

## FROM THE HISTORICAL FILES

By Sallie Andrews

In the C. Aubrey Buser Collection we find a letter from 1974, which includes an interesting reference. It gives a snapshot of the status of our people at the time of our removal from Ohio to Kansas.

Mr. Buser writes: The following data may be of some value to you. It is taken from the collections of Henry R. Schoolcraft who was working under the auspices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the middle of the 19th century. This information was from pages 588, 593, 598, 600, 601, and 606 from Part II.

At that time the Wyandots had not been in Kansas very long and the data should come very close to their status at the time of removal. As of 1847 the tribe had:

2 blacksmiths  
1 carpenter  
2 shoemakers  
1 tailor  
1 clerk  
49 male children in school  
38 female children in school  
10 male Sabbath school teachers  
22 female Sabbath school teachers

56 males who could read and write  
40 females who could read and write  
3 males who had studied vocal music  
7 females who had studied vocal music  
18 females who could spin, knit or weave  
33 females who could do seamstress or mantua makers work (gown making)  
1,044 acres of cultivated land  
351 horses  
60 oxen  
200 milk cows  
326 other cattle  
2,313 hogs  
126 ploughs  
43 carts  
4 buggies or pleasure wagons  
3 schoolhouses  
1 church  
1 saw mill  
1 fanning mill  
1 public ferry  
240 members of Christian denominations  
687 total number of Wyandots west of the Missouri River  
3 white heads of family in the tribe - male  
17 white heads of family in the tribe -

female  
\$4,596.95 estimated value of agricultural implements  
\$44.98 average means of each Wyandot  
\$29.95 per capita annuity payment from the Government (in 1845 this annuity had been \$20)  
\$17,500.00 - amount of annuities paid in coin - nothing was paid in goods or merchandise.

In 1851 the estimate of funds required for the Wyandots in the year ending June 30, 1851, was as follows (from the Treaty of March 17, 1842):

Permanent annuity - \$17,500  
Permanent provision for the black smith and assistant \$720  
Permanent provision for iron, steel, etc., for shops \$370  
Permanent provision for education - \$500

Be sure to visit our website [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org) for more information about our history, culture and heritage.

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

### Shell Shiner.....

#### Car Wash

The Shell Shiner Car Wash, which is located at the Turtle Stop, is now open for business. An attendant will be available during the day for your convenience.



# GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA

## THE TURTLE SPEAKS



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JUNE 2004

### NEW SECOND CHIEF-Earlene Roskob



Earlene was born in Canton, Ill., to Earl and Bessie "Margaret" Angel. She was raised in Welch, Okla., in the "big white house on the hill," and now resides in Grove, Okla. She has one son, Thomas Earl Teal. He and his wife, Alexandra, have one son, Thomas "Ryan" Teal, and they reside in Frisco, TX.

Earlene graduated from Welch High School and continued her education at Northeastern A&M College and Kansas State University (now Pittsburg State University). She has been with the Oklahoma Department Human Services for over 22 years, serving her last 11 years as supervisor for the Craig County Child Welfare Department.

In 1983, Earlene was elected to the Wyandotte Business Committee. She has served multiple terms as both second chief and as councilperson.

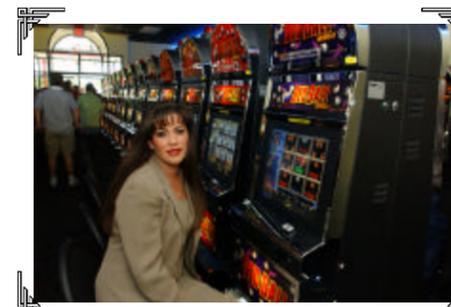
Over 15 years ago, people in the tribe thought a Wyandotte Pow Wow would enhance the cultural involvement of the tribe. Earlene initiated the first annual Wyandotte Tribal Pow Wow and continued as its chairperson for many years.

Earlene's involvement within the Indian World has led to official recogni-

tion as an Outstanding Native American Leader by both former Oklahoma State Senator William Schuelein and by former First Lady Hillary Clinton. Today, Earlene remains dedicated to the continued advancement of the Wyandotte Nation.



### Having fun Tiny?



### Julie Lawson - General Manager

PLEASE SEND YOUR  
MEMBER NEWS TO:  
TURTLE TALK  
P.O. BOX 250  
WYANDOTTE, OK 74370  
OR FAX TO  
(918) 678-2944

### Second Chief Resigns

Second Chief James R. Bland submitted his resignation to our Board of Directors on April 30, 2004. At the meeting of the Board of Directors held May 17, 2004, Earlene Roskob, a member of the Board, was appointed to serve the term of this position, which expires in September of 2006.

### Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

Wyandotte Nation  
Board of Directors  
Leaford Bearskin  
Chief  
Earlene Roskob  
Second Chief  
Ramona Reid  
Councilperson  
Vivian Fink  
Councilperson  
Earlene Roskob  
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:

The Wyandotte Nation  
P.O. Box 250  
Wyandotte, OK 74370  
(918) 678-2297 or (800) 256-2539  
fax (918) 678-2944

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# The Chief Says...

I am concerned about attendance at our annual meetings and pow-wows. We rescheduled our pow-wow to coincide with our annual meeting so that people could attend both of our major events at the same time.

These two events, timed for the convenience of everyone, returns us to the olden times when we used to get together to give blessings to our Great Spirit for all the good things that has happened to us the past year. We meet old friends, make new friends, and observe our old customs. We war dance, gourd dance, fancy dance, contest dance for children, women, and warriors. Drums pound and awaken us to thoughts of yesteryear. Our old customs arouse in us a feeling of pride in our rich heritage. The Wyandotte have always been leaders in our Indian world.

In our annual meetings we keep our tribal members aware of where we were, where we are, and where we are going.

## Pow-wow Improvements

Each year the Wyandotte Nation Pow-wow Committee tries to do improvements to our grounds. We rebuilt the Brush arbor last year and it is a great asset to the grounds. This year the committee would like to rebuild the seats around the arena. The Committee discussed the opportunity for Tribal members to be involved.

For a \$50.00 donation per bench the Committee will purchase a plaque that will be placed permanently at the pow-wow grounds with your family name.

We would like to start the



Chief Leaford Bearskin

We have tribal members living within easy driving distance of our tribal headquarters. We need to see them at our pow-wows and our annual meetings. We would like to have them get involved with our Nation and assist us in getting where we are going - and folks, we are going!

**Be proud of your Wyandotte blood.**



## Honor Guard

The Wyandotte Nation Honor guard is looking for new members to join. Some of the members are no longer able to participate due to health problems. The qualifications to join the Honor Guard require:

1. You must be a veteran; and
2. You must have a copy of your DD214.

For further information, please contact Sherri Clemons at 1-800-256-2539, ext. 244.

## Casting Call

Let's give our Oklahoma young Indian people a chance to be in this major motion picture. For further information, please contact:

Jeff Ham at 818-842-0187 in Burbank California or Carol Jones at the American Indian Institute University of Oklahoma 405-325-4716 Norman Oklahoma

## FIREWORKS!!



The Annual Wyandotte Nation Fireworks Display will be held on July 2, 2004, at the Pow Wow grounds. There will also be a band performing prior to the Show. Bring your lawn chairs and come join the fun with the whole family. The people from Seneca Fireworks will be setting off the fireworks for the Nation.

For more information contact Tribal headquarters at 1-800-556-2539 ext. 244.

# Planning & Development Department

The spring of 2004 has culminated in the Turtle Stop renovation/expansion project. As this article is being written the equipment is being installed in the car wash and by the end of the third week of May it will be fully operational. The inside of the Turtle Stop is bright with new paint and lighting, expanded dining area and the kitchen is first class. The gaming area is a bustle of activity and preparations are underway for start up. Once again the management and the staff of the Turtle Stop need to be commended for their work above and beyond.

Construction activities at the Sewage Treatment Plant are moving along with much of the equipment ready for installation. The Lab building at the Plant is nearly complete and most of the machinery in one of the clarifying units is installed. The filtration system is on-site and much of the internal plumbing and electrical work is approaching completion.

The future of the Tribe requires the development of plans to construct facilities and therefore engineering site work, i.e., testing of soil conditions for construction, specifically laying out the roadways, has been initiated. Other infrastructure needs are being evaluated as to the long-term development. These infrastructure needs may be justification for additional grant funds in the future.

Together with the Housing Department we are still seeking out additional sources of funding for future housing projects and have initiated a market analysis. This market analysis will increase the likelihood for additional funding sources.

Plans are underway to continue with clean up and beautification



The Casino is almost ready for business. Gaming anyone!



The new Canopy over the Diesel Pumps.

activities of the Tribal areas. In addition, the maintenance and housekeeping staff are assisting in the preparation of facilities for the Tribe's cultural week. The staff has prepped the facilities at Twin Bridges so that cultural classes can be held at this location. Grant funds were received to assist in developing a procedure and process for clean up of diesel/gasoline spills at the Turtle Stop. This will be completed during the summer.



Waste Water Treatment Facility Lab Building.



Work on Turtle Stop continues with additions of signs.

### DO YOU NEED A BREAK?

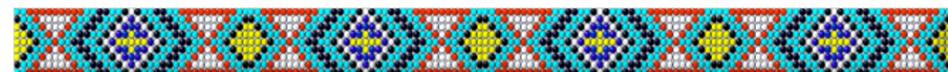
If you are a primary caregiver for a family, chances are you probably need a break but just don't know how!

The Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma received a federal grant through the Title VI Program to help caregivers on a temporary basis to receive assistance. (Respite)

Ten percent of the funds will

be used for grandparents raising grandchildren so they can take a break from the children.

If you are over the age of 55 and have a CDIB card, or the person you are caring for does, call our Toll free number 1-800-256-2539 Ext. 253. There are no income guidelines to qualify.



### “Week of the Young Child”



Front row: Doug Journeycake, Roy Ross  
Second Row: Tiffany Holmes, TeNona Kuhn, Christy Siler, Shannon White  
Third Row: Dee Killion, Dana Butterfield, Diana Baker, Kate Randall  
Fourth Row: Denisha Gonzales, Christopher Cerf, Christie Blaylock, Reba Blaylock, Pam Arciero, Gina Henson  
Last Row: Tim Lagasse

### Wyandotte Nation Tag Office

Tag Days: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
For more information or to make special arrangements, call Dana Butterfield at (918) 678-2297 or (800) 256-2539 ext. 219

### 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\*\*

Decorative Gourds

Wyandotte Nation T-shirts,  
\$6 to \$18 dollars.  
Sizes: Sm - M - Lg - 2X - 3X

#### \*Check out our other Gift Items\*

Wyandotte Nation Coffee Cups  
1 - for \$5.00 2 - \$9.00

Handmade 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



For information on how to place an order and receive it in time for the holidays, call Brenda House at (918) 678-2297 or 1-800-256-2539 ext. 227

### Environmental Department- By Janice Wilson

The Environmental Department would like to welcome onboard Christen Creson. Christen is our new Program Manager. WELCOME CHRISTEN!!!

We have been very busy the last few months. Christen, Kathy, and Janice are all taking an online GIS course. Wish us luck!

On April 22, we joined with the Title VI elders and tribal employees to celebrate Earth Day. We planted beautiful flowers in the planting bed in front of the Administration Building. This is part of the "Keep America Beautiful Great American Clean Up" campaign. We also had 2 Recycling Days. On April 28, we collected recyclables, made bird feeders from plastic pop bottles with the Wyandotte Nation Preschool children, and talked to them about recycling. On May 11 we set up a collection station in the parking lot where we collected recyclables from area residents. All were a great success.

On May 2, we traveled to Joplin, MO



### Earth Day

where we presented a recycling program to St. Mary's School. RENIE, the RECYCLING ROBOT talked to the kids about recycling. There were over 100 children present and all loved RENIE.

The TEAL (Tribal Efforts Against Lead) Program hosted the 2nd Annual Toxic Tour Bike Ride in conjunction with the Tar Creek Conference. The tour consisted of a 25-mile route through the Picher-Cardin mining area. Approximately 25 volunteers and 20

riders participated. Thanks to Jennifer Epperson for coordinating the ride and to all who helped make this another successful bike hike.

- Meetings:
- Feb. 25-26 OTCAC Meeting - Shawnee, OK
- Feb. 27 NATURE Meeting
- Mar. 9-11 CPR Class
- Mar. 25 Tar Creek Community Meeting - Miami, OK
- Apr. 5-6 Tar Creek Meeting - Ursula Lennox - Quapaw Tribe
- Apr. 8 NATURE Meeting
- May 5 Watershed Planning Mtg. & Tar Creek Trustee Council mtg.
- May 6-7 Tar Creek Conference
- May 11-13 ITEC Training (Christen)



### Recycle Day



### Recycle Education Preschool



### Janice & Kathy teaching



# Education Department

## Pre-school

Preschool graduation was held May 18, 2004, in the Wyandotte High School Gymnasium with approximately 350 in attendance. Twenty-five students graduated and will be starting kindergarten next fall. Fifteen three-year-olds will be returning to be graduates in 2005. The children presented a program of songs and recitations that involved memorization and movement. Following the program, volunteer certificates, preschool certificates, diploma's and awards were presented by Chief Leaford Bearskin and Ms. Carla Culver.

Students receiving Kumon Math awards were Hunter Anderson, son of Rebecca and David Anderson, Derick Combes (Wyandotte tribal member), son of Wesley and Dawna Combes, Lynnea Cox (Wyandotte tribal member), daughter of Quenston Cox and Carolyn Nesvold, Kaid Fidler, son of Mike and Tonya Fidler, Annessa Masterson, daughter of Chad and Trishia Masterson. Lynnea Cox, who is a Wyandotte tribal member, has the honor of being the top Kumon student in the United States. Lynnea's mother, Carolyn, is employed by the Bearskin Wellness Center. Her grandparents are Ted and Gail Nesvold of rural Wyandotte. Lynnea will be starting kindergarten at the Wyandotte Public School in August of 2004.

Preschool students enjoyed a Track and Field Day on

Thursday, May 20th, complete with awards being given and a pizza party on Friday, May 21st. The first day of pre-school for the fall will be Thursday, August 12, 2004. The summer program, which will began May 24th, will consist of many activities for all age groups. If you are interested in an application, please call Ms. Culver at 918-678-2297 ext. 230.

## Scholarship Program

Students completing eight semesters in the spring of 2004 with the Wyandotte Nation's Scholarship program:

- Holland Alderson
- LaMonica Andreoff
- Ben Andrews
- Rebecca DeCillis
- Afton Hoeme
- Matthew Hutchinson
- Andrea Newton
- Adrian Pappan
- Sara Parks
- Stephanie Taylor
- Stephanie Watts

Scholarship applications, which were due on May 1st, have been received in the Education Department. Students who are chosen will receive a letter of acceptance no later than the first week of July.



2004 Pre-School Graduates



3 year olds-returning



Lynnea Cox - Kumon Award

# Nation Employee Review - Get Acquainted!

Billy Friend, Son of Leonard and Beverly Farmer and the late Johnny Friend, grew up in Seneca, Missouri. Billy has two sons, Caleb and Cade. Billy graduated Seneca High School in 1982 receiving a wrestling scholarship to attend Labette County Community College studying Physical Education. After receiving Ministerial License from Messenger Bible College, he was then called to Sedalia, Missouri to Pastor the Sedalia Pentecostal Church of God where he remained for six years. Before returning to Seneca, Missouri, Billy spent approximately 18 months as an instructor with the New Hope Christian Academy in St. Louis, Missouri.

Upon returning to his hometown of Seneca, Missouri in 1998, Billy accepted the position of Fitness Center Manager of the Bearskin Health Care and Wellness Center. Billy assisted in introducing the Fitness Center to the tribal membership, employees and the community.

Approximately two years ago, Billy was named to the Directorship of Indian Health Services for the Wyandotte

Nation. He has continued to endorse wellness programs, as well as, provide



guidance for all programs and services granted by the Bearskin Health Care and Wellness Center. Billy's continuing education and training has proven to be a great asset, as he has advanced the fit-

ness facility and the medical services provided by the Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

Billy enjoys weight training/physical fitness and provides community service by coaching various athletic programs for area youth. Billy has several certifications including AAU and USA Wrestling Coach; Certified Personal Trainer with the National Academy of Sports Medicine and the Senior Fitness Association. He has received Certificates of Completion from Club Marketing and Management Systems and the Thomas Plummer Club Management School.

Billy Friend, a Wyandotte Nation Tribal Member and a Nation Employee communicates his goals by assisting Chief Leaford Bearskin's vision in furthering the health and wellness programs the Nation has to offer. While immediate goals are being achieved, it is also Billy's desire to expand benefits to include all tribal members who live outside the service area.

## Turtle Trax Printing & Design

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- ☞ Business Forms
- ☞ Brochures
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- ☞ Wedding Invitations
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- ☞ Photocopies
- ☞ Newsletters

For all your printing and design needs contact:

Pat Wilson (Graphics Technician)

at 918-678-2297 ext. 238

**Free Quotes**

Located in the Administration Building at Wyandotte Nation

64700 E Hwy 60 Wyandotte, OK 74370

# From the Historical Files - By Sallie Andrews

## "WYANDOT METHOD FOR TANNING DEERSKIN"

In the C. Aubrey Buser files we find this information. As soon as practicable, all fat, meat bits and hair were scraped off the hide. They preferred to do this in a flowing stream where the hide could be dipped in the water repeatedly and then draped over a smooth log about a foot in diameter. Even after metal tools became available, the Wyandots preferred to use a wood or stone scraper. Even the grain of the skin was removed. During this operation the skin could be torn quite easily, so considerable care was necessary.

Deer brains were then mixed in a large pot or other vessel and stirred to a suds. The skin was left to soak for three or four hours and then gently the water and brains were worked a bit into the skin before it was removed, wrung out, stretched and then dried. By this time the skin was soft and pliable. If not, it could go into the deer brain solution again until it was acceptable.

Next, a smoldering, smoky fire of rotted wood was lit. The skins were placed in the smoke and treated like a piece of toast. The longer in the smoke, the darker the buckskin. It all depended on the intended use of the buckskin. Wyandots made considerable use of black buckskin, but there were other uses, too.

Deer brains could be collected and stored for considerable periods of time. The Wyandots liked to mix the brains with moss, fashion it into cakes and then let dry for future use. The moss was easily removed when the brains were mixed with water. Other animal brains worked also, but not as well. I have read, too, that backbones of eels could be pulverized and used when animal brains were in short supply.

Bearskin were not tanned, but they were

worked for flexibility, the hair left on for winter wear or to sleep on in all seasons.

## "WYANDOTTE CLOTHING DESIGN"

In the C. Aubrey Buser files we find this information. More than most tribes, the Wyandots used blackened buckskin. It made the designs stand out clearly. At Lorette, the Hurons still used black or dark blue or red backgrounds. Their designs are very nice and show up well against the dark cloth on coats and moccasins. They used dyed porcupine quills for border decoration - also some moose hair and hair from white tailed deer.

For an appliques design, they used s Wyandot/Iroquois curve (curve out) instead of Algonquin (curve in).

By the time the tribe reached Kansas, many dressed just as the whites did. In earlier times they dressed different still. About 1650 they wore beaver jackets with the hair next to the skin. In summer they wore very little. Breecloth for the men and skirts for the women was about it. The beaver or bear jackets were held together in the front by a belt or by their hands.

Moccasins had a gathered toe or bull nose. They often had flaps. The vamp type was usually black for dress up occasions. In winter they wore leggings. Leggings and tunics often showed the clan symbol. In winter they usually wore caps. The men's caps had one or two feathers, but for dress up they were like

the Iroquois "gustowe" and had several feathers.

Wyandots also liked the fur of the black fox and wore it with the fur out and they sewed them together so there would be a border of tails hanging down.

For cool autumn days they often wore a tunic sort of a sleeveless chemise (both men and women). It was made up of two deer skins sewed together. It usually had a fringe at the top and bottom. On colder days, sleeves were tied on by straps across the back of the shoulders, but not sewed to the tunic itself. The tunic reached to the knees.

The deerskin skirts of the women folded over at the top to hide the belt. The skirt wrapped around and overlapped on the left side of the front so it could be folded back and the right thigh could be uncovered and become sort of a work surface.

Sometimes men wore sort of a kilt. They often made a type of overshoe from cornhusks for use in mud or snow. Wyandot snowshoes were shaped with a point on back only. Algonquin were shaped with points on front and back. The men often wore beautifully decorated pouches - similar to a shoulder bag. These hung over the left shoulder and hung by the right hand. The Wyandot pouch usually had a flap - like an envelope. Most other tribes were not of this design. They wore garters quite often, both with and without leggings. The garters were elaborately decorated for dress occasions.

# Bearskin Fitness Center

By Billy Friend

The Bearskin Fitness Center just recently celebrated their 5 year anniversary. It is not only one of the finest fitness facilities in the area, but actually one of the first Tribal facilities of its kind in the state of Oklahoma. Since its inception many other tribes in the state have used it as a model in constructing their own facilities.

With diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease being prevalent and on the rise among Native Americans, fitness related activities play a vital role in preventing such diseases and controlling their symptoms.

The Bearskin Fitness Center has two certified fitness instructors on staff who can help design and implement a fitness program individualized just for you. The two key components to a program are cardiovascular training and strength training.

Have you ever taken a few flights of stairs and were forced to take a minute to rest at the top? If so, the chances are your cardiovascular and/or pulmonary systems are in less than optimal shape. Providing oxygen to and pulling carbon dioxide out of your body's cells are the primary jobs of our heart, lungs, and arterial and vascular systems. Oxygen is

life to our cells. If you deprive your cells of O2, they will begin to die. If you are not maintaining your life-giving systems with proper and regular aerobic exercise the cells will not survive. Seeing these facts shows us the importance of doing regular cardiovascular exercise, whether it be running, walking, biking, or any type of activity that will increase your heart rate for a period of time and provide oxygen to your cells.

When it comes to strength training you may want to look like Arnold (or should I say the Governor) or you may not. Either way the evidence shows that strength training can be very beneficial to you. With misuse or deterioration as a result of aging or infirmity, the human musculature will rapidly begin to atrophy (shrink). With this comes a slower metabolism and increased risk of developing osteoporosis, obesity, arthritis or even heart disease to name a few. Regular and proper strength training can keep our musculoskeletal system as well as our metabolism at its best levels well past our golden years. Strength training must be an integral part of almost everyone's active lifestyle.

Come and visit us at the Bearskin Fitness Center and let us help you "add life to your years and years to your life".

# 2004 Toxic Tour

By Christen Creson

On May 8th TEAL (Tribal Efforts Against Lead) and the Wyandotte Nation Environmental staff lead a 25 mile bike hike through Tar Creek and the old mining areas of Picher and Cardin. Riders were able to see environmental issues such as sink holes, contaminated water and mountains of chat. There were four booths set up along the way to serve as information centers for the riders to learn about that particular site. Volunteers from the Quapaw art class made models of the sites and also worked the booths. Other volunteers showed before and after pictures of what the area looked like years ago. The ride began at 10 a.m. and ended around 2 p.m. with 20 area riders and around 25 volunteers. The riders were given a T-shirt, water bottle and bike plate for their participation. All of these were designed by the art students at Quapaw high school. The day turned out to be beautiful and everyone had a lot of fun! We hope to have another ride next year that will be even better.



## Toxic Tour Participants

## Doing good.....



Chief Leaford Bearskin conducts the smoking ceremony (left) at the Lucky Turtle Casino on Monday, May 17, 2004. Gaming Commissioner and tribal member Dennis Smotherman looks on during the ceremony.

From the left, Julie Lawson, General Manager of the Lucky Turtle Casino, Chief Leaford Bearskin, Trudie Pendergraft, Assistant Manager, and Ellis Enyart look on as Chief Bearskin cuts the ribbon at the opening of the Lucky Turtle Casino which is located adjacent to the Turtle Stop Convenience Store on Highway 60, 2 miles east of Twin Bridges.



# Tribal Department Reports

## Family Services

Director-Kate Randall

Family Services Assistant-Dana Butterfield

Spring has finally arrived in Oklahoma and we are grateful for the 7 inches of rain we had in the month of April. The rain and the sunshine will enable our gardens to flourish and our flowers to bloom. The maintenance department lawn equipment has been out of winter retirement and the tribal grounds look very attractive.

In April the Wyandotte Nation participated with the 9 tribes of Northeast Oklahoma in hosting the events of the "Week of the Young Child". The WOYC is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The purpose of the WOYC is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. Activities included a day care parade, a nature show, a petting zoo and a puppet show. The puppet show was a presentation of the Public Broadcasting System program "Between the Lions". During that week, over 2000 Ottawa County Children enjoyed the activities.

Upcoming in June, the Wyandotte Nation Family Services and the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center will host a month long summer youth program. Last year over 45 children participated in the youth program with emphasis on health promotion, exercise, educational, and cultural events. The program is geared for children ages 7-12 and will be held at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center

Facility in Wyandotte. Please call Dana or Kate if you have a child interested in attending.

### Programs Administered through Family Services:

#### License Plate Program:

License plates are issued to Wyandotte Nation tribal members who live within the boundaries of designated "Indian Country" in the State of Oklahoma. License plates are presently limited to passenger and recreational vehicles. The official tag days set aside for license issuance are the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The staff will try to accommodate your schedule so please call for an appointment if you cannot schedule during official tag days.

#### Tribal Operations:

Membership applications may be requested by phone and are available at the tribal headquarters. In order to be eligible for enrollment an individual must have a descendant on a Wyandotte Nation Roll. Please note that the deadline for applications in 2004 will be August 15th. An original state certified birth certificate must accompany the membership application. We encourage all parents to enroll their children as soon as birth certificates are available. Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood Cards are also issued through the enrollment department. Applications are required to obtain a CDIB card. A CDIB card is not a membership card but specifies the degree of Indian blood a person possesses.

#### Social Services:

The Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department offers an array of social services to tribal members. Those services include but are not limited to: school supply vouchers,

winter school clothing, utility assistance, rental assistance, and/or other emergency services as deemed necessary.

#### Indian Child Welfare:

There is a need nationwide for Indian Foster or Adoptive Homes. The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act was designed to protect the Indian Family. When an Indian child is removed from his or her home, the Act mandates the Indian child is placed with family members, extended family or members of the child's tribe or other Indian families, if possible. If your family is interested in becoming a foster or adoptive home in your specific state please call this office for details.

#### Infant Car Seat Program:

Family Services has infant, toddler and booster child passenger seats available for enrolled Wyandotte Nation children. The child passenger program is currently limited to the Wyandotte Nation service area.

#### Individual Indian Money Account Whereabouts unknown:

The following individuals have an Individual Indian Money Account, but it is not known where they are: These accounts were established by Public Law 98-602, October 30, 1984. An individual must have been an enrolled Wyandotte Nation tribal member who was born or was alive on the enactment date of October 1984. If you have knowledge of an individual on the "Whereabouts unknown" list please contact Kate Randall, at 1-800-256-2539, Ext. 224, or you may write to the Wyandotte Nation at P.O. Box 250, Wyandotte, Ok. 74370.

Adkisson, Ralph Z.,  
Armstrong, Annie J  
Armstrong, Katherine  
Bailey, David B.

Barton, Nona J.  
Bond Jr. Jeffery L.  
Brown, Howard E.  
Brown, Loman H.  
Cherloe, Jerry  
Cochran Jr. John D.  
Cochran, John D.  
Day, Leotta M.  
Doty, Opal  
Fabrick, Anna A.  
Fansler, James R.  
Franklin, Cordelia J.  
Fulk, Bradley S.  
Fulk, Brandy L.  
Goldthorpe, Justin X.  
Harris, Norman D.  
Harris, Sylvester E.  
Hicks, Gladys  
Hicks, Henry  
Jewell, Delores A.  
Jewell, Dorothy M.  
Jewell, Sadie  
Kennedy, Ramona  
Keown, Bessie  
Lautrup, Wilhelmina  
Ling, Dewey W.  
Ling, John  
Ling, Raymond  
Ling, Warren D.  
Machala, Christopher A.  
Machala, Cyrus E.  
Machala, Mark A.  
Martinez, Hattie  
Miller, Norma J.  
Montgall, George F.  
Mudeater, Catherine  
Mudeater, Frank D.  
Mumpaugh, Florence  
Nesvold, Charles I  
Nesvold, Dean H.  
Nesvold, James O.  
North, Christine E.  
Perico, Helen F.  
Peterson, Brandon L.  
Pogue, Jackie I.  
Real, Susan R.  
Rogers, John B.  
Rogers, John W.  
Rogers, Robert O.  
Rogers, William H.  
Ross, Mildred L.

Scovel, Jeffrey L.  
Stewart A/K/A Adkins, Clarence  
Tenner, Jerdina  
Tucker, Brian P.  
Wagoner, Henryetta K.  
Wagoner, Thomas H.  
Wagoner, Violet J.  
White, Josie  
Young, Calvin

## Housing Department

### HOW IS YOUR HOUSING SITUATION????

The Wyandotte Nation Housing Department is in the process of administering different housing programs. One program is an IHS-121 program which will provide a rural water connection, drill a well or put in a septic and drainfield. This program has, as its regulation, historical boundary guide-lines--meaning that we have a designated area we can service. If your well, pump, or septic is not working properly, you need to obtain one of the above, or be connected to rural water plus a septic system, please check with Reba or Kathy to see if you qualify for assistance.

Also, the Housing Department has a Housing Repair Program (HRP). This is a repair program designed to help low-income Indian families who have a sub-standard home which needs renovation to be brought up to standard. This includes: roofs, heating, plumbing, insulation, storm windows, doors and perhaps floors which need to be repaired. If your home is in need of repairs in any of the above areas, once again, please contact Reba or Kathy to see if we can be of assistance to you.

Another program available to Wyandotte Tribal Members is a program which provides home-ownership opportunities to low-income Native American families. We are

currently accepting applications from all Native Americans with priority given to Wyandotte Tribal Members.

If you are interested in any of the above programs, please do not hesitate to contact the housing personnel to obtain an application. We will be delighted to send you an application. When it is returned it will be reviewed to see if you qualify for any of the above programs and TRY OUR BEST to be of service to you. ANY questions you might have, we will gladly answer. **PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL!!!!**

Reba Guilford, Housing Director  
Ext. 239

Kathy DeWeese, Housing Specialist  
Ext. 236

## Title VI Program

The Wyandotte Nation Title VI Part A Program is a grant from DHS Administration on Aging. The purpose of the program is to provide nutrition and socialization, promoting mental and physical well-being of the elderly, to advocate for elders' rights, fight against elder abuse and fraud.

Supportive services include information and assistance, transportation, telephoning, assessment, cultural, education, income support, physical fitness, recreation, shopping, and counsel.

The program serves meals five days per week from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, for Native American participants that are 55 years or older.

Job Hotline  
1-877-WYN-DOTT  
(1-877-996-3688)  
Announcements  
Only