

# GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA

## THE TURTLE SPEAKS



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Wyandotte, OK 74370

© VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2

May 2008

### Public Notice

The Election Committee of the Wyandotte Nation has determined that there are no open posts for elective office within the government of the Wyandotte Nation for 2008. Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an annual election

at the Tribe's annual meeting on Saturday, September 6, 2008. Elective posts will be available the following year, 2009.

Donna Mercer, Chairman  
Election Committee Chairman

### Wyandotte Clans

#### Wyandotte Clans the DNA of Life Lloyd Divine

At the young age of eight years a party of Wyandot and Seneca captured Robert Armstrong in 1783, four miles upriver from Fort Pitt on the Allegheny River. Another young adult with Robert didn't fair as well. He was killed because Robert's abduction was most likely for the sole purpose of replenishing a loss suffered by someone within the tribe and hence the young boy was chosen. Ultimately kept and taken by the Wyandot to Ohio, Robert's name was changed to O-no-ran-do-Roh, and adopted into the Big Turtle clan. His adoption was blind to the fact that he was white, and immediately he benefited from a society and social structure that accepted him with perfect harmony into a system that was as old as time. His being placed into the Big Turtle clan came through his adopted mother; any child born or, as in Robert's case, adopted, was assured placement into the mother's clan by the clan chief at the Green Corn Feast. His

final adoption could have been in a quiet ceremony by simply being presented to the clan chief by one of the councilwomen; or it may have been observed with much celebration if the clan council thought it necessary.

Robert was fortunate and his adoption purposeful, he could not have known it at the time but he was destined to be a cornerstone of the tribe, as other young adopted white boys were with last names such as Zane and Brown. Robert was adopted into the Wyandot during one of the greatest times of influence for the tribe in the Ohio Valley. It too was a time of great change and the adoption of whites into the tribe both in Ohio and Michigan served to enhance and strengthen; but in later years through intermarriages, and not formal adoptions, the tribe was weakened. Weakened from the sole perspective that the timeless knowledge held by the clans and their inherent dependency on clan, family and tribe; was ultimately lost to stories preserved in books and journals.

(continued on page 4)

### Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

Wyandotte Nation  
Board of Directors  
Leaford Bearskin  
Chief

Billy Friend  
Second Chief  
Ramona Reid  
Councilperson  
Vivian Fink  
Councilperson

Norman Hildebrand  
Councilperson

Juanita McQuiston  
Councilperson

Gyah'-wish Atak-ia is published quarterly for tribal members by the Wyandotte Nation at its headquarters in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. Inquiries may be addressed to:

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# The Chief Says.....



Chief Leaford Bearskin

Spring has sprung again. Green grass, flowers, new leaves, and spring breezes are everywhere. Even the spring atmosphere fills all our days and nights with anticipation of good things to come.

Our Wyandotte casinos, our Kansas City casino, and our Economic Development programs are being infused with spring-like responses to our efforts to provide better services to our people.

The Wyandotte Nation is truly

blessed with good people. Our teamwork and working together are responsible for our success. I encourage all to extend our efforts to all our endeavors to better our services to our people.



## From Billy Friend - Second Chief



Kweh,

I pray that this month's letter finds all doing well and enjoying the springtime weather.

I want to say again what an honor and privilege it is for me to serve you as Second Chief and to work with Chief Bearskin each day. The Wyandotte Nation has been blessed for the past 25 years to have a man of such stature. When I travel across the country and represent our Nation at meetings, the Wyandottes are well recognized because of Chief's proven leadership over the years. When I introduce myself, the first

question asked is "How is Chief Bearskin?" and then the individual goes on to say what respect that they have for him.

For the past 10 years that I have been here, I have learned a great deal from Chief. Most of what I have learned has not been so much from the things he has said, but from observing his actions each and everyday and how he interacts with people. From a young child to a Wyandotte Elder, what I have learned is that the reason people love Chief is because Chief loves people. I read once that good leaders inspire their people to have confidence in them. Great leaders inspire their followers to have confidence in themselves. It's wonderful when people believe in their leader. It's more wonderful when the leader believes in the people. Anytime that we gather here as a staff and Chief is in attendance, there is one thing we all leave the meeting with -

Chief believes and has confidence in us and he appreciates what we do. Whenever a new employee comes on board, a part of the orientation process is that they are taken in and introduced to Chief Bearskin. The first thing he tells the individual is that we operate by the 4 letter word "CARE". We care about one another and the ones we serve and that everybody that walks through our doors is a VIP.

Chief often says that his first career in the military he did out of service for his country. His second career in civil service he did out of need to provide for his family, but when he began his third career, as Chief of our Nation, he did and continues to do out of love for the Wyandotte people. Most people are unaware that Chief never took a salary from the tribe for the first 21 years and never asked for one. After much arm twisting (continued on next page)

# Letter by Chief



Written by Chief Leaford Bearskin in July 1960 just prior to his retirement from the United States Air Force.



## I AM AN INDIAN

I am Kwa-hoo-sha-ha-ki (Flying Eagle). I am an Indian. I am proud. I am an American Indian and I am both thankful and proud.



Many, many moons ago my people hunted and fished and lived in the forests and by the streams around two great bodies of water, since named Lake Erie and Lake Huron by the white man. My people were peaceful and happy and made war on only those who trespassed or threatened. Our warriors were fierce and courageous. When the white man came, they fought hard and well, but the white man was too powerful and too many. My people moved west toward the setting sun.



Again, the white man came. Again, we moved – south this time. When there was no place else to move to, the white man's Big Chief said, "Go here to this place" – so they did. He said to farm and plant gardens and build houses. These things were new and strange to my people. They were hunters and fishermen and warriors. The Great White Father spoke to my people and said, "Farm, plant, go to school, learn the white man's ways" – so they did. Always they were poor, many times they were cold and hungry, often sickness came and the medicine men could not cure because the sickness was from the white man and Indian medicine was not good. They always were proud. Our warriors became farmers and our women learned to sew and cook and keep house. Our children went to the white man's school and church and learned about his ways and his



God.

One time an enemy from across the Big Water made war on our friends and our Great White Father spoke again and said, "We must help our friends. Stop farming for a while and be warriors again." This they did. When this Big War was over, my people again farmed, kept house, and learned the ways of the white man. They did this for twenty summers and winters, which was a long time. Some of our men and women learned to love the white people and married them. The white man's medicine seemed to be good. Some of our people grew big, some did not. But, all of them tried hard – and they were proud.

Again an enemy from across the Big Water trespassed against our good friends and our great country. Once again the Great White Father spoke and said, "We need warriors to fight for our good friends and our great country." And, once again, my people quit being farmers, quit being school teachers, quit being ministers, and quit being statesmen. They took up the white man's war paint and tomahawk. I, myself, fought our enemy over the great waters of the Pacific. I fought with the white man's tools – airplanes, bombs, and machine guns. Our white man's medicine was strong and the enemy was defeated. Many of our warriors went to this fight. Some became heroes, even in the eyes of the white man. They fought hard and they fought well. There were some who did not return. They went to the Happy Hunting Ground from Pearl Harbor, Bataan, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Anzio, Normandy, and many other faraway places. Their friends and relatives were very sad – but they

were also very proud.

Today there is no war – but neither is their peace- for our people or the white man.

All Indians are still proud. Some still need care, some still need food, some still need clothing, and many still need education. We do not ask for charity – only assistance, justice, and understanding.

We have pride and we have dignity.

I am Kwa-hoo-sha-ha-ki. I am an Indian. I am proud. I am a citizen of the best country in the world. I am proud of that too.

Leaford Bearskin

Lt. Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

Member of the Wyandotte Nation

July 1960

## 2nd Chief

(continued from page 2)

and persuasion, we convinced him in 2004 to accept a salary. There is no way that we could ever repay him for what he has done for the tribe over the past years.

Chief often says that there are over 400 federally recognized tribes in the United States but the Wyandotte Nation is number one. I would say that there are over 400 chiefs in the country but Chief Leaford Bearskin is number one. We are truly blessed to have him as our Chief.

Billy Friend  
2nd Chief



## Wyandotte Clans (continued)

(continued from page 1)

The following information comes from such sources, as no one alive today has intimate, first-hand knowledge of the ancient clan system and its structure. At the turn of the last century, two gentlemen, William Elsey Connelley (1855-1930), and Charles Marius Barbeau (1883-1969), were instrumental in preserving oral traditions and knowledge of the clans from Kansas Wyandot and the Oklahoma Wyandotte respectively. Today their work among others, are the only insights we hold and cherish that gives us knowledge of a system that was invisibly pure, totally encompassing and as natural as life itself. The clans were life, the preservation of a pure genetic heritage for the tribe, but an ancient culture could not have known they were for that purpose and much more.

The births of the clans are hidden in obscurity and are of pagan religious origin as we can interpret them today. We have learned about them from the Wyandot folklore as recorded by Connelley and Barbeau. The ancient Wyandot believed that they had descended from the animals, for which their clans were named. The animals are not the same animals of today as they were deities, zoological gods and creators of the universe. The Big Turtle made the Great Island, and is supposed to bear it on his back to this day. The Little Turtle made the sun, moon, and many of the stars. The Mud Turtle made a hole through the Great Island for the sun to pass through as well as the future home of every Wyandot after their death. In this land of the afterlife the clans, traditions, language and government of the Wyandot is preserved in its purity by the Little People, a race of pygmies created to assist the Wyandot.

We're also told that the Wyandot were anciently divided into twelve clans. Each clan had its own government, consisting of a clan council presided over by a clan chief. The clan councils were composed of at least five persons, one man and four women, but they might contain any number of women depending upon the

size of the clan. All business pertaining to the internal affairs of the clans was heard by the clan council. An appeal was allowed from the clan council to the tribal council; but these events would have been rare as the authority of the clan anciently superseded that of the tribe in respect to each clan member's affairs. The women of the clan council oversaw the clan affairs and chose the clan chief, which to some degree was hereditary. The tribal council was composed of the clan chiefs, the hereditary sachem, and other men of the tribe as the sachem, with consent of the tribal council so chose. In determining an issue whether clan or tribal, the vote was by clans, and not by individuals. In matters of importance, which most cases always were, they required a unanimous vote among the clans to carry out a judgment.

The twelve clans and the names they called themselves are as follows:

1. Big Turtle; the people or the clan, which bears up the Great Island (earth).
2. Little Turtle; the people or the clan, which keeps the heavens.
3. Mud Turtle; the people or the clan, which digs through the earth.
4. Wolf; the people or the clan, which smells a bone.
5. Bear; the people or the clan of the claws.
6. Beaver; the people or the clan of the house builders.
7. Deer; the people or the clan of the horns.
8. Porcupine; the people or the clan of the quill.
9. Striped Turtle; the people or the clan, which carries the colors.
10. Highland Turtle; the people or the clan, which carried the house.
11. Snake; the people or the clan, which carries the trail.
12. Hawk; the people or the clan of the feather.

The clans are listed in what was called the Order of Precedence and Encampment. The oldest clan and clan held with the highest esteem was the Big Turtle. When in council, the clan chiefs of the Big Turtle sat on what would be the right fore-leg of the Big Turtle and the

other clans were arranged in a circular order around in their proper place; with the except the Wolf clan, which could be in the center on the turtle's back, or at the turtle's head which was most usually the case. The sachem sat in the center or in front of the door entering the council chamber, which would have been at the turtle's head. In ancient times all villages were built in this order as on the shell of the Big Turtle, and when on the move they traveled in procession following the same arrangement.

Clans were separated into two divisions. The first consisted of the Bear, Deer, Snake and Hawk. The second contained the Big Turtle, Little Turtle, Mud Turtle, Beaver, Porcupine, Striped Turtle and Highland Turtle. The mediator of the tribe was the Wolf, which stood between the divisions, and bore a cousin relation to each. All the clans of each division bore the relation of brothers or sisters to one another, and the clans of one division bore the relation of cousins to those of the other division. Marriage was arranged according to this relationship. A man of the first division could only marry a woman from the second division, and vice versa. As the system began to crumble and clans became extinct, marriage ultimately applied only to the clans and not the divisions, a man was permitted to marry a woman of any clan but his own. If a man of the Big Turtle clan married a woman of the Porcupine clan, all of his children were Porcupine, because the clans always follows the woman and never the man. Distribution of property was the same; the son could inherit nothing from his father, because they were always of different clans. A man's property descended to his nearest relation through his mother, usually the eldest nephew.

The woman was always the head of the Wyandot family but parents were not permitted to name their children as the clan gave them their names. Names were given once a year at the Green Corn Feast by the clan chief. If a child was born the week following the Green Corn Feast, he or she had to wait a year before receiving (continued on next page)

## Wyandotte Clans (continued)

(continued from previous page)

their name. All Wyandot names have their roots in the clan system. The basic essence of the Wyandot social and political system was not the family or the individual, but the clan. The child belonged to its clan first, and then to its parents.

The formation of clan names demanded that they originate from some part of the animal from which the clan was supposed to be descended. Or they might reflect some element in which the animal lived. Regardless, a proper name was always a distinctive badge of the clan bestowing it and immediately identified to which clan you were a member. Every clan had its unwritten list of names, and this list was its exclusive property. Barbeau makes reference to a list that he made in 1911-1912 while in Oklahoma of many proper clan names that could be recalled from the memory of a few elders. That list is supposedly locked away in the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa.

When a name was given to a child or an adoptee the councilwomen stood by the clan chief, and gave him the name of each child, he in turn announced the name of the child to their parents. When death left any clan name unused, the next child born into the clan, if of the same sex of the name, was given the unused name. If no children were born, an adopted individual was given the name. This was an unchangeable law, and there was only one exception. When a child was born due to an extraordinary or odd event, or with some distinguishing mark, or there was an adoptee under the same circumstances, the councilwomen developed a name that better represented the individual. These special names died with their owners, and were never passed along.

As Wyandot people began marrying whites with greater frequency two fundamental things happened that challenged the existence and need for the clans. I will illustrate them again using Robert Armstrong from which my family descended.

Robert married a full-blood Wyandot in

1801; they had a son and named him George. We're unaware as to what clan his wife belonged to, so George's clan is a mystery, but too it's incidental. George, in turn, married Ska' Mehn-Dah-teh (Elizabeth) the daughter of Mononcue in 1831, she was of the Porcupine clan. George and Elizabeth, note the use of English names, even though they had been given clan names they carried and used their English names instead of their Wyandot, which diminished their true identity within the clans. This was occurring more frequently early in the nineteenth century. They had six children. The Third, born in 1838, was Eliza and she too would have been Porcupine. Eliza married John Bland, a white man from Kentucky. She and John lived on the far western line of what was once the Wyandot Reservation in Kansas. They too had six children, the fifth and eldest son they named John Bland, Jr. in 1867 as they were moving to Oklahoma for inclusion on their rolls. This move purposefully separated them from the Absentee Wyandot that accepted U.S. citizenship in Kansas, which included many of Eliza's immediate family members.

Now we can find the two prime examples of what weakened the clan system to the point that it was ultimately set aside and abandoned.

The first is; to our knowledge John, Jr. never received a Wyandot name. Being born to a white father living on what was once Wyandot land in Kansas, immediately being moved as an infant; without the presence and support of the clans the opportunity was never presented. After the Treaty of 1855 when the majority of Wyandot accepted citizenship with allotment and ultimate sell of the land, a state of confusion, unsettlement, disorganization, loss of identity and purpose along with the need to just survive prevailed. A short twelve years earlier the same happened to the tribe when leaving Ohio. Twice in such a short amount of time is devastating to any tribe and their inherent culture including clans.

Most people don't realize that in 1867

Indian Territory, when the Wyandotte were reinstated as a Federally Recognized Tribe, there were approximately 200 living there at the time. How can a people exist and continue to live under a clan system that obviously has been decimated because of the lack of people to support its continuation? They can't. Seeing the crisis at hand and trying to hold on to what was already in place tribal leaders enacted policy to stabilize tribal government with what clan identities were already in place. This was an inherent, yet futile attempt to prolong the inevitable demise of the clans and Wyandotte culture in whole. By the end of the following generation everything but the memories of what once was, was all but lost.

John Bland, Jr. would have been a Porcupine following the progression from his mother Eliza Armstrong Bland. John married a white woman named Lula Armsby; being white she had no clan. What has now happened? Since clans are inherited through the mother, where one now doesn't exist the clan lineage is broken for future Bland generations, starting with John and Lula's children. Clans couldn't have been reinstated even for some of their grandchildren if one of their four children had remarried into another Wyandotte family, that still had their clan identity intact. John and Lula had all girls. Time and unfortunate probability had finally caught up with the tribe. In this case two negatives doesn't make a positive.

Following my generational stream no one has remarried into another Wyandotte family with clan knowledge, and from John, Jr. we are now four generations removed. This situation is the primary reason the clan system failed, because once it materialized it wasn't just localized families that felt its effects it was tribal. The ancient Wyandotte clan system wasn't flawed, because when in a pristine, innocent and untarnished state it worked perfectly. A clan system like the Wyandotte once had no tolerance or exceptions for deviation. Official (continued on page 7)

# Member News

## Internship

### Internship Programs Summer 2008

Wyandotte Tribal Corporation (WTC) is the economic arm of the Wyandotte Nation and under its umbrella has several entities including Wyandotte Casino, Wyandotte Net Tel and Wyandotte Services among others. These companies provide financial resources for programs that benefit tribal members. Some of which are: Turtle Tots Preschool, Seniors Program, the Bearskin Health Care and Wellness Center and housing.

This year WTC is pleased to announce a program for summer internships for tribal members currently enrolled in a program of study at a college or university who have completed their sophomore year. Positions will be limited due to financial constraints and handled on a first serve basis.

For those students who have graduated high school and will be attending college in the fall, they may apply for a position with the corporation and will be considered if there are available funds.

There will be positions available in casino operations, accounting, information technology and human resources.

Students interested learning more or applying for one of these positions should contact:

David Zacharias

Director of Human Resources  
Wyandotte Tribal Corporation  
918-678-3030 X-25

*E-mail:*

[dzacharias@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:dzacharias@wyandotte-nation.org)

**PLEASE SEND YOUR  
MEMBER NEWS TO:  
TURTLE TALK  
64700 E HWY 60  
WYANDOTTE, OK 74370  
OR FAX TO  
(918) 678-2944**

## “Oklahoma”

On March 28, 2008, the Wyandotte Public Schools put on the musical production “Oklahoma”. The cast was made up of students from the elementary school up to the high school, as well as several teachers. There were several Wyandotte Tribal Members in the cast including Cindy Betts who is also an employee at the Wyandotte Nation Preschool. Cindy played the major role of Aunt Eller.



## Memorial

The Wyandotte Nation will host a Memorial Day Service 10a.m., Monday, May 26, 2008 in the Bland Cemetery. They will be honoring Irvin P. Long, Former Chief of the Wyandotte Nation 1883-1886. Mr. Long fought in the Mexican War. With the help from family and friends, a military stone has been placed on his grave. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information and directions, contact Tribal Headquarters, 1-678-2297.



**Roll # 1908**

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 García at 918-678-2297 ext. 217 to claim your prize.

## American Indian Report

Falmouth Institute, a highly respected consulting firm in Indian Country, puts out a monthly magazine with issues concerning Indian Country. They recently made their magazine digital. This allows them to distribute their magazine for free to tribal members and tribal governments. Members can sign-up for a free subscription by going to [www.americanindianreport.com](http://www.americanindianreport.com). Once there you will be directed to enter your e-mail address. When the issue is ready each month, you will receive an e-mail with a link to the web site where the issue is stored.

**Job Hotline  
1-877-WYN-DOTT  
(1-877-996-3688)  
Announcements  
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## Wyandotte Clans (continued)

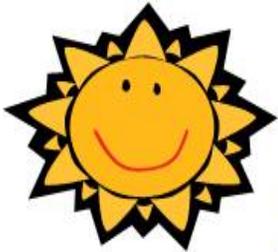
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adoption at the clan and tribal level was their solution to potential deviation, that unbeknown to the ancient mothers, would be set aside for "licensed" marriage among people from external cultures.

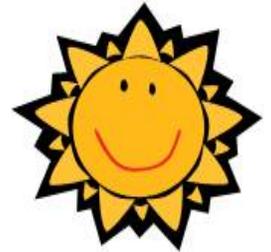
Today we're faced with a persistent and very perplexing request, "...let's reinstate the clans." The big question is how? What has happened to my family's clan heritage is not unique, as just about all Wyandotte families have a broken clan

heritage. Many families today don't even know to which clan their ancestors once belonged. An official tribal list wasn't kept of who belonged to what clan. Those who are fortunate to know their clan what do they do? Just pick it up and continue on from where it was lost almost 150 years ago? Some may not be as far removed but time isn't the issue, it's the fact that it's been broken. If reinstated what do we have clans or clubs? Clans were as DNA to the ancient Wyandotte

and cracking its code without a viable living example would be impossible, and an insult to the thousands upon thousands of lives as lived by its unspoken, unpublished code. It would be like taking DNA from an alligator (white culture) and putting it into a turtle (Wyandotte culture), we would be creating something that didn't exist prior, and the consequences could be immediate or not felt for generations. But it would be inevitably felt.



## Wyandotte Nation 2008 Summer Youth Program



The Wyandotte Nation Government is seeking Wyandotte Nation Tribal Members to fill positions for the 2008 Summer Youth Program.

### Criteria for this program:

- ✓ Entering the 11th or 12th grade in the Fall of 2008;
- ✓ 2008 High School Graduate who is not or does not plan to enroll in college;
- ✓ Holds a Wyandotte Nation CDIB Card;
- ✓ Have dependable transportation to and from work;
- ✓ Ability to fulfill the requirements of the assigned position;
- ✓ Pass a physical, background check and drug screen.

*Eligible applicants will work 40 hours per week at \$7.50/hr. Current assignments are available in the following areas: Turtle Trax Print Shop, Bearskin Fitness Center, Wyandotte Nation Administration and Education Departments. Summer Program will began the Monday following the last day of school.*

*For more information, contact Mary Ann Hayworth, HR Director Wyandotte Nation Government; 800-256-2539, x 220 or email: [mahayworth@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:mahayworth@wyandotte-nation.org); or fax: 918-678-2944. Applications are available at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Office located at 64700 E. Hwy. 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370.*

# Tribal Department Reports

## Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department Jan. thru Mar. 2008

January found us doing our routine monthly monitoring. We also brought our weather station back on line after resolving problems created by the Dec. ice storm. Janice and Kathy attended a book signing at the LEAD agency office. The book is a documentary on Tar Creek that several tribes and other entities were involved in producing. Janice attended a TECO meeting in Stroud, OK on the 15th. With Christen on maternity leave, Kathy has been working diligently with EPA project officers on our Quality Assurance Project Plan(QAPP) for the Water 106 grant.

In February, Janice, Kathy, and Earl attended the Environmental Education Expo at NSU in Broken Arrow. We came away with several new ideas to use in our environmental education program and Earl scored us some worms for a worm bed we were planning. Kathy has completed and sent in the QAPP for our Water 106 grant and it has been approved. Many thanks go out to her for her hard work. Kathy and Janice attended a Tri State Mining Area Trustee Council meeting on Feb. 19-21 in Pittsburg, KS. We were glad to see Christen return from maternity leave.

March found us planning for our Keep America/Keep Oklahoma Beautiful activities. We opened with an Environmental Festival at the City of Wyandotte's Community Building. Exhibitors from the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, NRCS, Red Cedar Recycling, Service Recycling, Joplin Recycling, LEAD Agency, OSU Extension Office,(Miami), Grand Lake Water Watch, and of course the Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department participated. We had 493 attendees including most of the classes from

Wyandotte Schools. It was a great success and we hope to do it again next year.



On March 11, Kathy and Janice flew to Dallas to attend an EPA RTOC conference. March 17-19 Janice attended an EPA Training in Edmond, OK. She learned how to enter our water data into EPA's STORET database. Our outdoor classroom (Gazebo) has arrived and with warm weather coming soon we will utilize it. It is a great asset to our environmental education program.



In cooperation with the Bearskin Fitness Center and Health Clinic, we will have a community garden. It will be located just south of the Fitness Center and planting day is May 6. Everyone is welcome to come plant some veggies and when they produce, gather them for personal use.

As always, we stay very busy doing our part to keep Mother Earth and the Environment safe and clean for future generations.

Don't forget our Recycling Trailers located at the Turtle Stop Parking lot and the Tribal Complex parking lot.



Our department will do free Bacteria Tests on private wells for Wyandotte Nation Tribal Members and is seeking 10 Tribal Members on a private well system to do testing for heavy metals.

For more information you may contact our department at 918-678-2297.

Christen Lee, Environmental Director (x241)

Kathleen Welch, Environmental Assistant (x235)

Janice Wilson, Environmental Technician (x245)

Earl Salisbury, Education and Water Tech ( x252)

## Title VI

### ELDER SERVICES

The Administration on Aging (AoA) is convening a Training and Technical Assistance Forum at the tribally-owned Mystic Lake Casino-Hotel in Shakopee, a suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 28-May 1, 2008. During the Forum, AoA also plans major activities to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Title VI program. Congress passed and President Carter signed Title VI legislation in 1978. They will recognize the significant contributions that the program has made to improve the lives of older Indians over the past 30 years.

Kelly Walker, from the Bearskin Fitness Center gave a presentation to the Elders called Heartfelt For Life, April 8. Participants viewed a DVD (continued on next page)

## Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)  
about exercises to keep their heart healthy. They were given a copy of the DVD, juice, water, exercise bands, and informational pamphlets.

Our Easter/Music Party was held March 20, 2008. We had an Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Bonnet Contest, Men's Leg Contest, and lots of fun. We would like to thank the preschool children for hiding the eggs for us.



Our Mother's Day dinner will be held Thursday, May 8, and our Father's Day dinner will be held June 12, during the noon hour.

### **CAREGIVER**

The Northeast Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition, which consists of the Wyandotte Nation, Quapaw Tribe, Miami Tribe, and Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging have developed a new Support Group. The group will meet at the Miami Senior Citizens Center, 2104 Denver Harnar Dr., Miami, OK. At 10:30 a.m. the 3rd Thursday of each month. It was developed for all Caregivers. If you or someone you know is a caregiver in the area and needs support please call 1-800-256-2539 ext. 253 or 227.

Our other Support Groups: Caregiver Group meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Wyandotte Tribal Complex. Grandparents Group meets the 1st Friday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church on Leisure Rd, in Grove, OK.

**Eligibility:** Caregiver or person

Receiving care has to be (55) years of age or older, have a CDIB card or tribal card. Grandparents (55) years or older who are primary caregivers of grandchildren (18) years of age or under.

As always, we invite you to come and visit us anytime.

Brenda House, Director, Elder Services ext. 227

Dari Ann Hunnicutt, Caregiver Specialist ext 253

Kandi Smith, Head Cook Ext. 228

Alexandra Boyd, Food Service Team Ext. 228

Pam Deaton, Food Service Team Ext. 228

Menu: Ext. 226

### **Planning/Development**

Springtime is an exciting time with floods, tornados, and ice storms. To mitigate this, we have submitted a Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant application, the purpose of which is to assist the Tribe in developing protocols for lessening damage or the potential of damage for Tribal facilities and Tribal members in and near the historic jurisdiction.

Work at the PowWow grounds is continuing with overhead lighting installed. Next step is the well house, construction of a speaker stand, and adding additional compaction rock to parking and vending areas. Maintenance has completed site work for the environmental gazebo, and assisted in finishing site work and parking for Net Tel employees. With the addition of larger mowing equipment, we have increased the acreage that is mowed verses hayed.

In conjunction with Accounting, we have implemented a new inventory data base that will allow for improved reporting and auditing requirements. A new inventory management system will be implemented beginning in April,

which will interface with our Accounting Department software. This will make the reports needed for auditors easily accessible to our Accounting Director. This feature, along with state-of-the-art bar code technology, will also aid in tracking and reconciling our fixed assets from acquisition through disposal, complying with government GASB 34/35 requirements. We will now be able to scan invoices and insert photos of equipment, vehicles, etc., for a more complete inventory listing.

We have disposed of a number of excess property assets, and with proceeds, purchased a dump truck and a leaf blower, that will allow for improved maintenance.

As a result of the ice storm disaster in December, we have applied for assistants from FEMA to cover the cost of debris removal and extra security during power outage. The cost was almost \$10,000.

On March 31st, an extremely strong wind or tornado, passed through the Tribal area and tracked up a branch of sycamore creek, just south of the Tribe's new PowWow ground. The picture below shows the damage to the trees in the creek area.



In conjunction with the Housing Department we have finalized a plan for housing locations, which allows for electric, telephone, water and sewer line installation, which is the next step in this progress. Also with the Housing Department, we are finalizing the (continued on next page)

## Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)  
policies and procedures for financing requirements. Shortly by summer, we hope, the housing units will be under construction.

We have completed preliminary plans for the access road to the site of the new water tower, which is east of the housing complex. The next step is finalizing plans, obtaining approval from regulatory agencies, and then bidding out the project which should be up for bid in August.

Submitted a grant application to the Administration for Native Americans. This application would enable the Tribe, if it is funded, to implement a Needs Assessment Survey which would be distributed to all Tribal households. This will also allow an update to the computer program that the Tribal roll is currently on.

Also submitted a Library grant application to assist in acquiring additional materials for the Tribe's Library.

Submitted a grant application to the Oklahoma Tribal Heritage Grant Program, and received notice that it was funded for the amount requested (\$9,994). This project is to inventory Tribal records, under supervision of an elder to inventory, record on data base, photocopy originals and preserve in archival boxes. A big Thank You to Pat Garrison, who told us about the grant opportunity.

As a new capital improvement project, a fitness center/ gymnasium complex expansion, is being considered for submission as the Tribe's next Indian Community Development Block Grant application. Local surveys to determine need and usage are being distributed at the Fitness Center.

Congratulations to Erin and Sean, on the birth of their new baby girl. (Sydney)

### Family Services News:

Kate Randall, Director

Dana Butterfield, Family Services Assistant  
918-678-2297 Extension 219 or 224  
64790 East Highway 60  
Wyandotte, OK 74370

### ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS:

- Membership Incentive Program for Infants:
- Burial Assistance Program
- School Supply Voucher and Radius Increases:

Effective March 4, 2008 Chief Bearskin, 2nd Chief Friend and the Board of Directors approved the implementation of a new Social Services Committee to address the immediate and future social service needs of its tribal members. The Committee is comprised of tribal member employees, Kim Garcia, Accounting Director, Dana Butterfield, Family Services, and Debbie Dry, Planning Development Specialist. Additional Committee Members include the Nation's Planning Director Ron Kaiser, Family Services Director Kate Randall and 2nd Chief Billy Friend. The programs will be administered by the Family Services Department.

### *Nationwide New Membership Incentives for Infant Enrollment:*

This program initiative is being offered to encourage parents to enroll their child before his/her first birthday. Every enrollment application received for children under the age of one will receive a \$50.00 gift card and a keepsake baby blanket with the Wyandotte Nation's Tribal Logo. If you already have your child's enrollment application on file, the enrollment department will contact you by June 1, 2008 for instructions on how to apply for your child's gift card and blanket. If you have not yet enrolled your infant, enrollment applications are available by

mail or online at the Nation's website: at [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org) under the following: "Community" heading, then click on "Family Services". Scroll down to the "Membership Application Process". Please note: Membership applications and Original State Certified Birth Certificates must be mailed to the Enrollment Department. Once membership eligibility is determined, the Enrollment Department will contact you with instructions to apply for your child's gift card and blanket.

### *Nationwide \$500.00 Burial Assistance Program & Guidelines:*

Applications may be requested from this office or may be downloaded at the Nation's website under: "Members Only" Section at:

[www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org). The burial guidelines/requirements to be submitted are as follows:

- A completed Burial Assistance Application signed by a family member or authorized representative of the deceased must be sent to the tribal headquarters within 60 days after the date of death.
- Attach a copy of the death certificate with the application.
- Attach the itemized funeral bill from the funeral home. (Note: The \$500.00 payment will be made directly to the funeral home.

### *School Supply Vouchers increase for tribal members residing within a 200 mile radius:*

The Fall 2008 school supply vouchers will be increased to \$50.00 per child for tribal students age preschool through the 12th grade that reside within a 200 mile radius of the tribal headquarters. School supply application instructions will be posted in the next edition of the Turtle Speaks.

### *Other News: Youth Programs:*

With the onset of spring, the earth is (continued on next page)

## Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)  
awakening with beautiful spring colors brought on by plentiful April showers here in Northeastern Oklahoma. Our first spring event was the "Week of the Young Child" held April 7th through April 11th. The Ottawa County Tribes once again hosted the events that included a fun festival, a Basketball Show and a petting zoo. Our "Turtle Tots" attended all events as evidenced by the photos included. Soon school will be out and plans are currently underway for the June 2008 afternoon youth camp. The youth camp encompasses the Tribe's health, cultural, educational and environmental departments and is held at the Bearskin Healthcare and Fitness Center. Also this summer, the Ottawa County Tribes will again host a three day summer youth camp during the week of July 21st. Call for details!!

### *Family Services Program News:*

The Oklahoma LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) served 38 Tribal Families during the winter of 2007. Eligible families received \$100.00 for heating assistance that was paid directly to the service provider. The Nation will reapply for the Federal Grant during the fall of

2008. Family Service staff administers LIHEAP, tribal tags, tribal membership issues, enrollment, school supply vouchers, winter school clothing, burial assistance, requests for certificate of degree of Indian Blood cards, infant car seats, Indian Child Welfare, and Promoting Safe and Stable Family programs. If you have any questions regarding these programs or program guidelines, please contact the Family Services Department Staff.

### **HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

The Wyandotte Nation Housing Department began in December of 1996. Over the past twelve years, the department has shown substantial growth. The Housing Department Staff consists of Reba Guilford, Housing Director, Kathy DeWeese, Housing Specialist, and Paul Paquin and Brian Adkins, Project Coordinators.

NAHASDA is the present program under which the Housing Department operates. This program allows the Tribe some flexibility as to various housing services offered. Under this program the Tribe will provide limited homeownership, rental, and rehabilitation services. There are now fifty families that have been serviced with homes. In 2006, the department

received a grant for rehabilitation of homes owned by tribal members. Sixteen homes have been rehabilitated.

The IHS-121 Program is a program awarded by Indian Health Service to the Tribe to assist members with water and sewage problems. The program allows for assistance in hooking to rural water, installing a complete septic and drain field system, drilling wells and connecting to city sewer lines. You must be a tribal member and live within the borders of the Indian Health Service area. If you have need of any of the above mentioned services or question whether you live within the service area, please give us a call.

The infrastructure and road work is nearly completed for a new apartment complex. There will also be a separate complex for our senior citizens. These will be located behind the tribal offices. Hopefully, construction will begin soon.

We would like to express that we are extremely proud of the progress the Housing Department has experienced. We abide by all Federal Rules and Regulations, and operate as fairly as possible to all tribal members. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

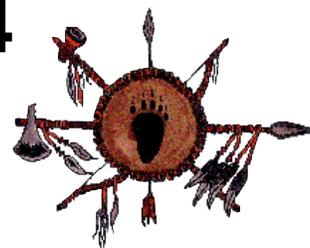
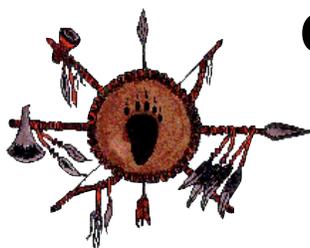
# Wyandotte Nation Tag Office

Please call Dana or Kate

at (800) 256-2539

ext. 219 and ext. 224

respectively for  
appointments.



# Education Department

## Preschool:

The New Year brought many events for the pre-school students with Valentine and Easter parties, Week of the Young Child events, preparations for Pre-school Pow-Wow and end of year events including graduation. The students will also attend the spring play at MSSU in Joplin. The children attended a fun day at the Miami Civic Center, a basketball program at the Coleman and a petting zoo at the NEO Equine Center during the week of the young child. Class parties were well attended and the students have Richard Zane Smith working with them to prepare for the Pow-Wow. The Preschool Pow-Wow was held on Tuesday, April 15th at the Wyandotte Public School Gymnasium. Grand entry was led by the Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard who was followed by Chief Bearskin, Second Chief Billy Friend and Tribal Princess Laura Guilford. The children participated in the alligator dance as well as dancing to an original song that was written by Richard Zane Smith for our students. Many of the guests participated in a round dance, which is a social dance that all ages enjoy. Following the round dance, Paul Barton led the group in a bean dance, which is a ceremonial dance for the Seneca Cayuga Tribe. Graduation ceremonies will be held on Thursday, May 22. Preschool will dismiss for summer break on May 23rd.

## Before and After School Program:

The new education center has been a wonderful addition to the before and after school program. We allow the children to play basketball in the gym while waiting for our bus to take them to school in the morning. The center has an individual room for the after school program to utilize. In this room they have computers with games and learning software, two video game stations and puzzles and board games. The gymnasium is used for basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, ping pong and kickball as well as just open space to run. This gym is very beneficial to the children who are playing basketball in the Wyandotte league. This newly formed group has teams of students from second through fifth grade in both boys and girls. They travel to nearby towns such as Quapaw, Fairland and Commerce. We have two boys on a team that are unbeaten for the season, they are also tribal members, and they are Austin Winkler and Aaron Arment. Sam Quick is on the team also and he is a past program participant. Other children who attend after school program and play are Haylee Floyd, Taryn Gray, Kayla McClendon, Lacy East and Coy Vowels.

## Summer Program:

Applications are being accepted for the Wyandotte Nation Summer Program. The program will begin on May 27th. Many trips and activities are being planned and the new education center will be a great asset for the program. We will host a Vacation Bible School on site during the month of July with the Bauman family from Texas. Swimming lessons at the Seneca pool are always enjoyable and educational. Other outings will include day visits to Sycamore Valley, local library programs and others.

## Library:

The Wyandotte Tribal Library is open from 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. New books and videos are being added regularly. We always welcome requests for titles.

## Child Care & Development Fund Program:

This is a busy time for the CCDF Program as we are getting ready for a twenty hour directors training workshop as well as the provider appreciation banquet. The Child Care program national conference will be held in Portland, Oregon on May 12-15. The Child Care program continues to serve a large number of clients in our service area. We utilize licensed child care home and centers to provide services for our Native American children. We offer assistance based on income to all federally recognized tribes. Participants must reside within a 100-mile radius of the tribal headquarters.

## Application Requirements: Copies of:

-  CDIB or membership card
-  Social Security Card for every member of the household
-  Birth Certificate and shot record for child/children attending day care
-  Verification of present employment
-  Proof of residence
-  Class schedule if attending education classes
-  Divorce decree, if applicable

## Tribal Scholarships:

The deadline for new applicants on the higher education program is May 1, 2008. Scholarships are now awarded in the amount of \$1,000.00 per semester for up to eight semesters. Housing assistance grants are available for those students who live in the four-state area which includes, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. To receive housing assistance you must reside in the

## Education Department (continued)

dorm or be renting an apartment or house for the current semester that you are attending college. Proof of rent must be provided. If you meet the criteria and are not receiving assistance, please contact Ms. Carla Culver at Ext. 230.

### Workforce Investment Act (WIA):

The WIA program is still accepting clients for program services that will fund either technical or collegiate settings. You must reside in Barry, Barton, Lawrence,

Newton, Jasper, Dade and McDonald county in Missouri or Crawford and Cherokee counties in Kansas. If you are interested in applying, contact Arthur at ext 234.

Arthur is currently overseeing the Tribe's participation in a program that serves senior adults. We are partnering with The National Indian Council on Aging as they fund senior adults in work placements. We currently have three individuals on site and the Tribe may be

eligible for more. The program will fund four or five hours of work per day. These individuals must meet certain criteria including age 55 and over, low income guidelines, and must not have worked in the last 7 days. Interested persons are free to contact Mr. Anderson for more information.

Submitted by: Carla Culver

## Wyandotte Nation Calendar of Events

May 1	Deadline for scholarship applications
May 6	Planting of the Community Garden – Fitness Center 10 a.m.
May 8	Mothers' Day Dinner at Title 6
May 9	Employee Appreciation – Offices Closed
May 17	Fourth Anniversary for Lucky Turtle Casino - Cake Cutting at 4 p.m. with Chief and 2nd Chief
May 22	Preschool Graduation
May 26	Memorial Day – Offices Closed
May 27	First day of summer program
June 12	Fathers' Day Dinner at Title 6
July 4	Independence Day – Offices Closed
Sep 1	Labor Day – Offices Closed
Sep 3-5	Cultural Days
Sep 5-7	Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow
Sep 6	Annual Meeting
Sep 26	Native American Day – Offices Closed
Oct 13	Columbus Day – Offices Closed
Nov 11	Veterans' Day – Offices Closed
Nov 27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday – Offices Closed
Dec 24-25	Christmas Holiday – Offices Closed
Dec 31-Jan 1	New Year's Holiday – Offices Closed

## 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.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Armstrong Family Tree</li> <li>•Silas Armstrong Family Tree #1</li> <li>•Silas Armstrong Family Tree #2             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Brown Family Tree</li> </ul> </li> <li>•Clark Northrup Family Tree             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Conley Family Tree</li> <li>•Garrett Family Tree</li> <li>•Ladd Family Tree</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Long Family Tree</li> <li>•Pipe Mudeater Family Tree</li> <li>•Robitaille Family Tree</li> <li>•Walker Family Tree</li> <li>•Ebenezer O. Zane Family Tree             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hannah Zane Family Tree</li> <li>•Zane Family Tree</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|---|

Contact Sherri Clemons at the Historical Preservation Office to order:  
(800) 236-2539 or (918) 678-2297 ext. 244



## Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma Publications - Price List

1. "Our Great Chiefs"	\$5.00
2. "Wyandotte Mission" The Early Years 1871-1900	\$3.00
3. "The Wyandotte Exploring Expedition", of 1839	\$2.00
4. "Schools among the Minor Tribes in Indian Territory"	\$3.00
5. "Oklahoma's Forgotten Indians"	\$3.00
6. "Remedies, Cures, Plantings, Signs"	\$5.00
7. "A Historical Note on Prairie City, Indian Territory"	\$1.00
8. "A Brief Interpretation of the History of the Wyandotte Indians"	\$3.00
9. "Burial Ceremonies of the Huron's"	\$5.00
10. "Chief Splitlog and the Cayuga Mission Church"	\$3.00
11. "Jeremiah Hubbard, Hoosier Schoolmaster & Friends Missionary Among The Indians"	\$3.00
12. "Wyandotte Government - A Short Study of Tribal Society"	\$3.00
13. "Mon-Dah-Min and the Redman's Uses of Corn as food"	\$5.00
14. "Excerpts from the Great State of Kansas"	\$2.00
15. "Tales of the Bark Lodges" (upon request)	\$5.00
16. "Traditional Stories of the Wyandotte Indians"	\$1.00
17. "Wyandot Folk Lore", (upon request)	\$5.00
18. "Thomas Mosley Jr. & the Last Years of the Wyandot Sub Agency"	\$5.00
19. "History of the Seneca Indian School"	\$1.00
20. "One Hundred Years of Oklahoma Verse"	\$1.00
21. "Tarhe"	\$5.00
22. "On the Back of the Turtle", by Lloyd Divine	\$5.00
23. "Ohio" by Dr. Robert E. Smith	\$7.00
"Heritage of the Wyandot and the Armstrong Story"	\$9.00
"Treaties of the Wyandotte Indians"	\$10.00
"Map of the Original Wyandotte Allotments"	\$5.00

NOTE: When ordering by mail send an extra \$3.00 per item except for the items marked \$1.00.

Thank You

# PETTING ZOO



Left to Right: Trent Myers, Tanner Nesvold, Blake Fidler, Rylee Nesvold, Collin Gray try to pet a goat at the petting zoo.



Left to Right: Grace Goins & Kirsten Bruegel enjoy the bunnies.



Left to Right: Gavin Kihenia, Katana Hamilton, Triston Seabourn & Emma Martin ride the camels.



Left: Tanner Nesvold enjoys the fun day.



Right: Collin Gray & Trent Myers pet a baby kangaroo

# PRESCHOOL POWWOW



Grover Tanner leads the Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard at the Preschool Pow-Wow



Left: Preschool students preparing to perform at the powwow.



Right: Wyandotte tribal members Rylee Nesvold, Daxtor Baker, Mike Lawson & Katana Hamilton.

## Services Provided to Tribal Members



Service	Program Contact	Phone Number	Extension
Dental	Donna Krewson	(918) 678-2282	257
Vision	Donna Krewson	(918) 678-2282	257
Clinic (for appointments)	Linda Coatney or Elaine Fidler	(918) 678-2282	228 or 230
Pharmacy	Carolyn Nesvold	(918) 678-2282	224
Fitness Center	Kelly Walker	(918) 678-2282	259
Contract Health	Bridget Burleson	(918) 678-2282	227
Diabetes Clinic	Donna Krewson	(918) 678-2282	257
Nutrition	Brenda House	(918) 678-2297	227
Caregiver Services	Dari Ann Hunnicutt	(918) 678-2297	253
Enrollment	Dana Butterfield	(918) 678-2297	219
Tags	Dana Butterfield	(918) 678-2297	219
Housing Programs	Reba Guilford	(918) 678-2297	239
Student Housing Assistance	Reba Guilford	(918) 678-2297	239
Housing Improvements	Reba Guilford	(918) 678-2297	239
Well-Septic Construction	Reba Guilford	(918) 678-2297	239
School Supplies	Kate Randall	(918) 678-2297	224
Car Seats	Kate Randall	(918) 678-2297	224
Emergency Assistance	Kate Randall	(918) 678-2297	224
Scholarships	Carla Culver	(918) 678-2297	230
Job Training	Carla Culver	(918) 678-2297	230
Pre-School	Carla Culver	(918) 678-2297	230
Library	Carla Culver	(918) 678-2297	230
Adult Education	Carla Culver	(918) 678-2297	230
Childcare	Carla Culver	(918) 678-2297	230
Environmental	Christen Lee	(918) 678-2297	241
Human Resources	MaryAnn Hayworth	(918) 678-2297	220
Turtle Trax Printing	Pat Wilson	(918) 678-2297	238