Charles Aubrey Buser
1922 - 2010

In the early morning of Monday, January 11, 2010, the Wyandotte Nation lost a dear friend and historian of our nation, Mr. Charles Aubrey Buser. Although not a Wyandotte by birth, his heart was purely Wyandotte. Aubrey was a valued mentor to the Wyandotte Nation and to hundreds of people across North America. He researched our history and freely shared his life’s work with anyone who had a question that needed an answer. He will be sincerely missed.

In 1997, Aubrey was the Wyandotte Nation’s Pow Wow Honoree. The Pow Wow book of that year gave a wonderful account of his life. He was always a true gentleman in every sense of the word. His love for his family was unshakable. His love for his adopted people was equally as strong. The Wyandotte Nation extends its heartfelt gratitude and its sincere sympathy to his wife, Pat, and to each of his family members. He will forever be on the “Wyandot Path.”

Aubrey Buser was born on May 13, 1922, near New Market, Indiana. His interest in the Wyandots (as he learned to spell the name), came when he was a child of eight or nine years of age. “I read a series of books in which one of the principal characters was a young Wyandot,” Buser said. “In time, I learned that fictional character was based on the life of Tarhe, the most distinguished member of the tribe during the Ohio years. Until the death of my mother, when I was ten, she encouraged me to learn all that I could about my

(continued on page 6)
The Chief Says......

The year 2010 is upon us and we’re getting started on our first quarter of our new year. It’s time we start our observance of our fourth ten-year plan. Our plan of action will include a plan for furnishing educational funding for our tribal members and health insurance for all our families. Education and health services have always been two of our top priorities for our tribal members. Our Board of Directors are well acquainted with these priorities and will constantly strive to improve these services for the Wyandotte Nation. Let’s all work together on these objectives.

From Billy Friend - Second Chief

Kweh,

I hope this letter finds all Wyandottes doing well and that you each had a wonderful Holiday season. I also want to take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Each new year I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul writing to the Philippians when he said “This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind I press forward to what lies ahead” (Philippians 3:13). Many of us start the New Year off by making resolutions that we may or may not keep, but the one thing according to Paul that each of us must do is to forget those things which are now behind us and continue to look ahead. Maybe 2009 for you was a year full of disappointments, hurts and failures or maybe it was a year of successes and accomplishments. Whichever it was he is saying we must forget and put those things behind us if we are to ever move forward. Those memories whether they be of failures, physical or emotional trauma, or successes, all can arrest our focus and keep us from looking forward.

The past year was a very good year for the Wyandotte Nation, but even so we have many things still to accomplish and we cannot rest upon our successes of this past year. One of the greatest things I have learned from Chief Bearskin is to always be looking ahead. Everything that has been accomplished at the Wyandotte Nation has been a part of a ten year plan of which Chief is now on his third.

This year we will begin construction on fourteen new single family homes and two more senior duplexes in our newly developed housing addition just north of the tribal headquarters. We will also be breaking ground this spring on our expansion of the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center. The project will include a full size gymnasium, new cardio exercise facility, running track, indoor swimming pool, daycare facility and underground safe room (storm shelter). Also, we just received another Indian Community Development Grant for a new water system for our tribal citizens who live just off of South Highway 10 who have had high levels of natural occurring arsenic in there wells for several years.

Here at the Wyandotte Nation we are truly thankful for all that our Creator has blessed us with knowing that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above…” (James 1:17), but we will continue to look forward and keep our focus upon our mission which “is to improve the quality of life for all tribal members”. As always it is with great honor that I serve you as Second Chief.

Tizameh,

Billy Friend

Hamëdadú:rö'

Chief Leaford Bearskin

From Billy Friend - Second Chief
B. N. O. Walker’s literary classic Tales of the Bark Lodges, originally published in 1919, is a cultural treasure of the Wyandotte Nation. In his stories B. N. O. captures the spoken language of Wyandotte elders of his day as they, “...failed in their use of ordinary English, to the most humorous degree. ...Yet, in spite of the many perplexities, when in the mood to do so, within the family, or circle of intimates, the English language was often spoken to the exclusion of their own. And with all their natural earnestness and seriousness, they would drive straight ahead, paying no attention whatever to the strange and ludicrous quirks and turns they gave to English as they tried to speak it.”

The twelve stories as told by B. N. O. originally had some special significance, which has long since been lost. Their preservation has now become of tribal importance. The Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee has chosen one of his stories in which to share. All of them may be found on our web site at www.wyandotte-nation.org.

OLD COON TEACHES THE WOLF TO HUNT

Neh ah and the Boy were sitting just in the fire light one night when the old woman said:

“You jus’ always like it to hear ‘em so much story ‘bout Ol’ Fox an’ Ol’ Coon, I jus’ happen today, think of notha’ one kin’ a like it. ‘Tain’t Ol’ Fox tho’, cause he’s gone an’ I don’ eva’ hear if he’s come back. Mebbe so if you heard it some day ‘bout his come back, you could tell that story. But that Ol’ Coon he jus’ always took eva’ chance what come ‘long to play trick on somebody.

“And how, I tole you this story jus’ same way you Uncl’ Jim Clark use tole it long ‘go in Canada. He was good one to tole story, only some time he jus’ put in lots a cuss words like he all a time sed it white-mans. Them Injun boy long time ‘go ‘at’s jus’ first thing learn Inglis’, it’s the cuss words. I guess it’s cause in Injun langwige they don’ got none, cuss words.

“It’s long time afta’ he’s gone that Fox, one day Ol’ Wolf he’s proulvin’ ‘long riva’ an’ he’s meet ‘im that Coon. Ol’ Coon he’s bin on visit ‘way out west to pra’rie peoples, an, he’s bring it home big bundl’ buffalo meat. He’s jus’ eatin’ piece when he’s come ‘long Ol’ Wolf.

“Wolf he’s sed it: ‘Hello, my Couszen, what kin’ meats you eat ‘em, an’ where you get it? I don’ had no good meats fo’ long time, it’s kin’ a sca’ce now days, ain’t it?’

“Ol’ Coon he’s jus’ kin’ a grin, an’ gif to him piece of meat, that Wolf, an’ he’s sed it: ‘Oh, it’s a buffalo meats what I got. I ketch ‘em that kin’ buffalo out on pra’rie, where I bin few day. It’s lots of it there, buffalo, an’ it’s kin easy to ketch ‘em that kin’ too.’

“Wolf, he’s jus’ eatin’ an’ it’s sure taste good that meats. Prit’ soon he’s say: ‘How you sed it’s easy to ketch it that kin’? He’s big’ one than you are, an’ could run fas’. I don’ see how you mek it easy to ketch ‘em that kin’.

“‘Well,’ Coon sed it, ‘I could tole you how it’s easy ketch em’, you wants to tried it. He’s big one, but he’s easy to ‘fraid, an’.when he’s ‘fraid, he’s jus’ scare to death, jus’ run ‘til it’s kill himsel’.

“Wolf he’s jus’ feelin’ prit’ good an’ he’s gone out a sight, buffalo an’ wolf. Ol’ Wolf he’s go up in air. Prit’ soon he’s sleep it. When he’s good lay down sleep it, you jus’ go ‘long easy, slip up behin’ an’ you jus’ tied it, that buffalo, his tail ‘roun you sel’, you middel. It’s long hair on his tail, that fella’. You mus’ tied it good, so can’t slip off, cause if slip off, he’s ‘turn ‘roun’ jus’ step on you, sure. When get it tie up good, you jus’ mek big noise whoo, whoo. Buffalo he’s so scare he’s jump up an’ run, an’ you jus’ took good ride, cause you jus’ go with ‘im, an’ jus’ all a time go whoo, whoo. That buffalo he jus’ run heap, he’s so scare, an’ prit’ soon he’s jus’ drop dead, then you mus’ cut it, his throat, an’ you got heap good eat.’

“Wolf, he’s jus’ lis’n, an’ he’s sed it: ‘It’s soun’ good, I guess mebbe so, I tried it. Le’s go, you jus’ watch a me, I kill ‘em buffalo.’

“So Coon he’s go long, an’ they start it for pra’rie. It’s bout dark when they gets to edge of timber an’ right clos’ by seen it bunch buffalo. Wolf an’ Coon jus’ lay down rest lit’l bit, an’ watch it that buffalo. Afta’ while it’s got ‘nuff eat it, an’ jus’ all laid down to sleep it.

“Wolf, he’s jus’ feelin’ prit’ good an’ he’s pick it out big fat, she one buffalo. Well, when he’s sleep it good that ol’ she one, buffalo, Coon tell him betta’ go now, an’ he’s slip out easy an’ he’s ‘tied he se’f good to that she one, buffalo, his tail, an’ when it’s all tie up tight, Wolf, he’s jus’ go holler: ‘Whoo, whoo.’ That she one, buffalo, he’s ‘fraid plenty. He jus’ jump up an’ holler: ‘Bra a h, bra a h,’ an’ jus’ go run, he so scare, jus’ like what’s say white peoples: ‘scare like hell.’ He sure run fas’ an’ that Wolf he’s jus’ hol’ tight on his tail, that she one, buffalo, an’ jus’ ride fas’ too. Eva’ once while, buffalo jus’ kick ‘im in ribs an’ Ol’ Wolf he’s go up in air. Prit’ soon he’s gone out a sight, buffalo an’ wolf. (continued on page 5)
**Casino News**

Lucky Turtle Casino had a fun New Years Eve Party, money give away, hats, horns, and lots of food. We are hoping for warmer weather for our February 10, promotion, we will be giving away certificates for Twin Bridges Restaurant and cash. March 10th will be Luck of the Turtle with Eight winners picking a Turtle with money amounts from $100.00 to $500.00.

We are looking forward to spring with April Showers of Cash for our monthly promotion. May, will be the Turtle’s 6th anniversary, with VGT here to help us celebrate on May 16 from 2pm until 5pm. We will be doing drawings every 30 minutes for $250.00 and at 5pm $2,500.00, so come in March 30 and start earning your tickets for the drawing.

Every one have a great New Year and best wishes from the Lucky Turtle Casino.

Trudie Pendergraft

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Wyandotte Nation Casino wrapped up 2009 with tremendous success, through the remarkable teamwork and dedication of our employees and upper staff. The casino provided a night of fun, thrills, and surprises to every patron that walked through our doors. On this night, employees didn’t work for individual departments, instead they worked anywhere and everywhere needed, doing everything and anything needed. What’s truly amazing about this place is how it started at the top and continued throughout the entire casino. The General Manager walked up and down the restaurant line serving appetizers to patrons, the Asst. General Manager worked the food line in the kitchen, and every member of management worked the floor tossing t-shirts, swiping cards, and handing out prizes. GSR’s bussed tables, audit and accounting helped customers fill out paperwork, maintenance and IT worked keeping everything going without problems. Food and Beverage staff worked every position in the restaurant never slowing down, table games staff helped marketing with party favors, and the cage employees worked all night making sure patrons never had to wait for payouts. It’s this kind of effort that will help reach the paramount goal of becoming the premiere casino in the four states area.

There are a new swarm of exciting and fun promotions coming in the next couple of months. It starts in January with “The 1st Dot Slot Tournament”. Patrons will have the opportunity to enjoy slot tournament rounds throughout January trying to earn the highest score for the Grand prize of $20,000. We will also be holding the Big Game Challenge on the January 30th for all those who participated in a round of $154,000 football challenge, and one person will walk away with $10,000. In February, we will be celebrat-

by Adam Robertson

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Soaring in 2010

Twin Bridges Restaurant and Lounge has kicked off the New Year with our award winning style. The New Year’s Eve festivities brought rave reviews from all that dined, and many came back to enjoy the brunch offered the next morning.

We are rolling up our sleeves and ironing out all the wrinkles in our establishment. We hope to attract new fans to our handcrafted, distinctive cuisine. Where else can you get a Chicken Fried Steak breaded to order, a hand cut choice rib eye, and a Blackened Salmon Caesar all at the same time.

We have added a successful bar menu with a bevy of unique items, and a $.99 frozen margarita to our line-up in the lounge. Some giant flat screen televisions and new tables have been added so come out and join us for the big game, and bring your friends.

by Casey Elliot
Member News

Newton Named Outstanding Student

My name is Julia Houk. I had the privilege to get the chance to compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in Ames, Iowa this last summer. I attend Triway Elementary School which is part of the East Newton School District in Missouri. I am in the Quest Program that is for Gifted students. Odyssey of the Mind (OOTM) is a competition that challenges students to use creativity and reasoning to solve problems in a short amount of time. It also requires teams to pick a problem to make a skit about over several months. These skits take a lot of time to create and involve many props and costumes that are made entirely by the children.

We formed a team to compete in the Missouri Odyssey of the Mind competition in Rolla, MO. Our team won first in the State. We then were able to compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Iowa State University in Ames. Our biggest obstacle was funding for the travel expenses and room and board for the week. We had to work as a team, along with our parents, to raise the money to attend. The Wyandotte Nation very kindly gave me the money I needed to attend the competition. When we arrived in Ames, IA we were assigned rooms in the dormitories and we ate in the cafeteria. The first night there was an opening ceremony. There were thousands of competitors, coaches and parents there. The contestants were from all over the United States and all around the world. The rest of the week was taken up with the competition. During the times between competing there were pins to trade. Each state and country had OOTM pins made with designs that represented their home. I have several from Korea and Germany and many of the other states in the U.S.

I learned about other people and how much the same we are no matter where we are from. I have seen how creative I can be and to work as a part of a team. Our team finished 32nd in the World Finals. We were a little disappointed at not being higher in the rankings but we hope to return next year and do even better.

I couldn't have made this trip with out the support of the Wyandotte Tribe.

Tizameh,
Julia Houk

AARP Oklahoma Elder Honors

Ted Nesvold was selected as a recipient of the 2009 AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors. AARP National President-Elect W. Lee Hammond made the presentation during an evening reception/program that was held Tuesday, November 17th at the Will Rogers Theatre in Oklahoma City. Honorees were selected after a state-wide nomination process for their contribution to their tribe and/or the State of Oklahoma. Approximately 50 people were honored. Congratulations Ted!

Tales of the Bark Lodges (continued)

(continued from page 3)

Ol’ Coon he’s jus’ kin’ a chuckle an’ sed it to he self: ‘I guess mebbe so, my couzzen, he’s get prit’ good ride, now, won’t get back fo’ many moons, mebbe so, spec’ he’s go ‘long ways.’ ‘But that Wolf, he don’ ride such long time, cause that she one, buffalo, he’s come to big mud hole, wide one, an’ jus’ ‘bout time he’s get middel that mud hole, he’s mek big kick an’ that Wolf, he’s break it loose from tail, jus’ go up in air, an’ come down tchi wash in that sof’ muds. He’s kin’ a glad too, cause don’ want it no buffalo meats now. He’s crawl out mud hole kin’ slow, cause prit’ sore, an’ start off kin’ a limp, an’ he sed it to he self: ‘That Coon he’s don’ say how long got to ride it, that buffalo. I guess he’s jus’ mek it foolish with me. Nex’ time I don’t tried it what he say.

It’s jus’ same kin’ he’s always foolish ‘im that Ol’ Fox. He’s bad rascal that Coon.
Charles Buser (continued)

(continued from front page) favorite tribe.” It was during that time that the Wyandots became “his people.”

Buser graduated from high school in Crawfordsville, Indiana, in 1940. Two years later, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and proudly served his country until 1946. On January 13, 1945, Buser married Patricia Anderson. They have a son, a daughter, and five grandchildren.

In 1949, Buser received his degree from Goshen College. In addition, he took graduate courses at Loyola College in Baltimore, and at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

He was employed with Lockheed Aircraft, Westinghouse Electric, and with the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University. Through the years, the Busers continued researching tribal history. Their search took them to many states as well as Canada. “During the course of such research, we have found friends in a number of tribes and in the ranks of other researchers,” he said.

Buser worked closely with Chief Leonard Cotter, Mrs. Artie Nesvold and Mrs. Juanita McQuistion in providing information to Mr. Rodney Edwards, Wyandotte attorney, during claims litigation before the Indian Claims Commission. The efforts proved successful, as was the search for copies of the Marius Barbeau recordings made in 1911-12 among Wyandottes and Hurons in the U.S. and Canada.

The Busers retired to Frederick, Maryland, where Aubrey maintained considerable correspondence with World War II veterans, and with matters relating to the history and culture of the Wyandotte/Huron people. “Although time has taken us from many of our oldest and dearest friends, in our hearts we like to think of Wyandotte, Oklahoma, as a second home, and of all the people there as family,” Buser said.

“Mine has been a long and happy life. Looking back, I believe my proudest accomplishment has been the formation of so many deep and enduring friendships,” Buser said. “Among the regrets, and there are a few, is that I am not able to thank my mother and that author of so long ago, for having started me on the Wyandot Path.”
Our Wyandotte Language

Kweh Omateru’ (greetings friends) from Söhahiyöh (Richard Zane Smith)

Exciting new beginnings are stirring towards the revitalization of our Wendat and Wyandot(te) Languages. This new column about our language will seek to inform tribal members of what we are doing to restore that which was lost to us...our language.

This past fall the Yawenda Wendat Language Training Workshop was held on the Wendat Reserve in Wendake Quebec, Sept. 25-27. We started with a Thanksgiving address in the Wendat language and a prayer song in Wyandot to honor our Creator and Master of Life who gave us our tribal affiliations, languages and responsibilities.

An update was given on the “Yawenda Project” whereby a grant had been secured through Quebec’s Laval University to train Wendat students for Masters Degrees and one Doctorate in the language so as to better present it within their community and schools.

The actual workshops included a historical view of those who have worked to understand and preserve our languages, a look at our cultures and languages, presentations by the students of the program, by linguists, and round table discussions. The books and CDs of our Wyandot children’s songs were grabbed up quickly by those interested to see some examples of how we work with a variety of ages of children here in Oklahoma. It ended Sunday afternoon with a delicious gourmet traditional meal of wild foods and drinks harvested by the cook herself.

One highlight was a Saturday afternoon when many of us working on language projects met at flutist Nathalie Picard’s home to relax, eat, share ideas and just have some good laughs together. It was a great weekend, a good beginning, and has made us all aware of the enormous challenge ahead of us as we seek to revive our languages.

Shortly after Quebec, I found myself in New Zealand, as a guest artist invited to participate in The annual Maori Art Market. In three wonderful weeks I was able to visit Maori Art Schools and a language immersion school in which children are surrounded in both Maori language and culture from pre-school through high school. It was inspiring to meet the founder of the school, Whae Pompey, and to ask a lot of questions of the various teachers.

As we spoke, children at the school were practicing traditional dance called “Haka” outside in the sunshine as part of their normal activities.

Many were encouraged and excited to learn that many of us in Native American communities are also reviving our languages.

The children enjoyed listening to some Wyandot stories told with the use of puppets I had brought, and they helped me sing some Wyandot children songs. I want to let all tribal members know that weekly I am now emailing a Wyandot “phrase-a-week” both in audio and written form. To be placed on the email list please ask for either Sherri Clemons or Carla Culver through the tribal administration building 918-678-2979. Let’s learn our language!
Census 2010

An Introduction to the 2010 Census

Counting Everyone Once — and Only Once — and In the Right Place

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation’s borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than $4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

Reaching an Increasingly Diverse Population

The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure the nation’s increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Russian – as well as language guides in 59 languages – will be available on request.

Recruiting Census Workers

By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Counting each person is one of the largest operations the federal government undertakes. For example, the Census Bureau will recruit nearly 3.8 million applicants for 2010 Census field operations. Of these applicants, the Census Bureau will hire about 1.4 million temporary employees. Some of these employees will be using GPS-equipped handheld computers to update maps and ensure there is an accurate address list for the mailing of the census questionnaires.

10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about how we live as a nation – our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more – are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire. Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential.

For more information, visit the 2010 Census Web site at http://www.census.gov/2010
Tribal Department Reports

Bearskin Health Clinic

We encourage you to read this important information regarding Contract Health Services. This will help you understand how Contract Health Services works.

There have been a lot of misunderstandings involving the Contract Health Services. Here are some examples:
• If you call in your emergency on an ER visit, this does not mean that your visit will be paid for. This is only a qualification for consideration by a determination from the Contract Health Services Committee. The only cases being considered at this time are Category I or Priority I cases, and this year including Category II or Priority II. If your illness has persisted for days, you have the opportunity to come in to the clinic to avoid an unnecessary emergency visit, which might not be paid for or considered a Category I or Category II case. Any family member can call in an emergency visit if you are unable to since it has to be called in within 72 hours.
• If you are denied, you have 30 days to appeal this decision. You cannot wait months, 1 year, or more.
• If you choose to go on your own to a physician for services, or any other type of facility, you cannot expect for the Bearskin Contract Health Services to pick up your bill on your balances. In order to qualify for payment, you will need to come through this clinic and let our physician write up a referral to be submitted to our Contract Health Services to be reviewed at a committee meeting which are usually held every Thursday. These days are subject to change occasionally.
• In order to be eligible for Contract Health Services through the Bearskin Health Clinic, you need to have a current chart here or electronic health record. If you do not, you will not be considered until you fill out the information and send it in to the clinic.

Once you have been approved on a visit or an emergency room visit, you are required to report each and every visit ahead of the scheduled time, in order for this to be approved through the Contract Health Services committee. Every visit has to be pre-approved. If you do not contact Bridget Burleson, our Contract Health Specialist before going to another scheduled appointment, that visit will not be paid for by our funds. This is a very strict requirement. This is to emphasize that this is the patient’s responsibility, not the physician’s office or the hospital’s offices.
• If you do not have insurance, you may be required to fill out an application at Department of Health Services in your county. It is mandatory that you apply within the month of your hospital visit, ER visit, or whatever the case may be. You can have the hospital call in to the state DHS office if it falls on the last day of the month. We can’t help that these are necessary rules that we have to abide by. These rules are going to be changing in the next few months. The new rules will require the patient to apply before treatment at a physician’s office. If you have an ER visit, and do not have health insurance, you will be required to apply the day of the ER visit. The hospitals should have information on how to do this while you are at the hospital. They can fax this to the DHS office. If you have any questions regarding these new rules, you can contact Bridget Burleson at Ext. 227.

Please read these Contract Health Services Guidelines carefully. It is very critical that you abide by these rules. I wish we did have the funds to take care of every health problem that comes across our clinic, but unfortunately, we do not.
Karen Duderstadt, Business Services Manager, Bearskin Health Clinic

Bearskin Health Clinic Contract Health Services (CHS) is a federally funded program to assist eligible patients financially with specialized care that is not directly available from the Bearskin Health Clinic. Other contracted facilities are Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, Integris Baptist Regional Health Center in Grove and Miami, St. John’s Regional Medical Center in Joplin, Missouri, Craig General Hospital in Vinita, Wagoner Community Hospital in Wagoner, and Claremore IHS Hospital. ASSISTANCE DEPENDS ON ELIGIBILITY, RESIDENCE, MEDICAL PRIORITIES, ALTERNATE RESOURCES, AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING. The Bearskin Health Clinic CHS program also contracts with specialty care physicians, hospitals, diagnostic groups and other health care providers to treat our patients at prearranged fees.

The Contract Health Service Program is funded yearly with federal funds by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Not all referrals for specialty care can be paid for by Bearskin Health Clinic Contract Health Services, because the funding they receive cannot accommodate every need of every patient. Medical priorities have been established for determining which referrals can be authorized for payment.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BEARSKIN HEALTH CLINIC CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES:

1. Must be eligible for direct patient care services provided by Bearskin Health Clinic contracted facilities and/or an IHS facility. An individual is eligible if they are of Indian descent and a member of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe.
2. Non-Indians may be eligible in these situations: A non-Indian woman who is pregnant with an eligible Indian’s child
Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)

through pregnancy and postpartum; A non-Indian member of an eligible Indian’s household who resides within the CHS service area is eligible for CHS if the Medical Officer in charge determines that services are necessary to control a public health hazard or an acute infectious disease. Patient must reside within the Bearskin Health Clinic 12 county CHS service area.

3. Out-Of-State residents are not eligible for CHS funds.

4. You must use all other resources to pay for your medical care, such as Medicare, Medicaid, VA, Worker’s Comp, Title 19, Sooner Care, automobile insurance, and/or group health insurance, including IHS facilities when applicable.

5. CHS IS A PAYOR OF LAST RESORT!

The priority system helps patients have equal opportunity for specialty services and to make sure the funds are used to give the best possible benefits.

When services are not available at Bearskin Health Clinic and contracted facilities or at an IHS facility where the patient regularly receives care, a physician will initiate a referral to a contract specialty provider.

Contract Health Services Specialist at the Bearskin Health Clinic prepares all referrals to submit weekly for the CHS Review Committee. The Review Committee meets every week. They have an average of 20 cases on a weekly basis. Referrals from the Bearskin Health Clinic are reviewed and categorized in accordance with approved Bearskin Health Clinic CHS medical priorities.

If your referral is denied, the patient and/or provider has 30 days from the date of the denial letter is received to appeal for reconsideration. Appeal should be made in writing and mailed to: Attn: Dr. Robert Hopper, Appellate Administrator, Bearskin Health Clinic, One Turtle Drive, Wyandotte, OK 74370.

EMERGENCY CALL-IN PROCEDURES:

Call-ins are to be reported to the Bearskin Health Clinic in Wyandotte, Oklahoma (918) 678-2282 Ext. 227. This call should be made when a patient has an emergency and is unable to go to the nearest Bearskin Health Clinic contracted facility or IHS facility. The patient must call the CHS office within 72 hours after the beginning of the treatment (THIS DOES NOT GUARANTEE PAYMENT UNTIL IT IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE CHS REVIEW COMMITTEE!)

REFERRAL STEPS ARE:

1. Nurse/Provider will direct your referral to the Contract Health Services office.

2. Contract Health Services Specialist will counsel with you regarding eligibility, alternate resources such as Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, VA, Worker’s Comp, Sooner Care, and Title 19, and schedules the appointment if necessary.

3. Patient will need a referral from Bearskin Health Clinic for each additional procedures, tests, follow-up exams, and/or hospitalization. This is the patient’s responsibility to contact the CHS Specialist each and every time!

4. If a patient schedules or reschedules an appointment without proper CHS authorization, the patient will be responsible for payment!

5. Get to know your CHS Specialist at the Bearskin Health Clinic to help with any scheduling and questions regarding Contract Health Services.

Further clarification and/or additional information concerning CHS may be obtained from the Contract Health Services Specialist, Bridget Burleson at 918-678-2282, Ext. 227.

Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department

The Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department would like to wish a Happy New Year to all Tribal members and employees. January 2010 starts a new year of activities for our department.

The first event is, by the time you read this article, Environmental Director Christen Lee and WN police Officer Faron Lee will have a new addition to their family. Congratulations Christen and Faron!

Due to adverse weather conditions, some of our monitoring and sampling activities scheduled for the first of the month, were either canceled or postponed for a later date.

January 20th, Kathleen Welch and Janice Wilson attended a Recycling information exchange meeting at Wildcat Glades Park in Joplin, MO.

January 22nd, Kathleen Welch and Janice Wilson attended a Water Monitoring meeting at the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, to discuss concerns within the tribal waters of Ottawa County.

January 27th thru 29th, Kathleen Welch attended the Trustees Council of Tri-State Meeting held at the Ottawa Cultural Building. At this meeting valuable and pertinent information is shared concerning Natural Resource Damages within the Tar Creek and Tri-state Superfund sites.

February shows to be another busy month with water monitoring activities and various meetings that are scheduled.

Upcoming Activities:

Wyandotte Nation’s 3rd Annual Environmental Festival will take place in the month of April at Twin Bridges Park. The exact date will be announced at a later date.

The Environmental Department is available for Earth Day and Arbor Day Activities during the month of April. (See Contact information)

Testing of private wells is available to Tribal Members free of charge. This service is provided thru our EPA 106 Water Grant. Wells are tested for coli-

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forms and heavy metals. (See Contact information)

Please feel free to contact us at anytime concerning environmental issues

Contact Information
918-678-2297

Director: Christen Lee (ext. 241)
Assistant: Kathleen A. Welch (ext. 235)
Water Tech: Janice Wilson (ext. 245)
Water/Ed Tech: Earl Salisbury (ext. 252)

Family Services

The New Year came in with great gusto as Mother Nature joined forces with Father Wind to present to us an Oklahoma bone-chilling January. If you are a fan of the “weather channel” you are probably very aware of the “wintery” conditions nationwide. Many of us seize the opportunity to catch up on our reading, movies and game time with our family and friends. While thumbing through Native American Stories “Keepers of the Earth”, I came across the story “Spring Defeats Winter” (Seneca-Northeast Woodlands). When reading this story it is easy to imagine why Old Man Winter sits confidently in his lodge as Young Man Spring enters. When the cold winter wind blows snow into drifts and ice encrusts the ponds and rivers, the chilling grip over the land seems complete. Still spring comes. Flowers bloom. Plants grow. Snow melts and birds return from the south. In this story, Young Man Spring and the Fawn, the South Wind, prevail over Old Man Winter. Yet in time Old Man Winter will win out, and the story goes on forever. Sit tight, spring will come. If you, your families, or children get the winter blues, find some Native American Stories to share with your children. Reading to our children is one of the best gifts we can give to them—our time. For those of you that attended the 2009 Children’s Christmas Party, thank you for bringing the children to share in the spirit of the Holiday Season. Stay warm and count the days until the earth reawakens with signs of that first daffodil popping its head through the ground.

Connor and Veyda Marlow

News from Family Services:

LIHEAP: The Wyandotte Nation received the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and processed 45 applications during the month of January for its Oklahoma residents. This is our 3rd year to receive this Federal Energy Grant.

WINTER SENIOR CITIZENS ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: The Senior Citizens winter energy assistance program is available until March 31st. To qualify you must be 62 years of age or older and reside within a 100 mile radius of the Wyandotte Nation. No income guidelines apply. To request an application please contact Kate or Dana. We will need the application completed and sent in with a copy of your heating utility bill.

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT AND NEW ENROLLEES: For our new parents: If you enroll your child before his/her first birthday, the Family Services Enrollment office will provide a $50.00 gift card and a commemorative baby blanket with the tribal logo. This is a nationwide program. We want to encourage you to enroll your child with the Nation! We encourage all of our tribal members to keep us apprised of new address changes and updates.

BURIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: The nationwide burial assistance program that began in March of 2008 allows for a $750.00 payment toward burial expenses of its tribal members. If there has been a loss in your family, please contact the Family Services Department to obtain the necessary application to apply. Notice must be given to the Tribe within 60 days after the date of death.

OTHER FAMILY SERVICE PROGRAMS: Tribal tags, child passenger safety seats, children’s winter clothing, school supply vouchers, emergency assistance, referrals, need based social services, Indian Child Welfare, and Promoting Safe and Stable Families. (Some programs are radius and income based). If you have any questions regarding Family Services Programs, please feel free to contact us.

TRIBAL TAGS:
The Wyandotte Nation Tax Commission is excited to announce that it will now be issuing handicapped license plates to eligible tribal members. The requirements are basically the same as with the state of Oklahoma. An individual must meet one of the following requirements in order to receive this special license plate: Visual impairment which limits personal mobility and results in an inability to travel unassisted more than two hundred (200) feet without the use of a wheelchair, crutch, walker, prosthetic, orthotic, or other assistive device; Physical impairment which limits personal mobility and results in an inability to travel unassisted more than two hundred (200) feet without the use of a wheelchair, crutch, walker, prosthetic, orthotic, or other assistive device; Respiratory problems which limit personal mobility; A cardiac condition to the extent that his or her functional limitations are classified in severity as being Class III or class IV, according to standards set by the American Heart Association; Permanent loss of all or substantially all the use of one or more limbs.

Call the office if you feel you meet one (continued on next page)
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of the above criteria to obtain an application. The application will then need to be signed by your physician and returned to the office. If you already have a Wyandotte Nation license plate the transfer can be done at the time of renewal for no charge. However, you will need to bring or send your vehicle Title along with the form. If you wish to switch to a handicapped plate at any other time besides renewal there will be a $10.00 fee for processing.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to call Kate or myself and we will do our best to assist you. Just as a reminder, you can Title and Register not only passenger vehicles with the Wyandotte Nation, but also motorcycles and recreational vehicles (RV’s and travel trailers). The Nation does not license boats, ATV’s or mobile homes at this time.

Planning/Development

The tribe was just notified that it received an Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) to fund a new water system. The new water system will be located just east of Highway 10 south of Highway 60 near the Wyandotte Nation housing. Because of cost, we are looking at a stand alone well and stand pipe that will be a separate water system from the existing. We are also in the process of working on a grant with Rural Development to tie the new water system in with the current, having one water system would be the better alternative. The new system would allow us to eventually tie other residences into it.

We are currently wrapping up meetings with the architect on the Wellness Center Expansion project. Once the plans are finalized, we will move forward in bidding out the project to contractors.

As you can see, the Water Tower project is nearing completion. The tower is in place and the well is drilled. The sandblasting to the water tower, testing, painting and well house are all that is left before completion. These three projects mentioned, Water system expansion, Wellness Center Expansion and New water tower, are all ICDBG projects from the last 3 Indian Community Development Block Grants awarded.

WATER TOWER

Work has been completed on the Clinic renovation. The renovation was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), also known as Stimulus. The renovation involved moving walls to expand the pharmacy, replacing flooring and painting.

Another project that was funded by the ARRA is the Energy Grant. This will allow us to do an energy audit on all our facilities to determine how we can be more energy efficient. The grant will also pay for replacement of the Walk in cooler/freezer for Title VI kitchen.

As mentioned in the last Turtle Talk, we received a grant from ODOT for trees to be placed along Highway 60 in front of our services buildings, cemetery, and in front of the Pow-Wow grounds. A landscaping company has been chosen and will begin work soon. Sherri Clemons has received word that she will be the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for Wyandotte Nation. This will be a continuous non-discretionary program with the National Park Service. She will assume most responsibilities from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for this area. We are currently preparing a scope of work, and her duties will include gathering or defining historic context. Four Tribal members will serve on the THPO Advisory Board; they are David Culver, Grover Tanner, Ted Nesvold and Beverly Farmer.

John Tanner and Isaac Tanner have approached us about having an outdoor classroom to learn hunting, camping and fishing skills. If anyone might be interested in something like this please contact Debbie Dry or Ron Kaiser (918)678-2297 ext 215 and 225. We will try to update you with more information in the next issue of Turtle Talk.

ELDER SERVICES

We hope everyone had a great holiday season. Those of us that love to have a white Christmas got more than we bargained for. Some had so much snow and ice that our festivities had to be put on hold. Don’t think we will be wishing for a white Christmas again anytime soon!!!

Once again the Elder Services Department would like to thank all of the staff from the other departments here at the nation for helping out with cookie baking for the Children’s Christmas Party, Elder’s Thanksgiving Dinner and Elder’s Christmas Dinner. We really appreciate all of you!

Pictured is Seth Higginbotham. Seth is a recent graduate of Seneca High School and a member of the Wyandotte Nation. Seth was one of only 3,000 students nationwide selected to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana to receive the American Farmers Award in FFA (Future Farmers of America). Students selected for this prestigious award have to be a recent high school graduate or a
Department Reports (cont.)

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freshman in college. They are required to have a minimum of 4 years of chapter work and have already earned three levels of chapter and state degrees. This is the highest award achievable in FFA.

Seth also won a cash drawing at our employee Christmas party. He is a member of our Food Service Team and the light of our lives. Congratulations Seth!! We are so proud of you!!

CAREGIVER

Our Caregiver program recently partnered with Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Wyandotte Lions Club and Nurses from Afton Vo-Tech to host Medicare Part D Education, and Health Screenings. The National Relief Charities provided back packs filled with health and beauty products and bottled water. Lunch was also provided by the Wyandotte Nation. We are very pleased to report eighty eight people participated.

Brenda House, Director, Elder Services ext. 227
Dari Ann Hunnicutt, Caregiver Specialist ext. 253
Kandi Smith, Food Service Team Supervisor ext. 228
Leesa Hibbard, Food Service Team Member ext. 228
Lynda Wilson, Food Service Team Member ext. 228
Seth Higginbotham, Food Service Team Member ext. 228
Menu ext. 226

Seth won $50.00 during our staff Christmas Party.

Housing Department

The Housing Department has had an exciting few months. Four Senior duplexes have been built and are now occupied. Two more will be built in the near future. Twelve family units are in the process of being designed, and will be out for bid soon. We are so excited about this progress, and are looking forward to seeing the project completed.

Brian Adkins, an employee of the housing department for two years, has been hired as the Residential Maintenance Technician for the housing addition. Don Graham, a tribal member, has been employed as a Project Coordinator for the housing department.

If you are in need of a septic system, rural water connection, or a well, and live within the Claremore Indian Health Service area, please contact our office for an application. There are no income limits for this service.

If you have any questions, or are need of an application for any of our programs, please call our office. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director
Valari Eby, Housing Specialist
Paul Paquin, Project Coordinator
Don Graham, Project Coordinator
Brian Adkins, Residential Maintenance Technician

Good Luck!

Employee Matt Garrette has joined the Air Force. In the words of Chief Bearskin, "in a few years, we may be calling him General Matt!" We'll miss you Matt! Good Luck!

NIXLE

Wyandotte Nation Police Department encourages all residents of the Wyandotte area to subscribe to a free notification service provided by NIXLE. The system will forward SMS text messages and emails to those who sign up. The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police and Ottawa County Emergency Management are using this free service to notify residents of hazards and to provide community service information. Other agencies may also post messages in the area where you live. Follow the link below to check it out and sign up.

http://local.nixle.com/wyandotte-nation-police-department/

Roll #2959

Each edition of the tribal newsletter will include a Roll Number. The lucky tribal member will receive a tribal t-shirt mailed to them. Contact Kim Garcia at 918-678-2297 ext. 217 to claim your prize.
Education Department

Pre-school:
Christmas activities are in the past now, but I want to tell you about the exciting things that happened. The pre-school class parties were a success and the program in the Title VI building was well attended by family and friends. A new holiday happening was the entry of a Wyandotte Nation Pre-school and Wyandotte Nation After-school program float in area Christmas parades. Program participants and staff built the float and accompanied it in the parades to pass out candy and meet the crowd. The float was constructed using primarily recycled materials and many creative items from the children. Parades attended included Quapaw, Commerce and Miami in Oklahoma and Seneca in Missouri. The float captured the first prize float award at the Quapaw parade and the Mayors Choice Award in the Commerce parade. This new event added to the holiday festivities and was well enjoyed by the children and staff as we traveled from parade to parade. The spring semester began on January 6, as our return to school was delayed by the Blizzard of 2009 and 2010. The children in our preschool will have a very busy few months until graduation and the beginning of summer. With the Valentine party, Easter party, Week of the Young Child events and Pre-school Pow-Wow and graduation we will be doing something every day.

Before and After School Program:
The after school children were very helpful in the construction of the float for the Christmas parades. They enjoyed the construction process and spent the day walking alongside the float to hand out candy. The parade crew ate a McDonald’s between parades and all had a great time. This was the first time many of them had worked on a float so it turned out to be educational also.

Before and after school programs are operating daily and averaging about 10 before school participants and 35 after school children. The staff assists with snack and helps with homework and supervises the children until they leave for the evening. The after school program provides a much needed service for families in our area.

Taylor Wilson, after-school aide, will represent FCCLA in the Wyandotte High School basketball homecoming on January 29, 2010. We wish her luck and can’t wait to see how lovely she will be.

Library:
The library has seen an increase in patronage as the winter months are upon us and our readers are stocking up on good books and movies to fill their days. We continue to add the most current titles in both books and videos and often search for those older requested titles for our patrons.

Child Care & Development Fund Program:
The Child Care and Development Fund recently submitted the annual report for the federal programs. In fiscal year 2009, the Wyandotte Nation CCDF program serviced three hundred fourteen children from one hundred eighty seven family units. Our service level remains steady providing care for families that is much needed with the tough economic times. With the ARRA Stimulus funds, the CCDF program covered all family co-pays for the month of December 2009. The amounts range from $5.00 to 65.00 and each and every family received some amount of additional assistance.

Tribal Scholarships:
The scholarship amount for Wyandotte Nation increased to $1250.00 beginning with the spring of 2010 semester. The Education office is busy receiving grades and processing spring awards.

Rashele Blakely, tribal member, and Oologah High School senior 2009, was funded for her first semester of college in the fall on 2009. She currently attends Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in Miami and is pursuing a degree in Agriculture Education and is a member of the award winning livestock judging team. In October 2009, she received a second national award from the FFA Organization. Her first award was garnered in 2008 in the area of Nursery Operations. The 2009 award was in the area of Diversified Livestock Production. Only twenty seven FFA members from Oklahoma were nominated for national awards and eleven were declared the recipients in Indianapolis, Indiana. Rashele has exhibited livestock that were sired on her operation and has sold greenhouse products at local farmers markets for many years. Her parents are Lyle and Rae Ann Blakley and her grandparents are Jim and Katherine Wiford.

If you have questions about the education programs at the Wyandotte Nation, please contact Ms. Carla Culver at Ext. 230.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA):
The WIA Program is currently unable to accept new clients due to budget constraints; however, Mr. Anderson is still available to assist prospective clients as they work to further their job skills.

If you are interested in more information, contact Arthur at ext 234.

Submitted by:
Carla J. Culver

Madilynn Lyman
Left: Austin Winkler, Taylor Waller, Macy King and Lacy East  
Right: Mallorie White, Taylor Wilson, Macy King, Austin Winkler, Taylor Waller, Lacy East, Tera White and Kelbi Hilton

Left: Christmas Float  
Right: Benjamin Hobbs

Left: Chloe Friend  
Right: Angelina Rutledge

Left: Kacie Rupert  
Right: Micah Wooldridge
## Services Provided to Tribal Members

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Program Contact</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>Donna Krewson</td>
<td>(918) 678-2282</td>
<td>257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>Donna Krewson</td>
<td>(918) 678-2282</td>
<td>257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinic (for appointments)</td>
<td>Linda Coatney or Elaine</td>
<td>(918) 678-2282</td>
<td>228 or 230</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fidler</td>
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<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>Carolyn Nesvold</td>
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<td>Fitness Center</td>
<td>Kelly Walker</td>
<td>(918) 678-2282</td>
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<td>Contract Health</td>
<td>Bridget Burleson</td>
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<td>Diabetes Clinic</td>
<td>Donna Krewson</td>
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<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>Brenda House</td>
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<td>Caregiver Services</td>
<td>Dari Ann Hunnicutt</td>
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<td>Enrollment</td>
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<td>School Supplies</td>
<td>Kate Randall</td>
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<td>Turtle Trax Printing</td>
<td>Pat Wilson</td>
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