and had fallen into disrepair because it was located in an isolated wooded area and most had forgotten the location.

Two years ago the Wyandotte Nation made an agreement with the present land owner to allow the Nation to clean and maintain the cemetery. Work such as this helps to ensure our ancestors are not forgotten and that their final resting places are identified and maintained so they may rest in peace.

## Veterans Project

The Wyandotte Nation Cultural Committee is initiating a project to identify all tribal citizens who have served in the armed forces of the United States. This project begins by asking all citizens for any information regarding tribal members who have been KIA (Killed in Action), MIA (Missing in Action) and or a POW (Prisoner of War).

The concept of this project is to ensure that all who have served are honored and remembered. Please send any information including any photographs or other documents to either Sherri Clemons, Director of the Tribal Heritage Department at the Nation or via email to David Culver, Cultural Committee Member at [dulver2@cox.net](mailto:dulver2@cox.net). If there are any questions, please contact Sherri or David about this important effort.

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Important Numbers

### Police Department

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

### Tribal Social Worker

Tara Gragg (918) 678-6355  
tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org

### Enrollment / Tags

Dana Butterfield (918) 678-6319  
dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

### School Supplies / Emergency Assistance / Car Seats

Kate Randall (918) 678-6324  
krandall@wyandotte-nation.org

### Nutrition & Caregiver Services

Brenda House (918) 678-6327  
bhouse@wyandotte-nation.org

### Human Resources

Deana Howard (918) 678-6320  
dhoward@wyandotte-nation.org

### Education / Library / Child Care

Tammy Charles (918) 678-6330  
tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org

### Environmental

Christen Lee (918) 678-6341  
clee@wyandotte-nation.org

### Historical

Sherri Clemons (918) 678-6344  
sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org

### Planning / Development

Ron Kaiser (918) 678-6325  
rkaiser@wyandotte-nation.org

### Housing

Kathy DeWeese (918) 678-6339  
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 Burlison (918) 678-3227  
bburlison@wyandotte-nation.org

### Diabetes Clinic

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

## Wyandotte Nation District Court

In 2013 the Legislature ordained and established the Tribal District Court. The District Court is comprised of a District Judge, who was appointed by the Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors. The District Court has jurisdiction over all civil actions arising under the Constitution, Laws or Treaties of the Wyandotte Nation which arise in the tribal jurisdiction, or which may be assigned to it by Legislative or Executive Order.

Effective March 1, 2013, the Wyandotte Nation Judicial Department by and through the District Court of the Wyandotte Nation assumed full jurisdiction of the CFR caseload and all cases to be filed in the future. The first docket was heard by District

Judge Jon Douthitt April 24, 2013. The Wyandotte Nation District Court is held on the 4th Wednesday of every month.

All decisions made by the District Court will be recognized by the State and CFR Courts. The Supreme Court has full authority on any appeal from the District Court to affirm, reverse, modify or vacate any action in the District Court or other entity from which an appeal is taken as authorized by law.

The District Court will focus on family issues such as divorce, child custody, child support, parental rights, visitation and adoption, civil matters, juvenile matters, and guardianship. The Court will also preside over criminal misdemeanors for crimes committed by Indians on tribal land.

This Court will be designed to assist Wyandotte Nation people, but

it will accept others into the Court upon execution of certain waivers. The Court will incorporate traditional values into the system to provide a more personal touch to its solutions on matters brought before it.

The District Court consists of the presiding Judge and Special Judges as may be appointed according to law. The District Judge is appointed by the Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors and serves a four (4) year term of office beginning the date of their confirmation and until his/her successor takes office, unless removed for cause, by death or resignation. Honorable District Judge Douthitt was appointed April 24, 2013. He was sworn in April 24 by Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. The Prosecutor for the Wyandotte Nation District Court is Geri Wisner. She was sworn in April 24 by Chief Friend.

## Oklahoma Indian Legal Services available for tribal members

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. (OILS) is a non-profit legal aid office that provides services to low-income Indians living in Oklahoma.

The attorneys and staff at OILS represent Indian people in civil cases that are connected to their Indian status. This means that OILS clients are members of federally-recognized tribes who are facing problems that are related to that status.

The main OILS office is centrally located in Oklahoma City, Okla., with a satellite office in Ada, Okla. From these locations, OILS attorneys provide services to all counties in the state.

OILS receives its funding from the Legal Services Corporation, Washington, D.C. OILS is one of six "stand-alone" Indian law programs in the nation.

A "stand-alone" program is a legal services office that only handles Indian law issues. Many other legal aid offices have a component program that serves Indian law clients. These programs are called "component programs," and consist of attorneys within larger legal aid communities who specialize in Indian law. These are located in states with smaller Indian populations.

OILS specializes in the areas of law that impact Indian people because they are members of a federally-recognized tribe. These

cases include the Indian Child Welfare Act, probate on restricted lands, wills for elderly Indians on trust or restricted land, Indian housing issues, tribal sovereignty issues, and individual rights.

OILS also provides community education about Indian law issues to Native American groups, tribal employees, and attorneys and judges nationally. OILS attorneys are recognized nationally for their expertise in property and particularly in the Indian Child Welfare Act. OILS publishes "The Indian Child Welfare Act: Case and Analysis." It is updated annually and is one of the few national resources for case information in this fast-changing area of Indian law.

In addition to providing legal services for civil matters in tribal, state and federal courts, OILS also conducts several other programs designed to help all citizens. For example, OILS conducts a low-income tax clinic with funding from the Internal Revenue Service.

OILS also contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to assist restricted land owners in clearly probates to deceased land owners in eastern and southern Oklahoma. A Justice Department grant makes it possible for OILS to represent Indians in tribal court criminal proceedings in certain cases.

OILS has an Indian versus Indian policy which prohibit the representation of one Indian per-

son against another. However, there are some exceptions to this policy.

From January through April, the low-income tax clinic (LITC) provides information to people with tax problems through seminars and meetings conducted throughout the state. This program, through a grant from the Internal Revenue Service, is available for all low-income people.

If you need to complete an application, you can call the office during regular business hours. The telephone number is (800) 658-1497 (in state, toll free) or (405) 943-6457 (out of state or in Oklahoma City). You can also walk in at our Oklahoma City office and complete an application during regular business hours.

OILS does many community educations for tribes, local bar associations, and other interested groups. If you would like OILS to have a community education for your group, email Steve Hager at hager@oilsonline.org.

If you have questions regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act, podcasts are now available for this topic. More will be added in the future, so be sure and check back.

**Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc.**  
4200 Perimeter Center Drive, Suite 222  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
(405) 943-6457 or (800) 658-1497 (In State Only) or (405) 917-7060 (Fax)  
email: oils@oilsonline.org

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Healthcare

### *Submitted by Kelly Walker*

In recent years, tribal citizens, both Wyandotte and Eastern Shawnee, using healthcare services through Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center has increased dramatically in all categories, including primary medical, contract health specialty services, vision, dental and audiology. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, a dramatic increase in user population is expected to continue.

The user population has been manageable with third party revenue and federal funding allowing the clinic to serve tribal members without restriction nationwide. However, federal funding received by Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center is based only on the user population within 12 counties in Oklahoma. The Bearskin clinic has been able to supplement funding with third party revenue to offer services to citizens beyond the geographical area in years past. Unfortunately, with the Affordable Care Act establishment, it is expected to multiply local and nationwide users at an even faster rate. In addition, funding has been cut at the federal level, with this year at a measure of 3-5% for all services. Measures have been taken so that services can continue to be provided to members in compliance and not discontinue service.

Two funds are available through the clinic for these services. Using a contracted provider of Bearskin Healthcare allows the patient to receive greater services for the amount of funding approved.

The Wyandotte Nation government offers citizens, 18 & older, up to \$750 per year for dental expenses in addition to the Benny card received, regardless of where you live within the United States. This money can be used without seeing the physician every three years, **as funding allows**. Requirements for eligibility are:

Patient must have a current chart on file at Bearskin Healthcare for such services. This record includes tribal membership card, insurance card (if available), social security card, driver's license and medical history form.

All providing facilities must agree to terms and conditions of billing procedures with Bearskin Healthcare. Failure to do so is subject to declination of payment for services rendered.

All treatments must be pre-authorized by Bearskin Healthcare. It is the patient's responsibility to verify that treatment plans have been authorized, before treatment is rendered.

In the event an appointment must be cancelled or rescheduled, Bearskin

Healthcare should be notified. Habitual failure to show for a scheduled appointment may result in revocation of dental services for one fiscal year. Habitual is defined as failure to call or attend three consecutive appointments.

Services provided by Bearskin Healthcare run from the Fiscal Year cycle of Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

\*\*Services excluded are orthodontics, whitening's, bridges and IV sedation.

The second fund available is for children and adult emergency dental, audiology and vision for both Eastern Shawnee and Wyandotte Nation citizens. All Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee tribal members, regardless of residence in the United States are eligible for emergency dental (if over the age of 18), children's dental (under the age of 18), and optometry and audiology services. Requirements to utilize this benefit are:

**Tribal members must be seen by a physician at Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center once every three years** to maintain an updated medical record. If patient has not been seen in the clinic within the last three years,

they will not be eligible for these benefits until appointment is completed. Information needed at visit includes: tribal membership card, insurance card (if available), social security card, driver's license and medical history form.

All appointments must have prior authorization with the providing facility. Failure to do so is subject to declination of payment for services rendered.

All treatments must be pre-authorized by Bearskin Healthcare. It is the patient's responsibility to verify that treatment plans have been authorized, before treatment is rendered.

In the event an appointment must be cancelled or rescheduled, Bearskin Healthcare should be notified. Habitual failure to show for a scheduled appointment may result in revocation of dental services for one fiscal year. Habitual is defined as failure to call or attend three consecutive appointments.

This source, in addition to the previous, is only available as funding allows.

Emergency adult dental consists of a limited exam, limited x-ray and extractions only.

Optometry benefits are provided at the rates of:

- \$175 for single vision, including exam
- \$225 for multi-focal vision, including exam
- Audiology benefits are provided at the rates of:
- \$1000 per ear towards hearing aids
- \$75 per hearing exam

**Again, it is the patient's responsibility to contact the Health Ser-**

**vices Technician or Contract Health Coordinator and receive approval on each and every appointment or change in appointment initiated by the patient or provider for any contracted service. This includes contract health, dental, optometry or audiology.**

The guidelines are policies we have set at Bearskin Clinic to be able to continue to serve those outside our contract health services delivery area (CHSDA) as long as possible with selected services. The mission of the government of the Wyandotte Nation is to improve the quality of life for all tribal citizens. This goal is continuously the focus of services provided by Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center and is reflected upon as decisions, policies and procedures are created and updated.

Legally, Bearskin Healthcare is only required to serve those within our CHSDA.

Historically and currently, serving outside the CHSDA has been based on the discretion and availability of funds by Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center.

Funds are being continually decreased and the user population is constantly increasing. It is necessary to keep up to date on the policies and procedures when using services provided.

In addition to the services offered above, the Wyandotte Nation has provided funding for assistance in Durable Medical Equipment. The policies and procedures to utilize this funding is:

- A patient in need of a rental or purchase of Durable Medical Equipment will have to reside within a 100 mile radius from the Bearskin Health Clinic.
- A patient will not be able to be reimbursed for purchases on their own.
- The patient inquiring about this equipment will need to establish a chart at Bearskin Health Clinic, if not already an established patient here.
- This program is offered only for Wyandotte Tribal Members since the monies come from the Wyandotte Nation Social Services Division.
- Medicare and Insurance eligibility will be checked prior to a purchase or rental of equipment, of the patient inquiring on the DME.
- A total amount of \$250 is the maximum allowance toward the purchase of a Lift Chair. This will be based on first come first serve basis, or if money is available.
- A total amount of \$500 is the maximum allowance toward the purchase of a Power Wheelchair. This will be based on first come first serve basis or if money is available.

- A total amount of \$500 is the maximum allowance toward the purchase of a Power Scooter. This will be based on first come first serve basis or if money is available.
- Nebulizers are available at the Bearskin Health Clinic.
- Hoyer Lifts, hospital beds, wheelchairs, and crutches will be rented for 2 months. After that time, it will be re-evaluated if patient still needs rental for this equipment. After 2 months, if not turned back in to facility of rental, patient will be responsible for any charges incurred.
- If there is not a wheelchair available at Bearskin Health Clinic to check out, a wheelchair will be rented or purchased depending on nature of necessity.
- Bedside commodes, 2 wheel walkers, 4 wheel walkers, and canes will be purchased for patient.
- All patients participating in this program will need a doctor's order from Bearskin Health Clinic or from another physician's office.

In addition, Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center pledges to provide primary and preventative healthcare of the highest quality to tribal members and the community we serve, utilizing all available resources.

### REFERENCES & RESOURCES

Websites for Assistance with Patient Medications, Free or Discounted, and other available information. This could be used for patients outside of the Bearskin Services area or for covering/assisting with prescriptions that Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center does not provide on formulary.

1. From Lilly for help w/Diabetes patients who take Humalog [www.humalog.com](http://www.humalog.com) (Free trial offer where you get a sample kit every 12 months)

2. Also from Lilly, [www.lillytruassist.com](http://www.lillytruassist.com) assistance with other Lilly medications

3. From Novo Nordisk for patients with Diabetes, Bleeding Disorders, Growth Hormone issues, and Women's Health Hormone Therpay issues this website offers assistance.

[http://www.novonordisk-us.com/documents/article\\_page/document/Patient\\_Assistance\\_Home.asp](http://www.novonordisk-us.com/documents/article_page/document/Patient_Assistance_Home.asp)

4. Novo Nordisk for Diabetics there are free pamphlets and guidelines, and other free offers at [www.cornerstones-4care.com](http://www.cornerstones-4care.com)

5. [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org) has links to many pharmaceutical companies that have patient assistance programs

6. Pfizer [www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com](http://www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com)

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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7. Merck [www.merck.com/merck-helps/patientassistance/home.html](http://www.merck.com/merck-helps/patientassistance/home.html)  
 8. Glaxo Smith Kline [www.gskforyou.com](http://www.gskforyou.com)  
 9. Astra Zeneca [www.astrazeneca-us.com](http://www.astrazeneca-us.com)

[com/medicines/help-affording-your-medicines](http://com/medicines/help-affording-your-medicines)

10. Abbott [www.patientassistance.com/profile/abbott-363](http://www.patientassistance.com/profile/abbott-363)  
 11. Bristol Myers Squibb [www.bms.com/products/pages/programs.aspx](http://www.bms.com/products/pages/programs.aspx)  
 12. Bayer Healthcare [\[tassistance.com/profile/bayerhealth-carepharmaceuticals\\\_70\]\(http://tassistance.com/profile/bayerhealth-carepharmaceuticals\_70\)](http://www.patient-</a></p>
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13. Wyeth [www.patientassistance.com/profile/wyethpharmaceuticals\\_351](http://www.patientassistance.com/profile/wyethpharmaceuticals_351)  
 14. Janssen [assistance](http://www.janssenpharmaceuticalsinc.com/our-company/patient-</a></p>
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15. McKesson <http://www.mckesson.com/manufacturers/pharmaceuticals/oncology-and-specialty-pharmaceutical-services/patient-assistance-programs-paps/>  
 16. Another website with links to multiple pharmaceutical companies <http://www.rxassist.org/pap-info/company-detail?cmpld=150>  
 17. [www.m.goodrx.com](http://www.m.goodrx.com)

## Affordable Care Act Exemptions for Native Americans

Application for Exemption for American Indians and Alaska Natives and Other Individuals who are Eligible to Receive Services from an Indian Health Care Provider.

Form Approved, OMB No. 0938-1190

<http://origin.library.constant-contact.com/download/get/file/1101209641433-18/tribal-exemption+application.pdf>

Use this application if you or anyone in your tax household is a member of an Indian tribe or another individual who's eligible for health services through the Indian Health Service, tribes and tribal organizations, or urban Indian organizations. Complete the application and send it to the address on page 3 of the application.

For help with the application, call Health Insurance Marketplace Help Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325.

<http://nativenewsonline.net/health/tribal-affordable-care-act-exemption-form-available-online/>

## Fitness

Chances are at some time in your life you've made a New Year's resolution — and then broken it. This year, stop the cycle of resolving to make change and then not following through. If your resolution is to take better care of yourself and get healthy, you will have a much better year if your resolution sticks. Let Bearskin Fitness Center help you out and try one of our fitness classes.

We are now offering Yoga in the morning and evening. Another Zumba night will be added to our fitness calendar to help meet patrons' busy life styles. Please call us or come by and visit so we can help you make your resolution stick! You can also check us out on Facebook!

Starting Jan. 21, Bearskin Fitness Center will be starting our basketball league. Get a team together and come sign up today!

For more information please call 918-678-2070.

**OPEN TO  
MEN &  
WOMEN**



**APRIL 19, 2014  
WEIGH-INS START  
AT 7:30AM  
EVENT BEGINS  
AT 10AM**

**OPEN TO ANY INDEPENDENT  
OR SPONSORED ATHLETE**  
 Heavyweight 230 lbs and above  
 Featherweight 229 lbs and below

**PRE-REGISTRATION - \$35**  
 (On or before April 7)

**WALK UP REGISTRATION - \$50**

**EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT  
BEARSKIN HEALTHCARE  
& WELLNESS CENTER**  
 1 Turtle Drive  
 Wyandotte, OK 74370

### EVENTS INCLUDE:

The Farmers Carry,  
 Vehicle Deadfit,  
 Press Medley,  
 Tire Flip  
**AND MORE!**

### SUPER HERO RUN

5K & 1 Mile Fun Walk  
 Super Hero Run  
 starts at 8am  
 5K starts at 9:15am

Donations of animal food will be accepted for the Humane Society of Grove & Grand Lake.

**SUPER HERO RUN  
IS A FREE EVENT!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
 Travis Rhatigan  
 E-mail: [trhatigan@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:trhatigan@wyandotte-nation.org)



Eastern Shawnee Tribe  
of Oklahoma



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