

# GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA

## THE TURTLE SPEAKS



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AUGUST 2009



### Public Notice

Due the death of a candidate who filed for a Board of Directors seat, the Election Committee of the Wyandotte Nation has determined that there will be no election within the government of the Wyandotte Nation for 2009. The family requested that the candidate's name

be left off the ballot. Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an annual election at the Tribe's Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2009. Elective posts will be available the following year, 2010. Donna Mercer, Chairman Election Committee



### Cultural Days

#### Thursday, September 10th

6:00 PM - Informal potluck dinner, games and dance at the Pow-Wow grounds

#### Friday, September 11th

8:00 AM - Opening prayer at the Pow-Wow grounds  
 9:00 AM - Language class (all events held at the Title 6 Building)  
 10:15 AM - Know Your Nation  
 11:30 AM - Lunch on your own  
 1:00 PM - History: The adopted white man and his effects upon the Wyandotte  
 2:15 PM - Families: A personal story time

#### Saturday, September 12th

10:00 AM - Annual meeting  
 11:30 AM - Lunch served  
 1:00 PM - Cultural booth at the Pow- Wow grounds to provide general cultural information and focus on traditional games for the kids and adults  
 5:30 PM - Dinner served at Pow- Wow grounds for Culture Days participants  
 6:30 PM - Resumption of cultural booth  
 11:00 PM - Traditional stomp dance. (time approximate)

### Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

- Wyandotte Nation**
- Board of Directors**
- Leaford Bearskin**  
Chief
- Billy Friend**  
Second Chief
- Ramona Reid**  
Councilperson
- Vivian Fink**  
Councilperson
- Norman Hildebrand**  
Councilperson
- Juanita McQuiston**  
Councilperson

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

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# The Chief Says . . . . .



Chief Leaford Bearskin

The next six months we will see our Pow-Wow, Thanksgiving, Christmas, some mid-year college graduations, new babies, and hopefully many other exciting things.

I believe the future of the Wyandotte Nation is in better shape than it ever has been. Our Board of Directors, our Department Heads, and our employees are the best in the business.

Because of these great things I say to you again and again, I am

the proudest Chief in the Indian World.



## From Billy Friend - Second Chief



Kweh,

Greetings from the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Headquarters, I hope this month's newsletter finds all staying cool and doing well.

As always, I first want to say what a privilege and honor it is to serve you as Second Chief and to represent the Wyandotte Nation across this great nation of ours. It has been a very busy time for us the last several months with a new administration assuming duties in Washington, DC. Our staff has done an excellent job of tracking all available funds through the stimulus package and making proper application to assure that we receive any extra funding that is available for our programs.

One of the projects I have devoted most of my time to the past 6 months is our property in Park City, KS. We made application with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2006 to have our 10.56 acres of land taken into trust for gaming. The application was approved at the regional level and is now at the central office in Washington DC. The tribe purchased this property in November of 1992 with our P.L. 98-602 funds and at the time was told that the chances of gaming there were very slim. The tribe then refocused their efforts on Kansas City, Kansas. Over the last 12 years of litigation on our Kansas City property, all parties have conceded the fact that the Park City property can be placed into trust for the tribe for gaming.

This is a very exciting opportunity for the tribe; the property actually sets on I-135 on the north edge of Wichita, Kansas and has great access to the interstate. We also have secured, along with our developer, another 97 acres of land that is continuous to our 10.56

acres, and are working on a plan to develop a casino resort property, along with a retail outlet mall of which the tribe would be a partner. Conservative estimates tell us that this project could generate net revenues of \$30-50 million dollars a year to the Wyandotte Nation.

In closing I want to encourage each of you to attend our General Council Meeting and Pow-Wow coming up in September. Our Pow-Wow Committee and staff put countless hours of work into making this event a success and we want you to be a part of it this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you ever have any questions. Until next time may our Great Spirit watch over and protect you and your family.

Billy Friend  
Second Chief  
Wyandotte Nation  
918-678-2297 x213



# Census 2010

## Now is the Time to Start Planning for the 2010 Census

The countdown to the 2010 Census has begun, and the U.S. Census Bureau is looking to national, tribal, state and local officials and community leaders to ensure an accurate count. With Census Day in less than a year — April 1, 2010 — the Census Bureau has already launched a critical national effort that affects the apportionment of congressional seats, and how the federal government annually allocates \$300 billion in federal assistance to state, local and tribal governments.

The 2010 Census will have one of the shortest census questionnaires in the history of the United States, dating back to the nation's first census in 1790. The 2010 Census will ask for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether the householder owns or rents their home. The census form will take only about 10 minutes on average to complete, and answers are protected by law and strictly confidential.

"The participation of community leaders, organizations and local governments can help make the 2010 Census the most accurate census in our nation's history," said Tom Mesenbourg, acting director of the U.S. Census Bureau.

More than 11,000 state, local and tribal governments have registered for the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program to update the

Census Bureau's address information for their communities. Communities also can begin planning for Complete Count Committees, a team of local government, business and community leaders, who are appointed by a governor for a statewide committee or by a community's highest-elected official for a local committee. Members of the committees work to make sure their communities are counted. During Census 2000, more than 11,800 Complete Count Committees were formed to help develop and implement locally based outreach and recruitment campaigns.

"The 2010 Census is the consummate partnership between local, state, tribal and federal government," said Keith Hite, president of the National Association of Towns and Townships and executive director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

Preparing early for the 2010 Census is a great way for local leaders to learn the makeup of their communities and what they need from local government. Reasons for residents to be aware of the upcoming census and the need to participate are:

- The federal government uses census numbers to allocate more than \$300 billion in federal funds annually for community programs and services, such as education, housing and community development, health care services for the elderly, job

training and more.

- State, local and tribal governments use census information for planning and allocating funds for new school construction, libraries and other public buildings, highway safety and public transportation systems, new roads and bridges, location of police and fire departments, and many other projects.

- Community organizations use census information to develop social service programs, community action projects, senior lunch programs and child-care centers.

- The numbers help businesses identify where to locate factories, shopping centers, movie theaters, banks and offices — activities that often lead to new jobs.

- The census totals are used to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, states use the numbers to allocate seats in their state legislatures.

For information about forming a Complete Count Committee, contact a Census Bureau Regional Office at <http://www.census.gov/field/www>. More information about the 2010 Census can be found at <http://www.census.gov/2010census>.

Contact:

Public Information Office  
301-763-3691/763-3762 (fax)  
301-457-1037 (TDD) e-mail:  
[pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov)

# Casino News



Trudie Pendergraft

Lucky Turtle Casino is getting ready for a hot August with a promotion, "Let's Beat the Heat" starting July 16th for helping with electric bills. We will be giving out {3} \$300.00 and {1} \$100.00

cash award to go toward your electric bill. Come in and get your ticket at the cage and sign up, one per day.

Rumors are WNC is getting a new face lift, you might want to check out the new look.

September we are getting ready for all the Football games, so we are giving away a 42" TV. Tell all to come in and sign

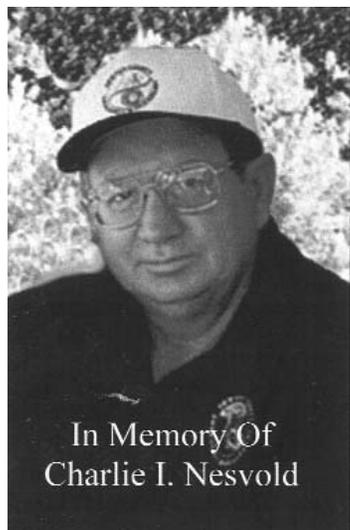
up for your daily ticket.

Can you believe 2009 is already half over and just a couple of months until the Pow-Wow?

We have a great promotion for October with four trips for two at the Dixie Stampede Getaway. Two nights, Three days, show and dinner at the Dixie Stampede, two free breakfast and a coupon book for discounts for shows and shopping at the Mall and other stores. Put this one on your calendar. You have to the end of December to take your trip if you are one of the lucky couples that win.

Have a great summer and hope to see you at the Pow-Wow.

# Member News



In Memory Of  
Charlie I. Nesvold

Charles "Charlie" Ira Nesvold, 64, passed into eternal rest July 7, 2009 at Freeman West Hospital in Joplin after a sudden illness.

Charlie was born Friday, April 13, 1945 in rural Wyandotte, OK the son of Harold and Artie (Peacore) Nesvold. Charlie had lived in the area all his life. He had worked at the former BF Goodrich plant in Miami, OK and served as the Municipal Judge for the City of Seneca for over 25 years.

For the last 12 years, Charlie worked for Newton County

Emergency Management where he handled logistics and was the Program Coordinator of the community service program. He was a Navy Veteran, a member of the First Baptist Church in Seneca and the Wyandotte Nation.

Charlie married Janet Ellis June 30, 1967 in Seneca, MO and she survives. Additional survivors include two sons Rob Nesvold and wife Angela and Brandon and Stephanie all of Seneca; five grandchildren, Kortney, Cameron, Sydney, Rylee, and Tanner; three brothers, Ted Nesvold, Wyandotte, OK, Dean Nesvold, Coffeyville, KS and Odell Nesvold, Tulsa, OK; two sisters, Artie Freeze, Claremore, OK and Laverne Machalla, State of Washington; mother-in-law Emma Ellis, two brother-in-laws, Larry and Kathy Ellis, Ponca City, OK and Dick and Melanie Ellis, Seneca and a host of family and friends.

Charlie was preceded in death by his mother and father, Harold and Artie Nesvold and father-in-law Charles Ellis.



Kortney Nesvold won "Grand Champion Meat Pen" with her rabbits at the Newton County Fair and qualified for the premium sale.



Tribal Member Felicity Bruegal received "Best of Show" for her hog at the Newton County Fair and qualified for the premium sale.

# Cultural & Member News

## Language

by Richard Zane Smith,  
Wyandotte Oklahoma

Kweh Qnyaterú (hello friend)

What is Language revitalization? Language reclamation? What's the status of our own tribal language? Can a language with no fluent speakers be revived? Is language important for restoring a tribal identity? Can a tribal culture exist without its language?

Similar questions are being addressed all over Indian Country as many tribes find they have fewer speakers year by year. Many see it as an alarming crisis and are involved in heroic efforts to save their languages from disappearing.

The Cherokee Nation is now spending over a million a year in special schools, developing mentor programs and special curriculum for children and adults.

*šaskenQnyeh ? (how are you ?) (how's your state of peace?)*

This new column is going to address a few of these topics, introduce some Wyandotte language for us to practice, and link us to websites where we can hear words being pronounced and hopefully spark interest among our tribal members.

*Our Wyandotte language is not "extinct"*

Modern linguists agree that this label is misleading when there is an abundance of documented language material, when there exists "sister languages" to

compare with and there is a desire of tribal members to speak it.

*ayakwáhstih ( "I'm fine, I'm good")*

Wyandottes today are at the very beginning stages of revitalization efforts. We have a large amount of language material and we have sister languages still in use today. We are beginning to introduce the language in the Turtle Tots Preschool, and with my wife Carol's assistance, we have for four years been holding Wyandotte culture and language classes within the local Wyandotte Elementary School which has been well received by the school Principal Ms. Lyons and teachers as well.

Thanks to Pat Wilson and Turtle Trax Publishing, we are also producing children's books in the Wyandotte Language. We have two board books available now. One is the first of a series of animal books, and the latest is an interactive book where a child's own finger becomes the worm in the story.

*tsi:'nq:má' (The Worm)*

These books will be offered for sale to help support efforts to develop more educational materials. The earlier we are exposed to a language the easier it becomes to learn it .

*eskwatré"dúte' ( We will Sing)*

Also available for purchase is a CD of Wyandotte children's songs used with the Turtle Tots and in the public school.

*tížaméh (thanks!)*

Thanks to Linguists Craig Kopriss, Bruce Pearson, the Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee, to Pat Wilson for technical/printing assistance, and the tribal administration for supporting these efforts.

A language can only be revived by its' own community. We want to hear from tribal members. Please contact us: 918-678-2297 ext. 244 or [sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org)

## From Our History A Story from 1839

Shared by Sallie Cotter Andrews

This story was found on-line in the book "Historical Collections of Ohio" which was copyrighted in 1891 by Henry Howe. It seems the characteristics of the old Wyandots are still in our spirits today – verbosity, enthusiastic women, good singers and good humor! Here is the remembrance by an unnamed author that is still alive and still funny some 170 years later!

"Preaching to the Wyandots – On the boat with me was an old gentleman, Rev. William Runness, a superannuated (elderly, retired) Methodist minister, who began his life in Portland, Maine, in 1802. He preached among the Wyandots once a quarter the last four years they remained in Ohio, he being the presiding elder in the district embracing them. As the Wyandots had no written language, he preached to them through an interpreter. This was Jonathan Pointer, a colored man, taken prisoner when a youth in the War of 1812 and adopted by them. (Some accounts put Jonathan with the Wyandots before 1812.)

"The Wyandots were very emotional and excellent singers. Some of their members were prone to prolixity (long-winded) in speaking, and 'sometimes,' said he, 'they had to choke them off.' On one occasion I saw one of the sisters get very much excited during one of their meetings, when Between-the-Logs, an ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a native Wyandot, struck up a tune and put her down. Then several speakers spoke and without interruption. Between-the-Logs followed them, and had uttered but a few words, when the squelched sister, who had a loud, ringing voice, began, at the top of her register, singing –

"How happy are they"

"Who their Saviour obey."

"Between-the-Logs was fairly drowned out, and took his seat, as much overcome by the merriment as the music."



## Cultural & Member News continued

### New Committee

by Sallie Andrews

With the adoption of a "Cultural Ordinance of the Wyandotte Nation" on June 10, 2009, by the Wyandotte Nation board of directors, a new Cultural Committee was established for the purpose of "preserving the future of our past." Serving on the new committee are: Lloyd Divine, chairman; Sallie Andrews, vice-chairman; Debbie Dry, Kenny Glass, Kim Garcia, Roma Qualls, and Ashley Woolridge. The committee will work under the direction of Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director.

"A big task has been set before us, but we can do it," said Lloyd Divine at the committee's first meeting on July 11. Anyone interested in the history and culture of our nation is welcome to assist with all projects and to attend and participate in the meetings that will be held the first Saturday of October, January, April and July each year at the tribal center. The Cultural Committee will be responsible for the annual Cultural Days activities, this year set for September 10 -11, prior to the annual meeting and Pow Wow.

The Cultural Committee will work to preserve our historical records, re-establish our language through classes and all types of media, assist with grant writing for special projects, research leads and obtain artifacts, assist with repatriation, present Cultural Days, and develop and establish a cultural center and museum. A copy of the Cultural Ordinance is available from Sherri Clemons.



### Birthday Girl



Myonza Parkerton (left) will turn 96 this week! Betty Zane Smith (right) is now 91. They are the daughters of Kenneth Danforth and Katherine (McCorkell) Walker and the great nieces of B.N.O. Walker. Both of them were born in the Walker Home.

### Emily Jane Prokup



By Marilyn Young, daughter

On April 12, 2009 my mother celebrated her 85th birthday. My family helped celebrate by taking her for lunch at the 7th Street Casino in Kansas City on Saturday. We had a wonderful lunch, walk through the rose garden next to the casino and a tour of the casino. This was mom's first visit to not only the 7th Street Casino but any casino. Of course she played the slots. I enjoyed assisting her. While not winning, Mom really enjoyed the great food, casino and spending time with her family. She was full of smiles.

It does sadden me to say my mother passed away Wednesday, July 1, 2009. My mother was born in Wyandotte to Hiram and Janie (Harris) Sexton. Mom enjoyed life, family and friends. She enjoyed coming to the Harris Reunion and pow-wows. Me and my family will miss her but know she's in a better place.

### Summer Youth

by Kenny Glass

Working the past two summers on the Wyandotte Nation Summer Intern Program has been a wonderful opportunity. Not only has it provided me with a great work experience, but also has planted within me more knowledge of my culture, my people, and our history.

I was blessed with opportunities to work in various departments all the way from Maintenance and Accounting, to Historical and Cultural. It's been interesting to see how things are run within our tribe, and getting to know the staff here.

I've also been blessed in an amazing way to learn more about the history and culture of our tribe. Growing up with parents from different tribes, I took in more of my father's heritage but getting the chance to learn more about my Wyandotte culture these past summers have been great. I would definitely encourage all Wyandotte youth to take advantage of these opportunities, and learn about who you are and where you come from.

# **GOURD DANCERS**

## **VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION**

**RAIN OR SHINE**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2009**

**11 am -2 pm**

**Where: Eastern Shawnee Old Bingo Hall**

**MC: Larry Dushane**

**Head Singer: Sonny Waters**

**Host: Wandat' Gourd Dancers**

**Dinner provided by Host**

## **Tribal Heritage Department**

Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director

The summer has flown past and already it is almost time for school and Pow-Wow.

Summer has been very busy with scanning old land records and organizing files and books in the historical department.

The Cultural Committee had their first meeting since the passing of the new Cultural Ordinance in June 2009.

Officers were elected and plans both short term and long term were discussed. Cultural week was the main subject and gearing up for that. The schedule can be seen on the Wyandotte Nation web site along with many other points of interest. Our web site is a vast site for information.

I would like to thank Kenny Glass, Amy Qualls and Riley Lawson for all of their hard work on the Summer Intern Program. You all did an awesome job. You are our future.

The 20th Annual Pow-Wow is fast approaching. It

is going to be a great year. I am sure all those years ago when the Pow-Wow was first brought back at Sycamore Valley that one day we would be celebrating 20 years was hard to believe, but great things never die out, just sometimes lay to rest until the right time comes along. I personally would like to thank Earlene Roskob and Barbara Collier for all the hard work and great dedication they showed to bring alive and continue the Pow-Wow and for teaching me the right way to do this. It is with great honor I continue the ways that makes everyone feel welcome and safe at our annual event. Hope to see all tribal members there.

**WYANDOTTE NATION 20th ANNUAL POW-WOW  
SEPTEMBER 11, 12 and 13, 2009**

**Put on your calendar to attend!!!!**

# Tribal Department Reports

## Family Services

Kate Randall, Family Services (918-678-2297) X224

Dana Butterfield, Tag & Enrollment: Extension X219

Fax# 918-678-3087

I hope this finds your families well and enjoying the summer. Summer brings us great outdoor activities, the smell of cut grass, garden vegetables, roadside fruit stands, family reunions, and hard earned vacations. For those of you residing in states such as Oklahoma, I hope you had a kiddie pool or a nice creek nearby to offset the heat and humidity. As we go into the month of August, it is time to start thinking about the children going back to school or college or leaving the nest. It is time to rearrange the new household schedules to keep up with our busy lives. Take time to thank the Great Spirit for all he has given to us during this season. Speaking of vacations, my vacation was sightseeing the Black Hills of South Dakota. While visiting the Crazy Horse Memorial, I was very overwhelmed by the sacred ground of the Sioux and the monument to Crazy Horse. (Tashunka Witko) - 1842-1877. Crazy Horse had a far reaching vision whereby he saw the end of his people's traditional ways and he knew that his people would lose their way even as he fought to preserve the old ways. Crazy Horse is remembered by his spirit and kindness to his people. Crazy Horse saw in his second vision a time would come when all people were one and were living together in peace. This was evidenced by all those visiting the monument, all races of people, learning the history of this great Oglala Sioux warrior, and what was once the Land of the Sioux. The passage of time cannot erase the history and suffering of those who have walked before us. As Indian People, we all share a common bond and we honor our Great Chiefs with respect for the leadership they provide.

The Wyandotte have the leadership of our Great Chief, Second Chief, and Board of Directors. Their battles are no longer fought with weapons but fought with the wisdom and courage to do right for their people. I thank them for this.

### **FAMILY SERVICES NEWS:**

The family services, environmental, and fitness center staff enjoyed our June, 2009 Summer Youth Camp. Cherokee Artist Barbara Horner introduced the children to the art of gourd painting. As evidenced in the photograph you can see how talented the attendees were. Many of our students are Wyandotte Tribal members that attend the Turtle Tots Summer Program. Ms. Horner has some of her gourd art for sale at the Nation's gift shop. In addition to these activities, the Nine Ottawa County Tribes hosted a 3 day Native American Youth Safety Camp that concluded with a great trip to Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. We have had a busy and wonderful summer working with our youth.



### **PROGRAMS:**

#### **SCHOOL SUPPLY VOUCHERS:**

The 2009 school supply vouchers will be available at the tribal headquarters on Monday, August 3rd, 2009. The vouchers will be in the amount of \$50.00. In order to be eligible your child must be an enrolled Wyandotte, ages preschool-12th Grade. College students are eligible, however, must have proof of college enrollment. Applications may be requested by mail, by fax or online at the Nation's website:

www.wyandotte-nation.org. The radius applicable is 200 miles from the tribal headquarters. We do require that receipts are returned after school supplies are purchased. Please note that all mailed vouchers will be sent by certified mail.

#### **SENIOR CITIZENS: Summer Energy Assistance Program**

Effective July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009, all senior citizens ages 62+ living within a 100 mile radius of the tribal headquarters are eligible to apply for \$100.00 utility assistance for cooling. Payment is made directly to the utility company. Applications are available at the tribal headquarters or you may request it be sent by mail. Please remember to send in your utility bill with the application.

#### **TRIBAL ENROLLMENT:**

Please be reminded all Enrollment Applications must be turned into the enrollment office by August 15, 2009. New enrollees applications are reviewed by the Enrollment Committee prior to the Nation's September 12, 2009 Annual Meeting. All eligible enrollees will be voted on by the Nation's Council during the annual meeting. All children enrolled before their first birthday will receive a \$50.00 gift card and a baby blanket.

#### **TRIBAL TAGS: (Oklahoma Indian Territory only)**

For new tags you must have the following: (1). an original State Title (Signed and Notarized); (2). Insurance Verification; (3). Wyandotte Nation Membership card. For Renewals you must provide the tag office with an updated insurance verification. PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

#### **FUEL VOUCHERS FOR ANNUAL MEETING:**

Fuel voucher will be available to Tribal Members attending the September 12, 2009 Annual Meeting. You must be 18 years or older to (continued on next page)

## Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)  
qualify. These vouchers are funded through the Tribal Tag Program.

**LIHEAP:** The Wyandotte Nation will apply of the Tribal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for the winter of 2009. The 4th quarter newsletter will address the results of the grant availability.

### BURIAL ASSISTANCE:

Effective March 4, 2008 the Wyandotte Nation implemented a burial assistance program in the amount of \$500.00. Notice must be given to the Tribe within 60 days after date of death.

We will need an application completed, a copy of the death certificate, and an itemized funeral bill. Payment is made directly to the funeral home. Burial applications are available on the Nation's website, or may be requested by mail.

### SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS: *(Service area restrictions may apply)*

Child passenger safety seats, (birth through booster size): Promoting Safe and Stable Families: This program is for at risk families with children under the age of 18 that are in need of crisis intervention.

Children's Christmas Party, winter clothing for children (income guidelines apply), emergency assistance, Indian child welfare, and fuel vouchers. Other services are offered based on need. It remains the Nation's goal to improve the quality of life for all its members, to keep our Indian families intact, to protect all of our children.

### **Wyandotte Nation Housing Department**

We are excited to report that the senior duplex units are well underway. Each apartment will have two bedrooms and a one car garage. To qualify for the senior units, you must be at least 55 and meet federal income guidelines. An open house will be held during our Annual Meeting on September 12th. Come by and see us.



If you are in need of a well, rural water connection, or a septic system, please contact our office. There are no income guidelines, but you must live within the Claremore Indian Health Service area.

In June, Valari Eby became the new Housing Specialist. Valari is a tribal member. She will be happy to answer any housing questions you may have.

If you would like information on any of our programs, please give us a call. We look forward to hearing from you. Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director  
Valari Eby, Housing Specialist  
Paul Paquin - Brian Adkins, Project Coordinators

### **Planning/Development**

The Planning Department and the Wellness Center staff have been working with the architects on design of the Wellness Center expansion. We want to make it functional for everyone, yet keep with the design of the current building. We are close with the design and will be bidding and selecting a contractor soon.

The Water Tower Project is under way. Singer Construction was the low bidder on the road project leading to the water tower. While they have been working on that, we bid out the well and storage tank part of the project. Tiff City Pump Inc. will be drilling, casing and building the well house and booster pump station. Caldwell Tanks, Inc. will be constructing and putting into place the 60,000 gallon storage tank. The tank will be twice as big as the current one and tie into it, so both tanks will be utilized.



The landscaping around the cemetery and housing addition is complete. Drip irrigation was installed around the cemetery and at the entrance of the housing area, and a fence around the cemetery should be in place by the time you get this newsletter.



We have submitted a tree grant through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, to have trees planted in front of our services buildings, cemetery and Pow -Wow grounds. Drip irrigation will be installed at each site, and we will be responsible for the care of the trees. This is a highway beautification grant, in which trees must be planted in high visibility areas along the highways.

We have submitted requests for funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), to help with the following projects.

- Construct additional housing units
  - Complete the loop of road in the housing addition
  - Complete an energy audit that will help us monitor energy usage in all buildings, and reduce energy waste. The funds would also be used to replace
- (continued to next page)

## Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)  
the current walk-in cooler in Title VI.

In July, we negotiated the Self-Governance agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for fiscal year 2010.

### Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department

August – October 2009

With 4th of July past and summer half over, it's time we turn our thoughts to Fair and Pow-Wow events. Our Department will be hosting a booth at the Ottawa County Free Fair during the 3rd week of August. We would like to invite you to stop by and talk to our department employees about all of the interesting environmental programs and issues that we are involved in.

The Environmental Department will also be hosting a booth this year during the Pow-Wow. We would like to ask Tribal members to stop by our booth and fill out our Cultural Survey. This survey is important not only to the Environmental Department, but also to the Wyandotte Nation and its members. Many plants, animals and aquatic life are no longer available due to mining and other environmental related issues. Tar Creek flows through the Lead and Zinc Mines near Picher, OK, and empties into the Neosho River, and Spring River flows through the Lead and Zinc mines of Missouri, into Kansas and eventually to Oklahoma. Both Neosho and Spring Rivers converge at Twin Bridges into "Grand Lake O' the Cherokees". For this reason it is very important to know what contaminants are in your water, whether it be for drinking or recreational.

We are interested in finding out just what was available during pre-mining days within Ottawa County, and what cultural items (plants, animals, aquatic life, etc.), that tribal members would like to have introduced back into the area. This will help to further understand the needs of the tribal

members as we progress forward with the Natural Resource Damage Claim for Tar Creek.

Private Well Tests for heavy metals and bacteria are available free of charge, for any tribal member living within the Wyandotte Nation Jurisdictional area. For more information see department employee listing below.

Christen Lee (Department Head) x241  
Kathleen A. Welch (Env. Assistant) x235  
Janice Wilson (Water and Ed. Tech) x245  
Earl Salisbury (Water Tech) x252

### Bearskin Health Clinic

In the last Turtle Talk, we failed to publish the Contract Health Services Guidelines. We have included them in this issue. Take time to go over and read these guidelines to help you understand how Contract Health Services work.

Bearskin Health Clinic Contract Health Services (CHS) is a federally funded program to assist eligible patients financially with specialized care that is not directly available from the Bearskin Health Clinic. Other contracted facilities are Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, Integris Baptist Regional Health Center in Grove and Miami, St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin, Missouri, Craig General Hospital in Vinita, Wagoner Community Hospital in Wagoner, and Claremore IHS Hospital.

ASSISTANCE DEPENDS ON ELIGIBILITY, RESIDENCE, MEDICAL PRIORITIES, ALTERNATE RESOURCES, AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING.

The Bearskin Health Clinic CHS program also contracts with specialty care physicians, hospitals, diagnostic groups and other health care providers to treat our patients at prearranged fees.

The Contract Health Service Program is funded yearly with federal funds by the Department of Health and Human

Services (DHHS). Not all referrals for specialty care can be paid for by Bearskin Health Clinic Contract Health Services, because the funding they receive cannot accommodate every need of every patient. Medical priorities have been established for determining which referrals can be authorized for payment.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BEARSKIN HEALTH CLINIC CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES:

1. Must be eligible for direct patient care services provided by Bearskin Health Clinic contracted facilities and/or an IHS facility. An individual is eligible if they are of Indian descent and a member of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe.

2. Non-Indians may be eligible in these situations: A non-Indian woman who is pregnant with an eligible Indian's child through pregnancy and postpartum; A non-Indian member of an eligible Indian's household who resides within the CHS service area is eligible for CHS if the Medical Officer in charge determines that services are necessary to control a public health hazard or an acute infectious disease; A non-Indian under 19 years old who is an adopted child, stepchild, foster child, legal ward or orphan of an eligible Indian.

3. Patient must reside within the Bearskin Health Clinic 12 county CHS service area.

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

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

6. CHS IS A PAYER OF LAST RESORT!

The priority system helps patients have equal opportunity for specialty services and to make sure the funds are used to (continued on next page)

## Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)  
give the best possible benefits.

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

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

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

### EMERGENCY CALL-IN PROCEDURES:

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

### REFERRAL STEPS ARE:

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

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

if necessary.

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

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

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

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

### **TIP ON FAMILY HISTORY**

(HealthDay News) -- Your doctor probably has asked you questions about your family history, since it may have a significant impact on your well-being. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers this guidance about how family history may affect your health:

- A disease that occurs in more than one close relative can increase your risk of that disease.
- If the disease has affected family members at an earlier-than-typical age, this may also increase your risk.
- Diseases that occur together within the family can also indicate greater risk -- for example, diabetes and heart disease.
- Diseases within the family that don't usually affect a gender may increase your risk. An example is breast cancer among males in your family.

### **Bearskin Wellness and Fitness Center**

by Kelly Walker

Our goal at Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is to provide you with a place and methods to enable

you to make better health choices and to prevent the risk of future disease.

Not only does exercise help improve chances of living a longer and healthier life, it also helps reduce the risk of developing heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and colon cancer. Other benefits include reduced feelings of depression, weight control, healthy bones, joints and muscles, as well as promotion of psychological well being.

Medical researchers have calculated the cost of obesity-related diseases at more than \$100 billion annually. This includes direct costs, such as hospital care and physician services, and lost productivity caused by death and disability from weight-related diseases.

Recent surveys have determined that 29% of healthcare costs were lifestyle related. After starting self-care initiatives, such as a regular exercise program, amazing results were achieved. Risk of high blood pressure decreased 45%; high cholesterol risk decreased by 34% and other risk weight problems were reduced by 30%. In addition, 21% of those surveyed stopped smoking.

Whether toning up, trimming down or trying to maintain a healthy lifestyle, Bearskin Fitness Center has everything to accomplish the exercise goals in mind. The best part is that use of the facility is free for members of the Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee Tribe. Spouses of Tribal Members 55 and over receive a free membership too.

Not only does the facility offer the traditional plate loaded free weights, also offered are treadmills, ellipticals, recumbent bicycles, Nu Steps, arc trainers, hydrotherapy (whirlpools), indoor walking track, pro shop and tanning, for a minimal fee.

In addition to the amenities listed (continued on next page)

## Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page above, Bearskin Fitness Center is pleased to offer fitness classes. Currently, classes in step aerobics, Zumba Fitness and an arthritis class are being offered. These classes are designed for beginners through advanced. In the future, plans are being made for additional classes ranging from circuit training to boot camp. Inquire at the front desk for more information and for a schedule of classes.

The arthritis class is designed for individuals who suffer with moderate to severe arthritis. The program uses gentle activities to help increase joint flexibility, range of motion and maintain muscle strength. Classes can help reduce pain, stiffness and feelings of isolation and depression.

Zumba Fitness? Many members are asking about this new craze. This class is a vibrant class with a combination of sculpting moves and dance steps from the calypso, flamenco, rumba, mambo, hip hop, salsa, reggae ton, cumbia, salsa ton and meringue. This class is an aerobic fitness class that provides a combination of fast and slow rhythms. This is a great choice for cardio conditioning.

The Bearskin Fitness Center prides itself on the friendliness and cleanliness of the staff members and facility. The center currently services over 1,000 members and always looks forward to new members joining the excitement of the state of the art facility. The Bearskin Fitness Center offers fitness assessments and consultations conducted by certified personal trainers. In addition to having personal trainers on staff, the entire team has been instructed or is currently taking and received

certification in foundations of personal training class.

Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is pleased to offer upcoming classes in Smoking Cessation and Bodyworks, a class to help parents and caregivers of adolescents improve family eating and activity. If you or a loved one is interested in attending one of these sessions, please contact 918-678-2282 ext 259.

The center is proud to be an active partner in Nike's Reuse A Shoe Drive. Until the Reuse a Shoe drive, worn out shoes ended up in landfills across the country. With this program, shoes are being recycled and used to create sport surfaces. Not only is the rubber sole used, but foam from the midsole and fabric from the upper part. These materials are ground up into Nike Grind. Nike Grind is then mixed with other components to create playgrounds, soccer fields, basketball courts and tracks. Donation bins are set up in the Wyandotte Nation Artie Nesvold Building, the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center, and at the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

### ELDER SERVICES

Chief Bearskin was honored recently at the Oklahoma State Conference on Aging in Oklahoma City, OK. He received the "Putting Your Stamp on Oklahoma" Award. This is a very prestigious award that few others have received. The award is given to individuals that have had a significant impact on improving the lives of Elders, not just in the tribal community but in the entire state of Oklahoma. Pictured below are: Theresa Greer, Planner, Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging, Linda Hill, Title VI Director, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Kay Carter, Director, Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging, Brenda House, Elder Service

Director, Wyandotte Nation, Chief Bearskin, Rhonda Weaver, Title VI Director, Quapaw Tribe, Barbara Bearskin, aka Momma Bear, and Ramona Reid, Board of Directors, Wyandotte Nation. Also pictured with Chief Bearskin is Lance Roberson, Aging Services Director, Oklahoma State Department of Human Services, Oklahoma City, OK.



As you all know, the Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow will be here soon. We look forward to seeing all of you again. Please don't hesitate to call on us if we may be of assistance to you. We want you to enjoy all of the activities and have a really great time!

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

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

# Education Department

## Preschool:

Wyandotte Nation Preschool will begin the 2009-2010 school year on August 24, 2009. Enrollment slots are filling quickly and it looks as though we will have a very good group of students enrolled. We will again have three classes of students with a teacher and teacher's aid in each classroom. Partnering with Richard Zane Smith and the Bearskin Fitness Center will afford our students with Wyandotte Language and Physical Education instruction.

## Before and After School Program:

We will again offer before and after school program for children in our area who are in need of this type of specialized care. That program will begin with the opening date of public school. This program includes transportation to and from school as well as afterschool tutoring, snacks and fun and recreation.

## Summer Program:

One hundred three children were enrolled for our Summer Program of activities. With the addition of the tribal youth employees, we had a great staff that worked together and enhanced the summer for the children in attendance. Tribal youth employees on site with the Summer Intern Program are Cindy Betts, Veronica Copher, Jennifer Davis, Cortney Glass, Candace Hamilton, Tyler Lawson, and Ashley Taffner. Our three afterschool employees from 2008-2009, Trey Clemons, Tera White and Taylor Wilson are also employed for the summer. Swim lessons were facilitated through the Seneca Public Pool. The month of June was filled educational programs that were facilitated by the Bearskin Fitness Center, Family Services Department and the Environmental Department. Cultural significance was stressed in projects with the Family Services staff. The Environmental Department gave

instruction on native plants as well as local fish and game. The Fitness Center staff worked jointly with the others to offer physical activities and challenges that coordinated with the theme. Those three programs teamed up to take all program participants to the Miami Pool for pizza and a swim outing. We offered Vacation Bible School on site, went to movies, bowled and visited several parks. This program will wrap up on August 19th as school will resume on August 20th.

## Library:

The tribal library computer lab is now equipped with seven new computers. As before, the computers are equipped with internet access and are available for use by our tribal members as well as regular library patrons. If you have never visited our library, you should stop by and see what we have on our shelves to offer.

## Child Care & Development Fund Program:

The Child Care Plan was submitted to the Child Care Bureau for program reauthorization for fiscal year 2011 and 2012.

The program is currently hosting five months of training for child care directors that focuses of in-depth topics for management.

## Tribal Scholarships:

The Scholarship Program is processing new students and exiting students after completion of eight semesters. Those who have completed eight semesters of funding through the Wyandotte Nation are:

Cray Allred  
Casey Biswell  
Adam Carter  
Valari Eby  
Samantha Elbert Thompson  
Mandy Elliott  
Deverie Meisenhimer  
Stephanie Taylor

## New scholarship recipients:

Cord Andreoff- Arizona State University- Tempe, Arizona  
Rashele Blakley- Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College- Miami, Oklahoma  
Marti Boydston- University of Oklahoma- Norman, Oklahoma  
Elizabeth Brown- Grand Valley State University- Allendale, Mississippi  
Michael Carl- University of Phoenix/Axia- Phoenix, Arizona  
Thomas Cox III- University of Pittsburg- Pittsburg, Pennsylvania  
Patrick Cully- Oregon State University- Corvallis, Oregon  
Dylan Daniel- Northeastern Oklahoma A&M- Miami, Oklahoma  
Corey Divine- University of Arkansas- Fayetteville, Arkansas  
Amber Drake- San Francisco State University- San Francisco, California  
Shae Duffy- Harrington College of Design- Chicago, Illinois  
Levi Hagert- Washington State University- Pullman, Washington  
Heather Hamilton- University of the Incarnate Word- San Antonio, Texas  
Rachel Henderson- Northeastern Oklahoma A&M- Grove, Oklahoma  
Jordan Hoeme- Washburn University- Topeka, Kansas  
Caleb Honl- Portland Community College- Portland, Oregon  
Jacob Honl- Portland State University- Portland, Oregon  
Seth Honl- Pacific University- Forest Grove, Oregon  
Nikkolas Irwin- University of Nevada Reno- Reno, Nevada  
Kanisha James- Crowder College- Neosho, Missouri  
Amber Jones- Tulsa Community College- Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Cassie Krammer- Northeastern State University- Tahlequah, Oklahoma  
Jordan Lankston- Northeastern State University- Tahlequah, Oklahoma  
Tyler Lawson- University of Central Oklahoma- Edmond, Oklahoma  
(continued on next page)

## Education Department cont.)

(continued from previous page)  
 Izaiah Long- Washington State University- Richland, Washington  
 Tyler McCombs- Northern Oklahoma College- Tonkawa, Oklahoma  
 Rachel Morgan- Stanford University- Stanford, California  
 Vanessa Morgan- South Puget Sound Community College- Olympia, Washington  
 CJ Napier- University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska  
 Tre' Allan Parks- Oklahoma State University OKC- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Tyler Taffner- Miami University- Oxford, Ohio

Housing applications are being processed for 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):

The WIA program partnered with the Wyandotte Nation Library to purchase seven new computers for the lab area. The computers will be utilized by WIA eligible clients as they prepare resumes for work and they may also be used for computer enhancement skills classes to be held on site.

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

Submitted by:  
 Carla J. Culver

### Trendsetters

116 N Rangeline Rd Ste1  
 Joplin, Mo 64801  
 417-625-1933

Across from the mall in the Bayberry Square.  
 Brands like Hollister, Express, True Religion, & Mankind,  
 Antik Denim, Polo, BKE and Juicy. We buy clothes.  
 Bring in your Tribal Membership Card for  
 10% off your purchases.  
 "Be trendy with out being spendy"



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.

# Wyandotte Nation Tag Office



Please call Dana or Kate  
 at (800) 256-2539  
 ext. 219 and ext. 224  
 respectively for appointments.



20th Annual  
**WYANDOTTE POW-WOW**

September 11-13, 2009

**\$12,500**



**In Prize Money**

**Contests in all Categories**

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

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

**Sunday**  
1:30 p.m.



**8th Annual Veterans Honor Program**  
**All Veterans Welcomed**



**\$1,500**

**In Prize Money**

**Drum Contest**

**Northern & Southern**

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

**Host Motels: Boone Slick Lodge 417-455-0888**  
**Super 8 Motel 417-455-1888**

## 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	Kathy DeWeese	(918) 678-2297	239
Student Housing Assistance	Kathy DeWeese	(918) 678-2297	239
Housing Improvements	Kathy DeWeese	(918) 678-2297	239
Well-Septic Construction	Kathy DeWeese	(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