The first quarter of 2004 has seen tremendous changes brought about by construction activities. At the Turtle Stop, the Renovation/Expansion project has been non-stop. The framework for the car wash is now visible. The roof is on and the store is almost completely enclosed. On a daily basis the hectic pace of business and construction is not only exciting but also consuming. The management and staff of the Turtle Stop need to be commended for the work that is above and beyond in making this construction project happen.

At the sewage treatment plant, equipment is being delivered and installed each and every day despite the weather. The really big visible change is the construction of the lab. The project is still on target for a Summer 2004 completion.

The Planning Department recently received notification from the Bureau of Indian Affairs that a grant to investigate ground water had been approved. In conjunction with a hydrologist a plan of study is being developed to complete the objectives of the grant, which will provide information as to the quality and quantity of ground water within the Historic jurisdiction of the tribe. (See page 12 for more information on Turtle Stop and sewage treatment plant construction.)
Culture

By Jim Bland
Second Chief

I hope all enjoyed the winter; we had a little bit of everything here at Wyandotte. We had a little snow and cold weather, but for the most part it hasn’t been too bad. The first week of June will be our first annual Cultural Week. We hope to see a lot of you folks here for that week to learn about our culture and maybe help us make new culture. Speaking of culture, we just lost an employee recently who has helped us with our pow-wow and helped make it what it is today - Barbara Kyser-Collier -- we appreciate what you did to help us make our tribal pow-wow what it is today. I know Sherri Clemmons knows what I am talking about and a lot of other people do too. So, I want to invite all that will come and help us make the Cultural Week a big success. Fellow tribal members, we have a good Tribe and a lot of good things are happening. Come in sometime and let Chief Bearskin and myself tell you what is going on. I know it is hard sometimes to catch Chief and I here because of what we’re trying to make happen. Come and see me; my door is always open to you.

Be proud that you are a Wyandotte. We continue to push hard on economic development programs so we can finance all the things we have planned for our Tribal members.

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http://www.wyandotte-network.com

Family Tree Charts

We have copies of the following family tree charts for $3.50 each plus $3.00 per order for postage and handling charge.

*Armstrong Family Tree
  • Silas Armstrong Family Tree #1
  • Silas Armstrong Family Tree #2
  • Brown Family Tree
  • Clark Northrup Family Tree
  • Conley Family Tree
  • Garrett Family Tree
  • Ladd Family Tree
  • Long Family Tree
  • Pipe Mudeater Family Tree
  • Robitaille Family Tree
  • Walker Family Tree
  • Ebenezer O. Zane Family Tree
  • Hannah Zane Family Tree
  • Zane Family Tree

Contact Sherri Clemmons at the Historical Preservation Office to order:
(800) 256-2539 or (918) 678-2297 ext. 244

Introduction

The Wyandotte Nation has received a grant through the Senior Nutrition Program, Title VI. This new program was developed to help families caring for an older relative with a chronic illness or disability. The funding will provide support services for family caregivers and grandparents raising grandchildren.

Are you a caregiver?

1. Do you perform tasks to help with shopping, bills, errands, transportation, etc. for your spouse or parent?
2. Do you provide personal care for your spouse or parents? If you answered “YES” to any of the above, you are a caregiver.

Caregivers services

1. Individual Counseling
2. Support Groups
3. Training to assist the caregiver in making decisions and solving problems relating to their care giving roles.
4. RESPITE: To enable caregivers to be temporarily relieved from their responsibilities. Our program will pay a respite provider of the families choice, so they can do errands or have a day off.

Eligibility

1. Caregiver or families caring for a frail family member or a frail (55 years of age or older.
2. Native American grant requires a CDIB card.
3. No income guidelines to qualify.
4. Family members (55) years or older who are primary caregivers of (18) years of age or under.

The Board of Directors could not decide on a name for the casino so they requested that the staff provide suggestions and that a valuable prize would be given. After nearly a month of collecting names (we had over 150 suggestions) the Board of Directors chose the Lucky Turtle Casino as the name. Charlie Robitaille submitted this name and was awarded a $50 cash prize. As a matter of fact if we had a first and second place Charlie would have won that too. As the construction of the Turtle Stop progresses we anticipate many changes to the facility and an advertising campaign for the Lucky Turtle Casino is coming about.

**Turtle Talk Delivery**

For those members who would like to have their Turtle Talk e-mailed to them, please e-mail Pat Wilson, pwilson@wyandottetowne.org. On the subject line please state Turtle Talk delivery. It will be sent as a PDF file. For those that do not have Acrobat Reader, go to www.adobe.com and download a free reader by clicking on Adobe Reader & follow directions. If you have trouble downloading, contact Pat Wilson, 918-678-2297 ext. 238.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Wyandotte Nation Tribal Members are encouraged to complete applications for job openings. It is very important that all sections are read and completed for proper identification of knowledge, skills and abilities. Each section of the application is reviewed and selections for interviews are based on information provided through this document. Applicants may also attach their resume with the completed application form. Application forms may be obtained at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Office.

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**NEW PHYSICIAN AT BEARSKIN HEALTH CARE AND WELLNESS CENTER**

Dr. Hopper completed his BS Degree in Medicine and subsequently graduated with an M.D. Degree from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, East Lansing, Michigan in 1985. Hopper then entered a residency program in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Southwestern Michigan Area Health Education Center, Kalamazoo, Michigan from 1985 through 1987. After being commissioned with the Commission Corps, U.S. Public Health Service, Dr. Hopper was assigned to the Jay Indian Clinic, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma in Jay, Oklahoma. He served two years as Clinic Director from 1987 through 1989; he then served as Emergency Room Physician with the Geron Indian Hospital from 1989 through 1990 before returning to the University of Oklahoma College Of Medicine, Tulsa, to finish his Internal Medicine/Pediatric Residency Program in 1992. Dr. Hopper entered private practice in Grove, Oklahoma owning Hopper Medical Clinic, while he also practiced as an Emergency Room Physician at Integris Groove General Hospital. Since 2001, he has concentrated entirely toward his private practice.

Dr. Hopper is a long standing member of the Association of American Indian Physicians, a Diplomat of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He is also a member of the Oklahoma Medical Association and the Scottish Rite Temple in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Wyandotte Nation welcomes Dr. Robert Hopper and is now seeing patients Monday through Friday at the Bearskin Health Care and Wellness Center located in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. For an appointment contact 918-678-2282 or 1-888-864-0725.

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**Gift Shop News**

*** FOR WINTER***

- IZOD Jackets with tribal logo! Black or Gray - $60
- Fleece Jackets with tribal logo! Cream or Gray - $34
- Fleece Blankets with tribal logo and carrying strap! Red, Black or Gray - $30

***Handcrafted Pottery***

by tribal member Matthew Zane starting at $15

Prints by Jim Stuckenberg $55

***Leanin’ Tree Cards***

Decorative Stationary - 18 sheets with envelopes $8.50

Laser and Inkjet compatible

***Still Available***

- Wyandotte Nation Coffee Cups 1 - for $5.00  2 - $9.00
- Hand-made Shawls beginning at $55
- Indian art on leather - $18.00
- Mandellas (4 sizes) $25 - $145
- Sand Paintings $25 - $40
- Various Ceramics $1.50 and up
- Authentic Silver and Turquoise Jewelry
- Wyandotte Cookbooks Volumes 1 and 2 - $6 each
- Handmade Scrub Shirts - $20
- Izod Shirts with tribal logo! Black or Gray - $60
- Wyandotte T-shirts, 1-800-256-2539 ext. 227

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The Wyandotte Nation is proud to announce Dr. Robert W. Hopper of Grove, Oklahoma has joined the medical team as Staff Physician at the Bearskin Health Care and Wellness Center in Wyandotte Oklahoma.

Dr. Hopper, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and a Vietnam Veteran, was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Bronze Star, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and parachute badge. After returning from Vietnam, he served as a Drill Sergeant at Ft. Leonardwood, Missouri, until his discharge. Dr. Hopper is an active member of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans Association in Grove, Oklahoma.

After his military service, he worked as an Iron Worker, but soon enrolled at the University of Oklahoma, Norman in 1974 and completed a degree in Philosophy of Religion and Ethics. While attending OU, he was employed by Indian Health Service in the Oklahoma City Area Office as a contracting specialist, negotiating health-care contracts with the various tribes throughout Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.

Dr. Hopper is a long standing member of the Association of American Indian Physicians, a Diplomat of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a section member with the American Academy of Sports Medicine, Community Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and Internal Medicine/Pediatrics. He is an Associate Faculty Member of the OU College of Medicine, Tulsa; a Regional Faculty Member with the American Heart Association, Section on Pediatric Life Support and Medical Director of the PALs Program with Integris Grove General Hospital and serves as an Instructor with the ACLS Program with Integris Grove General Hospital.

Dr. Hopper has been involved with the Elementary Wrestling Program in Grove since 1987, serving as Coach, President of the Grove Take-Down Club, holds the Bronze Level Coaching Certification with U.S.A. Wrestling and has coached and supported the Olympic Style Summer Wrestling Program in Grove.

Dr. Hopper is a 32 degree Mason and a member of the Grove Lodge 187 and the Scottish Rite Temple in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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**Wyandotte Nation**

**Board of Directors**

Jim Bland
Second Chief
Ramona Reid
Councilperson
Vivian Fink
Councilperson
Earline Rookob
Councilperson
Juanita McQuistion
Councilperson

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**Wyandotte Nation**

March 2004

Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

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Traditional Pottery Class

The 2nd annual Traditional Wendat/Iroquoian pottery workshop will be held in Wyandotte Oklahoma, May 24th-29th.

This workshop will be open to Wyandotte and Seneca/Cayuga tribal members interested in learning ancient skills of pottery making used by our ancestors. The goal of the class is to revive our ancient arts and bring them back among us. Beginner and advanced students welcome. Due to the interest and class size it will be limited to those from high school age on up. It will be held at the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma tribally owned building right next to the Twin Bridges.

Daily workshops (9.00am to 5.00pm) will include: Gathering and processing native Oklahoma clays; Making pottery using both coiling and "paddle and anvil" techniques of our ancestors; and wood-firing the pottery the following week. Actual hands on pottery making will take place on the 24th-27th (any work completed after then might not be dry enough to fire).

Classes will be instructed by Richard Zane Smith, (Wyandot) professional potter/artist for over 20 years. Please call: 1-505-757-6642 or Sherri Clemons 1-918-678-2297 ext 244. Registration and information please, only those serious about learning ancient and traditional methods. Clay and tools will be provided. No charge will be required.

Wendet Gathering

The 2005 Wendet Gathering (Wyenadot, Wyandot and Huron Nations) Kwe ni:skewatwis (kwe to all)

The Wendet Gathering will be on August 20, 21, and 22 this year with the main events on Saturday, August 21. Osossane and the camp site will be available all week before the gathering (August 16-22). Be aware that it is a wild camp site, very few facilities, but there are few good campgrounds near by Osossane for people who would like to have more facilities. To those of you who are not familiar, Osossane is in our homelands and the site where the original Gathering of our Nations took place in 1999. If you have never been to the site of your homelands, this is an event that will change your life by enabling you to walk on the earth where your ancestors walked and to learn of the rich history through the museum, Ste. Marie and other locations.

You will also meet Wendet brothers and sisters from other Nations which will be the beginning of beautiful conversations and lasting friendships.

"Richard Zane Smith, potter and member Wyandot Nation of Kansas, will be one of the leaders of the Cultural Week activities on May 31 through June 4."

Cultural Studying

STUDYING OUR CULTURE BRINGS US CLOSER TOGETHER

One of the nicest outcomes of Cultural Week planning has been getting acquainted with other members of our nation. With her permission, we would like to share a very nice email note from Leslie Zane.

Kwe all,

This is what I know about our Wendat culture, and from you all I must learn the rest. I find it hard sometimes to read what others write but more often I am so grateful by the messages that I keep going! I don't know any of you personally and don't know what unique situations lead you to respond the way that you do.

I grew up proud to be a Wendat but not having much contact with other Wendats except my family. My family would visit Ontario and Oklahoma, but mostly what I feel about being a Wyandotte is from my family. My father, James Zane, was a WWII veteran. He was very patriotic and at the same time very proud of being Indian (I don't think he saw these things as mutually exclusive). If he were alive today he would be so happy with the direction we are taking. I feel his pride flowing through me. My father, his cousins, aunts and uncles all had black hair and dark eyes and high cheekbones. Also, all the relations of my father's age went to college after being raised in poverty in Detroit.

I have seen our Wendat tribe pass on the values that my father held. I know there is a cultural value of education because when I went to college the tribe was there to help and support me. When I went to own tribal pow wow, there was a color guard and a time to honor our veterans. I have noticed that our pow wow is small and very traditional, and this taught me that we are not here to impress anyone but to nourish ourselves. I know from Turtle Talk that the words of our Chief and Second Chief, our stories, our tribal history, our families and new members, our programs and enterprises are all important because they are written down and published in each issue.

I feel I am equal in our tribe to all other members, despite that I live 2,000 miles away from Oklahoma (by the way two hours from the nearest Wal-mart, three hours from a mall!). My vote counts, my participation is entirely up to me, but I am always given the opportunity to do so. I have noticed, too, that no one and that no family is more recognized than another, that we are all equally honored and valued. I have seen as well that our sovereignty and ability to care for ourselves are very important by the wise and quick way we react when our sovereignty is challenged, the sound way in which tribal enterprises are formed and run, and priorities such as building a beautiful health center.

I honor my tribal values as I understand them and am excited by the addition of new ones, such as a deepening of the literacy of our tribal members in our traditional ways - language, art and culture. If they seek such knowledge. There is room for improvement, but I have the rest of my life to contribute to the betterment of myself and my Wyandottes. When I talk to other Indian people from a range of nations, I am struck by how different we Wyandottess seem in comparison. Our nation seems strong and healthy.

I think after reading culture group emails since January that I am in a good position - not knowing much makes everything I do learn sweeter.

My best wishes to you all,

Leslie Zane
Fort Bragg, California

The Clothes Line

I wrote this about my grandmother as some of my fondest memories were playing outside and running through the yard as she hung up the clothes. The poem won Editor’s Choice Award and was published with a group of other poets this past summer. It was also published in an on-line magazine called Autumn Leaves. My poetry can be found on-line at http://www.beverleepettig.org/Index_Stories.html

By Beverlee Pettig

I love standing in the sunshine feeling the breeze, Smelling the freshness of clean clothes. It brings back memories of laughter and running. My arms waving in the winds Like the clothespins pinching my socks. Grandmother washed clothes in the yard. Using a tub and washboard. She used an apron that slipped over her head, Over her chest. It tied in the back, holding her together Like the basket holding our clothes. Her short black hair was held back with bobby pins yet tendrils fell. Over her face of crinkly brown leaves And would flutter around her eyes Like the arms of my long-sleeved shirts When they flapped in the wind. Her smile was like the sunshine and she loved me.
Through the guiding efforts of the Wyandotte Nation Tribal leadership, the employee population continues to expand. Due to this expansion, there are many employees that the Tribal population does not always have a chance to interact with, or may not recognize when they visit the Tribal Headquarters.

To help tribal members become acquainted with employees, the “Tribal Talk” will be publishing a “Nation Employee Review” in each of the quarterly newsletters.

The first Employee Review: Kim Garcia, Wyandotte Nation Comptroller. Kim, a tribal member, was born in Seneca, MO, to Larry and Brenda (Elliott) Gray. She has lived in Seneca her entire life, graduating from Seneca High School in 1996.

Kim attended Crowder College in Neosho, MO, with financial scholarships from Crowder and the Wyandotte Nation. During her educational experience, one semester was spent in Canterbury, England through an exchange program made available by Crowder College. While there she traveled throughout Europe. She contributes her travel opportunities to the Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Assistance Program.

As Comptroller of the Wyandotte Nation, Kim felt she could provide a needed service, while also becoming an active member of the Nation. She was also excited about giving back to the organization that had assisted her in completing her education. Kim is very grateful to the Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Assistance Program.

On a personal level, Kim married Arturo Garcia from Mexico (hence the fluency in Spanish). Arturo is a talented photographer and is working toward opening his own business called Impresiones García. Kim has two children, Joshua, 6 and Caleb, 2. Joshua attends Kindergarten at Seneca Elementary and enjoys all types of sports and bike riding. Caleb is called her little tornado. They enjoy family time by watching movies, outdoor adventures and just being a family.

Kim is currently enrolled in MSSU and will soon set for the Certified Public Accountant Exam (CPA). Attaining her CPA is just one goal. She also plans to learn another foreign language within 5 years. Kim enjoys learning new things and creating ideas to improve her department. She enjoys working for the Wyandotte Nation, feeling very fortunate the opportunity presented itself. She enjoys her position and feels surrounded by great people that are very helpful, which fuels her ambition for continued success.

Kim has joined the Wyandotte Nation with an interest in contributing to her tribal government. She is known within the organization as the “Excel Accountess”. Kim is a valued employee and is looking forward to being a part of the continued success and growth of the Wyandotte Nation. Welcome Kim!!!

Lucky Turtle Casino

By Julie Lawson

The Wyandotte Nation is pleased to announce the Lucky Turtle Casino, which is under construction and anticipating an opening date of May, 2004. The Lucky Turtle Casino will offer a variety of Class II Machines, as a small venue, with a fun and friendly atmosphere. Located next to the Turtle Stop Convenience Store in Wyandotte and aligned with State Highway 60, The Lucky Turtle Casino will provide exposure to countless potential patrons. Our hope is to capture travelers, along with the repeat players from other local casinos, who would prefer a smaller more personal setting. Gaming is a revenue source that will further advance the Wyandotte Nation. Join the fun, bring a friend, tell a friend and be apart of the continued success of the Wyandotte Nation.
Tribe...