

# GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA

## THE TURTLE SPEAKS



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Wyandotte, OK 74370

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August 2008

### Wyandotte Nation Annual Meeting

The Wyandotte Nation Annual Meeting will be held on September 6, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the Artie Nesvold Community Center.

Cultural Days will be held Wednesday, September 3-5, 2008 and the Pow-Wow is September 5-7, 2008.

### Public Notice

The Election Committee of the Wyandotte Nation has determined there are no open posts for elective office within the government of the Wyandotte Nation. Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an annual election which would occur during the time of the Tribe's Annual Meeting on September 6, 2008.

Elective posts will not be available until September, 2009. The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, September 6th and the Grand Entry of the Pow-Wow will be at 1:30 p.m. The Pow-Wow will be held at the new Pow-Wow grounds, 5.2 miles East of Wyandotte, OK on Hwy 60.

### Chief Blessing the Land in Ohio



### 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:

The Wyandotte Nation

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# The Chief Says . . . . .



Chief Leaford Bearskin

Time flies. Here it is July 2008. Half the year is gone already. The first half of our year was good to the Wyandotte Nation and the next half promises to do the same.

All our Department Heads continue to do their jobs well and our Board of Directors meet at least once every month to insure that we're directing our attention to improve our services to all our tribal members.

We have tried to impress to all our tribal employees that

services to our people is given the number one priority in everything we do. We are extremely proud of our employees and feel we are blessed with an outstanding Board of Directors and also blessed with outstanding Department Heads. We have a great team working for our Wyandotte Nation. We have a lot to be thankful for. Our Great Spirit continues to look favorably upon us.

We are a proud Nation.

## From Billy Friend - Second Chief



Kweh,

I hope this month's Turtle Talk finds all doing well and enjoying their summer. Once again we find ourselves preparing for our Annual Meeting, Pow-Wow and Cultural Week. Each year these events continue to grow and improve as more people get involved. I want to encourage you to get involved in as many of these activities as you can either as a volunteer or a participant.

In the spring our Board of Directors approved a Summer Youth Job Program for eligible Wyandotte youth. We have

employed thirteen of our Wyandotte youth through this program for the summer and they have done an outstanding job for our program directors. We will be taking them to our old homelands in Ohio toward the end of the summer to visit historical sites in the Upper Sandusky Valley. Our goal is to introduce them to what we do as a tribal government and teach them about our culture. Our hope is that they will be able to identify with what it is to be Wyandotte and some day return to work for the Nation. This program is completely funded with tribal dollars generated through tribal sales and excise taxes.

As you know one of Chief Bearskin's and the Board of Directors' priorities has always been education for our youth. In the past year we have been able to double our scholarships

from five hundred dollars to one thousand dollars a semester and increase school supply vouchers from twenty five dollars to fifty dollars per school year. Carla Culver, the Education Director, and I have been in discussions to begin the process of setting up a fund to help college graduates toward a Masters Degree. Hopefully, by annual meeting we will be able to make an announcement about the details.

There are many other projects that we have begun in the last several months of which I will wait and share the details with you at our annual meeting. Our mission remains the same and that is to continue to improve the quality of life for all our tribal members. As always, may our Great Spirit continue to watch over and protect you until we meet again.

# Editorial



Kim Garcia

After the "Beaver Wars" from 1637 to 1652 and nearly facing extinction after battling the Iroquois Confederacy, the Wyandottes wandered to the Black River what is now Wisconsin. Our people formed an alliance with the Sioux. However the alliance dispersed and became hostile when a young Wyandotte man had inappropriate relations with the daughter of a Sioux Chief. The Wyandottes settled in Michigan in the 1670s and reestablished old trade routes and became a dominant and respected nation. In 1701, the Wyandottes were granted peace with the Iroquois. With no more threat from the Iroquois, the Wyandottes eventually migrated into the Ohio Valley. Upper Sandusky, Ohio became the central location for all Wyandottes. Our people grew in strength and became the most influential nation in Ohio. The Wyandottes remained in Ohio until their removal by the United States Government in 1842.

This past May, several Wyandottes made the journey back to the homeland of Ohio. We left early morning from Ottawa County, Oklahoma and late that evening, we arrived in Ottawa County, Ohio. Although I have never visited this area, it felt very familiar. Wyandotte Nation purchased 3 lots in Port Clinton.

We had a ceremony to bless the land and to thank the people of that community. A dinner was prepared for us from the people of the community. We then went to Upper Sandusky. We were greeted by the Historical Committee from the John Stewart Methodist Church.



We visited many historical places while in Upper Sandusky. We saw the Wyandot Mission Church that was established for the Wyandottes in Upper Sandusky, Ohio in 1824. A cemetery surrounds the mission with many familiar Wyandotte names. The Wyandot County Courthouse has paintings depicting the Wyandotte Indians while in Ohio. The Indian Mill was a government-established mill specifically for the Wyandottes. Along the side of an old road is the grave site of Tarhe, a highly respected Wyandotte Chief. We saw the bigger than life memorial of Leatherlips, a Wyandotte Chief that was murdered by his own people in 1810. The Historical Committee presented Wyandotte Nation with a key to the city as well.

It was the trip of a lifetime. The people of Ohio treated us like celebrities. We were catered to and given tours to every place they knew with historical significance to the Wyandottes. These people were so excited

to see descendents of the Wyandottes that were so dominant in their area many years ago. Towns, Counties, and even the street names remind them of the high impact the Wyandottes had on their community today. I personally was very excited to find Elliot Street (Elliott is my family name). Others found gravesites of relatives. I am so excited that we will be returning to Ohio with the Summer Youth Program. It's a great experience for any Wyandotte.

Historical information for this article was taken from the Wyandotte Nation website. Please visit the website at [www.Wyandotte-Nation.org](http://www.Wyandotte-Nation.org) for more information.



## Roll # 1899

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

# Casino News

by Trudy Pendergraft

May 17, 2008 was Lucky Turtle Casino's 4th Anniversary, with Chief Leaford Bearskin and 2nd Chief Billy Friend cutting the Birthday cake.

We gave a Bushwacker Duck Boat and cash give aways on Saturday, May 17, 2008, and Sunday, May 18, 2008, we gave a 42" TV and cash prizes.

June's Big Event was a Zero Radius Lawn Mower that was won by a daily player "Art Marker".

July we are all decked out in Red, White and Blue and the promotion for the month will be "800.00 in Gas Certificates at the Turtle Stop. There will be four lucky winners of \$200.00 each for gas.

August we are giving a freezer and meat package certificate at Mr. Dillion's. We are trying to help out on high cost on food and having fun at the same time.

September we are looking forward to our Annual Pow-Wow at our new Pow-Wow grounds. We will have a VGT

give away on September 10, 2008, of a "Gems & Jewels \$5,000.00 1st prize give away, plus 2nd, 3rd, & 4th cash give aways.

Come in and see your Lucky Turtle Family and try your luck.



Wyandotte Nation Casino is three months into our second year of running. We are proud to announce that our employee recognition ACE program (Amazing Casino Employee) is a huge success. Each and everyone of our Team Members is an ACE. We have had employee events that we had a huge turn out for. In May we had a fish fry, with games and prizes. Everyone had a lot of fun. In June our employees and their families went to Carousel Park. This month we are taking our employees and one guest to cruise on the Cherokee Queen for dancing, games

and prizes. We will continue doing great things for our employees because we appreciate everyone of them.

We have also added new members to our Team. We have a new Marketing Director Danny Bass. He comes to us from Louisiana with a lot of casino marketing experience. Kim Martin is our new Guest Service Manager. She is energetic and brings a lot of new ideas with her. CeCe Stevens is our new Compliance Officer. She has a lot of knowledge in this department and will be a great asset to Wyandotte Nation Casino and Lucky Turtle Casino.

Competition has greatly increased with the opening of Downstream Casino. We welcome Downstream, as we think they will grow our market. We are positioned to grow from new gamers entering our four state market.

We hope that our second year opened will be as great and successful as our first.



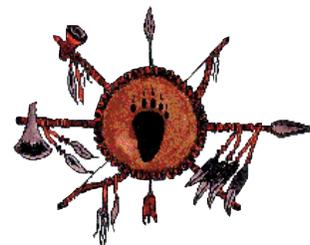
## Wyandotte Nation Tag Office

Please call Dana or Kate

at (800) 256-2539

ext. 219 and ext. 224

respectively for  
appointments.



# The Storyteller

Spiritual Awareness: The Storyteller  
By Beverlee A. Pettit

Stories provide important life lessons that help us become valuable members of society, worthy friends or valuable family members. This is to enable us, to help us make good decisions that will impact our community or even the world. Another purpose for the story is to pass on valuable information such as the family tree or the history of a Nation. In all cases, the story teller has either a good, or bad affect on the spirit of the audience. For the impact of the spoken word is immediate and goes straight to the heart. The story is the tool used to reach the inner man.

The term "storyteller" is not often associated as someone who gives truth and wisdom; but, it is linked with being an entertainer. So it is important to provide a definition. In the internet encyclopedia the Wikipedia, a Storyteller is, "someone who conveys real or fictitious events in words, images, and sounds." This requires the use of the five senses - sight, smell, touch, listening and taste (when food is present).

The storyteller delivers the story to the outside of the body and it is transported to the inside through the five senses. There may be an accompaniment of song, dance, food, musical instruments or other items used by the storyteller in order to illustrate the story. Then, the spoken word goes straight into the soul where it will have an affect on the spirit. Similarly, the rain falls from the sky and enters the dry earth. If the rain is clean, it produces good fruit, good vegetables, increases the river for the growth of the fish. If the rain is bad, the earth suffers.

It is essential to note that illustrations are often used to relate a life concept. For example, a narrative to explain the folly of too much dancing and not enough work as shown in this short story and recorded by Marius Barbeau in June, 1911. The storyteller was Mary McKee and she stated that all the old Wyandot women knew this fable. It is titled "The Old Robin":

"The Old Robin was very late in making her garden. She went to see her neighbor, "Have you got any seeds to sow corn or something?" asked she. "We have had such a splendid time

and had such fun dancing that there was no time left for gathering seeds, and I have nothing to sow." And she added, "What a fine time we had? There could be no time left for gathering seeds." When some of their neighbors asked for seeds , the old Wyandot women used to say, "That's always the way. There has been so much dancing that there was not much time left for gathering seeds. It was the very same way with old Robin."

You will be able to find the above story on page 209, of the "Huron and Wyandot Mythology" by C.M. Barbeau.

Storytelling is a profession that is shared by all Nations. Yet, people often forget the affects that it has on the soul. All life experiences could fall into the category of being a story. So, every person is a storyteller to some extent and everyone has the ability to affect the spirit inside of someone, good or bad.

What type of storyteller are you?



## New Employee

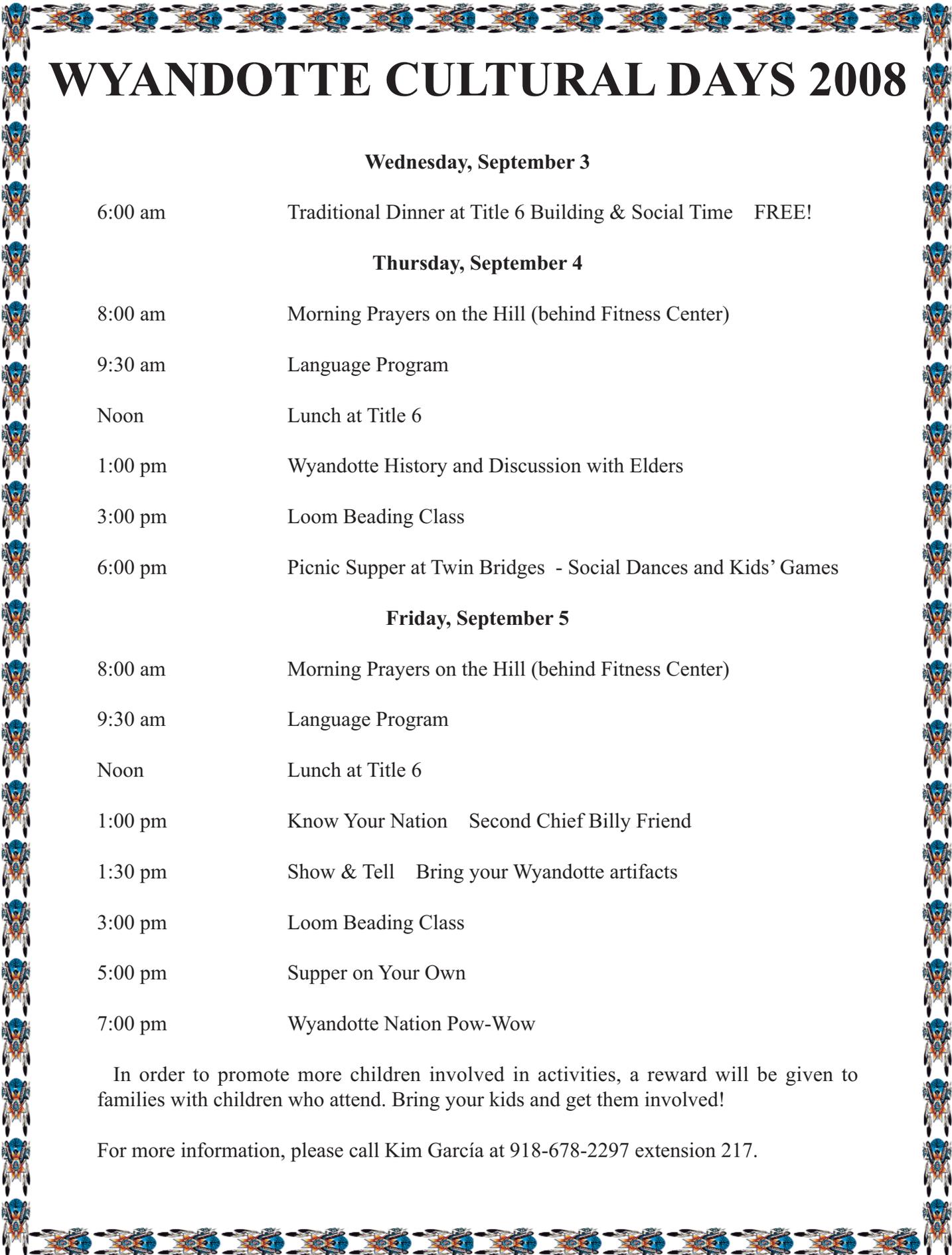


Leesa Hibbard, a Wyandotte Nation Tribal Member, is also now an employee of the Wyandotte

Nation. Leesa is the newest addition to the Title 6 Staff as a food service worker as of June 11. Please make Leesa feel welcome when passing through the line.

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

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



# WYANDOTTE CULTURAL DAYS 2008

## Wednesday, September 3

6:00 am Traditional Dinner at Title 6 Building & Social Time FREE!

## Thursday, September 4

8:00 am Morning Prayers on the Hill (behind Fitness Center)

9:30 am Language Program

Noon Lunch at Title 6

1:00 pm Wyandotte History and Discussion with Elders

3:00 pm Loom Beading Class

6:00 pm Picnic Supper at Twin Bridges - Social Dances and Kids' Games

## Friday, September 5

8:00 am Morning Prayers on the Hill (behind Fitness Center)

9:30 am Language Program

Noon Lunch at Title 6

1:00 pm Know Your Nation Second Chief Billy Friend

1:30 pm Show & Tell Bring your Wyandotte artifacts

3:00 pm Loom Beading Class

5:00 pm Supper on Your Own

7:00 pm Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow

In order to promote more children involved in activities, a reward will be given to families with children who attend. Bring your kids and get them involved!

For more information, please call Kim García at 918-678-2297 extension 217.

# POW-WOW CONTEST SCHEDULE

**Friday**  
8:00 p.m.

**Saturday**  
1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday**  
2:00 p.m.

Friday, September 5  
Evening

Saturday, September 6  
Afternoon

Sunday, September 7  
Afternoon

Jr. Girl's Fancy Shawl  
Jr. Boy's Straight  
Women's Cloth  
Men's Grass  
Men's Golden Age

Jr. Girl's Buckskin  
Jr. Boy's Traditional  
Women's Fancy Shawl  
Men's Straight  
Women's Golden Age

Jr. Girl's Cloth  
Jr. Boy's Fancy  
Women's Jingle  
Men's Traditional

## FRIDAY NIGHT

49 Contest  
Jennifer Lunsford  
Coordinator

Saturday, September 6  
Evening

Tiny Tots  
Jr. Girl's Jingle  
Jr. Boy's Grass  
Women's Buckskin  
Men's Fancy

## SUNDAY MORNING

Children's Games &  
Obstacle Course  
(Ages 3-12)

ALL SPECIALS  
HELD SATURDAY  
AFTERNOON  
CONTACT  
THE ARENA  
DIRECTOR  
FOR  
ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION

Gourd Dancing  
1 hour prior to  
all sessions.

SPECIAL  
GRANDPARENT DAY  
HONOR DANCE  
PRIZES  
FOR THE OLDEST  
GRANDMOTHER AND  
GRANDFATHER PRESENT

**Location: Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds**  
**5.2 miles East of Wyandotte, OK on Hwy 60**

# Tribal Department Reports

## Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department April thru June 2008

Spring has sprung and has brought with that monthly calendars full of environmental activities. March 31st thru April 4th, found Kathleen Welch and Meredith Garvin traveling to Phoenix, AZ for the NRDAR Workshop. This workshop gives the Tribal Environmental Departments, the Department of Interior and Fish and Wildlife Departments an opportunity to share and learn important NRD issues for each entity. The Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department remains actively involved in NRD issues concerning the Tar Creek Superfund Site and the downstream Tribes.

April 22nd, the Environmental Department and "RENIE" the Recycling Robot attended Earth Day activities at the Picher School System. "RENIE" talked to the children about the importance of recycling and the adverse affects that trash has on our lands and waters.

April 25th found the department conducting an education program with the Tribal Education Department. The children were able to pot their own tree, a Loblolly Pine, and take it home with them to plant. This activity was done in conjunction with "Keep America Beautiful" and Arbor Day.

May 1st, Earl, Janice, Kathy, and "RENIE" visited Haskell Elementary, in Vinita, OK. They presented a recycling program to approximately 250 children, pre-k thru 3rd grades. Children are our best students, because they learn quickly and become teachers to their parents and other family members.

May 16th, we planted a Community Garden with the Title VI Elders Program. The garden got off to a great start and was doing quite well, until June 15th when we had a severe storm that produced a large amount of hail and

high winds in a short amount of time, which did extensive damage to our garden. With nurturing care from Earl Salisbury, Education and Water Tech, the garden is recovering and has new growth taking place.



Newly planted Garden.



Garden after the storm.

On May 20th we planted flowers with the Elders program in flower boxes in front of the Education Building as a part of "Keep America Beautiful".

May 22nd found Christen traveling to Tulsa for a Tar Creek Trustees Council Meeting, to discuss NRD related issues.

June has been a busy month for our department. The week of June 16th thru 19 we taught the Tribal Summer Youth Program. We had kids ranging from 7, 8, and 9 years old on Monday and Wednesday, and kids from 10, 11 and 12 years old on Tuesday and Thursday. The first day for each group we talked to the kids about macro-invertebrates and aquatic biota in our lakes and streams. The second day the kids learned about insects and composting in the garden.



Kids identifying invertebrates.



Kids making bug boxes.

June 20th was the Employee Picnic. Thank you to Chief Bearskin and Wyandotte Nation for this wonderful family event.

June 26th we attended the Summer Youth Swim Day at the Miami Pool. What fun we had and would like to thank Carla, Kate and Dana for inviting us to attend.

June was ushered in with an extensive amount of rain, so therefore we had to do some schedule shuffling to fit in necessary water testing activities. On June 24th we performed a bio-assessment on Lost Creek, at the property of Dennis and Kathy Welch. The weather cooperated with us just long enough to get this activity finished. Each month we have 6 monitoring sites in which we monitor the water quality within the tribal historic jurisdictional area. With the excessive amount of rain, it has been a challenge the last three months, to get all of the appropriate sites tested and monitored (continued on page 9)

## Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)  
with in the 5 day window allowed by the EPA. But, with close weather monitoring we have been able to meet our scheduling deadlines.

Thank you to everyone that has been utilizing the two recycling trailers located at the Turtle Stop parking lot and the Tribal Complex parking lot. They have been a huge success and you have helped Wyandotte Nation Go Green.

Letters have been mailed out to Tribal members with in the Wyandotte Nation Historic Jurisdictional area for bacteria and heavy metals testing of private wells. If you have received a letter and have not contacted us, please do so as soon as possible. For more information you may contact our department at 918-678-2297.

Christen Lee, Environmental Director (x241)

Kathleen Welch, Environmental Assistant (235)

Janice Wilson, Environmental Technician (x245)

Earl Salisbury, Education and Water Technician, (x252)

### **Family Services**

Kate Randall, Director of Family Services

Dana Butterfield, Family Services Assistant/Tag/Enrollment

Kweh! I hope that you are having a wonderful summer and enjoying your family and friends in all the small and big events this time of year brings. Driving by Twin Bridges State Park just two miles from the Nation's Headquarters, you will see campers in tents or recreational vehicles, family reunions, 4th of July celebrations, vacationers, barbeques, weddings, and let's not forget our dedicated fishermen.

All of these activities begin as early as March at which time the Spoonbill or Paddleboat fish can be snagged from the tail water areas behind Oklahoma

lake dams. This prehistoric fish can be seen at Twin Bridges cleaning stations and can weigh between 37 to 112 pounds depending on the age of the fish. Paddlefish, or "spoonbill" as locals call them, can live 20 to 30 years. We are blessed to live in such a beautiful part of Oklahoma and we hope to see you at the Nation's Nineteenth September 5, 6 and 7th Pow-Wow located 5.2 miles east of the Tribal Headquarters on Highway 60.

### **Family Services News:**

In our May edition of the Turtle Speaks it was announced that we have increased our school supply vouchers to \$50.00 per enrolled student ages preschool through 12th grade that reside in a 200 mile radius of the tribal headquarters. All gift cards will be sent by certified mail. Applications will be available on August 4, 2008. Due to the increase in fuel costs you may request an application be mailed or faxed to you. Additionally, the application will be on the Nation's website at [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org). For those of you that live in the immediate area, please feel free to stop by the tribal headquarters. In addition, to better serve the Claremore, Oklahoma and Kansas City, Kansas areas, a tribal representative will be in those cities on Saturday, August 2nd to process applications. All residents in those areas will receive a notification postcard designating the location and times to apply.

### **Tribal Enrollment:**

Please note the deadline for new tribal enrollees is August 15th, 2008. In addition, if you missed the last news-letter we are encouraging the "Nationwide New Membership Incentives for Infant Enrollment". This program offers parents the opportunity to receive a \$50.00 gift card as well as a keepsake baby blanket with the Wyandotte Nation's Tribal Logo. The enrollment applications are available at

the Nation's Website; however, we still require the "Original State Certified Birth Certificate" be mailed in with your application. The original birth certificate will be mailed back to you upon request.

In the last edition of the Turtle Speaks, the Nation announced their new Burial Assistance Program and Guidelines. For those of you that may have missed the article, the Guidelines are as follows: (1). A completed burial assistance application signed by a family member, or authorized representative of the deceased, must be sent to the tribal headquarters within 90 days after the date of death. (Applications are available from this office or online at the Nation's website). (2). Attach a copy of the death certificate with the application, (3) attach the itemized funeral bill from the funeral home. (Note: the \$500.00 payment will be made directly to the funeral home).

### **Promoting Safe & Stable Families:**

The Nation's Promoting Safe & Stable Families Initiative offers support to those tribal families at risk that reside in our service area. Services may include, but are not limited to, emergency crisis assistance, utility assistance, rental assistance, infant car seats, and other identifiable services to help keep our Indian families intact. Indian Child Welfare services are included in this program and may be offered to those families outside of the service area if certain criteria are met.

### **Summer Activities:**

The Wyandotte Nation Summer Youth Program wrapped up with a swim and pizza party on June 26th. Approximately 70 children and 20 adults enjoyed the day at Riverview Park in nearby Miami, Oklahoma. This year, Richard Zane Smith, potter and Wyandotte linguist held a pottery class for the summer youth participants. (continued on page 10)

## Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)

Attendees ages 7-12 made "pinch pots" demonstrated by Richard. A Pinch pot is an ancient as well as contemporary form of pottery. Many ancient cultures made them and many still make and use them in their everyday lives. Simple clay vessels such as bowls and cups can be formed and shaped by hand using a methodical pinching process in which the clay walls are thinning by pinching them with thumb and forefingers. It is a basic pot making method often taught to young children or beginners. Pinch pots are commonly found in Ancient Native American ruins. We thank Richard for sharing his knowledge and time with us. Photos are included in this edition. A class was conducted on "Snakes of Oklahoma." Each child chose one of the 44 indigenous snakes to study and paint (not to worry, the snakes were wooden). Other arts and crafts projects were included as well. The Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department portion of their program can be seen in Environmental article. The Nation's Wellness center staff provided education on diet, exercise and personal hygiene. Staff and youth all enjoyed this year's June program. A special thank you is extended to the education/preschool staff that assisted us daily with all of our projects.



### Summer Youth Program:

L to R: Adrian Bardt, Jacob Bardt, Derick Combes, Kaylee Arment, Lynnea Cox

### Tag Program:

The Wyandotte Nation adopted a Motor Vehicle Code in July 1999. This

Code is what led to the introduction of the Tag Program which began in August of 1999. The Tag Program has been an overwhelming success allowing Tribal members to register their vehicles through the Tribe at a discount rate, while generating much needed funds for Tribal services. This year due to the increased price of fuel each Tribal Member, 18 years and over, who attends the Annual Meeting (held September 6, 2008, 10:00 a.m at the Artie Nesvold Community Building) will receive a gift certificate to the Turtle Stop convenience store in the amount of \$40.00.

Tribal plates are issued to Wyandotte Nation members who live within the boundaries of designated "Indian Country" in the state of Oklahoma. Unfortunately, there are still several counties in the state that we are not able to issue plates based on legal advice. Currently there are more than 1,100 active plates in the system for passenger vehicles, recreational vehicles and motor cycles with this number growing every day.

For those Tribal members who already have Tribal plates, the program staff would like to remind them they must carry a copy of their Wyandotte Nation membership card in the vehicle at all times. This is proof that a member of the Tribe does own the vehicle and that the Tribe is not issuing plates to anyone but Wyandotte Tribal members. You must also carry in the vehicle insurance verification and the vehicle registration. If a vehicle is sold or traded the Tribal member is to retain their Wyandotte Nation license plate. The Tribal member can then transfer this plate to another vehicle if they choose. Also, if purchasing a new/used vehicle the Tribal member's name MUST be on the title at the time of assignment. Tax Commission staff can not add or delete names to a title at the time of transfer.

Please feel free to stop by the office or give us a call at (918) 678-2297 x219 or x224, if you have questions concerning

the program. We also ask that Tribal members call for appointments. The staff try to make every effort to have someone in the office at all times, but there are certain occasions when the office will be closed.

### Planning/Development

We have had three of the summer interns helping this year in various aspects of department activities. Two of these interns have helped out in the maintenance area. Kayla White has assisted in office duties which have included covering for reception area, organizing records in the office, assisting with inventory and entering data for grant application.

### Update on Water System expansion

This project will be constructed using Indian Community Development Block Grant funds and an allocation of the Tribe's Indian Reservation Roads money available through the Tribe's Self Governance compact.

The Wyandotte Nation is proposing a project that is vital (infrastructure improvements necessary for provision of water and fire protection), without improvements the Tribe will not be able to provide needed low to moderate income housing and essential services daycare elderly nutrition etc. The Tribe has already acquired a parcel of land (Cole Property) that is suitable for water system development, i.e., close proximity to infrastructure, proximity to tribal complex, proximity to health care and service opportunities.

The Wyandotte Nation water supply system relies solely on production from a single source to meet current demands. Failure of this well would mean that the entire water system would be off-line until the necessary repairs are made. There is a clear need for the installation of a new well to provide a backup water source and also augment the fire flow supply. It is also recommended that a trailer mounted portable (continued on page 11)

## Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)  
generator be purchased to aid in the event of power outages.

The well will be enclosed in a well house that will also house the needed chlorination equipment. The 60,000 gal. tower, will provide adequate chlorine contact time to meet the ODEQ regulations.

The water line sizes in the existing distribution system are sized adequately for providing flows and pressures once the new tower is on-line. The only upgrade will consist of approximately 1,800 lineal feet of 10-inch diameter water main connecting the proposed well and tower to the existing distribution system.

The current height of the existing water tower does not provide adequate system pressures and fire flows. This means that the new tank must be built to a higher elevation than the existing tower. The location on which the proposed well and tower will be built is approximately 40 feet higher in elevation than the existing well and tower site. This means that the proposed tower will have a higher hydraulic grade line than the existing tower, not letting it function properly. The elevation of the overflow for the new tower should be approximately 950 feet, or 68 feet higher than the existing tower.

To be able to utilize the existing tower once the proposed tower is on-line, a booster station will need to be constructed on the discharge line from the existing tower. The booster station will overcome the pressure difference allowing the existing tank to be able to discharge its water into the system. The Wyandotte Nation has in its development of long range plans analyzed the suitability of lands within its historic jurisdiction for appropriate land use. This analysis identified the lands most suitable for water well and storage facility location.

### Roadway

Provision of access to and from the

well and water storage facility will be accomplished by construction of an asphalt based roadway which will include curb and guttering, storm water drainage, security lighting and will include a concrete parking lot which will be landscaped to beautify the overall facility. Having a roadway system that is of high quality will ensure adequate drainage, reduced maintenance and provide for a better return on expenditures. All funds requested for roadway construction will be provided with the Tribe's Indian Reservation Roads project funds. To date this project has proceeded through the preliminary design phase, the proposed water use application is currently being reviewed by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. As part of the overall process an archeological review of the site will be taking place in the near future, which will complete the in house environmental review of this project, once the environmental review is complete, the project will be let for competitive bid.

Submitted a new application for an Indian Community Development Block Grant to Housing & Urban Development, this new project would allow for an expansion at the Wellness Center which will include, a gymnasium (for large meetings, emergency shelter, youth basketball/volleyball leagues, fitness classes) safe room for emergency storm shelter, aquatic exercise area, upstairs running track.

The well house at the Pow-Wow grounds is now complete, additional base rock is being added to the parking lot, and the brush arbor is being put back together (Thank You Ted Nesvold). The fencing that was damaged during the tornado is being repaired.

The infrastructure for the housing subdivision is nearing completion. A drainage basin recently completed (see picture) is one of the aspects of the project. Water service lines, sewer

connections, underground electric and parking area, are currently being installed.



On June 15th we had our third, and hopefully our last weather incident here in Wyandotte. This was a hail storm that dropped so much hail, that it blocked the drainage ways and could not handle the nearly 3 inches of water that fell within an hour. Several offices were flooded and the majority of the air conditioner units throughout the Tribal complex suffered hail damage (see picture), property insurance is covering the damages.



In May, a few of us took a trip to Upper Sandusky and Port Clinton, Ohio. I learned about our ancestors and their struggles (something many here already knew). It really opened my eyes. By the time you read this, we will be back from another trip to Ohio. In July we are taking our summer youth, who have been doing internships with us. I hope they feel the same about the experience, and take back to Oklahoma the same pride as I did, knowing I belong to the Wyandotte Nation. Debbie Dry Ron Kaiser Planning/Development Director (continued on page 12)

## Department Reports (cont.)

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(918) 678-2297 ext. 225

Debbie Dry Planning/Development Specialist(918) 678-2297 ext. 215

### Maintenance

Well, it has been a bit since I have submitted an article. We have two summer interns, Steven Arment and Kenneth Glass, who are doing a fine job. At the Pow-Wow grounds, we are currently working on parking areas, well house, announcers stand and a cook shack, so we have added a 55hp tractor and loader to help out there.

We have been adding a regiment of equipment to our shop, 2-Stihl FS65 string trimmers, 2-61" Bobcat ZTR mowers and 2-Stihl chainsaws. We have gone from 35 acres to approx. 85 acres that is being mowed, cleaned and maintained above our normal duties. It has been a battle, but I think the Maintenance guys are doing a bang-up job.

Thanks guys

Garold Alumbaugh

Facilities Director

### **ELDER SERVICES**

The Oklahoma State Department of Human Services received information about the Administration on Aging honoring Title VI programs nation wide for their 30 years of service to Indian Elders and decided to honor all Title VI programs in the state of Oklahoma. They invited all of the Title VI Directors to their State Conference on Aging, held in Oklahoma City. They honored us at their awards luncheon. They recognized every tribe in Oklahoma that had a Title VI program. They announced each Directors name and presented us a Oklahoma State pin and a silver award. Oklahomans are very lucky to have this kind of co-ordination of Aging Services between the state and the tribes.

Our Elders attended the Elders Olympics June 20, at the Ottawa/Peoria building in Miami, OK. They competed

in wheel chair races, basketball throw, beanbag toss, golf, horseshoes, spin the wheel, egg races, musical chairs, Indian dice, and checkers. I am happy to report that "our" Elders won many of the contests. They received some really nice prizes and had a great time at the cookout.

We are really enjoying all of the fresh vegetables that the elders are sharing with us from their gardens.

We have several new items in our gift shop. We have some beautiful hand painted gourds. We also have some nice handmade pottery and artwork by tribal members Mathew Zane and Gerald Hurt.

### **CAREGIVER**

Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging held a training June 24. The information covered a six-step guide to balancing work and family when you are a caregiver. Participants received a easy-to-use guide offering help to anyone who needs to manage job responsibilities while caring for and aging relative or friend. If any one is interested in this information, we would be glad to help you learn skills and make changes to achieve personal balance.

Our Caregiver Program received information from the Department of Human Services of a retreat for Grandparents raising Grandchildren. July 26-27, all expenses paid. It is a married couples get away. It is being held in historic Guthrie, OK. Dari mailed invitations to all of our participants in our Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group. Please notify our office if you would be interested in attending this next year.

We are all looking forward to seeing everyone in September, at the Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow.

Brenda House, Director, Elder Services ext. 227

Dari Ann Hunnicutt, Caregiver Specialist ext. 253

Kandi Smith, Food Service Team

Supervisor ext. 228

Pam Deaton, Food Service Team ext. 228

Leesa Hibbard Food Service Team ext. 228

Menu ext. 226

### **Wyandotte Nation Housing**

The Wyandotte Nation Housing Department was begun in December of 1996. Since that date, the department has shown substantial growth. The Department is under the direction of Reba Guilford, Director and Kathy DeWeese, Housing Specialist and consists of three main programs. They are Indian Health Service-121 Program, which is the connection of rural water, well drilling and wastewater septic and drainfields; the HIP (Housing Improvement Program), and NAHASDA. Below is a brief synopsis of what each program does:

#### NAHASDA

This is the current program responsible for most operations of our housing department. It is the program which provides for most of our homeownership, rental units and subsidy funding for college students in the four state area living away from home who qualify by being recipient of a Wyandotte Scholarship. We hope to be able to expand all of these programs soon.

#### IHS - 121 WATER

This program is provided by Indian Health Service for safe and sanitary water conditions. It is designed to service all Wyandottes within the Claremore hospital service area. There are no income guidelines on this program, only restricted boundary areas. This program is used to drill wells, install pumps, put in septic tanks and drainfields, connect to city sewer lines, only drainfields or connect to rural water hook-ups.

#### BIA-HIP Program

This program is provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is for the (continued on page 13)

## Department Reports (cont.)

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renovation of sub-standard homes of low and very-low income families.

If you have a need for any of the above program services, please do not hesitate to contact Reba or Kathy at (918) 678-2297 ext. 236 or 239. We would be very happy to talk with you and explain any of the programs further and send out an application to make sure you qualify.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve our Tribal Members and hope to be able to extend our services to many, many more of you in the future.

We are aware that Tribal Members have numerous, various needs, such as loans, down payment assistance, repairs and even conventional loans for new housing. The Housing Department is constantly seeking ways of new

funding to help Tribal Members meet these needs. **We need your applications!!!!** Sometimes it is imperative that we have a waiting list on file so that we can obtain funding for these categories. If you would, PLEASE, take a moment to give us a call, drop us a letter, or email us and ask for an application. It is so important to us and to those we are able to serve that we have these applications on file and, while we cannot guarantee service to each and every one of these applicants, we are always trying to find new ways to service the needs of Tribal Members.

You never know when the need might arise and we might be able to help you. Please take just a moment of your time to help us!!!!

Last, but certainly not least, we have to admit we are very disappointed to have

to tell you that are apartment complex is coming along so slowly. We were certainly hoping to be much, much further along with the construction of this project; however, the weather has certainly not seen fit to cooperate with us. Hopefully, it has decided to settle and we will be able to continue on this project with **“full speed ahead!”** We will certainly keep you informed of our progress - and - remember - ANY TIME we can be of service to any of you please do not hesitate to call and ask us if we will be able to assist you. WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!!!!

Reba Guilford, Housing Director  
Kathy DeWeese, Housing Specialist  
Paul Paquin, Maintenance  
Brian Adkins, Maintenance

## Education Department

### Preschool:

Pre-school graduation ceremonies were held on Thursday, May 22nd and during the event the following students were recognized for top honors in the Kumon Math Program: Ally Bartley, Tanner Nesvold (Tribal member), Marshall Vaughn, Grace Goins and Blake Fidler. A graduation party, including track and field events, accompanied by pizza and ice cream was held on the 23rd.

Classes will resume for the 2008-2009 year on August 14th. We will have a three and a four year old program with enrollment to exceed forty children.

### Before and After School Program:

As the school year begins we will be accepting applications for the before and after school program. We offer transportation to and from school on our bus. The program is very beneficial to our working parents. If you need any information please contact the Education office.

### Summer Program:

We are in the midst of a great summer program. The program kicked off with an all day outing to Sycamore Valley for a cook out, swimming, mini-golf and basketball. This was the first day for our four tribal teenagers to work with the summer program. We are pleased to have Philip (Trey) Clemons, Cortney Glass, Candace Hamilton and Tyler Lawson for our summer program. They are busy in the classrooms with groups of children every day. They are doing a great job and thank you to the tribe for this program. The children participated in a month long cultural program during June facilitated by the Family Services Department. Richard Zane Smith helped the youth make clay pots. The Environmental Department hosted several activities as a part of the program. They did wildlife and environmental education programs as well as activities relating to reptiles and insects. Bearskin Fitness Center conducted the physical fitness portion of the program. Many children received nice prizes during the program. Joshua Garcia (Tribal member), Morgan Krewson, Tristan Frazier and Katrina Frazier each received a nice cash prize to spend at Wal-Mart courtesy of the Wyandotte Casino. This program was wrapped up with a trip to the Miami Oklahoma Water Park for two hours of swimming, splashing and fun. Thank you to all of the Tribal Programs that spent many hours preparing for the children. Seneca pool is the location for our swimming lessons with approximately sixty eight children involved in various levels of classes. Plans are under way for a Vacation Bible School on site that is facilitated by Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas. Other activities include bowling, swimming, trips to Sycamore Valley, local library programs and a day long trip to the Tulsa Zoo. High

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## Education Department (cont.)

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attendance is recorded on a poster that was constructed by our older girls. Record number so far, is seventy eight. Upcoming events include movies, mini-golf, laser tag, Incredible Pizza and much more.

### Library:

If you haven't visited the Wyandotte Tribal Library you are missing out on a local treasure. We have all the newest releases in both books and video offerings. We have both DVD and VHS movies for our patrons to check out. New items are added often so that our titles stay current. All of this is offered by the Wyandotte Nation at no cost to you. Just complete an application and you will be ready to explore our plethora of materials.

### Child Care & Development Fund Program:

The CCDF program recently facilitated six hours of training on the Bridges out of Poverty program through the Aha Process. Local child care providers attended and were very impressed by the trainer and the content of the workshop.

The Child Care program serviced three hundred and three children in the month of May. The program was spot checked by the auditors and all operations were found to be in compliance.

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:

Spring scholarship applications are currently being processed. Letters have been mailed to new applicants if more information was needed. Please respond promptly to all correspondence to prohibit delays in fall funding. If you have not submitted your last semester grades and fall schedule, please due so immediately so that fall checks may be issued.

Tribal members who have completed their eight semesters of funding are as follows:

Lauren Andre'  
Grace Gallaspy  
Lindsay Glass  
Katy Newton  
James Sherry

We wish them much luck on their future endeavors.

Housing application will be sent to students who live in the following states: Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. To receive housing assistance you must reside in the 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):

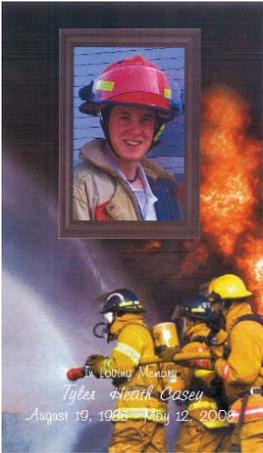
Arthur is busy working with prospective applicants as the fall semester is close to beginning. The WIA program can be utilized for funding educational training at either technical schools or colleges. Clients must reside in Barry, Barton, Lawrence, Newton, Jasper, Dade and McDonald County in Missouri or Crawford and Cherokee counties in Kansas and be a member of a federally recognized tribe.

The program has been partnering with local employers to provide sign on bonuses. If you are interested in applying, contact Arthur at ext 234.

Submitted by:  
Carla Culver

# Member News

## Tyler Casey



August 19, 1986 -- May 12, 2008

As we all remember that dreadful day - May 10, 2008; when so many lost their lives, homes or both, but the one the Casey family is talking about

was Tyler Casey - Father - Son - Brother - Nephew and Cousin. Also what was never mentioned was he was a true Wyandotte Indian. Between being a Casey and a Wyandotte Indian is where he got the courage and pure honesty to his job as a fire fighter, but now he soars with the eagles above. May the 17th each year will be announced "Tyler Heath Casey Day." May God be with you and also all the others that have died in the line of duty.

You'll be truly missed. You've made the Casey family truly proud!

Now your God's Hero!

Written by: Sheryl Jones (Aunt)

## Harris Reunion

Well, family it's almost time for our reunion again. Can't believe how fast the time flies. We'll be meeting again at Twin Bridges Park. Same place as last year. Huts close to park office on west side of "137". No Election this year. We'll have our annual meeting, lunch, and desserts in park. Then attend the new pow-wow grounds. Hope to see you there.

Romana L. Reid  
(Teon-di-sewa)  
Phone: 918-678-4803  
rryndotok@tds.net

## 2008 Summer Youth Program

The Wyandotte Nation Government established a summer youth program for tribal citizens entering their junior or senior year in high school, recent high school graduate, and college freshman. The program was designed to provide each citizen with a positive work-experience, along with becoming more familiar with their tribal culture and heritage. This experience also broadened their knowledge of the many service areas within the tribal government, which may assist students to determine future educational or vocational goals.

Those enrolled in the summer program include:

Kayla White, Candace Hamilton, Caleb Friend, Tyler Lawson, Jennifer Davis, Cortney Glass, Kenny Glass, Trey Clemons and Steven Arment.



To be accepted into the program, participants completed an application for employment, successfully passed a background check and employee physical. Those accepted into the program maintain a 40-hour work week, through mid August. Each student was assigned to an area based on departmental needs.

Throughout the summer, students were asked to attend training sessions. The first session, led by Chief Leaford Bearskin and Second Chief Billy Friend, provided students with a brief history of the Wyandottes; information of the various departments of the Nation's Government and Tribal Corporation, while also impressing upon each student the importance of taking pride in being a Wyandotte Tribal Citizen; and maintaining core values and morals, as

young tribal citizens.

- Subsequent training sessions attended:
- Pow-Wow and the historical information* – Sherri Clemons
- Preparing resume and cover letter* – Arthur Anderson/Carla Culver
- Tribal scholarship program requirements* – Carla Culver
- Reconciliation of checking account* – Kim Garcia
- Cultural food demonstration* – Brenda House
- Environmental issues* – Christen Lee
- Fitness/Wellness* – Kelly Walker

This program has provided tremendous assistance to various departments, while also allowing students to experience what is involved in the day-to-day working environment of the tribal government.

The Wyandotte Nation is very proud of this group of young adults. Each student has demonstrated an eagerness to learn about their position and their tribe. This program has provided a great opportunity for on-the-job experience and has been a great opportunity for the students and the Wyandotte Nation.

## Steven Cotter



Steven Nicholas Cotter recently earned his Captain's stripes at Northwest Airlines. He is the son of

Martha and Leonard Nicholas Cotter, Jr. of Lenoir City, TN and the grandson of the late Ada and Leonard Nicholas Cotter, Sr., a former Wyandotte Chief. Steven graduated from high school and college in LA. He previously flew a Northwest Airbus A320 and is now Captain on a DC0. He is based in Detroit, MI and has a wife, Kristen and two children, Avery and Ryan, who are on the Wyandotte Roll.

## 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

