



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

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August 2015

Gathering of Little Turtles

Lacrosse Camp,
language,
activities
highlight event

PAGE 10-11



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- Turtle Tots Preschool Graduation

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William Swaim

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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

Email: wswaim@wtok.org

Correction/Clarification

In the Eli Brumbaugh feature in the May 2015 issue, Elon Musk was incorrectly identified as Eli's father instead of his role model. His father is Hal Brumbaugh. Elon is his role model.



From the Chief

Billy Friend

Plan to attend Annual Meeting, Gathering and Pow-Wow in Sept.

Kweh,

As always, I hope this month's newsletter finds you and your family doing well and enjoying the blessings of our Creator.

It is most likely hot and steamy this time of year where most Wyandotte live. And while we are each dealing with the sun and the heat, it is not too early to save the date for this year's Annual Meeting, Wyandotte Gathering and Pow-Wow.

Our week will begin on Wednesday with our annual Cultural Gathering that will continue through Friday. Our Pow-Wow will begin that evening and continue through Sunday afternoon.

Our Annual Meeting will begin at 10 am on Saturday, with no elections being held this year. We will be sharing what has taken place

"If you really fulfill the royal law according to Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well;"

-- James 2:8

this past year and what we have taking place currently and for the future.

The Annual Meeting and Gathering are always a great way to share experiences with our family and friends. We have the opportunity to connect to our Wyandotte history, traditions, culture and honor our ancestors. It's not too early to plan your trip! If you have never had the opportunity to come and enjoy the Gathering, Annual Meeting, and Pow-Wow, make this your year to come. I guarantee you will have

a wonderful experience filled with Wyandotte culture, fun, good food and great connections with fellow Wyandotte. You will definitely become reacquainted with old friends!

There is nothing more precious than our families, our friends and our fellow Wyandotte. We share a history that each of us carries deep inside.

Make time this year to renew that wonderful connection. I look forward to seeing you each and every one of you.

From the Second Chief

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Gathering of the Chiefs in Michigan offers chance to revisit history

Kweh,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, we have had so much rain this spring and summer it seems we have been mowing grass forever. Our annual 4th of July Celebration at the pow-wow grounds was a huge success -- I was told we had approximately 2,500 people attend this year. It just gets bigger and bigger, which is fantastic because we want to be a vital part of this area and of course good neighbors to everyone.

The week of June 22-24 I represented the Wyandotte Nation for a gathering of the Chiefs of the Wyandots of Anderdon, the Huronne-Wendat of Wendake and the Wyandots of Kansas. Grand Chief Ted Roll orchestrated this gathering with the help of the National Park Service, while there we visited several locations that were of importance to us during the time we lived there. I had the pleasure of spending time

with Grand Chief Konrad Sioui of the Huronne-Wendat, Chief Jan English of the Wyandots of Kansas and Chief Ted Roll of the Wyandots of Anderdon. We visited Hull's Trace and kayaked the Huron River, the River Raisin Battlefield, Lake Erie Metro Park, the Wyandot Cemetery in Amherstburg and Fort Malden in Canada just to name a few. But I think the highlight of the trip was when we blessed the Six - Points property in Gibraltar with all four Chiefs present as well as the Wyandots of Anderdon and several representatives of the press. This trip also kicked off the Journey to Understanding which is a project that will give a different perspective on the War of 1812, it will center more on the role the Native Americans played.

Here is a little history excerpt from the Detroit and Western Theatre, 1811 - 1813: On the eve of the November 7, 1811, attack upon Proph-

etstown, the collected villages there could muster at least 700 warriors, largely representing Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Winnebago, and Sauk from present Illinois and Wisconsin, though there was also a group of dissident Wyandot from Ohio. General Harrison ordered the offensive action against the community at a time when Tecumseh was absent on an extended southern tour to the Creek, Choctaw and Chickasaw, winding up among the Shawnee and Delaware in Missouri. Tecumseh's mother was Creek, and Prophetstown had a small Creek contingent, most of whom had been in the area since the 1790s. During 1811, Tecumseh tried to unite northern and southern Indians in concerted action against American encroachment.

By 1811, Indians and whites were



See **Second Chief**, Page 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**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

Public Notice

Notice of Annual Meeting

On Sept. 12, 2015 the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium near Wyandotte, Oklahoma. The Annual Meeting will start at 10 a.m.

If you attend the Annual Meeting you will be required to show your tribal membership/citizenship card.

The Election Committee of the Wyandotte Nation has deter-

mined that there are no contested posts for elective office within the government of the Wyandotte Nation for 2015. Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an election at the tribe's annual meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2015 per the Wyandotte Nation Constitution.

*-- Rob Nesvold, Chairman
Election Committee*

Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

already moving to safer quarters as the expectation of general war in American territory increased. Ogontz and his French and Ottawa following left the shores of Sandusky Bay, some returning to Frenchtown on the Raisin River of Michigan. In Michigan and Ohio, frontier inhabitants reported that as war preparations became evident, Indians "just seemed to disappear". Greenville, Tecumseh's residence until 1808, was a fortified white settlement by 1811.

The Indian villages close to Lower Sandusky were all vacated early in the war era. The Wyandot and Mohawk moved up the Sandusky River, while most Munsee and Moravians crossed Lake Erie to Upper Canada. The Moravians had remained at Pettiquoting or New Salem on the Huron River of Ohio until 1809, when they joined their former Munsee neighbors who had relocated north of Lower Sandusky in 1804. The abandoned Moravian mission became the site of a defense post, Camp Avery, in 1812.

The Wyandots lived in that area not quite 100 years so what ever happened in that region we were

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

-- Henry Ford, Auto Industrialist

certainly right in the thick of things, along with the Miami, Delaware, Ottawa and Shawnee. Hollywood made the Sioux, Apache, Cheyenne and Comanche notorious through movies, but our history is just as storied as theirs because the encroachment of settlers going west had to go through the eastern tribes first and that included the Wyandot(te)s. American History text books leave a lot of this information out. I am not saying they are wrong, but the War of 1812 wasn't just fought between the Americans and British. Tecumseh is mentioned briefly, but the influence the Native Americans played in the War of 1812 was tremendous. The British relied heavily on Native American warriors. The Journey to Understanding is the first step to better understanding what actually took place in this time period.

It is an honor to serve our Wyandotte Nation citizens and help build a strong future for generations to come. TIZAMEH!



COURTESY PHOTOS

Interns visit Kansas City

The Wyandotte Nation took the interns in the Summer Internship Program to Kansas City this year after visiting historical sites in Ohio and Michigan in previous years. (Above) The interns pose in front of a Wyandot marker. They also took time to visit the Quindaro Ruins (right) and got a lesson about the Wyandottes removal (below). For more photos, visit our Facebook page.



Leonard Nicholas Cotter

A Distinguished Chief and Loyal American

BY SALLIE COTTER ANDREWS
SPECIAL TO THE WYANDOTTE NATION

Exactly what inspired Chief Leonard Nicholas Cotter to dedicate his life to the service of the Wyandotte Nation, American Indian people in Oklahoma and his community, may never be known. But it was a decision that took him to the White House to meet President Gerald R. Ford and led him to be a public speaker in Oklahoma and in distant states on behalf of his people.

Serving as Chief or Second Chief of the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma for 37 years, his decisions and influence set the tone for the Tribe's future economic success and set the tone for Oklahoma Indian healthcare policy. He served as Chief from 1936-1942, 1948-1954, and 1964 until his death in 1976; and as Second Chief from 1932-1936 and 1954-1963. During his tenure he made sure the Wyandotte people were well represented, remembered and honored in Oklahoma and throughout the United States.

Leonard Nicholas Cotter was born on July 3, 1906, in Wyandotte, Indian Territory, the sixth child of Joel Anthony Cotter and Sallie Belle Dawson Cotter. His siblings were Claude, Clarence, John Paul, Mabel, Homer, Everett Dee, Maude, Mary and Josephine.

Although he never knew his grandfather, Nicholas Cotter, who served as Chief of the Wyandotte Tribe from 1880 to 1882, Leonard no doubt heard the stories of Nicholas' adventurous life that took him from shore to shore – west to California with John C. Fremont (The Pathfinder) in 1849 and east to Washington, D.C., in 1875. Nicholas Cotter was of the Big Turtle Clan. His Wyandotte name, "Ron-nyan-es," meant "Striking the Sky."

Leonard may have remembered his grandmother, Lizzie Arms Cotter of the Deer Clan, who died in 1910. Her Wyandotte name, "Tewatronyahkwa," meant "Lift-



Chief Cotter meets President Gerald R. Ford.

COURTESY PHOTOS

ing the Sky." When Lizzie came to Oklahoma from Kansas as an orphan after the Civil War, she did not speak English, only the Wyandot language. Leonard's father, Joel Cotter, was born April 17, 1869. He received his education at Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Carlisle, Pa., where he learned to be a blacksmith and also at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas. Joel died in 1919 during a flu epidemic when Leonard was 13 years of age. His mother, Sallie, born Oct. 5, 1875, lived until 1951.

Leonard was a handsome, athletic young man who played football, basketball and boxed for Wyandotte High School where he graduated in 1924.

He married Ada Cox of Afton, Okla. Ada graduated from Northwestern State Teachers College in Tahlequah, became a school teacher in 1927 and taught for 45 years. In 1969, she was named the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. In 1946, Leonard owned a gasoline service station in Wyandotte. He was also a mechanic for the Oklahoma Department of Highways in the Indian

Reservation Roads department, which was established to provide access within Indian reservations, and Eastern Oklahoma was included in this designation.

On Dec. 25, 1931, Leonard and Ada's son, Leonard Nicholas (Nick) Cotter, Jr., was born. In 1941, World War II began, and although Leonard was 35 years old he felt compelled by patriotism to enlist in the U.S. Marine

Corps. He completed boot camp training and then was discharged due to his age, then 36. This was a great disappointment to him because he was very eager to serve his country overseas. In 1943, Leonard and Ada welcomed their baby daughter, Suzon, into the family.

In 1950, Leonard was one of the Oklahoma Department of Highways men who built the Twin Bridges over the Spring and Neosho Rivers near Wyandotte, Okla.

Community service became key to Leonard's life. He joined the Lion's Club, the Wyandotte United Methodist Church, was a 32nd Degree Mason and member of the McAlester Consistory. He served on the Seneca Indian School Board, was a Member of Indian State School Board and Vice-President of the Eastern Executive Indian School Board. He became President of the Inter-Tribal Council at that time composed of eight tribes: the Seneca-Cayuga, Eastern Shawnee, Ottawa, Miami, Peoria, Quapaw, Modoc and Wyandotte. He served as a Member of the Alcoholism and Rehabilitation Program of the Inter-Tribal Council, member of Claremore Indian Hospital

See COTTER, Page 5



(Above) ca. 1942, USMC. (Left) ca. 1940, Leonard, Ada and Nick.

COTTER

Continued from Page 4

Board and President of the State Health-Education-Welfare Board.

Chief Cotter served the Wyandotte people during years that included the Great Depression and World War II, as well as years of national policy change for Indian people, and years of social unrest including the American Indian Movement (A.I.M.) activity in the late 1960s and 1970s. It was not easy dealing with pressing issues from inside and outside the tribe.

Chief Cotter refused to sell the Huron Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas, a far-sighted move that ultimately kept the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma eligible for federal recognition. He worked diligently on the Ohio claims cases against the federal government, asking for payment for tribal land lost in 1843 when the Wyandotte Nation was forced to move from its Ohio land. He kept the tribal citizens informed on the slow process in the courts. He helped establish a new roll and worked closely with the Department of Interior to write a new Wyandotte constitution, bylaws and corporate charter. He had a good relationship with the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Muskogee and received training on the Indian Self-Determination Act and oversaw the purchase of the land for the new Wyandotte Tribal Center on Highway 60.

In 1974, Chief Cotter addressed the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Wyandotte Indian Mission Church in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and met Mrs. Thelma Marsh, Wyandot historian and author. In 1976, Chief Cotter and other American Indian leaders met President Gerald R. Ford in the East Room of the White House.

Chief Cotter was Grand Marshal of the 1976 Bicentennial July Fourth Parade in Wyandot County, Ohio, and attended the historical pageant "Wyandotte, Wyandot," which portrayed the Tribe's removal to Kansas. He met Joe Hall, composer of the musical score for the pageant, the local mayor and his wife, and was presented an engraved canoe oar from the people of Wyandot



Cotter brothers, ca. 1950 –From left, Dee, Leonard, Homer, Clarence and Claude.

County, Ohio.

He was presented a replica of the totem pole in Wyandotte, Mich. (founded in 1854), and was grand marshal of their parade. There he saw where his ancestors had lived on the banks of the Detroit River. Chief Cotter was invited to Wyandotte, Mich., for the unveiling of a beautiful 12-foot bronze sculpture depicting a typical Wyandotte family and commemorating the importance of the Wyandotte people to the history of the area.

Chief Cotter enjoyed learning the Tribe's history and visiting the sites where his people had lived in Canada, Michigan and Ohio. He worked closely with Aubrey and Pat Buser, Wyandotte historians from Maryland, who often came to Oklahoma. The Cotters and Busers enjoyed a special bond because both men were Marines and both loved the history of Wyandot Chief Tarhe. Mr. Buser also assisted Chief Cotter with the Ohio claims cases. Long-time tribal secretary and board member Juanita McQuiston remembers Chief Cotter as being "a man's man."

"He was a true warrior who served his country. He got along well with other chiefs and he helped others advance," she said. "For example, he had me admitted to the Seneca Indian School Board. He also had a true and faithful wife who was greatly admired as a school teacher."

Chief Cotter died Nov. 18,

1976, while in office. His nephew, Ronnie Fisk, shares a family memory of him.

"My earliest recollections of Uncle Leonard go back to very early childhood and I always looked upon him as being a guy who was "steady as a rock." You could always count on him to be the same day in and day out. Things always seemed to be either right or wrong to him with little or no "gray" areas involved. It wasn't very difficult to know where you stood with him. I always respected him for all the very hard work he did on behalf of the tribe. He was Chief or Second Chief for 37 years. There were some interruptions in his service, and one of the interruptions was during WWII. It is my understanding (I think from my mother, Mary Cotter Fisk, and my Aunt Jo Cotter Bolles) that Leonard, sometime after the Pearl Harbor attack, volunteered for the U.S. Marine Corps. The story is that he went down to enlist and was told that he would never be called because he was married and had a child, but he insisted on enlisting and did so. I was also told that he was somewhat frustrated because he never made it overseas. I'm pretty sure the story is true since it sounds like exactly the type of thing he would do."

In 2015, Leonard and Ada Cotter's family includes: Nick and Martha Cotter (their son and daughter-in-law), and their children Ada Diane Cotter Hartig and Steven Nicholas Cotter; and

grandchildren Lisa Josette (Josie) Hartig, Avery Kelly Cotter, and Ryan Nicholas Cotter; and Suzon and Larry Pogue (their daughter and son-in-law), and their children Angela Beth Pogue Love, Julie Marie Pogue Breckenkamp and James Terrell (J.T.) Pogue; and their grandchildren Jessica Marie Love, Samuel Bradburn Love, Tyler Scott Breckenkamp, Connor Allen Breckenkamp, Spencer Thomas Breckenkamp, and Cotter James (C.J.) Pogue.

When Chief Cotter's grandson, Steven Nicholas Cotter, went for his first interview for a pilot's job with a major airline, he was asked by the interviewer to name a person he always admired and looked up to, and Steven responded, "my Grandfather Cotter, who was the Wyandotte Indian Chief!" Steven always said that was probably why he got the job! Without a doubt, his family adored and admired him.

Chief Cotter was impressed by a monument to the great Wyandot Chief Tarhe located on a country road in Ohio that reads "Distinguished Wyandot Chief and Loyal American," and he said that was the way he wanted to be remembered. A look at his family and life of service shows he met his goal well. Chief Leonard Nicholas Cotter has a distinguished place among the great chiefs of the Wyandotte Nation.

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A time to celebrate!

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
The Wyandotte Nation Preschool graduation was held Tuesday evening May 12 at the Bearskin Fitness Center gymnasium. The preschoolers donned caps and gowns, sang songs & recited poems before receiving their special recognition. Among the graduates, Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen Brooklynn Hobbs (Pictured Below) earned recognition for being the top Kumon Honor Student in the U.S. In all, there were 26 Kumon Honor Students.



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Police department adds new motor units to force

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department recently purchased two Harley Davidson Electra Glide Police Motorcycles and Police Chief Kendal Murphy believes they will be a valuable tool for his police force.

"We were advised by two other tribal agencies that having a motorcycle unit was very popular with the community and a great PR tool," Murphy said. "They primarily use them for community events, parades, and funeral escorts."

He said in addition to the community relations, the WNTPD will utilize the motor units in traffic enforcement, adding that they are more economical to operate and easier to maneuver through traffic.

The two 'retired' motorcycles were purchased from the Missouri Highway Patrol for around \$18,000 – well below their retail value. The units have relatively



low mileage and have been well-maintained. The WNTPD used a BIA law enforcement allocation to purchase the units.

Murphy said they decided to employ them in their fleet for two years to study the cost effectiveness and value to the WNTPD. So far, the units have been a success.

"I'm pleased to say that they have been very popular thus far and prompted conversations with community members and visi-



COURTESY PHOTOS

The WNTPD motor units were first utilized in the MDA Ride for Life, participating with other area motor units, in escorting over 300 riders through three states.

tors that normally wouldn't have happened," Murphy said. "These opportunities to have one on one conversations with the public are very positive and promotes our efforts in community policing."

Four officers have volunteered to receive the training to become certified to operate the motor units. Murphy said all four are experienced riders, but the training for police operation is 'rigorous and has proven quite challenging.'

"We're fortunate that the Quapaw Tribal Marshals deployed motor units a year ago and are providing most of our training," he said. "Working with the Marshals, Joplin P.D. and Oklahoma Highway Patrol on motor details has been a pleasure and developed good relations with these agencies."

For those wanting to see the newest additions to the police force, they will be on hand at the WNTPD's 4th Annual 'National Night Out' Tuesday, Aug. 4 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The event is a Community Block Party beginning at 6:30 pm and wrapping up around 8:30 p.m. at the Heritage Acres Park and Splash Pad in Wyandotte.

It will be an opportunity for the community to come together and visit with neighbors and local law enforcement to form stronger partnerships. The evening events will feature fun activities, burgers, hot dogs, refreshments, prize drawings and music.

Annual fireworks display draws nearly 2,400

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation hosted its annual Fireworks Display Thursday, July 2, at the Pow-Wow grounds.

An estimated 2,370 people gathered to witness the fireworks show, listen to great music from the Diversity Band, and enjoy food from various vendors. Youth also had the opportunity to play on inflatables leading up to the fireworks show.

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend addressed the crowd beforehand, thanking the community for supporting the Tribe's various local businesses (SONIC Drive-In, Turtle Stop, Wyandotte Nation Casino) as the free fireworks event was a way for the Nation to show its thanks for that support.

Following Chief Friend, tribal citizen Abby Baldwin sang the National Anthem leading into the fireworks show.



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www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation



The Wyandotte Nation's Annual Fireworks Display drew nearly 2,400 to the Pow-Wow grounds to feast on delicious vendor food, listen to great music from an area group, the Diversity Band, and watch an amazing display of fireworks Thursday, July 3. In addition, Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen Abby Baldwin (pictured left) sang the National Anthem.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Eagle Staff.

Honor Guard holds Memorial Day ceremony honoring Hildebrands

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard honored Earl Hildebrand, who served in World War I, and Bobby Dean Hildebrand, who served in World War II, during a special Memorial Day ceremony Monday morning, May 25.

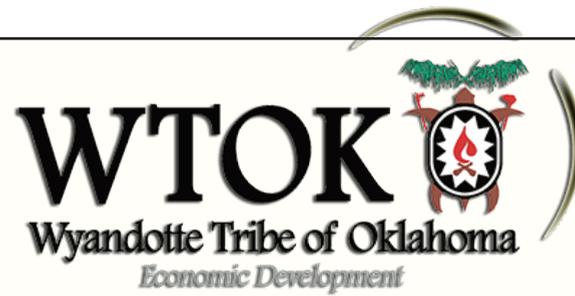
Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend opened the ceremony by discussing the importance of Memorial Day.

Following Chief Friend, Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand talked about his relatives and their service to our country during World War I and World War II.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand talks about Earl and Bobby Dean Hildebrand at the special ceremony.



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SONIC team advances to semifinals of competition

Congratulations to the employees at our SONIC Drive-In located in Seneca, Mo. They have been participating in the 2015 Dr. Pepper Sonic Games.

The competition evaluates the SONIC teams' performance in areas of customer service, speed of service, food presentation, and much more.

After five months of competition, Wyandotte Nation Restaurants' SONIC advanced to the semifinal round before being cut when it reached the top 300 stores in the nation.

It is a great accomplishment for a SONIC that has only been open for just over a year.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, WTOK CEO Kelly Carpino, Councilpersons Ramona Reid and Vivian Fink were on hand for the new Turtle Stop ribbon cutting, along with representatives from the Grove Chamber of Commerce and several WTOK staff. Pictured cutting the ribbon, WTOK Business Developer and tribal citizen Ron Brown, and new Turtle Stop (Grove) Manager Kristy Howard.

Turtle Stop in Grove now open

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The new Turtle Stop in Grove, Okla., became the latest addition to the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma's (WTOK) portfolio of businesses. WTOK is the economic development arm of the Wyandotte Nation.

The new Turtle Stop, a 4,248-square foot 24-hour full service convenience store located on US Hwy 59, offers fuel for those needing a fill up in the high traffic area near Grand Lake as well as the usual convenience store items, hot/cold drinks, and features Bellarico's Toasted Subs, New York Style Pizza and Breakfast Sandwiches.

"We see this as a great eco-

nomical venture for our Tribe; one that will contribute to the mission of our Tribe to help improve the quality of life for every tribal citizen," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. "The majority of our tribal benefits come from revenues provided through economic development. I want to commend our team at WTOK

for continuing to find ways to further diversify our portfolio of businesses."

The store, which had been vacant for several years, was purchased in August 2014 and received a complete makeover inside and out.

Kristy Howard is the manager of the new Turtle Stop.



WTOK delves into new business venture

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

Looking to continually expand and diversify its business



portfolio, the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma saw an opportunity for a spinoff from its core capabilities and created Wyandotte Technologies.

Wyandotte Technologies primary focus is access control, video surveillance, communications, and commercial audio and video. In addition, the company will also handle copper and fiber wiring, phone systems, and many other areas as well.

Wyandotte Technologies hired Jimmy Smith as Senior Project Manager and Jason Guild as Lead Technician. Smith brings 20-plus years of experience.

Smith said Wyandotte Technologies is certified in a lot of the

branding it is going to be offering. On some of those, Wyandotte Technologies will actually be the only certified operators in the area.

"I think this is a great opportunity. The market is wide open – the opportunities are there," said Smith, who has been working in this field since 1993. "This is the best time for us to jump in and start fresh with a new company and make a difference out there."

Access control deals with automated door access control like tenant access entry for apartment complexes, secured area access at what you might find on a hospital psych ward, private storage facilities, and then gate/barrier operators found at places like gated communities.

Smith said Wyandotte Technologies can do single door system to full enterprise like they are currently doing in the Carthage school district with nearly 600 doors. He also said they will do a lot of the gate/barrier operations.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte Technologies Senior Project Manager **Jimmy Smith** and Lead Technician **Jason Guild**.

"We can tie that into video surveillance where the camera sees the license plate of the vehicle and recognizes that as entry into the facility," he said.

The market is on the commercial side with the biggest push in educational facilities, corporate facilities, nursing homes and hospitals.

Wyandotte Services to provide technical security support for DoE

Wyandotte Services has secured a \$19 million contract to provide Technical Security Support Services for the Department of Energy's (DoE) Oak Ridge Office in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Wyandotte Services is an SBA Certified 8(a) company and an established supplier of technical support services. Wyandotte's highly qualified personnel will implement security programs that protect staff, information, technology, facilities, and the public.

"We've supported the Department of Energy for a number of years at multiple locations and we are excited to establish this relationship with the Oak Ridge Office," said Katie Thompson, Contracts Manager for the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK).

"The Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma's ongoing success hinges on our ability to acquire and retain major contracts. This award further validates the DoE's confidence in Wyandotte's quality, expertise, and ability to



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, (Front) Dalana Rutledge, Katie Thompson, Kevin Hall, Jim McDaniel. (Middle) Linda Manning, Pauline Douglas, Abbey Campbell, Donna Bibee, Kelly Carpino. (Back) Mark Ott, Cheryl Boykins, Chief Billy Friend, Tanisha Smith-Wimes, Cris Wren Van Horn, Rodney McNeill.

perform."

The Oak Ridge Office is a premiere site for the DoE Office of Science. Wyandotte Services is providing the technical security support services for the Office of Safeguards, Security and Emer-

gency Management's (OSSEM) Safeguards and Security (S&S) programs. It will manage the Personnel Security, Classification and Information Security, and Program Support for multiple locations.

WYANDOTTE
SERVICES

Wyandotte Services secures contract on GSA

Wyandotte Services is pleased to announce it has secured a contract on the General Services Administration (GSA) Multiple Award Schedule 70, one of the most widely used government acquisition vehicles. This contract allows the company to bid on thousands of Information Technology Professional Service contracts offered exclusively through Schedule 70.

"This contract opens up business opportunities at local, state, and national levels of government," said Katie Thompson, Contracts Manager for Wyandotte Services. "We look forward to providing our skills and services to a previously untapped government market."

The Creator's Game

Wyandotte
Nation Culture
Committee hosts
first Little Turtles
Lacrosse Camp

By **LLOYD DIVINE**
WYANDOTTE NATION
CULTURE COMMITTEE

As expected the weather in Northeast Oklahoma was hot and unforgiving for the first annual Little Turtles Lacrosse Camp. With 15 of our youth participating, and never having played lacrosse, no one really knew what to expect.

We were fortunate to have five player/coaches travel from Ypsilanti, Mich., home of Eastern Michigan University, to teach our kids how to play the Creator's game. Throughout the two day camp it was amazing to watch our kids slowly bond to Brian, Tyler, Scott, Alec, and Travis.

These five coaches are serious lacrosse players, great teachers, and some of the nicest guys you would ever hope to meet. They taught our kids the basic fundamentals of lacrosse, forged a team, and planted an excitement for the



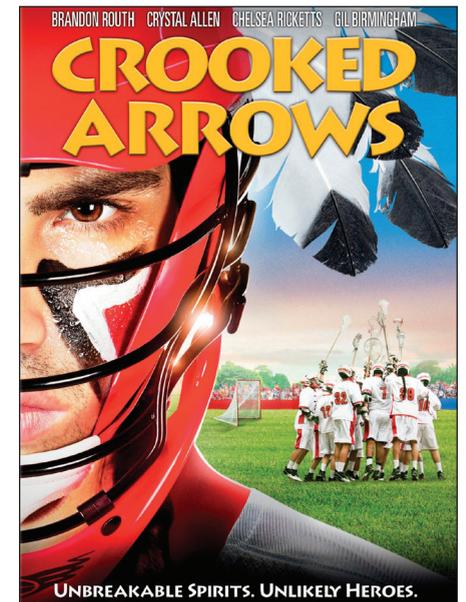
game amid little hearts that are obviously dominated by football. After all, living in Oklahoma where we have both the Sooners and Cowboys, football is obviously king. The coaches, and especially our kids, had a blast, worked exceptionally hard, and naturally took to the skills of a game they had never before played. All of this was done with only 12 hours of fun, yet intense training.

In true Oklahoma fashion it rained, well actually, it was a downpour the day we were scheduled to play the Eastern Shawnee in a friendly, yet seriously competitive

game of lacrosse. The game was moved indoors to the gym at the Bearskin Fitness Center and a racquetball was substituted for the lacrosse ball that weighs somewhere a little less than 50 pounds. The lacrosse ball is quite heavy, but not quite 50 pounds, and more than capable of drilling holes through the gym walls.

Lacrosse is not a contact sport; however, helmets are a necessity to protect against the ball that can travel well in excess of 100 miles per hour. Lacrosse is fast-paced. It too is intense and addictively fun to watch by moms and dads, and interested spectators alike.

Our kids and the Eastern



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
(Left) During the Gathering of Little Turtles, youth had a chance to try out lacrosse. (Above, Courtesy Photo) A poster for the movie 'Crooked Arrows.'

Shawnee kids played their hearts out for a full hour. It's not important to say what the final score was, but our Wyandotte kids won the game in convincing fashion. The Wyandotte Nation wants to again extend a big tizameh (thanks) to Brian, Tyler, Scott, Alec, and Travis for being a wonderful inspiration and role models to our kids. Next year we encourage all Wyandottes and Eastern Shawnee to come support our kids in what will hopefully become an annual game between our two great nations.

I doubt many of our citizens have ever played or seen lacrosse being played. It is a wonderful sport that had been played by our ancestors for countless generations before the arrival of the Europeans to North America.

Of course in true fashion the complexion of the game likely varies a lot from the way our ancestors played, but the spirit, competition, and unrivaled fun has not been lost.

In a rare recommendation, grab some popcorn -- another Indian invention and tradition -- also grab the kids and have a family movie night at home. If you have Netflix watch Crooked Arrows. It's a great, clean, and wholesome movie that easily shows the intensity of lacrosse and how it can bind a community together. Enjoy!



COURTESY PHOTOS

(Above) From left, Wyandotte lacrosse players with Eastern Michigan coaches Travis, Scott, Alec, Brian, and Tyler. (Left) With great instructors, Wyandotte players learned the game.

The Gathering of Little Turtles continues to grow

FROM THE WYANDOTTE NATION
CULTURE COMMITTEE

The 2nd Gathering of Little Turtles was held the weekend of June 26 - 28. Over the three days we had about 35 youth and another 20 adults/parents from not only the local area, but from Kansas City and Oklahoma City areas and as far away as California. It was a fantastic weekend seeing the kids engaged and excited to be learning about their culture and heritage.

Dr. John Steckley and his wife Angie, entertained everyone during language by acting out a few of our traditional stories. The kids became part of the story, playing various characters while learning how to pronounce many different animal names and what the names translated. They also learned how to ask for a deer figurine, then once given the item, to say thank you. Tan□t (Give to me) usken□t□ (the word for 'Deer'), Tizameh. There was lots of laughter when practicing the vowels, o, e and a while holding their noses.

Chief Bearskin must be smiling to know his dreams are becoming reality. Seeing the kids become engaged, listening and speaking Wandat words, who doesn't want to smile?

The Garcia brothers, Joshua, Caleb and Gabriel each spoke about their native talents. Gabriel presented his beading talents with the help of Momma Kim. Caleb dressed in his fancy dance regalia, told about his regalia and demonstrated his moves. Joshua, who will be our first Wyandotte grass dancer, spoke about not only what it takes to become a dancer but what it means to dance.

Little Turtles had the opportunity to design and string their own chokers and leather medalion with the assistance of Deryl Wright. They were very proud of their handiwork. These items can become a part of their regalia from youth to adult. Deryl also did a presentation on the proper way to shoot a bow and arrow, allowing each participant to give



Dr. John Steckley and his wife, Angie, act out one of the traditional stories for the youth at the Gathering of Little Turtles. During the event, the youth got to try out different pow-wow dances and listened to the Garcia brothers talk about what it takes to get into beading and pow-wow dancing. (Pictured Below) The Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee's Deryl Wright presents Caleb Garcia with a gift to store his regalia in.

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

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it a shot. We have the potential of having many outstanding archers in our future.

Shawn King from the Eastern Shawnee, came and lead everyone in many social dances, round dance, friendship dance, buffalo dance, to name a few. Everyone was up on their feet and joining in. Caleb Garcia and Sara Wright (Fancy Shawl), helped lead several dances and

also demonstrated some of their dances performed in competitions. Our Little Turtles have several great role models including those in the Garcia and Wright family.

This year was bigger than last year, and we expect this event to continue to grow and get better with each year.

One adult in attendance said one of her favorite things about

the camp was seeing the friendships being made among these young people, and the hope they are building lifelong connections to their Wyandotte family. You could see the joy in the faces of those who came last year, seeing their friends again.

Tizameh to all the parents who brought their Little Turtles and to everyone who helped make this second year a success.

MEMBER & COMMUNITY NEWS

Teen brings message back from White House Tribal Youth Gathering to Wyandotte

By TODD NIGHSWONGER
NEOSHO DAILY NEWS EDITOR
(REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION)

Growing up as 1/64th Wyandotte, Josh Garcia was familiar with his Native American heritage, but wanted to know more.

Garcia, who turns 18 on Monday (July 20) and will be a senior at Seneca High School, decided to take another step by representing the Wyandotte Nation July 9 at the White House Tribal Youth Gathering in Washington that featured First Lady Michelle Obama.

Garcia applied online and was accepted in mid-June to the first-time summit called by the White House. Chaperoned by his father, Arturo Garcia, it was an experience that he won't forget.

"I wanted to interact with other Native Americans and learn how I can improve things around here where my tribe is from," he said on why he applied.

Garcia was chosen to be among about 1,000 Native Americans from across the country as part of Generation Indigenous, or



COURTESY PHOTO
Josh Garcia takes time for a selfie with First Lady Michelle Obama during at trip to Washington DC.

Gen-I, a White House initiative that grew from President Barack Obama and Mrs. Obama's visit last year to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, which straddles the border between North Dakota and South Dakota. Meet-

ings followed, Cabinet members held listening tours, tribal youth were chosen as ambassadors, and a national network was formed.

Teenagers at the summit represented 230 tribes and 42 states. Discussions focused on economic opportunity, education and cultural and other issues.

"I expected just a gathering of Native Americans so we could associate with each other and talk about our daily lives," he said, adding that the summit proved to be more than that.

For Garcia, it was a way to expand on his work with Wyandotte youth in the Northeastern Oklahoma area to gain knowledge about their culture and history. He said it's important.

"You should always be proud of being Wyandotte," he said of his mother's side. His father is Mexican. "I learned I should be proud of my heritage and teach others how to do that."

Garcia said he met a lot of great people at the summit and learned how many Native Americans live differently. For example,

he didn't realize that native Hawaiians are considered to be Native Americans.

More important, however, for Garcia was that the summit encouraged him to go back to the Wyandotte Nation and "teach our roots, heritage and language to youth." For one thing, he wants to learn more about the Wandat language and share it.

Obama counseled the young people to connect with and "be inspired by each other" and to find out what issues others are working on and to take ideas home with them.

An issue for Garcia is many people's misunderstanding of Native American culture and heritage, whether it's getting textbooks to include more than one page on Native American history or helping people realize that tribes still have pow-wows. In addition, he'd like to see improvements in the Indian Health Service, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency that provides health care to Native American and Alaskan Native peoples.

NE Oklahoma participates in 'Start By Believing'

By KIMBERLY BARKER
MIAMI NEWS RECORD
(REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION)

MIAMI — The Miami Police Department, the Wyandotte Tribal and Municipal Police Department and the Ottawa County District Attorney's Office have combined forces in a nationwide sexual assault awareness campaign called "Start By Believing."

The campaign brings awareness to the needs of sexual assault victims and how the victims usually confide in a family member or friend instead of law enforcement.

"The basic premise behind the 'Start By Believing' campaign is to let the public know that they need to encourage victims," said President of the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police Chief Kendal Murphy of the Wyandotte Nation Tribal & Municipal Police Department.

"Their response is critical. They need to be encouraging, don't blame victims and help them get the support they need. It's the main initiative to show that law enforcement, prosecutors, the advocates, we're all working together for the victims."



Sadie Lynn - Marie Mertens was born to Nickolas Mertens and Victoria Mertens on 6/23/2015 at 6:23 pm. She weighed 8lbs 11oz and was 20 inches long."

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

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

-- Submitted by Deana Howard,
HR Director



Woodward

The Wyandotte Nation Gaming Department is very happy to welcome Austin Woodward. Austin will serve as the Internal Audit Officer. Austin has over 2 years of experience. Austin graduated from MSSU with his Bachelor's Degree as an Account-

ing Major. He enjoys spending time with his friends and family. Austin also enjoys hiking, camping, and spending time outdoors. We are very fortunate to have Austin on our team and wish him much success in his new position.

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is very happy to welcome Dr. Robert Hopper. He will serve as the Clinic Administrator for the clinic. Dr. Hopper has over 29 years' experience in the area as a physician. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family and riding his motorcycle.



Hopper

He also enjoys art and music. He volunteers helping with veterans and is a veteran from the Vietnam Era. Dr. Hopper is committed to helping patients maintain and strive to improve their health and live better, healthier lives. We are very fortunate to have him return to the clinic on a part time regular basis and wish him much success in his position.

The Facilities Department has a returning seasonal staff member, John Gerhard, who has worked eight summers for the Tribe. John is a business management major at Crowder College. John is a member of the Wyandotte Nation. In his spare time he enjoys playing guitar/



Gerhard

keyboard, riding his motorcycle and target shooting. We are very fortunate to have John return again this year.

Family Services

-- Submitted by Kate Randall,
Family Services Director

Since our last newsletter, family services staff have been busy with summer youth activities, arts and crafts week, vacations, and assisting our tribal citizens.

Although it is still summer, school always seems to be just around the corner and to avoid the back-to-school hectic shopping, family services has begun the "back-to-school" program July 1. Please read the program guidelines as outlined below. All deadlines will be enforced. Funding for each program has beginning and ending dates so please help us help you by remembering to follow the guidelines.

School Supplies

Began July 1, 2015 and ends Sept. 30, 2015. Walmart Gift Cards will be available in the amount of \$100 for each student. If you opt not to use the Gift Card program and choose to shop at other stores, you can turn in paid receipts, up to \$100 per child, for reimbursement. Receipts for both the Gift Card and Reimbursement programs need to be dated between July 1, 2015 through Sept. 30, 2015. Receipts and reimbursements MUST be turned into the family services office by Sept. 30, 2015. There is a list of allowable purchases with the application. School Supply applications are available at the Nation's website, WWW.WYANDOTTE-NATION.ORG. If you choose to email your application, please use the following email address: LRADABAUGH@WYANDOTTE-NATION.ORG. For questions, please call Leeanna at 918-678-6329 or any family services staff member.

In addition, should you live close to Joplin Missouri, tribal citizen Anita Davis has a children's clothing thrift shop. Infant through teen clothing are available at a greatly reduced price. The name of the shop is Tiny Tots Closet and it is located at 1651 West 7th Street, Suite 18, Joplin, Missouri.

Employee of the Year



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand recognized Custodian Nick Baron as the Nation's Employee of the Year during Employee Appreciation Week.

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 help during this peak season or for crisis/cut off notices. A LIHEAP application is required with proof of income. LIHEAP 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 Sept. 30, 2015. No late applications are accepted. This is funded for the 4 States of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas for age 55+. The \$100 utility payments must be paid directly to your vendor. An application and copy of your utility bill is required.

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 4 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. The program begins with the new funding cycle; Oct. 1, 2015.

High School Junior or Senior Program

This \$250 benefit is for all junior and senior high school students in the 4 States of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas. It can be used for a variety of expenses such as class rings, testing, prom related expenses, and 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. The new funding year begins on Oct. 1, 2015.

Extra Expense/Extra Curricular Expenses

This is for all school age students, preschool through high school. This program is also limited to the 4 State area. The benefit amount is \$100. Everything for this past school year

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must be turned in no later than Sept. 30, 2015. The new funding year begins Oct. 1, 2015.

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 1, 2016. Walmart cards can be requested, however, every item must be identified for the child it was purchased for. A list of allowable expenses will be provided with the winter clothing application. This is a four month program, which allows adequate time for our citizens to purchase the clothing and turn in the required paperwork by March 1.

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. Please 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 referrals for specialists from the Bearskin Clinic 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. This year's funding cycle ends Sept. 30, 2015. The new start date for 2015-2016 is Oct. 1. Patient information is HIPPA, (private), so appointment cards can be used as proof that you have an appointment. Fuel for serious medical conditions that require multiple out of town doctor visits may be authorized for up to \$250.

1978 Indian Child Welfare Act

Newly proposed Bureau of Indian Affairs regulations will be in legislation for additional protections of our Indian Children. There have been listening sessions involving our tribal leaders. Chief Billy Friend, Tara



Employee Appreciation

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
Wyandotte Nation employees gathered for one large group photo at the Wyandotte Nation Casino's Event Center during the annual Employee Appreciation Week. 'Wyandotte Nation Rocks' was the theme and employees enjoyed a rocking costume contest, bowling, root beer floats, community service, a dance off (pictured left), and performed in a talent show, featuring the various employee artists, comedians and magicians. Tim Harnar and Wyandotte Nation Employee of the Year Nick Baron formed the band 'Tick' and won the talent show with their rendition of Tenacious D's "Tribute."

Gragg and Dana Butterfield attended a session in Oklahoma. Chief Friend was able to speak on the matter. Tribal sessions are Nationwide as there have been NO changes to the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act since it was adopted by Congress in 1978. For more information, please check out the following website: www.bia.gov. (Proposed legislation).

The National Indian Child Welfare Association as well as the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association are Native organizations who are also working diligently to ensure that the new legislation addresses all issues as to what is in the best interest for Tribes, and tribal families. All Tribes have a right to intervene in state court proceedings to advocate for reunification of parent/child or to protect Indian children from being

adopted outside their tribal communities.

Here at the Wyandotte Nation our children are valued as they are the future of our nation. Currently the Wyandotte Nation is in need of loving families within a 50-mile radius of the Tribal offices to become certified as Foster Parents.

By 2016, the Wyandotte Nation housing, located behind the Tribal offices, will become tribal trust land. This will cause the Wyandotte Nation to be responsible for all child welfare issues that occur on this land. Therefore, there is a great need for foster parents that reside in close proximity to the tribal headquarters here in Wyandotte.

If you feel like you can provide temporary or long term care for a child or children, please call the

Family Services Department. When a child has to be removed from their parent(s), the Tribe wants to place Wyandotte children with Wyandotte Families. Open your home and heart for the future of our Nation.

Burial Assistance

This is a nationwide benefit in the amount of \$1,500 to be used for funeral/burial expenses. A copy of the death certificate, proof of tribal enrollment of the Wyandotte Citizen, a funeral home statement, and the burial application.

The funds can be paid to the next of kin if all of the funeral home expenses have been paid in full.

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Please allow 14 days to process and applications must be received within 90 days of the death.

Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Cards)

The Wyandotte Nation has contracted with CoreSource to administer this program, if you need assistance in acquiring claim forms or need an explanation of what your card can be used for, please feel free to call a member of the Family Services staff. Occasionally there will be questions that we will not be able to answer and will need to refer you directly to CoreSource.

Tribal citizens should be receiving quarterly statements with account balances, but if you need to check your balance you can contact the Tribe or CoreSource directly at 800-990-9058 x42086. There is also a website where you can establish account access to check your balances 24 hours a day. Tribal staff can also assist you with setting up your on-line access.

Children who are enrolled at the 2015 Annual Meeting will automatically be added to their tribal parent's Benny account on Jan. 1, 2016. Individuals 18 years and older who are enrolled at the 2015 Meeting will receive their cards and benefit information in December 2015.

New Enrollee Benefit

If a completed application and birth certificate are received by a child's first birthday the child will receive a \$100 gift card and a baby blanket with the Wyandotte Nation tribal logo. Original State Certified Birth Certificates are mandatory but will be returned within 10 working days. Membership applications may be obtained by fax, email or the postal service.

Tribal Enrollment

DEADLINE FOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Aug. 15, 2015.

Be sure to get your enrollment applications in by the above deadline. Applications received after this date will be held until the 2016 Annual Meeting. It is important for children to be enrolled in a timely so they will be eligible for such tribal programs as school supplies, winter clothing, above mentioned Supplemental Health Benefit and education scholarships.

Photo citizenship cards are now

Housing

-- Submitted by **Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director**

Beginning in October, the Housing Department will implement a down payment assistance program. Tribal members must qualify for a traditional loan and meet the financial guidelines set forth by HUD, and the home must be located in Ottawa County. This will be limited to the first 10 qualifying applicants.

The Splash Pad is open and will remain open until the middle of September, weather permitting. Area schools and daycares have utilized the splash pad, as well as local residents. The hours are 9 am to 9 pm. Plans are being made to expand the park area by adding covered pavilions, a walking trail, and a basketball court.

The Community Center is open daily from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Pool

available. If you live in the area stop in and get your new ID card. For our citizens residing at a distance, you may apply for a new tribal ID card with or without a photo. If you prefer a photo citizenship card, passport pictures are available at postal offices as well as retail drug store chains. PHOTO ID CARDS ARE NOT MANDATORY BUT CAN BE USED AS A FORM OF IDENTIFICATION. Sorry, photo ID are not currently available for minors.

The new citizenship cards include your blood quantum, roll number and date of birth. Cards with photo include a signature. If you are already enrolled and want to request a replacement card you must complete an application. This helps the staff to ensure that all data is up-to-date as well as requires a signature as to who is requesting the document. Applications are available by mail, email, or can be downloaded from the Family Services section of the Tribe's website.

Tribal Tag Program

ALL OF OKLAHOMA -- PASSENGER VEHICLES, RV'S/TRAVEL TRAILERS AND MOTORCYCLES: HANDICAP PLATES ARE OFFERED WITH APPROVED PHYSICIAN DOCUMENTATION. All tag procedures can be processed through the mail. Please allow extra time for mailing and processing of your new/renewal

tables, a ping pong table, and air hockey are available for use. The cost of renting the center is \$50 for tribal member, and \$75 for non-tribal, with a \$25 cleaning deposit. The dates for 2016 are already beginning to fill. If you are interested in renting, contact the housing office.

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

business. Insurance verifications are ALWAYS required and if purchasing a new vehicle the title or certificate of origin must be submitted to the Wyandotte Nation Tax Commission. Renewals or new tags cannot be issued without proof of insurance. Renewal notices are mailed as a courtesy two weeks prior to the month of vehicle expiration. If you don't receive your notice please contact the office, but you are still responsible for making sure your decals are up-to-date.

In closing, remember always the Wyandotte Nation is here to serve our tribal families. The word "CARE" is much more than just a definition. "CARE" is serious attention, watchfulness, protection, concern or worry -- it is the motto the Wyandotte Nation adheres to. Each and every person that comes into the Family Services Department is special to us. You are family! Although many of our citizens live too far away to come in and see us, we are just a phone call away. Please come in or call, our job is you.

Department Contacts

Kate Randall, Director, 918-678-6324, krandall@wyandotte-nation.org
Tara Gragg, Tribal Social Worker, 918-678-6355, tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org
Dana Butterfield, Enrollment/Tag/Family Services, 918-678-6319, dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

Leeanna Radabaugh, Enrollment/Tag/Family Services, 918-678-6329, lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org

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

Planning/Development

-- Submitted by **Ron Kaiser, Senior Advisor**

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

The new water system expansion project has been operational. Which includes; 70,000 gallon standpipe, well, well-house, pump house, extensive water distribution system and improved roadways serving Tribal neighborhood. Final cleanup is now complete and working through closing out the Rural Development element of the project.

The Culture Center project had been modified so re-advertisement for construction bids will yield pricing, within budget. The bid opening was on July 31, 2015. The project team is modifying the scope to achieve better bids. The primary change is modification of Heating Air-condition System from Geo-Thermal to split system and having single story construction.

Another project provides expansion to the Ardie 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 a FEMA compliant safe room. The implementation team has been meeting to develop final project plans. This project has been advertised for construction Bids will also be opened July 31, 2015.

We are evaluating tribal properties for different projects; ranging for stocking fish in ponds, protecting potential historic features, preparing for sustainable agriculture projects,

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completed negotiations with Phillips 66 for a pipeline relocation and with BNSF railway for railroad crossing, cleaning/updating a house the tribe recently purchased.

Installed new heating/air system in what is known locally as the "Jeanne House," and currently siding and exterior trim are being replaced.

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, and 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

Environmental

-- Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental Director

Hello everyone. Well summer is here but with all the rain it still seems like spring! The prolonged flooding has hindered our sampling of several stream sites, our spring macro invertebrate count and annual habitat assessment survey. Flooding has also hindered sampling for our mercury fish tissue study. We hope the rain subsides soon so these projects can be completed. The high flow washed out our continuous water quality monitoring station. Fortunately, the water quality monitoring sonde was at the repair center and not deployed at the time Contractors came down July 6 and repaired the station and re-deployed the sonde.

We have been very busy keeping up with everything while Jon and Kathy are out on medical leave. Fortunately we have a summer intern, Jonah Charlton, who helps us two days a week and our water utilities operator, Scott Mills, who helps when possible. We have been managing fairly well.

On May 1, we joined with the Eastern Shawnee Environmental Department in hosting a macro invertebrate identification training at Jolly Mill on Capps Creek in Missouri. Several of the local



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Lost Creek Recycling Center hosted kids from the Gathering of the Little Turtles to discuss some of the recycling programs the Wyandotte Nation offers as well as items that could be recycled for future use.

Tribes attended along with Missouri DNR and Wildlife conservation folks.

On May 28, we held our third rain barrel education class. There were 22 households represented and each household received a rain barrel. This class is part of our 319 Non-Point Source grant.

We conduct several Environmental



Education events throughout the year. On June 5, we accompanied the Wyandotte Nation preschool summer program on a trip to the Neosho Missouri National Fish Hatchery. We held 1 1/2 hour sessions daily with the Wyandotte Nation summer youth program from June 15-18. We held two sessions with 6- and 7-year olds. In one session we taught them about the water cycle and made water cycle mobiles. In the other session we lead them on a tour of our recycling center and let them make planters from recycled plastic bottles. With the 8-12-year olds we brought out

the viewing scopes and microscopes so they could investigate the different macro invertebrates. In their second session we toured the recycle center, divided the kids into small groups and let them build something with recycled materials.

On June 26, we hosted the Gathering of the Little Turtles group at the Lost Creek Recycling Center where we explained what we do at the center, what can be recycled, and how important recycling is to the environment.

Services provided:

- Private Water Well Tests
- Septic Assessments
- Recycling Center

Meetings attended:

- SR WRAPS—Janice
- TECO—Kathy
- WinRock Env. Conf.—Christen
- EPA OU5—Christen
- NAWMA Drinking Water Wells—Scott and Janice
- Tar Creek Conference Planning—various

Department Contacts

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

Elder Services

-- Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

Wow! It's almost time again for the Gathering, Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow. It will be great to see you all again and hopefully meet some new faces too. We will have a special surprise for your lunch following the Annual Meeting so be sure and come down to the Artie Nesvold Community Center (Title VI, Elder Services) and get your meal.

The Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center's Annual Health Fair and the Medicare Part D/Diabetic Screening Project will be Sept. 15. We will partner with the Eastern Shawnee Elder Services, Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging, Wyandotte Lions Club, and the Northeast Tribal Transit. The Pelivan will provide free transportation to the event.

The Lions Club will have their mobile screening van and will be utilizing the Nursing Students from the Afton Vo-tech to help with the screenings. We will have blood pressure and blood sugar checks, bone density, eye exams, hearing tests and more. There will be a booth with packets for Medicare Part D Enrollment and trained staff to help participants complete the forms. There will be other booths there as well with a wealth of information. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. We will have goodie bags and lots of prizes, including two recliners.

Our 4th Annual Picnic N The Park at Twin Bridges State Park will be Sept. 23. We will partner with the Eastern Shawnee, Quapaw and Ottawa Tribes, Good Shepherd Hospice and Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging. The awesome Duke Mason will perform his wonderful "Elvis" for us. We will have lots of good food, prizes, and dancing! Please come out and play with us!

We will be headed to the Tulsa St Fair to the Ice Capades to see Disney's "Frozen" Oct. 2.

On Oct. 15-16, the Oklahoma Indian Council will be holding a Cook's/Van Driver's Training in Tulsa.

We will have our Halloween Party Oct. 30. We will have a costume contest and prizes.

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

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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Caregiver

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

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

Education

--Submitted by Tammy Charles, Education Director

Wyandotte Nation Preschool ended the 2014-2015 Preschool year on May 15. As in past years, a number of students excelled in the Kumon Math Program. The top student in the program nationwide was Wyandotte Nation tribal member Brooklyn Hobbs -- she is the daughter of Shelby and Ed Hobbs.

The last few days of school were spent celebrating accomplishments and enjoying times with classmates. Applications are still arriving for preschool for the 2015-2016 year. The reputation of the program combined with the need for care options for families has led to the decision to add two afternoon classes. As a result of the addition, we will be expanding our staff numbers also.

We will begin classes for fall on Aug. 20 and our open house will be Aug. 19. If you or any family member is interested in our Preschool program, please contact our offices as there are a limited number of openings available.

Summer Program

Summer program began on May 18 with over 100 children enrolled. Average attendance has been 80 children. The summer program schedule was changed up a bit this



COURTESY PHOTO

(Above) The summer youth program took a trip to Nature Falls State Park in Oklahoma. (Below) The youth put on a Patriotic Program for friends and family in early July.

year and the new structure allowed for the attendees to select special programs that included cooking, technology, recreation and others. The month of June was highlighted by participation in the Discovering our Roots program with Family Services, Environmental and Fitness departments. We participated in swim lessons at the NEO Aquatic Center and the Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas again facilitated Vacation Bible School on site.

We have four more weeks of activities planned to enhance the summer break of our children enrolled. The Education staff wishes to acknowledge the summer interns that are assisting with summer program and all of the events. Those tribal youth are: Trace Friend, Allison Gann, Joshua Garcia, Elizabeth Hudson, Mikalya Keller, Madison Kelley, Brittany Simpson, Kalli Tandy, and Emilee Wills.



(Above Left) The Summer Youth Program performs in the Patriotic Program. (Above Right) A physical activity workshop for childcare providers.



Child Care Development Fund

The CCDF Program has been busy with new client certification, child count processes and workshops and trainings for local child care providers. We offer child care assistance for families of Native Americans that are working or in training. You must reside within 100 miles of our offices in Wyandotte. The child count that determines our level of funding was submitted to the federal offices in

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COURTESY PHOTOS

Library Corner

Logging summer reading hours



This summer our Reading Heroes have been logging their hours with books from the Wyandotte Nation Library! New young adult titles and series, Minecraft, and the new superhero books for all ages are the most popular. Summer Reading Programs are a great way to keep those reading skills sharp for the start of school and to collect some paperbacks and goodies along the way!

In addition to the many new book titles, our DVD movie collection has expanded this summer with forty new movies and the general layout of the book collections has been reorganized by some very dedicated students in the Library Media Specialist program at Pittsburg State University. Nine students doing internship community service contributed over 250 hours processing books, computer work, cleaning, shifting and straightening shelves.

Check the Wyandotte Nation Facebook page for times and dates in late summer for the computer basics classes using the I-Pads, and wrap-up classes for finger-weaving and beading.

Snoopy was at the American Library Association 2015 Conference in San Francisco to remind everyone that September is National Library Card Sign-up Month! And you can sign up at the Wyandotte Nation Library, any month!

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

Diabetes Clinic

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

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June and we look forward to extended funding at or above the current level to continue to assist families in our area.

On Saturday, May 30, the Northeast Tribal CCDF Programs hosted physical activity training for 60 child care providers at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium. Scott Robison of the Muskogee Creek Nation conducted a four-hour workshop full of games and movement ideas to incorporate in child care for all ages. The Bearskin Gym has conducted numerous events for this group in the past year.

Workforce Investment

The WIA program is busy working on summer student funding as well as receiving grades and transcripts for current students. The program currently has openings for additional students that reside in the Southeast Kansas or Southwest Missouri area.

Tribal Scholarships

The number of new applicants for tribal funding has reached fifty for fall of 2015. The current level of funding for undergraduate pursuits is \$2,250 for full time or \$187 per hour for less than 12 hours and is renewable for up to eight semesters. For master's level or beyond studies, the Wyandotte Nation allows up to four semesters of assistance at \$1,500 each. To continue to receive semesters funding beyond the initial semester, you must provide an updated transcript that reflects grades of current semester and schedule for next term. Vocational funding is available for many non-degree seeking programs and the amount is based on longevity of program and cost. High school students are eligible to apply for assistance with fees associated with dual credit classes.

Tribal Library

The family of Annita Jolene Tucker presented the library with an oak rocker in her memory. Jolene was a member of the education staff and had worked with the library staff to establish reading times and the children's area. We wish to thank Carl, Seantelle and Travis for the lovely addition to our library.

The library has benefited from Pittsburg State University this summer as several students have shared their time and talents with the

Pushups for Charity



COURTESY PHOTO

Wyandotte Nation Police Chief Ken Murphy takes part in the Bearskin Fitness Center's 'Pushups for Charity' event June 4. Pushups for Charity is an annual nationwide event that raises awareness of the challenges military service members and veterans face.

library as they fulfill the practicum hour requirement for degree attainment. The students have assisted Deb Haynes with library display, organization and digitization of records.

If you have any questions about the services/programs mentioned please contact the education department.

Department Contacts:

Tammy R Charles 918-678-6330
Loretta Combes 918-678-6334
Madeline Green 918-678-6331



COURTESY PHOTO

The Tucker family presents the library with a rocker.

Health

--Submitted by Kelly Friend,
Director of Health Services

Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is the place to be this summer! Parties have been booked in the gym and pool around the clock, kids from Turtle Tots and the community are swimming, youth program is in full swing with 30 participants and our members are working intensely in the gym...just the way it is preferred!

Preparations are underway to continue the busy season through the fall with the Annual Health Fair and an additional 5K and 1 Mile fun run.

Once again, the facility has teamed up with the Wyandotte Nation Title VI services, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Grand Gateway, Medicare Part D and the Lions Club to provide screenings, food and fun in the annual health fair! This entertaining time will be held Sept. 15 at 1 Turtle Drive, Wyandotte. Be sure to mark the calendar.

Another event, calendar worthy, is the Second Annual Red Ribbon Run on Oct. 10. This event is planned to coincide with Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October in the United States. The run is sponsored by the Wyandotte Nation Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative and the Bearskin Fitness Center.

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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The Bearskin Healthcare team is working diligently to provide you high level service from positioning a new practitioner to current services being offered. The mission of Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center

is to provide primary and preventive healthcare of the uppermost quality to Tribal Members and the community served, utilizing all available resources. Concentration will be to continuously promote wellness through fitness resources and educational programs. Pride is taken in not

only the facility but in the care given in every aspect of every position.

Federal requirements limit many programs, however, Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness personnel drive every position to meet patients' needs as fully as possible.

The Annual Meeting is right

around the corner and the staff is looking forward to greeting those from far and near. Come stop by to visit or bring your questions. The gang is ready to assist you in any manner possible.

For more information, contact: (918) 678-2282

2015 The Gathering Schedule

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9

(All activities at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium and Community Center)

1 to 1:15 pm – Welcome and introductions. (facilitated by the Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee)

1:15 to 1:45 pm – History: Clothing and Garments. (facilitated by Lloyd Divine)

1:45 to 2 pm – Introduction of Dr. John Steckley.

2 to 2:30 pm – Language: Useful words. (facilitated by Dr. John Steckley)

2:30 to 2:45 pm - Break.

2:45 to 4:45 pm - Crafts/Special Interests. 1. Finger weaving (GROUP I) sashes for the women and garters for the men. 2. Loom beading and wampum belt. 3. Soap making (GROUP II) 4. Age appropriate crafts/activities for kids. (facilitated by Loretta Combes, Jan Graham, Kim Garcia, and Patricia Manley)

4:45 to 5:15 pm - Transition to Community Center.

5:15 to 7 pm – Social, Games, and Dinner. [catered by Red's BBQ from Fairland]

7 to 7:15 pm - Transition to Gazebo.

7:15 to 9 pm - Storytelling with Family and Friends. (facilitated by the Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

(All activities at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium, Artie Nesvold Title VI Building, and Community Center)

9 to 9:15 am – Welcome and introductions. (facilitated by the Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee)

9:15 to 9:45 am – History: Food and Shelter. (facilitated by Lloyd Divine)

9:45 to 10:15 am – Language: Composing words. (facilitated by Dr. John Steckley)

10:15 to 10:30 am – Break.

10:30 am to Noon - Social Dancing. (facilitated by Shawn King of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma)

Noon to 1:30 pm – Lunch at Artie Nesvold Title VI Building.

1:30 to 3:30 pm – Crafts/Special Interests. 1. Finger weaving (GROUP II) sashes for the women and garters for the men. 2. Loom beading and wampum belt. 3. Soap making (GROUP I) 4. Age appropriate crafts/activities for kids. (facilitated by Loretta Combes, Jan Graham, Kim Garcia, and Patricia Manley)

3:30 to 3:45 pm - Break.

3:45 to 4:15 pm – Language: Putting it all together. (facilitated by Dr. John Steckley)

4:15 to 4:45 pm - Know Your Nation. (facilitated by Chief Billy Friend

and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand)

4:45 to 5:15 pm - Questions and Answers. (facilitated by the Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee)

5:15 - 5:45 pm - Transition to Artie Nesvold Title VI Building.

5:45 - 7 pm – Social, Games, and Traditional Dinner. (Hominy and beef with fry bread)

7 to 8 pm - Transition to Eastern Shawnee.

8 to 10 pm - Social dancing with Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

1:45 to 2 pm - Closing events and farewell.

2 to 5 pm - Crafts/Special Interests combined GROUPS I & II finger weaving work time.

5 pm to close - Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow.

All participants are required to register online at:

**wyandotte-nation.org/
community/tribal-heritage/
the-gathering**

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

(All activities at the Pow Wow Grounds, Bearskin Fitness Center (outdoors), Artie Nesvold Title VI Building, and Community Center)

8 to 9 am - Blessing of the Pow-Wow grounds and naming ceremony. (facilitated by Chief Billy Friend)

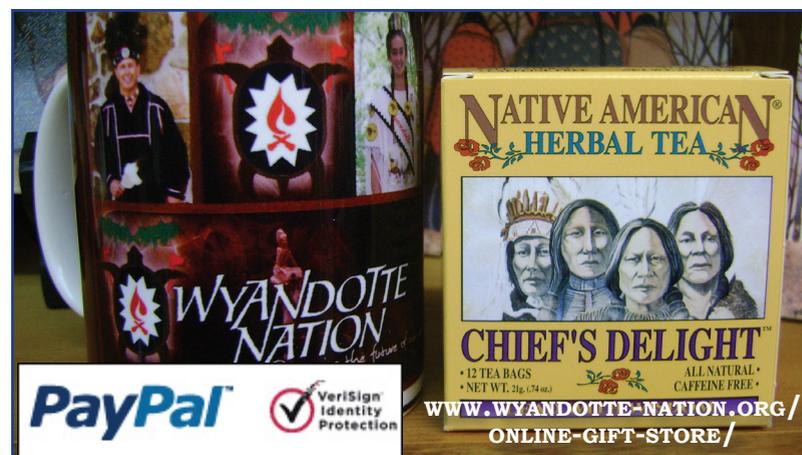
11 to 11:30 am – Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center/Museum. (facilitated by Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand)

11:30 to Noon – Transition to Artie Nesvold Title VI Building.

Noon to 1:30 pm - Lunch at Artie Nesvold Title VI Building.

1:30 to 1:45 pm - Transition to Community Center.

Finger weaving is the featured craft for this years Gathering. You will notice there are two designated groups. Due to the complexity of finger weaving and the need to keep classes small you will be assigned to either Group I or Group II. On Wednesday Group I will have their training session while Group II attends soap making (or other designated craft). On Thursday Group II will have their training session while Group I attends soap making. This is being done to allow the finger weaving instructors better one-on-one time to teach the skill. On Friday afternoon both Group I and Group II will meet in the Community Center to finish their projects.



ONLINE GIFT STORE

Tribal items, Native made & just COOL stuff!

Featured items: Tribal mugs, pins, T-shirts, caps, books, & totes

Check it out!

Convenient:

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- Pay with your credit card, debit card, or bank account. Your choice.
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- When shopping online you will never have to give your credit card number to us.
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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