



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 19, Issue 2

www.wyandotte-nation.org

May 2015



Preschool Pow-Wow

Students perform
for packed house

PAGE 10

Gyah'-wish Atak-ia is published quarterly for Tribal Citizens by the Wyandotte Nation at its headquarters in Wyandotte, Okla.

The Wyandotte Nation
64700 E Hwy 60
Wyandotte, OK 74370

(918) 678-2297
(800) 256-2539
Fax (918) 678-2944



Inside:

- Brumbaugh plays key part in Apple launch
- Rain can't deter Superheroes in 5K, Strongman
- Wyandotte Nation Environmental Festival

Board of Directors

Chief..... Billy Friend
 Second Chief..... Norman Hildebrand, Jr.
 Councilperson..... Ramona Reid
 Councilperson..... Vivian Fink
 Councilperson..... Juanita McQuiston
 Councilperson..... Eric Lofland

Content

Word Search..... 3
 FEATURE: Riding wave of future 4
 Town Hall Meetings 5
 Strongman/Superhero 5K event 6
 Environmental festival..... 7
 Awareness campaign launches..... 7
 Stride for Life 8
 WTOK news roundup 9
 Preschool Pow-Wow 10
 Member News..... 12
 Tribal Department Reports..... 13-18
 Important Numbers 18

Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:
William Swaim

Contact Us

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

Looking for Elders, Veterans for Feature Stories

We are looking for tribal members who are veterans to feature in upcoming issues, whether you live in the Oklahoma area or some far off distant land, we want to hear your 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



From the Chief

Billy Friend

Wyandottes continue to persevere

"For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed." -- Malachi 3:6 NASB

Once again it is that time of year when we begin to see winter change to spring and then spring to summer. It is at this time that I am reminded that change seems to be the one constant which we can consistently assume will occur.

In our modern-day age, it often seems we are just getting comfortable with some process or reality when change marches in to alter everything! Nowhere is this situation as obvious as in technology and communication. Those of us who work with information – whether in the form of words, numbers, images or other – are constantly challenged with change.

The Wyandotte Nation and the Wyandotte people are no strangers to change. Throughout our history we have been confronted with difficulties and problems that would have defeated most people.

Our ancestors were constantly removed from our homelands and sent to new and challenging territories. For over 200 years we were challenged by not just the land and the lack of resources, but also the invasions of enemies bent on erasing our tribe from history.

We have persevered and are once again thriving – and that is precisely the point. Change is a constant the Wyandotte Nation

and our citizens have faced with resolve and fortitude.

For our ancestors of the past, the skills of war and hunting were the most crucial. Later, they recognized they would have to learn new skills in order to adapt to the ever-changing environment.

Today, we are succeeding in the modern world primarily through education. An ever-growing number of Wyandottes are professionals, trades journeymen, artists, scientists, attorneys, soldiers and so much more. Wyandotte citizens are succeeding in these disciplines because we have recognized the changes in our current society and stayed current with those changes.

Could our relatives over a century ago have imagined what we today are achieving? The Wyandotte Nation of 1867 that arrived here in Oklahoma looked much different than today. The people were maintaining their families, for the most part, at bare minimum levels. There was virtually no opportunity for Wyandottes. The changes that had swept through essentially all of Indian country had created extreme hardships and challenges.

But our people persevered and, slowly at first, Wyandottes adapted to the changes and learned how to survive and even engage in new aspects of work, family and life.

Today, the changes we experience are not so basic and earth-shaking, but the changes come at us much faster. For us now, balancing the demands of modern work and society with the traditions that define us has become the toughest test. We cherish our families and our relationships even as we are tugged by the 24/7 demands of our careers and our world.

Even success and progress has its challenges. We now live in countless places, we work in a variety of careers, and we are pulled by the changes the world continues to throw at us. Those are the challenges that we as Wyandotte people will have to meet and overcome, as we always have.

We must remember our culture and the legacy that has been passed on to us.

We must remember to care for one another, cherish our families, be honorable, be strong and proud to be Wyandotte!

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Town Hall meetings a chance to reach citizens; Latest news on projects

Kweh,
 Spring has finally arrived here in Wyandotte and with it thunderstorms, and here in Oklahoma when we have thunderstorms there are tornados. Since Oklahoma sits in the middle of tornado alley it's pretty much assured there will be some violent storms.

Enough about that, the middle of

March we traveled to Phoenix, Ariz., for a town hall meeting with our tribal citizens in that area. We had a fantastic time -- the area was beautiful and the people we met were wonderful. It is an honor and privilege to be able to bring these town hall meetings to our tribal citizens who don't have the opportunity to travel to Wyandotte, Okla., for our Annual

Meeting and Pow-Wow in September. The next town hall meeting was in Indianapolis April 11 and this was our first venture east.

We have over 5,700 tribal citizens spread all over the United States and the majority of them are from Oklahoma to the West coast; out East



See **Second Chief**, Page 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**THE GATHERING OF
LITTLE TURTLES** **JUNE
26-28**



**THE
GATHERING** **SEPT.
9-11**



**26TH ANNUAL WYANDOTTE
NATION POW-WOW**

**SEPT.
11-13**



**ANNUAL
MEETING** **SEPT.
12**



ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

there is not an area that has a large concentration of tribal members so picking a place to hold a town hall meeting is a difficult one. If anyone that lives in the Eastern part of the United States have any suggestions please let us know.

In our last Newsletter we put a picture of what the Culture Center/Museum we hope will look like. It is a unique design, so unique that the construction bids came in way over budget. We made some changes and put in some alternative bid options we hope will bring the construction costs down. We are doing our best to try and keep the original design, but we may have to go back to the drawing board and come up with a design more conducive to our budget for this project. The main thing is to get our Culture Center/Museum built, but rest assured whichever design we go with, it will be something the Wyandotte Nation will be proud of for generations to come.

The weather has hampered progress on the two new duplexes in Heritage Acres but the framing is moving along right now and they should be finished within their allotted time frame. We have in the architectural stages an activities/safe room for Title VI and a gross motor skills/safe room for the pre-school. These two additions will provide space for various activities as well as a safe place to go in case of severe storms.

The remodel at the Wyandotte Nation Casino here in Wyandotte is finally done except for some touch ups. It looks fantastic inside and out. Crossland Construction done a wonderful job as always. We now have the means to host small conferences, banquets and small entertainment venues. The landscape here at the Wyandotte Nation changes constantly for the betterment of the tribe and its citizens.

Economic development is the driving force that provides the means by

“Sound character provides the power with which a person may ride the emergencies of life instead of being overwhelmed by them. Failure is the high-way to success.”

-- Og Mandino, Author

which we can better provide the services benefiting our tribal members. Chief Friend and WTOK CEO Kelly Carpino’s main focus is on enhancing the opportunities for economic development that will benefit the Wyandotte Nation for future growth. As our economic development grows so does the future of the Wyandotte Nation, so to Chief Friend, Kelly Carpino and the staff at WTOK -- keep up the good work.

I don’t know if any of you keep up with what goes on in the Indian World like I do but it seems I can’t go to a meeting or a conference without somebody talking about marijuana. Last year the federal government ruled that it was legal for Native American Tribes to grow marijuana on tribal property. But they forgot one little issue it is still a crime under Federal Law and that is what makes this ruling such a gray area. In the state of Washington they say they will not prosecute but Deputy U.S. Attorneys here in Oklahoma say they will prosecute.

In our own Tribal Court we already had codes adopted making it illegal to grow, cultivate or sell marijuana on our Tribal Lands.

We want to set a good example for our young people so the Wyandotte Nation will never engage in this type of business.

It is my privilege and honor not only to serve the Wyandotte Nation as your Second Chief it is also an honor to be a citizen of the greatest Indian Nation in the World the Wyandotte Nation.

Tizameh.

Word Search

k	ʔ	k	t	š	ú	k	a	t	a	u	y	t	i
r	w	a	š	á	ę	t	s	í	t	y	ę	s	e
e	ę	ę	a	r	k	h	ę	a	e	á	w	e	š
n	t	r	:	s	a	u	k	z	h	:	á	h	ʔ
y	á	t	ʔ	ó	h	s	š	w	a	r	s	ę	u
ę	y	s	y	é	t	s	q	h	r	e	u	h	n
t	y	í	d	ʔ	z	:	t	u	ó	ʔ	r	s	y
á	a	ʔ	y	a	r	í	w	e	:	s	a	k	ó
ʔ	n	d	š	ę	h	w	ę	d	n	a	h	á	h
y	y	w	i	š	w	k	t	z	y	ʔ	z	ʔ	š
e	é	a	h	e	d	í	á	w	u	t	š	y	a
í	n	r	é	:	h	a	y	u	n	é	h	a	ʔ
á	q	a	s	ʔ	i	š	e	ę	ʔ	w	a	h	a
a	h	ʔ	t	e	d	i	h	:	s	a	k	ó	i

White - aʔyaríwe:sa

Black - tsehęhskáʔyah

Red - wętáyeh

Blue - teharó:nyu

Green - tsiʔdwaraʔ

Yellow - krenyętáʔye

1 - skat

2 - tedih

3 - šęhk

Go! - ahedí

Cat - takúš

Dog - yanyénq̄h

Fish - yętsq̄h

Corn - unęhaʔ

Beans - uyá:reʔsaʔ

Pumpkin/Squash - unyóhšaʔ

4 - dahk

5 - wiš

6 - wašá

Wait! - usáwę

Going crazy (sakwižáʔeh déhsq̄) trying to find the words?
You can find the answers at the following web address:
wyandotte-nation.org/culture/language/word-search

Riding the wave of the future

Brumbaugh's passion for technology opens door to creative success

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

Since he was a young kid, Eli Brumbaugh has been fascinated with technology.

From building his own computers out of spare parts as a kid, to playing an integral part in the launch of Apple's latest product -- the Apple Watch -- Brumbaugh's creative pursuits have opened the door to success in this age of technology.

The advent of the Internet in the 90s proved to be a driving force for Brumbaugh, 29, a tribal citizen who grew up in Houston and currently lives in San Francisco.

"I was very blessed to grow up in a home that supported my creative pursuits no matter how silly they might have been," said Brumbaugh, a Senior Product Designer at Salesforce. "Having early access to a computer with the Internet as a young kid in the 90s was life changing.

"I learned how to build my own computers from scrap parts and fell in love with technology and web design. I guess in one form or another this has always been my passion."

Those early pursuits led Brumbaugh on a path to where he is today -- most recently, playing a key part in the Apple Watch product launch.

As a Senior Product Designer at Salesforce for the last year and a half, Brumbaugh creates large-scale design systems, with a few teammates, that spread across desktop, tablet, mobile and wearables for the Analytics product. He said this includes



Q&A with Eli Brumbaugh

- **College?** Kansas City Art Institute.
- **Hobbies?** Travel, Read, Write, Design Side Projects.
- **Favorite food?** Mexican.
- **All-time favorite movie?** Brutal question. I love trilogies. Any work for me.
- **Favorite TV show?** Current: Parks and Rec. All-Time: Top Gear (UK)

- **Best movie you've seen in the past year?** Guardians of the Galaxy
- **Who is your role model?** My Father, Elon Musk.
- **Last book you've read?** Ready Player One.
- **Favorite music?** Depends on what I'm doing. Working - Upbeat / fast paced, Electronic, Rock. Relaxing - Chill, Indie, Acoustic.

2015 Town Hall meetings another success

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation wrapped up a series of Town Hall Meetings in March and April with visits to Tribal Citizens in Phoenix and Indianapolis.

“Once again our Town Hall meetings exceeded our expectations this year,” said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. “We had great turnouts in both Phoenix and Indianapolis and had the privilege of meeting some outstanding tribal citizens for the first time.”

This is the third year tribal leadership has brought the Annual Meeting on the road to improve communication and make connections with tribal citizens who live away from Tribal headquarters in Wyandotte, Okla.

“I have told our staff on several occasions that I feel like that these town hall gatherings have been one of the greatest projects that we have ever done,” Chief Friend said. “It helps provide that connection



that many have not ever had in the past, and to understand that no matter where you live you can be proud to call yourself a citizen of the Wyandotte Nation.”

Chief Friend said next year they are looking at returning to the Northwest and California

regions where it all started.

Be sure to follow the Wyandotte Nation website, www.wyandotte-nation.org, the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Wyandotte-Nation, and the Turtle Talk newsletter for upcoming information concerning dates and locations.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
(Above) Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Princess Emilee Wills and Chief Billy Friend take time for photos with members of the Harper family in Phoenix. (Left) Princess Emilee Wills tells a young tribal citizen in Indianapolis about her dress. (Below) Caleb Garcia shows his fancy dance routine at the Indianapolis Town Hall.



Eli

Continued from Page 4

wearing several hats as an interaction designer, visual designer and front-end developer.

He said designing for Apple Watch was uncharted territory for him.

“Salesforce was selected by Apple to be included in the product launch. I was selected by Salesforce to represent us in the process and translate our existing iPhone app onto the Apple Watch,” he said. “This meant redesigning the entire system for a 42mm and 38mm screen size, exploring new forms of human interaction with a device and visual design patterns.”

He said news of Apple Watch selecting Salesforce happened while he and a few co-workers were about to grab dinner to celebrate wrapping up a previous project.

“I just blanked. I probably went pale. It was huge,” he said. “As a Designer being part of an Apple product launch, let alone a new product launch for something as monumental as the Apple Watch – it’s one of the greatest accom-

Accomplishments

- 50+ Art Shows as a painter around the country prior to becoming a designer
- Earned a Property and Casualty Insurance License in the State of Texas prior to becoming a designer.
- Accepted into the Kansas City Art Institute to study Graphic Design on a competitive scholarship.
- Attained 4 Scholarships as a student.
- 20+ Awards for creative work as a student and professional.
- 5 Internships as a student.
- A Graphic Design USA Top Student to Watch in 2013.
- Accepted into the highly competitive Huge UX School in Brooklyn post graduation.
- Hired by Salesforce as a Product Designer.
- Designed the world’s first Enterprise Apple Watch app.
- Being part of a new Apple product launch.

plishments I could have ever hoped to achieve.”

Brumbaugh said being able to create the first Enterprise app for that same device was incredible. “Experimental interfaces is something I’m really passionate about.

Being selected by my company to pioneer the way our system works on a wearable device like the watch was an honor,” he said.

Other than his technological pursuits, his family and his heritage have been important parts of his life and the path he has taken.

“Growing up with the Native American heritage my father (Elon Musk) and I share was always a source of pride for our family,” he said. “Squire Grey Eyes is my great, great, great grandfather. As a kid I remember visiting the tribe in Oklahoma, attending Pow-Wows, visiting the historic Wyandot Mission Church in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and viewing the Wyandot National Burying Ground in Kansas City, Kansas.

“Identifying as a Native American helped give me a strong sense of self. Having pride in one’s culture is very important.”

Like many tribal citizens, Brumbaugh has benefited from the many benefits the Tribe has provided, including the tribal scholarship program. He said the programs have been a blessing.

“It reminds me that the tribe is

invested in the future of its members. As members of the tribe we must in turn invest back into it,” he said.

As for that return on investment, perhaps his early successes will help raise awareness about the opportunities available to young tribal citizens.

“I would love to see more Native Americans in the Tech industry. Diversity in any industry will only strengthen it and this country. The only way this is going to happen is through awareness,” he said. “Young Native Americans need to know these kinds of opportunities not only exist but that they are easily attainable with hard work and dedication.”

As for the future, Brumbaugh’s creative pursuits are taking him to loftier goals.

“My current goals are to work on user interfaces for commercial space travel, satellite communication and space mining,” he said, “which means I’ve had to start teaching myself everything I can about those subjects now.

“That future is becoming less science fiction with each passing day.”

Superheroes weather rain for Strongman, 5K

Events help raise awareness for Methamphetamine & Suicide Prevention Initiative

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The annual Bearskin Strongman Competition and Superhero 5K run took place Saturday, April 18, despite the constant downpour of rain.

“Despite the delay due to weather, we had a wonderful event,” said Kelly Walker, Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center Director. “We had a record number register at over 450, with over 237 who actually participated. In addition, we had a whole pallet of pet food donated for our local animal rescue shelters.”

Event Winners

Superhero 5K

Overall Male: David Winters, 19:19
Overall Female: Victoria Kline, 19:41

Strongman

Heavyweight: Shane Redden
Runner-up: Cody Watkins
Lightweight: David (DJ) Burleson
Runner-up: Jake Mustain

Strongwoman

Heavyweight: Cristina Ockert
Runner-up: Alyssa Reece
Lightweight: Summer Tunnell
Runner-up: Vicki Fleming

Competitors opened the morning, after a slight delay, with the 5k run and 1-mile fun walk. Later on the strong put their muscles to the test, flipping tires, carrying pipes and rocks, and pulling a fire truck and ambulance -- to name a few of the challenges.

The events were held to raise awareness for the Wyandotte Nation's Methamphetamine & Suicide Prevention Initiative.

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend presented the overall run winners with a plaque and the top finishers with medals. David Winters, of Quapaw, Okla., finished with the fastest time overall with a time of 19:19.



(Top) Mark Goode works hard to flip a tire uphill during the Strongman competition. (Above left) Alyssa Reece carries a heavy pipe during the medley event. (Above right) Runners get off to a fast start in the 5K despite the rain.

Victoria Kline, of Miami, Okla., had the second fastest overall time and was the overall female winner with a time of 19:41.

As for the Strongman competition, Shane Redden was the Heavyweight Champion and David (DJ) Burleson was the

Lightweight Champion. Cody Watkins finished as runner-up in the heavyweight division while Jake Mustain was the lightweight runner-up.

In the women's competition, Cristina Ockert was the Heavyweight Champion while Summer

Tunnell was the Lightweight Champion. Alyssa Reece finished as the heavyweight runner-up while Vicki Fleming was the lightweight runner-up.

For complete race results, visit: www.dgroadracing.com/#!results/ckpj

Students learn about environment at festival



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
(Above) The Wyandotte Nation's Jon Quick shows students a display on reusing different materials at the 8th Annual Environmental Festival. (Left) Several interactive booths were set up at the event.

The Wyandotte Nation held its 8th Annual Environmental Festival April 24 at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center gymnasium.

"Our 8th Annual Environmental Festival was very successful," said Kathy Welch, Environmental Assistant. "We had ten tribal booths represented, and seven local and state agencies' booths."

She said 607 attended the event, including students from across the area who had a chance to learn more about issues affecting the environment, as well as solutions and ways to help minimize the impact on our resources.

Leading into the festival, the Lost Creek Recycling Center, 4 Lost Creek Drive in Wyandotte, collected electronic waste to keep it out of landfills.

Campaign launches to improve public response to sexual assault

Various law enforcement agencies, victim service providers, community organizations, and state and local government entities from across the State of Oklahoma have partnered to launch a public awareness campaign focused on improving awareness and response to victims of sexual assault.

This national campaign, Start by Believing, brings awareness to the needs of sexual assault victims, primarily on how the first person a victim confides in after the assault responds to the information. Each person's initial reaction is the first step in a long path toward justice and healing. Knowing how to respond is critical – a negative response can worsen the trauma and foster an environment where sexual assault predators face little or no consequences for their crimes.

"We must change the way sexual assault is perceived and have everyone Start by Believing," said Chief Kendal Murphy, Wyandotte Nation Tribal &



COURTESY PHOTO
Second Chief Norman Hildebrand and Chief of Police Ken Murphy attend the Start By Believing kickoff at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Municipal Police Department and President of the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police. "When a friend or family member tells you they've been sexually assaulted, start by letting them know you believe them. That first conversation is critical in beginning the healing process, ensuring the victim receives the support they need and justice they deserve."

Research shows rapists attack an average of six times, which means one failed or negative response can equal five more victims. The Start by Believing campaign will lead the way toward stopping this cycle by creating a positive community response, informing the public, uniting allies and supporters, and improving our personal reactions. The goal is to provide communities with the tools necessary to improve outcomes for victims -- one positive and supportive response at a time.

The statewide campaign officially launched March 31 at the State Capitol with a proclamation by Gov. Mary Fallin during a press conference in the Blue Room. Police Chief Murphy as well as Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand attended the press conference and launch.

The Start by Believing campaign was developed by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) and is being implemented across Oklahoma by the following partners: Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, Oklahoma City Police

Department, Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Oklahoma District Attorneys Association, Native Alliance Against Violence, Oklahoma Regional Community Policing Institute, the Wyandotte Nation and the Oklahoma Sheriff's Association. These are just a few of the agencies joining forces to bring awareness to and support on behalf of sexual assault victims.

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, support and resources are available 24 hours a day by calling the Safeline at 1-800-522-SAFE (7233).

To cultivate a better community for survivors, we all need to Start by Believing.

Agencies, businesses and individuals across the state are encouraged to adopt the campaign in their organization. For more information about the campaign, please visit EVAWI main website page at <http://www.startbybelieving.org> or, Oklahoma's website at: <http://peptalkok.com/sbb> or you can join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/startbybelievingoklahoma>.

Giving back to the community

7th Street Casino's Stride for Life raises money for charity

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

KANSAS CITY – Being good neighbors often means giving back to the community. Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend discussed this as the 7th Street Casino held its 6th Annual Stride for Life 5k Saturday, April 25 at Pierson Park in support of Due West Therapeutic Riding Center.



“Our mission at the Wyandotte Nation, our governmental mission, is to improve the quality of lives of those we serve, and we try to broaden that not only to our only tribal citizens, but to the communities that we live in,” Chief Friend said. “When we came back to Wyandotte County -- this was our original homeland from 1843-1867 -- and started the 7th Street Casino, we made a promise that we would always be a good neighbor and we would always give back to the community.”

The Wyandotte Nation and 7th Street Casino, with the help of sponsors, did just that, raising \$10,000 for Due West TRC after raising \$6,200 for the charity at last year's event.

“Our 7th Street Casino staff, they do an excellent job, not only in promoting this run, but



Rain was prevalent during registration for the annual Stride for Life run but cleared by race time. (Pictured below) Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and 7th Street Casino General Manager Kevin Lien present Due West TRC with a \$10,000 check for the money raised at the event. Runners enjoyed their time despite some steep hills to climb.

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

also in the fall, we have a golf tournament each year where we have donated over \$30,000 to the Heartland Honor Flight,” Chief Friend said. “I’m always very proud of our employees here -- they are a part of our family.”

Each year 7th Street Casino hosts a 5K run/walk in support of a local charity. This was the

second straight year Due West was chosen and was also the second year the event was held at Pierson Park.

The Due West TRC program, founded three years ago, is designed to serve children and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities; including autism spectrum disorder, Down

Syndrome, developmental delay, emotional disorders and vision and hearing impairments. Due West TRC serves individuals in Wyandotte, Leavenworth, Johnson and Douglas counties.

“All these riders benefit in different ways by being with the

See **Community**, Page 9





New machine creates opportunities for WPP

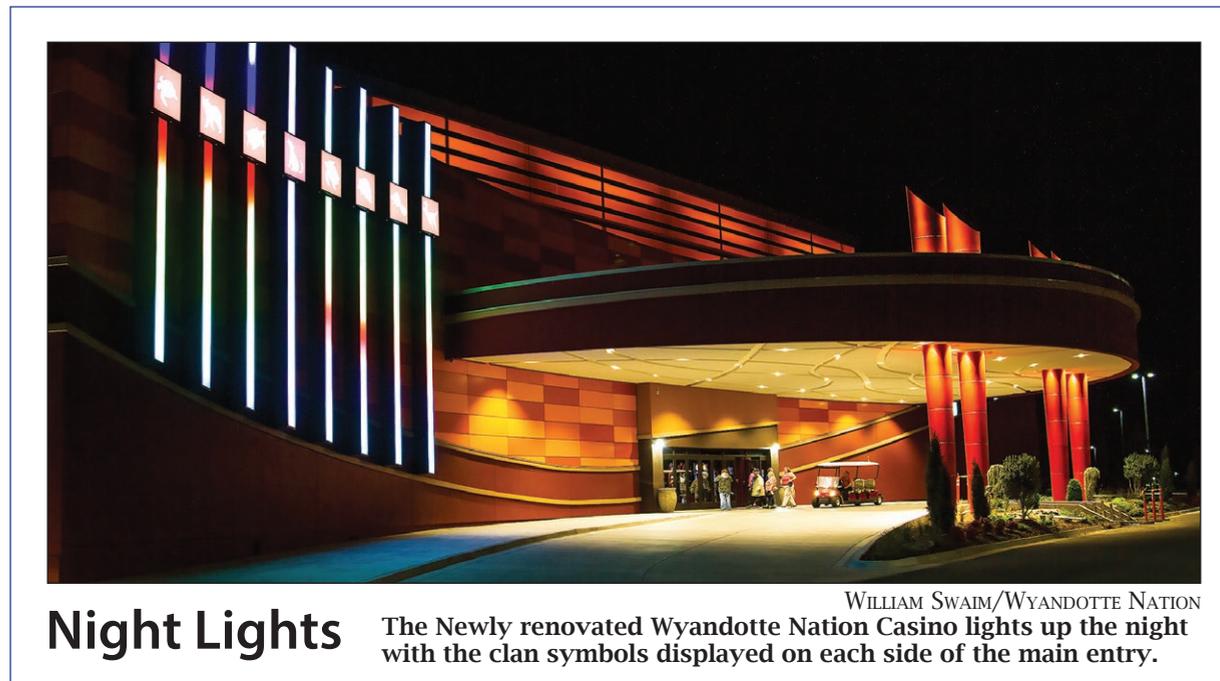


Wyandotte Precision Products, located in Joplin, Mo., invested in a new machine designed to give the company new and faster capabilities.

“This machine gives us the ability to do aerospace work with the addition of what’s called a trunion table for true 5 axis machining, which we could not do with our existing equipment,” said WPP General Manager Steve Selby. “The larger work we are able to do with the Haas actually cuts down on the amount of competition we face since this is one of the few large capacity machines in this area.”

The Haas VF-8 Vertical Machining Center with Renishaw Intuitive probing allows WPP to reverse engineer customer parts and do some inspection on the machine. It is wired to accept a 4th and 5th axis, would allow WPP to do the complex aerospace type parts.

“This machine was purchased with the high speed machining option, which allows the machine to look ahead in the program and



Night Lights

The Newly renovated Wyandotte Nation Casino lights up the night with the clan symbols displayed on each side of the main entry.

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

execute the program with virtually no hesitation,” Selby said. “The size of the machining envelope gives us an advantage over other machine shops allowing us to do much larger work.”

He said the machine, with its 8,000 rpm spindle and over 200 inches per minute travel speeds, is much faster than WPP’s existing machines, which max out at 3,000 rpm and around 100 inches per minute travel speed.

WPP provides machining, engineering, reverse engineering, and manufacturing.

WTOK has new website

The Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma rede-



signed its website and features all the many economic development entities.

The website has the latest news and developments regarding WTOK as well as career opportunities.

Check it out at:

www.wtok.org/

Community

Continued from Page 8

horse and on the horse’s back,” said Mary Sharp, Executive Director of Due West TRC. “What we found was the need here was incredible. Most other areas and most other centers have two to seven year waiting lists. People are in desperate need of these therapies. We provide the same therapies they might get clini-

cally, but in a non-clinical setting. That is good for the kids and their families.”

Sharp said the money raised at the event goes toward improvements as well as grants and scholarships for families to help lessen their costs with the therapy.

“Caring for horses, of course, is very expensive. It is not a cheap

therapy, and currently therapeutic riding is not covered by insurance,” Sharp said. “So most of these families, who are already under financial stress because of the needs of their child, are putting out some money for the therapy and seeing great benefits – they see it as very worthwhile. If we can help them in any way --

with scholarships or grants -- to help them pay for these therapies, it’s great. These horses are miracle workers.”

Participants received a 7th Street Stride for Life T-shirt, a goodie bag, food and refreshments. Category winners also received medals and other special prizes.



"This event is a way to showcase our Native American culture, the Wyandotte language and most importantly our children!" -- Tammy Charles, Education Director

Preschoolers showcase Wyandotte language during annual pow-wow

PHOTOS & STORY BY WILLIAM SWAIM / WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation hosted its annual Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow Tuesday, April 14, at the Wyandotte High School gymnasium after inclement weather forced the event from the tribe's pow-wow grounds to indoors.

The event kicked off with an Indian Taco meal benefitting the Wyandotte Public Schools Backpack Nutrition Program.

Wyandotte Nation Education Director Tammy Charles said Shawn King with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe has worked with the preschoolers two times a week for two months to prepare for the event. He led the student group as Head Man while Debbie Scribner served as the Head Lady. Operation Eagle from Bartlesville was the host drum and singers.

Charles said 80 children, including children from eight tribes, participated in the event.

"This event is a way to showcase our Native American culture, the Wyandotte language and most importantly our children!" Charles said.

Following the Grand Entry and Introduction of Tribes, the Wyandotte Nation Color Guard presented the Colors, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend gave the invocation and Wyandotte Nation Princess Emilee Wills presented the Lord's Prayer in sign language.

Then it was the preschoolers chance to shine as they sang 'kweh kweh kweh' and the 'Numbers' song in the Wyandotte language. The kids also took part in a Round Dance, Snake & Buffalo Dance, and were joined by everyone attending for an Intertribal Dance to close the evening.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Valentine's Day Program

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool celebrated Valentine's Day Thursday, Feb. 12, at the Carla Culver Education Center. The students put on a program featuring songs and poems followed by some sweet treats with family and faculty in the classrooms.

The Gathering of Little Turtles registration open now

The Heritage Department and Culture Committee invite our citizen families to attend the 2nd Annual Gathering of Little Turtles, June 26, 27 and 28. This event is for the entire family with activities geared toward our school age youth, ages 5 to 18. Having an additional Gathering during the summer months will allow many families or youth who cannot attend in September to attend a Gathering.

Activities and social time are being planned for the Gathering of Little Turtles. Activities will include crafts, dancing and games. Most activities will be hands on, up and moving. All meals and snacks will be provided.

What also makes this Gathering different..... the Lock-In. Families are welcome to spend the night at the Bearskin Health-

care & Wellness Center gym. This gives families additional time to interact and get to know each other, and for the youth to bond and build relationships into the future.

Registration begins May 1 and runs through May 29. Please visit the Wyandotte Nation's website to register ([### Additional Information about the Gathering](http://www.wyandotte-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

- Event starts at 1:30 p.m. Friday June 26, ends Sunday, June 28 noon to 1 p.m.
- Check-in for lock-in from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the gym (enter through south doors).
- Check-in for Gathering starts at 12:30 p.m. at the Title VI building.
- Welcome, posting of our flag and announcements is at 1:30 p.m. in the Title VI Building. Afterwards we will move to the Healthcare & Wellness Center.
- For lock-in please bring your bedding and personal items. You should bring bug repellent for outdoor activities.
- Shoes -- please wear or bring closed-toed shoes for outside activities.

nation.org). When registering be sure to include an adult contact with phone number and email address. List all participants first and last names, and age if they are 18 and under. Youth 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult unless prior arrangements are made.

Why register? This allows us

to plan food and have sufficient supplies on hand for crafts. By registering, it allows events to be scheduled based on age groups. Some events will be split between younger and older youth.

Watch for updates, including an agenda on the Nation's website and Facebook page.

If you have questions, please email the Culture Committee at Culture@wyandotte-nation.org or Marilyn Young at marilyn.s.young57@gmail.com. If you do not have access to a computer to submit questions or register please contact the Tribal Office at (918) 678-2297 or (800) 256-2539.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE a confirmation registration email or phone call by the fourth business day after registering please email Marilyn Young or call the tribal office.

MEMBER & COMMUNITY NEWS

Harris Family reunion

Again we will be gathering at the back of the Pow-Wow grounds under a canopy provided by the Tribe. Bring your chair, a dessert to share, pictures and a camera.

Ramona Reid
Teh-on 'di shi wa

On Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, the Wyandotte Nation lost a beloved employee. Jolene Tucker worked in the Education Department and will be greatly missed by all of the staff.

Jolene Tucker

Sept. 12, 1973 – Feb. 17, 2015

Annita

Jolene 'Jody' Tucker, 41, Neosho, died Feb. 17, 2015 at Freeman West Hospital in Joplin following an unexpected illness.



Jody was born Sept. 12, 1973 in Antlers, Okla., the daughter of Robert and Natha (Lott) Sullivan. She moved to the Neosho area in 1976 and worked as an Education Specialist at the Wyandotte Nation. She was a current Senior at Missouri State University and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Sorority, Delta Mu Delta Sorority and Alpha Chi Sorority. She loved doing photography, crocheting and singing.

Jody married Carl Tucker on June 11, 1993 at Neosho and he survives. Also surviving are two children, Seantelle Tucker and Travis Tucker of the home; her parents, Robert and Natha Sullivan of Battiest, Okla.; one brother, Jeffrey Sullivan and wife, Jennifer of Battiest, Okla., and two sisters, LaRaeda Sullivan Womack and husband, Levi of Neosho and Roberta Black and husband, Jonathan of Midlothian, Texas, and a host of family and friends.

Young student explores heritage with Longhouse project

Kweh!

In September 2014 my three grandchildren were invited in as Wyandotte Tribal members. I have always told them stories of their heritage and their ancestors. This Winter my youngest grandchild embarked on a deep study of Wyandotte traditions for a project at school.

My granddaughter Emilee Lankow, 9, built a model of a longhouse for a school project. She attends Sierra Waldorf School in Jamestown, Calif. In the third grade, the children study traditional shelters from cultures around the world.

Emilee knew immediately that she wanted to build a Wyandotte Longhouse. I took her to the public library where she diligently researched information on village life, how longhouses were constructed and what kinds of needs families had. With a little help from grandma, she went to work to build her own longhouse from materials that we found in our yard, as well as a bit of real birch bark that we found online and a few craft store goodies.

Emilee wanted her longhouse to be as realistic as possible, but she wanted people to be able to see inside and see how the struts and bows were all tied together. She carefully layered the bark to show how to keep rain, wind and snow out. And she made sure there were smoke holes to let smoke escape during cold weather cooking. She included beds with fur skin blankets,



COURTESY PHOTO

Emilee Lankow, 9, explains her Longhouse model to a mom during the Family Night Reception. At this exact moment she pointed to her able assistant – her grandmother, Bettizane Smith.

baskets, tanning leather, fish being smoked, a corn field, a woman tapping a maple tree, a baby on a cradleboard, a bark canoe, women making pots, the clan flag (she chose Wolf clan because she likes wolves, but since our ancestry is Big Turtle clan, she included a large turtle in the lake). There are men, women, and children working and playing. The chief of the tribe stands near the entrance to the bowed longhouse, wearing a traditional Wyandotte headdress. The Clan Mother sits on the ground making pottery.

Along the way, she also learned how to use an electric drill, a glue

gun, a saw, as well as some basic building and crafting principles.

She learned so much about our tribe from this process. This Summer we plan to fly from California for Wyandotte Culture Day and Pow-Wow.

Emilee is very proud of her Wyandotte heritage, and is hoping to learn more. She has asked me to help find her Wyandotte name.

Emilee is a precious example of how we can keep our culture alive for a new generation, even when we live far from our tribal home.

Tizameh,
Mehndidehti
Bettizane Smith

New playground opens

The Wyandotte Nation partnered with Twin Bridges Park Partners and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe to bring a new playground to the Twin Bridges Park. The grand opening of the park was held April 4.



COURTESY PHOTOS

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

--Submitted by Deana Howard,
HR Director

The Facilities Department has a new full-time staff member, Michelle (Shelly) Gossett. Shelly has joined us as a Custodian. Shelly has over 23 years of experience in her field, she has driven a bus for over 18 of those years, bringing a wealth of knowledge with her. In her spare time she enjoys gardening. She also enjoys spending time with her granddaughter Piper. We are very fortunate to have Shelly on our team and wish her much success in her new position.



Gossett

Family Services

--Submitted by Kate Randall,
Family Services Director

Now that spring break is over, families are gearing for the exciting months ahead with graduations, summer vacation plans, summer youth jobs, and spending time with friends and relatives. The grass is turning green, the nesting geese at my house have returned to have their spring goslings, and our spirits have been lifted after a long winter.

This winter I read many of the new books the tribal library has purchased, many of which are native in spirit. "The Ways of My Grandmothers" by Beverly Hungry Wolf was especially enlightening. As a new grandmother of twins it is important to me to be close to my grandchildren. Traditional closeness between elders and grandchildren gives the kids an exposure to the same values their parents were raised by. Plus it gives the kids a lot of extra attention. Spanking children was rare as there were always grandparents and elders around to swoop up the upset kids to help eliminate stress for the parents while they were otherwise occupied.

In the fast paced world we live in, it isn't always possible to have extra hands available. Take time for yourselves, let us grandparents take

over when you need a break.

We can relive our childhood and teach our little people some of the old ways. My grandsons are 2 ½ now and we are exploring nature. There are no toys that take the place of nature and imagination. Although the ways of child rearing are changing, I recall times in the country spent with my grandparents over 50 years ago, and I shall carry on by sharing all I know with the two little gifts the Great Spirit has given me. Every elder has vast knowledge to share with our little people. Turn off the TV and video games and head to the country.

With the busy lives our citizens' lead, family services has prepared a cut out for "Dates to Remember" for program services. The guidelines are further clarified in this section, however, this reminder can be a handy reference. Clip art for the refrigerator!

Summer Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program: This federal program is available on a limited basis beginning July 1, 2015. Summer utility assistance is for crisis/cut off notices. A LIHEAP application is required with proof of income and is funded for Oklahoma residents only. There is a maximum payment of \$200 allowed.

Summer Senior Citizens Utility Assistance: Summer senior utility assistance begins on July 1, 2015 and will end on Sept. 30, 2015. No late applications are accepted. This is funded for the four states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas for age 55+. The \$100 utility payments must be paid directly to your vendor. Application is required to submit with your utility bill.

Elders Assistance: The elders program of \$250 began Oct. 1, 2014. If you have not utilized this program, please do so prior to Sept. 30, 2015. Late applications will not be accepted. This program is for the four states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas for age 55+. With proof of paid receipts we can reimburse you directly or pay a vendor for the product/service.

High School Junior or Senior Program: This \$250 benefit is for all junior and senior high school students in the four states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas. It can be used for a variety of expenses such as class rings, testing, prom-related expenses,



Wyandotte Nation

Family Services Program

Dates to Remember

Elder's Assistance: October 1 – September 30

Senior Energy: Winter: October 1 – March 1

Senior Energy: Summer: July 1 – September 30

School Supplies: July 1 – September 30

Extracurricular Activities: October 1 – September 30

Jr./Sr. High School Assist: October 1 – September 30

Winter Clothing: November 1 – March 1

Note: All applications must be in our office or post marked on or before the last day of the program.

letter jackets (just to list a few). If you are uncertain what is allowable please call us. You have until Sept. 30, 2015 to turn in receipts or request reimbursement.

Extra Expense/Extra Curricular Expenses: This is for all school age students, preschool through high school. This program is also limited to the 4 States area. The benefit amount is \$100. Everything for the school year must be turned in no later than Sept. 30, 2015.

Back to School Program: This year we have moved up the school supply program to July 1. However, all receipts/reimbursements must be completed by Sept. 30. This allows families plenty of time to start their back to school shopping. The \$100 benefit is for school age children (preschool through high school). Walmart cards or reimbursements are the two options for this program. Please adhere to all deadlines or your application will be denied. This is also a 4-State program.

Winter Clothing: This \$100 benefit will not start until Nov. 1, 2015. It is specifically for winter clothing items only. All school age children in the 4 State area are eligible. Receipts for reimbursements must be turned in no later than March 1st of 2016. Walmart cards can be requested, however, every item must be identified for the child it was purchased for.

Infant/Child Safety Car Seats: This program is available at the tribal headquarters. Car seats must be picked up in person in the Education Building. Each Wyandotte child may receive a car seat from birth, through toddler, up to the "big Kid" size of 30 to 100 pounds. We value your "cargo" too. I encourage you to phone ahead to let us check and make sure we have the correct size in stock.

Medical Fuel: Tribal citizens that travel to the Bearskin Clinic from a distance, or citizens that have refer-

Continued on Page 14

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 13

rals for specialists may apply for medical fuel.

Vouchers for the Turtle Stop may be obtained in person from family services staff. Proof of appointments or RX pickup will be required. This is a \$100 benefit per year. The year being identified as Oct. 1, 2014 through Sept. 30, 2015. Patient information is protected by HIPPA, so appointment cards are used as proof for voucher. If you reside in the Claremore Service Area as identified by Bearskin Health Services and have questions regarding fuel vouchers, please call us.

Indian Child Welfare: The Wyandotte Nation is in need of tribally approved foster homes in the State of Oklahoma. Tribal Adoptive homes are needed nationally. The Wyandotte Nation accepts independent adoptive home studies. The Wyandotte Nation has a contract with the State of Oklahoma regarding foster homes.

If you are a certified DHS foster home, please let us know. The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act was recently revised. There are Wyandotte children in state custody across the United States. The tribe has placement preferences for Wyandotte children as the federal act mandates. There is a need across the country for certified tribal foster homes. The Tribe's population is scattered across many states and the Tribe prefers to place children within a Wyandotte home if there are not extended family members that can care for a child in custody.

Please call Tara or Kate if you have any questions regarding this complicated process. The State and Federal Promoting Safe & Stable Family Initiative can help our tribal families nationwide that are involved in state court proceedings (involuntary removal of a Wyandotte child by the State Court System). The Wyandotte Nation does intervene in all proceedings involving our tribal children.

Enrollment: The deadline for applications for enrollment, to be considered for citizenship at the 2015 Annual Meeting, is Aug. 15. If you are in need of an application please contact the Family Services staff and one can be mailed or emailed to you. Please remember that if an application is received prior to a child's first birthday you will receive

Class in session

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Members of the Wyandotte community had a chance to listen to Christen Lee and Kathy Welch (pictured right) discuss the benefits of using rain barrels.



a blanket with the Tribal turtle and a Walmart gift card for \$100.

Tribal Tags: Tribal tags are available to Wyandotte Nation citizens who claim Oklahoma as their primary residence. Currently tags are offered for passenger, recreation vehicles and motorcycles. Handicap license plates are also available with a completed form from your physician.

If you have questions about this program please contact any of the Family Services staff. Feel free to come in at your convenience or call ahead if you are coming from a distance or are on a limited time schedule. There are four staff members who are trained in this program so we try to have at least one person in the office at all times.

Supplemental Health Benefit: The Supplemental Health Benefit is in full swing for this calendar year! This has been a wonderful program to assist our tribal families meet some of their medical and health needs.

Tribal citizens should be receiving quarterly statements from CoreSource with individual balances. If you are not receiving your statements please contact CoreSource at (800) 990-9058 or any member of the Family Services staff to verify or update your address.

As a reminder, this program can be used for medical, pharmaceutical, vision, dental, mental health and chiropractic needs, but can't be used to purchase over the counter medications such as Tylenol and Ibuprofen. The program can also be used to reimburse for mileage specifically to and from doctors/

medical appointments.

Reimbursement claims for mileage will need to include a mileage account (i.e. MapQuest) and a receipt from the medical facility for the date of the appointment.

Claim forms are available online through your CoreSource account or Family Services staff can mail/email one to you.

Burial Assistance: Wyandotte Nation citizens are eligible for \$1,500 toward burial/cremation services. Funds will be paid directly to the funeral home. If the funeral home expenses have been paid in full then payment can be made to the next of kin.

Applications are available through the Family Services department and must be submitted along with a statement from the funeral home and a copy of the death certificate.

NOTE: All family services programs and most applications can be found on the tribal website at www.wyandotte-nation.org/community/family-services.

Environmental

--Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental Director

Hello everyone. It seems like just yesterday we were just getting through the Christmas and New Year Holidays, and here we are a couple of weeks already into spring.

On Jan. 15, the Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department hosted a Grand Lake Watershed Meeting at the Heritage Acres Community

Center. Second Chief Norman Hildebrand welcomed the group and told of the "History of the Wyandotte Nation" and the present and future goals for the Wyandotte Nation and its members.

Our department is happy to welcome Lauren Meyers, an MSSU intern, to work with us during the month of January through the end of April.

One of our favorite activities is education activities with the Turtle Tot Preschool Program. On Jan. 29, Lauren was able to assist us in educating the children on the importance of clean water and how it affects the habitat around us.



COURTESY PHOTO
Lauren Meyers helping to educate preschoolers on clean water.

Continued on Page 15

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 14

Rain Barrel Education



As part of our 319 Non-Point Source grant, we have added a Rain Barrel Education Class. Each household that attends a class receives a very nice Rain Barrel.

Our first class was held Feb. 26 at the Heritage Acres Community Center. We had a great turnout with a total of 23 in attendance. Our second class was held March 26 at the Bearskin Health and Wellness Storm Shelter. Once again we had a great turn out, with 25 attending. We will host one more class May 28 at the Bearskin Health and Wellness Storm Shelter from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. To register for this class you can contact Kathleen Welch (918) 678-6335 or Christen Lee (918) 678-6341.

Our department continues to monitor 7 sites within the Wyandotte Nation Historic Jurisdiction area on a monthly basis, along with testing for nutrients quarterly and heavy metals annually. We are very excited to have an EXO-2 Continuous monitor on one of our sites, located on Sycamore Creek behind the Pow-Wow Grounds. This monitor records real time data continuously 24/7. The information is automatically uploaded to the Storm Central Water Log.

The 8th Annual Environmental Festival kicked off April 24 at the Bearskin Fitness Center. The festival featured a number of booths providing educational opportunities for area students and the general public.

Leading into the festival, we hosted our E-Waste Collection Days at the Lost Creek Recycling Center where we accepted electronic waste to keep it out of landfills.

Services provided:

- Private Water Well Tests
- Septic Assessments
- Recycling Center

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

Culture

--Submitted by Sherri Clemmons, Tribal Heritage Director

Kweh Kweh! Welcome Spring. It has finally arrived. A renewing of life. Everything is coming up green and fresh like all the events for the upcoming year.

Committees have been meeting and great things are going to happen this year.

First of all the Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard will be presenting a program on Memorial Day May 25 at 10 a.m. in the Wyandotte Cemetery. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. This day was set to remember all those who have served our country and passed on. Remember to take a few minutes and take them for the sacrifice they made for each of us.

June brings the 2nd annual "Gathering of Little Turtles." Last year was a learning experience for the Cultural Committee. They have many plans for this year! Crafts, games, traditional foods and some user-friendly language classes. This event is focused on the youth, but every age is invited to attend.

The Bearskin Gym will be used for all activities along with sleeping areas, so bring your sleeping bags and plan on an eventful and wonderful weekend of learning about being Wyandotte. The dates are June 26-28. Contact Marilyn Young for more details at marilyn.s.young57@gmail.com. We are hoping to see and meet lots of new Wyandottes.

July will be here before you know it. Hot days and fun evenings. Wyandotte Nation will be hosting its annual Fireworks

Display on July 2nd beginning at 7 p.m. with live music, food vendors and an amazing light show. This is also open to the public. Tell all your friends to bring their chairs and blankets and join us for this free event. This event will be held at the pow-wow grounds. This is a fun event for the whole family.

September is the month of all months for the Nation as far as Culture. The 26th Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow will be held Sept. 11-13. Every year we see more Wyandotte citizens returning home for this gathering and although Wyandottes didn't traditionally have pow-wows, it has become a tradition for us now. All the families getting together and enjoying stories and making new friends has become a time of wonderment. The 12th annual "Gathering" will be held prior to pow-wow and the Annual Meeting. The dates are Sept. 9-11. If you are planning to attend you will need to register. Information is on the website. There is also a block of rooms at Indigo Sky. It is first come first serve.

Always keep your eye on the website for all the upcoming events of the Nation.

Enjoy your spring and summer and try to attend as many events as possible. They are for you!!

One last thing. Many of you know the Nation has a Wyandotte Honor Guard. Well, many of the members are getting up in years and it is getting harder for them to continue in this endeavor. They are looking for new members to join. You must be a veteran with a DD214. It is a volunteer mission, but does take a commitment. They are called upon to several pow-wows a year plus special events from other organizations.

So, if you are interested and can commit, please call my office at (918) 678-6344.

Culture Committee wants to hear from you

To all TEENS and COLLEGE STUDENTS:

As a teenager or college student, your life is busy with school, after school activities, working and spending time with friends. You are a group that can easily be lost when it comes to satisfying your culture and heritage needs.

The Culture Committee wants to hear from you. Tell us your thoughts and suggestions that we can meet your needs as a Wyandotte Citizen. Your views are important as you are the Nations future.

Tell us what does it mean to you to be Wyandotte?

What activities or education as it relates to your Nation are you interested in?

How do you learn about your Nation and heritage, from your parents and family, researching books, internet, monitoring the Nation website, Facebook?

Are you interested in getting to know other Wyandotte citizens of your age group?

Please email us your thoughts and suggestions to **Culture@wyandotte-nation.org** and/or **Marilyn Young at marilyn.s.young57@gmail.com**.

Housing

--Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director

The Housing Department consists of both rental and homeowner programs. Currently, there are over 90 families living in tribal housing. Two more duplexes are in the process of being built, and should

be completed this summer.

Twelve duplexes are senior units. To qualify for a senior unit, you must be 55 or older and meet federal income guidelines.

The Splash Pad was a great success last year. The plan is to open the week of Memorial Day. The hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Heritage Acres Community

Center has been open for a year now, and has been a great asset to the area. Many family reunions, birthday parties, and other activities have been hosted here.

The cost of renting the center is \$50 for tribal members, and \$75 for non-tribal. There is also a \$25 cleaning fee, which is returned if

Continued on Page 16

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS



Quilting Workshop

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
Award-winning quilting instructor Viola Colombe (pictured above right), of Modoc of Oklahoma, presented a series of quilting workshops at the Heritage Acres Community Center in Wyandotte.



Continued from Page 16

the building is left in good condition.

The dates are already filling fast. If you are interested in renting, contact our office as soon as possible.

If you live in the Indian Service area, which includes nine counties in Oklahoma, and are in need of water or sanitation services, please contact our office for an application.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Department Contacts

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

Planning/ Development

--Submitted by Ron Kaiser

There are three, Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) projects that are being implemented. These projects are funded in part by Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

- The new water system expansion project has come on line with several tribal households. Local residents have been hooked up to the new system, which includes a 70,000 gallon standpipe, well, well-house, pump house, and extensive water distribution system. Paving of roadways and service line installation has been completed. Final cleanup is now underway.

- The Culture Center project had

been advertised for construction bids, with bids opening in January. Construction bids exceeded the project budget. Project team is modifying scope to achieve better bids.

- This project provides expansion to the Artie Nesvold Community Center Title 6 Building to include an activity room that will function as a safe room. The Carla Culver Education Center will have a new activity room functioning as "Gross Motor Skills" classroom and will be FEMA compliant. The implementation team has been meeting to develop final project plans. The environmental review public notification has been published.

We are evaluating tribal properties for different projects: Ranging for stocking fish in ponds, protecting potential historic features, preparing for sustainable agriculture projects, negotiating a railroad crossing with BNSF railway, working through

final negotiation with Phillips 66 for a pipeline relocation, cleaning/ updating a house the tribe recently purchased.

We have been working with BIA to have Wyandotte Nation owned lands placed in Trust. Back in October we reported that Notification has been sent from the BIA that the Tribe's property in Kansas City, Kansas, known as the "Arrowhead Building," was to be placed in Trust. However the State of Kansas has appealed the Regional BIA Director's decision. The Regional director denied that appeal, Kansas is now appealing to the Department of Interior's Board of Indian Appeals. The Tribe is still awaiting a decision.

Department Contacts:

Ron Kaiser, Planning Director, (918) 678-6325
Robby Graham, Land Management Technician, (918) 678-6357

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Education

--Submitted by Tammy Charles,
Education Director

Spring brings the arrival of flowers and fun times in the Wyandotte Nation Preschool. We celebrated Valentines with a program for family and friends followed by Easter egg hunting indoors because of inclement weather. The Week of the Young Child brought trips to Twin Bridges Park to play on the new equipment funded partially by the Wyandotte Nation, breakfast with a buddy and special friends from Scholastic, a trip to the fun fest in Miami and finished with a trip to the NEO Farm petting Zoo. We want to thank the members of the Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department that work to plan all of those events.



COURTESY PHOTO

Anne Marie Roper tribal elder visited with students for story time with her flannel board.

The Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow was held and all in attendance enjoyed the dancing. Eight tribes were represented in the Grand Entry led by Wyandotte Nation dignitaries and Honor Guard. Preschool will finish off its 25th year with graduation ceremonies scheduled for May 12 in the Bearskin Fitness Gymnasium.

We are accepting enrollment applications for the 2015-2016 school year and hope that if you live in our area that you would consider letting your little one begin the road to higher learning in our program.

When school ends, it marks the beginning of our Summer Program. We accept children ages 3-12 and the staff is already looking at ideas



Fingerweaving at the library

Fingerweavers met up at the Wyandotte Nation Library for three different sessions with instructor Loretta Combes (pictured right) to learn more about the craft while creating their own. The fingerweaving class was part of the Winter and Spring programs at the library.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

for enrichment and fun for the summer. Please contact the office for enrollment forms or for more information.

Just as we are finishing a school year, many tribal citizens are finishing high school or semesters of college as well. Applications for new scholarships are available on the tribal website in the members' only area or by request from the education staff. New applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2015. A reminder to returning students that you need to submit updated official or unofficial transcripts that reflect current grades and next semester schedule to be funded. We fund two semesters a year for a maximum of eight semesters. The masters funding is for up to four semesters at \$1,500 per semester. Tribal member interest in vocational programs is on the increase and it is our pleasure to assist the members with finding the best avenue to pursue training.

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Library has been an area of excitement during the past few months. Artisans from near and far have

had their handiwork on display and have been offering free classes for area residents to learn their crafts. Finger weaving started the sessions followed by beaded medallions and piece quilting was on the agenda also. Mrs. Haynes has been very busy promoting the library, hosting preschool story time, planning and facilitating workshops and preparing for a summer reading program for all ages. If you are looking for a certain title in our library and cannot locate it, please reach out and ask for assistance.

On April 15, Elnora Wyrick worked her last day in our library as an assistant on the NICOA program. We appreciate the time she was with us and all of the help she gave to our programs and patrons.

Future workshops in our library will focus on some computer classes and iPad training. Watch the tribal website, Facebook page and look for flyers posted in the community.

The Workforce Investment Program continues to add some new clients from our service area in Missouri and Kansas.

Library Corner

'Meet the Librarian'



Hi! I'm Deb Haynes, the new Librarian at the Wyandotte Nation Library. I'll be submitting to Turtle Talk to keep members updated on library activities, special programs and new materials. I've been with the Wyandotte Nation since December of 2014. Of course, I love it!

We have added over 85 new movies in 2015 and many new books. Look for the suggestion box in the library to submit requests and to let us know what you would like to see in the library collection.

Winter/Spring programs for 2015 have included three Fingerweaving classes, instructed by Loretta Combes (with finishing classes to be scheduled in late spring); three beading workshops with Kim Garcia, to create medallions; and three quilting workshops taught by award winning quilter, Viola Colombe.

Library programs are offered at no charge to participants and funded by a Library Enhancement Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. It is wonderful to have instructors willing to share their skills and talents.

Summer plans include basic technology classes and the summer reading program. Our SUPERHERO themed summer reading program for 3 year olds through teens will begin Monday, June 1 and end Friday, July 31. Participants may log their hours reading (or being read to in the case of pre-readers) to earn prizes, paperback books, and drawing chances.

More information on expanded summer library hours, class schedules, and the "Super Readers" program will be forthcoming on the Wyandotte Nation Facebook page. This library has so much to offer, check us out!

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
cleec@wyandotte-nation.org

Historical

Sherrri 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 Burleson (918) 678-3227
bburleson@wyandotte-nation.org

Diabetes Clinic

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

Elder Services

--Submitted by Brenda House,
Elder Services Director

On April 1 we partnered with Good Shepherd Hospice, the Ottawa Tribe and the Quapaw Tribe and took the Elders to Branson, Mo., to the Branson Bell Show Boat. We had a great dinner cruise and the entertainment was awesome! We will be traveling to the Horse Races at Will Rodgers Downs in Claremore, Okla., on May 19.

We are gearing up and getting ready for the White House Conference on Aging. It has been 10 years since the last one was held. We will attend a Tribal Listening Session in Oklahoma City, and will be meeting with Leaders from Washington D.C. and presenting testimony that will be submitted at the Conference. The Listening Session will offer an opportunity to provide input to the White House regarding the issues of Retirement Security, Healthy Aging, Long-term services and Supports, and Elder Justice for older American Indian / Alaska Native Americans.

Oklahoma Healthcare Solutions are here the first Wednesday of each month at lunch to play bingo with the Elders. They provide a lot of neat prizes and make it a really fun event.



Tulsa Youth Ballet hosts workshop

COURTESY PHOTOS
Oklahoma Performing Arts' (OPA) Tulsa Youth Ballet, a non-profit, put on a performance & workshop for area youth Saturday, March 7 at the Wyandotte High Gym. The workshop was free, but donations were accepted to benefit the Backpack Nutrition Program (a partnership program between Wyandotte Nation Turtle Tots/Wyandotte Public Schools). Youth had the opportunity to see the production



from start to finish while shadowing the performers and taking part in the performance itself.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Off to Branson!

A group of elders (pictured above) get ready to ride the Wyandotte Nation bus to Branson, Mo., April 1 for a dinner cruise and entertainment (pictured right). The Wyandotte Nation partnered with Good Shepherd Hospice, the Ottawa Tribe and the Quapaw Tribe for the trip.



We also have representatives from Angels Care Home Health and Legacy Hospice holding educational presentations and taking blood pressures each month.

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

CAREGIVER

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

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

Department Contacts:

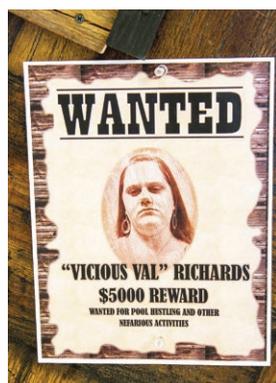
Brenda House, Elder Services Director, (918) 678-6327.
Stephanie Eads, Food Service Team Supervisor, (918) 678-6328
Seth Higginbotham, Rebecca Barnard, Teresa Wilson, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328
Menu, (918) 678-6326



A Darn Tootin' Good Time

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Annual Wyandotte Nation Senior Picnic was held April 23 at the Heritage Acres Community Center with a Wild West theme. Elders were able to spend a little time in 'jail,' dress up with bandanas, sheriff's badges and moustaches, knocked around a boot piñata, and enjoy a good meal.



Check it out!

PayPal

WWW.WYANDOTTE-NATION.ORG/ONLINE-GIFT-STORE/

ONLINE GIFT STORE

Convenient:

- Speed through checkout whenever you shop online.
- Pay with your credit card, debit card, or bank account. Your choice.
- No need to have or establish a PayPal account to purchase any of our products.
- No need to retype your financial information.

Secure:

- When shopping online you will never have to give your credit card number to us.
- 100% protection against any unauthorized payments sent from your account.
- All of your purchases are confirmed with an email receipt.

26th Annual

WYANDOTTE POW-WOW

September 11-13, 2015

\$30,000



In Prize Money

Contests in all Categories

Friday
8:00 p.m.

Grand Entries

Saturday
1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday
1:30 p.m.



14th Annual Veterans Honor Program
All Veterans Welcomed



HEAD STAFF

Head Singer
Head Man Dancer
Head Lady Dancer
Head Gourd Dancer
Honor Guard
Arena Director
Head Judge
Master of Ceremonies
Northern Drum
Wyandotte Nation Princess

Yellow Hammer
Tony Wahweotten
Frankee Cunningham
Ira Kaulay
Wyandotte Honor Guard
Dude Blalock
Jay Blalock
Steve Kinder
John Arkeketa
Emilee Wills

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

Host Motel: TBA